



West Side Community Organization

Celebrating 50 years of community power

Dear Julia,

WSCO is in a season of change— we're [welcoming new board members](#) to our team and diving into organization-wide strategic planning sessions. Our organizer Joshua Toor has taken on an exciting new role at WSCO leading our [Land Use Action Circle](#). We're also sending good wishes and gratitude to our Environmental Justice Organizer Ellie Leonardsmith as she [transitions out of WSCO](#).

As we navigate these shifts, we invite you to continue to connect with us to grow a vibrant and united West Side. 2024 has just begun, and our community-led teams are already doing incredible work!

Here are five ways you can join us and show your love for the West Side:

1. **Share your story** at this Sunday's [From the Flats to the Future](#) community gathering
2. **Get trained to organize** at our new [West Side Power workshop](#) series
3. **Stand up for renters' rights** at our West Side [Tenant Union Kickoff](#) this Spring
4. **Invest in the West Side** by organizing to [repair and revitalize Robert Street](#)
5. **Make your voice heard** and help shape the West Side [10 Year Community Plan](#).

Read on to learn more about each of these opportunities!

In community,

The team at WSCO

Monica, Katrina, Linda, Mayra, Joshua, and Genevieve

p.s. This year, you'll notice we're not hosting West Side Voices forums. We invite you to come to one of the many public community gatherings we host instead! [Learn more here](#).



Share your story

Did you or your family grow up on the West Side Flats? Did you have to leave your home?

You're invited to join us for a community discussion where we'll listen to stories of the past, identify how displacement is continuing in the present, and envision a future where West Siders are able to stay and grow in the neighborhood for generations to come.

[Learn more](#)



In the news

Did you catch us on the front page of the Voice? Check out the full article, "[Displaced but not forgotten](#)."

Plus: tune in to MPR tomorrow (Friday) to hear West Siders discuss our *From the Flats to the Future* community event about displacement in our neighborhood. Friday, February 9th, 7:20AM live on Minnesota Public Radio's Morning Edition, [online](#) or at 91.1FM.



Get trained to organize

Join us for a workshop focused on deepening your skills as a community leader— specifically, building an analysis of power, and how to expand our organizing reach through direct conversations with neighbors that connect with their own interests. Participants will leave with actionable tools to begin organizing your neighbors to help us build people power here on the West Side! [Learn more](#)



Stand up for renters' rights!

Are you a renter on the West Side? Join the West Side Tenant Union! We collectively build power in our community of renters by sharing resources, amplifying renter voices, and organizing for housing justice on the West Side!

Save the date: March 27th is our Tenant Union Spring Kickoff event! [Learn more](#)

Questions? Want to get involved? Contact our Housing Justice Organizer Mayra Avila at mayra@wsco.org

Pictured: Tenant Union members [taking action in Washington, DC](#), for renter protections!



Invest in the West Side

Our [Land Use Action Circle](#) is organizing around the built environment of our neighborhood and addressing long-term, proactive planning.

Recently we've knocked on doors to talk to neighbors and we've been meeting with our elected representatives to advocate for increased investment for repairing and revitalizing Robert Street. [Learn more about this work here!](#)

Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of every month. Next meeting: [February 28th](#)

Make your voice heard

West Siders are invited to get involved in guiding the creation of our next [10 Year Community Plan](#).

We believe West Siders should be directly involved in planning for our shared future: a vibrant and safe neighborhood where new development and wealth creation benefit all West Siders, no matter what we look like or where we come from. Affordable housing, investment in local businesses, access to public transportation and green spaces— let's make sure these and other important elements are included, and reflect the needs of our neighborhood!

[Check out all WSCO events](#)



Community Announcements

Check out the many great community events coming up: a community conversation on Black youth mental health, a special concert at Humboldt, the opening of the West Side Seed Library at Riverview Library, free legal clinics at the Beautiful Laundrette on Stryker, a craft fair at El Rio Vista, and more!

Read all of our community announcements on our blog, [here](#).

Have an announcement you'd like us to amplify? Email our Communications Manager at [genevieve@wsco.org!](mailto:genevieve@wsco.org)

Connect with us!



www.wsco.org