



Dear Julia,

Many thanks to all who came to our 2022 Annual Meeting, "Stories of Our Past, Visions of Our Future." With over 200 attendees, you packed the Harriet Island Pavilion to celebrate all the things that make the West Side the best side.

This year's gathering included a photo exhibit with portraits of West Side elders who grew up on the flats before facing displacement by the city, and speeches from Monica Bravo, Mayor Melvin Carter, and Ricardo Levins Morales, among others. We celebrated the launch of the West Side Tenant Union and the election of our new Board of Directors.

All of this was possible because of you, our neighbors, showing up every day to build a better future together!

[Check out the full reportback](#) to view highlights from 2022 and photos and videos from the celebration.

[Learn more!](#)



Stories from the Flats

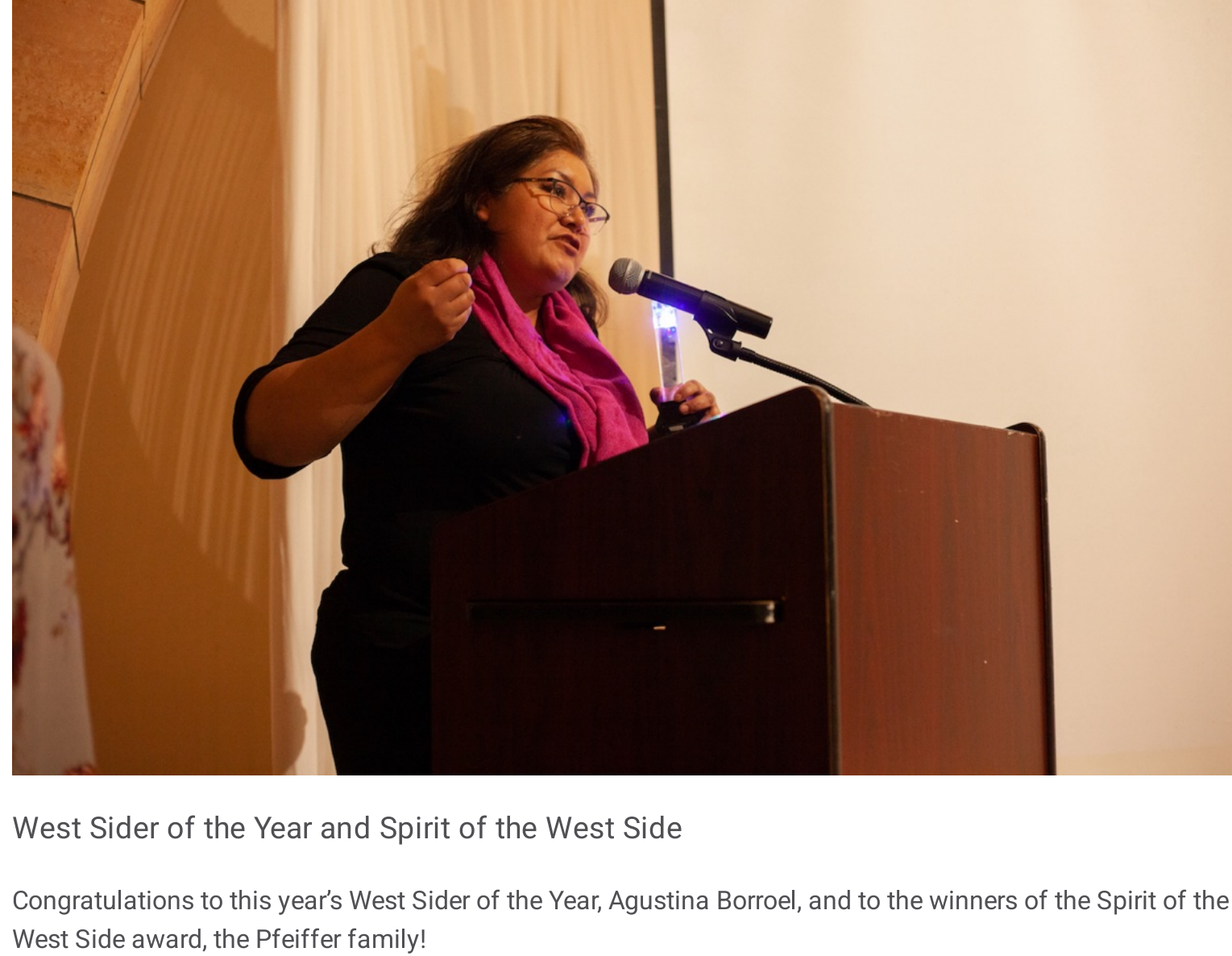
"The most profound feeling that I had reading all of the stories around the photographs, was that *I've heard these stories before*," said Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, pictured, above, after the unveiling of WSCO's new photo exhibit with portraits of neighbors who were displaced from the old West Side Flats.

"The truth is, that this story of displacement and dehumanization isn't new," he said, recalling the destruction of the Rondo neighborhood where he grew up.

He called for a new approach to city-building, and highlighted the importance of telling the story of the West Side Flats in moving towards a better future, "because telling a story is what gives a story power, and giving it power is what enables us to move the world in a fundamentally different direction."

Check out the portraits and quotes, and learn more about the [Stories From the Flats exhibit here](#).

[View the exhibit](#)

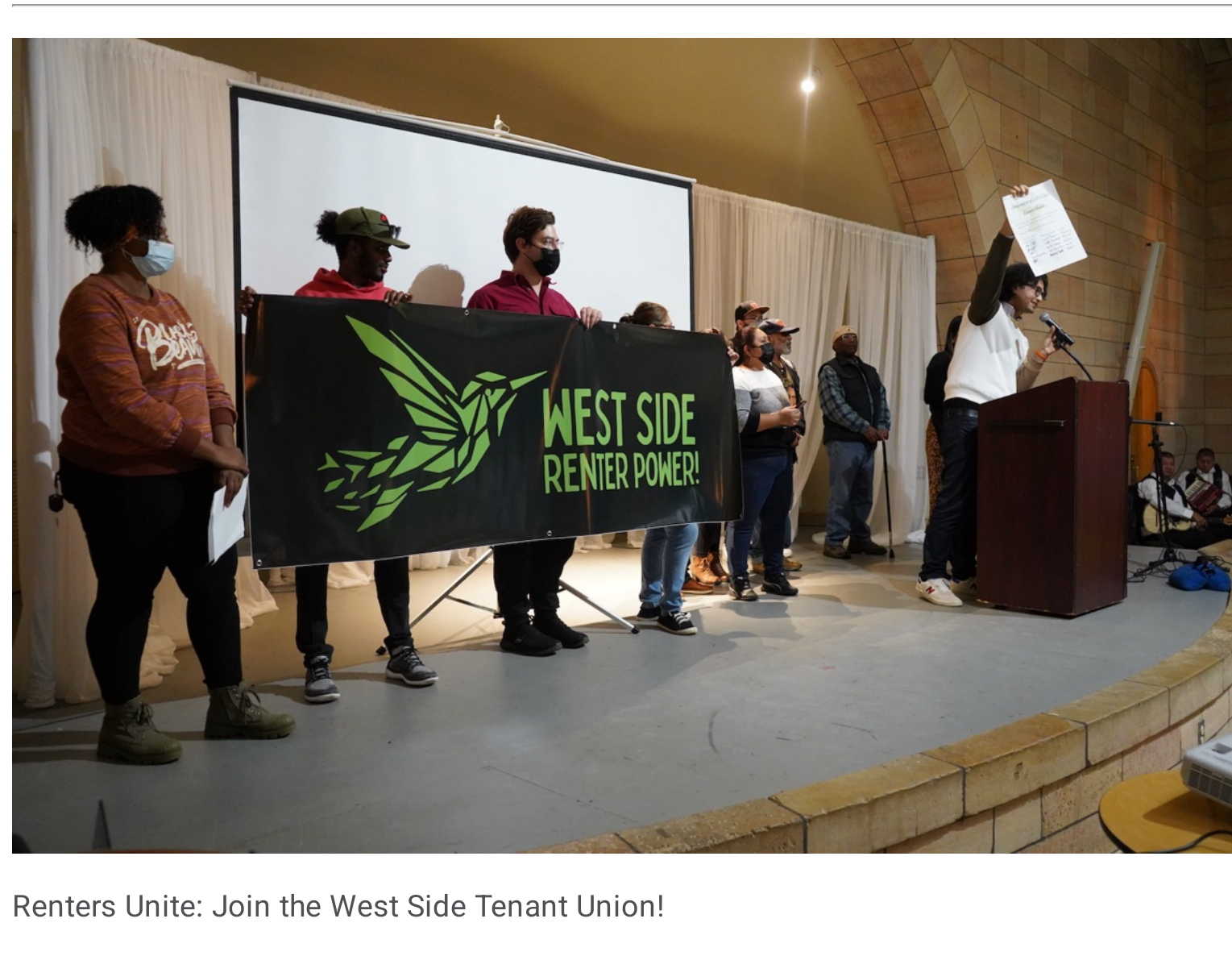


West Sider of the Year and Spirit of the West Side

Congratulations to this year's West Sider of the Year, Agustina Borroel, and to the winners of the Spirit of the West Side award, the Pfeiffer family!

Agustina is recognized for her work volunteering at Cherokee Heights Elementary and Humboldt High Schools, as well as volunteering in community gardens around the West Side and working with neighbors in the Free Farmstand Network and West Side Seed Library.

[Meet the winners](#)



Renters Unite: Join the West Side Tenant Union!

West Side renters took the stage to declare the official launch of the West Side Tenant Union. A tenant union is a group of renters who are organized to defend their own and their neighbor's rights and take action for housing justice.

"I'm speaking from my heart. We're here to inform all the renters who are being put out of their apartments... we're all going to come together to try to change that," said Marcus Troy, West Side renter, WSCO board member, and founding member of the West Side Tenant Union.

Join us! If you're a West Side renter interested in joining the union, contact our housing justice organizers Joshua Toor (joshua@wSCO.org) and Mayra Avila (mayra@wSCO.org). New meetings will be announced soon!

Learn more:

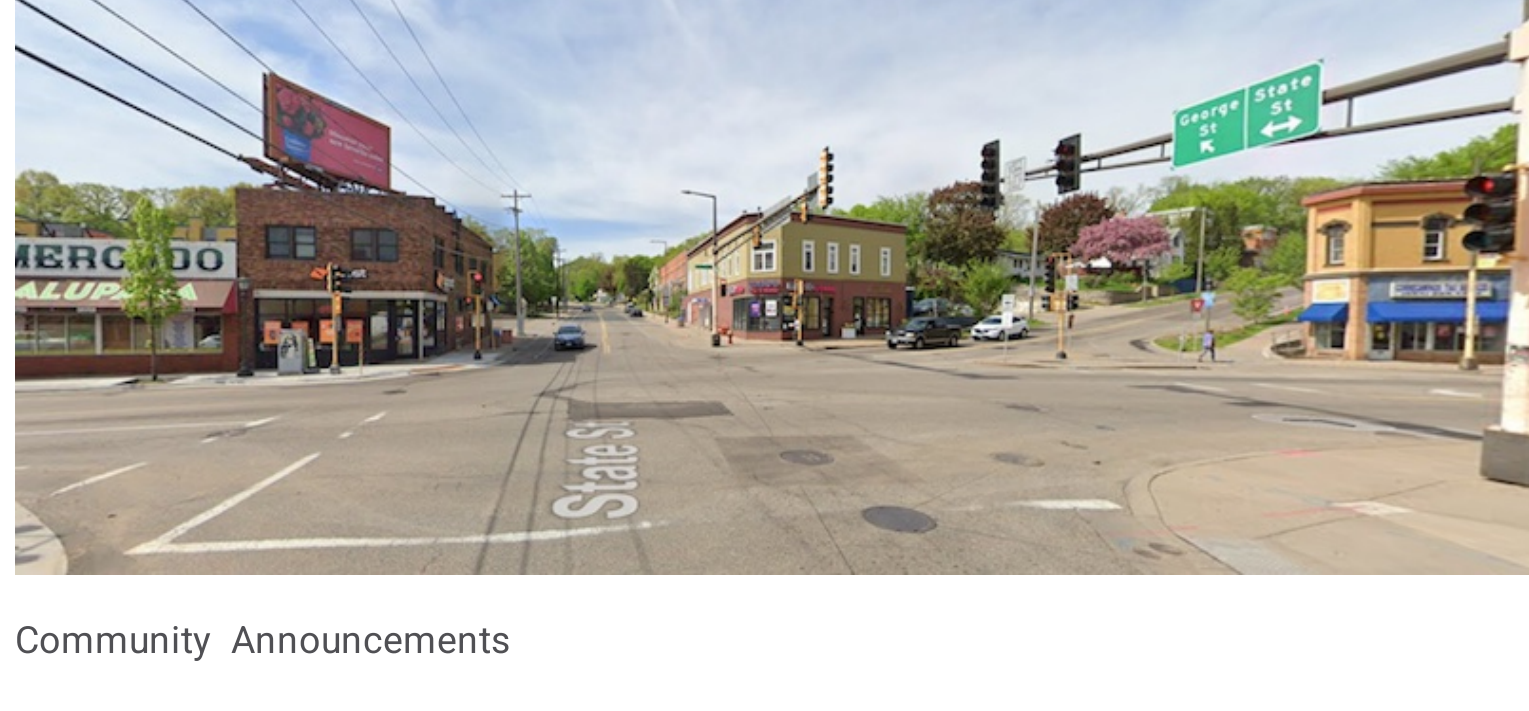
- [Click here to watch a video of the tenant union's launch.](#)
- Learn more about [WSCO's Housing Justice work](#).



This week we celebrated the groundbreaking of a new multi-use development called Soul Apartments at the intersection of Robert Street and Plato Boulevard. It includes deeply affordable housing and exciting new spaces for public art in our neighborhood.

"This is a gateway development as you enter the West Side neighborhood, and it is important that this project reflects the unique and culturally rich neighborhood we live in," said Monica Bravo, our Executive Director here at the West Side Community Organization (WSCO).

[Learn more](#)



Community Announcements

Tonight! West Side Pedestrian Safety Meeting. Thursday, November 17th from 6:30pm – 7:30pm at Neighborhood House. Join Councilmember Rebecca Noecker for a discussion on West Side Pedestrian Safety! Topics will include 'traffic calming' as well as signal replacement at the intersection of Cesar Chavez Street, State Street, and George Street. [Learn more](#).

Trans and Queer Community: Join us on November 26th, 2-4pm, at the Riverview Library. This month we'll be celebrating Trans Awareness Week and we specifically invite in our trans, gender non-conforming, and non-binary neighbors to join us! We'll be doing fiber arts, so bring your crocheting, knitting, or tapestry materials (or the desire to learn) and together we'll weave a beautifully diverse West Side! Open to all and family-friendly.

Recipe: Fall Butternut Squash Salad Many thanks to Youth Farm for sharing this fabulous salad at our 2022 Annual Meeting! [Here's the recipe](#) so you can prepare it at home.

Section 8 lottery opening St Paul Public Housing Authority Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Waiting List Lottery Opening 8:00 AM, Tuesday, November 15, 2022. Learn more and apply at www.waitlistcheck.com/STPAUL

#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.

