

MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

CARAG
NEIGHBORHOOD
ACTION PLAN

Date Adopted by the Policy Board: April 23, 2001

Date Adopted by the City Council: May 18, 2001

Document Number: 2001-128M

4-12-01

CARAG

FULL ACTION PLAN



NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

Prepared by the CARAG / NRP Steering Committee
Approved by the CARAG Board

CARAG / NRP Mission Statement:

Our goal is to strengthen our community and our neighborhood identity by forging alliances between residents, local businesses, local institutions, government agencies and private agencies. Working together, we will identify issues and implement strategies to improve the safety and livability of our neighborhood. Since we celebrate the urban nature of our neighborhood, we will work to maintain, enhance and promote the positive aspects of urban life and the economic viability of our neighborhood. We will include all residents and businesses in this process. We chose to live and work in this neighborhood, and we commit to planning the long-term future of this neighborhood. Through this neighborhood-driven effort, we will create a safe, stable and livable community.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past five years, the CALHOUN RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP (CARAG) has worked hard to develop a Phase 1 NRP Full Action Plan. The key steps to accomplishing this Full Action Plan were:

1. A participation agreement that activated a CARAG/NRP Steering Committee to lead the neighborhood to this Plan,;
2. A First Step Plan strategy which developed a Master Plan vision and actions for CARAG; and
3. Numerous conversations, Town Meetings, advertisements, and flyers to request and receive input and comment from all CARAG members and stakeholders.

Subsequently, the CARAG Phase 1 NRP Full Action Plan has been completed and is summarized on the following page with specific Full Action Plan strategies contained in this document.

CARAG Requested Action by NRP and City of Minneapolis

Based on this document's submittal, CARAG is requesting the following actions:

1. Approval of the CARAG NRP Phase 1 Full Action Plan including the Flex Substitution provisions, and
2. As an attachment to this Full Action Plan, CARAG is also requesting appropriate acknowledgement, receipt and file by the City of the CARAG Master Plan.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Hagler
CARAG Board President

Jon Wertjes
CARAG NRP Steering Committee Chair

Acknowledgements

CARAG would like to thank everyone who volunteered and participated in the neighborhood NRP planning process. Your feedback, ideas and endurance were and still are the keys to our success.

Special appreciation needs to go to CARAG NRP Steering Committee members- Howard Verson, Jay Conti, Stirling Friendly, Ruth Hograbe, Patrick Meyers, Tim Kleinpaste, David Omer, Mary Ann Knox, Tom Dennison, Herb Jaehne, Jeff Langaard, Brett McGraw, and Katherine Schafer. In addition, we would like to thank our NRP staff- Robert Thompson and Ryan Kragerud. And finally we would like to acknowledge CARAG staff, Zach Korb and Scott Engel, for their assistance.

Full Action Plan Summary Overview

\$	#	Housing (\$1,280,000)	\$	#	Arts & Culture (\$110,000)
\$3,000	1.1	Historical Documentation	\$100,000	19.1	Arts Opportunities
\$3,000	1.2	Old House Seminars	\$10,000	20.1	Neighborhood Arts Committee
\$300,000	1.3	CARAG HPC			
\$450,000	2.1	Rental Property Improvements	\$	#	Schools, Park & Education (160,000)
\$450,000	3.1	Exterior Residential Improvements	\$20,000	21.1	Youth Activities
\$4,000	4.1	Neighborhood Demolition	\$80,000	21.2	Schools
\$35,000	5.1	Cycle of Life Housing	\$60,000	21.3	Bryant Square Park
\$35,000	5.2	Senior Home Improvements			
			\$	#	Implementation (\$350,000)
\$	#	Transportation (\$133,000)	\$350,000	22.1	Staff & Office Space
\$25,000	6.1	Automobile Impacts			
\$1,000	6.3	Special Service District			
\$5,000	7.2	Public Transit	\$2,418,053		Total Full Action Plan
\$50,000	7.3	Bus Stops			
\$50,000	8.1	Bryant Ave. Bikeway			
\$2,000	8.2	Bike Racks			
\$	#	Economic Development (\$143,000)	\$	#	Flex/Substitution (\$200,000)
\$2,000	9.1	Home Based Business Network			Transportation
\$5,000	10.1	Police Garage	\$25,000	7.3	Bus Stops
\$50,000	10.2	Commercial Corridor Design Grant	\$25,000	8.1	Bryant Ave Bikeway
\$6,000	10.3	Break in Lake			Economic Development
\$50,000	11.1	Corner Store Program	\$25,000	10.2	Commercial Corridor Design
\$30,000	12.3	Master Plan	\$25,000	11.1	Corner Store Program
					Arts & Culture
\$	#	Crime & Safety (\$128,500)	\$50,000	20.1	Neighborhood Arts Committee
\$90,000	13.1	Front Porch & Low Level Lights			Schools, Park & Education
\$23,000	13.2	Bryant Square Park Lights	\$50,000	21.2	Schools
\$5,000	13.3	Eliminate Graffiti			
\$500	13.4	Noise Abatement			
\$10,000	14.1	Block Clubs			
\$	#	Community Building and Beautification (\$108,000)			
\$60,000	15.1	Landscaping & Green Spaces			

\$10,000	15.2	Public Gardening
\$10,000	15.3	Trees
\$10,000	16.1	CARAG Livability Committee
\$0	16.2	East Calhoun News
\$1,000	17.1	Clean Neighborhood Programs
\$2,000	17.2	Lake Calhoun
\$15,000	17.3	Alleys
\$	#	Seniors (\$5,553)
\$553	18.1	Seniors Committee
\$5,000	18.2	SW Seniors Center

CARAG VISION

The Preamble to the CARAG Constitution

The purpose of the organization shall be to encourage and support community involvement of both residents and businesses in the CARAG neighborhood. It shall be the object of the organization to:

1. Evaluate the community, search out and draw attention to the advantages we now enjoy, recognize the problems and through research, study and discussion, arrive at and implement a course of action for the improvement of the community.
2. Endeavor to stabilize and/or improve the residential, educational and economic status of the community.
3. Function as a non-partisan, non-sectarian community action group, keeping our citizens alert and informed on proposals and activities of various civic, commercial, political and governmental bodies, which affect us.
4. Coordinate and publicize existing endeavors and projects within the community and facilitate needed programs and projects in the interest of community betterment.
5. Act as a spokesperson for the CARAG neighborhood before city boards, commissions, etc. and otherwise as needed.

CARAG NRP Mission Statement

Our goal is to strengthen our community and our neighborhood identity by forging alliances between residents, local businesses, local institutions, government agencies and private agencies. Working together, we will identify issues and implement strategies to improve the safety and livability of our neighborhood. Since we celebrate the urban nature of our neighborhood, we will work to maintain, enhance and promote the positive aspects of urban life and the economic viability of our neighborhood. We will include all residents and businesses in this process. We chose to live and work in this neighborhood, and we commit to planning the long-term future of this neighborhood. Through the neighborhood-driven effort, we will create a safe, stable and livable community.

CARAG Master Plan

A vital First Step Plan strategy was to develop the CARAG Master Plan. The document was completed in July 2000 with consultant and Planning Department assistance. This document is more than a planning tool, but a vision statement about CARAG's future. Therefore, numerous times the Master Plan document is referenced in this Full Action Plan.

NRP Planning Process

CARAG NRP Planning Chronology

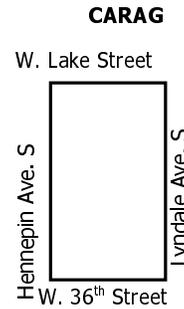
June 1995	Participation Agreement is approved by NRP
September 1995	CARAG NRP Steering Committee Elections
August 1996	CARAG Survey completed by Minneapolis Planning Department
September 1996	Town Meeting is held to kick off neighborhood planning
September 1996 to May 1997	Steering Committee solicits input for ideas for use and priorities of NRP funds, list of 153 items is created
June 1997	Draft 153 List mailed to CARAG for feedback
July/August 1997	Responses received on the Draft 153 List, 153 List is gleaned to produce a draft First Step Plan
September 1997	Draft First Step Plan is mailed to CARAG, Town Meeting is held to gain Draft First Step Plan feedback
October 1997	Ballot mailed to and received from CARAG for approval of the First Step Plan
November/December 1997	First Step Plan approved by CARAG
January to March 1998	First Step Plan approved by NRP and City
January 1998	Town Meeting to start implementation of First Step Plan
February 1998 to present	First Step Plan implementation
June/July 1999	Steering Committee revisits previous planning information and begins planning for Full Action Plan
August 1999 to January 2000	Conducted Roundtable Meetings to solicit input on Full Action Plan
September 1999	Began CARAG Master Plan study
January 2000	CARAG hires staff person
April to July 2000	Consolidated and correlated the First Step Plan, 153 List, Roundtable Feedback and Master Plan information
July/August 2000	CARAG Master Plan approved
August 2000	Prepared Draft Full Action Plan and mailed to CARAG
September 2000	Town Meetings for Draft Full Action Plan feedback and prioritization
September/October 2000	Revised Draft Plan to Proposed Full Action Plan
November 2000	Ballot mailed to and received from CARAG Approval of the Proposed Full Action Plan as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70% vote YES for the whole plan • 26% vote YES for the whole plan with exceptions to certain strategies (no one strategy garnered more than 7% exceptions) • 4% vote NO to the whole plan
November 2000	CARAG Board approved Proposed Full Action Plan
December 2000	CARAG Board approved Full Action Plan with supporting documentation and information

NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION

The Calhoun Area Residents Action Group (CARAG) neighborhood is boarded by Lyndale Avenue, Hennepin Avenue, Lake Street, and 36th Street, covering a 48 block area.

CARAG is located about one mile from Downtown Minneapolis, borders both the Uptown and Lyn-Lake areas, and is just a few blocks from both Lake Calhoun, Lake Harriet and Lake of the Isles.

The CARAG Neighborhood Association has been in operation since June 18, 1985.



Demographics

The CARAG neighborhood has a population, based on the 1990 census, of 5,825 and consists of 3,387 households; 81 percent are renter-occupied units; 19 percent are owner-occupied units. Only 843 households (25%) are family households (2 or more people related by blood, marriage or adoption). Of the family households, 321 (38%) had children under 18 years of age.

Quick Facts: CARAG

(According to 1990 Census)

Total Population: **5,825**
 Number of Households: **3,387**
 Renter occupied units: **81%**
 Home owner occupied: **19%**
 Housing stock built before 1920: **75%**
 Number of Churches: **4**

According to the 1990 Census, the population was comprised of 5393 (92%) Caucasian; 234 (5%) African American; 72 (1%) Native American; 99 (2%) Asian and 64 (1%) Hispanic. Median household income in 1990 was \$22,382.

Our demographic profile closely follows the patterns and trends of Minneapolis as well as the national trends of urban neighborhoods. Having little or no room for new development, our population has declined between 1980 and 1990 due to changing household composition, and to some extent, due to the conversion of 2 and 3 unit apartments to homes.

Population Change 1980-1990

Year	CARAG	Minneapolis
1980	6,223	370,951
1990	5,825	368,383

(Source: 1990 US Census Data)

Housing

The CARAG neighborhood consists of a central core of apartment buildings, single family homes, small businesses, all of which is surrounded by a perimeter of commercial business corridors. Of 3,387 households; 81 percent are renter-occupied units; 19 percent are owner-occupied units.

CARAG has an aging housing stock with 75 percent of the residential structures built before 1920; however, only 7 percent of all residential buildings are in substandard condition compared to 10 percent

citywide. There are several retirement homes and 149 apartment buildings in the CARAG Neighborhood.

Many rehabilitation and renovation projects have improved the quality and condition of housing in the community. The CARAG Neighborhood was a partner in rehabilitation efforts, devoting \$100,000 of its NRP First Step Plan funds to housing. Overall, property values have generally risen consistent or greater than inflation trends as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

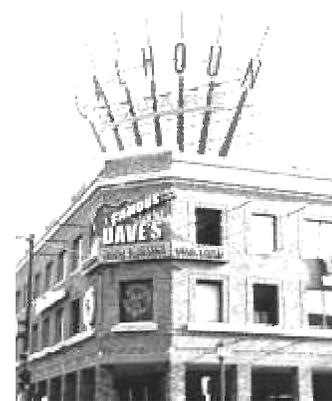
In some cases, land along major transportation routes like Hennepin Avenue and Lake Street is rising in value faster than the building value. The ratio of land to building value tells us that the market for redevelopment along Lake Street in particular is high in some blocks.

Commercial Districts around CARAG

Service and retail businesses are primarily located along the neighborhood perimeters, which includes Uptown, Lyn-Lake, and the 36th Street and Bryant neighborhood retail area. Uptown and Lyn-Lake are “commercial activity centers” and 36th and Bryant is a “neighborhood commercial node” based on the Minneapolis Plan. Downtown Minneapolis is located about one to two miles north of CARAG.



Additional businesses, or corner stores, are located within CARAG’s internal boundaries. Some of the services include several neighborhood grocery stores, a coffee shop and a number of home-based businesses, such as daycare facilities and self-employed people.



Restaurants are located along the Lake Street Corridor and the Lyndale corridor. Some restaurants have beer and wine or liquor licenses. There are two live theaters and three movie theaters in Uptown and Lyn-Lake.

Business organizations within the neighborhood are the 36th Street Merchants Association, Uptown Business Association, and the Lyn-Lake Association.

A CURA intern, Laurie Berkwitz, studied CARAG home based businesses in 1996. The study purposes were to 1) identify quantity and type of home-based businesses, 2) interview as many home-based business owners to understand experiences and needs; and 3) recommend next steps. The study identified 81 home-based businesses or self-employed persons of a wide variety with the highest proportion being consulting/business services and writing /editorial services.

Conclusions and recommendations from the study included: 1) common needs of home based businesses; 2) 67 percent of those interviewed considered this as a lifestyle choice; 3) 88 percent planned on staying in CARAG; and 4) recommendations for next steps regarding networking, resources, expansion space, government information, insurance and tax needs. This report is available on the Internet at <http://nprc.org/reports/nprc1045/nprc1045.html>.

Neighborhood Institutions

CARAG has one neighborhood park in its boundaries, Bryant Square, with a community center at 31st Street and Bryant Avenue. The community center features programs for neighborhood kids, adults, and

seniors. Painter Park, which is adjacent to the neighborhood on Lyndale Avenue between 33rd and 34th Streets also serves the neighborhood.

The Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park is located within an easy walk or bike ride for residents (approximately 5-6 blocks). The Midtown Greenway is located just a block north of CARAG, running within the 29th Street Rail Corridor.

Four churches are located within CARAG's boundaries to serve the neighborhood and greater Twin Cities population. These Churches include: 1) Joyce United Methodist Church, 2) Lyndale United Church of Christ, 3) Aldrich Presbyterian Church, and 4) First Universalist Church.

While no public schools are located within CARAG's boundaries, students from the neighborhood typically attend Jefferson and Lyndale Elementary Schools. The Minneapolis Public School Opportunity Workshop building is located just outside the neighborhood, north of Lake Street between Colfax and Dupont Avenues. A private elementary school recently began operating and is leasing space from the First Universalist Church.

Walker Library is located nearby at Hennepin & Lagoon Avenues. The Southwest Senior Center operates nearby at 36th St. & Bryant Ave. S.. Other institutions include several nursing care facilities and senior residences and a food shelter.

Public Agencies

The Minneapolis Police Department's Fifth Precinct is located at 3100 and Nicollet Avenue and CARAG's CCP/SAFE contact is Wendy Devore. CARAG residents have worked actively with the city's CCP/SAFE program and have an identified contact person for many neighborhood blocks.

Across 31st Street from the 5th Precinct is the U.S. Post Office for zip code 55408. In addition, there is a branch office located in Calhoun Square at the Hennepin and Lake Street intersection. Fire Department, Station 8, is located at 2749 Blaisdel Avenue and Station 22 is located at 3025 Market Plaza.

Transportation

CARAG has excellent access to Twin Cities regional freeways. Interstate 35W is located approximately one mile east of CARAG and I-94 is located approximately one mile north. Both freeways provide key access to the regional and state wide highway systems.

The City arterial roadways include Lake Street, Hennepin Avenue and Lyndale Avenue. According to The Minneapolis Plan, Lake Street is a "commercial corridor" and Lyndale & Hennepin Avenues are "community corridors". Collector roadways include 31st and 36th Streets along with Bryant, Dupont and Emerson Avenues.

CARAG is served by a number of bus routes, providing direct links to Downtown Minneapolis, Lyn-Lake, Uptown, the Mississippi River, the University of Minnesota, South Minneapolis, the Southdale area, Rosedale area, and Downtown St. Paul. Metro Transit bus routes are along Hennepin, Lyndale, Lagoon, Bryant Avenues, and Lake Street. Bus routes include: #4, 6, 12, 17, 21, 23, 28 and 52.

Neighborhood History

In 1997 Nicholas Herman compiled an NPCR (Neighborhood Planning for Community Revitalization) report entitled, "A Brief History of the CARAG Neighborhood." This report is available on the Internet at <http://npcr.org/reports/npcr1086/npcr1086.html>.

HOUSING

Housing Strategies and Goals	Budgeted Amount
Goal 1 Maintain Housing Diversity Through Architectural and Historic Improvements	
1.1 Historical Documentation	\$3,000
1.2 Old House Seminars	\$3,000
1.3 CARAG Housing Preservation Committee	\$300,000
Goal 2 Provide Rental Population with Quality Places to Live	
2.1 Rental Property Improvement Program	\$450,000
Goal 3 Maintain the Integrity of CARAG Neighborhood Housing Stock	
3.1 Exterior Residential Improvement Program	\$450,000
Goal 4 Neighborhood Demolition	
4.1 Neighborhood Demolition	\$4,000
Goal 5 Support and Enable CARAG Residents to "Live in Their Homes as Long as Possible"	
5.1 Cycle of Life Housing	\$35,000
5.2 Home Improvements for Seniors	\$35,000
Total	\$1,280,000

The CARAG Neighborhood in 1990 had 3,387 households, of which 81 percent are renter-occupied and 19 percent are owner occupied. Nearly 75 percent of CARAG’s housing stock was built before 1920, and the average year built is 1915.

One of our primary goals is to maintain the ability of people from a broad range of backgrounds to call CARAG home. To do that we must both improve the existing housing stock and develop new housing choices in CARAG.

A 1996 survey of CARAG residents conducted by the Minneapolis Planning Department found that 67 percent of CARAG residents responded that “if they were planning to move”, they would look for a single family home to move into. Only 39 percent felt they could find the type of housing (out of all types of housing mentioned) they needed in CARAG. Respondents listed the following most often as reasons why they would not be able to purchase a home in CARAG:

Lack of down-payment money (47%), Neighborhood is too expensive (33%), Property taxes (30%), Afraid I won’t be able to deal with upkeep (28%), and can’t find the specific property in this neighborhood (23%). When asked, 80 percent of residents responded as very / somewhat concerned about poorly maintained houses, 84 percent were very / somewhat concerned about poorly maintained rental buildings. Also, 57 percent of renters responded that the “sense of community” was fair or poor.

A review of the 1998 City Assessors data shows that 95 percent of non-apartment residential units were homesteaded. By geographic size CARAG is predominantly zoned R2B (two-family residential district).

At a Neighborhood Roundtable discussion in October 1999, neighbors outlined 8 housing focus areas to spend NRP funds. The strategies outlined through the Full Action Plan work to address these focus areas.

- Historic Preservation
- Improving opportunities for the rental population
- Increasing the number of owner occupied properties
- Being a neighborhood of “Good Neighbors”
- Creating “Cycle of Life” housing opportunities
- Maintaining and improving housing stock in CARAG
- Creating more affordable housing in the neighborhood.

Goal 1 Maintain Housing Diversity Through Architectural and Historic Improvements

Objective: To preserve and restore the architectural and historic character of CARAG buildings.

- **Strategy 1.1 Historical Documentation**
- **Strategy 1.2 Old House Seminars**
- **Strategy 1.3 CARAG Housing Preservation Committee**

1.1 Historical Documentation

CARAG will develop a plan of action for neighborhood history documentation as a follow up to the research prepared by an NPCR intern during the summer of 1997. CARAG will form a committee of CARAG residents to participate in a decision making process to decide how the research will be prepared and documented. NRP funds may be used for printing and mailing costs associated with preparing publications, an exhibit, etc.

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (1.1) However, no implementation activities occurred.

- Who will be involved?
- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
 - Historical Specialists
 - Minneapolis Community Development Agency
 - NRP Staff

Contract Manager:	NRP
Timeline and Budget:	
2001	\$3,000
Total NRP	\$3,000

1.2 Old House Seminars

A CARAG committee will develop a schedule and provide needed education/training classes/ seminars dealing with a variety of home care and remodeling topics. It is the intention that the seminars will provide CARAG residents with pertinent and useful information for maintaining their older properties. Funds may be utilized to promote seminars, produce educational materials and/or contract with housing professionals to lead seminars.

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (1.2) However, no implementation activities occurred.

- Who will be involved?
- CARAG Housing Preservation Committee
 - CARAG Property Owners and Renters
 - Staff assistance from MCDA
 - Construction and Design Professionals

Contract Manager:	NRP
Timeline and Budget:	
2001	\$3,000
Total NRP	\$3,000

1.3 CARAG Housing Preservation Program

CARAG will establish a neighborhood Housing Preservation Committee. This committee will be made up of a diverse body of stakeholders in the community, including: residents, property owners, design professionals, and others.

This committee will oversee CARAG Housing programs, assemble a guide book of restoration, and make recommendations for the supplemental historic preservation programs as follows:

A) Preservation Loans

Funds for exterior housing improvement programs that preserve the “historic character” of CARAG housing- both rental and single family housing. This could be any type of exterior improvement that fits the original character of the building.

B) Restoration Loans

Funds for exterior housing improvement programs that restore the original and / or historic look of houses or apartments (Lobbies of buildings would be included).

C.) Show House Programs

By lottery, a building(s) would be chosen to have its exterior restored to “original” historical condition. This would display for the whole neighborhood the techniques of restoration.

The above programs will focus on improving the quality of the structure by adding value, meeting code compliance, or enhancing safety, health and/or energy efficiency. Each program will consist of a combination of deferred and revolving loans depending upon income of the property owner, property ownership status and structure size. CARAG and its housing administrator will develop other specific guidelines after approval of this plan.

CARAG will hire a Housing Administrator to work with the CARAG Housing Committee and then administer the program through completion.

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
- Construction and Design Professionals
- CARAG Housing Administrator
- Historic Preservation Professionals
- Minneapolis Community Development Agency

Contract Manager:	MCDA
Timeline and Budget:	
2001	\$50,000
2002	150,000
2003	100,000
Total NRP	\$300,000

Goal 2 Provide Rental Population with Quality Places to Live

Objective: To continually improve the variety and quality of rental housing stock in the neighborhood.

• **Strategy 2.1 Rental Property Improvement Program**

2.1 Rental Property Improvement Program

CARAG will provide funds for exterior, lobby and security improvements to rental properties with four or more dwelling units. These improvements must enhance the safety, health, energy efficiency and/or code compliance of the structure to receive funds. The objective will be to improve the quality of the overall structure without increasing the rents for individual tenants.

The program will consist of a combination of deferred and revolving loans depending upon income of the property owner, property ownership status and structure size. CARAG and its housing administrator will develop other specific guidelines after approval of this plan.

This strategy was part of an Early Access Request in which \$50,000 was budgeted to make rental property improvements. No funds were spent on this strategy and no implementation activities occurred.

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Renters and Rental Property Owners
- CARAG Housing Committee
- CARAG Housing Administrator
- Minneapolis Community Development Agency
- Construction and Design Professionals

Contract Manager:	MCDA
Timeline and Budget	
Early Access	\$50,000
2001	150,000
2002	150,000
2003	100,000
Total NRP	\$450,000

2.2 Assist Homebuyers and Homesteading

Develop a homebuyer grant program (rental property to owner occupied).

No implementation activities occurred due to lack of interest, and the neighborhood subsequently voted not to continue this program.

Plan Modification: Adoption of this plan will reallocate the unspent balance of \$18,000 to other strategies in the Full Action Plan.

This strategy was part of an Early Access Request in which \$18,000 was budgeted.

Timeline and Budget	
Early Access	\$18,000
FAP Modification	-18,000
Total NRP	\$0

2.3 Neighborhood Landlord Group

Connect with adjoining neighborhoods' landlord group.

No implementation activities occurred due to lack of interest, and the neighborhood subsequently voted not to continue this program.

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (2.3) The neighborhood voted to remove this strategy from the Full Action Plan.

Timeline and Budget	
First Step 2.3	\$0
Total NRP	\$0

Goal 3 Maintain the Integrity of CARAG Neighborhood Housing Stock

Objectives: To continually work as a neighborhood in improve and ensure the quality of CARAG housing stock.

• **Strategy 3.1 Exterior Residential Improvement Program**

3.1 Exterior Residential Improvement Program

CARAG will provide funds for exterior improvements to residential properties with three or less dwelling units. This program will focus on improving the quality of the structure by adding value, meeting code compliance or enhancing the safety, health and/or energy efficiency.

The program will consist of a combination of deferred and revolving loans depending upon income of the property owner, property ownership status and structure size. CARAG and its housing administrator will develop other specific guidelines after approval of this plan.

CARAG will hire a Housing Administrator to work with the CARAG Housing Committee and then administer the program through completion.

Approximately \$110,000 was successfully disbursed under the First Step Plan.

This strategy is an extension of the CARAG First Step Plan (3.1, 3.2) in which \$100,000 was budgeted to CARAG residents for Exterior maintenance and \$17,000 was budgeted for Housing Administration.

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Renters and Rental Property Owners
- CARAG Housing Administrator
- Minneapolis Community Development Agency
- Construction and Design Professionals

Contract Manager:	MCDA
Timeline and Budget	
First Step 3.1	\$17,000
First Step 3.2	100,000
2001	111,000
2002	222,000
Total NRP	\$450,000

Goal 4 Neighborhood Demolition

Objectives: To demolish condemned or vacant properties in a timely fashion.

• **Strategy 4.1 Neighborhood Demolition**

4.1 Neighborhood Demolition

CARAG in the past and present is against programming NRP funds for this demolition purpose. The reasons are as follows:

- Currently City policy requires a demolition escrow account tied to insurance policies.
- Property owners are responsible for their own property
- CARAG supports the rehabilitation of properties, when possible.
- Neighborhood obtains little return on investment of NRP funds toward demolition.

This strategy was included as part of an Early Access Request in which \$4,000 was disbursed for the demolition of a property on Lyndale Avenue.

- Who will be involved?
- CARAG Board
 - CARAG Residents and Property Owners
 - Public Works
 - City Council

CARAG supports the current insurance escrow system to fund demolitions.

Contract Manager:	NRP
Timeline and Budget	
Early Access	\$5,000
FAP Modification	-1,000
Total NRP	\$4,000

Plan Modification: Adoption of this plan will reallocate \$1,000 to other strategies in the Full Action Plan.

Goal 5 Support and Enable CARAG Residents to “Live in their Homes” as Long as Possible

Objectives: CARAG will support and enable residents to “live in their homes” as long as possible.

- **Strategy 5.1 Cycle of Life Housing**
- **Strategy 5.2 Home Improvements for Senior Residents**

5.1 Create Cycle of Life Housing Opportunities

CARAG will participate in and encourage the development of “Cycle of Life” Housing. This housing may include granny flats, senior housing, town homes and other affordable housing choices that increase the ability for all people to live in CARAG.

The program will consist of a combination of deferred and revolving loans depending upon income of the property owner, property ownership status and structure size. Other specific guidelines will be developed by CARAG after approval of this plan.

- Who will be involved?
- CARAG Renters and Rental Property Owners
 - Minneapolis Planning and Public Works Departments
 - Minneapolis Community Development Agency
 - Potential Developers
 - CARAG Senior’s Committee
 - Construction and Design Professionals
 - Non-Profit Sources

Contract Manager:	MCD
Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$35,000
Total NRP	\$35,000

5.2 Home Improvements for Senior Residents

CARAG will provide funds for exterior and interior home or apartment improvements that would allow seniors to remain living in the neighborhood as long as possible. (i.e. rails on stairs) etc. This program will help seniors who might not be able to do this work and will improve the general housing stock of CARAG.

This program will focus on improving the quality of the structure by adding value, meeting code compliance or enhancing the safety, health and/or energy efficiency. The program will consist of a combination of deferred and revolving loans depending upon income of the property owner, property ownership status and structure size. CARAG and its housing administrator will develop other specific guidelines after approval of this plan.

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (16.2).

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
- CARAG Senior's Committee
- Housing Committee

Contract Manager:	MCDA
Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$35,000
Total NRP	\$35,000

Transportation

Transportation Strategies and Goals	Budgeted Amount
Goal 6 Improve Pedestrian Transportation Environment in CARAG	
6.1 Automobile Impacts	\$25,000
6.3 Special Services District	\$1,000
Goal 7 Increase the Use and Quality of Public Transportation in CARAG	
7.2 Increase Use of Public Transportation	\$5,000
7.3 Neighborhood Bus Stops	\$50,000
Goal 8 Encourage the Use of Bicycles in CARAG	
8.1 Bryant Avenue Bikeway	\$50,000
8.2 Bike Racks	\$2,000
Total	\$133,000

CARAG is a neighborhood where people can easily walk and it is possible to live without a car. In fact, over 21 percent of CARAG housing units did not have a vehicle in 1990. And, 42 percent of residents commuted to work through alternatives to driving .

We are a dense urban neighborhood within close walking distance to a variety of jobs & services both within our neighborhood and the City of Minneapolis. Our Full Action Plan promotes a safe environment for pedestrians, additional opportunities for bicyclists, and improvement in the efficiency/attractiveness of using public transit from CARAG to points beyond.

Sidewalks are everywhere in our neighborhood and are an integral element to the character of CARAG and its pedestrian friendly environment. Meeting people in a casual setting is one of the great features of a community, and in CARAG, it happens everyday on our sidewalks.

The grid network of streets and avenues provides a variety of routes into and out of the neighborhood and also makes public transit an attractive option. Our neighborhood is well served by the regional bus transit system with busses running on most major streets. Hennepin and Lyndale Avenues serve as major routes into downtown Minneapolis.

Our streets are usually lined with our cars because much of our housing was built at a time when not everyone needed a car. Now that most households have one and often two or more cars, parking has become a problem.

The grid street pattern of CARAG gives drivers an alternative to congested routes. The highest volumes of traffic are typically found on the edge streets of Lake, Lyndale, 36th and Hennepin. Traffic volumes are highest along Lake Street (as high as 22,600 trips per day). Bryant Avenue and 31st Street also receive significant traffic as alternatives to the major north / south and east / west routes, respectively.

Opportunities to bicycle on designated bike lanes are nearby with the Midtown Greenway and Chain of Lakes. Thus, CARAG residents are linked to the Minneapolis and Metro area bike network.

Ideas cited in the 1999 Roundtable Meetings included

- Improve sidewalks
- Ensure safe pedestrian environment
- Increase bicycle use and provide safe bike environment
- Increase use of public transit and other alternative modes
- Mitigate automobile effects, reduce parked autos
- Monitor and control noise pollution

“The future of CARAG is to be a pedestrian neighborhood. A pedestrian environment is one that will treat our streets as community living rooms, fostering the ownership of the streets by the people who live on those streets. Toward this end, services, employment and all of the amenities of urban life should be accessible without the use of the automobile.”



Lyn-Lake Area
(Courtesy Minnesota Historical Society)

Goal 6 Improve the Pedestrian Transportation Environment in the CARAG Neighborhood

Objective: To maintain public sidewalks and spaces in CARAG.

- **Strategy 6.1 Mitigate Effects of Automobiles in Neighborhood**
- **Strategy 6.2 Create an Uptown Parking Management District**
- **Strategy 6.3 Special Services District**

6.1 Mitigate effects of Automobiles in Neighborhood

The CARAG neighborhood will conduct a transportation study. CARAG will hire a consultant to prepare a traffic management plan. The expected results would include a traffic-calming plan ready for funding by the NRP.

In 2000 CARAG worked with the Minneapolis Planning Department and a consulting firm to develop the CARAG Master Plan. This document is now available at the CARAG office.

Note: This CARAG Neighborhood Master Plan was completed and formally approved by CARAG Neighborhood.

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (5.1) in which \$25,000 was disbursed to develop the plan.

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents & Property Owners
- Minneapolis City Planning
- Minneapolis Public Works
- Professional Consultant

Contract Manager:	Planning
Timeline and Budget	
First Step 5.1	\$25,000
Total NRP	\$25,000

6.2 Create an Uptown Parking Management District

Institute a permit-parking plan in the northwest quadrant of CARAG. Form a CARAG parking committee to spearhead the project.

No implementation activities occurred due to lack of interest, and the neighborhood subsequently voted not to continue this program.

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (5.2). The neighborhood voted to remove this strategy from the Full Action Plan.

6.3 Special Services District

As outlined in the Neighborhood Master Plan, CARAG will research the creation of a neighborhood Special Services District. The purpose of creating a Special Services District is to guarantee that all neighborhood public sidewalks would be shoveled uniformly for residents and that public green spaces are maintained.

In addition to clearing walks of snow, the services covered by the special service district may include:

- Maintenance of boulevard gardens
- Maintenance of bus stops and bus stop gardens
- Maintenance of alley “gates”

This strategy will involve researching the potential for such a district and determining what steps and process would be required for its implementation.

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (5.3).

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
- State legislators
- City Council
- Minneapolis Department of Public Works
- Contractor

Contract Manager:	NRP
Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$1,000
Total NRP	\$1,000

Goal 7 Increase the Use and Quality of Public Transportation in the CARAG Neighborhood

Objective: To increase the use and efficiency of public transportation in and around the CARAG Neighborhood

- **Strategy 7.2 Increase the Efficiency and Use of Public Transportation in CARAG**
- **Strategy 7.3 Build Neighborhood Bus Shelters**

7.1 Provide transit information and develop a bus warden program

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (6.1). The neighborhood voted to remove this strategy from the Full Action Plan.

No implementation activities occurred due to lack of interest, and the neighborhood subsequently voted not to continue this program.

Plan Modification: Adoption of this plan will reallocate \$8,000 to other strategies in the Neighborhood Action Plan.

Timeline and Budget	
First Step Plan	\$8,000
FAP Modification	-8,000
Total NRP	\$0

7.2 Increase the Efficiency and Use of Public Transportation

- Who will be involved?
- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
 - Transportation Committee
 - Metro Transit

CARAG will work in partnership with Metro Transit to increase transit use by residents and visitors to CARAG. Programs to increase service may include: encouraging a 25 cent fare zone in the neighborhood, installing schedules on all bus stops, distributing bus information to the CARAG neighborhood, and encouraging electric buses for neighborhood routes.

NRP funds may be used for printing and mailing educational information for residents and development of transit incentives with Metro Transit.

Contract Manager: Metro Council Timeline and Budget	
2002	\$5,000
Total NRP	\$5,000

7.3 Neighborhood Bus Stops

- Who will be involved?
- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
 - CARAG Artists
 - Metro Transit
 - Minneapolis Public Works
 - Construction and Design Professionals

CARAG will design and build bus stops in garden areas in accordance with the Neighborhood Master Plan. The creation of Neighborhood Bus Stops is related to, but not reliant upon, the street changes created by the Bryant Avenue Bikeway (see Strategy 8.1).

CARAG will identify corners suitable for construction, write the RFP and work with the architect/artists to design the bus stops and build bus stop gardens. These bus stop locations will double as community “porches” or “mini community centers”, creating public garden opportunities, and will be designed to augment the surrounding architectural area.

The Minneapolis Department of Public Works will administer the program. The Neighborhood Special Services District (see Strategy 6.1) and/or Metro Transit will ensure maintenance of the shelters.

Contract Manager: Public Works Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$2,000
2002	13,000
2003	35,000
Total NRP	\$50,000

Goal 8 Encourage the Use of Bicycles in CARAG

Objective: To provide and improve bicycling facilities in and around CARAG.

- **Strategy 8.1 Bryant Avenue Bikeway**
- **Strategy 8.2 Install Bike Racks in CARAG**

8.1 Bryant Avenue Bikeway

Other neighborhoods have begun to define a bike route that links areas of South Minneapolis to downtown. CARAG will fill a vital link in this route with dedicated bike lanes along Bryant Avenue as suggested by the CARAG Neighborhood Master Plan.

A dedicated bike route on the east side of Bryant Avenue will create connections to downtown and the Midtown Greenway.

A CARAG Transportation Committee will coordinate planning for this project. The neighborhood will petition Bryant Avenue property owners and work with Minneapolis Public Works to seek other funds for the project.

A \$10,000 budget will be established to determine further interest and design of a bike route. A budget of \$40,000 will be allocated for implementation. Part of this project's cost may need to be shared by an adjacent property owners' assessment.

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Transportation Committee
- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
- Minneapolis Public Works

Contract Manager: Public Works	
Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$10,000
2002	40,000
Total NRP	\$50,000

8.2 Bike Racks

CARAG will work with businesses and owners of large apartment buildings to install bike racks. The Public Works Department will provide \$2,000 from its' 1:1 matching bike rack program for a total project cost of \$4,000. (Costs are estimated to be \$150-300 per bike rack.)

Plan Modification: Adoption of this plan will reallocate \$3,000 to other strategies in the Neighborhood Action Plan.

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (6.4)

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
- CARAG Community Coordinator
- Minneapolis Public Works

Contract Manager: Public Works	
Timeline and Budget	
First Step 6.4	\$5,000
FAP Modification	-3,000
Total NRP	\$2,000

Economic Development

Economic Development Strategies and Goals	Budgeted Amount
Goal 9 Support Home-Based Businesses	
9.1 Home-Based Business Network	\$2,000
Goal 10 Support Commercial Corridors	
10.1 Police Garage	\$5,000
10.2 Commercial Corridor Design Loans	\$50,000
10.3 The "Break in Lake"	\$6,000
Goal 11 Support Neighborhood Corner Stores	
11.1 Neighborhood Corner Store Program	\$50,000
Goal 12 Monitor, Support, and Improve Overall Business and Economic Environment	
12.3 The CARAG Neighborhood Master Plan	\$30,000
Total	\$143,000

CARAG has a great variety of retail, service & entertainment businesses. Residents have expressed interest in increasing the levels of service businesses that meet everyday needs. We also recognize that our corridor borders serve a larger, regional audience. We support those businesses, but want to work with them & with future businesses to lessen the negative effects that those commercial uses may have on the bordering residential areas.

CARAG residents have a particular fondness for the small corner stores located in the interior of the neighborhood. While providing valuable goods and services to residents, they

also provide a social meeting place. We encourage this pattern, while realizing that the nature of the business may change. We want to support the current uses; but in the case of change, we want to ensure that redevelopment of those buildings be will consistent with the publicly-accessible goods and services uses that are currently here.

Besides the commercial uses, we also have a concern about the architectural and environmental effects of area businesses. We encourage people - friendly development — streetscape and building enhancements that complement the character of CARAG, and which recognize the pedestrian nature of our neighborhood. We support these businesses and believe that they add great value to the neighborhood. Many residents have expressed interest in purchasing goods & services from their neighbors.



How often do you shop at neighborhood business areas?

CARAG residents answering "at least 1-2 times a month"

- Hennepin and Lake 85%*
 - Lyn-Lake 48%*
 - 36th and Bryant Avenue 46%*
 - South Hennepin Avenue 45%*
 - South Lyndale Avenue 30%*
- (CARAG Survey, Mpls Planning Dept. 8/96)

"Location, proximity to services, & quality of the neighborhood are most frequently cited as advantages of operating a home-based business in CARAG."

(Berkowitz 1996)

CARAG also has a large number of home-based businesses (see: "The Needs and Issues of Home-Based Businesses in CARAG; <http://www.npcr.org/reports/npcr1045/npcr1045.html>). In 2000 CARAG completed The CARAG Neighborhood Master Plan (see appendices). We now have a common vision about land use and development, transportation, and livability improvements for the neighborhood.

Economic development suggestions from the 1999 Roundtable Meetings included:

- More service provider businesses
- Recruit professional businesses
- Child care opportunities
- Support home-based businesses
- Encourage local hires at local businesses
- Increase neighborhood shopping

Goal 9 Support Home-Based Businesses

Objective: CARAG will work to support the home-based businesses of CARAG, as we believe they are a valuable, but slightly invisible contribution to our economic and social well being. They provide a daytime presence in the neighborhood, they buy services and products from local merchants, they are often incubator businesses that provide jobs, they do not commute during rush hour, etc.

• **Strategy 9.1 Home-Based Business Network**

9.1 Home Based Business Network

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (8.1).

CARAG will sponsor some initial meetings to determine if the home-based businesses want to organize. Information from a survey that we conducted indicates that there is such a desire. Our goal would be to help the group get up and running, but then it would be a self-perpetuating group, run by the businesses, not by CARAG. The outcome might be a networking group, an affiliation with the area business associations, a directory of services available from home-based businesses in CARAG, a mailing list, etc. NRP funds may be used for printing and mailing costs associated with organizing the home based business network.

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Economic Development Committee
- Neighborhood Based Business

Contract Manager:	NRP
Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$2,000
Total NRP	\$2,000

Goal 10 Support Commercial Corridor Businesses while Mitigating the Negative Effects Their Presence May Have on CARAG

Objective: We consider the corridors abutting CARAG, particularly Lake Street, to be part of our neighborhood, not an edge to it. We include the other side of each street in that description. We support and use the businesses there, but we want to better integrate the backsides of these buildings as they face our residential area; and we encourage mixed use, with thoughtful design of buildings and public space.

- **Strategy 10.1 Police Garage**
- **Strategy 10.2 Commercial Corridor Design Loans**
- **Strategy 10.3 “Break in Lake”**

10.1 Police Garage

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (7.1).

CARAG will become a partner in planning and implementation of redeveloping the police garage at Lake between Emerson and Fremont. We will work together to plan a prototype development that could be an example for other commercial corridor areas around the city.

CARAG will participate in and oversee the redevelopment of the police garage property. This process will ensure that residents and local business owners work with the Planning Department and City Council to select and manage a developer- designer-architect to redevelop the property in a way that will be beneficial to the greater neighborhood, but which does not adversely affect the surrounding properties. The project must meet guidelines established through the NRP process and ratified by the CARAG Board and Neighborhood, and be agreed to by the City.

Plan Modification: Adoption of this plan will reallocate \$20,000 to other strategies in the Neighborhood Action Plan.

- Who will be involved?
- CARAG Residents and Business Owners
 - Surrounding neighborhoods, business associations
 - Minneapolis Center for Neighborhoods
 - University of Minnesota Center for Urban Design
 - Minneapolis Planning Department
 - Minneapolis City Council
 - Private architect(s) and/ or developer(s)

Contract Manager:	Planning
Timeline and Budget	
First Step 10.1	\$25,000
FAP Modification	-20,000
Total NRP	\$5,000

10.2 Commercial Corridor Design Loans

CARAG will create a Commercial Corridor Design Loan program. Hopefully, developers will recognize the qualities of the neighborhood and propose projects that are appropriate in its context. Commercial Corridor Design Loans would be used as an extra incentive to fill the gap between the neighborhood's vision and the developer's ability to implement the vision.

Program funds would be available to encourage the neighborhood design guidelines (as defined by the Neighborhood Master Plan Design Manifesto) when a developer steps forward to develop a portion of a commercial corridor. These funds could be used on projects such as: streetscape improvements, facades, artistic improvements to buildings, etc.

The program will consist of a combination of deferred and/or revolving loans depending upon income of property owners, property ownership status and structure size. The program will focus on exterior improvements that add value, meet code compliance or enhance safety, health or energy efficiency.

CARAG defines its commercial corridors as Hennepin / Lyndale Avenues and Lake/ 36th Streets.

- Who will be involved?
- CARAG Economic Development Committee
 - Surrounding Businesses
 - Potential Developers
 - Minneapolis Community Development Agency
 - City of Minneapolis Planning Department

Contract Manager:	MCDA
Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$5,000
2002	\$45,000
Total NRP	\$50,000

10.3 Break in Lake

As defined in the Neighborhood Master Plan, CARAG will commence planning efforts to create the “Break in Lake” development pattern at the Dupont / Lake Street intersection. CARAG would work with other stakeholders to develop a more detailed plan for this location.

The Break in Lake plan would highlight the Dupont / Lake Street intersection by changing the character to create a pedestrian-friendly, urban space in the Lake Street fabric. The reconfigured public plaza would include garden space and public art that reflect the community and may serve as a gateway to “Uptown” and “Lyn-Lake”.

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Economic Development Committee
- Minneapolis Public Works and Planning Departments
- Surrounding Neighborhoods
- Surrounding Businesses
- Potential Developers
- Design Consultant
- Artists and Sculptors
- Uptown and Lyn-Lake Business Associations

Contract Manager:	Public Works
Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$3,000
2002	3,000
Total NRP	\$6,000

Goal 11 Support Neighborhood Corner Stores

Objective: To support and preserve neighborhood “corner stores” in CARAG. In the event that a current use can not be sustained, we will try to replace that use with one that offers publicly accessible goods and services that the neighborhood desires.

• Strategy 11.1 Neighborhood Corner Store Program

11.1 Neighborhood Corner Store Program

CARAG will set up a loan program for neighborhood corner store businesses to do exterior structural improvements to increase the viability of their business. Businesses located within the neighborhood, along 36th St and on Hennepin and Lyndale Avenues (South of 31st St) will receive priority consideration.

This program will also encourage new or redeveloped corner stores where and when appropriate according to zoning and housing redevelopment potential.

The program will consist of a combination of deferred and/or revolving loans depending upon income of property owners, property ownership status and structure size. The program will focus on exterior improvements that add value, meet code compliance or enhance safety, health or energy efficiency.

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Economic Development Committee
- Neighborhood Corner Stores
- MCDA
- Inspections/Licensing Dept.
- CCP/Safe

Contract Manager:	MCDA
Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$5,000
2002	45,000
Total NRP	\$50,000

Goal 12 Monitor, Support, and Improve Overall Business and Economic Development Climate in CARAG

Objective: We want to monitor the zoning and land uses of our neighborhood businesses, and to work with the City and business owners to ensure that they are compatible with CARAG. We want to recruit business use, where appropriate, to provide services desired by residents. We want to support the survival of existing business wherever possible and appropriate.

• **Strategy 12.3 The CARAG Neighborhood Master Plan**

12.1 Neighborhood Business Inventory, Survey and Recruitment

No implementation activities occurred due to lack of interest, and the neighborhood subsequently voted not to continue this program.

Plan Modification: Adoption of this plan will reallocate the unspent balance of \$20,000 to other strategies in the Full Action Plan.

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (7.2). The neighborhood voted to remove this strategy from the Full Action Plan.

Timeline and Budget	
First Step 7.2	\$20,000
FAP Modification	-20,000
Total NRP	\$0

12.2 Neighborhood Business Discount Card

No implementation activities occurred due to lack of interest, and the neighborhood subsequently voted not to continue this program.

Plan Modification: Adoption of this plan will reallocate the unspent balance of \$10,500 to other strategies in the Full Action Plan.

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (7.3). The neighborhood voted to remove this strategy from the Full Action Plan.

Timeline and Budget	
First Step 7.3	\$10,500
FAP Modification	-10,500
Total NRP	\$0

12.3 The CARAG Neighborhood Master Plan

CARAG has developed “The CARAG Plan”, which defines the overall picture and strategies of what our economic development, land use, and transportation goals are for the future.

CARAG worked with a consultant to develop the overall plan. The plan includes design guidelines and general livability issues (such as land use, pedestrian activity, traffic, public transit, bicycles, parking issues, environment “streetscape” issues, etc.)

Note: This CARAG Neighborhood Master Plan was completed and formally approved by CARAG Neighborhood.

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (7.4) in which \$30,000 was disbursed to develop the Master Plan.

Who will be involved?

- Minneapolis Planning and Public Works Departments
- Minneapolis Park Board
- Professional Consultants
- Local Businesses and Institutions
- Advisors from Public and Private Sector
- Surrounding Neighborhoods

Contract Manager: Planning	
Timeline and Budget	
First Step 7.4	\$30,000
Total NRP	\$30,000

12.4 The CARAG Business Recognition Program

No implementation activities occurred due to lack of interest, and the neighborhood subsequently voted not to continue this program.

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (7.5). The neighborhood voted to remove this strategy from the Full Action Plan.

Timeline and Budget	
First Step 7.5.	\$0
Total NRP	\$0

12.5 CARAG Economic Development Committee

No implementation activities occurred due to lack of interest, and the neighborhood subsequently voted not to continue this program.

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (9.1). The neighborhood voted to remove this strategy from the Full Action Plan.

Timeline and Budget	
First Step 9.1	\$0
Total NRP	\$0

Crime and Safety

Crime and Safety Strategies and Goals	Budgeted Amount
Goal 13 Physical Improvements to Increase Neighborhood Safety	
13.1 Front Porch and Low-Level Pedestrian Lighting	\$90,000
13.2 Bryant Square Park Lighting	\$23,000
13.3 Graffiti	\$5,000
13.4 Noise Abatement	\$500
Goal 14 Work as a Community for a Safe Neighborhood	
14.1 Promote and Organize Block Clubs in CARAG	\$10,000
Total	\$128,500

CARAG is a safe neighborhood. However, we believe there are several things that can be done to improve the safety and livability of the neighborhood.

The 1996 CARAG Survey indicated that 71 percent of residents were frequently or sometimes concerned with their personal safety. The most important ways of dealing with crime and safety cited in the survey were “quick police response”, “street & alley lighting”, “being able to trust your neighbors”, “police patrols” and “people outside being active and visible”.

Recent crime in CARAG involves property crime including larceny and theft from auto. Crime against persons such as aggravated assaults and robbery are far more rare.

CARAG believes when residents know one another the neighborhood is a much safer place to live, work and visit. CARAG will encourage fun and interesting opportunities for neighbors to meet including block clubs and neighborhood events.

Increasing the amount of light in many areas of CARAG will improve the sense of security for the whole neighborhood. Additional lighting in the front and alleys behind homes and businesses not only benefits the individual homeowners and businesses owners, but all of CARAG by illuminating public sidewalks, streets and alleys. Increased lighting at Bryant Square Park will improve safety for children, their families and all neighbors who utilize our neighborhood community center.

Graffiti and excessive noise are livability issues that affect the quality of the CARAG environment. Graffiti removal can be costly for homeowners, business owners and the city. CARAG encourages efforts to educate residents about reporting these problems and seeks other strategies for eliminating them from CARAG.

The 1999 Roundtable Meetings fostered the following ideas:

- CARAG is a place for all to feel safe
- Ensure a safe environment for pedestrians, seniors, bike riders, children and teens
- Ensure a safe Bryant Square Park
- Increase pedestrian-level lighting
- Encourage and promote participation in neighborhood events
- Prevent medical and fire emergencies
- Decrease crime against persons and property crimes
- Reduce graffiti
- Reduce the number of buildings in disrepair
- Reduce litter
- Develop police patrols
- Establish policies to establish policies to monitor “bad properties” & solutions to solve them

Goal 13 Physical Improvements to Increase Neighborhood Safety

Objective: To make physical improvements to CARAG that increase the amount of lighting, remove hidden spots for criminals, and create a pleasant environment.

- **Strategy 13.1 Front Porch and Low Level Pedestrian Lighting**
- **Strategy 13.2 Bryant Square Park Lighting**
- **Strategy 13.3 Eliminate Graffiti in CARAG**
- **Strategy 13.4 Noise Abatement**

13.1 Front Porch and Low Level Pedestrian Lighting

This strategy is an extension of the CARAG First Step Plan (Strategy 10.3) in which \$10,000 was spent on neighborhood lighting during 1998-2000.

We will increase pedestrian level lighting throughout the neighborhood in both public and semi-private spaces. People will feel safer moving around the neighborhood after dark with more light.

In accordance to the Neighborhood Master Plan, CARAG will improve pedestrian safety by adding sidewalk lighting to the Neighborhood through two different projects:

- Who will be involved?
- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
 - Block Clubs and Apartment Clubs
 - Apartment Building Owners
 - CCP/SAFE
 - Public Works
 - IBEW

A) Hennepin and Lyndale Avenues between 31st-36th Streets:
CARAG will add city low-level pedestrian lighting on the above streets (on Hennepin Avenue in accordance with the Hennepin Avenue Task Force Report). CARAG will set aside \$40,000 of cost to be funded by NRP and petition approved blocks for a self-assessment of the project. Public Works will complete the project. (Total Cost of Plan A: \$1.2 million with \$40,000 NRP and \$1,160,000 assessed).

B) All Other Streets:
CARAG will set aside \$50,000 (\$10,000 was disbursed in the First Step Plan) for approved pedestrian neighborhood yard or front porch/entry lights and for other lighting programs. This program will coordinate with the home improvement programs. The IBEW will be contacted to discuss a community service installation program.

Contract Manager:	Public Works
Timeline and Budget	
Early Access	\$35,000
2001	25,000
2002	10,000
2003	10,000
2004	10,000
Total NRP	\$90,000

The Housing Committee will create a catalog list of appropriate lighting fixtures for the character of the neighborhood. The committee will mail the program information to the neighborhood.

13.2 Bryant Square Park Lighting

This strategy is an extension of an Early Access Request.

CARAG will increase pedestrian-level lighting in Bryant Square Park.

Four pedestrian-level lights were added to the park's perimeter. Based on the Lighting Committee's work and recommendations for lighting described in the neighborhood Master Plan, we will continue efforts to add lights to Bryant Square Park.

- Who will be involved?
- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
 - Minneapolis Park Board
 - Minneapolis Public Work Department

Contract Manager:	MPRB
Timeline and Budget	
Early Access	\$16,500
2001	6,500
Total NRP	\$23,000

13.3 Eliminate Graffiti in CARAG

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (10.4).

CARAG will work with city staff and residents to eliminate graffiti in the neighborhood. NRP funds will be used to support printing and mailing costs associated with promoting the city's graffiti reporting system.

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents and Owners
- Block and Apartment Clubs
- MPD & CCP/SAFE
- Inspections
- Arts Provider(s)
- Business Associations
- Surrounding Neighborhoods

Plan Modification: Adoption of this plan will reallocate \$5,000 to other strategies in the Full Action Plan.

Contract Manager:	NRP
Timeline and Budget	
First Step 10.4	\$10,000
FAP Modification	-5,000
Total NRP	\$5,000

13.4 Noise Abatement

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (10.5).

We will monitor noise offenders, work with complaints, and ask for enforcement of the noise ordinance. We will try to lessen the noise livability impacts of “boom” cars, loud motorcycles, barking dogs, loud music, loud busses and trucks. We will begin a public education campaign about the existence of the noise ordinance, and what rights and expectations are for a livable community. Funds may be used to print and mail public education materials.

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
- Block Clubs and Apartment Clubs
- CCP/SAFE
- Metro Transit
- Environmental Mgmt

Contract Manager:	NRP
Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$500
Total NRP	\$500

13.5 Home Safety and Security

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (10.6). The neighborhood voted to remove this strategy from the Full Action Plan.

Increase home safety and security in CARAG. Decrease the occurrence of property crimes in CARAG by conducting home security inventories.

No implementation activities occurred due to lack of interest, and the neighborhood subsequently voted not to continue this program.

Timeline and Budget	
First Step 10.6	\$0
Total NRP	\$0

Goal 14 Work as a Community for a Safe Neighborhood

Objective: When CARAG Residents see each other, know each other, and have shared experiences, we will have a safer community to live in. In addition to implementing several Community Building activities (see Goal 18), CARAG will have neighbors work together to create a safe community.

• **Strategy 14.1 Promote and Organize Block Clubs**

14.1 Promote and Organize Block Clubs in CARAG

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (10.1).

We believe that as neighbors get to know each other, crime rates decrease, and residents feel safer.

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
- CCP/ SAFE
- CARAG Walkers
- Graffiti Watchers
- Community Coordinator
- Surrounding Neighborhoods

We will strengthen and increase the number of organized block clubs and begin to organize apartment clubs. We will continue efforts to establish a permanent CARAG Walkers program. This program is expected to result in more neighborhood involvement in the community and NRP planning. Funds may be used for community building, promotion of block clubs and support block club activities.

Contract Manager:	CCP/Safe
Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$4,000
2002	2,000
2003	2,000
2004	2,000
Total NRP	\$10,000

Community Building and Beautification

Community Building and Beautification Strategies and Goals	Budgeted Amount
Goal 15 Increase Public Green Spaces	
15.1 Landscaping Projects	\$60,000
15.2 Public Gardening	\$10,000
15.3 Trees	\$10,000
Goal 16 Community Building Events and Opportunities	
16.1 CARAG Livability Committee	\$10,000
Goal 17 Clean Neighborhood Programs	
17.1 Clean Neighborhood Programs	\$1,000
17.2 Lake Calhoun	\$2,000
17.3 Alleys	\$15,000
Total	\$108,000

CARAG is a beautiful, green, urban, city neighborhood. Our full-grown boulevard tree canopy and landscaped yards seamlessly link CARAG to the greenery of nearby parks and the Chain of Lakes. We encourage more green space in the neighborhood and support efforts to accomplish this. In fact, the 1996 CARAG Survey showed that over 74 percent and 79 percent respectively, responded that public green space and trees in public areas were very important.

As identified in the CARAG Master Plan we support opportunities to improve public spaces with more greenery. Dutch Elm Disease had a major affect on our boulevard tree canopy, so filling gaps in the canopy with new trees is encouraged. Utilizing boulevards for community gardens will improve the pedestrian environment and provide opportunities for neighbors to meet and socialize.

There are many opportunities to make CARAG more green and beautiful through community building events and activities. CARAG supports the Livability Committee's efforts to organize such events including the CARAG Garden Tour, Architecture Tour and Super Sale.

When asked about the sense of community in the 1996 CARAG Survey, only 51 percent had a positive response. In addition, 79 percent thought it was important to know their neighbors, 64 percent actually knew their neighbors, 31 percent socialized with their neighbors, and only 28 percent attended block functions.

CARAG is a well-kept, clean neighborhood. Through recent resident led clean up efforts improvements were made to areas where trash and litter is a problem, future clean up efforts are needed for cleanliness and community building. Also, improving the design and cleanliness of our alleys will spur residents to take more ownership of these semi-private areas making them more clean and attractive. From the 1996 CARAG Survey we learned that residents were most concerned about lake pollution and litter/trash followed by graffiti, air and noise pollution.

To create a better sense of community, the 1999 Roundtable Meetings showed:

- More CARAG events are needed that allow more residents to meet in various settings
- Enhance block parties and National Night Out
- Combine arts activities with community building
- Develop CARAG Web Site and use newspapers
- History documentation is needed
- New CARAG signs will help identify our community

Goal 15 Increase Public Green Spaces

Objective: CARAG residents like, and have repeatedly and overwhelmingly asked for, increased public green spaces (trees and gardens) in our neighborhood. We believe this increases the general livability of the neighborhood, increases pedestrian traffic, which also deters crime, increases overall value of the neighborhood, and has a positive environmental effect.

- **Strategy 15.1 Landscaping Projects**
- **Strategy 15.2 Public Gardening**
- **Strategy 15.3 Trees**

15.1 Implement Landscaping Projects that Increase Public Green Spaces

CARAG will implement landscaping projects as outlined by the Neighborhood Master Plan. For the following projects NRP funds may be used to purchase and install plants/trees, as well as structural improvements associated with the projects.

- Who will be involved?
- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
 - Landscape Professionals
 - Minneapolis Park and Recreation Foresters
 - Arborists and Florists
 - Lyndale Neighborhood Landscapers
 - Public Works

A) East / West streets (back yard streets) will be garden-like, boulevards with the planting of perennials and flowering trees filling gaps between taller shade trees. This landscape will provide a better buffer to back yards spaces found along these streets.

B) North / South streets (front yard streets) will continue to build upon the canopy of elms that has defined the character of these streets. We will work to plant more disease resistant elms and other trees to “fill in” gaps and replace dead trees that have been lost.

C) Lyndale Landscape- Lyndale Avenue is proposed for reconstruction. The segment from 31st to 36th Streets is planned to have a landscaped median. CARAG will fund approximately \$2,000 per block (5 city blocks total) to be matched by funding from the Lyndale Neighborhood.

Contract Manager:	MPRB Public Works
Timeline and Budget	
2001	40,000
2002	10,000
2003	10,000
Total NRP	\$60,000

15.2 Public Gardening

CARAG will encourage public gardening as a valuable community building tool. Public gardening can increase the sense of safety in our neighborhood by developing a stronger neighborhood presence on each block, at the park, in the alleys, at neighborhood bus stops or in other public spaces. Public gardening also provides many opportunities for neighbors to meet neighbors.

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (11.2).

- Who will be involved?
- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
 - CARAG Livability Committee
 - Minneapolis Public Works

CARAG will increase the visibility and appreciation of the beauty of the neighborhood through programs such as: Annual Garden Tour, Boulevard Gardens, Annual Plant Swap and Bus Stop Gardens (see Strategy 7.3). NRP funds may be used for community building, to promote these activities and educate residents about public gardening.

Contract Manager:	NRP
Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$4,000
2002	2,000
2003	2,000
2004	2,000
Total NRP	\$10,000

15.3 Trees

CARAG will add more trees and improve existing trees throughout the neighborhood. Of special interest is adding trees to Hennepin and Bryant Avenues, as they have no boulevards.

CARAG will establish a program to encourage property owners at Hennepin and Bryant to plant trees in their front yards, in lieu of having a boulevard. CARAG will investigate the possibility of adding boulevards on those streets. CARAG will work with developers, business associations and business owners-- as properties are renovated and developed, we will lobby for trees to be included in the plans (see Strategy 10.2).

We will also work to establish a program for residents to get group discounts and sponsor workshops for residents to learn about the care of trees.

Plan Modification: Adoption of this plan will reallocate \$40,000 to other strategies in the Full Action Plan.

This strategy is an extension of the CARAG First Step Plan (Strategy 11.3).

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
- Minneapolis Park Board and Foresters
- Possibly tree advocacy groups: National Arbor Day Foundation, Global ReLeaf Foundation, American Forest Urban Tree program, etc.
- Local nurseries, tree growers
- Landscape Professionals

Contract Manager:	NRP
Timeline and Budget	
First Step 11.3	\$50,000
FAP Modification	-40,000
Total NRP	\$10,000

Goal 16 Community Building Events and Opportunities

Objective: We will establish community building events and opportunities that will give neighbors opportunities to see, work, and celebrate their community. These shared experiences will create a more cohesive, safe, and enjoyable neighborhood.

- Strategy 16.1 CARAG Livability Committee
- Strategy 16.2 East Calhoun News

16.1 CARAG Livability Committee

CARAG will provide support to the CARAG Livability Committee. The committee's purpose is to organize and implement community-building events in coordination with the CARAG Board. An example of these events include: Holiday Lighting Contest, Chilly Chili Fest, Architecture Tour, CARAG Super Sale, National Night Out and Block Parties, Wine Tasting Fundraiser, Holiday Bonfire events, etc. NRP funds will be used to build community and organize/promote livability committee activities.

This strategy is an extension of the CARAG First Step Plan (Strategy 13.1).

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
- CARAG Livability Committee
- CARAG Block Clubs
- CARAG Businesses and Institutions
- Minneapolis Park Board
- CARAG Churches
- Surrounding Neighborhoods

Contract Manager:	NRP
Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$4,000
2002	2,000
2003	2,000
2004	2,000
Total NRP	\$10,000

16.2 East Calhoun News

CARAG will support the East Calhoun News as our primary neighborhood news source, and we will commit to its survival and its improvement. We still use it as our vehicle to promote and advertise the activities of CARAG.

This strategy is an extension of the CARAG First Step Plan (Strategy 13.2).

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
- CARAG Businesses and Institutions
- East Calhoun News

Timeline and Budget

First Step 13.2	\$0
Total NRP	\$0

Goal 17 Clean Neighborhood Programs

Objective: To create a clean CARAG Neighborhood and Lake Calhoun Area.

- Strategy 17.1 Clean Neighborhood Programs
 - Strategy 17.2 Lake Calhoun
 - Strategy 17.3 Alleys
-

17.1 Clean Neighborhood Programs

CARAG will maintain a clean neighborhood through increased resident participation in clean-up programs.

CARAG will work with residents and public agencies to develop additional programs to address specific and/or reoccurring trash/littler/graffiti problems. NRP funds may be used for clean up activities including ads, printing, mailings and supplies.

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (11.4).

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
- Minneapolis Public Works
- Minneapolis City Council
- CARAG Businesses and Commercial Districts

Contract Manager:	NRP
Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$1,000
Total NRP	\$1,000

17.2 Lake Calhoun

CARAG will collaborate with other neighborhoods and the Minneapolis Park Board to protect and improve the water quality, shoreline, and recreational activities of Lake Calhoun and the Chain of Lakes.

CARAG will work and fund education program(s) and support efforts to diminish water pollution in the Chain of Lakes. NRP funds may be used for printing and mailing of educational materials.

CARAG dispersed \$500 of NRP Administrative funds for printing the Lake Area Clean Water Task Force "Recipes for Clean Water" booklet in the First Step Plan.

This strategy is an extension of the CARAG First Step Plan (Strategy 12.1).

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
- Minneapolis Park Board
- Minnehaha Watershed District
- ECCO and Surrounding Neighborhoods

Contract Manager:	NRP
Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$2,000
Total NRP	\$2,000

17.3 Alleys

As outlined in the CARAG Neighborhood Master Plan, CARAG will work with neighbors to reclaim alleys to the neighborhood and put “eyes on the alleys.”

A program will be created that will work to support neighbors interested in creating visual connections and improvements between the residence and the alley and creating opportunities for garden-like transitions between house and alley.

Garden gazebos and named alleys-- with “artful” resident-crafted signs-- may be used to replace tall fences—may be created to reclaim alleys as neighborhood amenities rather than “eye sores”.

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
- Minneapolis City Council
- Block Clubs
- CARAG Businesses and Institutions
- Minneapolis Police Department
- Arts Organizations

Contract Manager:	NRP
Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$7,000
2002	4,000
2003	4,000
Total NRP	\$15,000

Seniors

Senior's Strategies and Goals	Budgeted Amount
Goal 18 Enhance and Create Services and Opportunities for CARAG Seniors	
18.1 Senior's Committee	\$553
18.2 Southwest Senior's Center	\$5,000
Total	\$5,553

CARAG is a neighborhood of all ages of people. We believe the neighborhood's features make it attractive to everyone. We support efforts that keep CARAG a diverse community. The 1990 U.S. Census revealed that almost 10 percent of CARAG residents are seniors (65+).

A major senior residential community is located on the 3500 block of Bryant Avenue South. The Southwest Seniors Center offers senior services and social opportunities for CARAG seniors just outside the neighborhood boundaries at 3612 Bryant Avenue South.

The 1996 CARAG Survey indicated that the following were more often rated "fair or poor" by seniors: protection from crime, financial advice, part-time and full-time job opportunities, and affordable health care.

The CARAG NRP Full Action Plan is focused on communication to, from, and among seniors. The Seniors Committee and the SW Seniors Center are two vital resources and community building strategies. In addition, seniors will be encouraged to participate in numerous other strategies such as "Strategy 5.2 Home Improvements for Seniors".

The ideas related to seniors from the 1999 Roundtable Meetings included:

- Ensure safe senior environment
- Increase crime protection
- Improve pedestrian safety
- Increase accessibility
- Evaluate and provide "cycle of life" housing
- Enable seniors to remain independent homeowners
- Ensure senior job opportunities
- Encourage opportunities for seniors to be engaged in the neighborhood
- Ensure and sustain existing programs that provide senior services

Goal 18 Enhance and Create Services and Opportunities for CARAG Seniors

Objective: To enhance and create services and opportunities for CARAG Seniors

- Strategy 18.1 CARAG Senior’s Committee
- Strategy 18.2 Southwest Senior’s Center

18.1 Senior’s Committee

CARAG will provide support for the CARAG Senior’s Committee.

The committee will research what programs and opportunities already exist, inform and educate CARAG’s population about them, and recommend to the neighborhood what additional needs are not being met. NRP funds may be used for printing and mailing costs associated with volunteer activities.

This strategy is an extension of the CARAG First Step Plan (Strategy 16.1).

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
- CARAG Senior’s Committee
- Southwest Senior Center
- Hennepin County

Contract Manager:	NRP
Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$553
Total NRP	\$553

18.2 Southwest Senior Center

CARAG will work with the Southwest Senior Center to support outreach and programming needs for seniors. This strategy will create new and match existing programs related to the Southwest Seniors Center. NRP funds may be used for program development, printing, mailings, advertisements to support senior community building and educational needs.

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
- CARAG Senior’s Committee
- Southwest Senior Center

Contract Manager:	Hennepin Cty
Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$2,000
2002	1,000
2003	1,000
2004	1,000
Total NRP	\$5,000

ARTS AND CULTURE

Arts and Culture Strategies and Goals	Budgeted Amount
Goal 19 Arts and Culture Opportunities	
19.1 Arts Opportunities Fund	\$100,000
Goal 20 Arts in the Physical Environment	
20.1 CARAG Neighborhood Arts Committee	\$10,000
Total	\$110,000

“We believe that CARAG is a vibrant place, a place where people and art should naturally mix in our everyday lives. CARAG should encourage the development of works of public art. We do not want “plop” art. Rather, we should encourage art created to reflect the intrinsic character of the neighborhood and use art to make utilitarian elements of our neighborhood special and valued.” (“The CARAG Neighborhood Master Plan, 2000”)

Past experience about arts and culture interests were collected in the 1996 CARAG Survey. When asked how often arts and culture activities were taken advantage of in or nearby the neighborhood, the most frequent responses in order were “movies”, “art films”, “live music”, “festivals”, “places of worship”, and “public art displays”. Also, 14 percent of respondents reported that they work as an artist.

Over the past ten years several arts and culture venues have been added within or near the CARAG neighborhood. This includes the Minneapolis College of Arts and Design (MCAD) in Calhoun Square, the Jungle Theater, the Lyn-Lake Street Fair, Intermedia Arts, Lagoon Cinema, Artspace redevelopment of the Calhoun Building, pARTs Gallery, Famous Dave’s live blues music and the Brave New Workshop.

CARAG supports artistic endeavors that create resident involvement. There are more great opportunities for art additions in CARAG considering our location between the trendy Uptown and Lyn-Lake areas.

Ideas to strengthen arts and culture in CARAG from the 1999 Roundtable Meetings included:

- More visibility and presence of the Calhoun Building
- Continue to develop the Latham Building concept
- Partner with area performers (Brave New Workshop, Bryant-Lake Bowl, etc.) to do block parties
- Roving art shows and outdoor exhibits
- Use blank walls to enhance the neighborhood
- Camp for kids
- Create public art gateways
- New and redevelopment projects include public art components
- Bus stop art shelters
- Festivals with neighborhood involvement

Goal 19 Arts and Culture Opportunities in CARAG

Objective: To provide long-term arts and cultural opportunities to become part of the CARAG Neighborhood..

• **Strategy 19.1- Arts Opportunities Fund**

19.1 Arts Opportunities Fund

The Arts Opportunities Fund will fund facilities and programming that creates CARAG resident involvement with arts and culture opportunities. Funds will be dispersed to encourage long-term (5-10 year) events and opportunities and public art in CARAG.

This strategy is an extension of an Early Access Request in which CARAG allocated \$100,000 to the Jungle Theater for Latham Building renovations. The Latham Building renovations are no longer designated.

The art & opportunities to build community and neighborhood identity may include :

Who will be involved?

- A) Support arts events in and around CARAG (live music, create a CARAG Fine Arts Club, open mics at coffee shops, etc.)
- B) Work with local arts organizations (Jungle Theater, Brave New Workshop, Calhoun Arts Building, etc.) to develop neighborhood art and art programs.
- C) Encourage CARAG participation in local arts festivals (Uptown Art Fair, Lyn-Lake Street Fair, Intermedia Arts Day of the Dead Festival, etc.)
- D) Bring arts opportunities to the CARAG Neighborhood (camps, roving art shows, public art gateways, etc.)

- CARAG Property Owners and Residents
- CARAG Arts Committee
- Local Arts Organizations and Artists
- Office of Cultural Affairs
- MCDA

Contract Manager:	TBD
Timeline and Budget	
Early Access	\$100,000
Total NRP	\$100,000

Goal 20 Arts in the Physical Environment

Objective: Enhance or establish art in the CARAG physical realm by programming and funding arts installations and elements.

• **Strategy 20.1 CARAG Neighborhood Arts Committee**

20.1 CARAG Neighborhood Arts Committee

CARAG will establish a project review committee to make recommendations for art in the neighborhood and oversee the arts opportunities fund (Strategy 19.1).

Examples of potential projects may include:

- A) Create artistic CARAG signs
- B) CARAG artist participation in CARAG Block Parties
- C) Create artistic, physical reminders (buffers) at edges of commercial and residential districts to reinforce “residential district” areas (statues, sculptures, gateposts, etc).
- D) Use blank walls for art installations
- E) Establish outdoor public art exhibits and sculptures
- F) Gateway clock tower at Lyndale Avenue
- G) Bus Stop Art shelters (see: 7.2).
- H) Public art at key gathering points in the Neighborhood
- I) Art signs on buildings
- J) Performance art

NRP funds may be used to support committee activities including printing and mailing costs.

CARAG disbursed \$5,000 in NRP Administrative Funds to develop the pARTS Gallery education facility in the First Step Plan.

This strategy is an extension of the CARAG First Step Plan (Strategy 17.1).

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Property Owners and Residents
- CARAG Arts Committee
- Local Arts Organizations and Artists
- Office of Cultural Affairs

Contract Manager: Timeline and Budget	NRP
2001	\$4,000
2002	3,000
2003	3,000
Total NRP	\$10,000

Schools, Park, and Education

Schools, Park and Education Strategies and Goals	Budgeted Amount
Goal 21 Schools, Park, and Education Opportunities	
21.1 Youth Activities	\$20,000
21.2 Schools	\$80,000
21.3 Bryant Square Park	\$60,000
Total	\$160,000

The Calhoun School was once located in CARAG where the Calhoun Square shopping center is now located. Currently, Lyndale Elementary School (34th St. & Grand Ave S.) and Jefferson Elementary School (26th St. & Hennepin Ave S.) are the two “community schools” designated for CARAG children, but they are located outside the neighborhood boundaries.

The 1990 U.S. Census data indicated that approximately 5 percent of CARAG residents were elementary, middle or high school . About 13 percent of CARAG residents were college students. In 1998 CARAG funded the installation of the Lyndale School playground equipment through the First Step Plan.

Bryant Square Park (31st St. & Bryant Ave S.) is a great neighborhood place for all citizens. Both outdoor and indoor activities are offered to all ages throughout the year. The ice skating rink, playground equipment and meeting rooms for neighborhood meetings and events were the most utilized features of Bryant Square Park according to the 1996 CARAG Survey.

Bryant Square Park’s ability to be used for non-programmed or casual activities is limited. The CARAG Master Plan has identified ways to create casual spaces for gathering along the Park edge. The Full Action Plan intends to enhance Bryant Square Park and its activities.

It should also be noted that Painter Park (34th St. and Lyndale Ave. S.) is located directly across Lyndale Avenue from CARAG. Numerous CARAG residents use this park as well.

Education is important to CARAG residents. The 1996 CARAG Survey results showed that over 50 percent of survey respondents desired community education, community education for adults, political/public affairs programs, after-school programs and community leadership training. Youth opportunities are the main educational focus of the Full Action Plan. These activities will be collaborative with other neighborhoods.

Suggested items from the 1999 Roundtable Meetings included:

- Educational and/or art opportunities for children
- Park programming
- After school programming
- Collaborate with local churches for youth programs
- Lyndale and Jefferson students to meet in neighborhood
- Schools should be more committed to neighborhood involvement
- Educational opportunities for all school levels
- Adult education in CARAG

Goal 21 School, Park and Education Opportunities

Objective: To provide support for Schools, Parks and Education opportunities that enhance Youth Development and Community Building in and around the CARAG Neighborhood.

- **Strategy 21.1 Youth Activities**
- **Strategy 21.2 Schools**
- **Strategy 21.3 Bryant Square Park**

21.1 Youth Activities

CARAG will work with adjacent neighborhoods to identify, create, fund and advertise youth education and program activities. NRP funds may be used for program development, printing, mailing, advertisements, etc. to support youth community building and educational needs.

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Property Owners and Residents
- Minneapolis Park Board
- Minneapolis Public Schools
- CARAG Churches
- Youth Program Providers
- Surrounding Neighborhoods

Program examples include Youth Serving Seniors, Youth Assistance Fund, Unity Summer, Day Camps, Internships, Kids Clubs, etc.

**Contract Manager: Hennepin Cty
Timeline and Budget**

2001	\$5,000
2002	5,000
2003	5,000
2004	5,000
Total NRP	\$20,000

21.2 Schools

Although CARAG does not have a public school within its geographic boundaries, the neighborhood will work to support nearby schools that CARAG children attend.

This strategy is an extension of the CARAG First Step Plan (18.1) in which CARAG committed \$40,000 in Early Access Funds

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
- Adjacent Neighborhoods
- Students
- Educators
- Minneapolis School Board

A) Lyndale School- CARAG will provide support to build a playground at Lyndale School. *This playground has been built, but the \$40,000 of funding committed by CARAG has not yet been disbursed.*

B) CARAG will work with Lyndale, Jefferson and Opportunity Workshop public schools to create a better learning environment through improved resources. These resources include technology equipment (computers, web access, hardware, and software), teaching aids, etc. Students and teachers will do presentations to CARAG to display acquired knowledge and benefits.

**Contract Manager: MPS
Timeline and Budget**

Early Access	\$40,000
2002	40,000
Total NRP	\$80,000

21.3 Bryant Square Park

This strategy was included as part of the CARAG First Step Plan (14.1).

CARAG will support Bryant Square Park as a community center in CARAG.

CARAG will support the Bryant Area Recreation Council (BARC) to work with park staff and volunteers to improve the park.

CARAG may also support additional opportunities at the Park such as: physical park improvements (landscaping, etc.) as outlined by the CARAG Neighborhood Master Plan, support for community building activities at the Park (i.e. “Movies at the Park”) and the purchase of a new Park Sign.

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
- CARAG Businesses and Institutions
- Minneapolis Park Board
- Bryant Area Recreation Council (BARC)
- Surrounding Neighborhoods

Contract Manager:	MPRB
Timeline and Budget	
2001	\$20,000
2002	15,000
2003	15,000
2004	10,000
Total NRP	\$60,000

Implementation

Implementation Strategies and Goals	Budgeted Amount
Goal 22 Implement the CARAG NRP Full Action Plan	
22.1 Office and Staff Support	\$350,000
Total	\$350,000

The implementation of the CARAG NRP Full Action Plan will require directed effort by CARAG volunteers and staff. The Plan has many strategies that will require neighborhood organizing and cooperation.

Based on past experience with the CARAG Board and volunteer committees in implementing the First Step Plan, it was determined that it is vital to maintain a staff person(s). This staff will assist, educate and organize the neighborhood volunteers, coordinate committees and be a liaison for CARAG.

This staff fulfills the NRP Goals of 1) building neighborhood capacity by recruiting and facilitating involvement and 2) creating a sense of community through an office focal point for information, resources, idea creation and exchange.

Goal 22 Implement the CARAG Full Action Plan

Objective: Provide the means for undertaking and organizing community involvement for this CARAG Full Action Plan.

- **Strategy 22.1 Office and Staff Support for Implementation of the CARAG Full Action Plan**

22.1 Office and Staff Support for Implementation of the CARAG Full Action Plan

CARAG will hire staff for a period of five years to work with residents, businesses, and property owners to implement the CARAG Full Action Plan.

The CARAG Staff will, under the oversight of the CARAG Board, coordinate neighborhood involvement in the implementation of the Full Action Plan goals.

The staff will require office, rent, supplies and operating expenses. An initial staff person was hired in January 2000. These costs allow for an annual increase to adjust for inflation

This strategy is an extension of the CARAG First Step Plan (Strategy 15.1, 15.2, 19.1) in which \$75,000 was disbursed for committee support and staff for the CARAG Neighborhood.

Who will be involved?

- CARAG Residents and Property Owners
- CARAG Businesses
- CARAG Board
- CARAG Personnel Committee

Contract Manager: Timeline and Budget	NRP
First Step 15.1, 15.2, 19.1	\$149,250
2001	\$50,750
2002	50,000
2003	50,000
2004	50,000
Total NRP	\$350,000

Flex/Substitution

Flex/Substitution Strategies	Future Amount
Transportation	
7.3 Bus Stops	\$25,000
8.1 Bryant Avenue Bikeway	\$25,000
Economic Development	
10.2 Commercial Corridor Design Grant	\$25,000
11.1 Corner Store Program	\$25,000
Arts & Culture	
20.1 Neighborhood Arts Committee	\$50,000
Schools, Park, and Education Opportunities	
21.2 Schools	\$50,000
Flex/Substitution Total	\$200,000

The Flex/Substitution list defines the programs that will be supplemented if one or more of the CARAG NRP Full Action Plan strategies have extra or unused funding. This Flex/Substitution list includes strategies that are a priority to the neighborhood, but were not completely funded in the Full Action Plan because of the limited amount of NRP funding for the neighborhood.

CARAG will complete an annual review of the implementation status of the Full Action Plan strategies.

Based on this annual review, strategies that are 1) identified as 100 percent completed and have extra funding or 2) cannot be implemented will have funding for these strategies reduced. The reduced funding would then be applied to one or more of the Flex/Substitution strategies, which would be increased up to the dollar amounts listed. These actions will be determined by the CARAG Board and approved at a regular monthly neighborhood meeting. The Flex/Substitution list will allow for better transition, less paper work, and streamlined approvals to implement the CARAG NRP Full Action Plan strategies.

Appendices and Other Resources

Appendix A: The CARAG Neighborhood Master Plan, July 2000

Other Resources

- U.S. Census Data, 1990
- Hennepin Avenue Strategic Plan: Sustaining the Spirit of the Avenue, March 1995
- CARAG Survey, August 1996
- Survey Report: "The Needs and Issues of Home-Based Businesses in the CARAG Neighborhood" 1996
- CARAG NRP First Step Plan, September 1997
- A Brief History of CARAG, September 1997
- South Lyndale Avenue: A Vision, March 1997
- West Lake Street Urban Village Charrette, 1998
- Lake Street Midtown Greenway Corridor Framework Plan, October 1999
- The Minneapolis Plan, 2000