

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM
Applicant: Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC)
Submitted: September 10th, 2013

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Organization Name:	Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC)
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Who should be the primary contact for this submission? Jana L. Metge, CLPC
Coordinator

Date of Board review and approval: Monday, September 9th, 2013





- 1. Eligibility.** *If your organization has not previously been funded through the Community Participation Program, please provide evidence of the organization's eligibility, as identified in Section II.A of the Guidelines.*

Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC) is under contract presently and completing their prior year's workplan.

- 2. Community Participation efforts.** *Describe proposed outreach activity in the neighborhood, and methods to involve residents and other stakeholders in one or more of the three key program purposes. How will you engage residents and other stakeholders of their neighborhood in developing a Neighborhood Priority Plan?*

Goal: Implement our Neighborhood Master Plan - Identify one (1) priority contained within this plan to Implement post City and Met Council approval.

CLPC conducted extensive outreach and completed a Neighborhood Master plan, a project of NRP Phase II. We have been working on this since the Spring of 2010. September 16th, 2013 a Public Hearing was held on this Plan at City Hall. Focus areas for this plan are a) Freeway edges/the perimeter of the neighborhood, b) the perimeter of Loring Park, c) Nicollet Ave., and d) the Harmon Area. Features of a completed plan will include the areas of Land Use, Public Realm, Multi-Model Transportation, Cultural Assets & Opportunities, Parking, Housing, Livability, Loring Park Improvements, Community Outreach, and Community Partnerships.

Implementation Projects which are a priority for 2014-2016 have been identified as:

- *Public Realm Improvements on Harmon Place* in partnership with St. Thomas, MCTC, residents, businesses, and organizations in the area. This aspect will include community engagement, visioning, design, development, and installation of features developed.
- *Community Engagement and Outreach around the Nicollet/Central projected Streetcar line*, as well as influencing future development opportunities as they arise. Advocacy for our small businesses during future construction will also be a focus during this project development.
- *Innovative Sustainability Projects* which may include Community Education, Developing a Voluntary tracking system on individual energy use with Xcel Energy for Multi-family, multi-unit properties.
- Public participation to *develop programs to enhance recycling and composting* in the neighborhood
- *Create a resource book for neighborhood building owners* on Sustainable, energy efficient vendors for building improvements.

Goal: Implement a series of Community Events through Neighborhood Partnerships.

Community Events provide to CLPC not only public relations, but an excellent opportunity to present neighborhood projects and initiatives. Volunteers set up a CLPC/Friends of Loring Park booth – a “*Community Front Porch*” - and invite folks to sit down, pull up their chairs, and discuss community issues. CLPC Livability Committee and its partners, will develop an Annual Series of Community Events at Loring Park and throughout the Neighborhood late fall of 2013. A Calendar of Events will be developed, published, and ready for distribution by January 2013.

- 3. Building organizational capacity.** *How will you work to: a) provide opportunities for the direct involvement of members, b) build your membership and volunteer base, c) encourage and develop new leadership, and d) expand the organization’s capacity through self-assessment and other activities.*

CLPC continues to *host Community Forums* through their monthly *Land Use and Livability Committees*. The mission of the Land Use Committee is to “provide a forum for residents, business, and others interested in the land use development of the neighborhood to voice their ideas in a way that is constructive to the long term health and success of the neighborhood and its constituents.” There has been conversation about holding additional quarterly Informational Forums as we did during the Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan development. These could be on Enhancing the Tree Canopy of the Neighborhood, Removal of Cattails in Loring Pond, Recycling/Composting Initiatives. These would be one topic events with food and a social time to network with neighbors, organizations, and businesses in attendance. These forums would be those which there is interest from both committees on the topic to be presented and discussed. CLPC will continue to explore this concept in 2014.

The CLPC Livability Committee, which meets monthly has a mission to “provide a forum for residents, businesses, and others interested in public safety, public policy, and livability issues. The Livability Committee works on public realm issues of streetscape, tree planting, community events/gatherings, block club development, community-wide personal safety training, and pedestrian lighting.

Through our Annual Events, we meet new people in the neighborhood; we recruit volunteers to staff the CLPC Information Booth; and we recruit volunteers to be a part of each event planning team. Many of our Committee members and Board members have come to CLPC through community events and gatherings. These gatherings provide a great informal forum to discuss neighborhood issues, gather feedback on organizational projects, build partnerships, percolate ideas/strategies, and promote the visibility of Citizens for a Loring Park Community.

Our philosophy is “Each one, Reach one” and it is the responsibility of all to spread the word, bring a friend, have coffee, share information with neighbors, and to reach out to Community organizations/businesses.

We have had an intentional Outreach Focus to “*Build stronger connections with Minneapolis Technical and Community College*”. We have now, long-standing working relationships with President Phil Davis, the Administrative staff, the Professors, MCTC graduates, and current MCTC students. We continue to pursue outreach to Students. Through this intentional five (5) year outreach focus, students have attended our Land Use and Livability Meetings, staff our Summer Events/CLPC Information Booth, and participated in our Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan development.

We plan to explore throughout 2014-2016, a series of outreach “Meet & Greets” which will connect CLPC leadership and staff with individual buildings and their residents. We plan to work with building leadership to host a “Meet and Greet” at individual buildings and/or restaurants in close proximity to their building. For 2013-2014, we have four (4) buildings we will be focusing on: The Vue, The Groveland, The Commodore, and 430 Oak Grove.

The Board conducted a Community Engagement brainstorming session in April 2013, led by U of M staff Jay Clark. A number of items were identified and the top four (4) items prioritized. *These were: 1) Develop Welcome Packets, 2) Create a Better Awareness of CLPC, 4) Develop Sustainability Projects, and 5) Park Issues/Removal of Cattails, Renovation of Berger Fountain, & More Programming of the Park.*

We post our meeting agendas, minutes and events via email and on our website – www.loringpark.org. In 2013, a MCTC student created a CLPC Facebook page. We have been expanding our use of social media for information distribution. For Community-wide meetings we develop an Ad for the Downtown Journal. The Ad border states to “Engage your Community”. Our Building contacts and volunteers post CLPC flyers on bulletin boards in rental buildings, in laundry rooms and elevators in Condo buildings, at the Oak Grove Grocery, at all Coffee Shops, and in Loring Park Community Center.

Monthly, the CLPC Coordinator attends the Loring Park Property Owners & Managers meeting and connects with another twenty (20) multi-building property owners. Updates are given, as well as meeting and Event information flyer are distributed for posting. We have a vast email network and partner organizations that will post our activities and events via their email networks. Last, we coordinate CLPC Presentations at Condo Board meetings and at Loring Business Association meetings.

4. **Building neighborhood relationships.** *Describe your outreach, networking, and inclusivity efforts to: a) build a sense of a whole neighborhood among residents, b) build bridges among neighbors and diverse communities within the neighborhood, c) work with other neighborhoods and organizations on issues of common interest, d) build partnerships with private and public entities, and e) benefit the neighborhood as a whole.*

Supporting our **small businesses** is an ongoing and an intentional partnership. CLPC supports our businesses and many times assists in the promotion of events and ongoing activities at their locations. This support benefits the business, but it also provides CLPC an opportunity for outreach.

Beginning Spring 2012, we experienced gunfire, narcotic sales, and prostitution loitering along Nicollet Avenue – “Eat Street”. Through our Downtown Court Watch partners, we organized monthly Nicollet Avenue Safety strategy meetings. The Safety Team began with one affordable housing high-rise and now includes all three of the affordable high-rises on the north end of Nicollet. Additional participants include Eat Street Businesses, Emerson School, the new Magellan Development, Loring Business Association Director, Minneapolis Police Department, CRT/Community Response Team, Downtown Improvement District, St. Stephens Human Services and Street Outreach, Hennepin County Attorney’s Office, City Attorney’s Office, CCP/SAFE Liaison, and Hennepin County Sheriff’s Department. Notification for these meetings is distributed to all on the Avenue, 15th Street, and 14th Street.

The meetings and the partnership continues. Efforts stepped up September 9th, 2013 when we had a triple shooting on our stretch of Nicollet Avenue, along with some very violent assaults. A Coordinated Policing Plan was developed, along with our community Nicollet Avenue Action Plan. We will continue to develop safety strategies and enhance our plan as issues arise.

A new focus of the Team is to promote Nicollet Ave. revitalization and possibly an enhanced Service District to provide such amenities as securing, litter pick up, greening, Safety Ambassadors on the Avenue, updated Kiosks, and banners along Grant Street.

CLPC, through its *Livability Committee* works with the **Minneapolis Police Department** to listen to **community safety concerns** and build strategies based upon partnerships. Enhanced communication and coordination is essential when there are so many involved along Nicollet Avenue. We also set goals with the Police Department for trainings on Personnel Safety, Business Premise Surveys, and developing Block Leaders. Our goal, in this vertical neighborhood is to have no less than two (2) trained resident contacts in each building, as well as trained property management staff.

Summer Events are a way to reach out to folks unable to participate in our monthly meeting schedule and to informally engage them in dialogue. We survey Loring Park residents during events on the concepts and priorities established in our Loring Park Master Plan, on needs of the neighborhood, to identify new issues, and to recruit participation. During events, at the CLPC/Friends booth, residents of different buildings network with each other, community building is done, and new opportunities arise. Folks share dreams, visions, safety concerns and solutions, management techniques, energy savings ideas, discussions on the Park and public realm improvements in the neighborhood. Much information is collected formally and informally through these gatherings.

Park Issues.....Informal, spontaneous, and intentional conversations with neighbors connect all of the community with regards to Loring Park. Removing the cattails, Renovating Berger Fountain, Safe Crossings to the Park, and Enhanced Park Programming are the issues most frequently discussed during summer events, at monthly community meetings, at our CLPC Annual Meeting, and through incoming calls. Park Issues draw in residents, property owners, businesses, churches, and organizations. The Park has been and is a top community priority. Anything put together to discuss Loring Park, draws a crowd and brings people together.

The best thing is to just talk to people in the neighborhood. So, developing gatherings and forums which will draw people out of locked, vertical buildings, is crucial to building social capital in the Loring Park Neighborhood. With that, we continue to work to ensure and provide a welcoming environment at our Community Meetings, Forums, and Gatherings. **“Each One, Reach One”**.

5. **Involvement of under-engaged stakeholders.** *Organizations should discuss which stakeholder groups are typically un-engaged or under-engaged in their work, and how they will work to involve those groups. Organizations should also discuss how the NCR Department could help with this work.*

Loring Park has a high **Russian-speaking Senior** population. We would like to structure activities and discussions with residents from three (3) of our hi-rise buildings. CLPC has made a contact through the *Neighborhood Community Relations Department* to assist us with developing a survey, initiating the survey, gathering results, and

developing an Action Plan to further engage our Russian community in 2014. Additionally, the Seniors has requested Personal Safety training and training to understand how to navigate the systems of 911, 311, police response, victims rights, court system in addressing issues of loitering, trespass, harassment, and threats. The Minneapolis Police Department has been a great partner in providing and organizing such trainings. We hope to build a project to gather some stories from the elders who reside in these buildings as an outcome of building relationships addressing the safety concerns.

We continue to partner with ***Emerson Spanish Emersion*** school. Through continued partnerships, we hope to see a Neighborhood Priority Project arise. We have two (2) other Spanish speaking schools in the neighborhood. One, at the Basilica of St. Mary and the second a Spanish Emersion pre-school located now on Nicollet Avenue after outgrowing space at the Basilica. We will work together with the Basilica and Emerson school to creatively engage our Spanish speaking population.

The Basilica of St. Mary brought to us the opportunity to partner with them and In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre for a December 2013 production. There will be puppetmaking workshops in the neighborhood throughout October and November. Our intentional Outreach will be to draw in Emerson Spanish Emersion and our Spanish Emersion pre-school, as well as Russian Elders working with the neighborhood day center. At this time, it is intended that the production will be in Spanish and be focused on a Mexican folktale.

6. Housing Activities. Neighborhoods should discuss their work on housing and housing related activities. Organizations should estimate the percentage of time to be spent on these issues.

Goal: Promote sustainable design practices in the preservation, design, construction, and maintenance of the natural and built environment.

Loring Park has registered to pursue certification with the US Green Buildings Council for LEED-ND (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development). We are **the first entire neighborhood in the United States** to have registration approved to go through this certification process.

In early 2010, in conjunction with the beginning of the Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan, CLPC started to create a vision on how sustainability could play a more integral role in the community. CLPC received a grant for a CURA Research Student to compile data on how to best assess and move forward with this vision. It was determined as an outcome of this CURA study, Fall of 2010, that LEED-ND would indeed be a good tool for us. LEED-ND was then integrated into all aspects of our Neighborhood Master Plan to guide this process. Not only did a separate Sustainability Chapter arise in our Master Plan document, but a Pilot Project was conducted the Summer of 2011 to preliminarily score the neighborhood. A volunteer team of 18 worked at the direction of a professional in the field, Lauren Huynh, on the various scoring components of LEED-ND. This information was then used in application to U.S. Green Building Council to request that Loring Park be accepted to register and officially go through the LEED-ND certification process. In Spring of 2013, CLPC was accepted and registered with the U.S. Green Building Council to be the **first entire neighborhood** to be certified through LEED/ND (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development).

Following the completion and adoption of our Neighborhood Master Plan, this Fall of 2013, we will move forward with our U.S. & MN Green Building Council to develop and pursue Implementation strategies. *Housing & housing-related activities are approximately 40% of the organizational focus at this time. (10-15% Admin. & 20% Safety related issues & 20% on Events).*

7. **Unused funds.** CLPC operating funds will be fully utilized by December 31st, 2013 except for the funds set aside for Neighborhood Priority Plans. The \$22,250.00 set aside fund for future Neighborhood Priority Plans needs to be carried over into this next grant cycle.

The Board of Directors and Volunteers of Citizens for a Loring Park Community continue to be dedicated, driven folks, committed to the continuation of community input on issues pertinent to the neighborhood. Members of CLPC work towards and are committed to the organization's mission "to cultivate continuing leadership and help a diverse neighborhood realize a more harmonious, thriving, and beautiful community."

Neighborhood Priority Plan – Citizens for a Loring Park Community will identify, prioritize, and develop a Neighborhood Priority Plan as priorities are raised, discussed, and determined by the Community.

The **Neighborhood Community Relations Department** can help us through pursuing a more cooperative and communicative relationship with the *City of Minneapolis Public Works department*. We have had consistent occurrences of sidewalks being replaced and parking being blocked along several blocks of the neighborhood. People come home or show up to work and there is no place to park. Another example recently was our stated Master Plan Goal to "Enhance the Public Realm" on Harmon Avenue. A neighborhood tree planting project was initiated. Meetings were held with Public Works staff regarding Harmon Place Improvements. Renderings of Public Realm improvements were developed for the Master Plan. We met with the Bike, Traffic and Street component of Public Works on these Harmon Place Design options. August 2013, the sidewalks were replaced on Harmon Avenue, no discussion of trees, no discussion of Public Realm Improvements, and with no notification to the neighborhood. Another example, LaSalle bridge was replaced. Construction started, no one knew. Another example, LaSalle Ave. was to be shut off with no notice to surrounding residents. Activist Katie Hatt got involved, made some calls, and stopped it until adequate community notification was done. Now, there is a detailed communication process which occurs in and around LaSalle Ave. and 14th Street with any Public Works Project. No where else. It is not consistent communication procedures within that department. The CLPC Board unanimously passed a motion at their August 2013 Community Land Use Committee "To contact the Neighborhood Community Relations Department for assistance in enhancing communication and coordination between the Public Works Department, Citizens for a Loring Park Community, and Community Residents."

Additionally, we will be working with the NCR staff on strategies to conduct outreach and engagement with our large Russian speaking population. A Neighborhood Priority Plan could come from this research and survey gathering to initially gather input from our Russian community.



Citizens for a Loring Park Community

Staff Expenses	45,003.00	
Employee Benefits	<i>included above</i>	
Professional Services	4,000.00	
Occupancy	4,800.00	
Communications/Outreach	1,680.00	
Supplies and Materials	3,500.00	
Meetings/community building events	6,000.00	
Development/NRP - TBD	22,250.00	**
Fundraising	0.00	
Other Services	0.00	
Total for contract	64,983.00	
Neighborhood Priorities		
TOTAL	64,983.00	

*** Set aside fund to be carried over and utilized for future Neighborhood Priority Plans.*

Notes:

- * Staff expenses should include payroll, FICA, and withholding, and contract staff.
- * Employee benefits should include any health insurance, retirement, or other benefits.
- * Professional services should include the cost of temporary contractors, bookkeepers, accountants, etc.
- * Occupancy should reflect costs related to rent, utilities, phone, websites and email expenses, and other similar expenses.
- * Communications/Outreach should include costs of publications, printing, postage, delivery, flyers, etc.
- * Supplies and materials should include office supplies as well as expenses for supplies related to ongoing programs such as block patrols, etc.
- * Meetings and community building events can include those costs related to community meetings and events (excluding food and entertainment).
- * Development expenses could include costs related to training, education, recognition, or orientation for board, staff and volunteers.
- * Fundraising could include any costs related to fundraising for your organization (hiring of consultants, costs of materials, postage, events, etc).