

2021 Annual Report



The Alliance

Letter from the Executive Director

With the ravages of COVID and the uprisings around police violence, the ruptures of 2020 brought into stark relief the deep and dangerous inequities that shape every aspect of our lives. Building on the wider awareness and action galvanized by those acute crises, 2021 was a year of leveraging new openings and growing our powerful coalitions to uproot longstanding structural and systemic harms in our communities.

For more than 25 years, the Alliance has been working to advance racial, economic, and environmental justice in the way that growth and development happens in the Twin Cities region. With a membership of more than 30 community-based organizations and advocacy groups, we work with coalitions led by and centered in Black, Indigenous, immigrant, and People of Color communities to create transformative change that builds our power, prosperity, and leadership.

In 2021, our coalitions mobilized to meet the moment of increased attention and resources targeting institutional and systemic racism — with both immediate and long term impacts for our communities.

At the state level, Equity in Place put forward a bold policy agenda that not only played a role in the strength and duration of the eviction moratorium but helped to shift the prevailing narrative around housing stability, while the Business Resource Collective articulated key programmatic gaps and secured critical resources for our BIPOC Small Business Ecosystem.

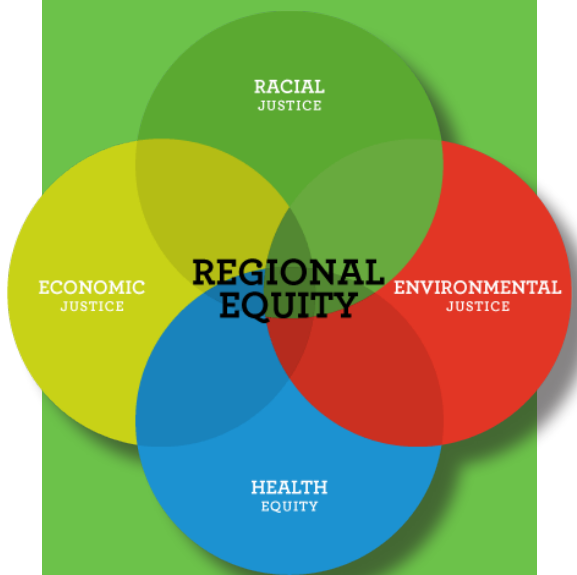
At the regional level, the Blue Line Coalition not only elevated anti-displacement issues but played a key role in catalyzing the creation of a powerful working group, and HIRE focused attention closing

racial disparities in employment on the construction of Southwest Light Rail Project, securing over \$15 million in wages for BIPOC workers on that project to date. And, at the local level, Housing Equity Now St. Paul organized a historic win at the ballot box, securing the nation's strongest rent stabilization policy and first in the Midwest.

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.

Joo Hee Pomplun
Executive Director





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 provide leadership in

Actualizing Equity
Event Series

Affordable & Equitable
Housing Advocacy

Equitable Development
Principles & Scorecard

Equity in Place

HIRE Minnesota

Our AREA: Alliance
Regional Equity Agenda

Transit / Transportation
Equity Advocacy

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**

2021 Highlights

Affordable & Equitable Housing Coalition Advocacy

Equity in Place

Convened by the Alliance, Equity in Place is a diverse group of strategic partners from place-based, housing, and advocacy organizations that believe that everyone in the Twin Cities region deserves to live where they want to live and have access to opportunity. In 2021, EIP successfully pushed the state legislature and Governor to **extend numerous protections of the statewide eviction moratorium** to renters beyond the end of the moratorium in a strong “off ramp” policy. We also worked with partners and allies in the ERASE campaign to provide critical feedback to the state agency on the **development and direction of RentHelp MN**, the state’s emergency rental assistance program, while also advocating for our EIP **state policy agenda**, focused on housing justice policies, for 2022 legislative session and beyond.

Housing Equity Now St. Paul (HENS)

In 2021, the Alliance played a central role in Housing Equity Now Saint Paul, a coalition of groups dedicated to housing justice and tenant power — rooted in communities most affected by economic inequality in St. Paul. In a historic campaign, HENS collected more than **9,000 petition signatures** to put rent stabilization on the ballot in November 2021. The Keep St. Paul Home campaign secured endorsements from 47 elected officials and community organizations; hosted 97 events across the city; filled more than 1,180 volunteer shifts; delivered more than 800 yard signs; and made more than 247,000 voter contacts. With more than **31,000 votes**, St. Paul residents came together across race, income and zipcode to **pass the nation’s strongest rent stabilization policy**, limiting annual increases in rent to 3 percent — despite a \$4-million misinformation campaign from the corporate landlord lobby.



Leaders from HENS after delivering 9,100 petition signatures to put rent stabilization on the ballot in St Paul

2021 Highlights

Equitable Development Tools and Coalition Advocacy

Blue Line Coalition

Convened by the Alliance, the Blue Line Coalition builds community-based power that ensures immigrant/refugee, low-wealth and Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC) communities along the Blue Line Extension Corridor are able to stay in their homes and businesses, create wealth and economic development, and enhance their wellbeing and access to opportunity throughout the region. In 2021, the BLC engaged community to comment on the **route modification proposal**, generating hundreds of emails to decision makers. The coalition also pressed for the creation of and secured multiple seats on the **Anti-Displacement Working Group** and produced and promoted a Community Report highlighting the stories of residents and advocates and uplifting key policy priorities. Members of the BLC also met with policymakers at the local, county and federal level, while continuing to build **relationships** with other coalitions, organizations, community members, and small businesses.

Equitable Development Principles & Scorecard

Who benefits from new development, or redevelopment, in our cities? For generations, the answer to that critical question has too often been private interests focused on profit rather than community members invested in collective wellbeing. But the **Equitable Development Principles & Scorecard** provides a powerful tool to organize Black, Indigenous and people of color communities, build power for equitable outcomes and create an actionable process to engage with developers and other stakeholders. In 2021, we worked with partners to release a new **Equitable Livability principle** and criteria, that “ensures restorative, regenerative and healthy outcomes for the people most impacted by an investment or project; puts intention and focus on the history, power and wellness of the community; and promotes inclusion and belonging.”



[Left] Staff from CAPI raising awareness about the Blue Line extension project

EQUITABLE LIVABILITY

ensures **RESTORATIVE, REGENERATIVE AND HEALTHY OUTCOMES** for the people most impacted by an investment or project; promotes inclusion and belonging; and puts intention and focus on the **HISTORY, POWER AND WELLNESS** of the community.

CRITERIA FOR EQUITABLE LIVABILITY

- The developer has taken proactive steps with community leaders to understand the local history, cultural lineages and environmental assets of the project area to honor and integrate that legacy into project planning.
- The developer has worked with community leaders and government agencies to understand current demographics, languages, and other key features of the project area to ensure development enhances the valued attributes of the area and aligns with the vision of current and/or historically excluded community residents most impacted by the project.
- The developer is committed to co-creating a set of mutual agreements at the start of any project to ensure a community engagement process that centers the dignity, power and agency of directed impacted community — and has committed to accountability measures and long-term neighborhood relationship building beyond the design and construction of the project to address any negative outcomes and embrace community ideas.
- The developer acknowledges the impact of structural and environmental racism on marginalized communities in the project area — and Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities with historic ties to the project area who have been pushed out or excluded — and works with those communities to ensure the project design actively addresses past harms.
- The project identifies clear avenues to re-allocate resources and direct long-term measurable benefits to historically marginalized community members.
- The developer works with directly impacted and historically marginalized communities to integrate an anti-displacement lens to the development process, reversing the mindset of extraction and investing in strategies that prevent the displacement of current residents and businesses.
- The developer recognizes how the built environment impacts the safety and belonging of communities of color and is invested in conversation with community to reimagine public safety in ways that reduce surveillance and policing and enhance collective care.
- The project considers opportunities for community ownership of material and natural assets, including housing and retail units, and green spaces for food cultivation and energy generation.
- The project integrates elements that enhance networks of community care and encourage social interaction and belonging by creating or restoring spaces for residents to connect, heal and build power with each other.
- The project design seeks to establish or enhance welcoming and inclusive community access to green spaces and public gathering areas to enhance the physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of current residents



2021 Highlights

Economic Development and Workforce Equity

Business Resource Collective

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the disparities faced by **Black, Brown, Indigenous, and immigrant-owned businesses** in the Twin Cities and across Minnesota — while also showcasing their tremendous strength and resilience. Convened by the Alliance, the Business Resource Collective came together at the start of the pandemic to ensure our businesses are not left behind by relief and recovery efforts. In 2021 the coalition of cultural and place-based business associations, arts organizations, chambers of commerce, and BIPOC-led community organizations put forward a vision of a **BIPOC Small Business Ecosystem** as an essential strategy for resilience and growth of Minnesota's economy and secured an **increase in targeted dollars in the state's budget for BIPOC small businesses**, including \$70 million in COVID business relief with carve-outs for BIPOC businesses, micro businesses, and cultural malls.

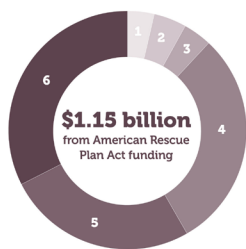
HIRE Minnesota

The Alliance provides core staff and strategy support to HIRE Minnesota, a campaign to end employment disparities in Minnesota. Minnesota is home to some of the worst employment disparities in the country. But HIRE Minnesota has set an ambitious goal: to bring our state from worst to first in employment equity. In 2021, we focused attention on the **Interstate 35W reconstruction** — securing 28% of work for Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) workers on 35W for estimated \$8.5 million in wages. We also worked on the **Southwest Light Rail construction**, ensuring 23% of hours — more than \$15 million in wages and the highest percentage on a light rail project in our region to date — went to BIPOC workers.



Recommendations for federal relief funds

In addition to current program spending, BRC members recommend that a portion of the state's remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars — \$1.15 billion — be invested into the ecosystem that supports BIPOC small businesses, sole-proprietors, microbusinesses and creative businesses to achieve equitable economic recovery over the next five years. BRC members stand ready to review agency processes, carry out projects that fall under each category, reaching more than 10,000 businesses, creating thousands of jobs, and funneling \$25 billion in wages and taxes to the state and municipalities. We also will continue to work with BRC partners to put forward and support additional proposals, such as the "Cultural Corridor Equity Impact Funding Budget" from the Lake Street Leadership Recovery Coalition.



1- Technical Assistance: \$20M

BIPOC-owned small businesses thrive when they have equitable access to technology and small business operation support. This request includes a base increase to a permanent Business Development Competitive Grant Program, and funding to provide technical assistance to an additional 10,000 businesses.

2- Training: \$25M

Aspiring entrepreneurs and community organizations have the vision to drive equitable recovery. This request includes funding to train 5,000+ owners of start-up and growing businesses and community organizations.

3- Small Business Events: \$20M

Events, including creative placekeeping, curated networking and education opportunities, have the potential to connect business owners ready to scale up with institutions ready to support them. The proposed events and workshops would reach 6,000 Minnesotans.

4- Infrastructure: \$162M

To realize equitable economic recovery, community-centered development must extend further than rebuilding what has been lost by creating more space for BIPOC entrepreneurs. The wide-ranging projects encompassed in this category include shared ownership, physical and digital infrastructure that will provide lasting opportunities for wealth generation in historically underinvested neighborhoods.

5- Direct Placement: \$140M

While investing in the future for emerging and growing BIPOC small businesses, the reality of the struggle today due to COVID precautions by both businesses and patrons threatens the vitality of our existing BIPOC businesses and districts on which the ecosystem seeks to build. Cash in hand at this moment continues to be an essential strategy.

- \$80M in grants to help BIPOC business owners sustain their business and recover jobs
- \$60M in loans, with a forgivable component, to provide flexible capital to BIPOC business owners who can't obtain a bank loan to start or grow

6- Corridor Redevelopment: \$176.5M

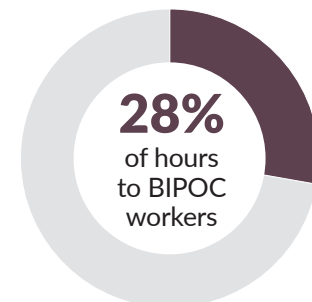
This includes adding to the Main Street Economic Revitalization Program, capital for existing projects led by BRC member developers, and explicit investments in revitalization projects along specific Twin Cities cultural corridors.

Transforming paradigms: Healthy Businesses Framework

We know that BIPOC entrepreneurs know how to keep a struggling business going longer than others, imagine if that entrepreneur and business were fully resourced in such a way that allows for the owner to be healthy, the business to be healthy, and the employees healthy. Using a broad definition of "healthy" in this framework, that includes physical, mental, and spiritual health at the levels of individual, business and community, the BRC believes a strong small business ecosystem for everyone may include:

- Access to affordable health care for selves and employees
- Low barrier access to working capital
- Personal Time Off
- Wealth building tools
- Support beyond training - low cost professional services
- Community benefits plans to ensure businesses strengthen the communities in which it sits and for whom it serves.

I-35W Reconstruction



[Left] BIPOC small business investment package proposed by the Business Resource Collective

2021 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 Manager

Ivory Taylor- Coalition Organizer

2021 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

Joshua Houdek - Secretary
Sierra Club North Star Chapter

Malik Holt Shabazz
At Large

Margaret Kaplan - Treasurer
Housing Justice Center

Ashwat Narayanan
Our Streets Minneapolis

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

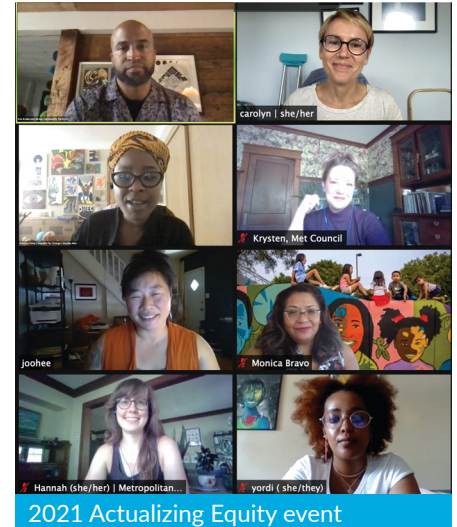
Anthony Taylor
Major Taylor Cycling Club of MN

Field Building

Actualizing Equity event series

The Actualizing Equity event series creates 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. In 2021, we convened **23 speakers** who shared insight with more than **350 registrants** at five events focused on equity at the state legislature, restorative transit projects, just transition in environmental advocacy, equitable livability in community development and BIPOC small business support.



“The Alliance has provided opportunities to broaden our reach, deepen our engagement, and share in learning and growth that improves our capacity to transform systems of injustice as we center those experiencing continued systematic divestment and extraction. We are grateful for their ongoing partnership in this work.”

Asalesol Young, Executive Director, Urban Homeworks



“Neighborhood Development Center trusts in The Alliance to build powerful partnerships that lead to real and measurable change. The neighborhoods in which our entrepreneurs live and work are being shaped and impacted positively by their work. Their tenacity sets them apart and makes them a true trailblazer in the creation of more equitable communities. ”

Renay Dossman, President, Neighborhood Development Center





In Remembrance and Gratitude

Mel Reeves

Like so many others in our community, the Alliance staff, Board, and partners grieve the irreplaceable loss and honor the enduring legacy of Mel Reeves, who passed away in 2021. Among his many fights for justice, Mel was a contract organizer with the Alliance from 2011 until his death, working with the HIRE Minnesota campaign to eliminate racial disparities in employment.

As an organizer, Mel was a connector. A connector across movements, struggling for transit equity, economic justice, police accountability, immigrant rights — and so many other issues. A connector of people in his inclusive vision and leadership style, always inviting more voices into organizing spaces. And a connector across generations, ever generous of his time, knowledge and spirit to build lasting power to advance the long arc of justice.

As a writer and thinker, Mel was a truth teller. In public, his rousing presence on a bullhorn — Justice Then Peace — inspired action, calling out wrongs with unflinching tenacity and unyielding integrity and bringing community together to demand accountability and create lasting change. In print, he was a heartfelt writer and a rigorous scholar, not only providing his own incisive analysis but mentoring the next generation of thought leaders and community voices. In private, he never backed away from a good debate and was a loquacious storyteller who could keep a listener weaving with him through vibrant threads for hours.

And, as a neighbor and friend, he was a lover. His work was motivated by broad compassion and unwavering empathy earned through his own experiences. He was witty and warm, with an infectious grin on his face and unending acts of kindness on his heart. His life was an overture of overflowing love for his community. For his people. And that love, even if we didn't know him, had and will have an impact on us all.

2021 Member Organizations

African Career, Education and Resource, Inc. (ACER)	Harrison Neighborhood Association	Move Minnesota
All Parks Alliance for Change	HOME Line	Native American Community Development Institute
Asian Economic Development Association	Hope Community	New American Development Center
Aurora / St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation	Housing Justice Center	Northside Residence Redevelopment Council
CAPI USA	Jewish Community Action	Our Streets Minneapolis
Catholic Charities Office for Social Justice	Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota	Saint Anthony Park Community Council
Community Stabilization Project	Major Taylor Bicycling Club of Minnesota	Sierra Club, North Star Chapter
Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota	Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAHA)	Summit Academy OIC
The Family Partnership	Minneapolis Urban League	Twin Cities Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC)
Fresh Energy	Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy	Urban Homeworks
Frogtown Neighborhood Association	Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance	West Side Community Organization

2021 Donors and Funders

Individual

Grant Abbott	Linda Hamilton	Lea & Kim Schuster Gillespie	F.R. Bigelow Foundation
Ebony Adedayo	Bernard C Hesse	Sheryl Scott	Headwaters Foundation for Justice
Bob Aderhold	Jill Chamberlain	Becky Stewart	Hennepin County Public Works
Dave Alstead	Margaret L Kirkpatrick	Mark Strom	Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation
Tracy Babler	Brendan Klein	Mikaela Swanlund	McKnight Foundation
Drake Barduson	Sara Larson	William Thomas	Metropolitan Council
Katherine Bell	Caryn Lesser	Mary Ann Van Cura	Minneapolis Foundation
Maggie Biever	Fenton Lieberman	Bonnie Watkins	Minnesota Association of City Attorneys
Tim and Cindy Brausen	Julie Madden	Chris Wells	Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
Maura Brown	John Marty	John Werner	Otto Bremer Foundation
Peter and Louise Brown	Andrew Masur	Kathryn Wetzel-Mastel	Regional Plan Association
Dan and Cassie Cramer	Stacy Miller	Marcia Zimmerman	Saint Paul Foundation
William Delaney	Tamara Morrissey	Amber Zumski	Still Aint Satisfied Foundation
Logan Drew	Betsy Mowry		Tanzenwald Brewing
William Drossler	Ashwat Narayanan		Target Foundation
Amy Egenberger	Emma Pachuta		
Steve Elkins	Swetha Pradeep		
Ethan Fawley	Hilary A Reeves		
Yvonne Forsythe	Robert Ruffin		
Lisa Fralish	Julia Ruther		
Terry Gips	Galen Ryan		
Leah Goldstein Moses	Jay G Schmitt		
	Elissa Schufman		

Institutional

Blue Cross Blue Shield Center for Prevention
 Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Minnesota
 Bush Foundation
 Center for Economic Inclusion
 Center for Urban and Regional Affairs

2021 Financials



Statement of Financial Position- 12/31/21

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,955,728
Prepaid Expenses	\$17,304
Contracts Receivable	\$92,095
Contributions Receivable	\$200,100
Total assets	\$2,265,227

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$15,705
Accrued Expenses	\$73,356
PPP Loan Payable	\$93,025
Deferred Revenue	\$30,773
Total liabilities	\$212,859
Equity	
Restricted Net Assets	\$894,161
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$1,158,207
Total equity	\$2,052,368
Total liabilities & equity	\$2,265,227

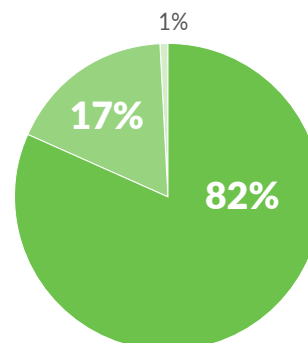
Statement of Activities- 12/31/21

REVENUES

Contracts	\$258,065
Grants and contributions	\$1,202,748
Other	\$10,991
Total revenues	1,471,804

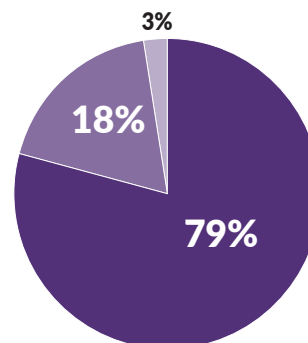
EXPENSES

Administrative	\$117,075
Fundraising	\$15,834
Programs	\$506,126
Total expenses	\$639,035
NET INCOME	\$832,769



REVENUES

- Contracts
- Grants and contributions
- Other



EXPENSES

- Fundraising
 - Administration
 - Programs
- 23% Blue Line Coalition
 - 19% Affordable Housing Strategies
 - 18% Equity in Place
 - 17% Regional Equity Project
 - 12% Capacity Building
 - 8% HIRE Minnesota
 - 4% Transit Equity