

NUSA NEWS

A Publication of Neighborhoods, USA

Summer 2014



Thank You Eugene!

Neighborhoods, USA's (NUSA) 39th Annual Conference on Neighborhood Concerns, hosted by the City of Eugene, OR, was a smashing success with amazing feedback from the nearly 600 attendees.

Eugene shined in hospitality as out-of-town delegates routinely shared with organizers the warm reception they were getting from surrounding businesses and neighbors. Conference attendees patronized downtown establishments throughout the course of their time with pre-planned free time to explore the growing downtown.

Remaining consistent with Eugene's core values, all aspects of sustainability were woven into conference planning from meals that emphasized appropriate portions and locally-sourced food, to a clearly articulated, sustainable procurement policy that was shared with vendors and exhibitors. Highlighting the area's award winning water, no single-serve water bottles were provided throughout the event as registrants were encouraged to bring their own reusable bottle, and, thanks to the conference venue's participation in Love Food Not Waste, more than 2.39 tons of recyclables and food waste were diverted from the landfill. Also in an unprecedented move for the NUSA conference, Eugene offered attendees the option of opting out of paper copies and instead provided online electronic access to conference material. More than 40% of attendees accepted the offer and opted out of printing.

While Eugene is one of the smallest municipalities to host the NUSA conference, everyone can be proud of the lasting impacts and legacy established as Eugene and NUSA move into the future.

Hawthorne Center Wins Grand Prize Neighborhood of the Year Award!



Pictured (left to right): Patrice Duckett, Hawthorne Center and Near West Collaborative Representative, and Anne-Marie Taylor, Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center Director

Indianapolis' Hawthorne Center took home top honors during Neighborhoods, USA's 39th Annual Conference on Neighborhood Concerns for its Near West Collaborative Clean-Up project involving the Near West neighborhoods of Haughville, Hawthorne, We Care and Stringtown.

Going beyond a basic trash cleanup, which totaled ten truckloads, with over 200 residents and the help of an additional 400 volunteers, the Near West Collaborative also focused on other activities, that included:

- Painting of over 50 fire hydrants
- Painting of Near West logo on street corners
- Mulching and sprucing up of Hawthorne Park, Stringtown Park and Rosalie Park
- Cleaning up a portion of the potential bike trail from Concord Street to Michigan Street
- Collecting and removing 10 truckloads of trash
- Planting of more than 50 trees in the Stringtown area
- Painting murals on bridges in the We Care Neighborhood

2014 NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Multi Neighborhood Partnerships



GRAND PRIZE - NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR (featured on page 1)
1st Place Project - Near West Collaborative Clean-Up
Hawthorne Center - Indianapolis, Indiana

The Near West Collaborative Clean-Up is the community-organizing arm of four neighborhoods. The collaborative structure is the link to the successful ability to build neighborhood capacity and to organize community around a plan. One of their largest objectives was a cleanup that hosted 400 volunteers and 200 residents. As part of the Great Indy Clean-Up, Near West provided four neighborhoods the opportunity to clean up 15 tons of trash, paint fire hydrants and plant 50 trees.

Picture: Angela Rush, Neighborhoods, USA President, presents Hawthorne Center with the 1st place award for Multi Neighborhood Projects

2nd Place Project: Fairmount Fosters Successful Schools - Fairmount Neighborhood Association (Fort Worth, Texas)

Fairmount's Foster Successful Schools initiative focused on several areas: Create an attractive entrance for the local neighborhood elementary school by improving landscaping, donating monies to help promote the formation of PTAs at the neighborhood schools, Increasing neighborhood involvement in the local schools through mentoring, and coordinating and implementing fund-raising activities to benefit the local schools.

3rd Place Project: Re-Envisioning of East 7th Street - Rose Park Neighborhood Association (Long Beach, California)

Born from a need to improve one of the oldest and most historic areas in Long Beach, the East 7th Street Collaboration brought together four neighborhood organizations with a mission to improve East 7th Street. Activities undertaken by the collaboration included increasing area identity with banners, installing pavers at intersections, implementing a cohesive tree design and planting, developing an overarching concept for the corridor, and working with local developers to ensure that revitalization efforts met the neighborhood needs and the historical style of the area.

Finalist Project: School Safety Brigade - CCW-STF Valenzuela Chapter Crime Watch (Quezon City, Philippines)

The School Safety Brigade, a project of the Citizens Crime Watch-Special Task Force, assist the local government school of Barangay Mapulang Lup and Apolonia F. Rafael Elementary School to ensure the safe and orderly flow of traffic while students are going to school and returning home. The project was prompted to be developed and prioritized due to previous reports of accidents involving students.

Physical Revitalization/Beautification - Single Neighborhood



1st Place Project
South Shore Neighborhood (Chicago, Illinois)
Project: We Mean Green Neighborhood Peace Garden

A "positive loitering" campaign initiated by residents of Chicago's South Shore Neighborhood is bringing peace and civility to a blighted intersection through a positive outdoor activity. The We Mean Green Neighborhood Peace Garden and the Hospitality Garden are creating a peaceful, artful incentive to revitalizing a once vibrant street.

Picture (left to right): Angela Rush, Neighborhoods, USA President, presents South Shore Neighborhood with the 1st place award for Physical Revitalization

2nd Place Project: North Gateway Tacoma Theater District Project - New Tacoma Neighborhood Council (Tacoma, Washington)

The North Gateway Project was designed to provide artistic and environmental enhancements, pedestrian safety and serve as another distinctive amenity for the Theatre District. Activities included: hosting a garage sale; completion of the Ben Gilbert Park and Mural; funding of an area clean-up; creation and implementation of fund raising events; creation and distribution of a "Walkable Urban Project Survey; hosting of several community events; and creation and dedication of a large wall mural.

3rd Place Project: Lowden Tunnel Mural - South Hemphill Heights Neighborhood Association (Fort Worth, Texas)

After years of neglect, the Lowden Tunnel Mural project was undertaken to combat "tagging" and graffiti, allow residents to safely use the Tunnel, and improve the appearance of the neighborhood. The project brought together a local artist, local school children, city staff and neighborhood volunteers to create a neighborhood focal point that not only improves the appearance of the neighborhood, but also provides a safe avenue for those enjoying healthy outdoor activity.

Finalist Project: Creek Clean Up Events -Tahquitz Creek Yacht Club (Palm Springs, California)

Once a neighborhood recreation area, the Tahquitz Creek was dammed due to flash floods in the creek. The creek then became a haven for illegal dumping activities. In 2006 local neighborhood organizations met to address the neglect around the creek and a clean-up event was created to revitalize the area around the creek. The clean-up was successful and is held annually every year. What was an eyesore is now a community asset.

2014 NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Social Revitalization/Neighborliness - Single Neighborhood



1st Place Project - The Taste of Milpas
Milpas Community Association - Santa Barbara, California

The Milpas Community Association produced the first-ever Taste of Milpas in 2013 as a way to bring people into their community; introduce people to their wonderful restaurants, and raise funds for their annual Holiday Parade while also supporting its local are non-profits that work with youth.

Picture: Angela Rush, Neighborhoods, USA President, presents Milpas Community Association with the 1st place award for Social Revitalization/Neighborliness-Single Neighborhood.

2nd Place Project: Creating a Neighborhood Association Dream Team - Parkwood Neighborhood Association (Shoreline, Washington)

Parkwood's project began with the creation of a new neighborhood association - Parkwood Neighborhood - and included several activities to address local issues, create a sense of community and become civically engaged with local government. Activities included: hosting neighborhood and fund raising events; development of neighborhood goals; creation of a neighborhood newsletter, Facebook page and web site; and increasing engagement in local government.

3rd Place Project: Tots Rock - Windom Community Council (Minneapolis, Minnesota)

The Windom Community began to see younger families moving into the neighborhood and wanted an event that could unite these families in a social setting. The concept behind Tots Rock is a dance party for children ages 6 months to years of age. In addition to dancing to a live D.J., the event features a "chill" room with books, a craft and coloring station and bean bags for lounging. The variety of activities keep children engaged and entertained while giving parents the opportunity to meet other parents in the community.

2014 BEST NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM AWARDS



1st Place Projects (tie):

Creative Journey - Columbia, South Carolina
Henderson Mediation Program - Henderson, Nevada

For the first time in the history of NUSA's Best Neighborhood Program Award, there was a tie for first place.

The Creative Journey program began in January 2013 to help returning soldiers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. By working with and helping veterans perform various types of art projects, the program helps recovering soldiers and their families improve wellness and build better lives.

Henderson's Mediation Program provides free community mediation services to neighbors in convenient, neutral locations. The program focuses exclusively on community disputes like noise, animals, property issues, landlord/tenant relations and other items. This creative solution to resolve disputes offers residents an opportunity to improve the quality of life and promote neighborhood connectivity.

Picture: Angela Rush, Neighborhoods, USA President, presents representatives with Creative Journey and Henderson Mediation Program with their 1st place awards for Best Neighborhood Program.

3rd Place Project: Neighborhood Picnic and Community Expo - Palm Springs, California

Began in May 2008, the Neighborhood Picnic and Community Expo, was organized with the goal to bring people together and celebrate Palm Springs neighborhoods and the great things happening that make Palm Springs such a wonderful place to live, work and play. The picnic if held each spring, and exhibitors are invited to participate and provide information about their products, programs and services. In 2013 more than 800 people attended the event.

4th Place Project: Identification Blade Sign Program - Palm Springs, California

In 2006, Palm Springs Neighborhood Involvement Committee created a program to visually identify City neighborhood organizations by mounting neighborhood "blade signs" onto existing street signs. Each sign is rectangular in shape and has peaks cut into the top to represent the profile of the 11,000 foot Mount San Jacinto. Neighborhoods, certified by the City, can design and purchase the signs through a single source vendor.

Finalist Project: Youth Going Green Community Garden - Houston, Texas

In December 2008, Almighty Ministries, Inc. became the owner of a vacant lot littered with weeds, broken concrete and dying trees. Efforts to revitalize the lot began in 2011 when the property became a garden for the youth in the neighborhood, providing youth with gardening skills, encouraging youth to eat healthier and supplying households with fresh produce. In 2012 fund-raising began to purchase materials for a fence to secure the garden and by November 2013, with over 146 hours of volunteer work, the fence was completed.

Finalist Project: Occupy Medical - Eugene, Oregon

Occupy Medical started as a humble first aid tent at the Occupy Eugene site in 2011. A handful of medically trained volunteers began to serve the movement with their specialized skills. As people learned that Occupy Medical was there to treat patients and not to judge, the client load increased. After the City shut down the Occupy Eugene camp, Occupy Medical began offering weekly free clinics. To date Occupy Medical serves approximately 30 patients a week.

2014 NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER AWARDS

Electronic Format

AWARD LEVEL	ORGANIZATION NAME	CITY	ST
GOLD	Los Compadres Neighborhood Organization	Palm Springs	CA
GOLD	Tahquitz River Estates Neighborhood	Palm Springs	CA
GOLD	Fairmount Park Neighborhood	Council Bluffs	IA
SILVER	Dublin Community Connection	Dublin	CA
SILVER	Highland Reserve Neighborhood Association	Roseville	CA

Print Format

AWARD LEVEL	ORGANIZATION NAME	CITY	ST
GOLD	California Heights Neighborhood Association	Long Beach	CA
GOLD	Gifford Park Neighborhood	Omaha	NE
GOLD	City of Wood Village	Wood Village	OR
GOLD	Society Hill Civic Association	Philadelphia	PA
GOLD	Fairmount Neighborhood Association	Fort Worth	TX
GOLD	Linkwood Civic Club	Houston	TX
SILVER	Roosevelt Action Association	Phoenix	AZ
SILVER	Garfield Organization	Phoenix	AZ
SILVER	Pierson Place Historic District	Phoenix	AZ
SILVER	Belmont Heights Community Association	Long Beach	CA
SILVER	Century Villages of Cabrillo	Long Beach	CA
SILVER	Rolling Fork Homeowners Association	Houston	TX
SILVER	Sienna Plantation Residential Association	Missouri City	TX
BRONZE	Museum District Neighborhood	Phoenix	AZ
BRONZE	Laurel Hill Valley Citizens	Eugene	OR

2014 Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods

The Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods award, first presented in 2010, was created to recognize those individuals whose work mirrors the mission of NUSA: to build and strengthen neighborhood associations, to promote communication and collaborations between neighborhood associations, local governments and the public/private sectors, and encourage neighborhood involvement in the decision-making process in local governments.

The 2014 Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods honorees are:



Mayor Annise Parker was first elected Mayor of Houston, Texas in 2009, and her neighborhood efforts were highlighted with the creation of the Department of Neighborhoods which serves as a centralized source of services and resources for residents. Her nominator wrote, "Mayor Parker works tirelessly to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods and for all Houstonians. The love she has for her hometown shines through in everything she does."

Picture (left to right): Mayor Annise Park and Angela Rush, Neighborhoods, USA President



Apostle Vanessa Ward was nominated for the transformation she led in her community. Nominators said her dedication, courage and integrity are extraordinary and vital to the success of neighborhoods in Omaha, Nebraska. Ward has been recognized by the American Red Cross with its Hero of the Heartland Award and also awarded the Gregg Young Award for outstanding contributors to the community.

Picture (left to right): Vanessa Ward and Angela Rush, Neighborhoods, USA President

30th Anniversary of NOTY Award

In 1984, the Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) was hosted by the City of Tacoma, Washington. As part of the planning process, Elton Gatewood and co-worker Don Hines thought it would be a "good idea" to present neighborhood awards as part of the conference. The NUSA Board agreed to test out the idea and see how well it would be received...and the rest is history.

In recognition of the 30th Anniversary of the Neighborhood of the Year (NOTY) Awards, NUSA recognized past Grand Prize NOTY recipients during its 2014 Conference and also presented Elton Gatewood, with a plaque recognizing the role he played in creating the NOTY awards.



Pictured (left to right): Angela Rush, NUSA President, and Elton Gatewood

Retiring NUSA Board Member



During the 2014 Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) Conference, the NUSA Board recognized and thanked retiring Board Member - Robert Gibbons for his years of service.

Robert has served on the NUSA Board since 2004 and has chaired/co-chaired the Awards Program Committee for six years.

Financial Report

Beginning Balance (10/1/2013)	\$ 34,575.08
Income To Date (10/1/2013-5/21/2014)	\$ 98,624.21
Less Expenses (10/1/2013-5/21/2014)	\$ 28,491.37
Balance on Hand (5/21/2014)	\$ 104,707.92

Membership Spotlight

MONROVIA, CA NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE

The 5th Annual MAP Neighborhood Conference is being held on Saturday, August 9, 2014, and includes free food, entertainment, workshops, and networking opportunities. For more information about the Conference and registration details visit www.cityofmonrovia.org/communitydevelopment/page/map-neighborhood-conference-registration-open.

VIRGINIA STATEWIDE NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE

The 15th Annual Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference (VSNC) is being held September 18-19, 2014, in Lynchburg, Virginia. The Conference provides "a forum to share experiences and knowledge and develop a collaborative working relationship among citizens, staff members, representatives of the private sector and elected officials. For more information about the Conference and registration details visit www.vsnc.org.

2014 IOWA/NEBRASKA NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE

A collaboration of neighborhood associations, grass roots community organizations, civic and business leaders have come together to host the first Iowa/Nebraska (IN) the Neighborhood Conference. The Conference is being held October 10-11, 2014, at the Metropolitan Community College South Campus in Omaha, Nebraska. For more information and registration details visit www.intheneighborhood.org.

Call for Presentations

Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) will be sending out a Call for Presentations earlier this year. Expect to see an email blast, and information posted on NUSA's website (www.nusa.org) and Facebook page sometime in July. Deadline for receipt of workshop proposals will also be earlier this year - around the beginning of October.

SAVE THE DATE

Neighborhoods, USA's
40th Annual Conference on
Neighborhood Concerns

Houston, Texas
May 20-23, 2015

For up-to-date conference information, visit:
www.nusa.org
and
www.facebook.com/NeighborhoodsUSA