

1. NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

Linden Hills Neighborhood Council

2. ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Neighborhood Organization Contact: [Becky Allen](#)

Organization Address: [P.O. Box 24049](#)

Organization Address 2:

Organization ZIP: [55410](#)

Organization Email Address: info@lindenhills.org

Organization Phone Number: [612-926-2906](#)

3. ORGANIZATION WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Website: www.lindenhills.org

Facebook: [hFps://www.facebook.com/groups/120088258007502/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/120088258007502/)

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.

03/06/2018

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?**

3500

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?) Every other month (6 issues per year)

Number of subscribers to your email list 1,067

Number of followers on Facebook and Twitter Combined 1,371

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):

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

1100

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):

This spring, LHiNC awarded a grant to the Linden Hills United Church of Christ to help renovate the entry to its sanctuary and education wing so that it meets ADA requirements. The church is a community resource and used by many groups on a weekly basis for meetings and events, such as community pancake breakfasts, blood drives, community forums, meetings for 5 different recovery groups, and community classes, such as yoga, dance, music lessons and meditation.

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?

LHiNC builds community through large events like the annual festival that draws an average 3000+ people and dozens of volunteers, as well as the Art Shanty Projects, which LHiNC helped to fund and bring to Lake Harriet. This new event drew an average of 9,000 people per weekend to the lake this winter and will be returning for at least two more winters. We also host smaller events like the Taste of Linden Hills and Fall Fest. The council invites stakeholders to share their events and viewpoints with their neighbors by providing a print newsletter 6 times/year that is hand-

delivered to every household, a monthly e-newsletter 12 times/year, and a community Facebook group. We support businesses through collaborative projects with the Linden Hills Business Association, Linden Hills Farmers Market, and the Taste of Linden Hills, which features neighborhood restaurants. We activate volunteers in the community through Nice Neighbors Day, which is a day of community volunteering, volunteer opportunities at council events, as well as inviting community members to serve on LHiNC Committees (LHiNC has community members serving on its Communications, Environment and Zoning Committees.) Finally, LHiNC supports stakeholder groups and projects through the Neighborhood Grants program. We award 8-10 grants/year, \$500-1000 each. This money is raised through the Taste of Linden Hills and is awarded to groups/organizations that make Linden Hills a better place to live and work.

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

LHiNC has created a unique sense of community and pride in neighborhood during 2017 in some of the following ways:

Winter

- **Kite Festival:** LHiNC sponsors and participates in this annual Lake Harriet event that brings out approximately 5,000 people from the local area in an opportunity to be outside in the community during the winter. This event is led by the MPRB with support from the LHiNC and East Calhoun Neighborhood Association. LHiNC also provided Zero Waste system for the event.
- **Linden Hills Winterfest:** LHiNC provides refreshments to this event that is led by the MPRB at our primary neighborhood park. The Winterfest draws over 250 people to the event.
- **Spring Grant Program:** LHiNC maintains a grant program to support neighborhood groups and organizations. The grant program has been in place for over 10 years and is a key funding source for organizations that support the community. All funds in the grant program are the result of LHiNC fundraising efforts.
 - **Eric Peterson Scholarship Recipients** – funds two \$1000 scholarships for graduating Southwest High School students who have shown commitment to community service and volunteering.
 - **Linden Hills Chamber Orchestra** - to support a website update, musician scholarships, and the purchase of music for bandshell concerts as part of the Lake Harriet Summer Concert Series.
 - **Rubies** (Linden Hills/Fulton-based all girls robotics team) - \$750 to fund a robot for use at community events to raise awareness of STEM and robotics opportunities. This team won local competitions and used our support to help them compete in the national competition located in Washington, DC.
 - **Southwest High School Guitar Program** – provided support to this music program primarily to help with cost mitigation in support of the 2017 STRUT: Guitar Festival
 - **Public Space Beautification Project at 47th & Drew** – provided funding to neighbors to the traffic circle located at 47th & Drew so that they could beautify this public space.
- **Environmental Education and Action Session:** In February 2017, the LHiNC Environment & Sustainability Committee worked with Play It Safe Minneapolis to organize an education and action session advocating for the removal and replacement of shredded waste tires and crumb rubber on playgrounds. Shredded tire waste is currently used as a play surface

on 47 public elementary school playgrounds in Minneapolis. The session brought together more than thirty people from this community to discuss what shredded tire waste is, why it is being used on playgrounds, and why it is harmful to children and the environment, as well as the most effective way to advocate for change.

Spring/Summer

- **The Art Shanty Project:** Continued planning for The Art Shanty Project that was brought to Lake Harriet for the first time in 2018. This collaborative art project just celebrated its 12th year and brings together artists of many disciplines to transform a frozen lake into a creative community space. The Shanty Village, featuring 22 artist-designed, interactive art shanties, was free and open to the public over four consecutive weekends from January 20 through February 11. A Linden Hills shanty that paid homage to our beloved streetcar and highlighted the history of the community's love for Lake Harriet was also planned. Over 40,000 visitors attended the events when it was actualized in 2018. Bringing this event to Minneapolis was considered a big win by LHiNC.
- **Garage Sales:** A part of the annual Linden Hills Festival, LHiNC organizes neighborhood-wide garage sales on the same day to maximize the ability to bring garage sale shoppers out. The LHiNC provides advertising, maps, and signs to guide people to the Garage Sales. The fees paid to the LHiNC for the Garage Sale are part of the LHiNC grant funding and operating budget. Over 35 residences hosted Garage Sales.
- **The 42d Annual Linden Hills Festival:** This is a very popular family event and the primary fundraising effort for the neighborhood council. On an annual basis, over 3,000 people attend the festival that is held on a Sunday in May. Proceeds are used to support the grant program and LHiNC activities. It features food, games for children, an art fair, a book sale to raise money for the local library, and a silent auction. This year's event had several new features:
 - o A tented Beer garden
 - o More food trucks
 - o The Linden Hills Farmers Market started their season off in the park at the Festival
 - o An expanded music stage and performers

18. MAJOR HIGHLIGHT #2

Fall

- **Taste of Linden Hills:** For the 2nd year in a row, this new event brought area restaurants, their chefs, and Linden Hills residents together for an elegant evening fundraiser. Participating restaurants included Lake Harriet Brasserie, Tilia's, Naviya, Rose Street Patisserie, and Linden Hills/Wedge Food Coops, among others. The event raised \$7500 to apply towards our grant program and highlighted Linden Hills businesses. Feedback suggests that this is the start of a popular Linden Hills annual event.
- **Neighborhood Treasure Awards/Annual Meeting and Elections:** This program recognizes Linden Hills residents who have been nominated by their neighbors for outstanding local achievements. This year's Treasures were: The Rubies Robotics Club and Jim Miller. Plaques were presented at Election Night by Council Member Linea Palmisano. This event coincides with our annual elections.
- **Fall Grant Program:** As with the Spring Grants we fund these awards entirely out of our own fundraising efforts.
 - o **Linden Hills Bocce Club: \$1000** -To help build two regulation-size bocce ball courts at the southwest corner of Linden Hills Park, which will be donated to the Minneapolis Park Board. The Linden Hills Bocce Club's mission is to bring the exciting, low-impact, accessible game of bocce to the residents of Linden Hills.

- **Linden Hills UCC: \$1000-** To help renovate the entry to its sanctuary and education wing so that it meets ADA requirements. The church is a community resource and used by many groups on a weekly basis for meetings and events. such as community pancake breakfasts, blood drives, community forums, meetings for 5 different recovery groups, and community classes, such as yoga, dance, music lessons, and meditation.
- **Minneapolis Pops Orchestra: \$1000-** To support its 2018 concert season at the Lake Harriet Bandshell. During the month of July, the MPO will perform ten concerts at the Lake Harriet Bandshell (Saturdays at 7:30 and Sundays at 5:30). Programs will include a mix of light classics, movie music, popular songs, marches, waltzes, Broadway medleys and music by Minnesota composers.
- **Rubies Robotics Team: \$1000-** To build a competition robot for the 2017-18 FTC season. The RUBIES is an all girls, Linden Hills-based robotics team; they were also the only all-girls team with members attending an urban public high school to compete at the FTC World Championships in St. Louis in 2017. They will also bring the robot to community events to increase awareness of robotics and STEM amongst students and the greater community.
- **STRUT Guitar Festival: \$1000-** To help fund the STRUT Guitar Festival 2018 at Southwest High School. The festival is May 18th and 19th, 2018 and features a smorgasbord of music activities in which students can compete, study and entertain. The mission of STRUT is, “Building Confident Musicians: One Guitarist at a time”.
- **The Art Shanty’s move to Lake Harriet:** During the Fall, LHiNC designed and built their own “Shanty” as a part of the Art Shanty’s new location on Lake Harriet. The LHiNC Shanty’s design was inspired by Linden Hills’ Trolley and featured historical pictures of the area. Its painting and construction was done almost entirely by volunteers.
- **Nice Neighbor’s Day:** This event accomplished several specific neighborhood tasks, completely through volunteer workers:
 - Removal of the invasive Buckthorn plant in the William Berry Woods
 - A new rain garden in the Trolley Path
 - Organization of books for the Linden Hills Library
 - Cleaning up and caring for plants along 44th Street

Year-Round Efforts

- **Welcome Packets** were given to all new Linden Hills residents.
- **Bike racks** - The LHiNC NRP Committee completed a full neighborhood bike rack inventory and assessment designed to ensure that bike racks are available in all community, commercial and recreational nodes. With the completion of the inventory we installed 20 new bike racks in the neighborhood and will complete installing in the remaining nodes during 2018.
- **Hour Car** - LHiNC continues to sponsor and promote the Hour Car, which is parked on the property of local hardware store, Settergren’s. Many residents who do not wish to own a car, or want to avoid purchasing a 2nd car, use this for local errands and transportation.
- **Trolley Path Development** - The LHiNC Environment and Sustainability Committee continues to work on developing and enhancing the Linden Hills Trolley Path and subsequent gardens. In partnership with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board and Public Works, we hope to sustainably improve the existing path while also exploring the possibility of extending the path towards Lake Harriet.
- **The Linden Hills Line:** The bi-monthly newsletter of the Linden Hills Neighborhood Council. It is delivered to all residences and businesses in the Linden Hills neighborhood, reaching approximately 7,500 people. The Newsletter covers, news and events occurring in the area and the city of Minneapolis that is of importance to the residents of the neighborhood.

- **The Linden Hills E-Newsletter** is distributed monthly to a subscriber base of over 1,000 addresses (a third of the total households). The content addresses and contains neighborhood news items, profiles and event information. And we have some impressive stats:
 - **Email opened as a % of total sent by our provider Constant Contact**
 - The Linden Hills E-News - 46.00 % over the last three issues.
 - The average for all industries - 18.09%
 - The average for civic, association and clubs is - 24.38%
 - The Average for non-profits - 21.43%
 - The total client database for our provider Constant Contact is 600,000