



West Side Community Organization

Celebrating 50 years of community power



Dear Julia,

If you were with us in person at our Annual Meeting, you know how the **West Side Decides**.

We do it together. On November 3 we hosted a full house of West Siders to engage in critical planning, to celebrate West Side champions, and to set the course for a healthy and empowered West Side neighborhood in 2025 and beyond. The event was also a moment for self-reflection, and I want to thank all of you who sat in that space with us as we **reaffirmed WSCO's commitment to racial and social justice**.

After hearing from every candidate for WSCO's Board of Directors (even one via FaceTime who could not be there), every attendee at the meeting had the opportunity to vote, leading to the approval of **11 new board members who will help realize WSCO's vision in 2025**.

In the next week or so, we'll be sharing additional photos and highlights from the Annual meeting including introductions to WSCO's new board members.

Steering Our Strategic Plan

Key to that vision is our new [2025-26 strategic plan](#), which we released before the meeting. WSCO hosted a Strategic Plan Table at the event, inviting West Siders to weigh in on our organization's priorities and strategic direction for the next two years. If you weren't there or didn't have a chance to share your feedback, we invite you to do so online.

[SEE THE PLAN AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS](#)

Robert Street Revitalization

As part of WSCO's Land Use Action Circle work, our West Side Decides campaign is focused on revitalizing Robert Street, an urgent topic now that [MnDOT has released its design concept](#). Annual Meeting attendees rallied around the need for West Side residents to make their voice heard about the project and ensure that Robert Street becomes a vibrant destination—not a neighborhood to simply drive through on the way to somewhere else.

This hyper-local spirit is something we can't stress enough in the coming year, and encourage every West Sider to use their voice about projects both big and small that affect their quality of life. Want to put your stake in the ground? We've got West Side Decides lawn signs—reach out if you want one for your yard!

Support Small Business Saturday, November 30!

Speaking of hyper-local, Small Business Saturday is almost here! This event is a great opportunity to shop small and support local businesses. Be sure to visit the many small businesses along Smith Avenue, Winifred Street, Cesar Chavez Street, and Robert Street.

Honoring outstanding West Siders

West Side Decides was also an opportunity to recognize some of the people who make the West Side the best side. After being nominated by six of his colleagues on our [Land Use Action Circle](#), **Bob Craft was named West Sider of the Year**. As his colleagues put it, Bob is a "great and generous neighbor" who is a "tireless advocate" for the West Side and who "helps us understand complex planning issues and stay on track." Thank you and congratulations to Bob!

Meanwhile, the **Spirit of the West Side Award** went to artists Richard Schletty, John Acosta and Armando Gutierrez for their restoration work on the Hunger Has No Color mural, a West Side landmark now restored to its original glory.

[SEE THE PROJECT HERE](#)

Thank you again to every resident in the 55107

This is your neighborhood and we are your district council. **We want you to be the West Side deciders**. Please join us for any board meeting to meet our newest members and share your thoughts. We meet every fourth Monday of the month at WSCO HQ, and you can read our board meeting minutes [here](#).

Support WSCO this Give to the Max Day (today)!

When you give to WSCO today, you ensure that the West Side always decides—this month and into 2025. Your gift directly supports our West Side Decides campaign, which puts West Siders at the center of decisions about land use, equitable development, and other key issues in our neighborhood.

[Give Here!](#)

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