

Neighborhood Organization Information

1. NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

Southeast Como Improvement Association

2. ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Neighborhood Organization Contact:	Cody Olson
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3. DATE OF BOARD APPROVAL

Once your board has reviewed this draft annual report, please provide the date of the meeting at which the board approved submission of this report to NCR. Note: Meeting minutes may be requested by NCR.

3/7/2017

2016 CPP Annual Report

Stakeholder Involvement - Basic Outreach & Engagement

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTREACH ACTIVITIES DID YOUR ORGANIZATION USE IN 2016?

4. MEETINGS (please check all that apply)

- Held regular committee meetings or discussion groups that are open to all stakeholders.
- Held at least one general membership or community meeting (in addition to the annual meeting) to gather input from residents and other stakeholders for a neighborhood specific initiative.
- Hosted at least one general membership or committee meeting in response to a City request for input - such as a development proposal, transit planning or public works project.
- Conducted one or more focus groups.

5. DOOR-TO-DOOR (please check all that apply) Door-Knocking or Dropping Flyers Door-to-Door

- At least once with goal of reaching a portion of neighborhood.
- At least once with goal of reaching most or all of neighborhood.
- For more than one issue/outreach effort.
- On a routine basis.

6. Door-Knocking/Flyering

- Was carried out primarily by staff
- Was carried out primarily by volunteers

7. Door-Knocking/Flyering

- Was carried out primarily to increase membership and participation
- Was carried out primarily to get input on specific city or neighborhood issue
- Was carried out primarily to inform stakeholders of a city or neighborhood issue

8. Approximately how many households did your organization reach through door-knocking in 2016?

0

9. EVENTS (please check all that apply)

- Staffed a booth or table at neighborhood event or other community event that included sign-up sheets, surveys or information about your organization.
- Organized one or more issue specific event (such as a safety forum, housing fair, Open Streets, Creative Citymaking, etc).
- Organized smaller events for specific outreach to target audiences (e.g., sidewalk tabling to reach renters, lemonade stands, tabling at Farmer's Market, etc.)

10. OTHER (please check all that apply)

- Conducted at least one community-wide survey (such as a random sample or all-household survey).
- Conducted another form of survey (e.g., intercept survey).
- Developed partnerships with cultural, religious, professional or business associations to expand outreach into under-represented populations.
- Distributed a quarterly or semi-annual newsletter to all households.
- Other activities (please describe here):

11. Please provide an estimate of volunteer hours provided to your organization in 2016

1,934

12. How did your organization reach out to under-represented groups in your neighborhood? (Please check all that apply)

- Worked on an issue of particular interest to an under-represented group within the neighborhood.
- Provided notices of annual and special meetings in multiple languages.
- Provided newsletter articles or web pages in multiple languages.
- Targeted outreach in apartment buildings or blocks to reach renters.
- Targeted tabling at other events or locations (such as farmers markets, cultural events, etc.).
- Held focus groups or open meeting formats for under-represented communities.
- Met with other agencies in the community that work closely with under-represented constituencies in the neighborhood.
- Included an Americans with Disabilities Act statement on meeting and event notices.
- Reviewed participation activities, and identified new leaders and volunteers for volunteer, committee and board participation.
- Held one-time/pop up events in areas of the neighborhood that don't often have neighborhood meetings
- Other activities (please describe here):

Employed student interns and service learners to assist with outreach, communications, and provide a connection to our oft-overlooked student renter community in Southeast Como

Managed Community Gardens that have become a place for neighbors to connect over gardening

Increased Partnership, and moved into the building of Northeast College Prep, a new charter school in the area focusing on primarily East African students.

**13. What more would you like to tell NCR or the community about your Stakeholder Involvement?
What are you doing that is new or particularly successful to involve residents and others?**

While our outreach capacities suffered greatly due to the loss of office space in March, and an inability to find space until September, we were able to continue our work in using Service Learners and Interns from the University of Minnesota. Our interns not only connect us directly to the University and allow us to keep up with current events regarding campus, but also allow us to connect with our student renter population in a much more meaningful way. Students in the neighborhood have responded much better to fellow students doing community-minded work in the neighborhood than they have to any other residents. Our internship program allows us to keep a finger on the pulse of the issues facing student renters in the neighborhood.

We also connect with neighbors in very meaningful ways through our events and gardens, as mentioned above. Hosting events (particularly the Como Cookout) allow us to connect with the members of our neighborhood that we normally do not reach, and our gardens are a draw not only for members of the community, but bring people from nearby neighborhoods and communities to our neighborhood as well.

We reformatted our biweekly e-newsletter to reach out to key community partners for news and information, rather than simply letting it come to the office, leading to much more information being shared with subscribers

We laid plans for 2017 to overhaul our way of communicating with our neighborhood, reaching out to our growing Somali population, restarting our paper newsletter, and to hire a Community Building Intern whose specific focus is to greatly increase our overall outreach

Neighborhood Priorities

PLEASE DESCRIBE ANY NEW PRIORITIES YOU HAVE APPROVED.

In our 2017-2019 CPP Application, our Board of Directors identified \$1500 per year to be allocated for matching funds for community led projects (i.e our Bread Oven or Utility Box) that require donations to reach fruition

2016 CPP Annual Report

2016 Highlights

PLEASE DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- What was the issue or opportunity the neighborhood was facing?
- Who was impacted?
- What steps did you take to address the issue or opportunity?
- What was the outcome?

15. MAJOR HIGHLIGHT #1

Keeping the Organization Afloat

SECIA had major organizational shakeup in 2016. Both longtime staff members left the organization, and a new lead staff was hired. In May, we lost our longtime office space and went without an office space until September.

This loss of communications and organizational strife greatly affected our ability to let residents know about information that they may need or want to know, as well as our abilities to effectively reach out to the community

Despite very abrupt and unexpected changes and many interruptions in our normal communications, SECIA's Board and Staff worked together to stay afloat as an organization. We moved into a shared space with Northeast College Prep in September, were able to work with interns, host our normal set of events, and even were able recruit first-time board members at our election in November.

16. MAJOR HIGHLIGHT #2

Community Gardens

Our community gardens continued to thrive in 2016. Our native/pollinator gardens Talmage Crossing and Como Corner both added new plantings in 2016, and continued to draw a wide audience in the neighborhood to garden or even just to enjoy the purposeful addition of nature to our community. Talmage Crossing received a Metro Blooms Garden of Merit award for its exceptional attention to native plantings and maintenance.

Our food growing garden, Fairshare Farm had full membership and hosted several events centered around a community-funded and constructed bread oven. Construction on the Bread Oven was completed in the summer, and allowed our gardeners to host cooking events in the space, and has become a major draw to our area.