

2021

ANNUAL REPORT



CELEBRATING
40 YEARS
1978-2018





TABLE OF CONTENTS

02 A Letter From Our Executive Director

03 Financials

03 Yearly Outcomes

04-09 Programs and Events

10 Members



a year's overview

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of SLACO,

Covid-19 has reshaped our lives over the past two years. With your help and assistance, we weathered the storm.

It made us tougher. It made us smarter. Most importantly, it reminded us of our deep gratitude for our friends, family and all of you we work for and with.

The rest of this report is the story of how that happened.

The Saint Louis Association of Community Organizations—known to friends and members as SLACO—is the umbrella group for 37 active neighborhood groups and two community organization in Saint Louis and East Saint Louis.

COVID-19 turned our afterschool program into a full-time remote learning school. We're proud that our rigorous commitment to safety resulted in zero cases of COVID among our kids.

We operated Neighborhoods United for Change virtually and had a huge turnout.

We managed Keeping It Clean in nine different neighborhoods and executed a very successful summer clean up program.

We successfully held a hybrid virtual/in-person Emerging Leaders Institute.

We came together in September in-person for a grand 25th Annual SLACO Regional Neighborhood Conference.

And finally, we participated in marketing initiatives for the Gateway Neighborhood Fund.

You stayed with us through tough times, and your support for our events and organization kept SLACO going.

Thank You!

Kevin B. McKinney,
Executive Director

St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO)

A Look at the Books

SLACO 2021 FINANCIALS

\$47,394.67 FUNDRAISING INCOME

\$103,635.60 PROGRAM INCOME

\$149,177.06 GRANT INCOME

\$300,207.33 TOTAL INCOME

\$137,810.62 PROGRAM EXPENSES

\$37,115.88 FUNDRAISING EXPENSES

\$9,884.18 ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

\$127,072.76 PAYROLL EXPENSES

\$311,883.44 TOTAL EXPENSES

Neighborhoods United for Change 2021

Neighborhoods United for Change completed its 5th year as a funded program through the City of St. Louis Community Development Administration. The mission of the SLACO Community Development and Engagement Institute is to create an equitable and just society by advancing successful practices of resident training and engagement city wide. We shall do this with opportunities to further citizen participation in public affairs – thus improving the quality of life for residents in all St. Louis neighborhoods.

Neighborhoods United for Change #NU4Change successfully implemented a resident-based social circle model to engage residents in constructive dialogue as a catalyst for tackling citywide neighborhood challenges.

SLACO completed 15 social circle engagements, 1 end of cycle event, that involved over 60 St. Louis neighborhoods and 455 citizens of St. Louis and produced a report that was shared with the Mayor, Comptroller, Board President, Alderpersons, and the Chief of Police.

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.

Emerging Leaders Institute 2021

Emerging Leaders Institute completed its 2nd year as a funded program through the City of St. Louis community Development Administration. The mission of the **SLACO Emerging Leaders Institute** is to create an equitable and just society by advancing successful practices of younger resident training and engagement. We shall do this with opportunities to further younger citizens participation in public affairs. Improving the quality of life for residents in St. Louis neighborhoods city wide. Emerging Leaders Institute implemented a younger resident-based, City-Wide model to engage younger residents in constructive dialogue as a catalyst for tackling citywide neighborhood challenges.

SLACO successfully completed 9 Engagement Circles, 4 Civic Study opportunities, 4 Community Presentations, 1 Community Event and 1 final meeting. 8 youth participated in the Emerging Leaders Institute.



photo: Emerging Leaders participants

If you have youth in your neighborhoods that are interested, please contact info@slaco-mo.org and sign up for summer work at STLYouth Jobs.

<https://worksite.stlouisyouthjobs.org/>
Designate SLACO as the organization you would like to work with.

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.

SLACO Emerging Leaders Youth Centric City of St. Louis Mayoral Candidates Debate

Two Debates were held via Facebook. The Emerging Leaders and youth from our neighborhood members produced the candidate questions and ground rules. Over 1,000 people watched or participated in the debates that were held in Feb. and March of 2021. See attached flyers.

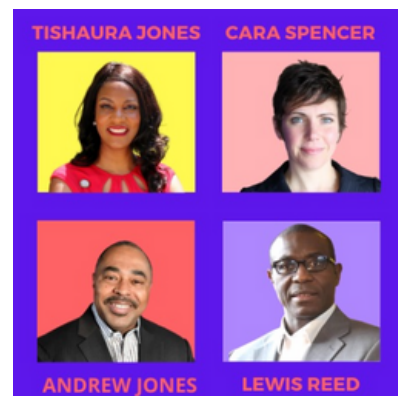


photo: Keeping It Clean Volunteers

Keeping It Clean (KIC) Neighborhood Beautification and Employment Initiative Institute 2021

The Keeping It Clean (KIC) Neighborhood Beautification and Employment Initiative completed its first year as a funded program through the City of St. Louis community Development Administration. The mission of the **Keeping It Clean (KIC) Neighborhood Beautification and Employment Initiative Institute** is to create another opportunity for an equitable and just society by advancing successful practices of younger resident training and engagement. This offered opportunities to further younger citizens participation in public affairs – thus improving the quality of life for residents in St. Louis neighborhoods. Cleaning up our neighborhoods and bringing neighbors together for a common good will strengthen our neighborhoods.

Neighborhoods that were served included Walnut Park, Baden, Kingsway West, The Ville, Dutchtown, St. Louis Place, Kingsway East, Gravois Park and Fairground. Younger citizens, ages 16-24 were the backbone of this endeavor.

SLACO successfully completed 9 Planning Events, 9 Advertising and Canvassing Events, and 9 Community Cleanup Events. 38 youth participated in the KIC and over 313 residents were served.

If your neighborhood would like to participate, please contact us at info@slaco-mo.org. Sign up for summer work at [STLYouth Jobs. https://worksite.stlouisyouthjobs.org/](https://worksite.stlouisyouthjobs.org/) Designate SLACO as the organization you would like to work with.

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.

Prop NS Program Outcomes

thru December 13, 2021

NS staff team currently in place

- Sean Thomas, Program Manager (SLDC full-time); Zach Kassman, Program Specialist (SLDC full-time / also shared with Green City Coalition); Banjo Popoola, Stabilization Specialist (Building Div. staff)

Ongoing nominations for stabilization from the public

- 353 nominations received to date from the public via form on Prop NS website at stlouis-mo.gov/Prop-NS, with each nomination and its status posted on the site
- 124 of nominations received were determined to be either duplicates of previous nominations or ineligible due to not being owned by LRA or not available for purchase (or already demolished or in process of demolition); 26 are still being reviewed for eligibility.

Ongoing staff research into eligibility of each nomination followed by further evaluation & inspection of eligible buildings

- Staff researched and evaluated more than 400 LRA-owned, residential buildings for suitability as pilot phase buildings or (since Sept 9, 2020) as part of research on publicly nominated buildings.

Monthly Stabilization Advisory Committee Meetings

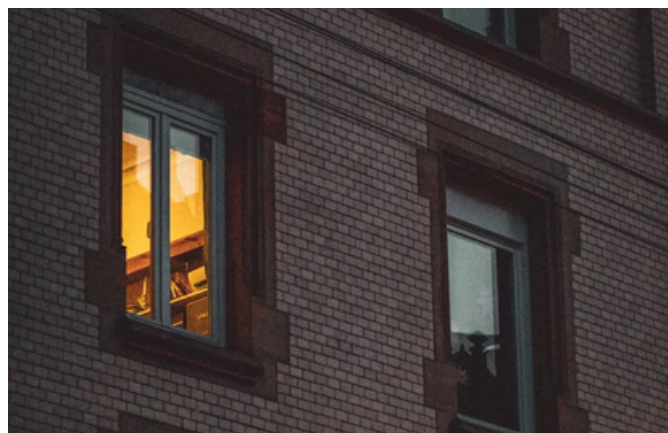
- Most recent monthly Stabilization Advisory Committee meeting: November 9, 2021.
- Outcomes / Recommendations: The committee reviewed the staff assessments of 14 nominated properties and decided to recommend 10 of them to the LRA Board for stabilization with Prop NS funds.
- Including the above recommendations, to date, 134 properties have been presented to committee for their consideration, 92 of which have received committee recommendations for stabilization and 40 nominations were recommended against stabilization through Prop NS. The committee requested that 2 others be re-visited after additional research.

PROP NS to date...BY THE NUMBERS: *Since the public announcement on Sept. 9 through Dec. 13, 2021...*

- we have received **334 nominations from the public**
- buildings nominated or in progress were located **within 35 neighborhoods**
- buildings nominated or in progress were spread **across 17 wards**
- contracts approved for stabilization work: **71**
- buildings approved by the committee, contractor not selected yet: **21**
- Combined buildings completed, approved or currently under construction: **92**
- Average investment in each building: **\$35,545**
- Average number of housing units per building: **1.7**
- Total under contract to date: **\$2,488,178.97**
- Total housing *units* stabilized or to be stabilized through stabilizations approved to date: **120**
- Average investment per unit: **\$21,368.67**
- **Buildings Completed & Sold (closed): 13**
- **Buildings Completed with Approved Offers for Sale, but not closed: 5**

Rapid Response Team

SLACO was awarded a grant during the 2021 Pandemic year to assist in canvassing and sharing information about getting vaccinated for Covid-19 and Rental Assistance to avoid eviction. *We provided jobs for over 25 people for two months as we spread the news about the above-mentioned issues.*



Gateway Neighborhood Fund: Your Opportunity for Home Ownership



Gateway Neighborhood Fund

The Gateway Neighborhood Fund connects home buyers to financing options in neighborhoods where financing can be difficult to obtain. SLACO provided marketing services and canvassing services for the GNF as an outreach and media partner. **Target areas include:**

Baden, North Pointe, Walnut Park East, Walnut Park West



Academy/Sherman Park, Hamilton Heights, Visitation Park, West End



7 Together: Capacity Building of Seven Neighborhoods to Reuse Vacant Spaces for Preservation of Neighborhood Histories, Culture and Heritage.

The seven neighborhoods that have come together to work on this project are Covenant Blu/Grand Center; Vandeventer, Lewis Place; Academy/Sherman Park; Visitation Park; and West End. SLACO has begun to assist in building capacity and providing technical assistance to the 7 neighborhoods for community engagement, planning, designs, and resources for the reuse of vacant spaces. These spaces will transform into places recognizing community contributions of people and events, specifically preserving the history, culture, and humanities of each neighborhood. A Project Manager and four VISTA workers have been a presence in the 7 neighborhoods.



25th Silver Annual SLACO Regional Neighborhoods Conference (Presented by) InvestSTL and Greater St. Louis Inc.

The St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO) 25th Silver Annual Regional Neighborhoods Conference was held at Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, in person. Over 200 persons participated as presenters and participants. Over 20 businesses and organizations sponsored tables at the event and over 13 businesses and organizations helped sponsor the event.



The annual SLACO Regional Neighborhoods Conference is St. Louis' premier event for assisting grassroots organizations learn how to run an effective neighborhood association in addition to presenting plans and initiatives that offer new ways to understand the region and new hope for successful initiatives. As a result of attending and participating in previous conferences, attendees have:

- Developed comprehensive programs that have empowered its member organizations to form collaborative efforts designed to bridge the gap in understanding the differences between people, communities, races and how they impact their communities.
- Have been exposed to the crux of the issues that residents from different communities' face and are compelled to initiate conversations with public policy and decision-makers that ultimately will bring about change.
- Learned how to facilitate the process of convening people from progressive communities to form strategic alliances, communicate and fellowship with low-income residents which empowers them to become advocates and spokespersons in conversations with elected officials and policy-making entities.

BLUES BRASS and SASS



Blues Brass & Sass

SLACO, in partnership with the St. Louis Blues Society presented a celebration of St. Louis' place in the great blues tradition. The event was held Nov. 5, 2021 in person at The .Zack Theater and The Lounge @.Zack 3224 Locust St. Over 150 people were in attendance, and they heard: The Joe Metzka Band; Fab Foehners; Marsha Evans and The Coalition; Funky Butt Brass Band; Denise Thimes; and "The Powerhouse" Dylan Triplett with Special Quest Miss HY-C. Mr. Alonzo Townsend was the Host/Master of Ceremonies. The event was sponsored by PNC Bank and Broadway Oyster Bar.

Proceeds will be used for hiring instructors for the SLACO After School and Summer Camp Music Program in 2022.

Third Annual SLACO Trivia Night

The event was held via ZOOM on January 9th, 2021. We had 16 tables/rooms. Simmons Bank was the main sponsor, but we had many donors, and the event was successful with over 128 participants and over 10 donors. Proceeds were used to offset general operating expenses. See the attached flyer



SLACO After School Program & Summer Camp

Covid-19 shut down the use of the Dream Center for outside meeting for SLACO and the public, but we kept the facility open for our youth. In School, After School, and a Summer Camp was held to benefit our young people that live in the Etzel Place Apartments and the West End. The Dream Center was manned from 8:30am until 6:00pm Monday through Friday to accommodate our youth. 2021 was certainly as tough as 2020 regarding the After School and Summer Camp programs because of the Covid-19 protocols and cleaning of the building was at its highest level. We survived with none of our young people catching Covid-19 or their parents. SLACO supported our youth with Hats and Gloves for the Kids over the winter months with a grant from Spire and other concerned citizens.



CELEBRATING
40 YEARS
1978-2018

THANK YOU, MEMBERS!

ACADEMY/SHERMAN PARK
BENTON PARK
BENTON PARK WEST
BETTER BEVO NOW
CHAIN OF ROCKS
CLIFTON HEIGHTS
CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTER STL
COVENANT BLU-GRAND CENTER
DOWNTOWN
DUTCHTOWN MAIN STREETS
FAIRGROUND
HAMILTON HEIGHTS
HOLLY HILLS
HYDE PARK
KINGSVILLE

KINGSWAY EAST
KINGSWAY WEST
LEWIS PLACE/VISITATION
LINDENWOOD PARK
MARINE VILLA
NORTH HAMPTON
NORTH POINTE
REVITALIZATION OF BADEN
SHAW NEIGHBORHOOD
SKINKER/DEBALIVIERE
SOUTHAMPTON
SOUTHWEST GARDEN
S.P.U.D.
ST. LOUIS PLACE
TANDY

TOWER GROVE EAST
TOWER GROVE SOUTH
UNION COMMUNION MINISTRY
VANDEVENTER COMMUNITY CORP.
WALNUT PARK EAST
WALNUT PARK WEST
WEST END NEIGHBORS
WE LIVE HERE - THE VILLE
EAST ST. LOUIS, IL
CONCERNED CITIZENS OF
PRECINCT #12





CELEBRATING
40 YEARS
1978-2018

