



# West Side Community Organization

*Celebrating 50 years of community power*



**As we step into a new year, we at WSCO want to take a moment to reflect on the challenges and achievements of the past year and to express our heartfelt gratitude to our community of supporters, partners, and volunteers.**

Your commitment to our mission has been the cornerstone of our progress and has fueled our continued work toward building a brighter, more equitable future. **Together, we have taken meaningful steps toward creating lasting change, and we are inspired to carry this momentum into the new year.**



### **Flats to the Future has been a beacon of hope and innovation.**

Just before the year ended, **\$2 million was allocated to expand the Inheritance Fund, providing down payment assistance for descendants of those displaced from the West Side Flats neighborhood in the 1960s.** This expansion follows 18 months of community-led research and strategy sessions, culminating in an 86-page report by WSCO and Research in Action. This fund represents an acknowledgment of past injustices and a step toward economic justice for communities historically impacted by displacement. As we look ahead, we remain committed to amplifying community voices and pursuing equitable development. **While the Inheritance Fund is a critical milestone for Flats to the Future, it is only one piece of a larger journey toward justice and reconciliation.**



### **The Land Use Action Circle continues to drive forward our vision for a more connected and accessible Robert Street.**

Their initiative is paving the way for improved infrastructure that reflects the needs and aspirations of local residents. After hearing feedback from community members, MNDOT announced they would be revising their plans for the Robert Street construction, scheduled to begin between 2026-2028. **Our goals for the new year are to ensure that as many community voices as possible—particularly those directly impacted by these plans—are heard and incorporated into any design revisions.**

**Have ideas for the future of Robert Street? Share your vision at our next monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 22!**

[Get Details & RSVP](#)

### **Safety remains a top priority, and our Southport safety planning efforts are addressing critical concerns with comprehensive strategies and community-driven solutions.**

WSCO goals for this year include spreading education about safety concerns in Southport, as many residents are unaware of existing gaps. **We are committed to identifying and establishing a safe egress route for our neighbors in the Southport area.** Fugitive particles remain a major concern, originating from unpaved roads, hauling concerns, uncovered stockpiles, and material transfers. Addressing this environmental health issue, **we are dedicated to implementing measures to control fugitive dust and ensure the health and safety of the Southport community.**



### **These initiatives are not just projects; they are reflections of our collective determination to create a community where everyone can thrive.**

As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing equity, fostering collaboration, and driving sustainable change.



**None of this would be possible without you.** Your support has been the foundation of our success, and we are deeply grateful for your continued belief in our mission. Together, we are making a difference.

**Here's to a year filled with hope, progress, and shared purpose. We look forward to building on this work with you in the coming year. Thank you for being a part of our**