



WEST SIDE community organization

Hey West Side neighbors!

July's end-of-the-month newsletter is **PACKED** with updates and upcoming events for you to attend! We're celebrating the incredible momentum from July's community gatherings—from cookouts and block parties to powerful forums on business displacement and land use.

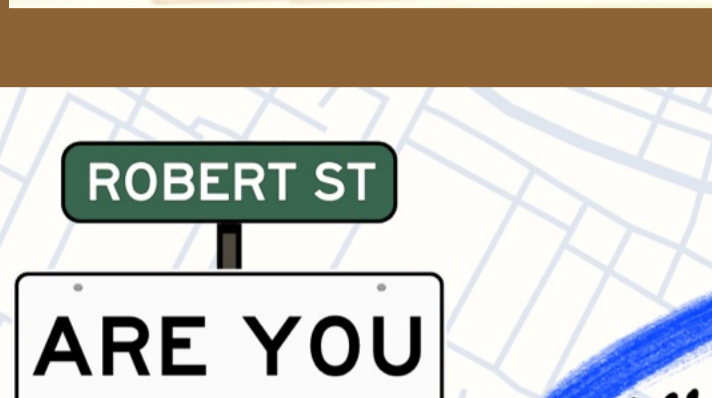
August brings more chances to connect, including the **VOICES Forum**, the **10-Year Plan Summit**, **Festival of Rights**, **AND MUCH MORE!**

Read on to find out how you can show up, speak out, and help shape the future of the West Side.

WSCO IS GROWING...

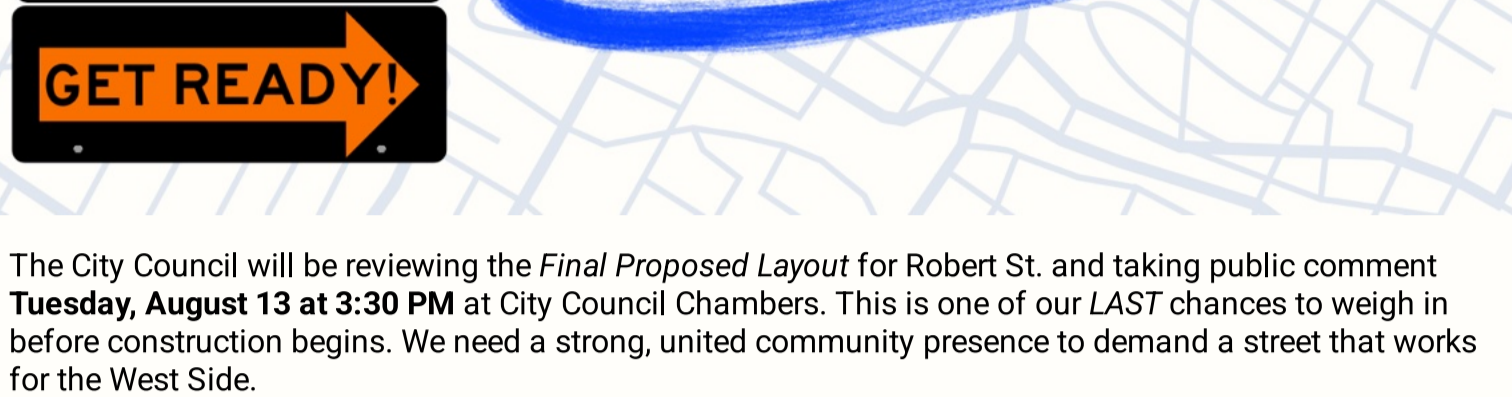


...AND SO IS OUR IMPACT!



We're excited to share that **WSCO is expanding**, and with that growth comes deeper connections across our community, especially with our young leaders. This summer, they've been showing up for volunteer opportunities. We're hearing their ideas and collaborating with them on opportunities to shape the future of the West Side.

Keep an eye out for our **WSCO Field Team** throughout August! They'll be knocking on doors, asking questions, and listening closely to how we can build a stronger, more just community together. Say hi, share your thoughts, and be part of the change.



The City Council will be reviewing the *Final Proposed Layout* for Robert St. and taking public comment **Tuesday, August 13 at 3:30 PM** at City Council Chambers. This is one of our **LAST** chances to weigh in before construction begins. We need a strong, united community presence to demand a street that works for the West Side.

Can't make it in person? Submit your comment before the hearing:

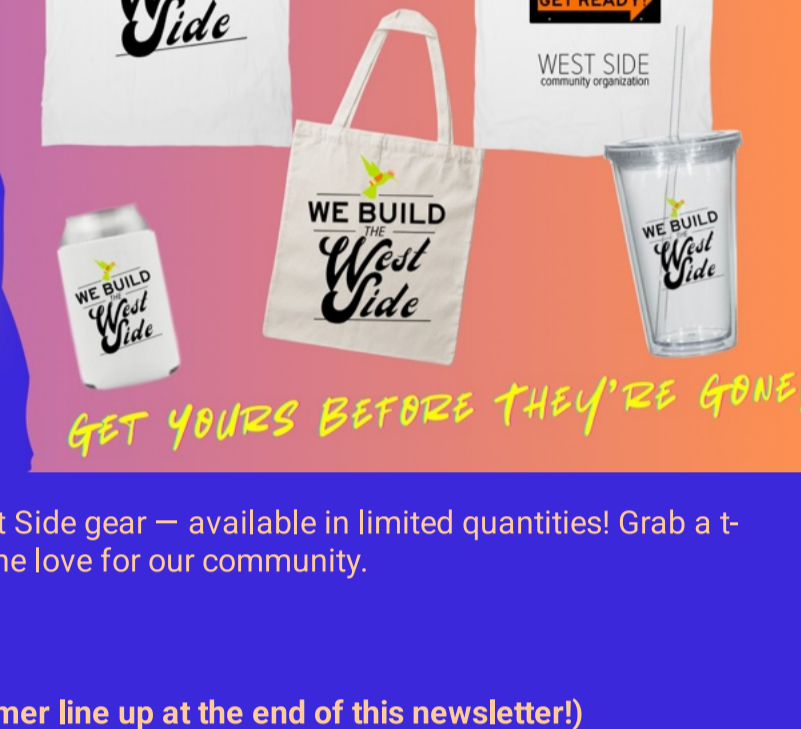
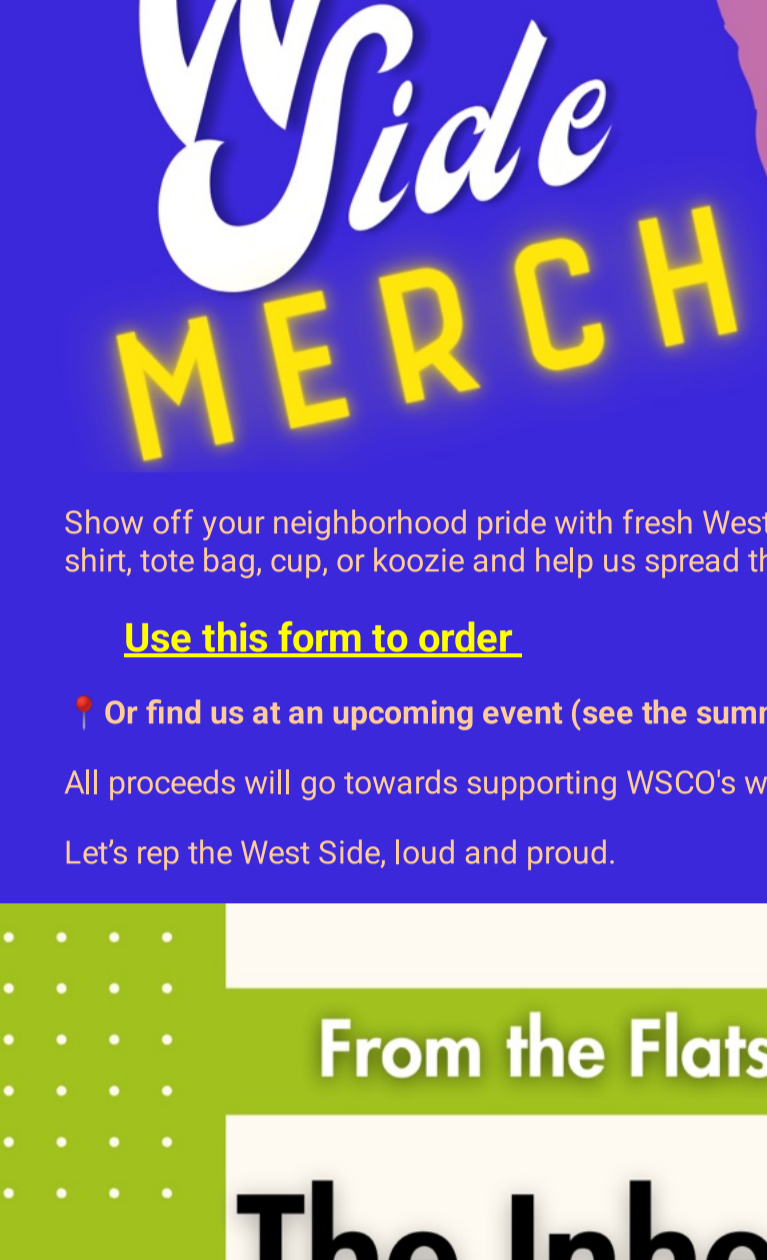
Email: Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us & CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Voicemail: 651-266-6805

To speak live by phone: Register by noon on August 12

Be sure to reference: "Layout No. 1, S.P. 6217-50" in your message.

Let's pack the room, flood the inbox, and make sure the West Side is heard!



Show off your neighborhood pride with fresh West Side gear — available in limited quantities! Grab a t-shirt, tote bag, cup, or koozie and help us spread the love for our community.

[Use this form to order](#)

Or find us at an upcoming event (see the summer line up at the end of this newsletter!)

All proceeds will go towards supporting WSCO's work as the planning council of St. Paul's District 3.

Let's rep the West Side, loud and proud.

From the Flats to the Future

The Inheritance Fund

Now Accepting Applications!

Were your parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents displaced from the West Side Flats? You may be eligible for up to **\$110,000 in interest-free down payment assistance** through the City of Saint Paul's Inheritance Fund.

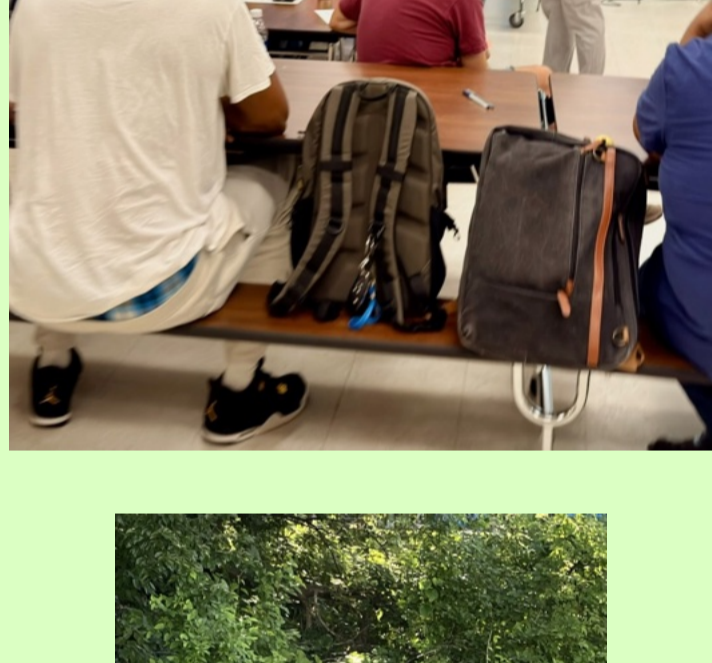
WSCO is here to support you. Whether you're ready to apply or just beginning to explore your family's history, we can help you navigate the process and get prepared.

[Learn More](#)



Sunsoaked Snapshots

THE SUN'S OUT, THE ENERGY'S UP, AND WSCO IS ON A HOT STREAK OF COMMUNITY ACTION!



Southport Community Gathering

We had a powerful and energizing Land Use Action Circle meeting at GAP School, where Southport residents shared their lived experiences alongside city and state decision-makers.

With representatives from MPCA, MnDOT, the Port Authority, and Emergency Management in the room, it was clear the community is being heard. Thank you to the residents who spoke bravely and to all the West Siders who showed up in solidarity.

Together, we're advancing towards answering the question: **Is Our Air Safe? Are We Safe?**



Torres Grill N' Gather

What an evening! We fired up the grill at Torres de San Miguel and had a joyful, intergenerational BBQ to talk about the future of the West Side. The youth turnout blew us away—all of them full of energy, ideas, and care for their neighborhood. We heard calls for more safety, more housing, and more power for the people...And we're ready to fold it all into the 10 Year Plan!



Anti-Displacement Business Forum

West Side business leaders came together for a vital conversation about how to stay rooted during the upcoming Robert Street construction. We learned valuable lessons from those who've weathered the storm before. With support from Rep. Maria Isa, CM Noecker, and MnDOT, the seeds of a community-led taskforce are growing. The fight to protect our local economy is just beginning.



Neighbors On Tap

Cheers to everyone who came out for **WSCO's month-long collab with Wabasha Brewing's Neighbors on Tap!** From live music by West Side's own Shaila Carbajal to West Side Trivia Night, this month was a celebration of community, connection, and cold pints. Every "Happy Place" poured supported our work. We felt the love. Thank you, **Wabasha Brewing Co!**

West Side Summer Lineup

All the can't-miss events, gatherings, and opportunities that make this season bright!

Block Portrait Cookout

Block Portrait Studios is turning 10 years old—and they're throwing a BBQ to celebrate! Swing by for face painting, games, a photo station, giveaways, and good vibes with your neighbors.

When: Aug 3, 11:30 AM–2:30 PM

Where: 676 Smith Ave S

What: Cookout, family activities, free photos, and small biz love

Flats to the Future: Community Gathering

Join us as we honor the legacy of the West Side Flats and shape a collective path forward. This gathering is a space to share ideas, build connections, and take action around community-led priorities: creating a memorial plaza and demanding economic repair for renters.

When: Aug 4, 6:00–7:30 PM

Where: 209 Page St W

What: Community discussion, storytelling, and next steps toward justice and remembrance

[RSVP Here](#)

National Night Out

WSCO will be tabling in two lively locations, Parque Castillo and El Burrito's patio, for National Night Out! Stop by for family-friendly fun, meet your neighbors, and enjoy \$2 tacos and elotes at El Burrito's patio party!

When: Aug 5, 4:00–8:00 PM

Where: Parque Castillo & El Burrito Mercado Patio

What: Tabling, music, \$2 tacos & corn, DJ, and community connection

West Side 10-Year Plan Summit

We're in the final stretch of shaping the West Side's next decade — and your voice is crucial. Join neighbors, leaders, and partners as we reflect on what we've heard and finalize a shared roadmap for the future.

When: Aug 7, 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

Where: 209 Page St W

What: Community input, visioning, and planning session for the West Side's 10 Year Plan

[RSVP Here](#)

West Side VOICES Forum

The VOICES Forum is a community party with purpose — come eat, hang out, share ideas, and connect with neighbors! It'll be an evening full of good vibes, stories, shout-outs, and a collective commitment to action.

When: Aug 14, 6:00–8:00 PM

Where: Leather Works MN, 736 Oakdale Ave

What: Food, music, interactive stations, family fun, and a bold community vision

[RSVP Here](#)

Festival of Rights

Celebrate community power and learn about your rights at this free, family-friendly festival. There'll be live music, resources, a bouncy house, and free grilled cheese sandwiches from All Square — all in one joyful afternoon!

When: Aug 23, 4:00–7:00 PM

Where: Beautiful Laundrette, 625 Fryd, music, bouncy house, and community fun



Whether you're new to our work, or a longtime partner, we thank you for joining us in making the West Side a place of abundance, community wealth, and vitality. Your support today secures a solid foundation for the future of the West Side.

[Donate Today](#)

[Check out all WSCO events](#)

[Come to a Land Use Meeting!](#)

When: Aug 27, 6:00–7:00pm

Where: 209 Page St W

[Learn More](#)

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