

2018 | St. Louis Association of Community Organizations



## 2018 Annual report

*Celebrating the Past... Envisioning the Future*

# Building a Better St. Louis

Dear Supporter,

Throughout our 40-year history, the St. Louis Association of Community Organizations, commonly known as SLACO, has addressed a broad range of issues related to strengthening neighborhoods. Past accomplishments from throughout the years include working with the Board of Aldermen to increase funding for board ups, mowing and stabilization of city-owned properties; partnering with developers, neighborhood associations and technical colleges to build homes in the West End, McKinley Heights, Fox Park and the Gate District - to name a few; and using community policing to close drug houses, liquor stores, and remove graffiti.



As an organization, we pride ourselves on addressing systemic issues affecting our community - issues such as vacant housing and racial division within our city. We've come to address these issues through innovative partnership programs, such as The Finest Fifteen and Neighborhoods United for Change. We also take pride in bringing various programs and events to the St. Louis community, such as the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program, our afterschool and summer camp program at the Etzel Place Community Center, the Town Gown Summit, and our annual signature event - the Regional Neighborhoods Conference.

SLACO has taken a lead role on Vacancy issues, coordinating with the St. Louis Vacancy Collaborative. Working with a team of activists and attorneys, we took the Proposition NS election results to court - and won.

Our three-year collaboration with the Youth Violence Prevention Partnership (YVPP) began, resulting in an excellent conference presentation, and I'm particularly proud of how our community connections are allowing youth and adults to come together to meet the persistent threat of violence on our streets.

In addition to these major initiatives, we now have a total of 35 member organizations. We also voted to restructure our bylaws, reducing the

number of board members and creating the cluster system to better represent the region.

The programs, events and services that SLACO provides are making a major impact on citywide community stabilization efforts. At SLACO, we look forward to serving the community for another 40 years and beyond.

Sincerely,



Kevin B. McKinney  
Executive Director



# SLACO Leadership 2018

## SLACO Board of Directors

### Officers

Board President: Sundy Whiteside

Vice President: Maggie Lalor

Secretary: Angela Drake

Treasurer: Loura Gilbert

### Board Members

Cluster 1: Lillie Clay

Cluster 2: Linda Hennigh,  
Kristy Unruh

Cluster 3: Sundy Whiteside

Cluster 4: (Open)

Cluster 5: Maggie Lalor,  
Shontaia Riley

Cluster 6: Mark Dowdy,  
Al Willis

Cluster 7: George Jones Jr.,  
Greg Meyer

Metro East: Marie Franklin

At Large: Rick Bonasch,  
Angela Drake,  
Loura Gilbert



## Neighborhood Association Members

Academy/Sherman Park  
Benton Park  
Benton Park West  
Chain of Rocks  
Clifton Heights  
Community Mediation Services  
Concerned Citizens of Precinct #12  
Downtown Neighborhood Association  
Fairfax/West Belle  
Fairground  
Franz Park  
Heart of O'Fallon Block 976  
Holly Hills  
Hyde Park  
Kingsway East  
Lafayette Square  
Lewis Place/Visitation  
Lindenwood Park  
Marine Villa  
Revitalization of Baden  
Shaw  
Southampton  
Southwest Garden  
SPUD (Skinker Page Union Delmar)  
Tandy  
The Hill  
Tilles Park  
Tower Grove East  
Tower Grove Heights  
Tower Grove South  
Union Communion Ministry  
Walnut Park East  
Walnut Park West  
West End Neighbors  
West Pine/ Laclede



# SLACO Program Highlights in 2018

## Vacancy

SLACO is invested in the City of St. Louis's Vacancy Collaborative, a diverse group of stakeholders and is playing a strategic and intentional role in reshaping methods for dealing with vacant properties in residential neighborhoods in a holistic way.



SLACO's Finest 15 program continues, with over 50 homes being sold to homeowners or investors, reducing LRA rolls and restoring our neighborhoods. And with the resurrection of Proposition NS, we are

confident this process will continue with vacant properties that need a little bit more work.

Want to bring your skills and voice to the Vacancy Collaborative? Contact SLACO Vacancy Committee Co-Chairs George Jones and Eltoreon Hawkins at [vacancy@slaco-mo.org](mailto:vacancy@slaco-mo.org) or 314-361-9406.

## #NU4Change

In 2018, Neighborhoods United for Change hosted ten (10) tours between March 17 and August 31. 165 Saint Louis City residents went on those tours. Those 165 people shared their stories and histories, and openly shared ideas and resources. And they learned from each other.



If you are a community leader and would like for your neighborhood association or group to participate in #NU4Change, or for more information, please contact Kevin McKinney at [kmckinney@slaco-mo.org](mailto:kmckinney@slaco-mo.org).

## After School Program

SLACO has a free after-school program in the Etzel Community Center. Unleashing Potential, an organization highly experienced in delivering quality after-school programs, manages all aspects of the program under contract with SLACO. Applications are available now at our location, 5888 Plymouth at Hamilton, or call 314-361-9406.

Program hours are 3:30-6 p.m., or any part of that time when the children are home from school. We accept only children ages 6 through 12. Preference is given first to residents of the Etzel Place Apartments, and then to others who live within the West End Neighborhood (area bounded by Skinker on the west, Page on the north, Union on the east, and Delmar on the south).

## Revealing Our Humanity

In 2018, SLACO continued its empathy-driven program to bring together the police and members of our communities, starting in the West End Neighborhood.

Revealing Our Humanity fosters relationships with people who we may have been “pre-conditioned” to withdraw from, the Revealing Our Humanity team extended the theory to work specifically within and among communities adversely impacted by police interactions and vice versa for officers who policed these communities. Aware that both groups justifiably self-identified as having a natural bent to withdraw from the other due to their respective experiences, we developed short and long-term strategies that could be measured qualitatively by both community participants and officers.

## 22nd Annual SLACO Conference

SLACO's 2018 Conference was held at Forest Park Community College on April 14, 2018. Program highlights included sessions on town and gown relations, neighborhood organizing, financial literacy and

entrepreneurship, anti-vacancy programs, bikeshare, health and safety programs, and youth engagement.

The closing panel discussion featured an all-star line-up. Following a keynote address by new Public Safety Director Judge Jimmie Edwards, our panel composed of Amy Hunter, Sylvester Brown, and new Police Chief John Hayden engaged in a wide-ranging discussion about modern policing and community relations – moderated by 78<sup>th</sup> District Representative Bruce Franks.

Thank you to all of our presenters and panelists!

## Town and Gown Summit

SLACO's second annual Town and Gown summit took place on November 14, 2018. Town and Gown bridges the gap between communities (Town) and the Universities (Gown) within them.

Dan Pitera of the Detroit Collaborative Design Center delivered the keynote. Panel discussions explored the partnership between the Saint Louis University Legal Clinic and the SLACO Vacancy Partnership, and the Health Equity Works of Washington University and its partnership with Grace Hill. A roundtable discussion finished up the summit to explore possible outside the box collaborations between universities and the broader community in St. Louis.

Thanks to all that participated!





## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

SLACO's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala was a success, both from a fundraising perspective, and our ability to honor SLACO leaders who have paved the way to success. Mayor Krewson was in attendance, and proclaimed September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 "SLACO Day" in the City of St. Louis. We especially honored the following individuals:



### Lifetime Achievement Award

- ✧ Fr. Gerald Kleba, Founder of SLACO

### Hall of Fame Honorees

- ✧ Fr. Richard Creason, Community Leader and Advocate
- ✧ Sr. Mary Dolan O. P., SLACO's 1st Executive Director
- ✧ Mr. Julius Fuse, Vatterott and SLACO Board Member
- ✧ Fr. Bob Gettinger, Community Leader and Advocate
- ✧ Ms. Pauline Humphrey, Secretary and Board Member
- ✧ Ms. Marjorie Robinson, Board Member
- ✧ Ms. Gina Ryan, SLACO's 2nd Executive Director
- ✧ Ms. Nancy Thompson, SLACO's 3rd Executive Director
- ✧ Mr. Greg Vatterott, Sr., Business Partner and Advocate

### Service Awards

- ✧ Mr. Mark Dowdy, S.P.U.D.
- ✧ Mrs. Laura Gilbert, SLACO Treasurer, Commerce Bank
- ✧ Ms. Carole Johnson, Lewis Place Improvement Assoc.
- ✧ Mr. Dan Lovings, Academy/Sherman Park
- ✧ Ms. Irlene Woodson, S.P.U.D.

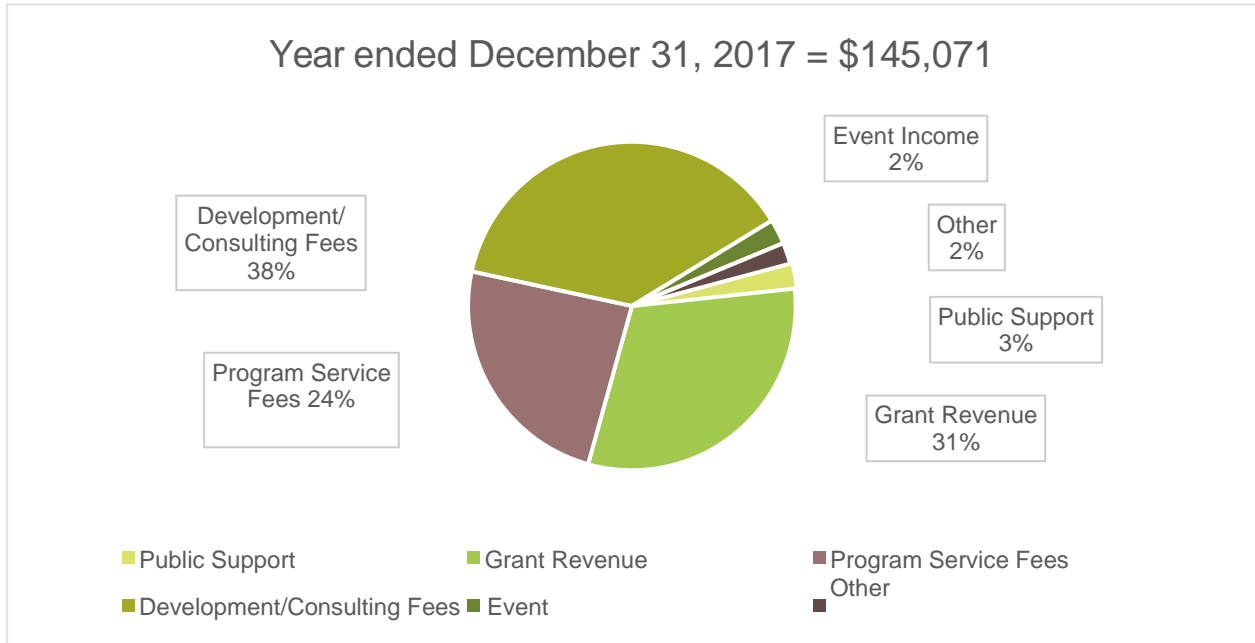
### Dearlly Missed

- ✧ Claude Bell
- ✧ William Dawson
- ✧ Odell (Jack) Straughter



# SLACO Financial Statements

## 2017 Revenues and Expenses



### Revenue for 2017: \$145,071

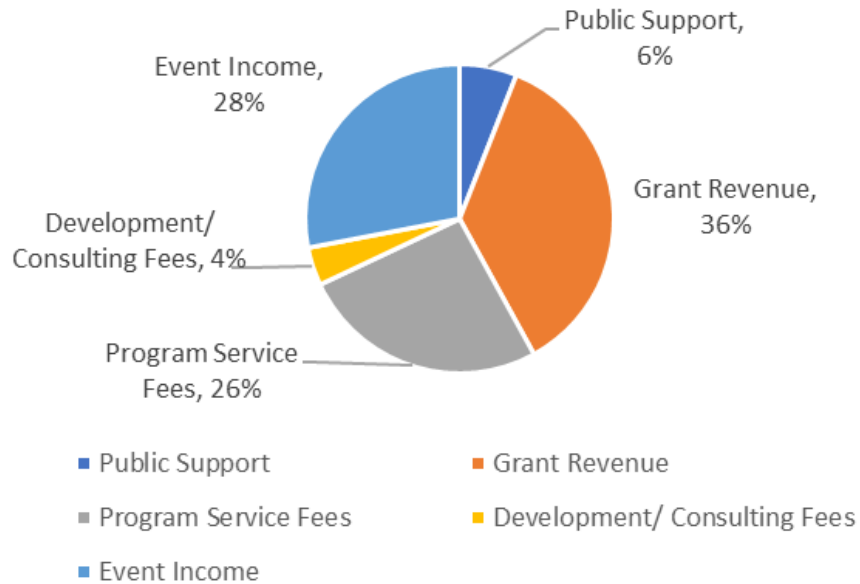
Public Support	2%
Grant Revenue	31%
Program Service Fees	24%
Development/Consulting Fees	38%
Event Income	2%
Other	2%

### Expenses for 2017: \$131,669

Program Services	83%
Management and General	15%
Fundraising	2%

## 2018 Revenue and Expenses

Year ended December 31, 2018 = \$150,721



**Revenue for 2018: \$150,721**

Public Support	6%
Grant Revenue	36%
Program Service Fees	26%
Development/Consulting Fees	4%
Event Income	28%

**Expenses for 2018: \$204,041**

Program Services	82%
Management and General	3%
Fundraising	15%

**Improving the quality of life in neighborhoods throughout the St. Louis region through community-based initiatives, citizen empowerment and neighborhood organizing.**

**Here's to the next forty.**



**St. Louis Association of Community Organizations  
5888 Plymouth Ave.  
St. Louis, Mo. 63112**

**314.361.9406**

**info@slaco-mo.org**

**http://slaco-mo.org**

**https://twitter.com/SLACO314**

**https://www.instagram.com/slaco314**

**https://www.facebook.com/314SLACO**