



Dear Julia,

For 50 years, WSCO has been organizing for a more equitable West Side. In the spirit of that work, we are excited to celebrate Black History Month this February with all of you.

In the areas of the West Side with the highest number of Black residents, between 1 in 5 and 1 in 6 neighbors identified as African American in the Census. Black History is American History, and Black History is West Side History, too.

To kick us off - join us for two upcoming events:

PAINT & SIP @ PAPA LEGBA'S
FEBRUARY 14 | 7PM - 9PM
202 CESAR CHAVEZ STREET
Get cozy and creative with us as we celebrate Black History Month on the West Side at Papa Legba's Crossroads Lounge.

Lean into love, joy, and community with our Paint & Sip hosted by Papa Legba's Lounge (Black owned and on the West side) for Valentine's day!

WAKANDA FOREVER AT WELLSTONE CENTER
FEBRUARY 18 | 12PM-3:30PM
FREE & FOR ALL AGES
CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Watch "Wakanda Forever" at Wellstone center on February 18 (movie starts at 12pm). This all ages event is free to attend and open to the public.

RSVP, get tickets, and share about these events!

Finally, welcome to our new Executive Team members: Myisha Holley (Chair) and GillEtté Kinnon-Williams (Vice-Chair)!



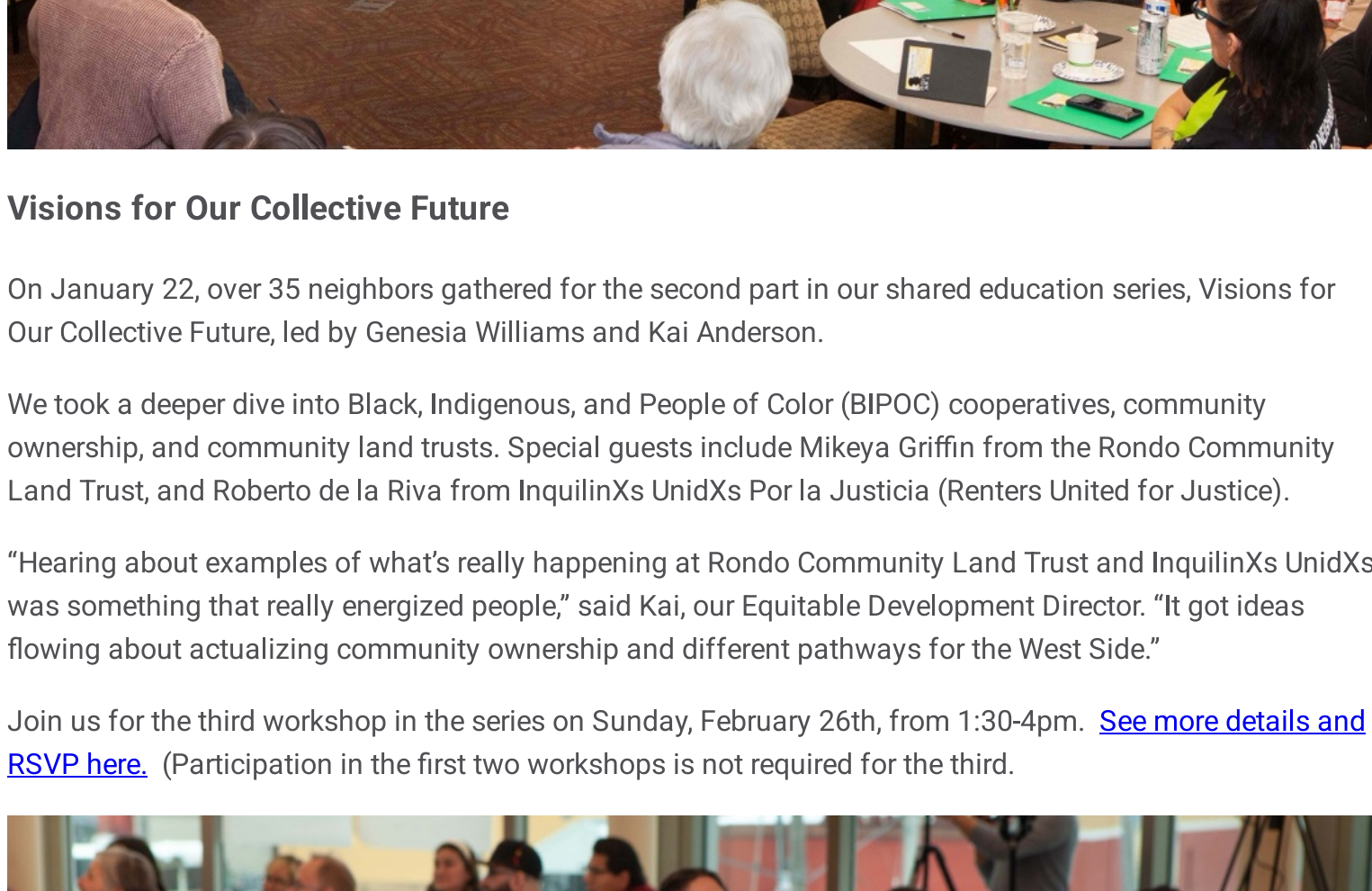
GillEtté Kinnon-Williams (Vice-Chair) and Myisha Holley (Chair)

HELP US TELL THE FULL STORY OF THE WESTSIDE
JOIN THE WEST SIDE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
APPLY BY FEB. 14TH

Research in Action - story gathering begins!

WSCO invites you to join the West Side Community Advisory Council to support the following:

- Telling the full story of economic, social, and cultural displacement on the West Side.
Identifying reparative solutions that provide direct support to impacted community members.

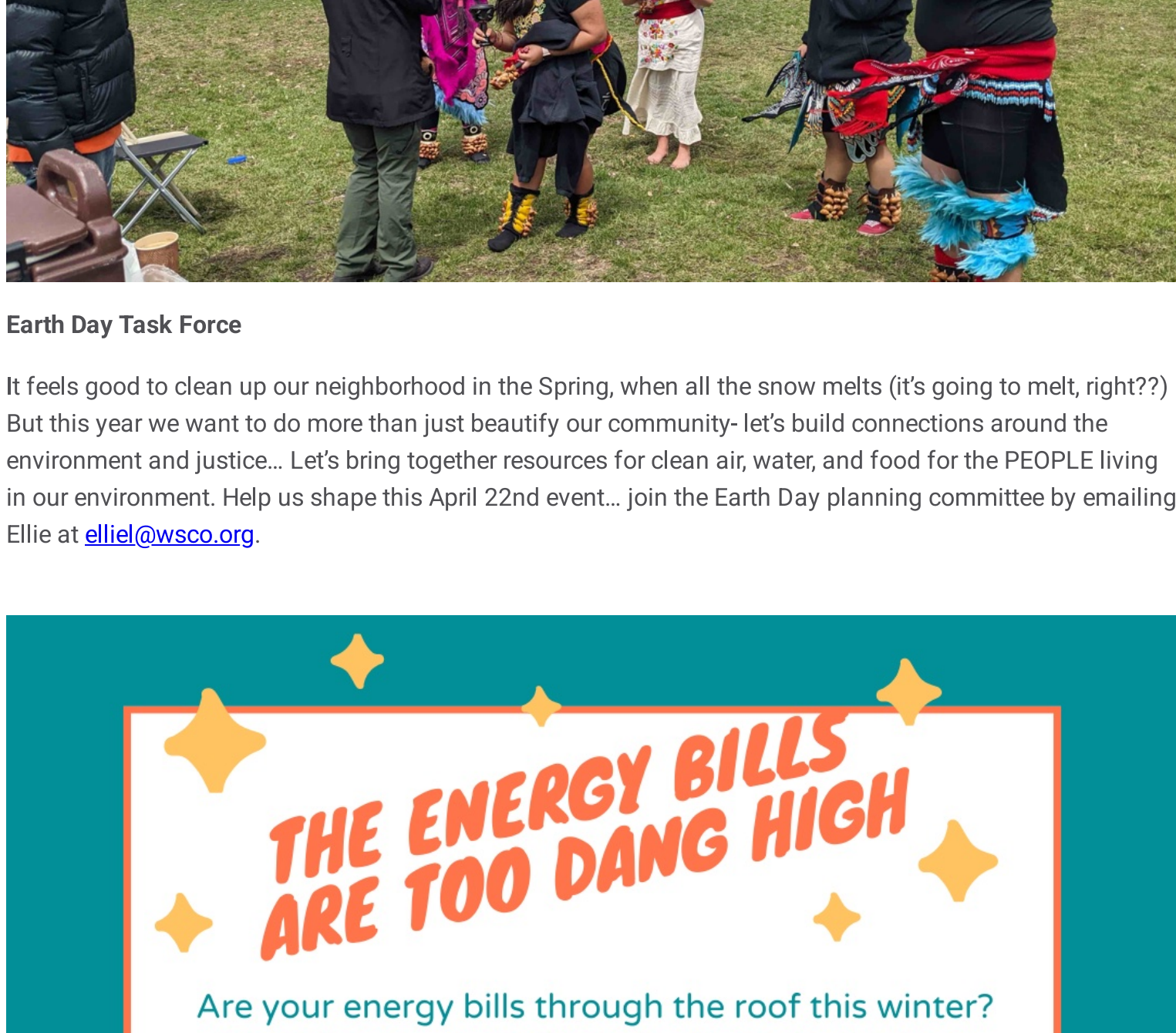


In the last year, the West Side Community Organization (WSCO) has conducted a series of historical interviews on the displacement from the West Side Flats in the early 1960s to begin the work of telling the communities story.

RIA will work with the WSCO team to support the West Side Community Advisory Council in painting a fuller picture of the current state of the West Side neighborhoods for the purpose of identifying what reparative solutions the community seek in order to restore and heal itself.

More info here

Please complete the survey by February 14th!



Tour participants at the outflow of clean water following wastewater treatment

MetCouncil Incinerator Tour

Our Health & Environmental Justice Action Circle has been working to ensure that West Siders are informed about any impacts from the proposed Incinerator expansion at the MetCouncil Wastewater Treatment Plant.

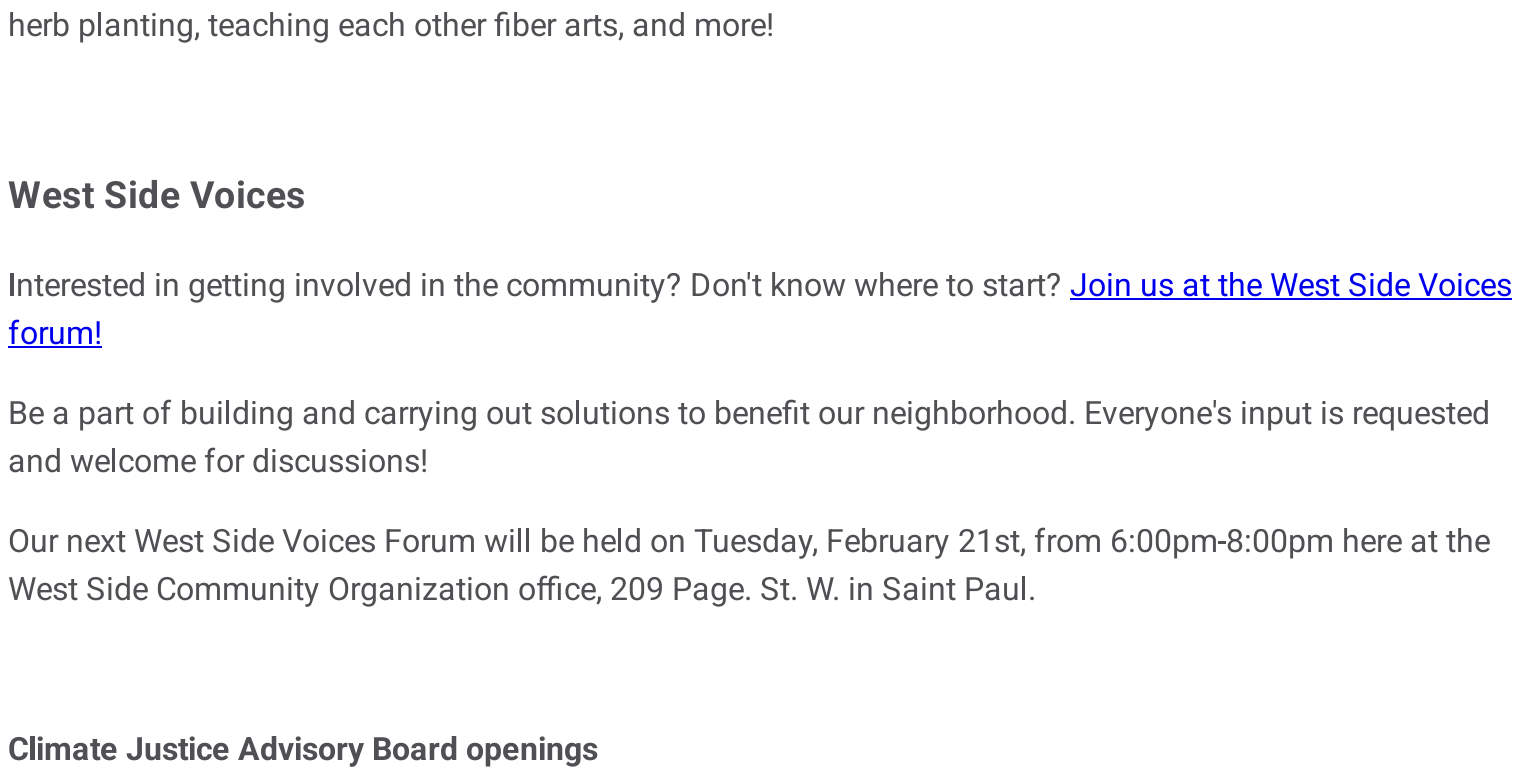
On January 27th, seventeen neighbors took a tour of the Incinerator, gathering information about what it means for our air and our health. Currently, MetCouncil is using 2.5 of the 3 incinerator stacks to burn leftover solids after the wastewater is treated.

Look for an issue summary and plan for next steps on our blog soon, and as always, if you're interested in getting involved with air pollution work on the West Side, contact Ellie at ellie@wSCO.org.



West Siders and East Siders taking a tour of the Wastewater Treatment plant and Incinerator

People's Action weekend



Housing Justice Organizers Joshua Toor and Mayra Avila recently traveled to Kansas City, MO for a training on organizing tenants and tenant rights.

Are you a renter on the West Side? Join with other renters and take action to improve living conditions in our neighborhood!

Come to the next West Side Tenant Union meeting, Wednesday, February 8th from 6-7:30pm at our offices at 209 Page St. West



Visions for Our Collective Future

On January 22, over 35 neighbors gathered for the second part in our shared education series, Visions for Our Collective Future, led by Genesis Williams and Kai Anderson.

We took a deeper dive into Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) cooperatives, community ownership, and community land trusts.

"Hearing about examples of what's really happening at Rondo Community Land Trust and InquilinXs UnidXs was something that really energized people," said Kai, our Equitable Development Director.

Join us for the third workshop in the series on Sunday, February 26th, from 1:30-4pm. See more details and RSVP here.



Community Announcements



Earth Day Task Force

It feels good to clean up our neighborhood in the Spring, when all the snow melts (it's going to melt, right??) But this year we want to do more than just beautify our community- let's build connections around the environment and justice...

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Our next West Side Voices Forum will be held on Tuesday, February 21st, from 6:00pm-8:00pm here at the West Side Community Organization office, 209 Page. St. W. in Saint Paul.

Climate Justice Advisory Board openings

Want to work towards climate justice and sustainability within the city of Saint Paul? The city's Climate Justice Advisory Board has several openings for board positions.

WEST SIDE TRANS AND QUEER COMMUNITY
TAQC Schedule for the year
The Trans and Queer Community group has made some plans for 2023, and we hope you can join!

Interested in getting involved in the community? Don't know where to start? Join us at the West Side Voices forum!

Be a part of building and carrying out solutions to benefit our neighborhood. Everyone's input is requested and welcome for discussions!

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THE ENERGY BILLS ARE TOO DANG HIGH
Are your energy bills through the roof this winter? Come for a community gathering to learn about programs that offer energy bill assistance and discuss how we can work together to change the system.

Energy Justice Event
Sunday, 2/12 from 2-4pm, Neighborhood House.

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Event Agenda
Welcome and Community Meal
Help with Energy Bills Discussion
Conversation about our Energy System
Resource Tabling

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