



2001 Neighborhood of the Year Awards Program

Nomination Form

*Please complete the following nomination form, and submit the original and six (6) copies to Yolanda Martinez, Chairman, NUSA's 2001 Neighborhood of the Year Program, 12707 30th Avenue NE, Seattle WA, 98125 . Nominations must be postmarked by **March 3, 2001** and accompanied by a \$35.00 entry fee made payable to NUSA.*

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

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

I. Basic Information

Please provide the following information in the space provided:

Neighborhood Name: Miller Park

City & State: Seattle, Washington

Neighborhood Organization: Miller Park Neighborhood Association

Contact Person: Andrew Taylor

Position: Chair

Address: 501 – 19th Avenue East, Seattle WA 98112

Telephone: Daytime (206) 667-4431 Evening (206) 323-5929 Fax (206) 667-6497

E-Mail ataylor@fhcrc.org

Name of nominated project or program: Ron K. Bills Fountain and Playsculpture

Please check the category which best describes your project:

Physical Revitalization/Beautification - Single Neighborhood

Social Revitalization - Single Neighborhood

Multi Neighborhood Project Partnerships

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

1. Briefly describe your neighborhood.

Miller Park is a very diverse neighborhood with residents from many racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds. We have a very broad range of socio-economic levels, including a very active community council which oversees the planning of regular community-wide events such as neighborhood clean-ups, street tree plantings, community beautification, picnics, barbeques, etc. In addition, the Miller Park community actively supports the development of subsidized housing in our neighborhood, as well as working with numerous local, state, and Federal offices and programs in our neighborhood (e.g., Washington State parole office, the Federal work release program office, and live-in teen parenting programs). Miller Park also includes a vibrant and active GLBT community.

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

The Miller Park Advisory Council (MPAC) began as an informal neighborhood group in the mid-1960's. In June 1976, the Council became an affiliated member of the newly incorporated Associated Recreation Council. The Miller Park Neighborhood Association was formed in 1989. Shortly thereafter our neighborhood was literally invaded by large groups of drug dealers, harassing our children in and around Meany Middle School. The Community Center staff could not keep drug dealers from taking refuge in the Center. Residents, especially kids and the elderly, were at increasing risk. At that time we were approached by a small group of police officers from the East Precinct. They needed a neighborhood group to work with on a new way of policing called Community Police Teams. The City Council gave these officers one week to show that they could reach out and make a difference. We did and after several years of concerted effort and countless community meetings our neighborhood's drug problems subsided. In 1990, the Department of Construction and Land Use erroneously issued a permit for a 1,000-foot broadcast tower on Madison Street. At great cost in time and money to the neighborhood, the MPAC and MPNA, working with the Central Area and Capitol Hill community councils, successfully fought for the overturn of that decision: The tower was never built. In 1992, with the help of an NFM grant, the MPAC and MPNA developed the Miller Park Dreams Project Master Plan, laying the groundwork for the new \$4.5 million community center which was completed in the spring of 1998.

II. Information about the Nominated Project/Program

Please answer the following questions in the space provided:

1. Describe the project/program that you are using as the basis of this nomination.

The Ron K. Bills Fountain and Playsculpture was completed in the spring of 2000. The structure consists of an inner circle of five cast concrete columns around a central fountain. Each column is topped with a cast glass capital and a wind vane. Surrounding the Fountain and Playsculpture are eight granite benches, positioned at the eight cardinal points of the compass. From the outer portion of the Fountain, water springs from the base of each granite bench, flowing in spirals over granite pavers towards the center of the Fountain. Between the columns, jets of water shoot upward in a sequenced pattern.

2. What prompted your group to develop this project? Did your group initiate this project, or was it initiated by a governmental entity or some other agency, foundation or corporation? What were you trying to accomplish?

During the planning of the new Miller Park Community Center, the Miller Park community expressed its desire to retain a water feature area as part of the Center's design. What the community chose to do was design, fund and build the Ron K. Bills Fountain and Playsculpture, a structure which was designed to be aesthetically pleasing, playful, and totally accessible to people of every age and ability year-round, plus honoring the memory of Ron K. Bills, a founding member of MPNA.

3. What steps did your group take to develop this project? Specifically, please describe how your group involved neighborhood residents and other partners in the development and implementation of the project.

Relying on the natural diversity of our neighborhood, the Miller Park Advisory Council sought and received volunteer commitments from highly qualified local contractors, construction trade workers, artists, and craftsmen, in addition to many community members who pledged their time and energy for the general labor needs of this project. At a review hearing on June 5, 1997, the Seattle Design Commission formally approved the final design of the Fountain and Playsculpture, praising it's vision and detail. In addition, this project required a large and coordinated fundraising effort. Support was sought and received from individuals, corporations, foundations, banks, and other local businesses. Most donations were eligible for matching funds from a Department of Neighborhoods grant.

4. What were the main obstacles that your organization had to overcome to be successful with this project? How did you deal with these obstacles?

The main obstacles to completion of this project were governmental obfuscation, bureaucratic inefficiency, lack of focus, continual staffing changes, and major project management shortfalls. Fundraising became problematic as construction dates kept shifting.

How did we deal with these obstacles? PERSEVERENCE, short and simple, plus a belief in ourselves and the project.

5. Please describe your efforts to build partnerships surrounding this project. What new partnerships have you developed as a result of this project?

Partnership with local businesses, youth groups, the arts community, the Capitol Hill Housing Improvement Program, in addition to other community groups (Capitol Hill, Central District, and others). Many of these groups previously unaware of Miller Park and its new facilities have now become users of the park and buildings. Some instructors and art groups have offered classes at the new Miller Park Community Center. Many have used their experience at Miller Park to initiate and improve subsequent community projects (e.g., the tile project at the Medgar Evers pool which was inspired by the tile work at the Miller Park Community Center).

6. Please list the key people involved in this project, including name, position, address and telephone number.

Rene Soulard, Project Manager, 310 21st Ave. E., Seattle (206) 328-1164

Randy Allworth, Landscape Architect, 207-1/2 1st S., Seattle (206) 623-7396

Andrew Taylor, Chairperson, Miller Park Neighborhood Assn., 2009 E. John St., Seattle (206) 323-5929

Sandra Jeffcoat, Chair, Miller Park Advisory Council, 1735 S. Pearl St., Seattle (206) 764-9580

Julie Renick, Co-Chair MPNA, 351 22nd Ave. E., Seattle (206) 329-5941

Geoff Hamada, Grant Writer, 606 15th Ave. E., Seattle (206) 322-1421

Linda Gasparovich, Project Webmaster, 229 22nd Ave. E., Seattle (206) 329-3076

Ed Jackson, Seattle Dept. of Parks and Recreation (206) 684-7383

Ed Corey, CHHIP (206) 329-7303

III. Attachments

Please attach the following:

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

**Please do not send original photographs or slides. We can not return them. Do not send video tapes. These can be used at the time of the final presentation. Do not send extra items or gifts, such as caps, tee-shirts, food items, etc. These will not make an impact on the selection process.*

IV. Signature

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

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

Andrew Taylor _____ Chair _____
 Name (Please Print) Title

 Signature

Miller Park Neighborhood Association _____ 3/1/01 _____
 Neighborhood Organization Date

Remember.....

Nominations must be postmarked by **March 3, 2001**
Send completed nomination forms and the \$35.00 entry fee to

Yolanda Martínez, Chairman,
2001 Neighborhood of the Year Awards
12707 30th Ave NE
Seattle WA 98125