

2017-2019 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

Application Template

Please use this template as a guide to developing your application for funding from the Community Participation Program. The level of detail should be appropriate to your organization’s proposed activities, and to the level of funding allocated for your organization.

May have been revised since your last funding submission.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Organization Name:	East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC)
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Website url:	eastphillips-epic.com
Organization email:	cpass@runbox.com , eastphillipsepic@gmail.com
Federal EIN:	32-0036350
Board Contact:	Name: Carol Ann Pass
Staff Contact:	Name: None Phone: Email: Address:

Who should be the primary contact for this application? Carol Ann Pass, Board Chair, EPIC

Date of Board review and approval: April 24, 2019

FUNDING ACTIVITIES.

Use the following questions as a guide for your application. For questions 1-8, please limit each response to no more than 3 paragraphs.

1. Eligibility.

EPIC has previously received funding through the Community Participation Program.

2. Community participation efforts. Describe proposed outreach activity in the neighborhood, and methods to involve residents and other stakeholders in one or more of the three key program purposes. How will you engage residents and other stakeholders of their neighborhood in developing a Neighborhood Priority Plan?

Prelude- This document is being written somewhat after the fact, since it is currently more than two thirds of the way into the funding cycle. Much of what is stated here is already in process. EPIC takes very seriously the first article of the City's statement of 2007 in the 'Core Principles of Community Engagement' namely the Right to be involved: that "public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process." If this is to be meaningful it must mean more than being involved in the conversation. It involves not just being involved with decisions about people's projects, but also in the actual creation and direction of projects and programs rising up and driven by members of the community.

Our answers to these questions reflect that the East Phillips voters who have reelected most of the members of this board to continue the work, respect the fact that the board listened to and helped them transform their choices into projects to focus on and actually accomplish. From the East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center to the Phillips Aquatic Center to forty new affordable homes to the speed bumps to the roundabout to mention a few, the people were listened to. These reflect priorities related to youth and young adult programming, partnerships with other organizations, and addressing health needs of the community.

This Strategy of community engagement can be seen in the dedication of the board and community to the current projects mentioned here that have so altered our lives for the better. When the clarity of the community's intensified concern for the health of the families and children of East Phillips revealed itself, the board and the community joined together in an effort to actualize our mutual dreams. That is the secret of the durability of this board and the respect it has acquired. The project-based community organizing that EPIC has followed has continued to work well and engendered many great successes. As long as the board and community remain goal driven and goal aligned and they all are involved in choosing the goal in an open process , we believe we can count on a strong future. This is our method of community engagement and it rests heavily on communication including but not limited to, door knocking, flyering, monthly and special meetings, surveys, newspaper articles and etc.

Engagement Strategy- To continue this journey is to continue to explain the emergence and unfolding of our key **priority plan**. When after a series of EPIC meetings, complaints heard, discussions had, new science discovered, the community brought the issue of childhood illness and pollution to the front and center of our discussions. It was decided in a series of meetings that we must try again to remove the asphalt plant and foundry from the neighborhood. Then the cascade began. Group discussions led to a conviction on the part of most that no more polluting industries should be allowed in this already over-burdened community. Then the Roof Depot came up for sale. We polled the community and it was concluded that we needed to respond with a project of the community's own and consider trying to buy the Roof Depot site. Then discussions of what sort of project should occur began. We began neighborhood surveys then pooled the results. Affordable housing, entry-level jobs, environmental justice oriented, a food desert setting led to the notion of an indoor urban farm using aquaponics.

The fact that we have 12 community meetings a year and 12 board meetings allow strong convictions and unity to emerge. We note this because heavy flyering and lots of meetings allows the growth of convictions in the community and the will to action rises to the top. We found investors and community support grew. The meetings swelled in the hope that we could see the end of chronic asthma, school days lost, the attendant joblessness, the drug use and lives lost for another generation. Some of our meetings grew to over 200 people. Efforts to implement the Urban Farm are on-going.

During this time we had been training residents to lobby the legislature for funds to deal with these problems with a focus on environmental justice and how that could deliver a project that would address our issues. More residents were learning to lobby and understand the process. Then enter the City Public Works Department staff, who had been planning for over a decade , without engaging the community at all, to purchase the Roof Depot site. They threatened eminent domain. The owner pulled out of negotiations with the community despite the fact that we obtained almost 9 million dollars in committed funds.

This is a roadmap for how EPIC residents and other stakeholders in the community are engaging each other in developing a **Neighborhood Priority Plan**. We are writing from the middle of the implementation of a Neighborhood Priority Plan: the plan has been to come up with and implement solutions to the problem of community-wide childhood illness. This led to **engagement strategies**, which in the process grew and changed as needs arose, initially a lot of door-to-door surveying, many smaller meetings to gauge support, to larger ones and lots of flyering and broadcast emails, to groups of neighbors learning and lobbying the legislature, but always the 12 community meetings a year and the board meetings were a mainstay and the backbone of it all. A major outcome has been a legislative award from the Department of Employment Economic Development (DEED) of \$319,000 over a three year period to engage neighborhood cultural organizations working together on the Urban Farm Project.

Some other avenues of engagement are our programs: the large community garden serves 32 diverse families, assisting the Hispanic Baseball League which EPIC cofounded, Latino and Somali soccer, as well as the East Phillips Park Programming Partnership which as a committee of

EPIC meets monthly and connects EPIC members with both neighbors involved at the park and partnering agencies to work together in programming the park.

3. Building organizational capacity. How will you work to: (1) provide opportunities for the direct involvement of members, (2) build your membership and volunteer base, (3) encourage and develop new leadership, and (4) expand the organization's capacity through self-assessment and other activities.

EPIC's chosen projects have either been strongly desired or ambitious enough for many to engage in them, providing many opportunities for direct involvement. Committees have almost formed by themselves and leadership is allowed to develop naturally, which it has, almost miraculously. More local and smaller projects have been taken on by smaller groups, which worked to bring about a more local change for the better. All groups report back to the main community at a community meeting of their choice. They can either request more volunteer support, ask for more funding, or report to the whole East Phillips community of their achievements. These events are usually wildly applauded. The Native Youth Arts Collective is one such highly successful project. The speed bumps are an example of a smaller project that pulled together many residents to make it happen. The urban farm project is an example of a larger such project pulling in many members. Another set up a special Facebook page and many contribute to it. Another is working on a website. Others are distributing leaflets explaining the Urban Farm project. These examples engaged, and are engaging, residents across ethnic and cultural barriers. This process also fosters membership growth and new leadership. A specific example is the interest of several new multi-cultural prospective board members who only became active in EPIC in the past two years.

4. Building neighborhood relationships. Describe your outreach, networking and inclusivity efforts to: (1) build a sense of a whole neighborhood among residents, (2) build bridges among neighbors and diverse communities within the neighborhood, (3) work with other neighborhoods and organizations on issues of common interest, (4) build partnerships with private and public entities, and (5) benefit the neighborhood as a whole.

While working with only volunteers is a lot of work, the depth of commitment and focus for someone at work on their own living space and with their own neighbors is remarkable.

Note: *Since our community is 87% persons of color and almost all from traditionally underserved backgrounds, all the previously mentioned projects and programs plus those mentioned here serve them and build relationships. Some with a more focused intent are the following:*

- An annual park festival in June that celebrates our diversity and unity through performance, informational booths, participation with the police and fire departments, ethnic vendors, children/youth/and adult programming. It is a time to meet and greet old and new neighbors across language and ethnic differences. EPIC always provides information about the neighborhood organization, special events and opportunities with other nonprofit and for-profit groups, and actively recruits new members.
- We help sponsor and attend the Little Earth Native American Mother's Day PowWow which is a public event.

- We worked with Ventura Village on promoting and funding the Phillips Indoor Pool.
- We worked with the Banyan on the traffic circle on 17th Ave and E 25th St.
- We targeted youth—particularly Native American and African American to sponsor basketball camps with Clyde Turner.
- Clean Sweep each fall is perhaps the best example of working with other neighborhoods and private as well as public and city departments to improve the entire neighborhood and to bring all of our diverse members together in an immense effort to clean the neighborhoods and then to celebrate with info booths, meals, and music at Stewart Park.
- On a smaller scale our Fall Harvest party in our community garden invites residents to come together in an ethnic food potluck and traditional pumpkin carving contest, smores, music and conversation until the fire goes out.

These are examples and not meant to be an exhaustive list. We believe these activities bring people together and create a better understanding and rapport among various ethnic members of the community.

5. Work with City departments and other jurisdictions. Discuss your efforts to connect with City of Minneapolis departments and other jurisdictions on behalf of your community and in support of your neighborhood priorities. Please also discuss how the NCR Department can help with this work.

These activities reflect a commitment to health, crime and safety, youth programming opportunities, and partnerships with other organizations, all of which are explicit priorities for EPIC in this funding cycle.

- Workshops at public meetings with police on crime prevention and trespassing process.
- Multiple engagements with developers reflecting city planning and development.
- Meetings with the county officials about traffic on Hiawatha.
- Meetings with city departments about changes on Franklin/Minnehaha/Cedar and Bloomington Ave/E 27th.
- Attending meetings with CPED about buying and remodeling homes.
- Multiple meetings with Little Earth and Park Board staff about redesign of Cedar Field.
- Multiple meetings with Public Works Dept; city council members, and state legislators over the Roof Depot site and neighborhood proposal for the Urban Farm.
- Some EPIC members are on the Green Zone committee & others attend meetings.
- Many calls to 311 and contact with traffic related city departments to try to resolve road rage and dangerous intersections especially on E 24th and E 26th and E 28th streets in peak hours. It is a mystery as to how NCR can help with these chronic traffic problems that block neighbors in their driveways, alleys, and cross streets. However, NCR as an organization can help by verbally and in writing support the decisions, programs and projects of the community. Problems are often exacerbated by month to month neglect instead of solved. With City Council help, we did get a round-about and a barricade removed on E 25th St.
- Our major “other jurisdiction” is state government which awarded the grant for the purpose of pursuing the Urban Farm project to address health problems as well as

employment and housing and energy efficiency. Great if NCR would lobby on behalf of this project!!

6. Involvement of under-engaged stakeholders. Discuss which stakeholder groups are typically un-engaged or under-engaged in your work, and how you will work to involve those groups. Please also discuss how the NCR Department can help with this work.

1) Successfully recruited Board nominees from the Somali, Native American, Anglo and Latino communities. Made sure they served in positions of importance and public speaking engagements to represent the organization's positions and point of view, especially before government authorities. The EPIC By-laws call for a board of 9 members. Two positions are currently vacant. The current EPIC Board consists of: one Native American women; one Somali woman; one Latino/First Nation woman; and four Anglo women. There is an age range of 30 years. New elections will probably include a Native American president and men as well as younger members.

2) Again, East Phillips is 87% persons of color, all of whom are from groups that are traditionally underserved. EPIC has responded to all of the following: Nepalese, Native Americans, Somalis, African Americans, West Africans, Latinos, Elders, and Youth. See answers to 2, 3, 4, 5.

Some additional activities of greater intentionality are mentioned below. Both the Board and the broader membership worked together in conceiving and achieving these efforts which required multi-cultural understanding and cooperation:

Completed:

- Native Youth Arts Collective and our collaboration with Little Earth Residents Association.
- Speed bumps led by Latinos and Native Americans and Somalis as well as Southside Learning Center all working together as a team.
- Completion of Ogema Place Memorial Park at Little Earth of United Tribes: Little Earth Residents Association (LERA) working with the EPIC Board.
- Successfully acquired a Round-about worked on by Native Americans, Somalis, Anglos, Hispanics.

On-going:

- Somali Radio station which broadcasts East Phillips information/concerns is planned in concert with radio staff and community members.
- Hispanic Baseball League recruiting and funding in collaboration with Latino residents.
- Immigration court testimony and letters of support for residents by EPIC Board.
- Swimming scholarships for the East Phillips pool for all ethnic groups Sponsored by EPIC.
- Basketball recruitment and funding especially for Native Americans and African Americans both boys and girls in Clyde Turner programs.

- National Night Out block parties often with block by block emphasis on different ethnic groups: Haitian, Latino, Somali, African American.
- Refugee resettlement assistance for Nepali and Liberian families by the EPIC Board.
- EPNI, the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute, is composed of organizations representing various cultures working together on the Urban Farm project for which EPIC is the fiscal agent and primary organizer.

7. **Unused funds.** Discuss how you plan to use unused funds from the previous cycle for community engagement or implementation of neighborhood priorities.

EPIC has purposely captured considerable unused funds by remaining a volunteer organization and is committed to spend them carefully and productively. The money will go into Priority Plans which were discussed and prepared for in the past year. Refer to the budget for Priorities.

8. **Policies and other documents.** Applications should include copies of required policies and documents, if changed since your previous application. This should include bylaws, grievance procedures, personnel procedures and policies, EOE or AA plan, ADA plan and policy, and a current board list (Contact your Neighborhood Support Specialist at NCR if you have questions or need samples).

We are appending the current bylaws and policies and procedures. Particular changes include and are not limited to attendance requirements for board members and grievance procedures. We don't have a personnel procedure or policy manual because we have no employees. We are planning to work on other plan/policy requirements with the new Board members.

Current Board Members:

Cruz, Rosie; Dale, Laura; Gonsior, Mary; Holmes, Cassandra; Leonard, Linda;

Mohamed, Abah; Pass, Carol

We are two members short and the elections soon will fill all the positions.

9. **New organizations.** If your organization was not funded in the previous year, a report on the previous year's activities must be included with your application.

NA

10. **Budgets.** Please use this budget template when submitting your Community Participation Plan for approval. Your budget should show how Community Participation Program funds will support the organizations community participation work and an amount set-aside, if any, for implementation of Neighborhood Priority Plans. An annual budget for the organization should also be provided.

ESTIMATED BUDGET

CPP Budget	2019	2020	2021
Staff Expenses	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Employee Benefits	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Professional Services	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Occupancy	\$6,400	\$6,400	\$6,400
General Liability Insurance	\$900	\$900	\$900
Directors and Officers Insurance	\$900	\$900	\$900
Communications/Outreach	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Translation, interpretation and ADA support	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Supplies and Materials	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Meetings/community building events	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Development	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Fundraising			
Other Services (please describe):	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total for contract:	\$76,200	\$76,200	\$76,200
Neighborhood Priorities-Youth & Young Adult	\$2,187	\$2,187	\$2,187
Programming, Partnerships with organizations			
Health of East Phillips Residents			
Crime and Safety			
TOTAL:	\$78,387	\$78,387	\$78,387