

1. **NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION**

East Phillips Improvement Coalition

2. **ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION**

Neighborhood Organization Contact: [Carol Ann Pass](#)

Organization Address: [2536 18th Ave S.](#)

Organization Address 2: [Minneapolis,MN](#)

Organization ZIP: [55404](#)

Organization Email Address: cpass@runbox.com & eastphillipsepic@gmail.com

Organization Phone Number: [612-280-8418](tel:612-280-8418)

3. **ORGANIZATION WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

Website: eastphillips-epic.com

Facebook:

Twitter:

Other: [See #12 below](#)

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.

3/31/2019

Community Participation Program

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTREACH ACTIVITIES DID YOUR ORGANIZATION USE IN 2018?

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 2018?

1500

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 2018?**

1200

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?)

EPIC produces a monthly half-page in the Alley all-Phillips newspaper, delivered door-to-door throughout the four neighborhoods. It contains the monthly meeting and events schedule, special events and announcements.

Number of subscribers to
your email list

Approximately 800

Number of followers on
Facebook and Twitter Combined

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

Other activities (please describe here):

Door-Knocking Efforts

We covered at least 750 dwellings more than once. EPIC's Major Project for the year has again been the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm at the roof depot site. For this we have again door knocked to survey opinions, to warn people of the pollution issue, to inform residents of the neighborhood plan and ask their advice, to elicit their support, to inform them of our progress and to invite their participation. we have done sections of the neighborhood each time and sometimes flyer the totality in a two day splash speaking to people whenever they came to the door, but for sure leaving flyers with invitations and information at every house and going through Apartment buildings where possible. Block Clubs have helped, Tamales Y Bicicletas group has helped with the Latino population. Somali volunteers have also helped and the Little Earth Residents Association (LERE) has provided an invaluable link to the Native American Community in Phillips.

Little Earth Mother's Day Powwow

In 2018 EPIC has continued and expanded our effort to build a stronger partnership with Little Earth by electing two new board members from the Little Earth Community and by voting to be one of the sponsoring organizations of the Little Earth Mother's Day Powwow. Both Little Earth residents and the rest of East Phillips residents have longed for greater connectivity amongst the two groups and saw the wisdom in working together, but it just never seemed to happen. In 2016 things started to change with the CIF grant, a grant in which both groups participated in formulating and writing a proposal which involved creating a Native Youth Arts Collective. This involved a year-long process of studying art and cultural expression which ended with the youth presenting a wonderfully spirited and deep discussion with the surrounding East Phillips neighbors. Everyone came away feeling enriched by the experience. This project and others continued out of the previous year's experiences. We've all become a team with regard to facing challenges, especially those connected with the Indoor Urban Farm Project, the Speed Bump Project, the Traffic Circle Project and sharing the cost of the restoration of Ogema Place Kiddie Park. A lot of mutual appreciation has come out of this. We're looking forward to finding many other ways we can face challenges and opportunities together. The future looks rewarding and exciting, as we learn how to be better neighbors and friends.

EPIC's 19th Annual Meeting for the year 2018

The Annual Meeting last year was one of our most successful. It was not one of the larger ones, but the diversity was greater, about 50 voters. The election provided us with some good people who have a heart for the neighborhood, with strong diversity. People had a great time at the meeting and loved the pancake breakfast, the great door prizes and the opportunity to be together for the neighborhood. We were pleased that volunteers from the neighborhood, and many youth, were our servers.

EPIC's 5th Annual SummerFest

Following on the heels of spring time's Little Earth Mother's Day Powwow, came the East Phillips Summerfest, a grand display of neighborhood talent, good food and interesting cultural displays. This year as usual the youth have added many wonderful gigs, assisted by EPIC's program for Youth Talent Development.

One of EPIC's goals for the SummerFest is to celebrate and showcase our great and remarkable diversity and the unique tapestry of talent and artistry which our diversity brings to East Phillips. Larger groups include, but not limited to people who are Latino, Somali and Native American, Nepali, African-American, Asian, Norwegian, Irish and others from the European diaspora. That list includes most of the groups, but there are many others, some newly arrived. We believe we are the most diverse neighborhood in any city from here to Chicago to the east and here to Seattle to the West. Each group has its own musicians, crafts, unique dress, dances and food specialties that we can sample on special days like SummerFest. An example is Holy Rosary Church, which always partners with us providing fabulous Mexican food. We find ourselves to be rich in history, unique experience, and the wisdom of each one. It can be exciting just walking down the street and finding a tremendous variety of languages spoken. The Native American Medicine Wheel seems especially suited to express this. Lots of good information at the tables.

National Night Out & celebrating completion of Ogema Place Park

When Little Earth Residents' Association did not have the funding to finish the small Park playground in Ogema Place, EPIC was able to recontract some old NRP dollars to fill the gap and help get it done. The party to celebrate this new play space and National Night Out fell on the same night.

Fostering Young Adults, Youth & Children's Sports

Phillips Aquatic Center – EPIC Swimming Program, the first year

After a five-year struggle to stop the teardown of the Phillips Community Center and raise the money, we finally have our pool, or I should say 'pools', since there is now a second warm-water pool, ideal for teaching. The driving purpose pushing us has been to finally be able to offer swimming lessons for children of the neighborhood who bore the unhappy label of being the most likely to die from drowning in the lakes of the City of Lakes. We now have the possibility of changing that sad statistic. EPIC members voted to spend the dollars to assist in financing swimming lessons for five dollars a person for a series of four lessons. The instructors are excellent, especially those for the little kids... another major goal for EPIC accomplished.

EPIC Basketball Camps

EPIC has partnered for the past several years with the Minneapolis Park Board, Clyde Turner Basketball Camps and the Medwakanton Sioux Community to provide basketball clinics, workouts and training by professional former players from area colleges and professional teams in the Metro area. They provide the youth with solid training in ball handling and rigorous skill training as well as challenging discussions of healthy lifestyle choices. The kids love the attention paid to them and the teaching by these solid professionals. We hope to retain this program in the future.

Liga Hispana de Beisbol –

LHDB has been partnering with EPIC and the East Phillips neighborhood youth and adults for years. Initially we wrote their 501(c)(3) and provided a major portion of their funding. EPIC has from time to time continued to provide financial help, and recently we have helped with

recruitment and, through the East Phillips Park Programming Partnership provided free meeting space. In return the EPIC organization has broadened its participation base in the Latino community and helped our organization to grow with their greater involvement. With mentor Tony Oliva and backing from the Twins organization, they are providing fun and the structured activity of baseball for adults and youth in Phillips and South Minneapolis, but their home base has always been East Phillips. They have mentored youth and brought families together for a center of social activity that goes beyond baseball and builds community cohesiveness and family togetherness in the Latino community and beyond.

Phillips Clean Sweep

Through the Clean Sweep Event every fall the Community fights the trashy appearance and unhealthy features caused by people littering or by people coming from elsewhere to dump things here...unwanted tires, furniture, paint cans, etc. This is an affront to the residents and emphasizes the low opinion some people have for our residents. The Phillips Clean Sweep Lands on the second Saturday of October EVERY Year. It involves all four Phillips Neighborhoods and Little Earth of United Tribes in a day long community building event starting with a free breakfast, the distribution of 450 free Clean Sweep T-shirts, three hours on the part of approximately 500 people cleaning the neighborhood of trash and culminating in a big feed and music at Stewart Park

East Phillips Community Garden Annual Fall Harvest Party

EPIC is one of the only neighborhood organizations that owns its own community garden. The large Community Garden has 32 family size Garden Plots and serves families of all ethnicities, involving over 120 people. Two Native American Day Care centers, the SouthSide Family Nurturing Center and East Phillips Park also have plots to teach kids where their veggies come from and how to grow them. Teens from East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center also garden together and help with garden maintenance. The garden committee hosts several meetings and parties in the garden, especially Community Garden Day where people from all over town come and visit the garden, and the Annual Fall Harvest Party, which invites all of East Phillips.

Special Speakers and Guests

- MPCA Staff Cassandra Meyer was invited to present on the permitting process for Smith Foundry and Bituminous Roadways. This was to prepare us for a major meeting with MCDA staff to address with them our pollution problems. The large meeting took place in August and plans are made to meet again. Staff Meyer agreed to continue to advise us.
- The special meeting with Winona Leduc also addressed pollution problems and social and health challenges emergent from these toxic air problems
- Atty. Gen. Keith Ellison met with us upon request to discuss possible litigation regarding our pollution problems.

13. Please provide an estimate of VOLUNTEER HOURS provided to your organization in 2018

4000

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):

Since the Phillips neighborhood population is overwhelmingly poor, quite young, persons of color, with limited education almost everything we do is for, with and by underserved, and underrepresented people in the larger scheme of things. Even if you do not fall into one of those categories, you're still under-served and underrepresented because the majority of the City Council members, the mayor and most of the city staff, in other words the key decision-makers of the City, are basically not interested in nor do they choose to understand and concern themselves with people from those areas like Phillips. As a result people who live in those areas like Phillips are all essentially under served and underrepresented. Their issues simply do not rise to a critical level of awareness for anyone to do much about anything. Unless the people in areas like Phillips do things themselves or people outside of Phillips intentionally try to understand and penetrate a global ethical blindness, those of us who live here will have to be change agents ourselves, unless we decide to permanently accept living in extreme pollution, high crime, ugly and dangerous surroundings with impossible health challenges and so on.

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?

Nothing has involved residents to the degree that our East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm project has. The story goes thus. Given the remarks of question 14, a large group of us decided in early 2014 that we needed to make a change. New information about what the children were actually

breathing was so alarming that we decided to try to seriously de-industrialize the heavy industry area at Cedar Avenue and 28th Street, referred to by the neighborhood as the intersection of death. We began a major effort to remove the asphalt plant and foundry, only to discover that the roof depot site might be coming up for sale. We immediately thought it could be sold to someone who would add to the presence of heavy industry and more pollution. We contacted the owners and began a plan to create a project ourselves that would answer every need and every prevention we imagined, that would bring a future which would be protective of the children, environmentally just with healthy jobs tailored to the neighborhood. We brought the vision to the neighborhood and folks fully endorsed it. We started seeking investors and found them. We began working the legislature for funding and sought out a developer. It looked very promising. Then we were informed that the city had been planning for a decade without informing us to move the City's water works facility to the same place where we were planning to build our incredible project which is explained and pictured here. The City then threatened eminent domain. The owners caved and sold to the City. Somewhere in all this we received a grant from the state legislature of \$319,00 to develop this very thing. We are now locked in a struggle to share the building, something the city does not even want to imagine.

The City's project brings with it major dangerous pollution from its large fleet of diesel trucks. It has been discovered that diesel emissions are as dangerous as asbestos. We have watched more than two generations of children grow up and struggle with the life-long effects of the pollution already here. Many were in the encampment of homeless and addicted people whose life chances disappeared long ago from lack of school attendance due to asthma. One of the recent deaths in the encampment was due to asthma. Additional pollution from the water yard only adds to the number of health issues children here are already forced to deal with. Hosting the Minneapolis Water Yard damages our community while giving nothing in return. Our opposition is based on the belief that residents have the right to protect their children from the very health-challenging and life destroying effects of asthma, ADHD and cancer.

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

Grand Opening of the NEW Phillips Community Aquatic Center Pools

On April 21st, 2018, the Phillips Aquatic Center with its two pools, one being a warm water teaching pool, had its Grand Opening. It is a perfect example of what a group of dedicated volunteers can do if they can go the distance and stay unified. Three years ago EPIC contracted \$50,000 NRP dollars to help trigger a match from the Mdewakanton Sioux Community for restoration and construction of the Phillips Aquatic Center after a four-year political battle with the Mpls. Park Board just to keep them from tearing down the building. We hired our own professional pool assessment company when the Park “experts” told us the bottom was rotted out and it couldn’t be saved. EPIC’s full contribution reached \$75,000 plus thousands of hours of political struggle. We are proud to be the first and largest donor of the neighborhoods and to be unhesitant when we see a great idea and a real moral responsibility. We imagine bringing back the “Sharks”, the earlier Phillips Neighborhood swim team and our youth becoming award-winning swimmers.

18. MAJOR HIGHLIGHT #2

East Phillips Indoor Farms Project

East Phillips Neighbors and the Little Earth Native drum group filled City Hall on Dec. 4th to pray and express massive support for the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm Project. The size, passion and diversity of the supportive crowd was a major highlight and an inspiration for all who worked so hard.. Hundreds were in attendance and many were transported via a chartered bus from East Phillips Park to the meeting and back. The Council Chamber and outside hallways were filled with supporters coming from as far away as Iowa.