



## 2019 Annual Report Community Participation Program

### 1. NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

Linden Hills Neighborhood Council

### 2. ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Neighborhood Organization Contact:

Organization Address:

Organization Address 2:

Organization ZIP:

Organization Email Address:

Organization Phone Number:

### 3. Organization Website and Social Media

Website:

Facebook:

Twitter:

Other:

### 4. DATE OF BOARD APPROVAL

Once your board has reviewed this draft annual report, please provide the date of the meeting at which the board approved submission of this report to NCR. **Note:** Meeting minutes may be requested by NCR

Date:

## 2019 Community Participation Program Annual Report

### *Additional Organization Information*

NOTE: The information in this section will be aggregated by the NCR staff for the annual [NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMS REPORT](#) and not be published as part of each neighborhood's Annual Report.

Indicate the **POSITION TITLE** and **AVERAGE HOURS PER WEEK** of each **PAID EMPLOYEE OR CONTRACT STAFF** (excluding professional services such as accounting, legal, etc.)

|             | 5. POSITION TITLE  | 6. AVE. HRS./WK. |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Position #1 | Executive Director | 20               |
| Position #2 |                    |                  |
| Position #3 |                    |                  |
| Position #4 |                    |                  |
| Position #5 |                    |                  |

**7. IF NEEDED, PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFO HERE:**

Note if any positions are seasonal, temporary, etc.

## 2019 Community Participation Program Annual Report

### Stakeholder Involvement – Basic Outreach and Engagement

#### WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OUTREACH ACTIVITIES DID YOUR ORGANIZATION USE IN 2019?

#### 8. **MEETINGS** (Check all that apply)

- Held regular committee meetings or discussion groups that are open to all stakeholders
- Held at least one general membership or community meeting (in addition to the annual meeting) to gather input from residents and other stakeholders for a neighborhood specific initiative
- Hosted at least one general membership or committee meeting in response to a City request for input - such as a development proposal, transit planning or public works project
- Conducted one or more focus groups

#### 9. **DOOR-TO-DOOR** (Check all that apply)

##### **Door-Knocking** (with goal of face-to-face engagement)

- At least once reaching a portion of neighborhood
- At least once reaching most or all of the neighborhood
- For more than one issue/outreach effort
- On a routine basis
- Conducted primarily by staff members
- Conducted primarily by volunteers
- Carried out primarily to increase membership and participation
- Carried out primarily to gather input or inform on a specific city or neighborhood issue

10. Approximately **HOW MANY HOUSEHOLDS DID YOU REACH** through door-knocking in 2019?

Please provide a whole number only

11. **Flyering** - Dropping literature at doors (Check all that apply)

- At least once reaching a portion of neighborhood
- At least once reaching most or all of the neighborhood
- Carried out primarily to inform and increase membership and participation
- Carried out primarily to gather input or inform on a specific city or neighborhood issue

12. Approximately **HOW MANY HOUSEHOLDS DID YOU REACH** through flyering in 2019?

Please provide a whole number only

13. **EVENTS** (Check all that apply)

- Staffed a booth or table at neighborhood event or other community event that included sign-up sheets, surveys or information about your organization
- Organized one or more issue specific event (such as a safety forum, housing fair, Open Streets, Creative Citymaking, etc.)
- Organized smaller events for specific outreach to target audiences (e.g., sidewalk tabling to reach renters, lemonade stands, tabling at Farmer's Market, etc.)

14. **COMMUNICATION** (Fill in all that apply)

Print a paper newsletter **bi-monthly**  
(If so, at what frequency?)

Number of subscribers to  
your email list **0**

Number of followers on  
Facebook and Twitter Combined **0**

**OTHER** (Check all that apply)

- Conducted at least one community-wide survey (such as a random sample or all-household survey)
- Conducted another form of survey (e.g., intercept survey)
- Developed partnerships with cultural, religious, professional or business associations to expand outreach into under-represented

**Other activities** (please describe here):

In 2019, we began to draft a short community survey to help us determine how residents would like us to spend our time and funds, as part of our NPP. The board finalized the survey in early 2020, and we intend to conduct the survey in spring 2020.

15. Please provide an **ESTIMATE OF THE VOLUNTEER HOURS PROVIDED** to your organization in 2019.

1750

Please provide a whole number only

16. **HOW DID YOUR ORGANIZATION REACH OUT TO UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?** (Check all that apply)

- Worked on an issue of particular interest to an under-represented group within the neighborhood
- Provided notices of annual and special meetings in multiple languages
- Provided newsletter articles or web pages in multiple languages
- Targeted outreach in apartment buildings or blocks to reach renters
- Targeted tabling at other events or locations (such as farmers markets, cultural events, etc.)

- Held focus groups or open meeting formats for under-represented communities
- Met with other agencies in the community that work closely with under-represented constituencies in the neighborhood
- Included an Americans with Disabilities Act statement on meeting and event notices
- Reviewed participation activities, and identified new leaders and volunteers for volunteer, committee and board participation
- Held one-time/pop up events in areas of the neighborhood that don't often have neighborhood meetings

**Other activities** (please describe here):

During summer of 2019, each LHiNC committee took a turn tabling at the Linden Hills Farmers Market. The Zoning and Housing Committee teamed up with Council Member Linea Palmisano for their tabling and focused on connecting with renters, informing them about available renter resources and discussing new renters rights being considered by City Council.

Mapping Prejudice Exhibit, Linden Hills Library: Linden Hills Library collaborated with a group called Mapping Prejudice from the University of Minnesota to present a month-long exhibit called "Displaced", which focused on racial housing segregation, specifically red-lining, in Linden Hills. LHiNC was a sponsor of the collaboration, providing publicity and funds for the exhibit's opening, which was attended by more than 40 people. As part of the exhibit, the library also hosted a screening of the documentary Jim Crow of the North followed by a discussion with the director of the film and lead researcher of Mapping Prejudice. LHiNC also publicized and donated food for this event; approximately 150 people attended.

**Neighborhood Grants:** Every year, LHiNC provides \$10,000 in grants to organizations, programs and projects that make Linden Hills a better place. This year, we provided grants to several organizations/programs that serve under-represented groups:

**Southwest High School Prime Time: \$1000** To support the continued development of Prime Time, an after-school program for Southwest High School. The mission of Prime Time is to encourage diverse students to fully engage in the Southwest High School (SWHS) community by participating in the life of the school via after-school activities. Prime Time reduces barriers to participation such as distance from home, nutritional needs, or need for academic or personal support to maintain grades.

**The 3-Strings, Southwest High School: \$2000** This \$2000 grant supported a trip to Orlando for 17 special needs student musicians from SWHS, support students, support staff, and family members to perform at the National Association for Music Education Keynote address. "The 3 Strings" is the name of their band. Through adapted instruments and adapted music, special needs students are able to play instruments successfully.

***Kairos Alive: \$500*** To fund an Intergenerational Dance Hall™ in the Linden Hills neighborhood. The mission of Kairos Alive is to transform lives through dance and story. The organization's dance programs are to benefit all ages but have a focus on seniors.

***The Neighborhood Choir: \$600*** To fund scholarships to choir members who cannot afford membership. The Choir's mission is to provide choir members with a welcoming environment and an opportunity to develop and improve musical and performance skills, and to enrich the community. The majority of scholarship recipients are seniors or students

17. What more would you like to tell NCR or the community **ABOUT YOUR STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT?** What are you doing that is **NEW OR PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL TO REACH RESIDENTS** and others?

Please see answer to Question 20 - Major Highlight #1

## 2019 Community Participation Program Annual Report 2019 Highlights

### PLEASE DESCRIBE ONE OR TWO MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- What was the issue or opportunity the neighborhood was facing?
- Who was impacted?
- What steps did you take to address the issue or opportunity?
- What was the outcome?

#### 18. MAJOR HIGHLIGHT #1

##### PERSON TO PERSON

LHiNC organizes two large events annually - the Linden Hills Festival (avg 3000 people) and the Taste of Linden Hills (avg. 200). Through both events, we aim to bring neighbors, as well as local businesses, together to celebrate and support our community. In 2019, we wanted to increase our opportunities to interact with the neighborhood. We did so through:

Regular tabling at the Linden Hills Farmers Market - During summer of 2019, each LHiNC committee took a turn tabling at the Linden Hills Farmers Market. The Zoning and Housing Committee teamed up with Council Member Linea Palmisano for their tabling and focused on connecting with renters, informing them about available renter resources and discussing new renters rights being considered by City Council. The Environmental and Sustainability Committee tabled twice in support of their Healthy Soil Project - spreading awareness that healthy soil is a climate solution, providing tips on how to convert yards into healthy soil, and inviting people to attend their Healthy Soil Workshop. The Events Committee tabled in support of LHiNC's Taste of Linden Hills event, and the Communications Committee tabled to increase awareness of LHiNC and in support of all the committees efforts listed above.

Educational events/workshops organized by the LHiNC Environmental Committee - The committee's Healthy Soil Project hosted two educational workshops in 2019. The committee enlisted the help of an expert from Renaissance Soil and converted part of the Trolley Path Garden into a Healthy Soil Garden. They used the sample garden as a means to educate dozens of neighbors through two hands-on, on-site workshops. They have followed up these workshops with a film screening and two talks from local experts.

Southwest Parks Plan Open House - When MPRB released its initial draft of the Southwest Parks Plan, LHiNC partnered with MPRB to gather neighbors feedback on the 20-30 year vision of our neighborhood parks. To do so, LHiNC hosted an open house in mid-March, where residents could ask questions and add their ideas/comments via post-it notes on large design maps. A board member and sitting member of the CAC collected and recorded all the comments left by the 100+ people who attended the event and used them to write up a letter of recommendation to MPRB. We also shared all the recorded comments with MPRB and encouraged all residents through our print newsletter, e-newsletter, website and social media to share their thoughts with MPRB through its online survey.



Community meetings on Zoning & Housing issues - As 2040 takes shape, many larger construction projects no longer need variances, however, LHiNC's Zoning and Housing Committee is expanding how we engage both developers and residents in zoning-related issues. In June 2019, the committee invited a developer of an apartment building at 44th & Beard to present to the community and answer questions, even though no variances were required. The developer accepted our invitation, we publicized the event to the neighborhood through online channels, and more than a dozen neighbors attended to ask questions and share comments. Similarly, in September, LHiNC received notice that a demolition order for a neighborhood property had been appealed; LHiNC was asked to comment. We immediately added the issue to the next Zoning agenda, flyer'd all surrounding houses - inviting them to the committee meeting or encouraging them to email us with comments. Two neighbors attended the committee meeting and two emailed the committee with comments on the issue.

New Community Engagement Committee - As more of LHiNC's focus has shifted in the direction of community engagement, we decided to re-name and reshape our Communications Committee into the Community Engagement Committee. The committee's mission is to engage the residents, businesses, and community groups through traditional communications, outreach events and initiatives, and community projects and proposals. This committee is currently working with MPRB, Metro Transit, the Office of Immigration and Refugee Affairs, and WeCount Minneapolis to engage our community through surveys, focus groups, and events.

#### PARTNERSHIPS

Beyond person-to-person engagement, LHiNC also wanted to continue to grow our partnerships with community stakeholders, which include the Linden Hills Library, schools, the parks and MPRB, the Linden Hills Farmers Market, the Linden Hills Business Association, as well as businesses outside the LHBA, such as restaurants.

Linden Hills Library - In 2019, LHiNC expanded our relationship with the Linden Hills Library, starting by funding a collaboration between the Linden Hills Library and a group called Mapping Prejudice from the University of Minnesota. Together, they presented a month-long exhibit at the library called "Displaced", which focused on racial housing segregation, specifically red-lining, in Linden Hills. LHiNC was a sponsor of the collaboration, providing publicity and funds for the exhibit's opening, which was attended by more than 40 people. As part of the exhibit, the library also hosted a screening of the documentary Jim Crow of the North followed by a discussion with the director of the film and lead researcher of Mapping Prejudice. LHiNC publicized and donated food for this event; approximately 150 people attended. Then later in 2019, LHiNC and the library worked together to contract NRP funds that had originally been designated for teen programming. This collaboration resulted in a renovated space in the library that is designed to provide a safe and welcoming space for teens, as well as additional funding for new teen programs at the library.

Neighborhood Schools - Back in August 2018, a fire damaged playground equipment at Lake Harriet Community School's Lower Campus. At the time, the board reached out to the school and asked how we could help. Insurance money was covering the damaged equipment, but the principal said they had outdated equipment they were hoping to replace. The school identified the equipment and its cost, as well as the cost of the installation. Then in winter 2019, LHiNC identified uncontracted NRP funds that could be utilized for the project. New playground equipment was installed summer of 2019, in time for the start of the next school year.

We also continue to support the schools through our neighborhood grants program. In 2019 we awarded grants to:

Eric Peterson Scholarships: \$2000

Each spring, LHiNC awards a \$1000 scholarship to two SWHS seniors selected by the school for their dedication to community service, in memory of a past board member who dedicated his life to serving others.

**Midwest Food Connection: \$800**

To support the organization's work providing culinary, nutrition, and gardening education to elementary school students in the Linden Hills neighborhood, including students at both Lake Harriet Community School and Carondelet.

**Southwest High School Prime Time: \$1000**

To support the continued development of Prime Time, an after-school program for Southwest High School. The mission of Prime Time is to encourage diverse students to fully engage in the Southwest High School (SWHS) community by participating in the life of the school via after-school activities. Prime Time reduces barriers to participation such as distance from home, nutritional needs, or need for academic or personal support to maintain grades

**Study Buddies: \$500**

To fund after-school snacks for the Southwest High School student tutors for the "Study Buddies" tutoring program that pairs SWHS students with grade school students at Lake Harriet Lower campus.

**The 3-Strings, Southwest High School: \$2000** This \$2000 grant supported a trip to Orlando for 17 special needs student musicians from SWHS, support students, support staff, and family members to perform at the National Association for Music Education keynote address. "The 3 Strings" is the name of their band. Through adapted instruments and adapted music, special needs students are able to play instruments successfully.

**MRPB -** As highlighted above, LHiNC partnered with MPRB to gather robust feedback on the Southwest Parks Plan and continually updated our neighborhood on the design process through our print and online mediums. We invited the MRPB to a board meeting to discuss the renaming of streets from Calhoun to Bde Maka Ska and supported their outreach to our neighbors regarding the logistics of the name change through our print and electronic newsletters. We continued to support the annual Kite Festival through participation in planning meetings, sponsorship and publicity and the local park's Corn Feed by sponsoring the entertainment, which were young, local musicians. And our Environmental and Sustainability Committee renewed its contract to remain stewards of the William Berry Woods.

**Linden Hills Business Association -** In 2019, LHiNC continued to grow its partnership with LHBA by: including an LHBA insert that provided publicity for their events and members in our printed newsletter, helping fund the LHBA project to bring a public piano back to downtown Linden Hills, sponsoring LHBA events: Woofstock, Reindeer Days and Wine and Stroll, and sending representative's to each other's meetings.

**Other Businesses -** In October 2019, LHiNC again partnered with 11 restaurants and businesses to hold the 4th annual Taste of Linden Hills Fundraiser, which benefits our neighborhood grants. Approximately, 200 people attended; and the event raised more than \$7000 for the neighborhood.

**Linden Hills Farmers Market -** In 2019, we again partnered with the Linden Hills Farmers Market to hold our annual festival and opening day of the market on the same day, both at Linden Hills Park. In addition, LHiNC tabled at the market 5 times throughout the summer (more details above), and we invited the market to participate in our Taste of Linden Hills Fundraiser, which resulted in one of the market vendors participating in the event.

**COMMUNICATION**

While in-person engagement is most important, LHiNC also works hard to inform and involve our community through online and print mediums, including a print newsletter (bi-monthly), an e-newsletter (monthly), website, and social media (Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor).

In 2019, LHiNC launched a new website with the goal of providing an easy-to-navigate, informative site that can help residents learn about and connect with their neighborhood and the city. We also launched an Instagram account that currently has more than 450 followers.

19. **MAJOR HIGHLIGHT #2**

LHiNC Environment & Sustainability Committee

The LHiNC Environment & Sustainability Committee is proud of the work it has accomplished over the past year. It has been the mission of this committee to protect the local environment, while simultaneously educating our neighbors on small actions that can be taken to combat the climate crisis. We have also served as a local source of information regarding specific programs and initiatives put forth by the Southwest community and City that aim to protect and enhance the environment. Within the last year, projects have been initiated at various locations in Linden Hills to improve the quality of the neighborhood's air, soil and water. These locations include Linden Hills Park, William Berry Woods, Lake Harriet, and the Linden Hills Trolley Path. Our most notable and successful initiative has been the Healthy Soil Project located along the Linden Hills Trolley Path.

The Healthy Soil Project was initiated to increase the awareness of healthy soil as a climate solution. The committee enlisted Kassie Brown (Renaissance Soil) to educate committee members and neighbors on the components of healthy soil. Ms. Brown led two educational workshops at the healthy soil demonstration site highlighting the importance of native plants, fescue grasses, soil aeration, cover crops, biochar and compost. Attendees of both workshops were given the opportunity to take compost home with them. Soil tests were also conducted at both workshops eventually indicating a 39% increase in the capture of carbon at this site. Committee members and Linden Hills neighbors were most excited about this outcome! The Healthy Soil Project has been funded by LHiNC for another year.

Finally, this committee has recently developed goals that we hope to meet by the end of 2020. It is our hope that we become a leader in the City of Minneapolis when it comes to combating climate change. The 2020 committee goals include: Secure a dedicated committee web page highlighting current projects.

- Create a formal mission statement.
- Organize a green section at the upcoming Linden Hills Festival showcasing ongoing projects. -  
Host a variety of community roundtables aligned with ongoing initiatives and neighborhood interest.
- Empower Linden Hills youth to become local environmental stewards and possible committee members.
- Create a healthy environment within Linden Hills and offer residents education and tools to better the local ecosystem.
- Explore a relationship with the Linden Hills Business Association regarding greener practices within the village.
- Become a revenue generating committee relying less on general council funds.

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20. Please send us a copy of your **OVERALL ORGANIZATIONAL BUDGET** for your current fiscal year (including City and other restricted or non-restricted funds) to [ncr@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:ncr@minneapolismn.gov) with the Subject Line: *2019 CPP Annual Report Budget*.

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21. Please Send your **CURRENT BOARD LIST with NAMES and CONTACT INFORMATION** (Name, Street Address, Email, Phone) to [ncr@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:ncr@minneapolismn.gov) with the Subject Line: *2019 CPP Annual Report Board List*. (This information will not be made public by NCR or shared with others - it is for internal use only.)

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22. We'd love to share your highlights with others.

If possible, send digital photos, videos, illustrations to [ncr@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:ncr@minneapolismn.gov) with the Subject Line: *2019 CPP Annual Report Images*. If you have a large digital file, please make arrangements to mail or deliver a copy directly to your NCR Neighborhood Specialist.

**THANK YOU!**