
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM
Stevens Square Community Organization

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Organization Name:	Stevens Square Community Organization, Inc.
Address:	1925 Nicollet Avenue Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403
Website url:	www.sscoweb.org
Organization email:	info@sscoweb.org;
Federal EIN:	41-1253108
Board Contact:	Name: Bryan Anderson, Board Chair
Staff Contact:	Name: Steven P. Gallagher Phone: 612-874-2840 Address: 1925 Nicollet Avenue Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

Date of Board review and approval: June 28, 2012

FUNDING ACTIVITIES.

Use the following questions as a guide for your submission.

1. Eligibility.

Stevens Square Community Organization meets or exceeds all of the eligibility criteria.

2. Community Participation Efforts

Stevens Square Community Organization will carry out the following outreach and engagement activities:

- Door knocking
- Social networking
- Website traffic
- Community meetings
- Situational meetings
- Employ an outreach coordinator
- Hold events to develop relationships with residents
- Engage through events and activities
- Engage landlords to provide email addresses of new residents
- Provide a neighborhood newsletter (two times a year)
- Provide an E-Newsletter once a month

Pleas also see the Stevens Square Community Organizations Strategic Plan which was provided with this application.

SSCO has had a long history of providing comment and effecting City decisions. We regularly review and comment on decisions and how they effect the neighborhood, the neighborhood priorities and other stakeholders.

We hold meetings three times a month (safety, neighborhood development and the Board meeting) in order to ensure that any and all opinions are acted upon.

Stevens Square Community Organization currently employs an outreach coordinator in order to reach out to under-represented groups. We have contact(s) at the low income housing buildings. Also, representations of minority groups are well attended at community meetings. We strive to be inclusive of everyone who has an interest in our neighborhood.

Our largest under-represented group is renters, or non-homeowners. We have adopted an outreach policy to specifically target these individuals as they move into our neighborhood. Utilizing out contacts with local landlords we will create a welcome packet, and email data entry which should result in a larger semblance of this population.

Also, our mini events will target areas in which renters gather. Meaning, targeted door knocking, small information gatherings at coffee shops and Stevens Square Park should also assist in the endeavor.

3. Building Organizational Capacity

As the reader can see from the above written narrative SSCO provides many forums for direct opportunities of its members and guests. Having a dedicated part-time volunteer/outreach coordinator has the sole purpose of engaging more residents and stakeholders into the organization.

One unique aspect of SSCO is our strategic plan (attached) which outlines goals and evaluative measures. This plan is assessed once a quarter by the Board of Directors, as well as, individual committee chairs.

4. Build neighborhood relationships

We utilize a neighborhood newsletter, website, social media (twitter, Facebook, Yahoo! groups). Also, we have weekly meetings that are open to the public and at the end of every agenda there is a “community concerns” section. We also disseminate relevant material from all City, State and Federal offices that pertains to the neighborhood.

We currently have strong relationships with all of our neighboring residents (neighborhoods). We hold joint meetings on issues that may arise that impact multiple areas. Also, working with the 5th precinct of the Minneapolis Police Department gives us the opportunity to explore better ways to engage the safety aspect of our area.

The staff and board of SSCO just initiated a new agenda item – to have one business which is located in the neighborhood present their work at a board meeting. During this presentation the business owners are asked what can SSCO do to help your business. The board then acts upon any and all requests.

Also, it should be noted that **every** business (private sector) is in constant communication with our executive director for opportunities of development and enhancement.

5. Involvement of under-engaged stakeholders:

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Interestingly, our Farmers Market has opened the door to communication with numerous under-represented groups such as the Somali Population, renters and low income persons.

The NCR department could be of assistance in providing translation services for written material.

6. Housing Activities.

Stevens Square-Loring Heights is the most densely populated neighborhoods in Minneapolis. Our housing activity is largely dedicated to the maintaining of a quality housing stock. However, we have a large project located at 110 East 18th Street that will increase the number of housing units by 132. We have helped work on this project for five years.

Any new developments located in our commercial corridors are encouraged to utilize the model of multi-development which includes both retail and residential properties. We expect that our engagement in this area to increase in the next 18 months as the economy continues to improve.

SSCO estimates that 15 – 20% of our time will be spent on housing issues.

7. Unused funds.

We plan to use the unused funds as described in our previous application. SSCO has chosen to use NRP funds first and CPP funds second. We feel the need to close out the NRP program in a timely manner.

8. Budgets: Please see attached organizational budget and CPP budget

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Please see the attached organizational budget

Staff Expenses	\$25,000
Employee Benefits	\$
Professional Services	\$5,500
Occupancy	\$20,000
Communications/Outreach	\$10,000
Supplies and Materials	\$3,000 (police substation)
Festivals and events	\$5,000
Food and refreshments	\$
Development	\$1450
Fundraising	\$
TOTAL:	69,950