

# Project Narrative – anc1D 2008 Small Grants



**Title:** In 15 words or less, give a title that describes the project's main beneficial result.

Identify Needs of the Vietnamese Community in Mount Pleasant towards their Better Future

**Narrative:** 500 words or less, all on this page. Label paragraphs - A: Group. B: Project. C: Benefits. D: Leverage.

A: Group: Concerned Residents of 1600 Park Road

The 1600 and 1700 blocks of Park Road have been an area where many Vietnamese residents lived. Apartment buildings such as the Park Regent (1701 Park Road NW), the Parkhill (1610 Park Road), the Park Fair (1611 Park Road), and the Park Lee (1630 Park Road NW). We now notice that our numbers of Vietnamese neighbors are much lower.

B: Project.

We are saddened to see that many of the Vietnamese families have left or been forced out by changes in the neighborhood. Since they are a very self-reliant people and tightly knit, we feel that an informal study might shed light on some of their problems and identify some of the needs.

First, we would develop a survey or list of questions that might help us gather more information. Then we would begin to develop a network of current residents, and names of people who have moved out of the community. If they are still in the Metropolitan DC area, they could be contacted at low cost. We may need to pay students to help us that are bilingual in English and Vietnamese. There would be other expenses, with producing materials, and likely recording and transcribing.

We would work in collaboration with the Asian American League, and the Metropolitan Police Asian Liaison.

C: Benefits.

Mount Pleasant has a wonderful diversity, but it sometimes requires someone stepping up or taking the lead to make sure the diversity is ensured and the ecology of different subcultures is vital. We have all seen the phenomenon in Mount Pleasant where a sub-culture goes into crisis and their numbers are greatly reduced. We hope to stanch the current trend on Park Road where the numbers of Vietnamese are dropping. Perhaps there are actions that could be taken to make life more sustainable or attractive for them. We hope to find out if legally required city services are being provided.

D: Leverage.

With a focus on gaining insights and constructive tools, we could work with other groups to reach out to Vietnamese throughout Mount Pleasant and nearby Columbia Heights. It is likely we will learn about other distressed groups. We could contribute to the culture vitality and population development of the DC. We may be able to interest DCTV or other local community television in a program about the Asian community in DC. We hope to reach several hundred people, and if we are able to change perceptions of a hostile Mount Pleasant it is possible that the Vietnamese community here could once again approach 1000.