

**1. NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION**

**East Calhoun Community Organization (ECCO)**

**2. ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION**

Neighborhood Organization Contact: [Monica Smith](#)

Organization Address: [2751 Hennepin Ave S, #13](#)

Organization Address 2:

Organization ZIP: [55408](#)

Organization Email Address: [nrp@eastcalhoun.org](mailto:nrp@eastcalhoun.org)

Organization Phone Number: [612-821-0131](tel:612-821-0131)

**3. ORGANIZATION WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

Website: [eastcalhoun.org](http://eastcalhoun.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/eccompls](https://facebook.com/eccompls)

Twitter:

Other:

**4. 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.

**03/28/2018**

# Community Participation Program

## WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTREACH ACTIVITIES DID YOUR ORGANIZATION USE IN 2017?

5. **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

6. **DOOR-TO-DOOR** (please check all that apply)

Door-Knocking (with goal of face-to-face engagement)

- At least once reaching a portion of neighborhood
- At least once reaching most or all of the neighborhood
- For more than one issue/outreach effort
- On a routine basis
- Conducted primarily by staff members
- Conducted primarily by volunteers
- Carried out primarily to increase membership and participation
- Carried out primarily to gather input or inform on a specific city or neighborhood issue

7. **Approximately how many households did you reach through DOOR-KNOCKING in 2017?**

8. **FLYERING** (please check all that apply)

Distributing flyers (dropping literature at doors)

- At least once reaching a portion of neighborhood
- At least once reaching most or all of the neighborhood
- Carried out primarily to inform and increase membership and participation
- Carried out primarily to gather input or inform on a specific city or neighborhood issue

9. **Approximately how many households did your organization reach through FLYERING in 2017?**

700

10. **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.)

11. **COMMUNICATION** (please fill in all that apply)

Print a paper newsletter (If so, at what frequency?)      no

Number of subscribers to your email list      663

Number of followers on Facebook and Twitter Combined      200

12. **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

**Other activities** (please describe here):

ECCO distributed flyers to the neighborhood on three occasions in 2017; one time was to raise awareness about the planning process to reconstruct Hennepin Avenue and invite residents to a public meeting. The other two times flyers were delivered were to promote ECCO events.

Flyers are distributed to over 50% of the residential properties in the neighborhood. We do not have access to distribute flyers in secure apartment buildings.

ECCO sent two mailings via US Mail to every address in the neighborhood in 2017. The mailings ensure that each household in the neighborhood hears from ECCO at least twice per year. We invite residents to participate in our committees, programs and activities.

ECCO events were also promoted via our Facebook page and on NextDoor.

**13. Please provide an estimate of VOLUNTEER HOURS provided to your organization in 2017**

1400

**14. 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):

ECCO organizes a monthly happy hour at a neighborhood restaurant with the goal of reaching out to renters and people uninvolved with the neighborhood organization. In addition to ECCO's communication channels, we use NextDoor to promote the event to residents who may not yet be engaged with ECCO.

**15.** 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?

ECCO is active in the community. Each of the following is a way to reach out to variety of people with varying interests:

- Partnered with the Public Works and CARAG to host an Open House for the Hennepin Avenue Reconstruction Project.
- Partnered with CARAG to provide two Personal Safety Workshops in 2017.
- Hosted a site for the Earth Day Clean Up on the eastern shores of Lake Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska.
- Provided a team of volunteers for the Uptown Association's Team Up to Clean Up event.
- Donated unrestricted funds to Minneapolis Pops Orchestra so they can continue to provide free concerts throughout the summer for Minneapolis park users to enjoy.
- Donated unrestricted funds to the Lake Calhoun Sailing School to provide youth scholarships.
- Co-sponsored a Ward 10 City Council Candidate Forum.
- Provided volunteers to serve on various boards and committees: Calhoun-Bde Maka Ska/Harriet Master Plan Community Advisory Committee, Friends of the Walker Library and Midtown Greenway Coalition Board of Directors.
- Used our monthly communications channels to help communicate a variety of City, County and Park Board issues and events.

# Community Participation Program

## PLEASE DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

Consider the following when describing each highlight:

- 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?

### 17. **MAJOR HIGHLIGHT #1**

Support for Affordable Housing ECCO was one of seven neighborhood organizations that contributed a total of \$108,000 of NRP funds to the Bridge for Youth for Rita's House.

Grants from the neighborhood associations helped fund the renovation of a vacant property owned by The Bridge in the East Isles neighborhood. The City of Minneapolis approved the use of property as an Intentional Community to provide a transitional home for up to thirteen youth ages 18 to 21 who are homeless or at high risk of homelessness. Rita's House is named for The Bridge's founder, Sister Rita Steinhagen, who spent decades supporting homeless youth.

Residents will pay low rents, stay in single bedrooms and share kitchen, bathroom and living spaces and will have access to a case manager and job placement services.

Youth living in the home will work together to support one another, develop shared goals and rules for their community and have the opportunity to build the skills necessary to live independently.

A portion of the rent will be reserved so the youth will have some money saved toward a new apartment when they are ready to move on. Residents are expected to stay at Rita's House for one or two years.

In 2016, ECCO provided a three-year loan to support affordable housing in Minneapolis. The grant to Rita's House continues ECCO's commitment to working toward solutions to help the city's most vulnerable residents have access to affordable housing.

### 18. **MAJOR HIGHLIGHT #2**

There was a significant amount of divisiveness, fear and uncertainty in the country after the 2016 national elections. The ECCO Board wanted to convey to all that the neighborhood is a welcoming place and accepting of all individuals.

ECCO commissioned a custom design of All Are Welcome Here signs that included the East Calhoun logo. Signs were printed and available free of charge to residents who wanted to display the signs in their yards or windows.

The desire to be a welcoming and inclusive place has been a consistent theme for the neighborhood. In 2013, after input from the community, the ECCO Board asked the City to remove signs throughout the neighborhood that read “If I don’t call the police my neighbor will.” In many cases these signs were on the same posts as our “Welcome to East Calhoun Neighborhood” signs. The signs sent mixed messages. The ECCO Board removed the negative signs to project a more welcoming community. Crime is lower in communities where residents know one another and watch out for each other. The ECCO Board strives to create a more cohesive neighborhood through our events and activities.

