



2019 Annual Report Community Participation Program

1. NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

Lyndale Neighborhood Association

2. ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Neighborhood Organization Contact:

Lyndale Neighborhood Association

Organization Address:

3537 Nicollet Ave S.

Organization Address 2:

Organization ZIP:

55408

Organization Email Address:

brad@lyndale.org

Organization Phone Number:

612-824-9402

3. Organization Website and Social Media

Website

www.lyndale.org

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

04/13/2020

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information in this section will be aggregated by the NCR staff for the annual [NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMS REPORT](#) and not be published as part of each neighborhood's Annual Report.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	45
Position #2	Associate Director	45
Position #3	Lead ELL teacher	45
Position #4	ELL instructor	22
Position #5	Ell instructor 2	22

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

Note if any positions are seasonal, temporary, etc.

Project Assistant, 22hrs

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?

1000

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?

3300

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 **Monthly**
(If so, at what frequency?)

Number of subscribers to your email list **1200**

Number of followers on Facebook and Twitter Combined **1518**

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):

Partner with Horn Towers Resident Council for the delivery of ELL programs Partner with YMCA for the delivery of ELL programs Partner with HUGE theater for Arts Access grant to produce a Latina improv group Partner with Zion Church to provide 2,000 weekly community meals

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

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):

In the face of shrinking resources from the City, LNA has had to be more strategic about how to engage in our community. Over the years, LNA has hosted many successful community building events each year that often served as a point of entry for new residents in our neighborhood. We've been placed in the hard position of limiting these events but still having meaningful engagement with our community members. Prior to 2015, LNA hosted a major event every other month including: Fish Fest, Fall Fundraiser, LNA's annual meeting, Lyndale Open House, La Posada, Somali Independence Day, Nicollet Open Streets, and more. These events each reached specific stakeholders in our neighborhood. In 2019, LNA merged several of these events into a single block party called LynFest. Approximately 200 people showed up for the LynFest block party which also served as our annual meeting. The event was attended by a mix of homeowners and renters from different backgrounds, different corners of the globe, and different income levels. This may have been one of our first events that was most representative of each cross section of the neighborhood. Because LynFest also served as our annual meeting and board election, Lyndale neighbors elected one of the most diverse boards it has in the history of the organization. Successfully bringing people from all walks of life together for both celebration and neighborhood business helped us to ensure that all voices were at the table. Today, 50% of our board are POC and 62% are renters. Beyond diversifying the demographics of our board in thanks to the successful execution of our LynFest block party and annual meeting, this was one of the first events that successfully bridged the gap between a generational divide in the neighborhood. While Lyndale has been making changes to events over the last few years, there have been some long-time participants in the neighborhood association that have expressed anxiety and displeasure around some changes. While this is anecdotal, LNA staff and board members were pleased to hear near universal positive feedback about the nature of the event this year.

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?

How did your organization reach out to underrepresented groups in 2019 OTHER:

Our most effective ways of reaching underrepresented groups is through providing programs and services relevant to their communities and their lives. Specifically, LNA provides English language classes for immigrant communities, produces our entire newspaper in Spanish, provides a free community meal each week in partnership with Zion Church, and frequently partners with Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge to give their guests a sense of belonging in our neighborhood.

English language classes: In 2019, more than 250 students received more than 18,000 hours of English language instruction. The curriculum for our program is developed by LNA staff in conjunction with the Metro North Adult Basic Education Consortium. Unlike many ABE programs offered in Minneapolis, ours focuses on neighborhood specific information. Our teachers provide information on navigating local systems like the Wells Fargo Bank, public housing, metro transit, and the YMCA. Free childcare makes our program more accessible to a greater variety of students. Many of our students continue to be engaged with the Lyndale neighborhood through joining committees, engaging in LNA events and joining our board.

Voces de South Central: After nearly two decades of producing the Lyndale Neighborhood Newspaper, the Lyndale, Bryant, and Central neighborhoods joined together to expand the publication to the 8,000 doors in the three neighborhoods and we publish the paper entirely in Spanish. While it is uncertain if funding and staffing changes will allow the paper to continue in the same format in 2020, we will continue the increased investment in translating the entire paper into Spanish as well as focusing on stories relevant to our newer communities.

Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge partnerships: Oftentimes neighborhoods reject residential health centers. This is not the case in Lyndale. Our neighborhood belongs to everyone. To showcase this, LNA has a longstanding partnership with the gentlemen who reside at the "Hudson House" on 1st Ave operated by MN Adult and Teen Challenge. Every other month, residents from Adult and Teen Challenge engage in a volunteer project for the neighborhood that gives them a sense of belonging in Lyndale. In 2019, Lyndale benefited from approximately 30 volunteers from Teen Challenge and their work to help us remove graffiti, manage Nicollet Open Streets, clean up litter, and manage our green spaces.

Additionally, we continue to engage in our traditional outreach efforts to everyone in the neighborhood. Each year, the Lyndale Neighborhood engages in door to door outreach to keep people engaged around issues in their neighborhood including environmental stewardship, zoning and development, crime and safety, and more. Through our traditional door to door outreach, we estimate that we have approximately 700-1000 one-on-one conversations each year. To reach more traditionally underrepresented the neighborhood association employs translators and child care providers at meetings where requested.

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

Education Program Highlights: With support from the City, Lyndale Education Program maintained steady participation in its four courses in 2019, despite declining immigrant and refugee resettlement numbers in the Twin Cities; in fact, we increased our morning and afternoon contact with students by one extra class per week to offer learners the opportunity to improve their skills more rapidly through further practice and more consistent immersion. Our afternoon class, which serves 100% elderly Somali residents at the Horn Towers public housing site three afternoons per week, has remained full year-round and enjoyed particularly dependable attendance. These students, who are in many cases homebound and facing isolation, rely on the course for social and mental stimulation, and give input on curriculum that will be relevant for them and serve to increase their independence in the broader community.

Education program highlights from 2019 include exciting new curriculum topics such as: a dementia care unit designed and delivered multilingually in partnership with Volunteers of America, and a custom unit to learn vocabulary and language functions needed to complete Census 2020 (in addition to core units such as Community; Job Search/On the Job; Health and Family; Food and Shopping; Personal Information and Basic Conversation, etc.). We also launched our first-ever digital literacy course efforts, including a 4-month in-person digital literacy lab customized to learners' skill level and goals, and participation in a 6-month pilot of Burlington English's online core English curriculum in our evening course. Our instructors, Erin Cary and Nicki Olalde, each presented at many adult basic education professional events as experts in standards-based instruction, equity issues and innovative curriculum.

In 2019, our education program was recognized for both its necessity in the community and its excellence by the Otto Bremer Trust through their award of a \$20,000 program grant to support our education program.

19. **MAJOR HIGHLIGHT #2**

Food Justice programs highlights: In partnership with our neighbors at Zion Church, LNA provided 2,000 home cooked, healthy meals for neighbors to help build community and to increase food security in the neighborhood. Each Wednesday at Zion Church, staff and volunteers from Zion and LNA prepare meals for approximately 50 people.

In 2019, Youthfarm, a long-time tenant of LNA's garden plots on 31st and Pleasant Ave across the street from Horn Towers moved their locations to north Minneapolis. This allowed LNA to put the gardens into service to grow healthy, fresh food for the weekly community dinner. Lyndale volunteers piloted a garden co-operative growing our own produce for the dinner.

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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 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 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.)

22. We'd love to share your highlights with others.
If possible, send digital photos, videos, illustrations to 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!