

Community Participation Program Guide to 2011 Annual Reports

Intended audience: Your Community Participation Program annual report is primarily intended to inform the NCR Department, the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) and the public about your Community Participation Program activities. You may also want to use your annual report to NCR as a way to inform others about your work, including funders, other neighborhood organizations, City departments and the City Council. If your organization produces a separate report for your annual meeting, you may also want to include it as supplemental material.

Contents: At a minimum, your annual report should address the following:

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.")

[See attached sheet.](#)

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? [We continued our regular monthly advertisement in our local paper, Camden Community News, that goes to all households in the neighborhood via mail. We also did postcard mailings to every address twice during the year, once for our annual meeting and Board elections and a second time for Block Leader recruitment for NNO. We also increased our email contact list by 15 individuals, brought our "Friends" on Facebook up to 130 and began using Twitter. Lastly, we did a door knocking campaign that covered 12 squares blocks \(see details below\).](#)

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? [As we do every year we use City data to see where our highest concentrations of rental properties are and canvass the area with door-knocking activities. During that time we have brief one-on-one conversations and literature drops to provided these neighbors with information about the neighborhood and local services. This information also has information on activities where people can get involved in meetings, events and more.](#)

Please also provide the following:

- A. How many people currently serve on your board? Are there vacancies? [9 current, 1 vacancy.](#)
- B. Approximately how many individuals have participated in committee meetings in the last year? [Over 80 individuals, many coming to multiple meetings and coming out every month.](#)
- C. How many people attended your annual meeting? [40](#)

- D. How many households regularly receive your publications (such as newsletters or newspapers)? [100%](#)
- E. Approximately how many people participate in other activities of the organization?
[Including volunteer events, trash pick-ups, NNO Block parties and CSA work-days close to 1500.](#)

4. *Financial Reports*

Please provide an income and expense report for your organization for the year. (Please include all funding sources). [See attached.](#)

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? Housing related issues & complaints (blight, tornado, ect.), Crime related issues and complaints, our urban farm, the McKinley Community CSA. For the first two points in particular, most of our dealings were with Housing Inspections and MPD, individually complaints and issues were handled well. I guess what could work better is better cross department “triage” when severe livability issues occur at the worst of the worst properties, also working better with some of Hennepin Counties services.

2. *City Communications – effectiveness*

Is the information that you receive from the City understandable and useful?
Overall, yes to both.

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.
Once again, all in all, yes I think adequate notice was the norm.

4. *City Departments*

How can City departments improve the way in which they function in your neighborhood? See comments for Question 1 above. Also, I know there are times when residents rightly feel that their minor infractions related to Housing Inspections issues are went after with a “hammer as opposed to a fly-swatter” when the worst offenders continue to skate by playing the system.

5. *City Assistance*

How can the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department improve the assistance it provides to your organization as a citizen participation group? Not sure at this time since everything is still a bit new in regards to the NCR and the phase out of NRP.

McKinley Community Accomplishments in 2011

- The McKinley Community, with funding from the McKnight Foundation, the Pohlad Family Foundation and NRP funds bought a vacant commercial building in the neighborhood and converted it to our organization's office space, community meeting space and cleaning and storage facility for our CSA. With the opening of this space we are now on the primary North-South roadway through the neighborhood and open five days a week during the day, and with evening hours so residents can pop by for anything they want to discuss or may need. We are also proud to have taken a space that was once a thriving neighborhood flower shop which was marred by a homicide in 2005, and closed since then, and turned it back into a neighborhood asset that residents can be proud of.
- We received over \$180,000 in funding from local foundations for support of neighborhood activities, staff support and our ever-growing project, the McKinley Community CSA. This funding allowed us to expand our CSA operations, buy the old commercial property in the neighborhood (see above), and help to pay for staff time and other office materials.
- We expanded the membership of our CSA from 8 members in 2010 to 28 in 2011.
- We increased the number of Block Clubs participating in NNO in McKinley from 11 in 2010 to 2011; this is the 8th consecutive year of growth in Block Club participation. With the increased participation of residents at the block club level we have worked with each other to simply get to know each other better, help to prevent and call on criminal and suspicious behavior and to tackle problem properties related to blight and vacant issues in the wake of the foreclosure epidemic.
- We participated in the formation of the NNC with eight other North Minneapolis neighborhood organizations. This group has pledged to work together to improve North Minneapolis through partnership and collective action on issues that affect all of our residents. Through this partnership in 2011 we partnered to provide "gap" funding to residents who were hit by the tornado but fell outside of some of the other State and Federal programs.