

2023 Annual Report



COMMUNITY BUILDERS NETWORK OF METRO ST. LOUIS

CBN supports, connects, and celebrates organizations working to champion St. Louis region communities, especially those most impacted by systemic disinvestment.





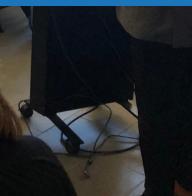






We envision a St. Louis region where neighborhoods that have been historically marginalized, especially minority neighborhoods, have equitable access to the resources and opportunites available to our area's most privelged neighborhoods.







Strong Organizations

Supporting our member organizations and their partners so they can do their best work.

St. Louis Community Development Gathering Series

What's Brewing in Cherokee Neighborhood

In September, we hosted our first relaunch of What's Brewing series featuring Emily Thenhaus, Executive Director of Cherokee Street Community Improvement District (CID), who presented on the arts-based revitalization that is bringing change in the Cherokee neighborhood. The presentation included the importance of small businesses support, like The Luminary and Black Coffee, which opened inside the gallery during COVID and saved on overhead costs through the unique collaboration.

Evening Brew in Old North Neighborhood

In October, House of Vision and Michael Woods, Dream Builders 4 Equity, spoke about how small business development is creating neighborhood stabilization and revitalization in Old North.

What's Brewing in Affordable Housing Development

In November, our place-based Mission Members' Beyond Housing, St. Joseph Housing Initiative, and the Housing Partnership served on a panel discussion to share the current state of affordable housing in St. Louis, including emerging trends and innovative approaches to affordable housing development. Tower Grove Community Development Corporation also discussed their HomeScreen program and services, a vital program that matches landlords to tenants.



Left Picture:

What's Brewing in Cherokee Neighborhood featuring Emily Thenhaus, Cherokee Street CID

Bottom Picture:

Evening Brew in Old North Neighborhood Dream Builders for Equity

St. Louis Vacancy Collaborative

The Vacancy Collaborative is a coalition of partners committed to the reduction of vacant property as a top

two-year-long partnership between the City of St. Louis's of years of grassroots engagement, research, and work address vacancy. This effort will solidify the intended partnership between the City and the VC and will ensure that solving the vacancy crisis in St. Louis happens





Supportive Systems

Building bridges across places, sectors, and silos and advocating for policies that strengthen our civil muscle.

CDA Neighborhood Transformation Grants (NTGs)

In March, CDA Executive Director Nahuel Fefer presented on the Neighborhood Transformation Grant Opportunity during the Spring All-Members meeting. Shortly after, the NOFA was released later that month for over \$20M of ARPA funding available to go toward these 4 Eligible Uses/Projects:

- 1. Affordable Housing Production & Preservation
- 2. Proactive Development of Community Assets
- 3. Home Repair Services for Income Eligible Homeowner
- 4. Neighborhood Beautification & Capacity Building

This was a complex grant opportunity and to support our membership, CBN hosted five workshops during the months of April and May to go over grant requirements, applicant eligibility, shared samples of ways to answer questions, review evaluation and best practices, application peer review, program design (Logic Model), and partnership possibilities, etc.

CBN Members Awarded NTGs:

- Cornerstone Corporation
- Delmar Main Street
- DT2 Downtown Dutchtown (Dutchtown Main Streets)
- DeSales Community
 Development
- North Newstead Association
- Employment Connection
- Northside Community Housing
- Old North STL Restoration Group
- Preservation of Affordable Housing Inc.
- Revitalization of Baden Association
- Sanctuary in the Ordinary
- St. Joseph Housing Initiative
- St. Louis Housing Authority

AEBD Participating Organizations:

- Blackrock Consulting
- Building Energy Exchange STL
- Cornerstone Corporation
- Dream Builders 4 Equity
- Dutchtown South Community Corp.
- Employment Connection
- IFF
- North Newstead Association





Advancing Equitable Building Communities Leadership Alliance (AEBD)

In May, CBN was approached to convene a group of thought leaders in the St. Louis region who were invested in the built environment and contributors of equitable housing and economic opportunities. As billions of federal funding was becoming available, we wanted to explore what the barriers and challenges were for our BIPOC communities to access funds available that addresses building decarbonization. More importantly, what are the intentional strategies we can have in place to access these funds to improve the many older buildings we have in our region.

The members of this Leadership Alliance worked in partnership with ISC and others to:

- Advance approaches and utilize tools to execute equitable building decarbonization roadmaps
- Increase access to sustainability funding and financing instruments for Black and Brown building owners.
- Implement equitable building decarbonization demonstration projects.



Sharing Stories

Spreading the word about what it takes to make our neighborhoods great places to live and why strong communities matter

2023 Community Development Family Reunion

CBN celebrated our 11th Annual Community Development Family Reunion at the Intersect Arts Center in April 2023. It was a celebration of people, organizations, government, corporations, small businesses, and institutions who work hard to make our local neighborhoods safe, healthy and welcoming places to live. We honored our leaders and changemakers who are building strong, inclusive St. Louis neighborhoods.



"St. Louis Development in Action" Traveling Photography Exhibit

In partnership with the <u>Humans of St. Louis</u>, CBN curated a series of personal stories about the impact community development activities has had throughout the St. Louis region. Building better neighborhoods doesn't happen overnight and these stories showcase local champions who work tirelessly everyday to revitalize our communities. The photography exhibit was launched at our annual event in April at the Intersect Arts Center, then travelled to the Ferguson Municipal Public Library and the Lewis & Clark Library.

The exhibit was available for viewing during library open hours from May to June, and CBN hosted a special panel discussion and networking with a few of our 2023 Community Building Awardees at the Lewis & Clark Branch Library on May 24th. The panel discussion was a great opportunity for our community to hear more about the St. Louis Land Bank Coalition, a coalition working together to change state law to improve the County's tax sale system to make it easier to buy and rehab abandoned buildings, as well as hear from Dana Malkus of SLU Law Clinic on her work to help establish new nonprofits in St. Louis. We also heard from LaVonda Henderson, our humble leader of LinkSTL about her beginnings as volunteer and transition to executive director.

To close out the traveling photography exhibit, CBN hosted a happy hour networking celebration on Thursday, August 17th at the Brown School of Social Work on the beautiful campus of Washington University in St. Louis - Hillman Hall, on the ground/garden level. The photography exhibit was on display until last month and was very well received by current staff, students and visitors of the WashU campus.

Special Thanks to the US Bank Foundation for their generous sponsoring this photography exhibit.



2023 CBN Members

Mission Members

Beyond Housing

Cabanne District CDC

Carondelet Community Betterment Federation

Cherokee Street Community Improvement District

Cornerstone Corporation

DeSales Community Development

Dream Builders 4 Equity

Dutchtown Main Streets

Dutchtown South Community Corporation

Eastside Heart & Home

Hamilton Heights Neighborhood Organization, Inc.

The Housing Partnership

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Lansdowne Community Initiative

LinkStL

Lutheran Development Group

North Newstead Association

Northside Community Housing, Inc.

North County Inc.

Old North St. Louis

Park Central Development

Park Place Housing & Economic Development

Revitalization of Baden Association

Sustainable Housing & Equitable Development

Sinai Family Life Center

Spanish Lake Community Development Corporation

St. Joseph Housing Initiative

Tower Grove Community Development Corporation

Urban Strategies, Inc.

Wellston Loop Community Development Corporation

Supporting Members

Ameren Missouri

Busey Bank

Carrolton Bank

Clark-Fox Policy Institute at Washington University

Commerce Bank

Community Development Solutions

Creating Whole Communities

Development Strategies

Employment Connection

Enterprise Bank & Trust

FCB Banks

Forest ReLeaf Missouri

Gateway CDFI

Great Rivers Greenway

Great Sourthern Bank

Habitat for Humanity St. Louis

Horizon Housing Foundation

Housing Authority of St. Louis County

International Institute CDC

Justine PETERSON

Kranzberg Arts Foundation

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri

Midland States Bank

Midwest Bank Centre

PGAV Planners

PNC Bank

Preservation of Affordable Housing

Prosperity Connection

Rebuilding Together St. Louis

Rise Community Development

Roanoke Construction

Rosemann & Associates

St. Louis University Urban Planning and Development

St. Louis Association of Community Organizations

St. Louis Arts Chamber of Commerce

St. Louis Community Credit Union

St. Louis Communtiy Foundation

St. Louis Development Corporation

St. Louis Equity Fund Inc.

St. Louis Housing Authority

St. Louis Promise Zone

St. Louis REALTORS

St. Lousi Regional Health Commission

Trailnet

Urban Land Institute St. Louis

UMSL Community Innovation and Action Center

U.S. Green Building Council Missouri Gateway Chapter

West Community Credit Union







Annual Awards Reception. 7%

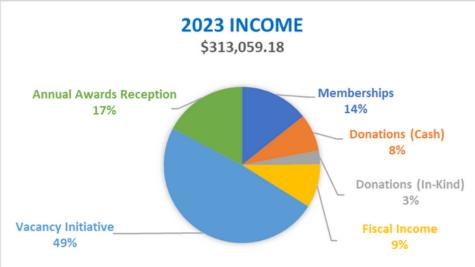
> Vacancy Task Force 12% Administration .

> > 8%

Employee Benefits 5%



CBN Finances



\$313,325.61







2023 CBN Board











Preservation of Affordable Housing



















CBN Staff: Linda Nguyen, Executive Director Megan Arnett, Partnership Coordinator Torrey Park, Vacancy Collaborative Director Zach Kassman, Vacancy Strategy Project Manager

2023 **Sponsors** and **Supporters**













Beer Sponsor

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THANK YOU





























House Level Sponsors

















SAM FOX SCHOOL OF DESIGN





2023 Community & Economic Development (CED) **Organizational Assessments Report**

Organizations

Real Estate



CDCs, neighborhood associations, and commercial corridors took the 2023 assessment, of which 25 are CBN members



been in existence for 20+ years

- ◆ Affordable Housing development, preservation & management
- Asset Building like homeownership
- Economic Development like small business attraction & support
- Neighborhood Preservation like placemaking, planning & community engagement

1,159



2,094

residential units owned managed

5,333 people served through

these properties



of organizations relied on ongoing community engagement to identify their target area's most critical needs, assets & goals.

looking to grow their housing portfolio

residential units owned

in need of rehab; 47 units are vacant/inhabitable



organizations produce, own. and/or manage property, with 15 prioritizing LMI households

Fundraising 75%

- Board Effectiveness 54%

Capacity-Building Needs

- Leadership & Succession 40%
- Volunteer Engagement & Management 46%
- Performance Measurement &
- Financial Management & Accounting 29%
- Relationships with Banking Partners 29%

<u>Programming Needs</u>

- Deal Structuring 36%
- **Economic Development 54%**
- Housing development 54%
- Home repair 36%
- Neighborhood Planning 54%

Desired Support from Partners

- Lines of credit/working capital
- Equity partner on development

Community Engagement Practices

Most Commonly Used:



Face-to-Face 84%

Community Meetings 76%

2023 Assessment Results: Desired CED Organization Growth Needs

Organizational **Development**

Knowledge & Skills

Development

- Financial Sustainability & Diversification
- **Board Effectiveness**
- **Volunteer Recruitment & Training**
- Collaborative Partnerships
- **Marketing & Communications**

- Economic Development
- **Neighborhood Planning**
- Placemaking
- **Performance Measurement & Evaluation**
- Real Estate Development: Construction Management & Deal Structuring

Looking into the Future: Capacity Building Initiatives

1:1 Project Support Consultation

Skills-Based Workshops

Tools + Techniques

Peer Resource Group

Lunch + Learns

Neighborhood **Gathering Series**

Place-based Initiatives



Mark, 110W

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- 😭 www.communitybuildersstl.org