

**Community Participation Program
2011 Annual Report
Kenwood Isles Area Association**

1. *Accomplishments*

What were your organization's major accomplishments in 2011? How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work? (Note: focus on your accomplishments, not your activities, such as "Field Regina Northrup organized the Lee Family 80th Anniversary Commemoration on July 16, 2011, recognizing an important story in the history of Civil Rights in Minneapolis. In addition to engaging more than 1,000 residents, the event coincided with the City's Community One Read event, providing the opportunity to connect the commemoration with broader city events.")

KIAA's major accomplishments in 2011 revolved around ways to improve communication with the community: to provide information and seek feedback on the important current issues, most importantly focusing on crime and safety and the potential SW light rail line (SWLRT) route proposed to run through Kenwood. For residents who chose to use the new website or read the newsletters or monthly emails, this provided a way to stay up to date on these important issues and to attend meetings and provide input for KIAA's resolutions and other input on LRT.

2. *2011 CPP Submission*

Reviewing your submission for CPP funds for 2011, what outreach and engagement activities did you carry out? What worked well, and what did not work so well? Why?

Here is the listing of the major outreach and engagement activities that KIAA carried out with the 2011 CPP funds:

- Published the KIAA newsletter and mailed it to Kenwood residents on KIAA distribution list.
- Implemented new Web design to KIAA web site located at <http://kenwoodminneapolis.org/blog1/>.
- Maintained and distributed the neighborhood welcome kit to new residents.
- Engaged a local business (the former Kenwood Café) for the event location for KIAA's Annual Meeting.
- Provided financial support for neighborhood Ice Skating party on Lake of the Isles.
- Contributed to the cost of printing a joint, ad-hoc Committee report from the neighborhoods surrounding Lake of the Isles (LOI) regarding the status of the MPRB renovations of the LOI area.
- Contributed to a block club training session.

Analysis of outreach and engagement activities

A neighborhood festive gathering at the time of our annual meeting engendered much greater attendance and community spirit than annual meetings had in the recent past.

Socializing periods with BBQ provided by Rudolph's and live music provided by a Kenwood resident and her band appealed to residents of all ages. An ad in the Hill and Lake Press thanked all current and former KIAA Board members for their service, which, it is hoped, will encourage other residents to serve in the future.

A completely new and redesigned web site allows for ease of updating, so that all meetings and developments affecting Kenwood can be accessed by the community. Some CPP funds were used to pay a web design firm that was critical to this effort. In addition, a newsletter mailed to Kenwood households during the year allowed all in the community, whether they accessed the website or not, to be informed of neighborhood developments and opportunities for input into planning not only by the KIAA but by all the government agencies involved in light rail planning. Finally, the newsletter and the website inform residents of the way to sign up for a monthly email newsletter (which, because it is run by a very dedicated neighborhood volunteer, does not require funding) that contains information not only about the issues mentioned above, but also community activities, including those sponsored by the businesses in the neighborhood.

As far as what did not work well, we would have liked to get input from more people on KIAA resolutions, but we believe that is not because of lack of communication but rather people's busy lives and lack of time for meetings. Also, in part because of the delayed release of the DEIS for the SW light rail line, we did not yet use the budgeted CPP funds to pay for professional services for additional study and design alternatives for the area of the proposed light rail route through Kenwood. Last, our efforts to find more volunteers for the Board and committees has met with limited success.

3. *Stakeholder Involvement*

Reviewing your submission for CPP funds for 2011, how did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities? Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful?

Kenwood has a small underrepresented community. We use print and electronic communications to reach out to ALL neighborhood residents and businesses. We have nine Board members. One person who is not a Board member is heading up our Crime & Safety subcommittee and a former Board member maintains the email list of residents who have signed up to receive the monthly e-newsletter, and she also writes the newsletter. Approximately 75 people came to the festivities and annual meeting in May. Close to 300 addressees receive the KIAA e-newsletter, and the printed KIAA newsletters are mailed to every Kenwood household, totaling over 550. CPP funds also help defray the cost of distributing The Hill & Lake Press to Kenwood households.

Please also provide the following:

- A. *How many people currently serve on your board?* Nine (9) *Are there vacancies?* Yes.
- B. *Approximately how many individuals have participated in committee meetings in the last year?* 5
- C. *How many people attended your annual meeting?* 75
- D. *How many households regularly receive your publications (such as newsletters or newspapers)?* Approximately 550.

E. *Approximately how many people participate in other activities of the organization?*

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4. *Financial Reports*

Please provide an income and expense report for your organization for the year. (Please include all funding sources).

KIAA 2011 Fiscal Year
Balance Sheet
6-1-2011 to 5-31-2012

6-1-11 Beginning Balance		\$36,179
Income		
Citizen Participation Grant	\$5017	
Membership Donations	1410	
Interest	140	
Wine tasting benefit tickets	400	
Total Income	\$6967	
Expense		
Annual Meeting	\$1336*	
Newsletters	1089	
Hill and Lake Delivery	750	
Web Site	640	
Insurance	219	
Rec. Center Donation	180	
Welcome Kits	147	
PO Box	120	
Wine Tasting Ad	90	
Lake of Isles Report	87	
Block Leader Training	50	
Ice Skating Party	42	
Total Expense	\$4750	
Net= Income-Expense		\$2217
5-31-12 Ending Balance		\$38,396

*Includes check 3177 for \$180 (Minneapolis Finance) not cashed as of 6/1/2012

In addition to your annual report, please take time to describe your interactions with City departments and other jurisdictions.

1. *Impact*

What interactions occupied a major part of your time? What worked well, what could be improved?

CPP: The CPP application and guideline process was time consuming.

Understanding the program, educating the KIAA Board, and completing the required paperwork was a challenge considering the relatively small amount of money we received in funding.

2. *City Communications – effectiveness*

Is the information that you receive from the City understandable and useful?

Newsletters from our City Council member (Lisa Goodman) are excellent.

3. *City Communications – timeliness*

Do you receive adequate notice of City activities in your neighborhood? If not, did your organization inform somebody at the City of this? Did the City respond in a positive manner? Please explain.

KIAA received adequate notice of City activities in our neighborhood.

4. *City Departments*

How can City departments improve the way in which they function in your neighborhood?

Notice to KIAA from the City or directly from homeowners regarding variance requests or demolition permits is inconsistent. We need a way to ensure that KIAA always receives notice of such requests prior to their review and approval by the City.

Generally we are kept up to date about City policies and practices by the attendance of City Councilperson Lisa Goodman at our monthly meetings and her e-newsletters. We urge the City to take citizen input into account when issues in our neighborhood arise.

5. *City Assistance*

How can the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department improve the assistance it provides to your organization as a citizen participation group?

As a very small and totally volunteer neighborhood association, we do not have the resources to devote to CPP planning and reporting that some of the larger neighborhood associations do. Any efforts to keep requirements simple for neighborhoods like ours that receive the lowest allocations is appreciated.

6. *Other comments?*

None