

Community Participation Program 2013 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: Harrison Neighborhood Association _____

Contact person: Amy Arcand _____

Date of Board Approval: March 10, 2014 __

1. Stakeholder Involvement

Reviewing your CPP activities in 2013, Please provide information about:

- What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2013?

HNA uses multiple strategies for outreach and engagement in the neighborhood each year. The following examples illustrate the different strategies used:

- Hosted an annual meeting and dinner with 130 participants
 - Coordinated 4 community gardens with 25 gardeners
 - Door knocked over 100 homes and held 5 house parties regarding the Wirth Coop
 - Mailed 3 post cards to every household in the neighborhood promoting events and activities in the community
 - Conducted numerous one-on-one's with neighborhood residents
 - Recruited businesses to start the new West of the Market Business Association
 - 10 people participated in a walking club
 - Hosted 2 well-attended outdoor cooking demonstrations in the parking lot of a corner store
 - Staff visited all of the National Night Out parties in the neighborhood
 - 70 people attended the Harrison Hang Out, a street party focused on health
- How did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities in 2013? See the answers to the question above and #3.
 - Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful? Why?

The cooking demonstrations at the corner stores were a big success and drew in a lot of people who don't typically participate in HNA activities. However, Harrison's most effective way to engage with residents remains direct interactions through one-on-ones between HNA staff and leadership and community members.

- What did not work so well? Why?

HNA held open office hours in the evening and weekends to gather community input on transit issues but nobody showed up. This was a good reminder to always incorporate strategies that go to the people as opposed to expecting them to come to us.

- How many people did you reach through direct contact (door knocking, meetings, one-on-ones, etc.)?
600 people in Harrison
- How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?
Approximately 60 people volunteered with Harrison in 2013.
- How many individuals participated in your organization's activities?
Approximately 300 people participated in our activities.
- How many people receive your print publications?
Every household in Harrison receives our mailings 3 times a year.
- How many people receive your electronic communications?

We have 392 Facebook friends, 103 people signed up for the electronic newsletter and approximately 300 email addresses in our database.

2. 2013 Highlights

Please describe one or two major highlights, and if possible, please include digital photos or illustrations:

- 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?

Harrison's Transit Equity Committee successfully pressured the Southwest Project Office to increase the Van White Station Stop's eligibility for Joint Development (federal) funding by moving the station's status from Tier 3 (lowest) to Tier 2. If granted, this funding secures 50% of the necessary dollars for transit oriented development surrounding a station area stop.

HNA organized community transit leaders to attend four stakeholder convenings with city, county, regional, and intergovernmental agencies to demand that Harrison be removed from consideration as a site for a rail storage layover facility. Our leaders successfully halted a city council vote and further discussion about the rail storage facility in September after gathering input from over 100 residents and passing an HNA resolution with our position on rail storage. Organizing efforts included visits and discussions at National Night Out events, listening sessions, and a community-wide ballot voting effort.

In partnership with the Headwaters Foundation and the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability, HNA hosted a corridor-wide retreat with Environmental Justice Communities along the SWLRT line to craft Equitable Development Principles that will be used to evaluate transit-oriented development proposals at station stops. The Principles will be presented at the Southwest CAC meeting in March to be adopted into the Southwest Investment Framework. Partners intend to share the Equitable Development Principles with communities region wide.

3. 2013 Accomplishments

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2013:

- What were your organization's major accomplishments?
- How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work?

Economic Development:

- HNA managed a facade grant program for commercial properties along the Glenwood corridor that resulted in over \$38,000 of improvements.
- HNA helped organize business owners along Glenwood Ave. to create the West of the Market Business Association.
- The HNA board appointed residents Khalid Mohammed Adam and Jake Schaefer along with business owner Pat Carney to represent HNA's interest on the Bassett Creek Valley Redevelopment Oversight Committee.

Transit Equity:

- Harrison leaders have been recruited and trained to serve on numerous transit related committees, including the Southwest LRT CAC (Community Advisory Committee), Bottineau LRT CAC, Penn Avenue Community Works Project, and the Bassett Creek Valley Redevelopment Oversight Committee and along with our partners, an estimated 675 north Minneapolis residents have engaged in transit planning initiatives.
- Bottineau LRT Organizing Efforts- HNA secured funds from Nexus Community Partners to organize resident participation in the Van White LRT station area planning to ensure health equity; Four HNA leaders and one staff member attended a racial equity training on the importance of including a racial equity toolkit in station area planning; HNA has maintained strong partnerships and relationships with cultural communities along the Bottineau LRT in Minneapolis and Brooklyn Park through participation in the Blue Line Coalition, a bi-monthly convening of community organizations working to ensure equitable benefits along the Bottineau line.
- This summer, an HNA organizer met a resident waiting for the bus. After discussing the work that HNA was doing along LRT lines, the resident got involved and became a Transit Equity Committee member, an alternate on the HNA board, an attendee of the Northside Transportation Network, and an informed advocate for equitable transportation.
- After 20 years of consistent work on the part of HNA, the Van White Memorial Bridge opened to the public on August 21, 2013.

Housing:

- Staff helped prevent an HNA board member's home from being foreclosed, connected a Harrison leader facing foreclosure to resources resulting in him remaining in the home and fighting his foreclosure in court for unfair banking practices by his mortgage provider, and partnered with the Center for Urban & Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of MN to receive weekly foreclosure maps of the Harrison neighborhood that indicate properties in pre-foreclosure. With this resource, HNA has been able to connect an additional three pre-foreclosure homes with foreclosure prevention resources.

- In partnership with PRG and City of Lakes Community Land Trust, HNA's housing committee identified three vacant lots in Harrison that are now part of the Green Homes North initiative, transforming vacant lots into newly constructed homes that will be sold on the housing market at an affordable rate in 2014.
- Seven community leaders participated in a weekend design charrette process held by the American Institute of Architects that resulted in community created professional architect designs for a series of foreclosed townhomes on Glenwood Avenue.

Capacity Building:

- Ten Harrison leaders underwent a YWCA Racial Justice 'Train the Trainers' workshop hosted at the Harrison Neighborhood Association. This training focused on building confidence in resident leaders to facilitate racial justice conversations in the neighborhood.
- In the fall of 2013, the HNA Board of Directors attended a day-long Undoing Racism training with facilitator Eddie Moore of The People's Institute. The training grounded the Board in the importance of racial equity work in the neighborhood and broadened their toolkit for identifying and combating racism in the community.
- In November, the Undoing Racism Task Force traveled to Duluth to visit the Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial and reflect on Minnesota's African American history. Participants facilitated group discussions and learning circles on the trip and conducted a presentation to the HNA Board about their experience.
- Two HNA leaders created and presented their own workshop at the NUSA Conference in May to a crowd of twenty five conference attendees. Their presentation explored the Harrison community's commitment to racial equity and how other communities can create similar models in their neighborhood.

Wirth Cooperative:

- The Wirth Coop, a project of the Harrison Neighborhood Association, received notification of a grant award from the Office of Community Services, Department of Health & Human Services, which includes \$500,000 in capital dollars and \$12,500 in project management fees for Wirth Cooperative
- As of January 1, there are 173 members of the Wirth Coop

4. *Housing*

What percentage of time did your organization spend on housing-related activities?

Approximately 25% of staff time was spent on housing.

5. *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 with City departments occupied a major part of your time?
What worked well? What could be improved?

HNA interacted with staff from the NCR department during staffing transitions and with CPED regarding train storage, economic development, and transit related issues.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate your overall experience with your interactions with the City? 4

2. ***City Communications - effectiveness***

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

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate overall communications from the City? 4

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.
Yes

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate the timeliness of communications from the City? 4

4. ***City Departments***

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

No changes needed at this time.

5. ***City Assistance***

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

No changes needed at this time.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate the assistance provided to your neighborhood by NCR? __4__

6. ***Other comments?***