
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM
2011 Application
Calhoun Area Residents Action Group

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Organization Name:	Calhoun Area Residents Action Group (CARAG)	
Address:	3612 Bryant Avenue South Mpls 55409	
Website:	www.carag.org	
Organization email:	carag@carag.org	
Federal EIN:	41-1822132	
Board Contact:	Name:	Diana Boegemann, President
Staff Contact:	Name:	Scott Engel

FUNDING ACTIVITIES.

Use the following questions as a guide for your submission.

1. How will your organization engage residents and other stakeholders in 2011 to develop your three-year proposal?

CARAG will engage neighbors through regular outreach activities such as community meetings and events, as well as communication tools like the CARAG E-Update, website and Uptown Neighborhood News. Agenda time during monthly CARAG Neighborhood Meetings will focus on discussion about engaging the neighborhood and how to utilize CPP funds over the following three years.

2. What regular outreach and engagement activities will your organization carry out in 2011?

- Monthly CARAG Neighborhood Meetings
- CARAG Committee Meetings (Crime & Safety, Livability & Engagement, NRP Implementation, Zoning)
- Community Events (Chilly Chili Fest, Super Sale, Garden Tour, Ice Cream Social, Annual Meeting, Etc.)
- Neighborhood Revitalization Program Phase 2 Implementation
- Community Energy Services program participation

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- Uptown Neighborhood News (Articles & advertisements)
 - Website (www.carag.org)
 - CARAG E-Update (Email list)
 - Facebook & Twitter
 - Flyers promoting events and programs
 - uptown Market participation
 - Block club organizing

3. How will your organization reach out to under-represented groups in your community? Who are these groups?

Residents who rent their homes make up the most significant group of underrepresented participants in the CARAG organization. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, renters comprised approximately 80% of the neighborhood population, but participate at a much lower rate in CARAG activities.

CARAG renters tend to be young (18-30) and live in the neighborhood for shorter periods of time creating a barrier to participation. For the past few years CARAG has made efforts to engage this group utilizing our website, E-Update email list, and social media with some success. Our organization is also focusing on drawing renters to fun, community-building events and activities rather than just meetings. In 2011 CARAG plans to engage renters through a bowling league, kickball games, outdoor concerts, and movies in the park. CARAG may also attempt door knocking in large apartment buildings in order to organize apartment clubs, as well as a renter focus group.

4. What planning activities would your organization like to carry out in 2011? (This could include strategic planning, land use planning, NRP planning, etc).

CARAG completed a three year planning process in 2010 for the organization's NRP Phase 2 Action Plan and looks forward to implementing neighborhood improvement projects. However, CARAG neighbors must now prioritize these projects and plan for 50% funding.

CARAG is also developing a fundraising plan in order to support activities and programs into the future due to uncertain City funding.

5. How does your organization provide information to the community? How do you gather information from the community?

CARAG utilizes a variety of methods to provide information to our community including monthly meetings, community events, Uptown Neighborhood News ads and articles, the CARAG E-Update, the CARAG website, flyers, mailings and through social media.

CARAG gathers input from neighbors through monthly CARAG neighborhood meetings, email, voicemail, periodic surveys, social media, and CARAG-sponsored events & festivals.

6. What festivals and events will your organization host or support in 2011?

- CARAG Chilly Chili Fest (February 27)
- Community Energy Services workshop (March 12)
- Earth Day Clean Up (April 16)
- CARAG Super Sale- the neighborhood garage sale (May 21)
- CARAG Plant Swap (June 4)
- Bryant Square Park Concert Series Kickoff & Kickball Game (June 7)
- CARAG Garden Tour (June 18, 20 & 22)
- Bryant Square Park Ice Cream Social (July)
- Uptown Art FairPop Booth (August 5, 6 & 7)
- Movies in the Park (August)
- CARAG Annual Meeting (September 20)
- CARAG Architecture Tour (September 24)
- Bryant Square Park Outdoor Concerts (June-August)
- Uptown Market (June-September)
- Hazardous Waste Collection (TBD)
- Hennepin Lake Community Wine Tasting Benefit (TBD)

7. What else would you like the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission know about your organization?

CARAG would like to partner with the City on communicating to our neighborhood about City issues and services in a more comprehensive and targeted way. For example, CARAG includes high density rental housing surrounded by successful business districts resulting in parking problems. Our organization would like to partner with Public Works to alert residents about street sweeping each spring and fall. Currently, neighbors only receive limited notice of such services and many cars end up being towed. CARAG could assist Public Works by sending out information via social media or email alerting our neighbors.

8. Besides funding, what are some other ways that the NCR and NCEC can help your neighborhood organization?

NCR should continue working with all City departments on improving communication and develop meaningful ways to engage with neighborhood organizations. Some City departments and staff do make an effort, while others do not seem to have the time, skill or mechanisms to accept and incorporate community input. In several instances CARAG volunteers have put time and energy into engaging neighbors about an issue with little or no result. It sometimes appears the City doesn't hear or value the input our organization provides which discourages participation at every level.

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Staff Expenses	\$27,000
Telephone / DSL	\$1,000
Professional Services	\$200
Office Rent	\$1,800
Advertising	\$1,750
Supplies and Materials	\$1,200
Postage	\$250
Copies & printing	\$250
TOTAL	\$33,450