



Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities** and the **World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**

- If you have questions while completing this form, please email livable@aarpp.org or call 202-434-2430
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 4/11/2016

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: City of West Hollywood

STATE: California

POPULATION SIZE: 39,399

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 15 percent over are 65

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Lindsey P. Hoorvath,
Mayor

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069

Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT FOR THE AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

The community contact is the local staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work — it is not the responsible AARP staff member.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Please describe the named person’s role in the city or community’s age-friendly initiative:

The strategic planning process was a community effort, coordinated by city staff and with the strong support of the Mayor. The City of West Hollywood was founded by community-activists and these individuals along with the City Council's support as a champion of this undertaking have been crucial to energize the research and development phase of this initiative. Throughout its vibrant history, the community has continued its role in determining the direction of the city.. Gathering these community members together along with other stakeholders, including the business community, social services providers, landlords, residents, Boards and Commissions, developers, and experts in the field of aging was the role of Elizabeth Savage Director of Human Services and Rent Stabilization.

Section 3: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

1) Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.

A key goal of the City of West Hollywood's Aging In Place/Aging In Community Five Year Strategic Plan is to improve the quality of life for and maintain the health and well-being of older adults and of city residents who are moving forward in years. Currently, the city provides an array of services for its senior, at-risk and disabled community members; however, the scale of the needs for those aging in the city is growing along with the increase in the aging population. The city recognized that only forward thinking action could meet this challenge. The Five Year Strategic Plan is designed with a social model, community-based approach to wellness. West Hollywood is a caring and supportive City where aging is embraced. Therefore, it has the vision that adults as they age are supported in ways that help them to remain in their homes, as much as possible. The City, as an age-friendly community, is a place where older adults can age safely with health and dignity. This vision will be achieved through a combination of:

- Activities that occur organically within the West Hollywood community involving neighbors, family, friends and other circles of support. Public funds and programs alone will never be able to address all the identified needs.
- Policies and programs established by the City that guide and direct successful aging in place and engage the community in the decision-making process.
- Supports that are provided by other organizations, such as nonprofits, businesses, religious institutions, clubs, and other government organizations.

2) How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?

The City of West Hollywood was founded 1984 by a coalition of seniors, renters and LGBT activists. Since its founding, West Hollywood has remained a city where seniors are welcome, supported and engaged. A number of the founders are now older adults well advanced in years and others are now boomers who should be planning for their later years. The city has a Senior Advisory Board that meets monthly. In addition, Senior Advisory Board members are active in city initiatives, sponsoring the Senior Health Fair and other senior month activities, such as collecting a book of writings, wellness seminars and caring for one another in this community. The City of West Hollywood 2013 Community Study identified that a significant population in the community is dealing with growing older, and that the City needed to consider aging in place strategies more comprehensively. These results led Senior Advisory Board members and staff to incorporate initial activities and research into their ongoing work beginning in 2013. Older adults participate fully in many of City's advisory boards and commissions. The Plan is providing a lens by which those groups can view and plan programs and recommendations. For instance, the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission understands the role of the arts to wellness and well-being so much so that it added Aging in Place and designing evaluative criteria for meeting the needs of older adults in the arts to its work plan. At each step in the planning process, from determining the actual strategies, identifying goals and objectives, to providing recommendations, all stakeholders have remained actively engaged. The plan contains the community's voices, words and vision, carefully gathered from meetings, conversations and feedback from the various Boards and Commissions who reviewed a draft of the plan. The city will continue this community engagement process as it implements and evaluates the strategies, goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.

The purpose of the AIP/AIC Five Year Strategic Plan is to articulate an integrated approach that builds on existing policies and programs in West Hollywood, with clear goals for the city's work. The work is beyond the city's capacity alone and the Five Year Strategic Plan will enhance the city's connection with existing non-profit, Los Angeles County, Federal and State resources, as well as for-profit businesses entities. The Plan will be a lens by which the City updates how it funds 15 social service agencies, provides arts grants, updates city facility accessibility, and works with the community and developers on land use policies that will now include lifespan design principles. The strategies in the plan are based on the "eight domains of livability," which are the essential features of age-friendly adapted from the World Health Organization standards that also correspond to the AARP livability program. Thus, the plan is part of an international model, which may be useful for the AARP or other government agencies to assess when reviewing regional or national progress on the challenges faced to provide successful aging policies and practices that result in improved health and welfare of older adults. The Strategic Plan incorporates an evaluation component that includes the development of logic models, a theory of change, specific process goals, short-term goals, long-term goals, metrics at the specific initiative-level, and metrics at the macro city-wide level. Ultimately the project will measure, refine and demonstrate the influence and effect of specific programs and demonstrate that there has been a collective change across the community. The evaluation structure will use a collective impact framework for capturing the results. At its core, collective impact is the impact resulting from the collaboration of different stakeholders working together – in different ways – to promote a common agenda to address a social problem. In pragmatic terms, this will help staff to know, from an evaluation platform, what is working and what is not working, and to be able to make changes. Through this dynamic feedback loop, monitoring the implementation and measuring the outcomes of the strategies the city will clearly understand if it is staying true to its goal to increase the ability of older adults to live in this community safely, independently and comfortably.

Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

4) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

This five year plan is significant, not only for the outcomes that will result for West Hollywood residents and community members, but also in how it contributes to the conversations happening across municipalities in Southern California and, perhaps, in other states. The Plan engaged community members, advisory boards and commissions, small group meetings, meetings with health care providers, social service agencies, Chamber of Commerce, the arts community, and experts in the field of aging. Through this process a set of implementable strategies was developed that address a range of needs. Within the plan, the city included an implementation and review system that will track measurable changes and provide guidance not only for West Hollywood but for other cities who wish to adopt elements of the plan.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

The City of West Hollywood realizes that participation in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities will build alliances and partnership to help address local, regional and national issues. It hopes to learn from what other network members have accomplished as well as share its own success in meeting the challenges of a small municipality like West Hollywood. The city’s rigorous evaluation and feedback process will be of benefit in this sharing. Connection to like-minded others benefits these two objectives. Membership will also support the city’s efforts to sustain the Five-year Strategic Plan goals and objectives through attendance at conferences, meetings and other learning/sharing opportunities.

6) Please provide a digital file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community.

The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours >



Click here to paste the JPEG image or the link to one.