

# West Side Community Organization

## *Celebrating 2020 successes*

**Despite everything that's happened in 2020, we've got each other.**

From the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing recession, to police violence and racial reckoning in our streets, **West Siders proved time and time again that we have each other's backs.**

Even through moments of crisis and uncertainty, together with West Side neighbors, WSCO persisted in our mission to address problems at their root, changing systems for racial, economic, and environmental justice. In 2020, we won victories years in the making to create the world we want to see – right here in our neighborhood. **Here are a few highlights.**

- » **We won protections for renters** in the City of Saint Paul.
- » We organized a **\$60,000 fund** to support West Siders most impacted by the pandemic.
- » We renewed the Robert Street Pedestrian Bridge with the **vibrant Gateway Mural**.
- » We organized a food drive that supported more than **500 families** during the uprising following the murder of George Floyd.
- » We engaged in **Recreation as Resistance**, coming together for safe and healthy outdoor spaces and food justice.
- » We invested in West Side **small businesses** with microgrants.
- » We ensured future neighborhood development and investments **center West Side voices**. An unprecedented move in the City of St. Paul, we made the Equitable Development Scorecard, developed by West Siders, part of the official approval process for projects that come to our neighborhood. **Building by building, block by block, we're creating the neighborhood we want – now and for future generations.**



## Photos

*From top: Sharing produce at the FreeSA; Advocating for fair wages and equitable development on the West Side; Neighbors ride together for the Petal Power garden tour event; Celebrating new renter protections in Saint Paul; Banner at event organizing with renters against evictions*





# Looking ahead: WSCO in 2021 and beyond

**Now, we're looking toward the future,** preparing for what's ahead by tapping into what makes us strong: our deep connections to our neighbors and to the place we're proud to call home.

In 2021 and beyond, we'll do more than we can list here.

## We're energized and ready to:

- » **Persist, organizing with our neighbors for a more just and joyful West Side.** We'll continue to focus on the issues that affect our daily lives, recognizing that we must address the root cause of challenges we face – not just the symptoms.
- » **Keep centering community voices, asking “Who benefits?” when new development and investments come into our neighborhood.** As the West Side grows and changes, projects must align with our neighborhood's vision and values.
- » **Continue building power with renters for housing justice.** Everyone should have agency over their own lives and the opportunity to build wealth. When we all have access to safe, quality, affordable housing, we can achieve those things – and make our community better for everyone.
- » **Grow the movement for life-affirming public safety.** We must invest in the programs and systems that affirm our lives, from quality public education and healthcare, to jobs and affordable housing.
- » **Sustain and boost investment in the West Side's economic corridor.** We're proud of the small businesses that call the West Side home. We want to support these community assets and continue expanding economic opportunity in our neighborhood.

## Stay in-the-loop with WSCO!

Web: [www.wsko.org](http://www.wsko.org)

FB: [@westsidcommunityorgazation](https://www.facebook.com/westsidcommunityorgazation)

Twitter: [@WSCOnow](https://twitter.com/WSCOnow)



## Photos

*Clockwise from top left: Getting out the vote with West Side 100; Creating a mural during the Recreation as Resistance event at Lake Pickerel; Food drive during the George Floyd uprising; Encouraging West Siders to vote on Election Day; An elder visits the West Side's new mural (mural photo by Elizabeth Flores, Star Tribune)*