



NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS

Madison Neighborhoods, Inc., an affiliate of Neighborhoods, USA is pleased to announce the opening of the competition for the 2008 Best Neighborhood Program Awards. The Best Neighborhood Program Award Program is a way for Madison Neighborhoods, Inc to recognize the outstanding work of neighborhood organizations from throughout the City of Madison, and to let neighborhoods know that the work they do is valued and deserves to be recognized. These are the first awards of their kind given to recognize neighborhood organizations for their self-help initiatives.

The 2008 awards will be presented at the City of Madison Neighborhoods Roundtable, Saturday, November 8, 2008 at the Warner Park Community Center.

Madison Neighborhoods Incorporated (MNI) a 501 (c) 4 non profit that was created in 2004 with a Neighborhood Leadership grant from the City of Madison, operates as a forum for the sharing of experiences and knowledge towards cooperative working relationships among citizens, staff members and elected officials for the strengthening of our city through the promotion of neighborhoods. The strategic mission of MNI is to foster communication within and amongst neighborhood associations and other neighborhood-based organizations.

In 2007, the Stoughton Road Revitalization Project received first place in the Multi – Neighborhood – Partnerships category and went on to win the national Neighborhood of the Year Award at the 2008 Neighborhoods, USA Conference in Hampton, Virginia.

Awards will be given in three categories - 1) Physical Revitalization/Beautification in a Single Neighborhood; 2) Social Revitalization/Neighborliness in a Single Neighborhood and new this year the Multi Neighborhood – Partnerships category for projects sponsored by more than one neighborhood association or a planning council. Judging will be based on the extent of self-help, innovation, grassroots participation and capacity building exhibited by the nominated organization. A distinguished panel of judges will select four finalists in each category, and finalist will be asked to make presentations during this year's Neighborhoods Roundtable.

In order to be considered for the 2008 Best Neighborhood Program Award, an organization must have completed a noteworthy neighborhood improvement project in 2007, and submit a completed application postmarked no later than October 3, 2008.

For More information on the Awards program, contact:

Madison Neighborhoods, Inc.
2008 Best Neighborhood Program Awards
P. O. Box 2506
Madison, WI 53701-2506
(608) 244-0582
E-Mail- madisonneighborhoods@charter.net



*Madison Neighborhoods, Inc
2008 Best Neighborhood Program Award*

General Information

Eligibility:

Your organization is eligible to submit a nomination for the 2008 Best Neighborhood Program Award if you have developed or implemented a project that has benefited your neighborhood and was completed in 2007.

Nomination and Selection Process:

In order to be considered for a 2008 Best Neighborhood Program Award (BNPA), you must complete the application form, and return the completed form to *Madison Neighborhoods, Inc, 2008 Best Neighborhood Program Award, P. O. Box 2506, Madison, WI, 53701-2506. Nominations must be postmarked no later than October 3, 2008.*

After nominations are received, a panel of judges will review the nominations and will select no more than four finalist in each category for further consideration at the 2008 Neighborhoods Roundtable to be held Saturday, . Each finalist will be asked to make a 20 minute presentation as part of the workshops being offered at this year's Neighborhoods Roundtable.

The categories are:

1) Physical Revitalization/Beautification - Single Neighborhood

This category includes projects that are initiated by one neighborhood organization and focus on the physical aspects of a neighborhood such as parks, green spaces, housing improvement, lighting, litter control, traffic management, signage, neighborhood business district enhancement, etc.

2) Social Revitalization/Neighborliness - Single Neighborhood

This category includes projects that are initiated by one neighborhood and focus on the social or cultural aspects of a neighborhood such as neighborhood safety, neighborhood youth and seniors, activities that help neighbors feel connected and foster a spirit of cooperation such as neighborhood festivals and celebrations, etc.

3) Multi Neighborhood Project Partnerships

This category includes projects that are jointly sponsored by at least two neighborhood organizations or a planning council. They can address physical, social or other revitalization project areas.

The panel of NUSA judges reserves the right to place an application in a different category if they feel that the consideration with other applications in the new category would result in a fairer evaluation of the proposed project. Organizations that are selected as finalists will be notified by mail by October 17, 2008 and will be invited to make a presentation at the 2008 Neighborhoods Roundtable. Costs associated with attending the Roundtable are the responsibility of the finalist organization.

Selection Criteria:

Selection of BNPA finalists and award winners will be based on a consideration of the degree to which the nominated project, in its unique neighborhood context, is innovative, overcomes obstacles, mobilizes community resources, and creates partnerships between people of different ages, cultures or economic stature that who would not ordinarily work together. Awards will be based on the following considerations, with points given as indicated:

The extent of self-help evidenced (minimal reliance on outside funding)	20 points
Innovativeness of the project	10 points
Sustainability (minimal on-going administrative costs)	10 points
Partnership Building	
- With Public and/or Private Entities	10 points
- With other neighborhood and community based groups	10 points
Extent of grassroots involvement	20 points
Extent of Volunteer Contributions to Project	5 points
Potential for the project to be replicated in other neighborhoods	5 points
Extent that project provides for the development of new leaders	10 points
Total points possible	100 points

For more information, contact:

Madison Neighborhoods, Inc
 2008 Best Neighborhood Program Awards
 P. O. Box 2506
 Madison, WI 53701-2506
 608/244-0582
madisonneighborhoods@charter.net

Madison Neighborhoods, Inc.
2008 Best Neighborhood Program Award

Application Form

Please complete the following nomination form, and **submit the original and six (6) copies** to Madison Neighborhoods, Inc, 2008 Best Neighborhood Program Awards, P. O. Box 2506, Madison, WI 53701-2506.

Nominations must be postmarked by **October 3, 2008**

In order for your nomination to be judged fairly, it must be submitted in the following manner:

- 1) Nominations may be typed using the format provided;
- 2) Originals and duplicates must be on 8 1/2" x 11" white paper and single-sided;
- 3) Forms should be stapled together with one staple in the left-hand corner. Please do not bind, place staples in both corners or at top, place in covers, or use paper fasteners;
- 4) Please **do not** add items such as a cover page or a table of contents that are not specifically requested;
- 5) Only entries submitted and signed by a representative of a neighborhood group will be accepted.

I. Basic Information

Please provide the following information:

Neighborhood Organization _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail _____

Name of nominated project or program:

Please designate the category which best describes your project:

_____ Physical Revitalization/Beautification - Single Neighborhood

_____ Social Revitalization - Single Neighborhood

_____ Multi-Neighborhood – Multi Partnerships

In order to help us better understand the context of your nominated project, please answer the following questions:

1. Briefly describe your neighborhood.
2. Briefly describe your neighborhood group, including information about its formation, some of its accomplishments, some obstacles that it has overcome, and the role it plays in the neighborhood arena.

II. Information about the Nominated Project/Program

Please answer the following questions:

1. Describe the project/program that you are using as the basis of this nomination.
2. What prompted your group to develop this project? Did your group initiate this project, or was it initiated by a governmental entity or some other agency, foundation or corporation? What were you trying to accomplish?
3. What steps did your group take to develop this project? Specifically, please describe how your group involved neighborhood residents and other partners in the development and implementation of the project.
4. What were the main obstacles that your organization had to overcome to be successful with this project? How did you deal with these obstacles?
5. Please describe your efforts to build partnerships surrounding this project. What new partnerships have you developed as a result of this project?

III. Attachments

Please attach the following:

1. A listing of income and expenses for the nominated project. Please list sources and amounts of income (donations, grants, in-kind support, volunteer commitments, etc.) and categories of expenses (supplies, postage, printing, etc.) plus amounts expended in each of these categories.
2. Up to 6 items which will help judges better understand your project. Possible attachments include photographs, plans, flyers, brochures, and letters of support.

IV. Signature

Please have the appropriate officer for your organization sign in the space designated:

I certify that the information contained in this nomination is correct:

Name (Please Print) _____

Signature _____

Remember.....Nominations must be postmarked no later than October 3, 2008