
Page 2: Organization Information

Q1

Neighborhood Organization Information

Main Contact Name	Tola Vann
Organization Name	Cedar Riverside Community Council
Organization Address:	420 15th Ave
City	Minneapolis
State	MN
Organization ZIP:	55454
Organization Email Address:	info@crcccouncil.org
Organization Phone Number:	612-876-9348

Q2

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Website	www.crcccouncil.org
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/CRCCouncil

Q3

When and where do you hold your monthly board meetings?

Last Wednesday of Every other month unless stated otherwise. Done Virtually over ZOOM

Q4

Date of Board approval

After your board reviews this **12/13/2023** draft annual report, please provide the approval date or the anticipated approval date if not yet approved. Meeting minutes may be requested by NCR.

Page 3: Updated Documents

Q5

Upload your Certificate of Insurance for liability insurance

Updated%20insurance%202023.pdf (21.8KB)

Q6

Upload your Certificate of Insurance for Directors and Officers Insurance

Directors%20%26%20Officers%2023-24%20USLI.PDF (1.1MB)

Q7

Upload an update board list

CRCC%20Board%20and%20email%20lists%202024.pdf (54.7KB)

Q8

Upload your overall organizational budget

CRCC%20Operational%20budget%202024.docx (12.2KB)

Page 4: Staffing

Q9

Indicate the POSITION TITLE of each PAID EMPLOYEE OR CONTRACT STAFF (excluding professional services such as accounting, legal, etc.)

Position Title #1

AJ Awed/ Executive Director Programs and Policies

Position Title #2

Tola Vann/ Executive Director Operations and Development

Position Title #3

Ryan Vasquez/ Assistant Executive Director

Q10

Please indicate below the AVERAGE HOURS PER WEEK of each paid staff (excluding separate professional services such as accounting, legal, etc.)

#1 Hours/Week	36.0
#2 Hours/Week	36.0
#3 Hours/Week	30.0

Q11

Please share the name of your accountant or bookkeeping service provider.

Key Bookkeeping

Q12

IF NEEDED, PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFO BELOW: Note if any positions are seasonal, temporary, etc.

We also employ 6-10 contracted ambassadors for our organization through funding we receive through CPED. There ambassadors work on average 32 hours a week providing services for the organization to the community. Including trash pickup, way finding, and outreach.

Page 5: Stakeholder Engagement - Outreach & Engagement

Q13

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 projects

,

Other (please specify):

Safety Meeting Monthly

Q14

DOOR-TO-DOOR - with goal of face-to-face engagement
(Check all that apply)

At least once reaching a portion of neighborhood,

For more than one issue/outreach effort,

Conducted primarily by staff members,

Conducted primarily by volunteers,

Carried out primarily to increase membership and participation

Q15

Approximately HOW MANY HOUSEHOLDS DID YOU REACH through door-knocking last year?

200

Q16

FLYERING - Dropping literature at doors (Check all that apply)

At least once reaching a portion 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

Q17

Approximately HOW MANY HOUSEHOLDS DID YOU REACH through flyering last year?

200

Q18

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.)

Q19

COMMUNICATION (Fill in all that apply)

Primary social media [facebook, twitter, or other] (share posting frequency and subscriber count)

<https://www.facebook.com/CRCCouncil>

Q20

OTHER (Check all that apply)

Developed partnerships with cultural, religious, professional or business associations to expand outreach into under-represented populations

Q21

Please provide an ESTIMATE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS PROVIDED to your organization last year. (see Volunteer Hour Tracking Guide for suggested ways to calculate this.)

60

Q22

HOW DID YOUR ORGANIZATION REACH OUT TO UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD? (Check all that apply)

- Worked on an issue of particular interest to an underrepresented group within the neighborhood
- ,
- Provided notices of annual and special meetings 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 underrepresented communities
- ,
- 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
- ,
- Met with other agencies in the community that work closely with underrepresented constituencies in the neighborhood

Q23

WHAT CITY SERVICES AND SUPPORTS DID YOUR ORGANIZATION USE? (Check all that apply)

- Did your staff or board members attend any monthly Citywide Neighborhood Meetingd?
- ,
- Did your organization utilize the provided legal services from MissionGuardian.com?
- ,
- Did your organization have City staff attend any of your board or community meetings to present and engage residents?

Q24

Referencing the QUANTITATIVE GOALS section of your EQUITABLE ENGAGEMENT PLAN, share your progress on the goals, sharing both success and lessons learned.

CRCC has had a lot of success in terms of doing outreach and reaching our residents. When setting quantitative goals for this plan we tried to focus on specific, achievable, and relevant objectives that can helped us track progress and identify areas for improvement. Some examples were:

1. Increasing the number of residents engaged in the planning process by 20% over , we had a number of outreach events as well as partnering with local organizations like PUC and piggybacking on a lot of outreach events they were doing at Brian Coyle. By combing efforts and resources we were able to reach a larger number of residents and constituents and able to utilize their broader marketing channels.
 2. Holding at least four community meetings each year with a minimum attendance of 15 residents at each meeting. Being able to go and flier as well as door to door the week of a meeting has garnered us a lot of success in terms of participation and membership growth.
 3. Surveying as many residents as we could in the neighborhood to gather feedback on community needs and priorities has been fairly successful as well. by getting the feedback directly from community members we are able to get a faster response for timely subjects that happen to pop up time to time.
 4. Ensuring that the majority of community engagement events are held in accessible locations with adequate translation and interpretation services. Brian Coyle has been a great venue for us to host events because it is such a central location in the neighborhood and a large epicenter for a lot of event that happen throughout. Having access to Brian Coyle is plus for our constituents because for a lot of them it is right outside their front door.
-

Q25

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?

Stakeholder involvement has been more active this year than it has been over previously years. We have been able to engage and help community members feel involved in participating in what's going in the neighborhood. Trying to build trust and relationships with community members, promoting inclusive participation, ensuring accessibility and transparency, fostering cultural sensitivity, and promoting community empowerment. Achieving these goals required sustained efforts from our organization, other community leaders, city officials, and all our neighborhood partners to ensure that community members have a meaningful voice in shaping the future of Cedar Riverside. We have had our ups and downs in the neighborhood over this past year but we have been able to overcome a lot with more to come. It's just proof of the resiliency of the neighborhood and the people that make it.

In 2024 we are continuing to employ Community Safety Specialists within our neighborhood.

The goal of this program is to increase community safety, resilience, and workforce development in the Cedar-Riverside/West Bank Neighborhood by providing relevant and culturally competent certified community training as well as providing needed safety services to the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood. Our program focuses on hiring young adults in the neighborhood in need of a second chance to enter or re-enter the workforce and who are in need of support due to challenges such as opiate addiction, criminal record, and homelessness. The program aims to engage these young adults in the safety and care of our neighborhood as well as equip them with skills to de-escalate conflict both in the neighborhood at large.

At the Start of the program there was some contention from some community members that the program was putting the lives of ambassadors in jeopardy by having them report information about potential crimes or wrongdoings in the neighborhood. We then had a community letting session to address those concerns and in our next board meeting we were able to agree and vote on language that made all parties comfortable with the duties of the ambassadors.

CRCC along with Pillsbury United Communities were able to host a multi-cultural Dinner for the community for the first time in 3 years. This annual social gathering brought our diverse community together to share food, live performances, and most importantly were able to connect with each other. Celebrating our unique neighborhood and the people who make it such a vibrant and colorful part of the city. The multi-cultural dinner event took place at the Brian Coyle Center and the adjoining Currie Park. The event was very well attended, bringing together 400 plus attendees from all walks of lives and cultures.

One of the biggest focuses of the Multi-Cultural Dinner was to bring all the multicultural community groups which include residents, business owners, institutions, state, county and city elected officials and their employees, and other service providers who are living, learning, and working in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood to come together and share delicious meals from all cultures, share stories, while networking and getting to know one another. The Multi-Cultural Dinner has stood as a joyful reminder that differences should be celebrated and even if we look, talk, or worship differently—we are all part of one greater community. This is a unique opportunity for all those connected to the Cedar Riverside community to enjoy international cuisine from local restaurants, watch live performances, and most importantly connect with each other. This is where partnerships and collaborations will be made that bridge the gap between Residents, Business Owners as well as Government Officials, These relationships will help build on community assets and increase opportunities for full participation of people and organizations of West Bank in the arts, culture, the local business community, and society at large. We also are able to strengthen partnerships with local nonprofits, businesses, residents, institutions, and government officials. Share and celebrate culturally diverse food, dance, and more. Collectively choose and endorse a community driven project or two to which all stakeholders pledge to work together to advocate or advance to make it happen in the coming year/s. Encourage participation in community events and decision making by attendees.

It has been a busy year for CRCC but we are proud to continue to serve the community to our fullest ability. The Staff at CRCC thanks the board and all the constituents of Cedar Riverside and we are glad you have joined the CRCC to help us in our efforts to "Connect Neighbors & Involve Community".

Q26

Share a timeline of proposed events and activities for 2024(Format by quarter or month as you prefer. Example: "Jan-March: -Plan spring outreach event)

Jan-March Continuing outreach and gearing up for the Summer. Getting ambassadors to do as much outreach as possible and helping unsheltered when we have available resources. Forming More Committees in within the organization tp plan for more programming in the Summer. Organizing ambassadors for food shelf, graffiti removal, remaining snow removal and weekend community cleanups.

APR-AUG- Summer outreach, planing for events like Somali Independence day and multicultural dinner in fall. Summer is filled with events and other activities to be planned by the committees in the earlier months. Developing partnerships with local community organizations to broaden outreach and engagement efforts. This has been one of our greatest assets. Being able to partner with Organizations like Pillsbury United has been great resource for being able to reach community members and both the University of Minnesota and Augsburg have been great with connecting with students for outreach, membership drives, and volunteering for community events.

Sep-Dec-End of the year, planning for fall activities for youth and multi cultural dinner. Ambassadors go on hiatus in November until January to make up for the slower neighborhood traffic in the winter but still available for outreach and some things in limited capacity.

Q27

Share your 2024 Equitable Engagement Qualitative goals(Make your goals SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound)

Goal 1: Building Trust and Relationships with Community Members

The first goal for equitable engagement is to build trust and relationships with community members. This requires a commitment to developing relationships with community members, engaging in active listening, and demonstrating a willingness to address community concerns. Community leaders and city officials must work to establish trust with community members through transparent and honest communication, consistent engagement, and a willingness to collaborate with community members in decision-making processes.

Goal 2: Promoting Inclusive Participation

The second goal for equitable engagement is to promote inclusive participation. This requires ensuring that all community members have an equal opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. To achieve this goal, community leaders and city officials must actively engage with underrepresented groups, including those who may face barriers to participation such as language barriers, economic disadvantages, and other factors that may limit their ability to participate. Efforts to promote inclusive participation should include providing translation and interpretation services, holding meetings in accessible locations, and offering childcare services.

Goal 3: Ensuring Accessibility and Transparency

The third goal for equitable engagement is to ensure accessibility and transparency in decision-making processes. This requires making information about decision-making processes readily available to community members, providing clear explanations of how decisions are made, and seeking community input at key decision-making points. Efforts to ensure accessibility and transparency should include creating user-friendly materials, holding meetings at accessible locations, and providing opportunities for community members to ask questions and provide feedback.

Goal 4: Fostering Cultural Sensitivity

The fourth goal for equitable engagement is to foster cultural sensitivity in decision-making processes. This requires an understanding of the diverse cultures and backgrounds of community members, and a willingness to incorporate this knowledge into decision-making processes. Efforts to foster cultural sensitivity should include engaging with community members in a respectful and culturally appropriate manner, providing opportunities for community members to share their experiences and perspectives, and incorporating cultural perspectives into decision-making processes.

Goal 5: Promoting Community Empowerment

The final goal for equitable engagement is to promote community empowerment. This requires recognizing the unique strengths and assets of the community, and engaging with community members as partners in decision-making processes. Efforts to promote community empowerment should include providing opportunities for community members to develop leadership skills, creating channels for community members to provide feedback on decision-making processes, and recognizing the contributions of community members in shaping the future of the neighborhood

Q28

On May 11, 2024, we are hosting...

Annual Meeting,
Other Event

Q29

Date, time, and location of your Event(Ex. May 11 from 9am to 7pm at Community Rec Center, 1234 Broadway Ave, continuing through May 21)

TBD Still working out Details

Q30

Webpage for your event (Board elections, annual meeting, or other event)

<https://www.facebook.com/CRCCouncil>

Q31

Respondent skipped this question

Date of your Annual MeetingIf you aren't hosting your board elections on Neighborhood Election Day, please share the exact or approximate date of your upcoming annual meeting.

Q32

Respondent skipped this question

Upload an Event imageWe will use this on the citywide map of Neighborhood Day to promote your event information. (See the 2023 map example)

Page 8: Program Highlights

Q33

Equitable Engagement,

What category best describes the highlight you'd like to share?

Other (please specify):
Ambassadors

Q34

Write 2-3 paragraphs describing a highlight from 2023 related to the topic above.

In the beginning of 2023, CRCC secured an extension of one (1) year - with an option for a second year - for a City of Minneapolis RFP to manage a program for "Community Safety Specialists" within our neighborhood.

The CRCC have been able to deploy Ambassadors throughout the neighborhood - helping community members and keeping areas clean, as well as engaging with folks in areas throughout Cedar Riverside. We have deployed our Ambassadors at a number of events and programs for the youth, such as the Multi-Cultural Dinner, to help them gain skills in meaningful employment as well as giving them the proper tools to be significant members of our great community.

We also host a variety of inter-generational and inter-cultural forums and meetups to help bridge the gaps of communication that could be difficult if not given any understanding. As an organization, the CRCC thrives on making our neighborhood a better place for everyone through our programming and involvement throughout the community.

Q35

Attach a photo related to the highlight you shared in the story above.

417547914_733768698855140_3149539790586000981_n.jpg (477.5KB)

Q36

Respondent skipped this question

What category best describes the second highlight you'd like to share? (Optional)

Q37

Write 2-3 paragraphs describing a second highlight from 2023 related to the topic above. (Optional)

CRCC has partnered with "Support and Empowerment of People with Disabilities" (SEPD) to utilize a program written to help bridge connections with neighborhoods and other local organizations.

The Neighborhood Partnership Program with the City of Minneapolis has provided funding to offer culturally relevant art programs - tailored for individuals with disabilities, as well as youth, especially from the Somali and Oromo communities. The project features a traveling band and short comedic skits - specifically designed to engage and entertain individuals with disabilities, youth, and seniors in Minneapolis utilizing the Somali and Oromo languages.

The culturally relevant art programs offered through this project not only provides entertainment but also serve as a means of fostering inclusivity, empowerment, and community cohesion. By showcasing performances in the Somali and Oromo languages, the project aims to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of these communities and promote a sense of pride and belonging among participants.

The interactive nature of the traveling band and comedic skits creates opportunities for individuals with disabilities, youth, and seniors to actively engage, express themselves, and form meaningful connections. This project seeks to promote social integration, break down barriers, and create a more inclusive and vibrant community that embraces and appreciates the diverse talents and contributions of its members.

Q38

Respondent skipped this question

Attach a photo related to the highlight you shared in the story above.
