2019 Conference

SLACO’s 41st year started off in full swing! Our 23rd Annual SLACO Regional Neighborhoods conference in February hosted over 300 members of our community. Artists, activists, reporters, and organizers of all persuasions joined us at St. Louis Community College Forest Park. Our main focal points this year were the continuing efforts against vacancy and violence, and building up leaders and organizations that can tackle these challenges. Keynote speaker Amy Hunter centered racial equity in a message that carried through the day. Our panel discussion brought together regional media veterans to discuss the relationship between the community and the press. And our closing panel of activists described their strategies for success — and what they learned by failure.
#NU4Change/Sisterhoods

St. Louis knows all too well the impact of unaddressed racial tensions. Neighborhoods United for change bridges the gap in understanding among people, communities and races. In partnership with the Civil Rights Enforcement Agency (CREA), the Neighborhood Stabilization Team, the Mayor's Office, and Community Builders Network, we continue to bring neighborhoods together this spring with tours in 2018. Each tour features guided conversation about racial experiences and "why things are the way they are." In addition, participants learn about neighborhoods that they might not have known much about, its resources, challenges and successes. This activity is financed in part through an allocation of Community Development Block Grant funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the City of St. Louis Community Development Administration.

Do you participate in a state or federal assistance program like CHIP, WIC, or EBT? If so, you qualify for LimeAccess: 50% Discount on Scooter Rides.

May 4, 2019 – Academy/Sherman Park and Bevo Now
May 23, 2019 – 18th Ward and BJH
June 8, 2019 – Covenant Blue and Lindenwood Park
July 13, 2019 – Cook Ave. Neighborhood Assn and Princeton Heights
July 20, 2019 – Kingsway West and Benton Park
July 27, 2019 – West End Neighbors and Shaw
Sept. 5, 2019 – North Central and Botanical Heights
Sept. 21, 2019 – Revitalization of Baden and Tower Grove South/TG Heights
Oct. 5, 2019 – Kingsway East and Fox Park

We have available dates in September and October for more neighborhoods and plan a full participants meeting at SLACO in November.

Lime Events – Discount Program

This Spring, in partnership with Lime, the Missouri Foundation for Health, and Bi-State Development, SLACO hosted a series of safety and alternative transit events. Residents learned about Lime’s low-income discount scooter share program, and we handed out dozens of helmets.

Do you participate in a state or federal assistance program like CHIP, WIC, or EBT? If so, you qualify for LimeAccess: 50% Discount on Scooter Rides.

Qualifying is simple. Email access@limebike.com or call 1.888.LIME.345. All you need is a phone number, any government-issued photo ID, and proof of low-income status. Signing up for this program also signs you up for a cash payment option and a text to unlock option.
Blues Off Grand

Blues Off Grand will be a celebration of St. Louis’s place in the great blues tradition, and serve as a fundraiser for SLACO’s programs throughout the year. Blues Off Grand will be held November 9th, 2019, at the Grandel Theatre in Grand Center at 6 PM. Tickets are $41 apiece, and the hall holds 450. Tickets are available at the SLACO office and at Metrotix: https://www.metrotix.com/events/detail/slaco-blues-off-grand

Check out our performers: Fab Foehners, Sharon and Doug Foehners (Pre-Party at The Dark Room), Brian Curran and Eric McSpadden, The Little Dylan Blues Band, Big Mike Aguirre and the Blu City All Stars with Renee Smith, and the Blue Lotus Revue with guests Roland Johnson, Ms. Hy-C, Bob Kamoske, and Gene Jackson... with special MC Alonzo Townsend, Mr. St. Louis Blues.

Thank you to our Sponsors:
Emerging Leaders Program

SLACO’s Emerging Leaders Program will seek partnerships to employ youth ages 16 to 24 to work as Emerging Neighborhood Community Engagement Leaders. Our program provides an opportunity for youth and adults to research, discuss, and evaluate real concerns that matter to them and their community and create an action plan for change. The skills of social inquiry, and the accompanying ability to gather, analyze, synthesize, and share data, are highly valued skills in the contemporary work environment and transferable to different career settings.

SLACO views Community Engagement as a Positive Youth Development Strategy. Positive youth development theory asserts that all youth have the capacity to change and grow as they interact with their communities. The goal of positive youth development programs is to encourage and facilitate the growth of “functionally valued” behaviors resulting in thriving and well-being throughout adolescence, with the ultimate goal of helping youth develop into productive and contributing. Functionally valued behaviors include competence, character, connection, confidence, and caring, commonly called the “5 C’s.” In addition, community engagement is endorsed as a vehicle for actualization of the five C’s in youth. The ultimate outcome of the 5 C’s is a positive contribution to one’s community, increasing through adolescence and becoming a valued aspect of one’s adult life.

Funding for this project was provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Grant Number 2017-MU-MU-K006. These services are available to all persons, regardless of race, gender, age, disability, or religion.
Finest 15 T-Shirts Available

Check it out and get pumped! Want to show your appreciation for the Finest 15 group’s work identifying and saving LRA properties? You are in luck.

T-Shirts! Get yer T-Shirts! Finest 15 T-Shirts are now available at events and at the SLACO office. Visit our website today to reserve yours:

http://slaco-mo.org/finest-15-t-shirts/

T-shirts are $25 at time of pick up, or you can pay online above.

THIRD ANNUAL “TOWN/GOWN” MINI-SUMMIT

Creating Resilient Neighborhoods

The St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO) and Saint Louis University are hosting the third annual “Town/Gown” mini-summit on Thursday, November 14th from 1 to 5 pm at SLU’s Il Monastero (the former Berea Presbyterian Church) 3050 Olive.

Co-sponsored by Harris-Stowe State University, Saint Louis University, University of Missouri St. Louis, and Washington University, the summit is meant to explore new ways in which communities and universities can work together to improve St. Louis neighborhoods.

For additional information, contact Mark Abbott: mabbottstl@gmail.com
Donations Fund Our Work

As an organization, SLACO addresses many issues that affect the St. Louis community – issues such as vacancy and racial division within our city.

We address these issues via innovative programs such as The Finest 15, which helps remove vacant housing from the city’s Land Reutilization Authority (LRA); and Neighborhoods United for Change, a program that helps address the racial division within our city by bringing together residents from North and South St. Louis. Through guided neighborhood bus tours and facilitated lunches, residents discuss their neighborhood’s strengths, challenges and help one another solve problems, all in an effort to create a better understanding and trust among each other, and to dispel stereotypes around race and class.

Our conversations around policing and race, Revealing Our Humanity, help bridge the gap between community members and the police.

In our Etzel Community Center programs for children, we provide afterschool care and summer programs for neighborhood kids in the West End.

All of these and more are paid for by your donations. Please consider donating online: https://pages.donately.com/slaco-mo/donate

Or you may send a check addressed to SLACO to 5888 Plymouth Ave., St. Louis MO 63112.

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