

WEST SIDE RENTERS UNITE!



Dear Julia,

Join us Saturday, March 26th at 4:00PM in Castillo Park to rally for housing justice on the West Side.

Why are we speaking out? We love the West Side and we want to keep calling it home. But rent hikes, evictions, displacement, and unsafe housing conditions are pushing us out. Let's rally to celebrate our love for the West Side, to envision the neighborhood we need and deserve, and to speak out against politicians and landlords who keep putting profits over people's right to a safe and affordable home. West Side Renters, Unite! Together, we can make a difference.

Our demands: Protect rent stabilization! Respect our community's vote! Bring back S.A.F.E. Tenant Protections! Stop unsafe and unfair housing conditions in our neighborhood! Stop the evictions!

Come to the rally!



HENS Receives National Recognition, Award

This week, Housing Equity Now St. Paul (HENS) received the [2022 Local Organizing Award](#) from the National Low Income Housing Coalition. WSCO is a founding member of HENS and an active leader in the coalition, and thanks to *your* hard work here on the West Side, we succeeded in passing rent stabilization in Saint Paul in 2021. This award recognizes "outstanding achievements in state, local, or residential organizing that further NLIHC's mission of achieving racially and socially equitable public policy that ensures people with the lowest incomes have quality homes that are accessible and affordable in communities of their choice, with an emphasis on tenant- or resident-centered organizing and leadership."



Celebrating Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month, and we're lifting up powerful West Side women! On March 8th, International Women's Day, we opened our monthly Voices forum with reflections from former West Sider and renowned human rights advocate and feminist organizer Maria Teresa Tula.

"My name is Maria Teresa Tula, I'm from El Salvador. For so long, we've been oppressed, we haven't been valued. They think that women are just here to give birth, to tend to the home, and very few times do we have the opportunity to get an education or to do something with our lives. This group of women, COMADRES, we organized together humbly to look for our disappeared sons. We joined our voices, we supported one another, and we looked for our children. We were strong and brave— that's how women in El Salvador started fighting for our rights during the war. And that's why this day, International Women's Day, is so important. I stand in solidarity with all the women around the world."

From El Salvador to The West Side, women's leadership is at the heart of so many of our intertwined struggles. WSCO is currently a woman-led organization, and all six of our current staff and two thirds of our board are women. We believe in gender justice for people of all genders, and put that vision into practice every day as we organize for joy and justice on the West Side.

Another way that women show up powerfully here in the neighborhood is by running the local businesses we love— shout out to El Burrito Mercado, Fox Face Studio, Queen's Garden, and more —check out our [latest blog post!](#) We welcome your recommendations of more West Siders to add— send us an email at info@wsco.org.



Take a quick survey for a chance to win \$100!

WSCO organizers and volunteers braved the cold to doorknock for environmental justice in our neighborhood. If we missed you, now's your chance to tell us: what's your experience of living where you are? How's your air? How's your health? We want to hear from you so we can best serve you as your neighborhood organizer. Please help us achieve our goal of getting 350 survey responses! We'll draw a \$100 winner on March 31st... stay tuned!

Take the survey



Community announcements

- The Met Council is proposing adding a fourth incinerator to their Wastewater Treatment Plant. [Learn more here](#) and join us at our April Voices Forum to ask questions about possible impacts here on the West Side.
- The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners will hold a [virtual public town hall](#) on March 29 at 6 p.m. to consider preliminary plans for the redistricting of Ramsey County commissioner districts. Community members may also attend the town hall in person at the [Plato Building](#) in the Plato Conference Center. Preliminary plans and maps are available for public review and feedback at ramseycounty.us/Redistricting. Community members can submit feedback or their own maps and plans for consideration. <https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/projects-initiatives/redistricting>
- City of Saint Paul, Parks and Recreation Department has secured funding to renovate the play area at Harriet Island Regional Park. Scope of work includes community engagement process to inform play area design, prepare play area concepts, develop final concept, and construction documents. [Your feedback](#) will help guide the design process for the new play area!
- [Robert Street developments and construction](#): Beginning in May 2022, MnDOT will repair and resurface the Robert St./Hwy 3 bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks between Plato Blvd. and East Wood St. and repair the George St. bridge. In summer 2022, MnDOT will also repair the viaduct between Cezar Chavez and King St. E. Each project will take between 6-8 weeks to complete. The Robert St. viaduct, George St. and the Union Pacific bridge will be closed and detoured during construction. Local access will be maintained for residents and businesses.

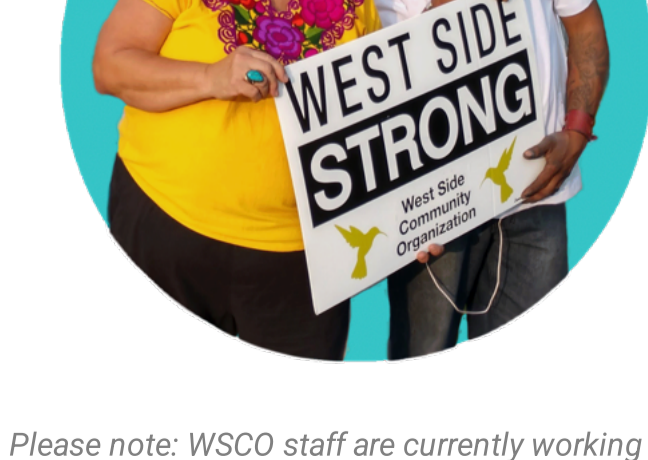
Have a community announcement to share? Email [genevieve@wsco.org!](mailto:genevieve@wsco.org)

#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.