



COMMUNITY BUILDERS
NETWORK OF METRO ST. LOUIS

Annual Report

2019

Thank you.



2019 was a year of important growth and change for the Community Builders Network. You'll find pictures and stories about that growth in this report. But at this moment, it feels strange to greet you without acknowledging the context of 2020 and the heavy uncertainty that's been churning around all of us this year.

It has been heartening and inspiring to see the ways in which our member organizations, especially our place-based Mission Members, have gone above and beyond to serve our region's neighborhoods during this year of crisis. But we know, as all of you do too, that the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic is currently intensifying are not new at all. The fault lines of systemic racism, injustice, and violence against People of Color, especially our Black and Indigenous neighbors, run centuries deep in this country. **As people wiser**

than I am have been saying for a long time, systemic racism is our most persistent pandemic. The community builders who fight day after day for a more equitable future for St. Louis give me hope that we can leverage this year's upheaval to start closing some of those fault lines and healing our most chronic disease.

This summer, we started convening a Racial Equity Workgroup of CBN member representatives, Board members, and staff, and initially they were tasked with ensuring that racial equity is centered in our strategic plan, process, and resulting actions. At an early workgroup meeting, one of our members wisely pointed out that **while CBN exists and has always existed to support community building organizations as they grapple with the effects that systemic racism has had on our community, historically CBN has not and does not overtly state that we do the work we do because systemic racism has starved communities of color for resources and opportunity for far too long.** No amount of change on the surface of this reality can create a better future for our region's neighborhoods when the roots of racism are still intact.

So this is us committing ourselves to publicly speaking this truth, and to doing better. And we know that saying this means nothing if it doesn't fuel real action. Although in many ways our journey into antiracism work started with Anti-Bias, Antiracism training in 2019, this year has been a powerful reminder that deeper, more transformative change is needed at CBN if we're truly going to center the fight for racial justice in all our work.

We hope you'll join us in this ongoing conversation and transformation, because it will not be possible without you, your support, and your partnership. If we're going to keep growing, we have to keep asking each other hard questions and holding each other accountable. **Thank you for everything you do to hold us accountable as partners at our tables, and for everything you share as partners of St. Louis' neighborhoods.**

With gratitude,

Jenny Connelly-Bowen
Executive Director

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Mission



COMMUNITY BUILDERS
NETWORK OF METRO ST. LOUIS

CBN gathers community leaders of all backgrounds to build engaged and equitable neighborhoods.

Vision

As a network, CBN envisions a St. Louis region where all people live in safe, economically strong, and vibrant neighborhoods and all community-based organizations are sustainable, supported, and valued.



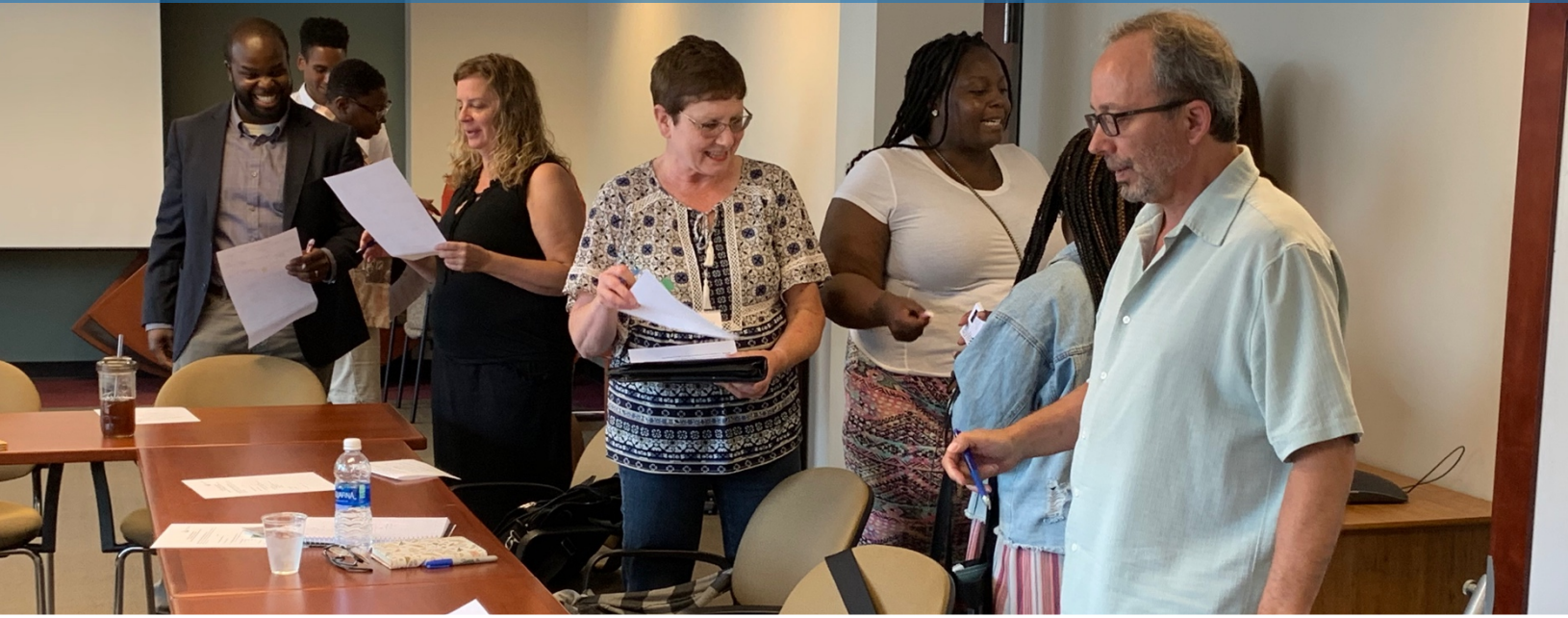
We believe strong, inclusive communities are the building blocks for a better St. Louis. CBN supports, connects, and celebrates neighborhood and regional leaders who make these places possible by focusing its work on three fronts.

Strong Organizations:
Supporting our members and their partners so they can do their best work

Supportive Systems:
Building bridges and advocating for policy that strengthens civic muscle

Sharing Stories: Spreading the word about what it takes to make our neighborhoods great places to live

Strong Organizations



Supportive Systems



Sharing Stories





CBN's Organizational Capacity Building Committee began reimagining their work as a more collaborative, member-driven effort and launched a CBN member-only Slack workspace (bottom left) to help folks in the network connect with each other more easily and often.

Strong Organizations

#questions ☆
Got questions? Post them here! 115 2+ ⓘ

an approved leave of absence, you may be considered to have remained in the contractual employ of CBN for the purpose of June 13th, 2019 on time.

November 21st, 2019

Jessica 5:16 PM
Hi all -
Does anyone have an accounting group they recommend for financial audits? Preferably ones that offer discounts to small nonprofits?
6 replies Last reply 11 months ago

Thursday, January 2nd

Jenny C-B (CBN) 7:40 PM
Hi all: Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy (EPIP) St. Louis is looking for folks to join their chapter leadership team. Deadline to apply is Thursday, January 16. More info here!
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1RscwdYOwC7df96Zj_F6zy_TqxFhWx28ZxNHIRVgEqw/viewform?edit_requested=true

Tuesday, January 14th

Claire Rippel 5:35 PM
Hello! Who would you talk to if you needed a cost analysis for a civic infrastructure project such as laying fiber optic cable? Thanks!
3 replies Last reply 9 months ago

CBN staff was part of the team that compiled the United Way of Greater St. Louis' 16-county Community Needs Assessment to inform their reimagined funding strategy, now a competitive process open to all nonprofits serving needs identified in the report.

LEADING WITH IMPACT

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF THE ST. LOUIS REGION





CBN worked with advocates and elected officials to support the creation of St. Louis County's first-ever Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) and partnered to call for more funding for the City's AHTF, which received another \$1 million for FY 2019.

Supportive Systems



The Social Policy & Electoral Accountability Collaborative (SPEAC) hosted another local candidate forum focused on the Forward Through Ferguson Report's key priorities.



The work of the St. Louis Vacancy Collaborative continued to gain momentum and evolve thanks to its growing base of talented volunteers, dedicated staff, and 2019-2021 Work Plan.



Sharing Stories



Loretta Hiner

2019 Award for Excellence in the Public Sector

"There's a project called East Fox Homes, started by a church in the South Grand area, with a lot of refugee and immigrant congregants who were being priced out of their housing. The church paired up with a nonprofit organization and started identifying a number of vacant and dilapidated houses around the Gravois Park neighborhood, and acquired them. They submitted a multilayered finance project to us, of which we were one funder, to rehab a number of historic structures and convert them into affordable rental housing. At the ribbon cutting, I remember seeing representatives from all the different funders coming together and seeing what it took to get the project done. The church and the nonprofit created a living example in these units. For the next 30 years, will be able to house generations of who will no longer be cost-burdened by the price of housing. The new have a stake in the community, and they'll be able to retain more of me. Now they have firmly established that they belong in the hood and that this is their home."

Senior Housing Analyst, City of St. Louis Affordable Housing Commission

CBN started partnering with Humans of St. Louis to compile unique photostories about our Annual Community Building Awards honorees, crafted in part to help spread the word about what community building looks like through the eyes of folks who are doing the work every day. Thanks to your generous support, our 2019 event topped our highest fundraising goal to date.



[ABOUT US](#) [WHAT WE DO](#) [SUPPORTED COALITIONS](#) [GET INVOLVED](#) [CONTACT US](#) [DONATE](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The CBN team migrated most of our monthly newsletter segments to new homes on our website, where they can be accessed and updated in real time throughout the month.

Mission Members

Carry out place-based work focused on community development, economic development, and affordable housing.

Beyond Housing
BRAND Foundation
Carondelet Community Betterment Federation
Community Action Agency of St. Louis County
Cornerstone Corporation
DeSales Community Development
Dutchtown South Community Corporation
Grace Hill Settlement House
Greater Alton CDC
Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis
Hamilton Heights Neighborhood Organization
The Housing Partnership, Inc.
Hyde Park Neighborhood Association*
International Institute of St. Louis CDC
Kingsway East Conservation Association
Lemay Development Corporation
LinkSTL
Lutheran Development Group
North Newstead Association
Northside Community Housing, Inc.
Old North St. Louis Restoration Group
Park Central Development
Park Place Housing & Economic Development*
Rebuilding Together St. Louis
Revitalization of Baden Association*
Rise Community Development
Spanish Lake CDC
St. Joseph Housing Initiative*
Tower Grove Neighborhoods CDC
University Square CDC
Washington University Medical Center
 Redevelopment Corporation
Wellston Loop CDC

Supporting Members

Support the place-based work of CBN members and partners with resources, connections, and expertise.

BMO Harris
Busey Bank
Carrollton Bank
The Clark-Fox Policy Institute
Commerce Bank
Creating Whole Communities
Enterprise Bank & Trust
FCB Banks
Gateway Community Development Fund, Inc.
Great Rivers Greenway*
Great Southern Bank*
Horizon Housing Foundation
IFF
Justine PETERSEN
Legal Services of Eastern Missouri*
Midland States Bank
Midwest BankCentre
North County Incorporated
PGAV Planners
PNC Bank
Prosperity Connection
Rosemann & Associates, P.C.
Rung for Women
Saint Louis University Urban Planning
 & Development
Saint Louis Regional Health Commission
St. Louis Association of Community Organizations
St. Louis Community Credit Union
St. Louis Community Foundation
St. Louis Development Corporation
St. Louis Equity Fund, Inc.
St. Louis Housing Authority
St. Louis Promise Zone*
St. Louis REALTORS®
Trailnet
UMSL Community Innovation & Action Center
Urban Strategies
U.S. Bank
Washington University in St. Louis

2019 CBN Members

*New in 2019

Finances & Fund Development

Dues-Paying Member Organizations

70+
members
strong

32 do place-based work that's deeply rooted in local neighborhoods

39 support place-based work with resources, connections, & expertise

St. Louis City
St. Louis County
Madison County
St. Clair County



community building nonprofits



anchor institutions



government



lenders



local business



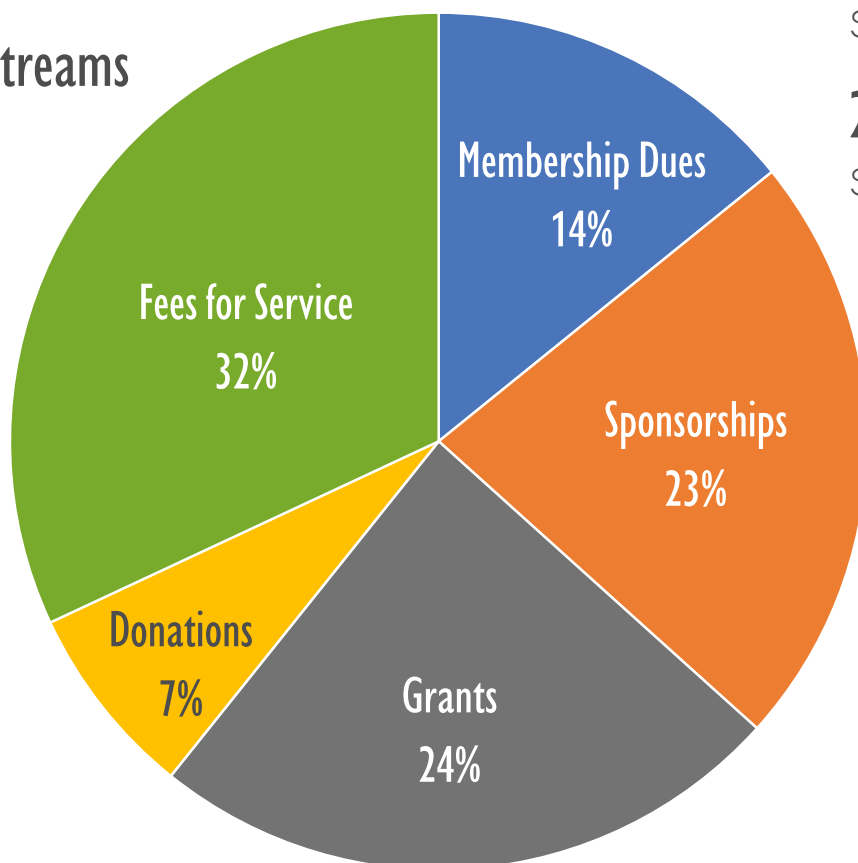
philanthropy



private developers

Finances

2019 Revenue Streams



2019 Total Revenue

\$222,066

2019 Total Expenses

\$217,631

2019 Sponsors, Friends, Affiliates

Community Level Sponsor - \$5,000



Block Level Sponsors - \$3,000



Street Level Sponsors - \$1,000



2019 Sponsors, Friends, Affiliates

House Level Sponsors - \$500

ACCURATE DISBURSING
E.M. HARRIS CONSTRUCTION
Great Rivers Greenway
St. Louis Title L.I.C.
RubinBrown
PGAV PLANNERS
GATEWAY
St. Louis Community Credit Union
SUGAR CREEK CAPITAL
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES®
rosemann & ASSOCIATES P.C.
Gershman INVESTMENT CORP

Neighborhood Backers

SUGAR CREEK CAPITAL
TOWER GROVE NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
BEYOND HOUSING
North Newstead Association
Clark-Fox Policy Institute
BROWN SCHOOL AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Opportunity Sponsors

DeSales COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MAJOR BRANDS
FIRST BANK
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
CIVIL LIFE
Brewing Co. ST. LOUIS, MO

2019 Friends & Affiliates of CBN

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sara Anderson | Joe Cavato | Colleen & Jake Hafner |
| Adam Bowen | Stephanie Co | Claire & Dan Hutti |
| Susan & Maurice Bowen | Fran & Mac Connelly | Kimberly & Kevin McKinney |
| Emily Bowen-Marler & Travis Marler | Lucas Delort | Staff of Louis Community Credit Union |
| Kim Brown | Dara Eskridge | |
| Kevin Buchek | Ted Floros | |

2019 CBN Board & Staff

Board of Directors



Jenny Ryan, President (not pictured)
PGAV Planners

Stephanie Co, President-Elect
Beyond Housing

David Noble, Treasurer
Midland States Bank

Abdul Kaba-Abdullah, Secretary
Park Central Development

Michael Burns (not pictured)
Northside Community Housing

Monica Campbell
Enterprise Bank & Trust

Laura Gilbert
Commerce Bank

Alana Green
St. Louis Housing Authority

Colleen Hafner (not pictured)
Rise Community Development

Sal Martinez
North Newstead Association

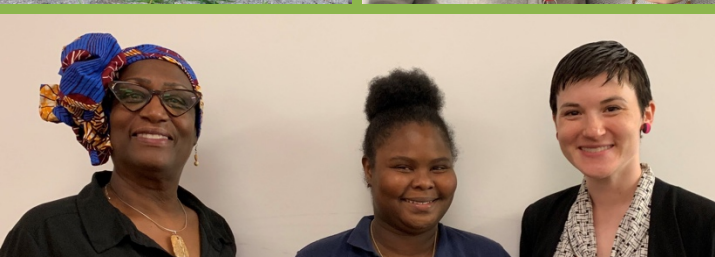
Kimberly McKinney
Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis

Timetria Murphy-Watson
Urban Strategies

Angela Pinex
Spanish Lake CDC

Tom Pickel (not pictured)
DeSales Community Development

Sean Spencer
Tower Grove Neighborhoods CDC



Staff

Jenny Connelly-Bowen, Executive Director

Gary Newcomer, Director of Operations

Tara Aubuchon, Vacancy Coordinator

Fatimah Muhammad, Partnership Coordinator

Ronald Jones, Vacancy Collaborative VISTA

Lilly Murphy, Vacancy Collaborative VISTA

Anesha Goode, Summer Intern

Laura Muther, Summer Intern

Alana Janssen, Practicum Student

Beth Kernaghan, Practicum Student



Thank you to CBN's member organizations for making this work possible...and fun.