

# Engagement Plan Template

## Neighborhood

Lyndale



## Time frame

2026

## Work summary

The Lyndale Neighborhood Association (LNA) strengthens the neighborhood through our community building, education, and business relationship initiatives. Our work is shaped by resident input and designed to reflect the needs of all demographic groups, with intentional focus on renters (63.5% of residents), Somali neighbors (approx. 10%), and Latino neighbors (10.1%).

Key activities include:

- **Community gardens**, with a goal of enrolling 50% of plots to renters, creating access to healthy food and shared community space.
- **Community swap/reuse events** that promote sustainability and resource sharing.
- **Housing Committee** works to involve residents—especially renters—in decisions about redevelopment and the built environment.
- **Community events** such as Free Fest, Wheels and Bike Rodeo, and gatherings at Horn Towers, all designed to be inclusive, free, and family-friendly.
- **Education programs** offering free English, computer literacy, and citizenship classes, with monthly outreach to Somali and Latino communities.
- **Language access supports** to reduce barriers through translation, interpretation, and bilingual materials.

Our goals are to expand renter and immigrant participation in leadership and decision-making, create stronger cross-cultural connections, and empower residents by learning from their needs and priorities. Outcomes include increased renter engagement in gardens and housing work, more immigrant and refugee neighbors gaining skills through education programs, and deeper cultural inclusion at community events.

## Scope of work, outcomes and goals

LNA's work combines direct service, civic engagement, and community building to make Lyndale more connected and equitable. We focus on education, environmental sustainability, housing advocacy, and inclusive events, ensuring our programs reflect resident needs while reducing barriers to access.

Our outcomes include: increasing renter and immigrant participation in neighborhood leadership, engaging residents in housing and redevelopment decisions, and advancing sustainability through gardens and swap/reuse events. Education programs equip Somali and Latino residents with English and computer skills, while community events build cross-cultural connections and belonging.

To engage historically under-engaged groups, LNA uses multilingual outreach, trusted community partners, and accessible locations. Renters are connected through block connectors and rental property contacts. Somali residents are engaged through partnerships with Horn Towers, Alhikma Center, and Somali leaders, along with interpretation and events hosted in Somali-identified spaces. Latino residents are reached through partnerships with Sagrado Corazón, Centro Tyrone Guzman, and Sabathani, with consistent Spanish-language outreach and language support at gatherings.

Across all work, our goal is not only to include but to center historically under-engaged residents in shaping neighborhood life. This approach ensures programming reflects real community needs while building stronger, more connected outcomes for all.

<i>Demographic group</i>	<i>Renters</i>	<i>Somali Community</i>	<i>Latino Community</i>
<i>Numbers or percentage</i>	63.5%	Estimated 10% of Lyndale (Black or African American 23.8%)	10.1%
<i>Initiative, activity, project or program</i>	Community Gardens  Community Swap/Reuse Events  Housing Committee	Community Event/s	Community Event/s and ABE Classes  Translation / Interpretation Support
<i>Barriers to engagement</i>	High turnover, knowledge of neighborhood and neighborhood organizations	Language, culture, mobility, access	Language, culture, mobility, access
<i>Outreach and engagement strategies</i>	Flyers, weekly eNews, social media (FB and Instagram), In person events and engagement, South Nicollet News print newsletter	Flyers, weekly eNews, social media (FB and Instagram), In person events and engagement, South Nicollet News print newsletter	Flyers, weekly eNews, social media (FB and Instagram), In person events and engagement, South Nicollet News print newsletter
<i>Resources needed</i>	Interpretation, translation, staff/volunteer time, rental property community contacts	Interpretation, staff /volunteer time, trusted Somali community contacts	Interpretation, translation, staff/volunteer time, trusted Latino community contacts
<i>Partners in the work</i>	LNA Block Connectors	Horn Towers, Alhikma Center, Whittier Alliance, Abyssinia Center, Somali community contacts	Sagrado Corazon, Centro Tyrone Guzman, Sabathani Community Center,

<i>Person(s) responsible</i>	Director of Projects, Executive Director, Community Organizer	Director of Projects, Executive Director, Community Organizer, LNA Engagement Teacher	Executive Director, Community Organizer, LNA Engagement Teacher
<i>Timeline</i>	<p>Begin garden outreach in February/March</p> <p>Community Swap-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● February: Free Fest</li> <li>● April: Book Fest</li> </ul> <p>Housing Committee meets monthly</p>	<p>Currently determining the 2026 event schedule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Between mid-February and mid-March host two events to greet Horn Towers residents and break fast during Ramadan.</li> </ul>	<p>Monthly outreach starting in January.</p>

<p><i>Quantitative goals</i></p>	<p>Enroll 50% of available community garden plots to renters.</p> <p>Host at least one community swap event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● February 12 2026: Free Fest from 5:30-7:30 pm at Painter Park.</li> <li>● April 2026: Book Fest at Painter Park. Will consider partnerships with Hosmer Library and Mpls Poet Laureate.</li> </ul> <p>Through community outreach promote resident engagement in at least 2 projects related to Lyndale's built environment and development.</p>	<p>Host an LNA event at Horn Towers at least once per year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Engagement Committee is looking to plan two days to greet residents at Horn Towers during the month of Ramadan with dates and Somali tea to celebrate breaking fast and share about LNA programs and ways to get involved with the neighborhood. Will partner with residents and the Public Housing Authority on these events.</li> </ul>	<p>Provide outreach to the Latino and/or Somali communities on LNA events or ABE classes at least once per month.</p> <p>Provide flyers and educational materials with Spanish translations.</p>
<p><i>Qualitative goals</i></p>	<p>Learn what renters need and want in the neighborhood.</p>	<p>Learn what Somali residents need and want in the neighborhood.</p>	<p>Learn what Latino residents need and want in the neighborhood.</p>

<p><i>Outcome of engagement</i></p>	<p>Majority renters in LNA Community Gardens.</p> <p>At least one swap event where neighbors can both give and benefit from each other's abundance.</p> <p>Public informed and engaged on Lyndale built environment and development.</p>	<p>More Somali neighbors are aware of LNA and ways to be involved with the neighborhood.</p>	<p>More Latino neighbors are aware of LNA and ways to be involved with the neighborhood.</p>
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