



June on the West Side was a powerful mix of celebration, connection, and collective care. From honoring Pride and Juneteenth to welcoming new leadership, kicking off beloved summer traditions, and giving in community — we showed up for one another.

WSCO continued to build momentum around justice, storytelling, and organizing, all while preparing for a season of bold, community-led action. As we look to July, we invite you to keep showing up, speaking out, and building with us.

CELEBRATING PRIDE AND JUNETEENTH

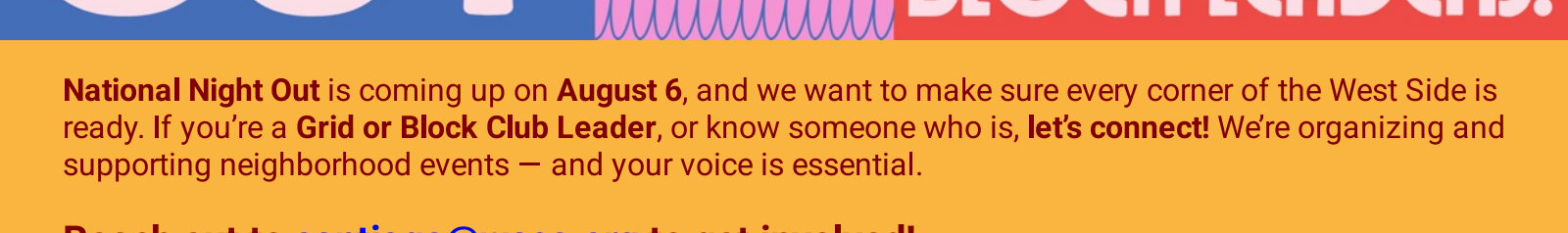
Honoring joy, resistance, and resilience

This past June, we celebrated both Juneteenth and Pride Month — two powerful reminders of our collective history and the ongoing work toward freedom and justice.

Juneteenth (short for *June Nineteenth*) commemorates the day in 1865 when Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation and free the last 250,000 enslaved Black Americans — more than two years after the proclamation was signed. It is a day of remembrance, reflection, and celebration of Black liberation and resilience.

Pride Month honors the legacy of the 1969 Stonewall Riots in New York City — a pivotal moment of resistance led by LGBTQIA2S+ activists, particularly Black and Brown trans women, against police violence and systemic discrimination. What began as a stand for survival and dignity has become a global movement for love, self-determination, and justice.

WSCO remains committed to building a neighborhood where all identities are affirmed, and where equity and liberation are not just values — but actions.



National Night Out is coming up on August 6, and we want to make sure every corner of the West Side is ready. If you're a **Grid or Block Club Leader**, or know someone who is, **let's connect!** We're organizing and supporting neighborhood events — and your voice is essential.

Reach out to santiago@wSCO.org to get involved!

Now Accepting Applications! The Inheritance Fund

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](#)

WE'RE EXPANDING THE TEAM! MEET DIEGO



We're thrilled to welcome Diego to the WSCO team as our new **Senior Organizer!** He brings deep experience and a passion for community-led change.

Diego is a community organizer, cultural worker, and movement builder with roots in Ecuador and the Kichwa community. He's passionate about building people power, fighting for justice, and uplifting immigrant and Indigenous communities.

Diego is a founder of The People's Canvass, a cooperative canvassing agency that supports grassroots campaigns and movement work. He also co-directs and co-founded Kalpulli Tlaloctecuhtli, an Aztec danza group that shares ancestral knowledge through ceremony, dance, and community organizing.

Whether he's knocking on doors, leading ceremony, or cooking Ecuadorian dishes for community fundraisers, Diego brings deep heart, creativity, and purpose to everything he does.



Sunsoaked Snapshots

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

Alebrijos: Keepers of the Island

What a magical launch! From towering sculptures to community joy on Raspberry Island, this art installation has already made its mark — and it's open all summer, so there's still time to experience it.

A heartfelt thank you to the incredible organizations, volunteers, performers, and artists who made it all possible. Your creativity, energy, and commitment brought this vision to life. We can't wait to see what's next for the future of the Minnesota Latino Museum!



West Side Farmers Market

June marked the kickoff of one of the West Side's most beloved traditions — the **West Side Farmers Market!** Every Saturday, neighbors gather in Icy Cup's parking lot to enjoy fresh produce, local vendors, handmade goods, and the kind of community connection that makes summer feel like home.

WSCO is proud to be part of this vibrant neighborhood tradition. We'll be there throughout the season, so be sure to stop by our table to say hello, share your ideas for the West Side, and connect!

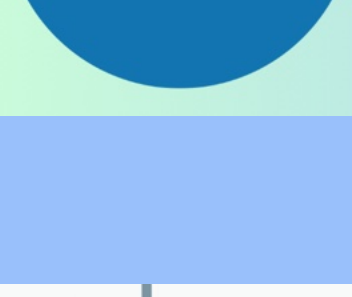


West Side Business Coalition

This past month, several West Side business owners gathered to discuss how we can shape the future of local commerce and collaboration. We explored the **Commercial Corridor Organization Assistance Program**, a city initiative aimed at supporting economic development along key corridors like Smith Avenue and Cesar Chavez.

The program offers funding for projects like public art, beautification, corridor marketing, and even property acquisition. It's designed to be simple, streamlined, and focused on real impact within two to three years. **Stay tuned for more opportunities to get involved in building a thriving business community!**

STAY CONNECTED: WSCO IS NOW ON LINKEDIN!



Follow WSCO to stay up to date on volunteer opportunities, job openings, community engagement efforts, and events.

[Connect With Us](#)

West Side Summer Lineup

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

Robert St. Anti-Displacement Business Forum

Join us for a vital conversation with and for **West Side business owners** as we prepare for the upcoming **Robert Street construction project**. This forum is a chance to connect with fellow business owners, strengthen community ties, and ensure our local economy stays resilient in the face of disruption.

You'll hear firsthand from businesses and associations that have successfully navigated major construction projects, and leave with **practical tools and strategies** to support your business — before, during, and after construction.

When: Tuesday, July 16, 5:00–7:00 PM
Where: 88 Cesar Chavez St, Saint Paul
What: Community forum, peer learning, tools for navigating construction, and community support

[RSVP Here](#)

Southport Community Gathering

Every day, families in Southport live next to constant semi-truck traffic and heavy industrial activity — raising a vital question: Is our air safe? Even more alarming, there is currently no clear emergency exit plan for residents living in this heavily industrialized zone.

This event will bring together community members, advocates, and leaders to unpack the environmental burdens we face — and to stand united for justice, safety, and accountability. Join us as we shine a light on the truth through data, storytelling, and collective power.

When: Tuesday, July 30, 6 - 7:30 pm
Where: 209 Page St W

What: Community gathering, campaign launch, and call to action for environmental justice

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 — from creating a memorial plaza and preserving stories to addressing displacement and demanding economic repair.

When: Thursday, June 19, 4-7 PM
Where: 209 Page St, Saint Paul
What: Community discussion, storytelling, and next steps toward justice and remembrance

[RSVP Here](#)

Neighbors on Tap at Wabasha Brewing

All July long, WSCO is the featured community partner for **Wabasha Brewing's Neighbors on Tap** program! For every pint of *Happy Place* beer sold, \$1 will be donated to support our work on the West Side. Throughout the month, we'll have flyers, info, and special appearances — so stop by, say hi, and bring a friend. It's a great way to support local and learn more about what we're building together!

When: Throughout July
Where: Wabasha Brewing Company, 429 Wabasha St S, St. Paul

[Check out all WSCO events](#)



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](#)

[Connect With Us!](#)

