



# Alliance 2018

## Annual Report



# Letter from the Executive Director

## 2018 STAFF

**Russ Adams**- Executive Director

**Maura Brown**- Associate Director

**Owen Duckworth**- Director of  
Policy and Organizing

**Margo Fritz | Carolyn Szczepanski**  
Communications and Programming  
Coordinator

**Joo Hee Pomplun**- Director of  
Research and Organizing

**Sebastian Rivera**- Coalition Organizer

## 2018 BOARD

**Asad Aliweyd** – President  
New American Development Center

**Monica Bravo**  
West Side Community Organization

**Sunny Chanthanouvong**  
Lao Assistance Center of MN

**Jim Erkel** - Treasurer  
At Large

**Joshua Houdek** - Secretary  
Sierra Club North Star Chapter

**Tram Hoang**  
At Large

**Suyapa Miranda** - Vice President  
At Large

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

**Anthony Taylor**  
Major Taylor Cycling Club of MN

In 1994, a handful of activists formed the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability with a bold vision: uniting across issues and geographies to advocate for smarter growth and social justice in the Twin Cities. Over the past 25 years, thousands of community leaders have worked together to evolve that vision and turn our hopes for a more equitable region into reality, by securing significant funding and policy wins while shifting narratives about power, privilege and who deserves to thrive in our neighborhoods.

In 2018, as we approached our 25th anniversary, I began to reflect more deeply on my 24-year tenure at the Alliance and the privilege to work alongside so many tireless, visionary leaders. Together, we've made transformational gains in affordable housing, transit and health equity, economic and workforce development, and environmental justice.

By resourcing organizing, centering those most impacted, and being accountable to community, we've been able to drive racial equity into the analysis, practices and worldviews that inform so many of the systems that impact our day-to-day lives.

As Executive Director, I've had the opportunity to learn and grow as an equity advocate, not only from our community partners, but from Alliance staff, as well. In our own programmatic evaluations, Alliance staff like to ask the question, 'As organizers, did we step back so that others could step forward?' In 2018, I realized we had arrived at an opportune moment to apply that principle to our executive leadership at our organization.

**So, as we move into 2019 and celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Alliance, I will be leaving my role at the Alliance and I'm thrilled that Joo Hee Pomplun will become the new Executive Director in the Fall of 2019.** With deep relationships and knowledge of this work, Joo Hee and the Alliance staff will continue to inhabit the intersections of critical community issues and build the coalitions that have created a diverse and dynamic movement for regional equity.

In 2018, your support of the Alliance was essential in securing significant policy and campaign wins, and in building the capacity of leaders and organizations that will continue to transform the landscape of regional equity in 2019 and beyond. It's been my great honor to play a role in our movement and, like you, I look forward to supporting the Alliance for years to come.

Sincerely and in solidarity,

Russ Adams



## We provide leadership in

Actualizing Equity Event Series

Affordable Housing Coalition Advocacy

Equitable Development Principles & Scorecard

Equity in Place

HIRE Minnesota

Our AREA: Alliance Regional Equity Agenda

Transit / Transportation Equity Advocacy

# Together, we're working to actualize equity across the Twin Cities region.

**The Alliance** is a coalition of community-based organizations and advocacy groups building shared power to advance strategic campaigns around the intersections of racial justice, economic justice, environmental justice, and health equity.

## We believe that:

People are experts in their own lives and have the best ideas to make positive changes in their communities.

Building power and expanding leadership through organizing is one of the most effective ways to create lasting change.

## We are committed to:

Ensuring that people of all races, income levels, and geographic areas benefit from public decisions and investments; share in decision-making; and have access to opportunities like housing, transportation, jobs, good schools, parks, health care, and more.

Shared leadership, ideas, and resources among many groups and individuals.

Accountability to our members and allies while working for public accountability to the diverse communities represented in the Twin Cities region

## We do our work through:



Coalition building



Community engagement



Field building



Strategic system navigation

# 8 Successes from 2018

At the Alliance, we don't just change policy. We work in coalition to **build power** that shifts systems and elevates true community solutions. In 2018, **thanks to your support** and the collective efforts of our member and partner organizations, we advanced equity across the region through **coalition organizing, policy advocacy and field building**.

## 1) Released *Our AREA: Alliance Regional Equity Agenda*

In the Twin Cities metro area, people of color, indigenous, immigrant, and low-income communities are leading powerful, creative work to establish a just region where all can thrive. Developed through conversations with local leaders and released in 2018, ***Our AREA: The Alliance Regional Equity Agenda*** highlights the strategies Alliance members and partners are using and calls for further collective action to heal communities, stimulate regenerative power, dismantle structural racism, and end the displacement and gentrification of our communities. With overarching principles and targeted policy recommendations, this living agenda moves toward reclaiming the term “equity” and defining it in our terms through our strategies.

## 2) Convened conversations around Actualizing Equity

From “Who Speaks for the Neighborhood” to “Race, Class and the Outdoors,” the Alliance convened **9 events** in 2018 to curate conversation and insight on critical areas of community importance, including housing, transportation and community

engagement. The **Actualizing Equity event series** created space for organizers throughout the region to build relationships, share knowledge and strategize together in our shared work to change the policies and systems that influence racial, economic, environmental, and health equity.

## 3) Expanded the use of the Equitable Development Principles and Scorecard

Created in partnership with more than a dozen local organizations, the **Equitable Development Principles and Scorecard** helps communities ensure that the principles and practices of equitable development, environmental justice, and affordability are available to all residents. In 2018, the Alliance worked with **West Side Community Organization, Cycles for Change, Metro Blooms and others** to showcase how their communities and organizations are adapting and leveraging the scorecard for their issues and geographies. From grassroots organizers to government staff, more than **120 leaders joining the Scorecard Enthusiasts table**, an opportunity to come together on a regular basis to share their successes and learnings with the Scorecard.

The Alliance is adept at working to uplift and amplify issues impacting marginalized communities. Their solidarity and extensive work with community-identified issues, like housing justice, is both effective and deeply meaningful. **Kadra Abdi, founder and CEO of Synergy Consulting, and co-founder, writer, and curator for Ubuntu: The Collective.**







**From left:** Mel Reeves recognized by MnDOT for successful work with HIRE Minnesota to increase diversity of workforce on department projects; community leaders and city staff participating in the Anti-Displacement Policy Network; Twin Cities' leaders at the PolicyLink Equity Summit in Chicago

#### 4) Secured millions in wages for construction workers of color

**HIRE Minnesota**, a campaign to end employment disparities, continues to make dramatic strides in moving the state from worst to first in construction employment equity. Thanks to consistent monitoring and accountability meetings, people of color are now performing nearly 19% of MN Department of Transportation project workforce hours in the metro area, which represents nearly **\$5 million in estimated wages**. In 2018, significant focus on the 35W highway reconstruction project resulted in 28% of hours for the multi-year project going to people of color. This is the highest percentage for a MnDOT project and will result in a projected **\$6.7 million in wages to people of color**.

#### 5) Coordinated hundreds of local leaders to attend national summit

By supporting the leadership of community based organizations and connecting many groups across geographic and cultural communities doing similar work, the Alliance plays a role in developing a stronger set of relationships, collaborations, best practices, and understanding of collective power. In 2018, the Alliance organized a delegation of more than 225 leaders from the Twin Cities to attend a nationally recognized conference on racial and

economic equity issues. Hosted by PolicyLink, the Equity Summit attracted nationally known speakers and lifted up the efforts of local, community-based organizations. The Alliance administered a stipend fund that helped to offset the costs for dozens of conference attendees, convened a conference kick-off conversation in Minneapolis and hosted a Twin Cities delegation convening during the Summit.

#### 6) Embedded community leaders in identifying housing solutions

Through **Equity in Place**, the Alliance convenes community organizers to reframe narratives and elevate solutions that allow every resident to live where they want and have access to opportunity. In 2018, we helped to convene the Twin Cities cohort in the PolicyLink All-In Cities **Anti-Displacement Policy Network**, which engaged local elected leaders, staff, and community based organizations from 10 cities across the country with the mission of preventing displacement. The Alliance also worked with the Fair Housing Implementation Council — a regional body of government staff that coordinate efforts to affirmatively further fair housing throughout the Twin Cities metro — to **secure funding for community-based organizations to engage tenants** in identifying solutions to their housing challenges.



**From left:** Monica Bravo, Executive Director of the West Side Community Organization, has been working to adapt and integrate the Equitable Development Principles and Scorecard into her community's development decision-making process; leaders from the Make Homes Happen coalition, which secured \$40 million in affordable housing funding in the 2019 Minneapolis city budget

## 7) Advanced significant affordable housing production and funding

While the Twin Cities faces a housing crisis that impacts thousands of families in our communities, public awareness and political will to create and preserve more affordable homes is building. In 2018, the Alliance and New American Development Center worked with **East African communities in Eden Prairie** to advocate for the preservation and expansion of affordable housing, ultimately securing the approval of nearly 100 new units in Eden Prairie — including 2- and 3-bedroom apartments — at 50% of area median income.

For many years, the Alliance has advocated for **strong, mandatory inclusionary housing policies** that ensure new multi-family development include affordable units and, in 2018, the City of Minneapolis passed an inclusionary housing framework that provided meaningful leadership for municipalities across the region. In Minneapolis, the Alliance also worked with the **Make Homes Happen coalition to secure \$40 million** for the city's Affordable Housing Trust Fund in the 2019 budget.

## 8) Pressed for equity in large-scale developments

In Ramsey County, the Alliance and partners continued to press for the inclusion of affordable housing in the development of the **Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant in Arden Hills**, the region's largest tract of vacant land at more than 425 acres. The Alliance also continued to monitor the site planning process and city decision-making for the 125 Acre Ford Auto Plant development to ensure follow-through on the commitment to build 760 affordable housing units on the site, half of which being priced to be affordable to people at or below 30% of the area median income.





## 2018 MEMBERS

African Career, Education and Resource, Inc. (ACER)  
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 MN  
The Family Partnership  
Fresh Energy  
Frogtown Neighborhood Association  
Harrison Neighborhood Association  
HOME Line  
Housing Justice Center  
Jewish Community Action  
Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota  
Major Taylor Bicycling Club of MN  
Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAH)  
Minneapolis Urban League  
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance  
Move Minnesota  
Native American Community Development Institute  
New American Development Center  
Northside Residents Redevelopment Council  
Our Streets MPLS  
Saint Anthony Park Community Council  
Sierra Club, North Star Chapter  
Summit Academy OIC  
Twin Cities Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC)  
West Side Community Organization

## 2018 Donors and Funders

### Donors

Jay Adams  
Russ Adams  
Tracy and Luke Babler  
Robert Barduson  
Tim Brausen  
Peter and Louise Brown  
Maura Brown  
Jill Chamberlain  
Joe Claus  
Dan Cornejo  
John DeWitt  
Diane Dube and Peter Gorman  
Steve Elkins  
Ethan Fawley  
Lorraine Fischer  
Elizabeth Glidden  
Mat and Karla Hollinshead  
Lois Hamilton  
Charles Holtman  
Joshua Houdek  
Jennifer Jimenez-Wheatley  
Shannon Jones  
Terri Karis  
Louis J King  
Margaret Kirkpatrick  
Steve Kittel  
John Levin  
John Marty  
Dan Lieberman  
Nat Locke  
Andrea Lubov  
Allan Malkis  
Steve Mayer  
Lisa Middag  
Suyapa Miranda  
Philipp Muessig  
Gretchen Nicholls

Emma Pachuta  
Alisa Revou  
Rob Ruffin  
Julia Ruther  
Jay Schmitt  
Brett and Kathy Smith  
Linnea and Jon Swenson Tellekson  
Margaret Trenda  
Karen Utter  
Mary Ann Van Cura  
Lynnanne Warren  
Michael Weber  
Kathryn Wetzel  
Mariia Zimmerman

### Funders

Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Minnesota  
Blue Cross Blue Shield Center for Prevention  
Community Share of Minnesota Family Housing Fund  
First Universalist Church  
F. R. Bigelow Foundation  
Greater Cincinnati Foundation  
Headwaters Foundation for Justice  
Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation  
League of Minnesota Cities  
McKnight Foundation  
Minneapolis Foundation  
Minnesota Housing Finance Agency  
Otto Bremer Foundation  
Saint Paul Foundation  
Still Ain't Satisfied Foundation

I've had the pleasure to work with and witness the powerful, strategic, and justice-centered organizing that happens in and around The Alliance. They are a highly effective agent of change, utilizing their skills in engagement, coalition building, and advocacy to serve as a force driving our region toward equitable outcomes.

**Ani Koch, Senior Program Manager, Blue Cross Blue Shield Center for Prevention**



# 2018 Financials



## Statement of Financial Position- 12/31/18

### ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$653,987
Certificates of Deposit	\$200,746
Prepaid Expenses	\$11,069
Grants Receivable	\$24,925
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$890,727</b>

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$5,473
Accrued Expenses	\$38,324
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$43,797</b>
Equity	
Restricted Net Assets	\$125,002
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$721,928
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>\$846,930</b>
<b>Total liabilities &amp; equity</b>	<b>\$890,727</b>

## Statement of Activities- 12/31/18

### REVENUES

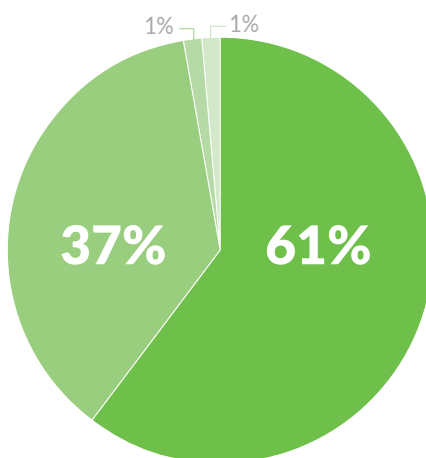
Contracts	\$185,377
Grants	\$302,140
Donations	\$6,769
Earned income, in-kind, membership and other	\$6,095
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$500,381</b>

### EXPENSES

Management	\$44,158
Fundraising	\$23,832
Programs	\$482,538
Regional Equity Project	\$31,119
HIRE Minnesota	\$65,237
Transit Equity	\$47,562
Capacity Building	\$117,363
Affordable Housing Strategies	\$140,198
Equity in Place	\$81,058
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$550,528</b>

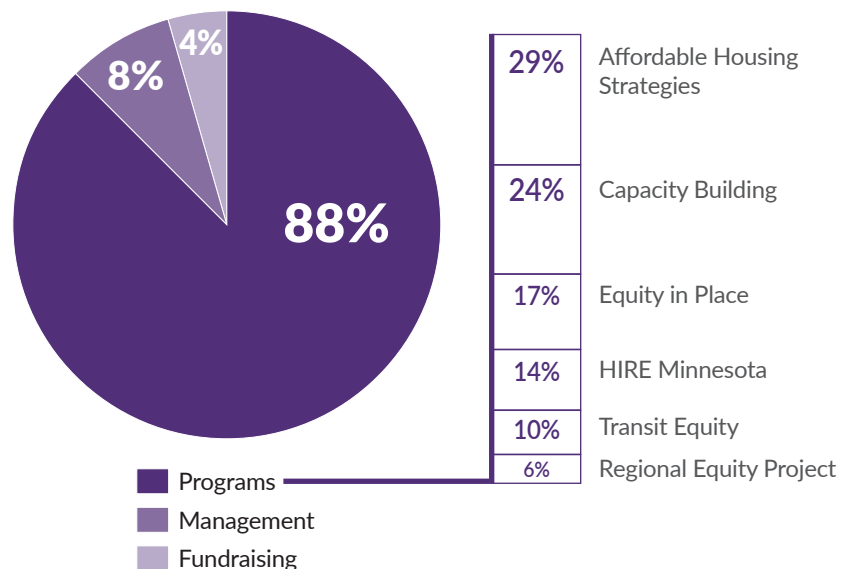
**NET INCOME (\$50,147)**

### REVENUES



- Grants
- Contracts
- Donations
- Earned income, in-kind, membership, other

### EXPENSES



- Programs
- Management
- Fundraising