



2017

Annual Report

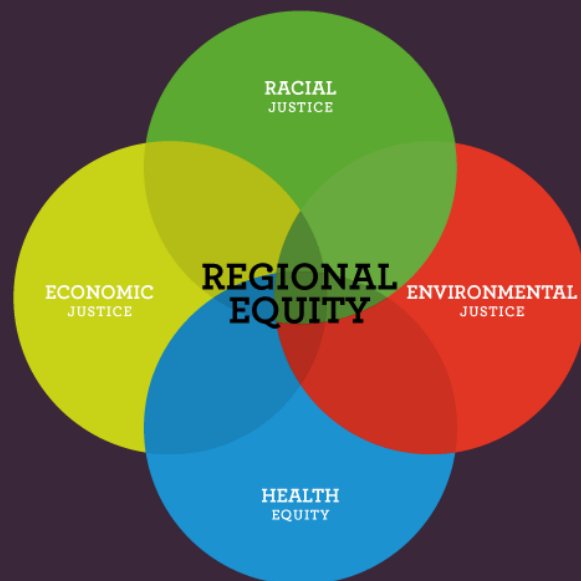
ADVANCING REGIONAL EQUITY

A YEAR OF YOUR SUPPORT

The Alliance is a coalition of advocacy and community organizing groups formed in 1994. We work together to advance racial, economic, and environmental justice and health equity in urban growth and development in the Twin Cities region. The Twin Cities region is rich with resources. We want all people to be able to access them and we believe everyone in our region will benefit when all communities have access to opportunity.

We believe...

The people and places of our region are deeply connected and interdependent. We work to ensure that our regional investments like housing, transit, and economic development benefit everyone, especially low-wealth communities, indigenous communities, communities of color, new immigrant communities, and people at the intersections of multiple forces of oppression – the people who are often left behind when resources are allocated. These communities have been historically excluded from decision-making tables and we are working with public



The Alliance brings grassroots organizations together to build more power and create a Twin Cities region that allows everyone to be well and thrive. In addition, we play a broader role in the regional landscape of advocacy and community-based groups by offering opportunities that help build the capacity of individuals and organizations that work for regional equity. In 2017, together with our partners and member groups, we were able to:

DEMAND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Our work to elevate awareness of our region's housing crisis is moving public officials to discuss important policies and investments. We have organized this work under 3 pillars: preservation, production, and tenant protection.

The purchase and conversion of apartment buildings to market rate housing by local and national real estate developers has contributed to a severe shortage of available, affordable housing units.

There is a growing sense of anxiety among renters and housing advocates about our rental housing trends. Emerging cases of racial discrimination, revelations of sub-standard living conditions, and restrictive rental application practices are contributing to the shortage. We worked with coalition partners to support efforts by the City of Minneapolis to

require apartment managers to accept applications from prospective tenants who carry Section 8 vouchers.

A number of cities across Hennepin County are examining new policies to grapple with these pressures. They are looking for new ways to address severe management abuses towards tenants, protect renters from displacement and unlawful evictions, support remedies for health and safety code violations, and help preserve existing affordable rental apartment buildings.

The Alliance is lifting up policies for creating new affordable housing production that focus on inclusionary zoning, density bonuses, variance requests, leveraging publicly held land, [continued on next page →]

A YEAR OF YOUR SUPPORT

and targeted up-zoning. A robust affordable housing policy in all neighborhoods is the best remedy for gentrification and displacement pressures.

The Alliance is supportive of coalition efforts to expand available funding to address all the pillars of affordable housing needs. We have been active supporters of efforts like the Make Homes Happen coalition, which held multiple candidate forums in Minneapolis in 2017 to educate the public and policy makers about our housing needs. MHH will be advocating for a large increase in the Minneapolis affordable housing trust fund in the coming years.

In early 2017, the Alliance began to build a deep partnership with multiple local and regional housing advocacy groups to form a powerful coalition in the southwest suburb of Eden

Prairie. The Alliance provided capacity building and technical support to this effort and helped connect other like-minded groups. The Somali community in Eden Prairie has worked for many years to persuade city leaders to embrace their economic and social priorities. Affordable housing concerns are at the top of the list, and in April of 2017, over 300 residents from multiple faith and cultural communities in the city came together at a housing forum sponsored by the coalition.



This served to jumpstart local conversations between renters and city officials and allowed the coalition to intervene and force needed changes by apartment managers when reports of tenant's rights abuses surfaced at the forum and other community meetings. Ultimately, new commitments have been made to site affordable housing in the city and local advocates have rallied around several new proposed developments, some that would connect residents to major public transit hubs.

The Alliance also successfully persuaded the City of St. Paul to include affordable housing requirements in their final zoning



plan for the historic Ford auto plant redevelopment site in the Highland neighborhood. We convened a coalition campaign table that united community-based organizations, neighborhood residents, pro-density activists, and environmental, transit, and housing advocacy groups that secured significant commitments for affordable housing in the fall of 2017.

Knowing the City was building a new neighborhood from scratch at the 130 acre site, we demanded that low-wealth people and people of color not be excluded from the opportunity to live in this new community. City officials agreed and passed a plan that requires 20% of all residential units to be affordable – that amounts to 800 units at maximum density. Half of those units – 400 apartments – will be affordable at 30% of the area median income. That means housing opportunities for people making the minimum wage of \$9.50 per hour, for people with disabilities, for seniors on a fixed income, and for people carrying Section 8 vouchers. The other 400 units will be affordable at 50% and 60% of the AMI.

The victory in St. Paul will serve as a model for future large-scale development in the Twin Cities region. Places like the Upper Harbor Terminal development in North Minneapolis, the Towerside development in the Prospect Park neighborhood, future LRT station areas like those in the Bassett's Creek Valley master plan, the former TCAAP site in Arden Hills, and others.



A YEAR OF YOUR SUPPORT – in 2017 we were able to:

MOVE TOWARD TRANSIT EQUITY

Our transit equity work is driven by the goal of including community-based leadership in regional planning, project design, and infrastructure investment decisions. Organizing efforts have had both a west metro and east metro focus and promote strategies to improve metropolitan level planning, expand our regional transit and active transportation systems, and create an unprecedented network of connectivity to economic and social opportunity.

Much of the Alliance's programmatic activities in this area in 2017 revolved around employing equitable development tools and strategies along transit corridors, including promotion of the Equitable Development Principles & Scorecard.

The Scorecard is a tool that helps communities evaluate current and future development in their communities using an equity lens. We heard from communities that this tool is valuable because it provides them with a starting point to advocate for and secure predictable community benefits. We heard from government that there is value in having specific indicators of equitable development. We heard from developers that it is good to have specific targets to aim for when the community or public sector asks for equitable development.

The Metropolitan Council has adopted the scorecard into the work plan for the Office of Transit-Oriented Development and included it in its toolkit for local planning. Agencies like Metro Transit and the City of St. Paul Planning and Economic Development Department are evaluating the use of the scorecard in their future development decisions.

Strategic Planning

In 2017, the Alliance board and staff collaborated with member groups and community partners to create a three year strategic plan. As this plan was developed, a new strategic priority emerged. The Alliance committed to more deeply and intentionally considering intersectionality in plans, projects, and processes.

For the Alliance, this means building new relationships and paying attention to how issues impact new immigrants, historic communities of color, indigenous people, differently documented people, and people facing other forms of oppression in distinct ways.

INSIST ON EQUITY IN PLACE

Working with the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, the Alliance co-convened the Equity in Place coalition table, a diverse group of strategic partners from place-based, housing, and advocacy organizations. EIP believe that everyone in the Twin Cities region deserves to live where they wish to live and have access to opportunity. Our region benefits from many assets, but we continue to be unable to translate these benefits to everyone, specifically to communities of color. Equity in Place engages community-based organizations in influencing planning and investment decisions that will shape the future of the Twin Cities region.

HUD asked the Twin Cities to redo its regional analysis of impediments, finding that the most recently submitted document failed to adequately address racially concentrated areas of poverty, segregation, and access to opportunity. Alliance staff and other Equity in Place members have been working with local and regional HUD staff on this and other fair housing work.

HUD wanted to construct a new RAI process here that emphasized inclusive community engagement and can serve as a national model. The agency offered Equity in Place 4 (of 12) seats on an advisory committee of stakeholders for this process. At the decision making table, we advocated for fair enforcement of committee rules and secured a more equitable analysis of fair housing in our region. Our partners elevated the need to construct community revitalization policies with the meaningful involvement of people of color, countered negative narratives and deficit-based theories regarding communities of color, and challenged efforts to focus on desegregation rather than targeted investment that creates opportunity for all residents. This has been a rich body of work that has changed how community expertise is valued in fair housing discussions and how decisions about important housing issues are made.



DONORS and FUNDERS

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FOUNDATIONS and ORGANIZATIONS

Asian Economic Development Association
Aurora St. Anthony Neighborhood
Development Corporation
Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of MN
Blue Cross Blue Shield Center for Prevention
Catholic Charities Office for Social Justice
Community Stabilization Project
Emma B. Howe Memorial Foundation of the
Minneapolis Foundation
F. R. Bigelow Foundation
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Greater Cincinnati Foundation
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McKnight Foundation
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Nexus Community Partners
Otto Bremer Foundation
Our Streets MPLS
Saint Anthony Park Community Council
Sierra Club North Star Chapter
Smart Growth America
State of Minnesota Housing
Still Ain't Satisfied, a Foundation with Attitude
Summit Academy OIC
The Saint Paul Foundation
Transit for Livable Communities
Winthrop A. Wyman Family Fund

"Working in coalition with the Alliance is one of the most effective ways in which we are able to stay rooted and connected to our partners on the ground. Being a part of the Equity in Place coalition with the Alliance and partners allows CURA to connect to a diverse group of leaders and organizations focused on advancing racial and economic justice, allowing us to **go farther together than we could go alone.**"

Neeraj Mehta, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs



STAFF, BOARD, and MEMBERS

2017 STAFF

Russ Adams, Executive Director
Maura Brown, Associate Director
Owen Duckworth, Coalition Organizer
Margo Fritz, Communications and
Programming Coordinator
joohee pomplun, Coalition Organizer
Sebastian Rivera, Coalition Organizer
Meron Tebeje, Coalition Organizer
Jabri Letice Whirl, HECUA Intern

2017 BOARD MEMBERS

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New American Development Center
Sunny Chanthanouvong
Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota
Jim Erkel - *Treasurer*
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Joshua Houdek
Sierra Club North Star Chapter
Vaughn Larry - *Secretary*
At Large
Suyapa Miranda – *Vice President*
Saint Anthony Park Community Council
Nelima Sitati-Munene
African Career, Education & Resource, Inc.

2017 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

African Career, Education and Resource, Inc.
All Parks Alliance for Change
Asian Economic Development Association
Aurora/St. Anthony Neighborhood Development
Corporation
Catholic Charities Office for Social Justice
Community Stabilization Project
Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota
The Family Partnership
Fresh Energy
Frogtown Neighborhood Association
Harrison Neighborhood Association
HOME Line
Housing Justice Center
Jewish Community Action
Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Major Taylor's Bicycling Club
Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing
Minneapolis Urban League
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance
Native American Community Development Institute
New American Development Center
Northside Residence Redevelopment Council
Our Streets MPLS
Saint Anthony Park Community Council
Saint Paul Area Coalition for the Homeless
Sierra Club, North Star Chapter
Somali Action Alliance
Summit Academy OIC
Transit for Livable Communities
Twin Cities Local Initiative Support Corporation
West Side Community Organization
Women's Environmental Institute



"Membership in the Alliance provides a great sense of stability and helps bring clarity at times when this work may get a bit distorted and seem distant from the goal. **The Alliance has set the foundation for what it means to work across sectors and build meaningful, intentional relationships** that lead to growth for community and organizations."

Denise Butler, African Career, Education & Resource, Inc.

YEAR END FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION – DECEMBER 31, 2017

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$737,268.54
Prepaid Expenses	\$9,185.06
Grants Receivable	\$175,000.00
Security Deposit	\$1,200.00

TOTAL ASSETS **\$922,653.58**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$3,893.80
Accrued Expenses	\$38,038.78
Other	-----

TOTAL LIABILITIES **\$41,932.58**

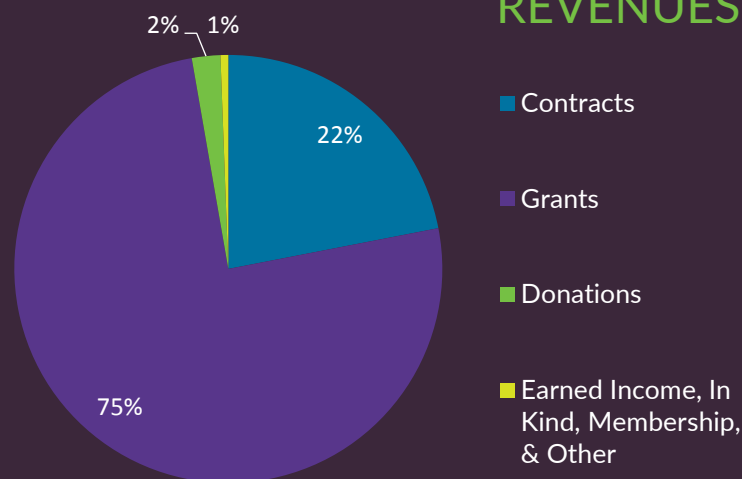
Equity

3900 – Restricted Net Assets	\$373,433.34
3903 – Unrestricted Net Assets	\$299,388.03
Net Income	\$207,899.63

TOTAL EQUITY **\$880,721.00**

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY **\$922,653.58**

REVENUES



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES – DECEMBER 31, 2017

REVENUES

Contracts	\$152,552.08
Grants	\$523,500.00
Donations	\$14,954.61
Earned Income, In Kind, Membership, \$ Other	\$4,081.85

TOTAL REVENUES **\$695,088.54**

EXPENSES

Management	\$42,204.00
Lobbying	\$5,409.97
Fundraising	\$14,996.45
Regional Equity Project	
HIRE Minnesota	\$73,373.00
Transit Equity	\$96,446.00
Capacity Building	\$62,976.00
Affordable Housing Strategies	\$116,094.00
Equity in Place	\$75,689.00
Total Regional Equity Project	\$424,578.00

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$487,189.00**

NET INCOME **\$207,900.00**

EXPENSES

