



WEST SIDE community organization

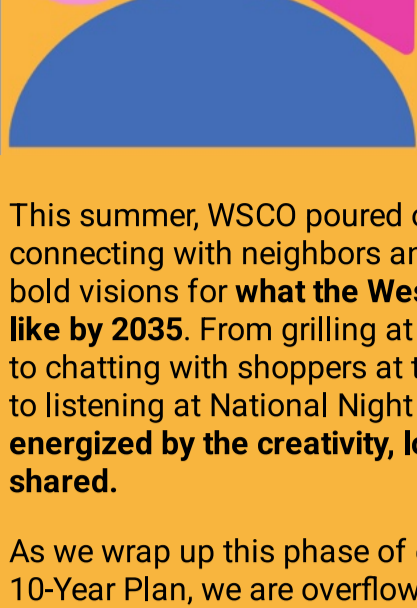
Hey West Side,

As we begin to phase into a new season, we at WSCO want to take a moment to reflect on the challenges and achievements of the past few months. So much has happened in the world around us, including moments of deep tragedy. Many of our families are entering this new school season carrying heaviness and uncertainty.

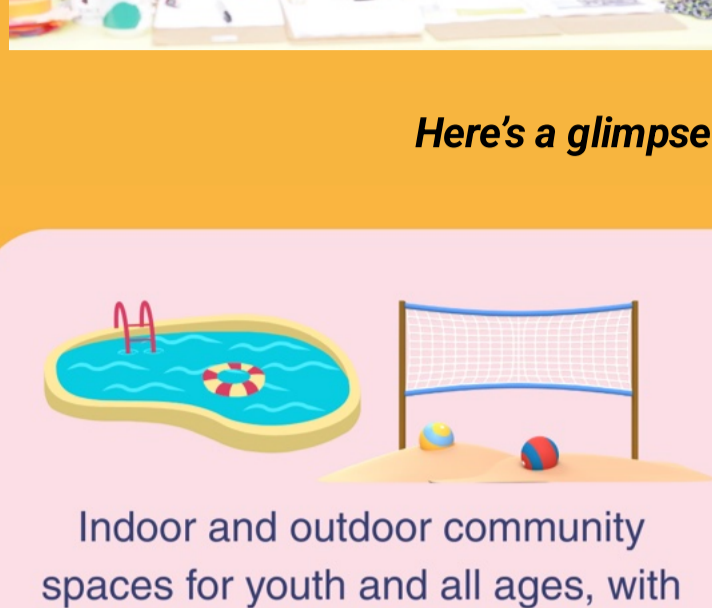
Yet through it all, **we continue to witness the strength and resilience of our community.** Neighbors are showing up for one another, building connections, and imagining what a better future looks like. We know that **when we come together, even in difficult times, we create hope and possibility.**

In this newsletter, you'll get to read about highlights from this summer—stories that we hope will inspire you about what's possible for our community and remind you that **hope is alive here on the West Side.** Together, as we move forward into the months ahead, let us continue to support one another and show up, as we dream and build a neighborhood where all of us can thrive.

SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER



10 YEAR PLAN



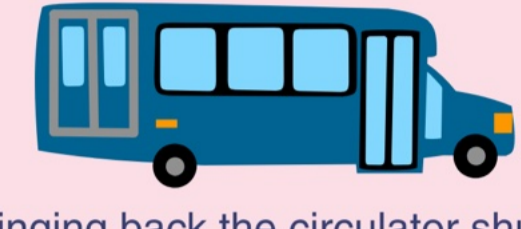
This summer, WSCO poured our energy into connecting with neighbors and lifting up your bold visions for **what the West Side should look like by 2035.** From grilling at Torre de San Miguel, to chatting with shoppers at the Farmers Market, to listening at National Night Out, **we were energized by the creativity, love, and care you shared.**

As we wrap up this phase of engagement for the 10-Year Plan, we are overflowing with gratitude for the invaluable input you gave us.

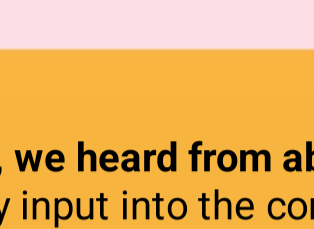
Here's a glimpse into what we heard:



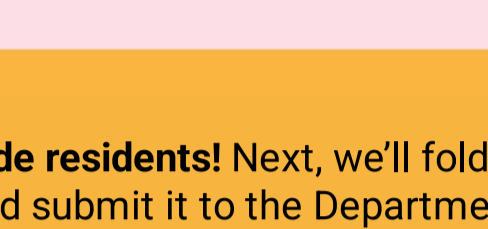
Indoor and outdoor community spaces for youth and all ages, with amenities like a public pool and sand volleyball court



Improved waste management, free composting, zero-waste education, and local investment in solar energy and energy-efficient products.

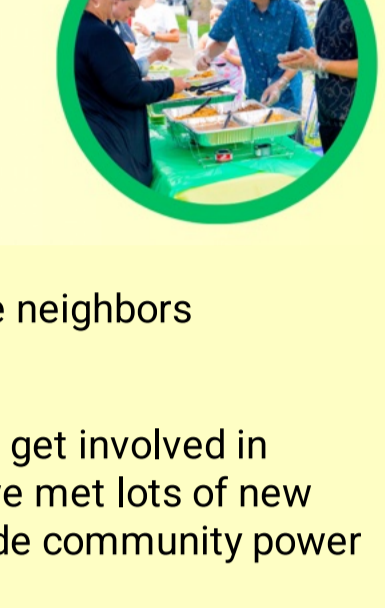
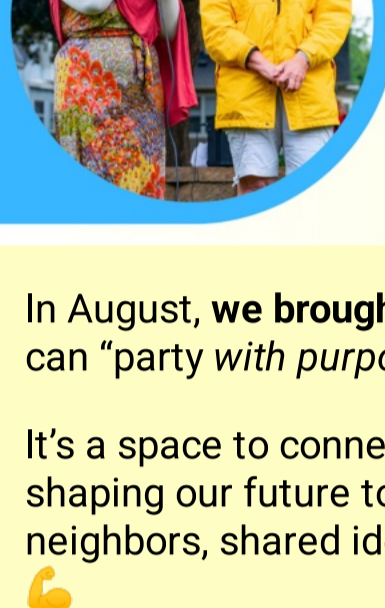


More local businesses, especially a full grocery store, to boost walkability and access to essentials.



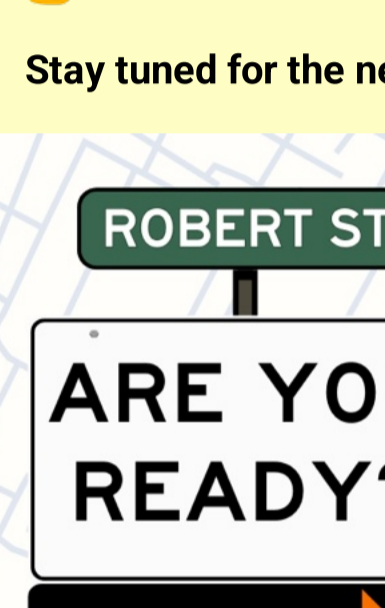
Bringing back the circulator shuttle to connect West Siders to key spots in the neighborhood.

Altogether, we heard from about 4.5% of West Side residents! Next, we'll fold this community input into the comprehensive plan and submit it to the Department of Planning and Economic Development.



VOICES IS BACK!

WHERE NEIGHBORS MEET
WHERE CHANGE IS MADE



In August, **we brought back VOICES**, a community forum where neighbors can "party with purpose".

It's a space to connect, learn about WSCO, and explore ways to get involved in shaping our future together. The event was a huge success—we met lots of new neighbors, shared ideas, and continued in building our West Side community power.

Stay tuned for the next VOICES!

ROBERT ST

ARE YOU READY?
GET READY!



West Siders **SHOWED UP** at City Hall this past month to share their voices at the City Council's public hearing on MnDOT's proposed Robert Street improvements.

Comments from community members included:

- Support for officially recognizing the Robert St. Accountability Task Force
- Protection and support for small businesses
- Pedestrian safety concerns
- Concerns about the proposed roundabout

[Learn More](#)

From the Flats to the Future

Building Towards a Reparative Legacy

In June, the Inheritance Fund officially opened. This was a milestone made possible by the perseverant work of West Side Flats descendants. **While this is a meaningful step toward economic repair, it's only the beginning.**

This summer, community members have continued advocating for **memorialization of the Flats, expanded economic remedies for displaced families and their descendants, and building a deeper sense of belonging for both longtime and new residents.**

WSCO is committed to bringing these community-led proposals to life, and we're already beginning the work to turn them into reality.

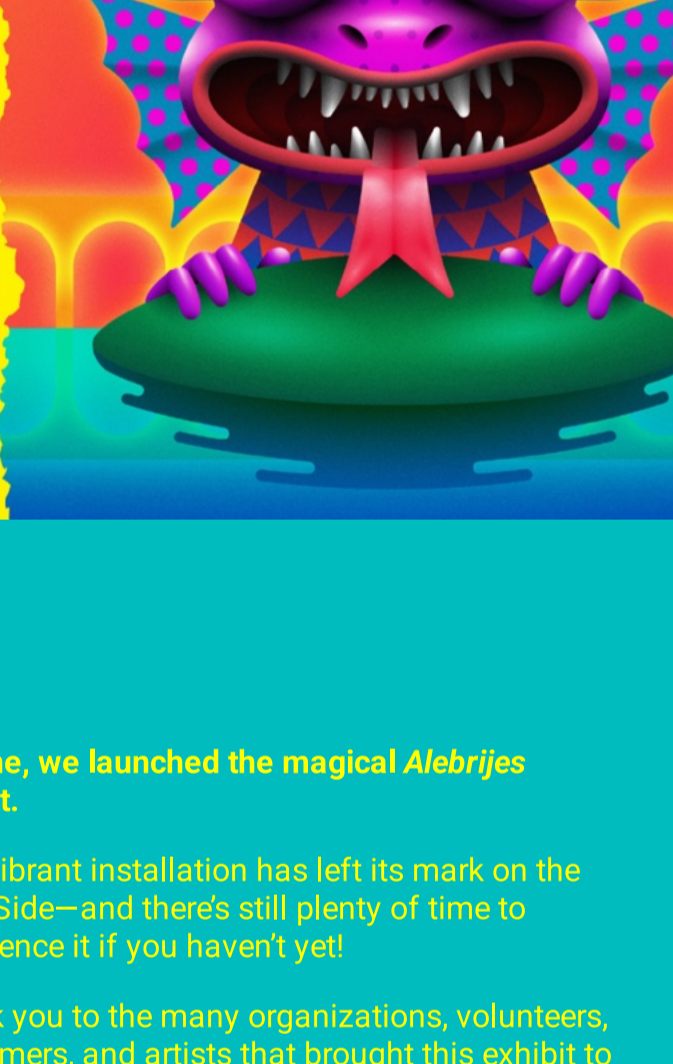
[Learn More](#)

ALEBRIJES

KEEPERS OF THE ISLAND

Exhibition Dates:
Jun 1 – Raspberry Island
Oct 26 – St. Paul, MN

Presented by: Minnesota Latino Museum



In June, we launched the magical **Alebrijes** exhibit.

This vibrant installation has left its mark on the West Side—and there's still plenty of time to experience it if you haven't yet!

Thank you to the many organizations, volunteers, performers, and artists that brought this exhibit to life.

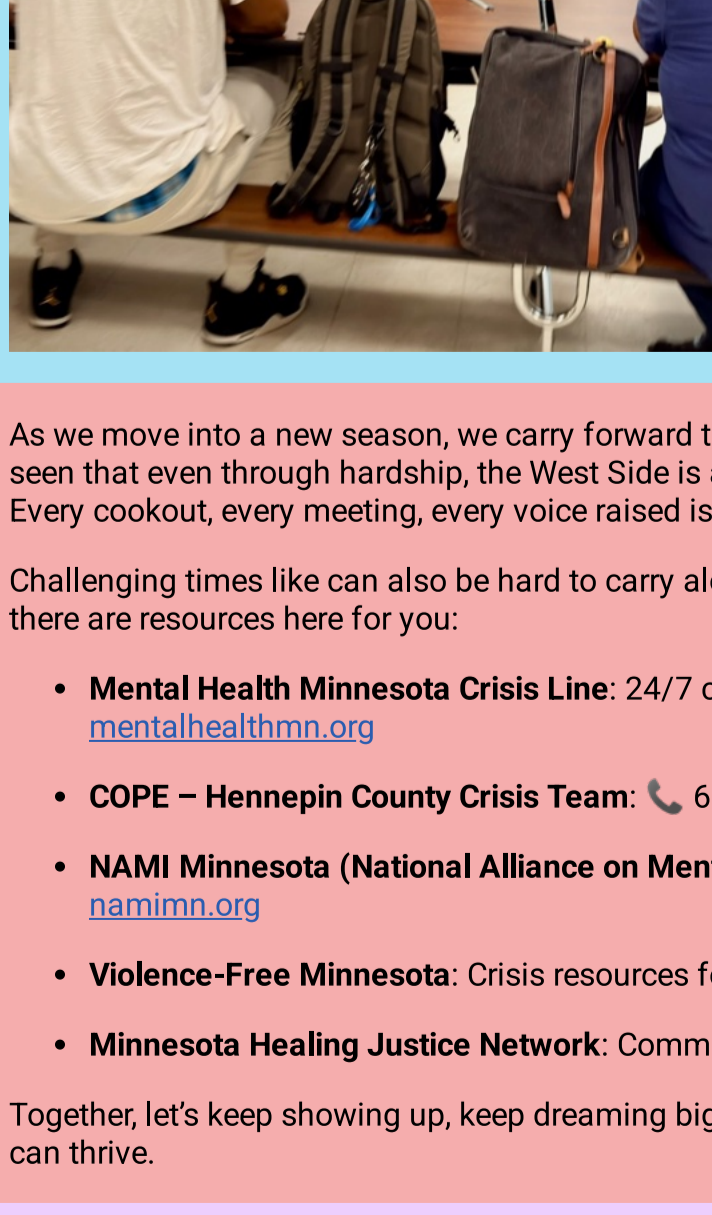
It has offered a powerful preview of what's ahead for the Minnesota Latino Museum, and the role the West Side community could play in shaping it.

WEST SIDE BUSINESSES UNITE!



All summer long, West Side business owners gathered to discuss the future of local commerce and collaboration. Together, we explored the **Commercial Corridor Organization Assistance Program**, a city initiative providing funding for projects like public art, beautification, marketing, and even property acquisition along Smith Avenue and Cesar Chavez.

Business leaders also came together for the **Anti-Displacement Business Forum**—a vital conversation about how to stay rooted during the upcoming Robert Street construction. We learned from past experiences and affirmed our shared commitment: **the fight to protect our local economy is just beginning.**



This summer brought energizing action to **Southport**. Officials from MPCA, MnDOT, the Port Authority, and Emergency Management joined with residents at our July Land Use meeting to focus on urgent needs.

Meanwhile, residents have begun meeting regularly to share their lived experiences and launch a campaign for change. Step by step, we are moving closer to answering the questions that matter most: *Is our air safe? Are we safe?*

[Learn more about what's happening in Southport](#)

As we move into a new season, we carry forward the lessons, energy, and hope from the summer. We've seen that even through hardship, the West Side is a place where community power is alive and growing. Every cookout, every meeting, every voice raised is building the foundation for the future we deserve.

Challenging times like these can also be hard to carry alone. Please reach out to someone you trust, and know there are resources here for you:

- **Mental Health Minnesota Crisis Line:** 24/7 confidential support. Call 988 or visit mentalhealthmn.org
- **COPE – Hennepin County Crisis Team:** 612-596-1223 for urgent mental health support
- **NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness):** Guidance, education, and peer support at namimn.org
- **Violence-Free Minnesota:** Crisis resources for survivors and advocates at vfmn.org
- **Minnesota Healing Justice Network:** Community-based care and wellness at mnhealingjustice.org

Together, let's keep showing up, keep dreaming big, and keep creating a neighborhood where all of us can thrive.

Want to get involved with grassroots community organizing in our neighborhood, but not sure where to start?

Come to a Land Use Meeting!

These meetings are a space where neighbors come together to shape the future of our community — from advocating for affordable housing and protecting our environment to planning for more vibrant, inclusive development. Whether you're new to organizing or looking to deepen your involvement, your voice is needed.

When: Sep 24, 6:00–7:30pm
Where: 209 Page St W

[Learn More](#)

SAVE THE DATE

WSCO Annual Meeting

When: Nov 1, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Where: Harriet Island Pavilion

Join us for coffee and pastries at this year's mid-morning Annual Meeting, where we'll celebrate our