



2019 Annual Report Community Participation Program

1. NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

East Phillips Improvement Coalition

2. ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Neighborhood Organization Contact:

Organization Address:

Organization Address 2:

Organization ZIP:

Organization Email Address:

Organization Phone Number:

3. Organization Website and Social Media

Website:

Facebook:

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

Date:

2019 Community Participation Program Annual Report

Additional Organization Information

NOTE: The information in this section will be aggregated by the NCR staff for the annual [NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMS REPORT](#) and not be published as part of each neighborhood's Annual Report.

Indicate the **POSITION TITLE** and **AVERAGE HOURS PER WEEK** of each **PAID EMPLOYEE OR CONTRACT STAFF** (excluding professional services such as accounting, legal, etc.)

	5. POSITION TITLE	6. AVE. HRS./WK.
Position #1	NA	
Position #2	NA	
Position #3	NA	
Position #4	NA	
Position #5	NA	

7. **IF NEEDED, PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFO HERE:**

Note if any positions are seasonal, temporary, etc.

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Stakeholder Involvement – Basic Outreach and Engagement

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTREACH ACTIVITIES DID YOUR ORGANIZATION USE IN 2019?

8. **MEETINGS** (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

9. **DOOR-TO-DOOR** (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

10. Approximately **HOW MANY HOUSEHOLDS DID YOU REACH** through door-knocking in 2019?

Please provide a whole number only

11. **Flyering** - Dropping literature at doors (Check all that apply)

- 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

12. Approximately **HOW MANY HOUSEHOLDS DID YOU REACH** through flyering in 2019?

Please provide a whole number only

13. **EVENTS** (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.)

14. **COMMUNICATION** (Fill in all that apply)

Print a paper newsletter EPIC has a once a month article in the Alley News, also we send EPIC E-News announcing meetings, events, and major issues of interest to the neighborhood (If so, at what frequency?)

Number of subscribers to your email list

Number of followers on Facebook and Twitter Combined

OTHER (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):

EPIC's partnerships have been mostly youth and culturally-based and some have gone on for years. The Liga Hispana de Biesbol is youth, family and culturally based. We are cofounders of the Liga and have supported them every year, including 2019, for about 10 years and it has become more self-supporting every year. It's been very helpful for EPIC's connection to the Latino Community. EPIC's relationship with Little Earth of United Tribes has become a close partnership. We worked together on the Scout crime reduction program. EPIC has helped with general needs and with their PowWow. EPIC has shared some expenses with the Shakopee Sioux community for youth sports. EPIC helped get a renewal of the Native Youth Arts Collective. EPIC has shared expenses for the girls cheerleading group for their help with our neighborhood festival. Native Americans are frequently at our meetings and come to share their concerns with us. This has been a remarkable change.

15. Please provide an **ESTIMATE OF THE VOLUNTEER HOURS PROVIDED** to your organization in 2019.

Please provide a whole number only

16. **HOW DID YOUR ORGANIZATION REACH OUT TO UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?** (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):

In discussing this, our board had this response. Since people of color and mostly underrepresented are approximately 88% of the population, there is virtually nothing we could do that does not involve a major percentage of underrepresented persons of color. Aside from this fact, we have tried to learn what concerns, gatherings, problems, basic needs and special passions each unique ethnicity has, and to find ways to serve those. We have also tried to find those events, concerns, hopes and dreams that are common to all of us. We have supported cheerleading and talent shows, which have appealed mostly to African-Americans but we see this broadening into other groups and bringing them together. Our basketball camps have been a favorite of the African-Americans and Natives but we are seeing some Somali youth are beginning to join. Some parents show up to watch when they can. EPIC has also supported crime-fighting youth groups and the mentoring that happens with them but has blossomed recently with the Scout program that we managed to partner with and is flourishing and creating a path to a stronger youth at Little Earth. They presented at our meetings several times in return for our support and have been applauded heartily by the broader community. The Latinos in East Phillips are very fond of baseball and so EPIC as a cofounder and continued supporter of the Liga Hispana de Beisbol has connected EPIC closely to this group and its openness to both mentoring and bringing issues to discuss with the parents at the games. We have been writing grants and partnership agreements for years as well as going to the ballgames.

The Annual Meetings have always had a large contingency of Latino families, where they have consistently run the Annual Pancake Breakfast. They have served on the EPIC board for years. The Somalis have recently become fairly involved in swimming and we are working to form and support a competitive swim team. This would bring all the families out to watch and is very exciting to all concerned. Surprisingly the Somali women would like to learn to swim, so we are trying to find a way to provide them with special swimsuits to accommodate their concerns. With regard to finding common ground and working together with all the groups some of the projects that have been valuable on the work to put in speed bumps on various dangerous streets, the struggle against pollution of any sort and the work to create the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm.

This large project encompasses the dreams and hopes of all of East Phillips' ethnic groups, but most of all the Native Americans whose homes abut the most pollution creating part of the neighborhood. This is a major issue has brought all of East Phillips together more than once for an effort to finally deal with it.

17. 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 REACH RESIDENTS** and others?

What we've done that's unique and remarkable is to collectively come up with and move ahead with a project that is for the neighborhood and is so appealing, so imaginative, so important, so universally valuable that it attracted everyone to its creation and its forward momentum. It is an irresistible project that would begin to solve many problems that are achingly tragic in Phillips. What this did was motivate everybody from every ethnic group to work shoulder to shoulder to make it happen. When one person fell down from one community another person from another community would help them get up and press on. We have a whole host of people mad at us and without understanding where the neighborhoods people's passion comes from. We may lose and be disillusioned, but we bonded together like I never seen before. And even when I had to opt out because of my health crises, people carried on very well, because they were so committed to this wonderful project.

2019 Community Participation Program Annual Report 2019 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?

18. MAJOR HIGHLIGHT #1

Highlight number 1 of 2019 has been the unique and impressive character, functioning and competence of the 2019 EPIC Board, arriving just in the nick of time when we were struggling to stay afloat. 2019 was a year of major transitions. To a large degree having to do with the health crises of our Board President of many years, Carol Ann Pass, which required many different changes to cover all the Board's work. This took a lot of patience and generosity toward one another. Other demands on the Board had to do with changes in NCR and its impact on East Phillips, as well as the changing neighborhood. It is clear, however, that those who chose and were elected to serve as the new EPIC Board at the last annual meeting made the most valuable changes of all and enhanced many things the community chose to do. First, the EPIC board, though small, has always been a diverse board, but this year stands out in that respect. The Board is now composed of a Latina woman, a Somali woman, two Native American women, an older white man, two older white women and one young Anglo woman. All of these individuals worked hard to understand and successfully respond to the needs of people from very different cultures than their own. The EPIC Board has never had such a strong Native voice. We were able to make more and better progress on the needs and issues of each of our diverse groups, but especially of our Native American neighbors.

The Board worked together as a group trying to understand and respond to each diverse group's unique needs as well as trying to seek common goals. Some of these goals have been working together on crime problems, working on traffic congestion issues and working to get the Green Zone commission, the City Council and other governmental bodies to be more responsive to East Phillips' concerns about air pollution and environmental justice. Groups of neighbors have also gone to the Capital to press our case against the pollution here, which damages the life chances of all the children regardless of race.

These activities allowed youth and adults to hone their skills in public speaking and seeing and stating the needs of their own communities. In addition, we were able to respond to specific problems of specific groups with partnership agreements unique to a specific culture such as cheer leading classes, basketball camps, and swimming lessons for those who need but can't afford them. In every case the intelligence, hard work, talent, unanimity and diversity of the EPIC board was impressive and critical to everything we did and every success we had in 2019.

19. **MAJOR HIGHLIGHT #2**

Highlight number 2 of 2019 was the progress made in our major neighborhood project, the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm, and the extensive community engagement it brought about. When we describe the basic philosophy of community organizing that we have held to and profited remarkably from, we describe a method of involving people, however diverse, engaged in projects, which are chosen by all the groups involved and which are committed to being goal driven and goal aligned. We attribute this successful philosophy to Arthur Himmelman, our neighbor from Loring Park. The Urban Farm Project was initially chosen and designed by members of the neighborhood working together at many community meetings. All groups had a stake in its creation and design, in order to provide a way to stop additional pollution while providing something problem-solving and positive for the neighborhood, specifically entry-level jobs, affordable housing, a coffee/bike repair shop where the property touches the Midtown Greenway and primarily the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm. This is an effort to create a hydroponic organic food growing system, a resilient food supply in a food desert.

The valuable work and real social change emerging from the effort to make this project happen are so unique and positive, it is hard to say enough about them. So far, we have not succeeded beyond the design, support for the project, however the creation of the supporting organization, East Phillips Neighborhood Institute, and EPIC's involvement has given rise to an astonishingly effective and vast organizing base. The communal effort to make this project happen has fostered strong working relationships between neighbors. Also work choices and skills have broadened in what people are willing to do and put their time in. Members from all the diverse groups, especially teens, have been showing pride in their new gardening skills. In addition they are learning how to cook the new vegetables that they grow themselves. A favorite was the pickle-making effort. Little kids are learning how to create resumes, go to an interview and apply for jobs. They are also learning to garden and to cook. A group of Native youth who had been studying Native ways to solve criminal issues approached EPIC requesting that we help in an effort to send the group to New York, where this is currently being done. They wish to study ancient Native peacemaking methods to assist in helping crime problems, with a goal of using them here in Phillips. EPIC's partnership helped send them. They came back and gave a wonderful presentation of what they had learned to the East Phillips Community.

Part of this whole process involved learning how to deal with people who are angry at EPIC's effort to make our project happen. Helping with information tables and demonstrations from having sign-making parties to learning to speak in public are clearly maturing processes and commits all involved to supporting and defending positive values. All of the groups came together and involved themselves in speaking to public officials, City Council members and state legislators about consistently ignored problems in poor neighborhoods. This has transformed personal relationships by seeing and appreciating the contributions of others and working shoulder to shoulder toward a shared, imaginative and wonderful goal. Shared community pride is evident in all the diverse groups who have learned the value of working side by side with others in a diverse setting.

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20. Please send us a copy of your **OVERALL ORGANIZATIONAL BUDGET** for your current fiscal year (including City and other restricted or non-restricted funds) to ncr@minneapolismn.gov with the Subject Line: *2019 CPP Annual Report Budget*.

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21. Please Send your **CURRENT BOARD LIST with NAMES and CONTACT INFORMATION** (Name, Street Address, Email, Phone) to ncr@minneapolismn.gov with the Subject Line: *2019 CPP Annual Report Board List*. (This information will not be made public by NCR or shared with others - it is for internal use only.)

22. We'd love to share your highlights with others.

If possible, send digital photos, videos, illustrations to ncr@minneapolismn.gov with the Subject Line: *2019 CPP Annual Report Images*. If you have a large digital file, please make arrangements to mail or deliver a copy directly to your NCR Neighborhood Specialist.

THANK YOU!