



Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood (CIDNA) 2014 Annual Report Community Participation Program

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1. Stakeholder Involvement

Reviewing your CPP activities in 2014, Please provide information about:

What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2014?

2014 outreach efforts included three postcard mailings (Annual Meeting, Fall Festival and Art Mart); monthly e-newsletters; meeting minutes, notifications and ads in community newspapers (Hill and Lake Press and Southwest Journal); and timely updates on our website (www.cidna.org). In addition, Board members and Committee Chairs have written many articles and op-eds regarding current projects for publication in local press.

Residents were invited to participate in monthly board and committee meetings. Residents were encouraged to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter at every event, and we recruited volunteers via standing committees, e-newsletter, community newspaper and our annual mailings.

2014 was a critical year for Southwest LRT because of the municipal consent process. CIDNA offered forums for residents to engage with elected officials (including Congressman Ellison, Senator Dibble, Representative Hornstein, representatives from Mayor Hodges' office, and Park Board Commissioners) about SWLRT on a number of occasions throughout the year.

CIDNA Board staffed a table at our Fall Festival to inform residents of our committees, NRP activities and happenings in the neighborhood. We also had information tables relating to Southwest LRT

Monthly gardening days were held at for the Park Siding Park gardens. CIDNA engaged in a Park Stewards agreement with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board to maintain the flower gardens in the park. Naturalist programs were offered at two of the events to encourage participation.

CIDNA and West Calhoun formed a joint committee to focus on pedestrian and bicycle safety in the busy Lake St and Excelsior Blvd area.

CIDNA provided support for a Little Free Library in the neighborhood that contains a CIDNA informational binder that we keep updated with current events.

CIDNA partnered with other agencies to help promote public projects happening in the neighborhood such as: the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) sewer project in the neighborhood; Metro Transit's Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis; CenterPoint Energy's gas pipeline construction on Lake Street; and various Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) projects impacting the neighborhood (trail improvements and parkway repaving).

How did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities in 2014?

As you know, there are not significant portions of the demographic make-up of the Cedar-Isles-Dean (C-I-D) neighborhood that are the typical “under-represented communities”. We actually consider our under-informed residents as our under-represented and unengaged community.

We do attempt to reach out to this segment by sending mailings to every resident in Cedar-Isles-Dean and by including CIDNA Board meeting minutes, notifications and ads in the local newspaper, Hill and Lake Press, which is delivered to every residential property (including apartment buildings) in the neighborhood. We continue to grow our e-newsletter mailing list.

We purchased an updated mailing list in 2014 to ensure that our mailings are going to every valid address in the neighborhood.

Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful? Why? What did not work so well? Why?

We continued to see participation growth in 2014 due to some major projects happening in the neighborhood that have a significant direct impact on residents, i.e. the Southwest LRT, reconstruction of Sunset Blvd, the Cedar Lake and Dean Pkwy trail improvement project, and two large development projects. As residents learned of projects by which they felt directly affected and began to attend various meetings, they also became aware of the various vehicles by which they could keep better informed.

CIDNA made new connections with residents in a multi-unit building when doing outreach for a new development to be located adjacent to the building.

Tabling at the Fall Festival was a successful tool to engage with residents in a one-on-one setting. Residents had the opportunity to ask questions and were invited to provide written feedback via a survey.

Another successful effort has been the submission of informative articles to the Hill & Lake Press and Southwest Journal. Board members and Committee Chairs wrote time sensitive material, which was distributed to every resident in C-I-D.

How many people did you reach through direct contact (door knocking, meetings, one-on-ones, etc.)?

CIDNA had direct contact with approximately 300 people in 2014

How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?

CIDNA had 30-40 individuals volunteer for various activities in 2014.

How many individuals participated in your organization’s activities?

Approximately 500 people participated in our activities during 2014.

How many people receive your print publications?

CIDNA's mailing list contains over 1,800 households.

How many people receive your electronic communications?

CIDNA's email distribution lists contained 450 contacts in 2014.

2. 2014 Highlights

Please describe one or two major highlights, and if possible, please include digital photos or illustrations:

- 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?

Sunset Boulevard Pedestrian Accessibility and Traffic Calming

After having been a neighborhood priority for over 20 years, Sunset Blvd, between Chowen and Depot Street finally has a sidewalk. As part of the MCES sewer project, this block of Sunset was restructured on the north side and the parking lane was replaced with a sidewalk and boulevard. This area was identified as a gap in the Minneapolis Pedestrian Master Plan. CIDNA had NRP funds reserved to help fund a sidewalk on Sunset. The MCES sewer project offered a rare opportunity to add this important connection at no cost to the City of Minneapolis or CIDNA (MCES funded the project).

Raingarden Project

Raingardens are beautiful landscaping features that protect water quality and provide habitat for pollinators. They use native plants and allow storm water runoff to filter through the soil instead of flowing into storm drains and directly into our lakes.

CIDNA partnered with Metro Blooms for the installation of seven raingardens and one permeable paver project on residential property in the neighborhood. CIDNA was awarded a grant from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to defray the majority of the project costs. The gardens were planted in September 2014. The Conservation Corp of Minnesota provided the manual labor of excavating and adding mulch.

To achieve the project goal of improving water quality, Metro Blooms selected each potential rain garden location, working closely with the homeowners to place the garden in the most feasible location that received runoff from impervious surfaces (typically roof runoff).



To support the goals of this project, CIDNA conducted outreach by promoting the program in several ways: postcard mailing to all Cedar-Isles-Dean residents, information at CIDNA's annual meeting, electronic communication (e-newsletter and website) and print communication in the Hill & Lake Press.

3. 2014 Accomplishments

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2014:

- What were your organization's major accomplishments?
- How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work?

Cedar Lake South Beach

CIDNA has, for many years, been making attempts to enter into a cooperative planning process with the MPRB for redesign, rehabilitation and improvement of Cedar Lake South Beach and surrounding bike and pedestrian access.



Plans and drawings have been in works as far back as 1996 when the Cedar Lake Pkwy, Cedar Lake Ave, Depot Street and Sunset Blvd confluence was included in a Sunset Blvd traffic calming effort. More recently – in 2009, 2011 and during the 2013 Dean Pkwy/West Cedar Lake CAC – more ideas, plans and schematic drawings were rendered.

Any efforts to move ahead with South Beach improvements were postponed due to the uncertainty of how Southwest LRT would impact the area.

In August 2014, members of the CIDNA NRP Committee requested a meeting with MPRB to advocate for South Beach improvements. The timing was serendipitous because MPRB was in the process of commencing a new master plan for Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet. MPRB agreed to add South Beach to the planning process if CIDNA would provide NRP funds to support the study. An agreement was reached in December 2014 and the South Beach planning process will begin in 2015.

Park Siding Park

Park Siding Park officially reopened in 2014 following a renovation due to a sewer project in the neighborhood.

CIDNA was successful in lobbying

Metropolitan Council

Environmental Services to restore the playground to

accommodate children of all ages and to make the access to the park safer with a pedestrian crosswalk and improved lighting. The planting beds were fully reconstructed and our volunteers organized monthly gardening days to tend the flowers. The playground is now fully ADA accessible and the park is in excellent condition to be enjoyed by all users.



4. *Housing*

What percentage of time did your organization spend on housing-related activities?

CIDNA spends 50% of our time is spent on housing-related activities (a majority of that time is working on how Southwest LRT will impact the housing stock in the neighborhood).

5. *Financial Reports*

Please provide an income and expense report for your organization for the year. (Please include all funding sources).

In addition to your annual report, please take time to describe your interactions with City departments and other jurisdictions.

1. *Impact*

What interactions with City departments occupied a major part of your time? What worked well? What could be improved?

Over the past year, CIDNA continued to spend a majority of its time on Southwest LRT and engaged with the Mayor's office and the Park Board on issues related to the project.

City Council Member Lisa Goodman is very engaged with the neighborhood by attending our monthly board meetings to share information about City news and issues.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate your overall experience with your interactions with the City? 4

2. *City Communications – effectiveness*

Is the information that you receive from the City understandable and useful?

- Many of the public hearing notices are very cryptic and require follow-up on the part of neighborhoods to learn more so we can determine whether it is an issue we wish to address.
- Newsletters from City Council Member Goodman are excellent.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate overall communications from the City? 4

3. *City Communications – timeliness*

Do you receive adequate notice of City activities in your neighborhood? If not, did your organization inform somebody at the City of this? Did the City respond in a positive manner? Please explain.

We receive complaints from residents who feel that the City does not properly communicate regarding issues/projects until very late in the process. CIDNA continues to struggle with ways to effectively communicate with residents in a timely manner. We need help from the City to improve communication with residents, particularly our "under-informed" residents who are (or going to be) directly impacted by City projects. We do not have the volunteer man-hours or the budget to communicate in ways beyond what we are currently providing.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate the timeliness of communications from the City? 3

4. ***City Departments***

How can City departments improve the way in which they function in your neighborhood?

The 311 service is effective and works well.

5. ***City Assistance***

How can the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department improve the assistance it provides to your organization as a community participation group?

The C-I-D neighborhood has, over the past several years, been involved in quite a few significant issues/changes. CIDNA has tried very hard to engage residents in the programs and processes, but have had spotty response until residents become aware (often at the 11th hour) and/or are directly impacted. Examples: Southwest LRT, sidewalk installation, park enhancements, etc.

Because the primary goals of NCR are community engagement and reaching under-represented residents, we would be interested in hearing suggestions or given additional tools to meet those goals with our small CPP allocation.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate the assistance provided to your neighborhood by NCR? 4

6. ***Other comments?***