



West Side Community Organization

Celebrating 50 years of community power

Dear Julia,

What are we building here at on the West Side? We're building power— people power!

People power is the ability of everyday neighbors to make the changes you want to see in your community. We do this by gathering, by listening, by acting together. When we're united, nothing can stop us— not floods, not displacement, not disinvestment— because our lived experiences have taught us everything we need to know how to build a more just future.

There are some exciting opportunities for you to build power with your neighbors coming up this month, and whether you're new to our work, or you've been with us all throughout the our 50-year history, we hope to see you at an upcoming gathering!

- First up, on March 24th we'll be [meeting with elected officials](#) and decisionmakers from the Port Authority to talk about justice for the families displaced from the West Side Flats.
- Our West Side Tenant Union is hosting a big [kickoff event](#) on March 27th to welcome West Side renters to join the union and demand safe, fair, and affordable housing for all.
- Also March 27th, our Land Use Action Circle will be having their monthly meeting following a [whirlwind month of organizing](#) to push for funding to repair Robert Street.
- Want to learn more about building power and community organizing? Come to our [West Side Power Organizing Workshop](#) series, launching this April 13th!
- Finally, we're proud to announce the [launch of the Shared Ownership Collaborative](#), which will begin laying the foundation for future opportunities for West Siders to own cooperative housing, run cooperative businesses, and grow our collective wealth.

West Side, THANK YOU for the powerful ways you show up every day! Read on to learn more about each of these opportunities and get involved.

In solidarity,

The team at WSCO

p.s. Today is International Women's Day, and you might notice that nearly every single project here at WSCO is currently woman-led, as are many of our partnerships. While we didn't plan it this way, it's a testament to the leadership and vision of the women in our community.



West Side Tenant Union Kickoff

March 27th, 6:00PM, WSCO's offices, 209 Page St. West

The West Side Tenant Union (WSTU) invites you to a Spring Kickoff event.

West Side renters are invited to learn more, join our union, and take action together to build renter power on the West Side! More event details will be posted soon.

Questions? Contact WSCO Housing Justice Organizer Mayra Avila at mayra@wSCO.org.

Pictured, above, right to left: WSTU members Board President [Myisha Holley](#), Housing Justice Organizer Mayra Avila, board member Koveyia McPipe, and board member [Jessica Klimisch](#), during a rally in Washington, D.C. demanding tenant protections.

[RSVP for the Tenant Union Kickoff](#)



West Side neighbors organize to demand funding for crumbling Robert Street viaduct

Last week, the MN Department of Transportation submitted a grant request to the federal government for funding to repair and revitalize Robert Street, in particular the Robert Street viaduct. Members of WSCO's Land Use Action Circle played a crucial role.

[Learn more](#)



West Siders to meet with elected representatives to demand justice for the West Side flats

Hundreds of families from the West Side Flats were forced out of their homes to create the Riverview Industrial Park in the 1960s.

How can the harm from this displacement be repaired? What should the future of the West Side Flats look like? Speak out and share your ideas!

Join us on March 24th at the Wellstone Center

[Learn more and RSVP](#)

Announcing the Shared Ownership Collaborative

WSCO is joining forces with organizations across Saint Paul to ensure our communities have the power, resources and support to design, own and make decisions about their land, labor and housing.

Too many West Siders are being displaced from our neighborhood because they can't afford the rent. Too many small West Side businesses are struggling to make ends meet. We want to build a future where all West Siders can put down deep roots and build a future here for their families!

[Learn more](#)

[Check out all WSCO events](#)

Get trained to organize!

New workshop date: April 13th

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 and RSVP](#)

Community Announcements

Join the solar coop! WSCO will help connect 50 West Siders to the Lake Elmo solar array operated by [Cooperative Energy Futures](#), saving folks about 10% on their energy bills and helping divest from fossil fuels. We're committed to making sure at least 25 of the 50 available memberships go to low-income families, whose energy burden is the highest. Interested in learning more or joining the coop? Contact Katrina Mendoza at katrinam@wSCO.org.

Get free and confidential legal help at the Beautiful Laundrette on Stryker: Friday March 29th, 1-4pm. To book an appointment: call the Southern MN Regional Legal Services intake line at 1-877-696-6529 Mon - Fri from 9am -11:45am and 2:30 pm - 3:00 pm, and explain you are calling about the Beautiful Laundrette clinic.

Attention, Minnesota small businesses: If you've been impacted by this winter's historic lack of snow, apply for assistance from the US Small Business Administration disaster assistance fund. [Learn more](#)

Share design ideas for the Capitol Mall: The Capitol Mall Design Framework team will host a statewide virtual public meeting on Thursday, March 14, 2024 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. via Zoom. [Learn more](#)

Roller Skating is back at El Rio Vista rec center this April! [Learn more](#)

Join a community conversation with City Councilmember Rebecca Noecker on Thursday, March 14, 9 - 10 am at the Linwood Recreation Center, at 860 St Clair Ave. Constituents are invited to attend and share whatever is on your mind.

Visit Riverview Library at an upcoming event: Book Club, West Side Writers, Teen Wednesdays, Family Storytime, and more! [Check out their events.](#)

Connect with us!



www.wSCO.org