



The Alliance  
ADVANCING REGIONAL EQUITY

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMITTED TO ADVANCING EQUITY THROUGHOUT THE TWIN CITIES REGION



# A YEAR OF YOUR SUPPORT

**A**t the Alliance, we build power by connecting the capacity of communities of color and low wealth communities to shift policy and practice on development decisions in our region. We are convinced that those most directly impacted by the challenges our region faces around affordable housing, transportation, employment opportunities and health inequities, understand what changes are needed.

In our work, we connect grassroots leaders to arenas where they can speak truth to power and provide policymakers with actual solutions that will improve their lives. We work in cross-sector, cross-issue coalitions that bring the skill set of communities across our region together to advance these solutions in a holistic manner. We know that by working together, our efforts to reverse structural racism in our region are more effective.



*“The Alliance plays a pivotal role in bringing together people from all sectors around issues of regional equity.”*

-Allison Bell,  
Metro Transit- Everyday Equity

Your support in 2015 allowed us to build coalitions, make connections, provide resources, and generate public support for racial, economic, and environmental justice – thank you. From transit to hiring to development, we were able to make significant progress toward our goals in 2015. Together with our partners and member groups, we were able to:

#### ESTABLISH AN EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

The Community Engagement Steering Committee (CESC), along with a number of partners, successfully advocated for the creation of the Equity Advisory Committee at the Metropolitan Council. The committee will review the equity impact of all of the Met Council’s work and includes Met Council members, geographic representatives, and community-based leaders to ensure that it reflects the region’s diversity.

#### LAUNCH THE EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT SCORECARD 2.0

CESC and other leaders launched the 2.0 version of the Equitable Development Scorecard after incorporating feedback from neighborhood groups, district councils, cities, the Metropolitan Council, the federal government, and developers. The scorecard helps communities evaluate current and future development in their communities using an equity lens. The scorecard has already been ad-

opted by the Metropolitan Council. Metro Transit and the City of Saint Paul Planning and Economic Development department are evaluating its use in their future development decisions. The U.S. EPA Region 5 has also expressed interest in promoting the tool.

#### INCREASE SUPPORT FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

The Alliance played a leadership role in MoveMN as we sought a sales tax increase to support critical transportation projects throughout Minnesota. MoveMN asked state and local leaders to join transit advocates, communities of color, businesses, labor unions and other local officials to fashion a long-term solution to build out a world-class transit system, and ensure that every Minnesotan has reliable and affordable access to reach critical destinations like work, school, and health care. Our organizing efforts not only generated coverage of this issue by media outlets across the state but it elevated the role of our public transportation

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system in connecting workers of color to construction jobs, stimulating economic development, and making other improvements that will benefit our region's low wealth communities and communities of color.

## SECURED COMMITMENT TO CAPTURE FUNDING FOR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES FOR SNAP RECIPIENTS

Minnesota is leaving tens of millions of untapped federal dollars at the table to provide employment and training services to SNAP recipients. In 2015, HIRE Minnesota brought over 50 people to a Minnesota Jobs Skills Partnership meeting to provide testimony to the Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) Commissioner on the importance of receiving this money. Due to our advocacy and organizing around this meeting and our follow up afterwards, DEED and the Department of Human Services (DHS) have committed to creating a plan and a timeline to make sure that Minnesota accesses these funds.

## ENSURING A DIVERSE WORKFORCE

In 2015, we helped secure over \$63 million dollars in wages to people of color. HIRE Minnesota's Workforce Projection Tool has resulted in a number of large projects surpassing the status quo in their abilities to get close to, reach, or surpass the participation goals for people of color. Projects include the Central Corridor LRT, the Saint's Ballpark, MnDOT's Franklin Ave Bridge Project, the Senate Office Building and Capitol Renovation, and the Vikings Stadium. In addition, the City of Minneapolis, City of St. Paul, MnDOT, and the Metropolitan Council have agreed to use the tool or parts of the tool in future projects, and the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights has included pieces of the tool in their pre-award packets for contractors. We are now helping to plan for a diverse workforce on the new soccer stadium and future Metropolitan Airports Commission projects. These are all significant steps in ensuring a more diverse workforce on future projects in our state.

## PAVE THE WAY FOR THE NORTHSIDE GREENWAY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

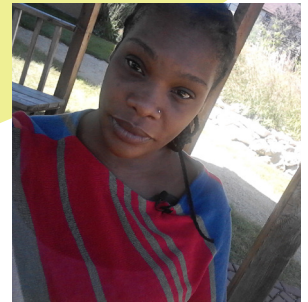
The Alliance supported the Northside Greenway Council in decision-making and long-term visioning for the Northside Greenway Project. We also worked with grantees to better understand people's opinions about the greenway, engage residents, and share data about what we have learned. To support this effort, the Alliance, in partnership with the City of Minneapolis and a community based review committee, awarded micro-grants to 17 organizations in North Minneapolis spanning various cultural, geographic and faith based groups. In addition, we implemented the Community Connectors Project to ensure engagement with the diverse demographic communities in North Minneapolis. These activities paved the way for a greenway demonstration project to be implemented in 2016.

## IMPROVE BUS TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE

In coordination with Metro Transit and the Community Engagement Team, which includes Nexus Community Partners and the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, the Alliance helped launch the Better Bus Stops initiative. This is a community engagement process that will impact what types of amenities are added to eligible shelter stops and will also implement concrete ways to improve the bus rider experience. In addition, micro-grants with community-based organizations will ensure that local communities and bus riders shape and define plans for the equitable distribution of 275+ new bus stop shelters and provide significant input into Metro Transit's Transit Service Plan.

## ADVANCE EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT ALONG THE SOUTHWEST LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (SWLRT) PROJECT

In 2015, the Alliance continued working with our partners to advocate for specific benefits related to the build out of the Southwest Light Rail Transit line through the Equity Commitments work. The Equity Commitments coalition persuaded each



*"I find working with the Alliance around issues of equity to be an honor. There are not many spaces or organizations pulling together the stories and impacts of structural racism to create change, but the Alliance is one that is doing this work. Having the opportunity to work with other geographies makes the voices of the oppressed harmonized and stronger. Although this can be challenging as a person of color facing the same issues, working with the Alliance gives me an opportunity to learn the language of my anger with institutional racism and fight against it."*

-Tia Williams,  
Frogtown Neighborhood Association

2015

## A YEAR OF YOUR SUPPORT

public entity responsible for the line - the city of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and the Met Council - to pledge to advance affordable housing goals, jobs, and other economic opportunity outcomes in construction of the line. The Alliance created an Equity Commitments Matrix that tracks our specific asks and lists specific agency pledges to improve the project. When the project budget came under scrutiny, coalition leaders successfully argued that project cuts and cost savings measures must not harm low-wealth communities of color or the stations that serve them.

### CONNECT ORGANIZERS TO TOOLS AND RESOURCES THAT ADVANCE REGIONAL EQUITY

In 2015, our Organizer Roundtables connected over 300 organizers and other community leaders to each other and current campaign work in the racial equity field in the Twin Cities. Topics included: Gentrification and Displacement in the Twin Cities; Organizing and Self Care; Moving from Allyship to Solidarity; Creating an Accessible and Safe Pedestrian Environment; Strategizing, Visioning and Goal Setting; Wealth Creation Rooted in Economic Justice; Building Power in the Asian American Pacific Islander Community; and Organizing in the American Indian Community. In addition, thanks to the support of the McKnight

Foundation as well as other local funders, we were able to support 43 people in attending PolicyLink's Equity Summit in October. Before the summit, the Alliance convened Twin Cities delegates for a conversation about where equity is moving in the Twin Cities and where we have a lot of work to do. Over 60 people attended the event, keynoted by Dr. Bruce Corrie.

### EQUITY IN PLACE

Throughout 2015, the Alliance partnered with community-based organizations to work directly in low-wealth communities of color in several geographic locations throughout the region including Brooklyn and Brooklyn Center; the east and west sides of St. Paul, the Frogtown/Rondo neighborhoods of St. Paul; and the north Minneapolis neighborhoods. In collaboration with these community groups, we prepared plans for a series of community meetings with the Met Council to identify strategic equitable investments and policies that align with the community's vision for how best to alleviate poverty, build wealth, and create healthier communities. In addition, Equity in Place leaders met with federal HUD staff and local officials to discuss concerns with recent fair housing complaints and to make sure that the perspective of actual tenants and community members are heard and considered.



*"The Alliance provides a holistic way of looking at all issues of equity across our region. The Alliance understands that it's not just about transit and other infrastructure projects, but about how all of issues of injustice work together to keep people from opportunity. In addition, the Alliance's work crosses geographic boundaries and brings people together across race, class, and issue area. All of this not only helps us advance equity in our region but it has proven to be a valuable resource in helping Saint Anthony Park Community Council grow and move along in our journey."*

-Suyapa Miranda, Saint Anthony Park Community Council

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 Blue Cross Blue Shield Center for Prevention  
 City of Minneapolis  
 Community Shares of Minnesota  
 Emma B. Howe Memorial Foundation  
 Ford Foundation  
 Headwaters Foundation for Justice  
 Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation  
 McKnight Foundation  
 Nexus Community Partners  
 Otto Bremer Foundation  
 Still Ain't Satisfied - A Foundation with Attitude  
 The K Foundation  
 The Minneapolis Foundation  
 Winthrop A. Wyman Family Fund



# STAFF AND MEMBERS

## 2015 STAFF

**Russ Adams**, Executive Director  
**Ebony Adedayo**, Communications and Capacity Building Coordinator  
**Maura Brown**, Associate Director  
**Owen Duckworth**, Coalition Organizer  
**Joan Vanhala**, Coalition Organizer  
**Nick Kor**, HIRE Campaign Organizer

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 New American Academy

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 Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

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 Aurora St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation

**Kenya McKnight**  
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**Joo Hee Pomplun - President**  
 Asian Economic Development Association

**Nelima Sitati-Munene**  
 African Career, Education & Resource Inc

**Eleonore Wesserle - Secretary**  
 At Large Member

## 2015 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

African Career, and Education Resource, Inc  
 All Parks Alliance for Change  
 Asian Economic Development Association  
 Aurora/St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corp.  
 Catholic Charities Office for Social Justice  
 Community Stabilization Project  
 District Councils Collaborative of St. Paul and Minneapolis  
 Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota  
 The Family Partnership  
 Fresh Energy  
 Harrison Neighborhood Association  
 HOME Line  
 Housing Justice Center  
 Jewish Community Action  
 Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota  
 League of Women Voters of Minnesota  
 Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers  
 Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing  
 Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition  
 Minneapolis Urban League  
 Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
 Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance  
 Native American Community Development Institute  
 New American Academy  
 Northside Residence Redevelopment 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

# YEAR END FINANCIALS

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - DECEMBER 31, 2015

### ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	452,873
Prepaid Expenses	13,405
Grants Receivable	309,263
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>775,240</b>

### PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

at Cost	18,819
Less: accumulated depreciation	(18,819)
<b>Total Property and Equipment, net</b>	<b>0</b>

**TOTAL ASSETS** 775,240

### LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	5,271
Other Current Liabilities	33,901
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>39,172</b>

### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	260,714
Temporarily restricted	475,354
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>736,068</b>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** 775,240

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

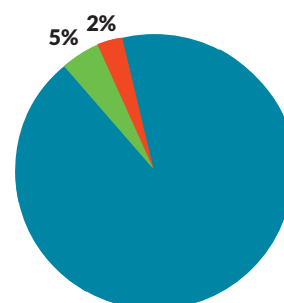
### REVENUES

Grants	770,000.00
Contracts	228,486.15
Donations	9,151.88
Earned Income, In kind, Membership and Other	8,757.16
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>1,016,395.19</b>

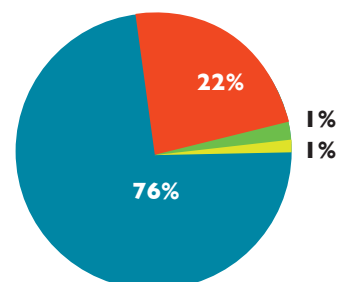
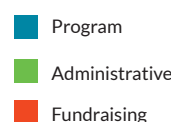
### EXPENSES

Program	719,691
Administrative	147,524
Fundraising	17,429
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>771,937</b>

<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>244,460</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING</b>	<b>491,068</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, ENDING</b>	<b>736,068</b>



### EXPENSES



### REVENUES

