

Neighborhood of the Year Awards to be Presented As Part of City Neighborhoods Conference

Madison Neighborhoods, Inc. is pleased to announce the opening of the competition for the First Annual Neighborhood of the Year Awards Program. The Neighborhood of the Year Awards 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 will be the first awards of their kind given to recognize neighborhood organizations for their self-help initiatives.

The 2006 awards will be presented at the City of Madison Neighborhoods Conference, Saturday, November 11, 2006 at the Monona Terrace Convention and Community Center. Linda Horvath from the Department of Planning and Development is leading the staff team to organize this year's conference.

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.

MNI has fashioned the awards to immortalize those of Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA), the largest grassroots organization in the nation addressing the concerns and issues of neighborhoods throughout the country. You might remember that in 1999, when Madison hosted the NUSA Conference, the Northside Planning Council was honored for their success in bringing the Warner Park Recreation Community Center to reality. In 2004, Prairie Hills Neighborhood Association was a NUSA finalist for their efforts that improved the fabric and livability of the neighborhood.

Awards will be given in two categories - Physical Revitalization/Beautification in a Single Neighborhood; and Social Revitalization/Neighborliness in a Single Neighborhood. 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 finalists in each category, and finalist will be asked to make presentations during the local Conference, with a winner being selected in each category.

In order to be considered for the 2006 Neighborhood of the Year Award, a neighborhood organization must have completed a noteworthy neighborhood improvement project in 2005, and submit a completed Neighborhood of the Year application postmarked by October 20, 2006.

A copy of this year's application is enclosed in this newsletter. If you need additional copies, a downloadable version is available at www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/. Any questions should be directed to Robert Gibbons at robert.gibbons1@charter.net or by calling 244-0582.

| <i>Table of Contents</i> | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <i>page 2</i> | <i>Neighborhood of the Year Award Information and Judging Criteria</i> |
| <i>page 2</i> | <i>MNI Needs YOU!</i> |
| <i>page 3</i> | <i>What is Madison Neighborhoods, Inc?</i> |
| <i>page 4</i> | <i>Save the Date!!</i> |
| <i>Insert</i> | <i>2006 Award Application</i> |

2006 Neighborhood of the Year Award Program

General Information

Eligibility:

Your organization is eligible to submit a nomination for the 2006 Neighborhood of the Year Award if you have developed or implemented a project that has benefited your neighborhood in 2005

Nomination and Selection Process:

In order to be considered for a 2006 Neighborhood of the Year Award, you must complete a nomination form, and return the completed form to Madison Neighborhoods, Inc., PO Box 2506, Madison, WI 53701. Nominations must be postmarked by **October 20, 2006**.

After nominations are received, a panel of judges will review the nominations and will select the best nominations in two categories as finalists for further consideration at the 2006 Neighborhoods Conference to be held Saturday, November 11, 2006 at the Monona Terrace.

The categories are:

1) Physical Revitalization/Beautification

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

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.

Organizations that are selected as finalists will be notified by October 23, 2006 and will be invited to make a presentation at the 2006 Neighborhoods Conference.

Selection Criteria:

Selection of NOTY 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 | 10 points |
| Partnership Building | |
| - With Public 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 |

MNI Needs YOU!

Are you a neighborhood leader willing to donate your time and talents to a citywide effort to strengthen, support and build neighborhood associations?

MNI Governing Board is made up of individuals representing the following areas: Eastside; Northside; Southside, Westside, Neighborhood Business Associations and a Neighborhood Activist At-Large. Currently the Board is searching to fill positions representing the neighborhoods on the Southside and Westside.

If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities, please contact Robert Gibbons at robert.gibbons1@charter.net or by phone at 608/244-0582.

What is Madison Neighborhoods Inc?

Mission Statement

Madison Neighborhoods Incorporated (MNI) will operate 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.

Programs and services will be concentrated in four areas. Combined these activities will be educationally based and be provided at low or no charge to all neighborhood organizations and leaders who request assistance. By providing these services, MNI is committed to its role of providing educational opportunities at low/no cost to those it has chosen to serve in hope that it will increase the pride and commitment one has for its neighborhood community.

Core Services

I. Neighborhood Leadership Building

To build the capacity of grass roots leaders to manage their neighborhood organization, develop and implement programs to educate and unite their neighbors and take collective action to improve their communities. Organizational training and/or specific consultations will enable neighborhood-based organizations to develop internal capacity and skills to achieve their desired outcomes. In addition, the experiences from successful outcomes can be shared with other neighborhood-based organizations that are seeking to accomplish similar outcomes in their geographic area. MNI will link the informational and experimental experiences in their current and future programming and services.

II. Technical and Facilitation Assistance

To provide assistance at low/no charge to neighborhood associations and neighborhood leaders by offering consulting, coaching, customized training and meeting facilitation assistance. A component of the technical assistance provided to neighborhood leaders is the assistance in developing strategic organizational plan (i.e. strategic thinking of what the organization is, what it wants to be, and how to accomplish its goals) as well as strategic neighborhood action plans to build better

livable neighborhoods. MNI will be able to facilitate this neutral based nonpartisan based communications at the local level.

III. Creation of the Madison Neighborhood Initiatives Clearinghouse

To collect informational materials on a national level that can be used by neighborhood associations to build stronger communities and make said information available on all educational levels, whether they be needed by long standing neighborhood organizations or forming and emerging interest groups.

IV. Recognize Neighborhood Revitalization Activities

To annually recognize those neighborhoods that have implemented programs of physical and social revitalization in efforts to make their neighborhoods a better place to live, work and play. By recognizing these efforts, it is hoped that other neighborhoods will be empowered and challenged to “take up the fight” in their neighborhood.

Madison Neighborhoods, Inc. is a registered 501 (c) 4 non-profit organized under Chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Initial funding for the establishment of MNI was through a Neighborhood Capacity grant received by the Emerson East Neighborhood Association from the City of Madison in 2003.

You can support the efforts of Madison Neighborhoods Inc. by making a financial contribution to MNI! Contributions can be mailed to MNI at P.O. Box 2506, Madison, WI 53701-2506.

Make No Small Plans!

2007 Neighborhoods, USA

Conference

May 23-26, 2007

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

www.nusa.org

Save the Date!

2006 Neighborhood Conference: Building Strong Neighborhoods. Learning from the Past. Looking into the Future.

Mark your calendar!

The City of Madison's citywide neighborhood conference is planned for Saturday, November 11, 2006 at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center (1 John Nolen Drive). Neighborhood residents and people who care about neighborhoods are invited to attend to build their skills and knowledge in such important areas as organizational development, neighborhood improvement projects, and working with city officials, developers and landlords.

See You There!

**Madison Neighborhoods, Inc.
P. O. Box 2506
Madison, WI 53701-2506**

Neighborhood Connections is the official newsletter of Madison Neighborhoods Incorporated a recognized 501 (c) 4 by the Internal Revenue Service.

The information contained in this publication is intended to inform, educate and support the building and strengthening of neighborhood associations throughout the City of Madison, Wisconsin.

Madison Neighborhoods, Inc. Governing Board

Diane Calhoun - Eastside
Dorothy Borchardt - Northside
Vacant - Southside
Vacant - Westside
Mike Kohn - Business Associations
Robert Gibbons - At-Large

Madison Neighborhoods, Inc.,
PO Box 2506
Madison, WI 53701-2506