
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM
Submission Template

Please use this template as a guide to developing your submission for funding from the Community Participation Program. The level of detail should be appropriate to your organization's proposed activities, and to the level of funding allocated for your organization.

You may provide this submission electronically to ncr@minneapolismn.gov. Please include a copy of your bylaws.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Organization Name:	Corcoran Neighborhood Organization
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Website url:	www.corcoranneighborhood.org
Organization email:	amy@corcoranneighborhood.org
Federal EIN:	41-1535894
Board Contact:	Name: Lisa Barajas 
Staff Contact:	Name: Amy Arcand Phone: 612-724-7457 

Who should be the primary contact for this submission? Amy Arcand

Date of Board review and approval: June 4, 2012

FUNDING ACTIVITIES.

Use the following questions as a guide for your submission. For questions 1-8, please limit each response to no more than 3 paragraphs.

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.

CNO has been funded previously.

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?

CNO engages residents in the life and leadership of the neighborhood in numerous ways and supports resident-led efforts to connect neighbors. CNO will continue to engage residents in the creation of public art, land use planning, bike path planning and implementation, place-making, healthy living, community gardening, crime prevention, housing, strategic planning, and leadership training opportunities. Residents hear about engagement opportunities from neighbors, through CNO's seven communication tools, through door-knocking efforts by staff and volunteers, or by simply walking by. CNO hosts the following venues for residents to come together: four weekly Mujeres en Accion y Poder women's groups, the Midtown Farmers Market, semi-monthly leadership training classes, quarterly general membership meetings, monthly committee meetings, an annual volunteer recognition dinner and block leader BBQ, and other events throughout the year.

CNO recently hired a consultant to help lead the Board of Directors through a strategic planning process that included an internal and external stakeholder assessment and a day-long board and staff retreat. Information gathered from resident surveys and interviews will be used to develop a Neighborhood Priority Plan for Corcoran which will be posted in the Corcoran Neighborhood News and discussed and voted on at a general membership meeting.

3. **Building organizational capacity.** How do you plan to:

(1) provide opportunities for the direct involvement of members

The following examples illustrate a few opportunities for members to be directly involved in the organization:

- a. **Land Use:** The Land Use & Transportation committee will continue to partner with academic, government, and professional planning experts to learn more about citizen-identified topics of interest and bolster the community's planning objectives by increasing its credibility. CNO will convene neighbors and other stakeholders around the redevelopment of 2225 E. Lake Street and ramp up efforts to improve bike route connectivity and way-finding in the neighborhood.

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- b. **Midtown Farmers Market:** The Midtown Farmers Market (MFM), a project of CNO entering its tenth season in 2012, is a proven venue for engaging residents. Each season, the Market hosts cultural events, workshops, cooking demonstrations, activities for kids, and community tables to engage and attract residents. An advisory committee of 15 residents and local food professionals meet monthly to ensure the success of the market. In 2012, the all-local MFM will launch the third season of *Market Bucks*, an incentive program to increase the usage of EBT (food assistance) at the market, and continue an outreach campaign to residents who use food assistance. MFM was the first market in Minnesota to accept EBT.
 - c. **Mujeres en Accion y Poder (MAP):** MAP conducts outreach to Latino families and identifies issues in the community, especially those impeding a higher quality of life. Community Organizer Silvia Perez Sanchez will continue to organize four weekly women's groups at Corcoran, Sibley and Powderhorn Parks to engage residents in the life and leadership of the neighborhood and plans to launch two new groups for Latino seniors and children.
 - d. **Community Gardens:** CNO is working to secure a large garden plot for another community garden and will begin recruiting garden leaders this summer, particularly Latino families and renters who do not have access to gardening space. In addition, CNO plans to work with back yard and community gardeners, growers at the Midtown Farmers Market, and local food shelves to increase the amount of fresh produce available at food shelves in the area.

(2) Build your membership and volunteer base:

CNO recently partnered with the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support (MDHFS) to intentionally concentrate and integrate the department's obesity, tobacco use, and chronic disease management projects in the Corcoran neighborhood and increase participation in these activities by Corcoran residents. CNO and MDHFS have identified a number of strategies in 11 activity areas that are intended to reach new audiences and expand our volunteer base. For example, CNO plans to work with the soon-to-open Folwell Middle School to implement a Safe Routes to School Program and will recruit volunteer walking school bus leaders. Every time we reframe our work with a different lens, albeit healthy living, youth engagement or public art, we attract new volunteers with skills to enhance the initiative.

(3) Encourage and develop new leadership:

CNO's best example of how to build new leadership in the neighborhood is Lideres en Accion y Poder (LAP), an action oriented, year-long leadership training program created by and for Latina women. By training and recognizing Latino leaders, we are laying the foundation for new spheres of influence to emerge in the neighborhood

and by making connections between LAP participants and established community leaders, we are setting the stage for future partnerships and projects to emerge. Twelve women graduated from the program in 2011 after implementing fifteen community actions, and fifteen women are currently enrolled in the second year of the program.

(4) Expand the organization's capacity through self-assessment and other activities:

CNO voted to approve a 5-year Strategic Plan in May 2012 and is in the process of aligning staff, board, and committee work plans with the new goals. The strategic planning process included an internal and external stakeholder analysis and engaged the board of directors in assessing the organization and exploring issues facing the neighborhood. CNO regularly assesses its work and adjusts as needed.

Another example of how CNO is working to expand the organization's capacity is the upcoming board member training being held in collaboration with the Longfellow Community Council Board of Directors. Robert Thompson is facilitating a training session for new and existing board members that will cover governance, expectations of board members, how boards add value, and the impacts of broad participation. Neighborhood organizations in south Minneapolis are working more closely together and exploring opportunities to bring board and staff members together in meaningful ways to increase our collective knowledge and capacity.

4. **Building neighborhood relationships.** Describe your outreach, networking, and inclusivity efforts to: (1) build a sense of a whole neighborhood among residents, (2) build bridges among neighbors and diverse communities within the neighborhood, (3) work with other neighborhoods and organizations on issues of common interest, (4) build partnerships with private and public entities, and (5) benefit the neighborhood as a whole.

One way that CNO builds bridges among neighbors is through our support of block clubs. Each summer, CNO hosts a Block Leader BBQ in anticipation of National Night Out (NNO) where both prospective and veteran block leaders can share stories, ideas, and resources. The event has resulted in 80% of blocks in Corcoran participating in NNO and led to the creation of regularly scheduled, social pot lucks called Flamingo Fridays and Kangaroo Nights in two parts of the neighborhood.

CNO has a strong history of working with other neighborhoods and organizations to address issues of common interest. For example, CNO secured funding and invited neighborhood groups to explore strategic partnerships between seven neighborhood organizations in south Minneapolis that will improve operating efficiencies and ensure long-term sustainability of the sector while improving our capacity to engage and build grassroots leadership. Southside United Neighborhoods (SUN) has been meeting with a consultant for the past five months and will be finalizing recommendations for future partnerships very soon.

CNO currently collaborates or partners with over 20 private or public entities including, Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis (multiple departments), Indian Health Board,

Farmers Legal Action Group, Center for Energy and Environment, and Folwell Middle School. A notable recent partnership is between Cycles for Change and Mujeres en Accion y Poder to equip 15 Latina residents with bikes, helmets, locks, and child trailers for the summer and fall. Participants also received training on bike maintenance and safety and will be given on-going support throughout the summer and the opportunity to purchase the bike at a reduced cost at the end of the program.

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 can help with this work.

All groups are under-engaged in our work because we only directly involve 15-20% of residents each year, leaving a lot of room for improvement. Direct involvement includes attending a meeting or event, serving on the board of directors or a committee, stopping in the office to discuss an issue, or participating in a housing program or public art project and does not include attending a National Night Out event or shopping at the farmers market. White homeowners are the most likely group to directly engage. CNO would like to improve the participation of all residents, particularly increasing the number of seniors, people of color, renters, and young people who directly participate.

In addition to strategies previously mentioned, CNO will work to increase participation of renters, youth and people of color in the following ways. Maria Al Villar, our summer outreach intern, will recruit diverse leadership for the new community garden and engage residents in the Healthy Living Campaign. CNO will partner with Folwell for the Arts, the new arts magnet school opening in 2012, to engage youth in a paint-the-pavement project and to support Safe Routes to School. Assistant Director Eric Gustafson will engage residents from a number of multi-unit housing buildings to discuss healthy housing conditions and influence policy. Community Organizer Silvia Perez Sanchez will continue to increase participation in Mujeres en Accion y Poder and support emerging leaders as they identify roles within the community.

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

CNO helps resolve nuisance issues that threaten neighborhood housing through our monthly Problem Property Caucus and reaches out to residents in pre-foreclosure to link them with expert resources. CNO fosters participation by Corcoran residents and business owners in land use and housing issues through our monthly Land Use, Housing, and Transportation Committee and advocates for housing development as per the Corcoran Revival Plan. CNO also partners and promotes third-party housing programs and resources like Community Energy Services (CES), a one-stop residential energy program, and offers supplemental mini-grants to encourage resident participation. We dedicate approximately .25 FTE to housing activities.

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7. **Unused funds.** Organizations should discuss how they plan to use unused funds from the previous cycle.

CNO does not anticipate having any unused funds.

8. **Budgets.** Submissions should include a budget showing how Community Participation Program funds will support the organization’s community participation work and an amount set-aside for implementation of Neighborhood Priority Plans. An annual budget for the organization should also be provided.

SAMPLE BUDGET

Staff Expenses	\$50,000
Employee Benefits	\$8000
Professional Services	\$
Occupancy	\$15000
Communications/Outreach	\$
Supplies and Materials	\$2600
Festivals and events	\$
Development	\$
Fundraising	\$
Other Services	\$
Neighborhood Priorities	\$
TOTAL:	75,600

Notes:

- Staff expenses should include payroll, FICA, and withholding, or 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.
- Festivals and events can include any costs related to community events and festivals. Food is not an eligible expense.
- 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).
- Neighborhood Priorities: at this point you do not need to know what the priorities are. Just indicate what the organization would like to set aside at this time for future priorities.