

West Side Community Organization

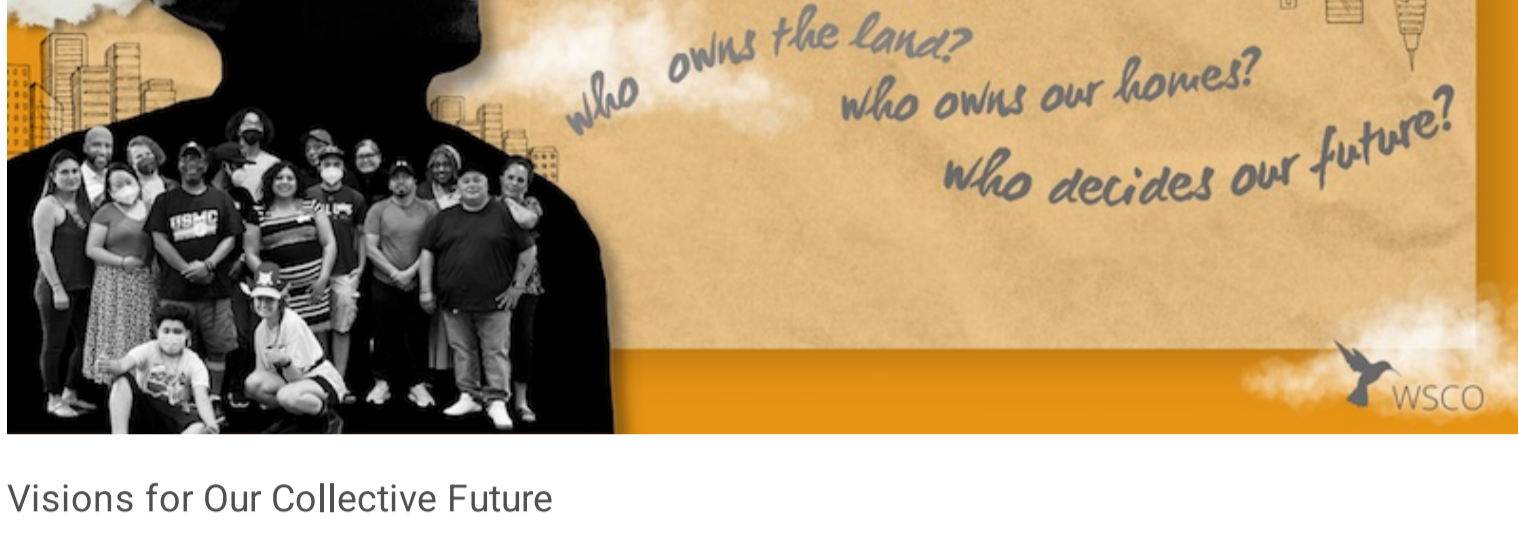


Dear Julia,

Have you noticed the vacant buildings on South Robert Street? We have too! Our neighborhood and our business corridors are just as worthy of investment and attention as any other part of the city. So we invited some of the City's decision makers out to have a West Side walk and talk about what we envision for a vibrant West Side. What would you like to see in our neighborhood?

[Click here](#) to get involved and learn more about our Equitable Development Action Circle.

Pictured above, right to left: Jimmy Loyd, Economic Development Director at the City of Saint Paul; Nicolle Goodman, Director of Planning and Economic Development; Monica Bravo, WSCO Executive Director; Rebecca Noecker, Ward 2 City Councilmember; Daniela Lorenz, Principal Project Manager at Department of Planning and Economic Development; and Kai Andersen, Director of Equitable Development at WSCO.



Visions for Our Collective Future

Join us on Sunday, January 22 from 1:30pm - 4:30pm at the Wellstone Center for the second part in our shared education series, Visions for Our Collective Future!

We'll be taking a deeper dive into Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) cooperatives, community ownership, and community land trusts! Special guests include Mikeya Griffin from the Rondo Community Land Trust, and Roberto de la Riva from InquilinXs UnidXs Por la Justicia (Renters United for Justice).

[RSVP](#)



West Side Tenant Union: December meeting

West Side renters have formed the first tenant union in our neighborhood to organize for safe, affordable, and dignified housing conditions!

One of the groups within the tenant union is Strykers Unidos: renters in an apartment building on Stryker Avenue who have faced unhealthy living conditions, delayed repairs, and unfair rent hikes for decades. Teresa (pictured, above), shared:

"We had no air conditioning, even in extreme heat. There were rats, cockroaches, bedbugs. We got together and sent a letter to the landlord, so he would listen to us and understand what we needed."

If you're a West Side renter interested in learning more and getting involved, stop by the West Side Tenant's Union meeting on Wednesday, December 14th:

[RSVP](#)

Learn more:

- [Click here to watch a video of the tenant union's launch.](#)
- Learn more about [WSCO's Housing Justice work.](#)



Get a closer look at the new incinerator

We've been working hard to get answers to important community questions about the health and environmental impacts of a [new incinerator planned near the West Side](#). If you're interested in learning more, we welcome you to connect with our Health & Environmental Justice Action Circle! Email elliel@wSCO.org.

Coming up: we're planning an in-person tour of the incinerator facilities at Met Council. Reach out to Ellie if you'd like to join us.



Game night!

Join us for the final Trans and Queer Community (TAQC) gathering of the year! This month, we'll be playing board games together. Adults, kids, families- everyone is welcome!

December 17th, 2:00pm- 4:00pm, at the Riverview Library. (Please note this is not our regular date on the 4th Saturday of the month).

[RSVP](#)



West Side Voices

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!

Our next West Side Voices Forum will be held on Tuesday, February 14th, from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Stay tuned for updates on the location and agenda items! RSVP below for more info:

[RSVP](#)



Community Announcements

Warming shelters: Need to get in from the cold? Visit St. Paul Warming Spaces: Adult Warming Spaces are available at two locations. These are low-barrier spaces. Open 9:30pm - 6:30am every night in December, January & February. Transportation will be providing a space to open to adult warming spaces. Union Gospel Mission, 435 University Ave E. St. Paul 55130 and Phalen Activity Center, 1530 Phalen Dr., St. Paul 55106

Shoveling assistance: Check out the Facebook Group "[Saintly City Snow Angels](#) Helping disabled and elderly neighbors make sure their sidewalks are shoveled so that we have safe and passable sidewalks."

Gabe's Taco Plate Fundraiser: West Side restaurants are showing up to support our West Side families! Buy a taco plate, and funds will go to the Mendoza family, whose son Gabe was tragically killed this October. [Learn more here.](#)

Job opportunity: Ramsey County Parks & Recreation is hiring for a Maintenance & Operations Worker position in Maplewood, full time, \$48,813.73 - \$58,582.61 annually. [Apply online](#) by December 14th.

Help shape regional policy! The Metropolitan Council invites residents of the region, who want to help shape regional policy and services, to [apply for one of several openings](#) on advisory committees

#WestSideStrong

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. We are West Side proud. We are West Side strong.

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Please note: Our offices will be closed between December 18 and January 2. All in-person community events require participants to follow COVID safety precautions recommended by the CDC.