



Alliance 2020 Annual Report

Letter from the Executive Director

For more than 25 years, the Alliance has been meeting moments of threat and opportunity with the power of coalition organizing, and 2020 was no different. Moving from a core recognition that structural racism and systemic exclusion have created ongoing and intersecting epidemics of injustice for low-wealth, immigrant and Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities across the Twin Cities, we navigated the challenges of 2020 in deep collaboration with our members and partners.

While the epidemics of racism in public health and community safety brought into sharp focus the deep and dangerous inequities in the systems that shape every aspect of our lives, they also created spaces to amplify and center the voices and expertise of our communities as essential to our collective wellbeing and as visionaries for a fundamentally more just future.


With the devastating consequences of the COVID pandemic and the trauma and loss around the murder of George Floyd, we continued our longstanding work to center the expertise and vision of communities most impacted by inequity — and leaned into our role as convenors to help bring resources to BIPOC and immigrant-owned small businesses, ensure

strong state emergency measures to keep renters in their homes and push transformative narratives and policies into mainstream public and political dialogue.

In the face of unrelenting intensity and uncertainty, we adapted and shifted with our community-based members and partners, taking on new bodies of work and directing our collective energy to have the most impact in unprecedented times. We also leveraged our relationships to secure more than \$1 million from a variety of funders in order to subgrant those vital resources to community-based partners doing urgent work on the frontlines of crisis.

From new individual donors to longstanding institutional funders, we are deeply grateful for your support of our work — and for the continued trust and partnership of our community-based organizations. Together, even in the most challenging times, we are advancing community-defined equity, vitality and prosperity across the Twin Cities region.

Sincerely and in solidarity,
Joo Hee Pomplun



In 2020, the Alliance was recognized as a Changemaker by the *Minnesota Women's Press*. Pictured from left: Nelima Sitati-Munene, Alliance board chair and Executive Director of African Career, Education and Resource Inc (ACER); joo hee pomplun, Executive Director of The Alliance; and Maura Brown, Associate Director of the Alliance.



Housing Equity Now St Paul leaders



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

We provide leadership in

Actualizing Equity
Event Series

Affordable & Equitable
Housing Coalition
Advocacy

Equitable Development
Principles & Scorecard

Equity in Place

HIRE Minnesota

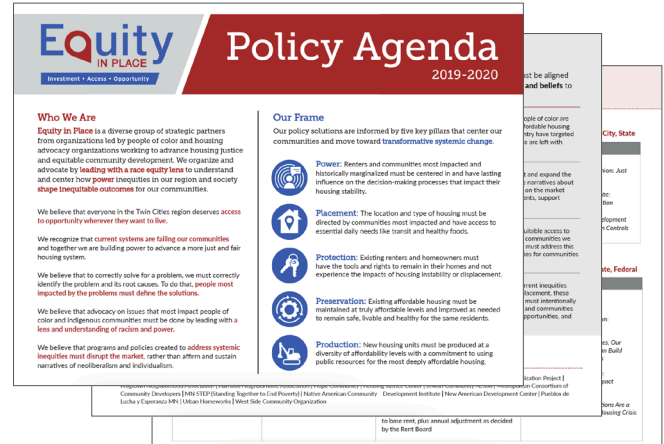
Our AREA: Alliance
Regional Equity Agenda

Transit / Transportation
Equity Advocacy

From housing to public health, community safety to small business support, 2020 was an intense and unrelenting year for organizing across every issue in the Twin Cities. Facing unique challenges, the Alliance continued its work with longstanding partners — and new coalitions — to convene and amplify the expertise and visions of community-based leaders advancing equity across the region during unprecedented times.

Affordable & Equitable Housing

Informed by communities most impacted by housing injustice and instability, in early 2020 the **Equity in Place (EIP)** table released a unified Policy Agenda, focused on housing access, housing stability, community ownership and community investment. As the COVID pandemic threatened to push thousands of households of color out of their homes, EIP shifted focus to the state level, playing a powerful role in advocating for a strong, sustained eviction moratorium that saved lives as unemployment soared. The Alliance also served in a leadership capacity within the **Housing Equity Now St. Paul (HENS) coalition**, which mobilized residents citywide to push City Council to pass the state's strongest tenant protections ordinance and set the foundation for a ballot initiative for rent stabilization.



(Above): Equity in Place released its first Policy Agenda in early 2020 and met with high level state leaders, including Governor Walz, to protect renters during the pandemic.

(Left): Leaders from HENS rally for tenant protections in St. Paul





(From left) Organizational leaders from the Blue Line Coalition at their 2020 retreat; leaders and members of the West Side Community Organization at a Saint Paul planning commission hearing leading up to the adoption of their Equitable Development Scorecard.

Blue Line Coalition

Convened by the Alliance, the Blue Line Coalition continued its essential work to ensure immigrant/refugee, low-wealth and BIPOC communities are primary beneficiaries of the Metro Blue Line Extension project. In 2020, in partnership with a coalition of mayors of the corridor cities, the BLC advocated to regional, state and Congressional leaders to intensify negotiations to secure access to the planned route — and ensure the project was prioritized as light rail. With the announcement that the original route was being abandoned, the BLC immediately amplified the imperative that directly impacted communities play a central role in the project moving forward and that anti-displacement policies are implemented alongside development.

Equitable Development Principles and Scorecard

The *Equitable Development Principles & Scorecard* continued to broaden and deepen its impact as a tool to organize community and influence who benefits from development. Growing to more than 160 participants — including community-based leaders, public sector champions and private sector allies — the “Scorecard Enthusiasts” table connected practitioners across

geography and profession to share the ways they’re leveraging the principles and scorecard in their spheres of influence. In 2020, we published an extensive case study charting the creation and use of the West Side Community Organization’s scorecard, while also beginning a co-creation process with enthusiasts to update and integrate wellness and livability components into the base scorecard to evolve the tool with the needs of our communities.

HIRE Minnesota

While unemployment skyrocketed in 2020, especially for BIPOC workers, the HIRE campaign continued to make significant, measurable progress toward employment equity in the construction industry in Minnesota. In 2020, people of color performed more of the Minnesota Department of Transportation’s project workforce hours than ever before, exceeding state hiring goals for the first time on a major metro project. Our continued sharp attention to the 35W reconstruction project resulted in more than 28% of hours going to BIPOC workers, resulting in \$7.7 million in wages, and new engagement on the Southwest Light Rail construction project yielded \$6.4 million in wages for BIPOC workers to date.

Membership in the Alliance has provided invaluable opportunities for partners to coalesce and strategize around pressing issues our communities are facing. During a deeply challenging and complex 2020, working with The Alliance gave us space to hold each other in care, strength, and accountability — and center racial equity in our work always.

Ivory Taylor, Organizing and Capacity Building Director, HOME Line





Small business relief funding from Hennepin and Ramsey counties



10% of small businesses are BIPOC owned



50% of applicants for relief funding were BIPOC-owned

Organizational members of the Business Resource Collective

Business Resource Collective

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the uprising around the murder of George Floyd were devastating for many Black, brown, indigenous and immigrant-owned businesses in the Twin Cities. Building on years of work around economic development, the Alliance convened the Business Resource Collective – a group of cultural and place-based business associations, arts organizations, chambers of commerce and BIPOC-led community organizations – to ensure “relief” funding was intentional in addressing and centering the unique needs of BIPOC small businesses and entrepreneurs. Because of the work of BRC partners and relationships with Hennepin and Ramsey counties, more than 50% of applicants to the county relief programs were from BIPOC business owners, despite the fact that 90% of small businesses are white-owned.

Actualizing Equity event series

Transitioning online, Actualizing Equity continued to create space to amplify the voices and expertise of BIPOC communities as unprecedented conditions brought transformative policies and narratives into mainstream conversation. Across issues and geographies, the eight-event series tapped into our ingenuity and resilience to strengthen solidarity and uplift long-voiced values and sustainable solutions that are no longer unthinkable to policymakers and the wider public. From the input of more than 30 leaders who shared their knowledge and the participation of more than 400 attendees, we evolved *Our AREA: Alliance Regional Equity Agenda* with narratives and strategies for 2021 and beyond.

Speakers from the 2020 Actualizing Equity series



The Alliance is unflinchingly committed to the pursuit of equity and justice for BIPOC and marginalized communities, cultivating a range of relationships to community-centered organizations to shape narratives and create meaningful change to systems and policies that were never meant to serve BIPOC and marginalized communities. The Alliance is an invaluable partner to many!

Tabitha Montgomery, Executive Director, Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Assoc.

2020 Staff

Joo Hee Pomplun- Executive Director

Maura Brown- Associate Director

Owen Duckworth- Director of
Policy and Organizing

Tram Hoang- Policy Advocate

Ricardo Perez- Coalition Organizer

Carolyn Szczepanski- Communications
& Programming Coordinator

2020 Board

Asad Aliweyd
New American Development Center

Monica Bravo
West Side Community Organization

Nichole Buehler
Harrison Neighborhood Association

Sunny Chanthanouvong
Lao Assistance Center of MN

Jim Erkel - Treasurer
At Large

Joshua Houdek - Secretary
Sierra Club North Star Chapter

Malik Holt Shabazz
At Large

Margaret Kaplan
Housing Justice Center

Ashwat Narayanan
Our Streets Minneapolis

Nelima Sitati-Munene – President
African Career, Education and
Resource Inc (ACER)

Anthony Taylor
Major Taylor Cycling Club of MN

2020 Members

African Career, Education and
Resource, Inc. (ACER)

All Parks Alliance for Change

Asian Economic Development
Association

Aurora / St. Anthony
Neighborhood Development
Corporation

CAPI USA

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

Hope Community

Housing Justice Center

Jewish Community Action

Lao Assistance Center
of Minnesota

Major Taylor Bicycling Club
of Minnesota

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 Residence
Redevelopment Council

Our Streets Minneapolis

Saint Anthony Park Community
Council

Sierra Club, North Star Chapter

Summit Academy OIC

Twin Cities Local Initiative
Support Corporation (LISC)

Urban Homeworks

West Side Community
Organization

The Alliance occupies a very special intersection between policy and practice in the Twin Cities region. It lends its experience and knowledge to communities seeking to empower themselves and learns from their successes and solutions. The result is a constantly renewing and strengthening effort to center equity in public decisionmaking for the benefit of all residents.

Jim Erkel, Alliance Board member 2013-2021



2020 Donors and Funders

Individual

Jeffrey Ackerson
Russ Adams
Jay Adams
Bob and Audrey Aderhold
David Alstead
John and Mary Bachhuber
Daniel Badilla
Robert Barduson
Katie Bell
Mary Bennett
Aaron Berc
Shay Berkowitz and Phyllis Wiener
Jessica Berg
Maggie Biever
Tim and Cindy Brausen
Louise and Peter Brown
Maura Brown
Charles Bulger
Jill Chamberlain
Joanne Chappellaz
Richard Chase
John and Page Cowles
Dan and Cassie Cramer
Sara Curlee
Will Delaney
Brendan Dillon
Diane Dodge
Bill Droessler
Shida Du
Steve Elkins
Tad Emptage
Ryan Estey
Ethan Fawley
Greg Fenton
Laurie Fenwick
Steve Ficker

Aaron Fields
Miriam Figueroa
Tina Fisher
Yvonne Forsythe
Mallory Furlong
Eva Gemrich
Lisa Goddard
Susan Golberg
Jessica Goman
Christine Grogan
Jason Haase
Zachary Hale
Lois Hamilton
Eric Hauge
Kristen Hawkins
Julie Horns
Sophie Huther
Leah Inman
Jennifer Jimenez-Wheatley
Ryan D Johansen
Terri Karis
Julie Kersey
Melanie Kiihn
Chelsea King
Louise J King
Margaret Kirkpatrick
Nan Langevin
John and Anne Levin
Dan Lieberman
Anna Lifson
James Lockwood
Rory Lonergan
Andrea Lubov
Mark Ludgatis
Julie Madden
John Marty
Stephanie Richards McDaniel
Lisa Miller

Joseph Miller
Joe Mueller
Ashwat Narayanan
Chitani Ndisale
Melody Newton
John Niemi
Inga Oelschlager
Sarah Post
Swetha Pradeep
Nikolas Randall
Rinal Ray
Hilary Reeves
Edward Ritchie
Thea Rozenbergs
Rob Ruffin
Julia Ruthier
Krysten Ryba-Tures
Mary Samson-Ott
Amanda Schaefer
Jay Schmitt
Laura Scholl
Elissa Schufman
Lea and Kim Schuster Gillespie
Sheri Scott
Angie Shaw
Brittany Simonson
Peter Smith
Brett Smith
Elizabeth Stiehl
Mark Strom
Devan Swiontkowski
Vinicius Taguchi
William Thomas
Jennifer Ukura
Terri Ulrick
Mary Ann Van Cura
Alexandria Voss
Erica Wallace

Bridget Wellhoefer
John Werner
Ralph Wyman
Amelia Zeien
Mariia Zimmerman

Institutional

Blue Cross Blue Shield Center for Prevention
Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Minnesota
Bush Foundation
BWBR Foundation
City of Bloomington
F.R. Bigelow Foundation
Graves Foundation
Heading Home Minnesota Funders Collaborative
Hennepin County HRA
Housing Justice Center
Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation
McKnight Foundation
Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers
Minneapolis Foundation
Minnesota Disaster Relief Funders Collaborative
Otto Bremer Foundation
Ramsey County
Regional Plan Association
Saint Paul Foundation
Still Aint Satisfied Foundation
Tanzenwald Brewing
Target Foundation
University of Minnesota
Winthrop A. Wyman Family Fund



(Left) Speakers from our 2020 Actualizing Equity event "From Representation to Co-Governance: Actualizing Equity in Policymaking;" (right) Leaders from Community Stabilization Project and Frogtown Neighborhood Association at tenant protections press conference

2020 Financials



Statement of Financial Position- 12/31/20

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,286,328
Prepaid Expenses	\$17,318
Contracts Receivable	\$182,149
Contributions Receivable	\$175
Total assets	\$1,485,970

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$214,371
Accrued Expenses	\$52,000
Total liabilities	\$266,371
Equity	
Restricted Net Assets	\$240,139
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$979,460
Total equity	\$1,219,599
Total liabilities & equity	\$1,485,970

Statement of Activities- 12/31/20

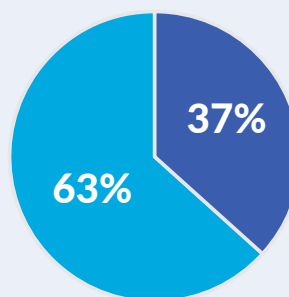
REVENUES

Contracts	\$943,815
Grants and contributions	\$647,334
Other	\$13,394
Total revenues	\$1,606,543

EXPENSES

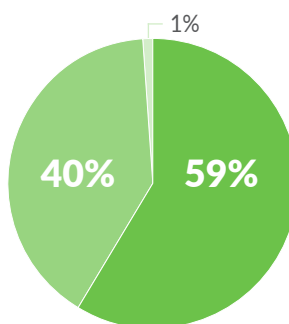
Administrative	\$67,615
Fundraising	\$24,177
Programs	\$1,566,173
Total expenses	\$1,657,965
NET INCOME	(\$51,422)

Please note: The Alliance had a large budget in 2020 due to rapidly emergent COVID-related funding sources which relied on the Alliance's long-standing and trusting relationships with community-based organizations to efficiently distribute funding to a wider variety of BIPOC organizations in the Twin Cities. Pooled funds—both public and private—to respond to the pandemic provided new, albeit short-term support in 2020. This funding supported dozens of community-based BIPOC organizations across our region's geographies and cultures working to prevent homelessness and/or to preserve BIPOC small businesses during this challenging time. Ultimately, we were able to subgrant more than \$1 million to community-based partners last year.



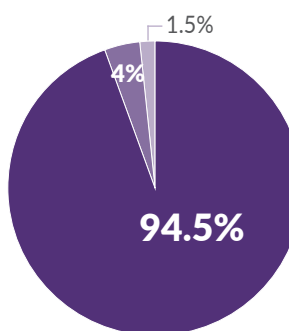
Alliance Operating Expenses
\$611,665

Subgrants to Community Partners
\$1,046,300



REVENUES

- Contracts
- Grants and contributions
- Other



EXPENSES

- Fundraising
- Administration
- Programs

- 46% Capacity Building
- 21% Equity in Place
- 19% Affordable Housing Strategies
- 5% Regional Equity Project
- 4% Blue Line Coalition
- 3% HIRE Minnesota
- 1% Transit Equity