



West Side Community Organization

Celebrating 50 years of community power



New report on West Side Flats displacement

On July 18th, a [public event](#) will be held near the Robert Street bridge to share an [extensive report](#) on the impact of past displacement on the West Side Flats, as well as current displacement threats due to gentrification.

Join us on Thursday, July 18th at 6:00PM, outside 10 River Park Plaza (the Comcast building), St. Paul

"We are bringing back into public memory what was publicly forgotten, with the Flats To The Future report. This report reveals a mass displacement of over 2,000 West Siders that occurred at the hands of the City of Saint Paul and the Port Authority, under the era of 'urban renewal' in the 1960s. It is our intention and purpose that this report will serve as a tool and catalyst for overdue recognition and repair of the racist policies and practices of the past that continue to harm our community, health, economy, and environment today." – Monica Bravo, Executive Director, West Side Community Organization

RSVP



In the news

["Current, former residents of St. Paul's West Side Flats call for redress for historical displacement"](#)

["Families uprooted from St. Paul's West Side seek redress from the government"](#)

Check out our page, [WSCO in the news](#), for more coverage of our work!



West Side renters build power from the neighborhood to the nation

There's no other way to say it: we are outraged. The more we talk with our neighbors, the more we hear reports of mold, infestations, discriminatory practices, and unsafe housing conditions. This is unacceptable, and change can't wait. Our [West Side Tenant Union](#) is taking action to demand dignified housing for all, now.

On the West Side, we've been going door to door, connecting with neighbors in English, Spanish, Somali, and Oromo and deepening our strategies to fight for justice. Because we know that when we organize, we win: at the state level, we are celebrating the passage of a bill protecting the [right to organize](#) tenants in residential buildings.

Citywide, we're building bridges with other neighborhoods, learning how they've used tools like land trusts and housing cooperatives to make homeownership accessible for working class renters. Last week, we held a workshop led by Rondo Community Land Trust.

Nationally, we've joined forces with the Tenant Union Federation to launch a [Tenants Bill of Rights](#), demanding protections for renters. We're putting pressure on the Federal Housing Agency to ensure that any rental properties it helps fund are respecting the rights of renters— because we've seen firsthand that some of those very properties on the West Side are in extreme disrepair.

If you're a renter on the West Side, there's never been a better time to get involved! Connect with our Housing Justice Organizer Mayra Avila at mayra@wsko.org and [RSVP to our next Tenant Union meeting](#) on July 31st.



West Side 10 Year Community Plan

It's time to create the next 10 year plan for our community to decide what the West Side will look like, and how we want to grow together.

[Click here to take a 3-minute survey](#)

Upcoming meetings and events

West Side Businesses Unite! July 10th from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. at El Burrito Mercado in Saint Paul.

Destination: Robert Street Thursday, July 11th, from 5:00pm - 6:30pm at WSCO's offices

From the Flats to the Future public report release: July 18th at 6:00PM outside 10 River Park Plaza

WSCO Board of Directors meeting: 4th Monday of the month at 6:30PM

Land Use Action Circle meeting: 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:00PM

West Side Tenant Union meeting: last Wednesday of the month at 6:00PM

Check out all WSCO events



Community Announcements

Stay up to date on what's happening in our community! El Rio Vista is screening Selena in the park, Councilmember Noecker is hosting a conversion on gun safety, and more.

Check out our [July community announcements](#).

Have an announcement to share? Contact our Communications Manager at genevieve@wsko.org

Connect with us!



www.wsko.org