



A summer of connection

This summer, WSCO's Action Circles will be meeting regularly– join in and help us organize for positive change in the neighborhood!

We've got something for everyone, from renter's rights to urban planning, block parties to communal gardening. Our regular monthly Voices Forum meetings will be on hold until the fall, so these events are a great way to stay connected!

Learn more



From the Flats to the Future

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 an open house 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.

WSCO is thrilled to be partnering with Research in Action to host this event; stories shared will contribute to groundbreaking research about the Flats and opportunities for redress.

Space is limited, registration required. Selected participants will receive a small stipend.

Apply today!



Arts opportunities

Interested in the arts? Check out a new theater piece about the West Side, celebrate queer artists, apply to create a mural celebrating West Side culture, or join us for an info session about an opportunity to create permanent public art at a new apartment building on Robert Street!

Learn more



Remembering Gjerry Berquist

With heavy hearts, we would like to share that former WSCO board member and 2012 West Sider of the Year, Gjerry Berquist, has passed away. On behalf of the entire team at WSCO, we send our deepest condolences to Gjerry's family and friends.

"Gjerry was the driving force behind so much of WSCO's environmental justice work. He was tenacious and the work he did to protect the West Side was incredible. Gjerry literally spent thousands of hours as a volunteer helping WSCO and the West Side," recalled West Sider Monica Bryand.

In his obituary (full of joy, humor, and irreverence– including the photo above), WSCO is named as one of the organizations to donate to in Gjerry's honor. If you would like to make a donation, please click here.



Community Announcements

This month is full of interesting events and opportunities in our neighborhood... so many, we couldn't fit them all in our newsletter! (Click here for a full list of July announcements.)

Spotlight: West Sider Katrina Mendoza is organizing Families Fight Back July 13th, from 5:30 -7:00 p.m. at Neighborhood House. Families directly impacted by gun violence are invited to this community gathering where we will co-create a handbook with resources for families.

Plus:

- Connect with community solar power
Fund a project in your neighborhood through the City's Neighborhood STAR program
Submit a public comment to protect tenants' rights



Celebrating 50 Years

WSCO organizes people of West Side to build collective power to advance justice and racial equity in the community for all people. We envision a just, united, self-reliant West Side where all of our people are connected, safe, healthy and successful. RSVP for our 50th Anniversary Celebration on November 5, 2023, 1:00 p.m. at Humboldt High School.

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