

**West Calhoun Neighborhood Council  
2014-2016 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM  
2014-16**

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](mailto:ncr@minneapolismn.gov). Please include a copy of your bylaws if they have been revised since your last funding submission.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Organization Name: West Calhoun Neighborhood Council  
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Minneapolis, MN 55416  
Website url: [www.westcalhoun.org](http://www.westcalhoun.org)  
Organization email: [info@westcalhoun.org](mailto:info@westcalhoun.org)  
Federal EIN: 41-1837435  
Board Contact: Name: David Rhees

Staff Contact: Name: Rhea Sullivan

Who should be the primary contact for this submission? Rhea Sullivan

Date of Board review and approval: January 14, 2014

**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.

**West Calhoun Neighborhood Council (WCNC) has previously been deemed eligible and received funding in the previous cycle. At the July 2012 meeting, the WCNC adopted ADA and EEO Policies. The WCNC submitted a 2011 Annual Report on July 11, 2012.**

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?

**The WCNC has a variety of established outreach activities:**

- **Bi-annual newsletter mailed to each residence and business in the West Calhoun Neighborhood**
- **Regular updates to website and Facebook page**
- **Monthly E-newsletter and meeting notice**
- **Monthly neighborhood meetings**
- **Annual Meeting Celebration with food and speakers in May**

**WCNC is also exploring new outreach activities to involve both the businesses and residents of the neighborhood.**

- **WCNC is waiting for approval from the Hill & Lake Press board of directors to include WCNC on the masthead, make room for a WCNC news column and have home delivery in the West Calhoun neighborhood.**
- **WCNC plans to support the February Polar Bear Plunge event at Lake Calhoun, specifically as an opportunity for community engagement. We will publicize the events on our website.**
- **WCNC will communicate with the neighborhood and businesses, and perhaps staff a WCNC informational booth, about the 2014 City Loppet cross country ski event to be held at the Minikahda Club and Lake Calhoun Jan. 31-Feb. 2.**
- **WCNC also plans to sponsor a summer movie night at the athletic field on the west side of the lake.**

**Local food purveyors may be contacted to participate in some events.**

In order to develop a Neighborhood Priority Plan, we will look to some of the priorities set forth in our NRP Phase I Plan. In addition, at each of our neighborhood meetings and through our periodic newsletters we will seek further input from residents with two questions:

- If you could change one thing about West Calhoun Neighborhood, what would it be?
- If WCNC had money to invest in a project in the West Calhoun Neighborhood, what should they do?

The answers to these questions, along with previous surveying done for the Phase I Plan, will guide our NPP submission.

3. **Building organizational capacity.** How will you work to: (1) provide opportunities for the direct involvement of members, (2) build your membership and volunteer base, (3) encourage and develop new leadership, and (4) expand the organization's capacity through self-assessment and other activities.

WCNC will use all of the activities listed in question two to solicit involvement and engagement of all residents of the West Calhoun neighborhood. We will continue to build our membership base and encourage new leadership through direct one-on-one contact made possible through our community events. Existing and past Board members and neighborhood staff will continue to reach out to neighbors to recruit volunteers for various activities of the neighborhood. These volunteers are then encouraged to take on more responsibility and possibly join the Board of Directors. With decreased public funding available, WCNC will be looking at all possible opportunities to join forces with other neighborhood associations and community groups in order to combine resources and support so that activities and events are not compromised.

WCNC is also undertaking a series of safety initiatives in West Calhoun. The first will be an evening lighting walk with our City Council member to determine the adequacy of street and Greenway lighting and intersection safety in West Calhoun.

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 new idea for building community involvement is "Calhoun Conversations," e.g. sponsoring occasional evening public programs aimed at adults in the neighborhood, but potentially drawing from the entire Lake Calhoun area, centered on neighborhood-related themes or focusing on interesting people who live or work in the area. "Calhoun Conversations" may involve financial or promotional participation from other neighborhood councils adjoining the lake (Linden Hills, East Calhoun, Cedar-Isles-Dean, and possibly the Uptown Business Association). We would look for

other partners such as the Park Board and the Southwest Journal (for publicity), as appropriate.

The WCNC board has realized the importance of the business node of West Calhoun. It is the heart of the community and the board has invested in its relationship with the businesses at Lake and Excelsior to the benefit of West Calhoun residents and business owners. The WCNC and Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association (CIDNA) have a long history of working together with recent collaborations focused on the businesses of the two neighborhoods.

WCNC has built good relationships with the business partners of West Calhoun and CIDNA through the newly created Business Association "The Edge." Representatives from WCNC meet periodically with business owners to share information regarding the future impact of the SWLRT station in West Calhoun and other potential collaborations. WCNC plans to update a shopping guide for the area and maintains a website dedicated to the businesses of "The Edge" ([www.theedgeatcalhoun.com](http://www.theedgeatcalhoun.com)).

WCNC has also designed a logo to be used for signs to be posted at the neighborhood boundaries. This signage may inform residents, as well as commuters, that West Calhoun is indeed a real and active neighborhood. WCNC also hopes that the signs will alert commuters, especially on Excelsior Blvd., to pedestrian traffic at cross streets.

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.

West Calhoun has a high percentage of renters. As of December 2013, five WCNC Board members are renters (up from three in 2012). To continue to reach renters, WCNC plans periodic postcard mailings to all addresses in the neighborhood. We also plan to post information about our annual meeting and events in rental buildings where it is possible.

Another under-represented group in the community is business owners. WCNC created a group to begin to address this issue around the SW LRT Station Area Planning in late 2010. The SW LRT Stakeholders Group is made up of neighborhood representatives from WCNC and CIDNA neighborhoods, and business owners and property owners from both neighborhoods. See other activities in Number 4.

In 2013, WCNC worked with Whole Foods to sponsor a cleanup along the Greenway stretch in the neighborhood. WCNC plans to continue that connection with Whole Foods, and wants to engage more businesses in the activities described under #2. The EDGE business brochure will also be updated in consultation with participating businesses in 2014.

Further, WCNC will continue to work with the City, the Southwest LRT planning board, the Metropolitan Council, and Hennepin County on design of the West Lake LRT station and safe access to it.

The NCR department can assist in this outreach with marketing assistance for events and open communication on any issues that may affect the renters or businesses of West Calhoun.

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.

**West Calhoun's housing stock is unusual among Minneapolis neighborhoods. There are just a small number of single family homes. Of the 1,400 total housing units in the neighborhood, 898 are renter-occupied and 213 are vacant (2010 Census). The combined total of owner-occupied units (condo and single family) is just 288. Another 186 renter-occupied units near the Greenway at 32nd and Chowen will open as of December 1, 2013.**

**West Calhoun is a fragmented neighborhood with Lake Street, Excelsior Boulevard, the Midtown Greenway and the largest landowners being Minikahda Country Club and the Minneapolis Park Board. Most residents live in complexes along the Lake-Excelsior corridor, which has the heaviest commuting traffic in Hennepin County. The WCNC Phase I NRP plan focused on neighborhood corridors and access to Lake Calhoun. At this time, there are not any housing-related programs run by WCNC.**

7. **Unused funds.** Organizations should discuss how they plan to use unused funds from the previous cycle for community engagement or implementation of neighborhood priorities.

**As of December 11, 2013, the WCNC has a 2012-13 CPP balance of \$27,441.51. WCNC plans to use the remaining funds to pay for community engagement, including the design of a neighborhood logo, the "Calhoun Conversations" programs and a neighborhood movie night at the athletic field.**

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.

Please use this budget template when submitting your Community Participation Plan for approval.

Please note that not all expenses are eligible for reimbursement. Expenses related to neighborhood celebrations and events are only eligible if the event's purpose is to increase neighborhood awareness and involvement in the organization's planning and implementation efforts. Expenses such as pony rides, food, and entertainment are not eligible for funding and will not be reimbursed.

Expenses related to projects may only be eligible if they are related to implementation of an approved Neighborhood Priority Plan, and are identified in a CPP contract or an NRP contract or MoU.

Contact your Neighborhood Support Specialist at NCR for further details.

ESTIMATED BUDGET

CPP Budget	2014	2015	2016
Staff Expenses	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Employee Benefits			
Professional Services	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$1,000
Occupancy	\$750	\$750	\$750
Communications/Outreach	\$6,000	\$5,271	\$5,271
Supplies and Materials	\$1,000	\$750	\$750
Meetings/community building events	*	\$8,000	\$8,000
Development	\$	\$	\$
Fundraising	\$	\$	\$
Other Services	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total for contract:</b>	\$	\$	\$
Neighborhood Priorities	\$6,522	\$	\$
<b>TOTAL:</b>	\$25,772	\$25,771	\$25,771

**Notes:**

\* Meetings/community building events in 2014 will be covered by unused CPP funds from 2012-13.

- 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.).