



Dear Julia,

Great news: we currently have three open positions (and a fourth on the way, so stay tuned!). We are hiring for a Lead Organizer, and two Housing Justice Organizers.

We're looking for experienced community organizers to advance our bold vision for the future of housing justice on the West Side. We will be building power by uniting West Side renters, transforming unjust systems that harm our neighborhood, and working towards a self-reliant and prospering West Side. If you are an experienced organizer seeking to build community power and leadership, we look forward to hearing from you! The deadline to apply is February 9th.

[Click here](#) to learn more, apply, and share with folks who want to join our team!

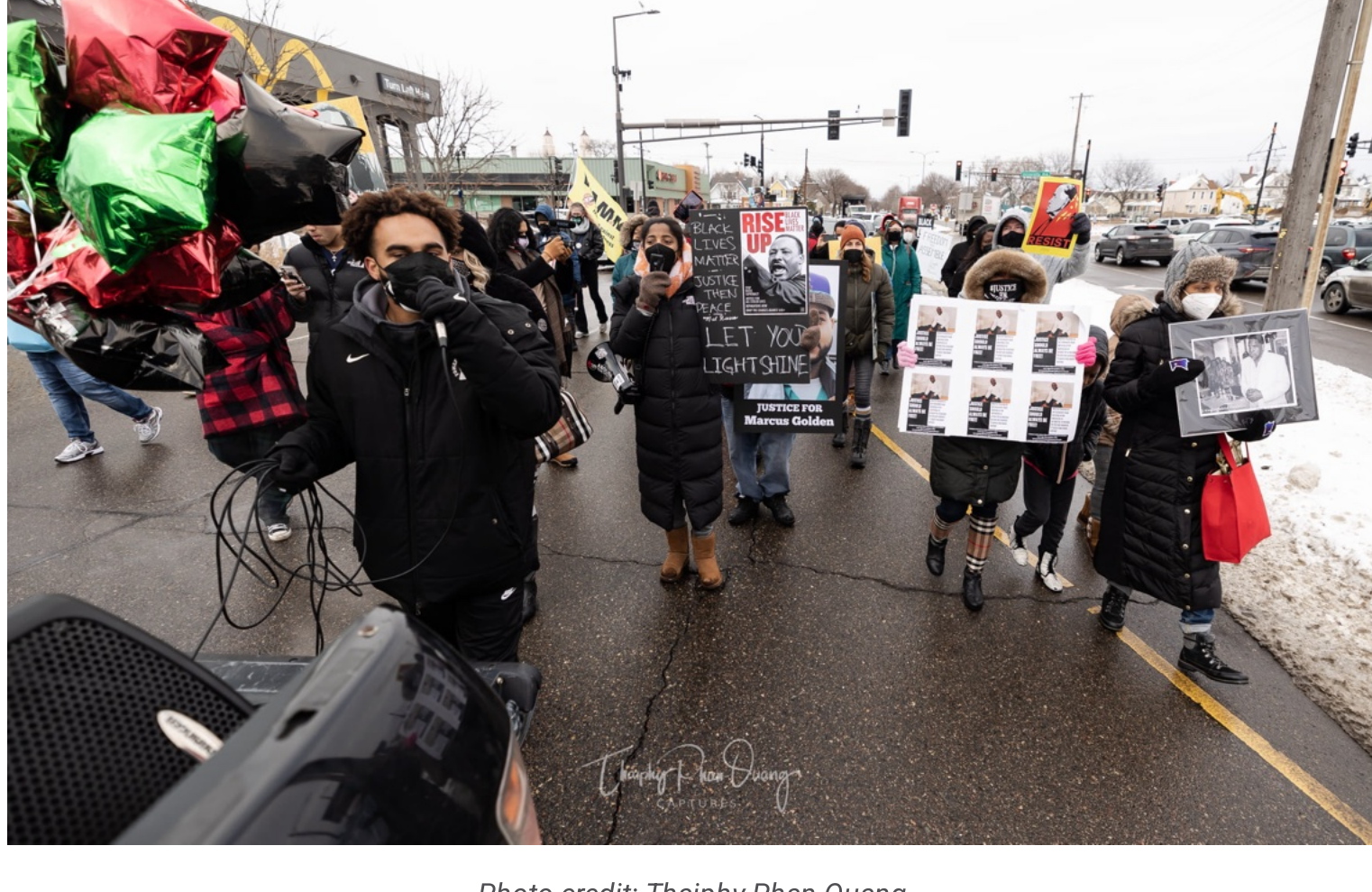


Photo credit: *Thaiphy Phan-Quang*

Let Your Light Shine

On Monday, West Siders joined with community members from across Saint Paul to mark Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with a rally and march in honor of local activists Mel Reeves and Clyde Bellecourt. Participants spoke out against the possibility that the City Council will introduce an [ordinance limiting our right to assemble](#), speak, and protest:

"How many many elected officials are going to talk about how good of a man Martin Luther King was... but then come up with things like *this*, talking about how they need to limit when we protest– limit what we can do, where we can go, how loud we can be ... Are you trying to tell me Martin Luther King, Jr. wouldn't be in these streets with us today? ... They want us to 'rest in peace,' they want us to 'rest in power,' but while we are *living*, they want to make sure we don't experience any peace, and make sure we do not use our power" –Brandyn Lee Tulloch (listen to the [full speech, here](#)).

WSCO's board of directors has contacted Councilmember Rebecca Noecker's office to voice our concerns and request that her proposed "Special Event Ordinance," be withdrawn. We will continue to keep our members updated and invite you to get involved by contacting us at info@wsco.org.



This month, West Siders have an opportunity to meet directly with Saint Paul Public Schools to help make a plan for keeping West Side schools vibrant into the future. The first virtual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 27 from 6:00PM -7:30PM, online. To participate, please click on this [Teams meeting link](#) at the time of the meeting. If you have questions about the meeting, please contact envison@spps.org. Let's work together to keep the West Side strong!



Upcoming West Side Opportunities

West Side Renters, Unite!

Did you know that we host regular meetings for renters on the West Side who want to work together to face the problems we share? Our next virtual meeting is planned for Thursday, February 3rd at 6:00PM. From roaches and mold to rent hikes and evictions, if you're struggling with an issue you are not alone. Join us! Email our Housing Justice Organizer Cintya Canales at cintyac@wsco.org to learn more and get the link to the meeting. All are welcome.

West Side Voices Forum

We invite you to join us for the next West Side Voices Forum, coming up the second Tuesday in February at 6:00PM online. Our agenda includes a conversation ahead of Black History Month, breakout groups for our action circles, updates from our work on housing, equitable development, and environmental justice, and more. We'll also be introducing our 2022 seated Board of Directors and Executive Team. Learn more and sign up at <https://www.wsco.org/westsideoices>.

Environmental health survey

What's in our air, our water, our soil, our homes? Our health as a neighborhood is tied to our environment. Share your voice! [Fill out this survey](#) for a chance to win \$100! (Drawing will be held at the end of March.)

Black History Month focus group

Are you interested in helping WSCO plan a short, educational series about Black History on the West Side, created by and for Black West Siders? Join us for a focus group on Wednesday, January 26th at 6:00PM online. Email RaRa at rara@wsco.org to learn more and sign up!

Join WSCO's Community Care Circle

For years, WSCO has created spaces for community members to speak out on issues of community safety. The West Side Community Care Action Circle is a space that intends to implement public safety strategies, and address root causes, developed by and for the community. Contact WSCO Community Organizer RaRa Navarro at rara@wsco.org and learn more at https://www.wsco.org/community_care.



Community Announcements

- **Donate your shelves:** WSCO is looking for donations to help us organize our storage space! Do you have sturdy, metal storage shelving to donate? Please contact mayra@wsco.org. Thanks!
- **Get vaccinated:** Every Wednesday from 9 am – 5 pm Neighborhood House has a free pop-up Covid-19 Vaccine Clinic in their auditorium. All are welcome.
- **Keep your customers safe:** Mayor Carter has announced proof of vaccination or negative test requirement for licensed businesses that are spaces of public accommodation in Saint Paul. [Learn more here](#).
- **Got a community announcement?** Email genevieve@wsco.org!

#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: WSCO staff are currently working via a hybrid model, both remotely and in-person. All in-person community events require participants to follow COVID safety precautions recommended by the CDC.

