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 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
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.
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."
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 in the ecosystem that supports BIPOC small businesses, co-ops, microbusinesses and BIPOC businesses to achieve equitable economic recovery over the next five years. BRC members intend to convene partners to prioritize opportunities to fully fund BIPOC-led economic recovery projects that result in equitable outcomes for BIPOC-owned businesses, including: building technical assistance capacity, increasing capital availability, and strengthening community networks to support BIPOC-owned businesses to access and succeed in key markets.

1. Technical Assistance: $20M
2. Training: $25M
3. Small Business Events: $20M
4. Infrastructure: $162M
5. Direct Placement: $140M
6. I-35W Reconstruction: $586.5M

I-35W Reconstruction

28% of hours to BIPOC workers

[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

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**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.

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“**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**
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)
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 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 Homeworx
West Side Community Organization

2021 Donors and Funders

Individual
Grant Abbott
Ebony Adedayo
Bob Aderhold
Dave Alstead
Tracy Babler
Drake Barduson
Katherine Bell
Maggie Biever
Tim and Cindy Brausen
Maura Brown
Peter and Louise Brown
Dan and Cassie Cramer
William Delaney
Logan Drew
William Drossler
Amy Egenberger
Steve Elkins
Ethan Fawley
Yvonne Forsythe
Lisa Fralish
Terry Gips
Leah Goldstein Moses
Linda Hamilton
Bernard C Hesse
Jill Chamberlain
Margaret L Kirkpatrick
Brendan Klein
Sara Larson
Caryn Lesser
Fenton Lieberman
Julie Madden
John Marty
Andrew Masur
Stacy Miller
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Emma Pachuta
Swetha Pradeep
Hilary A Reves
Robert Ruffin
Julia Ruther
Galen Ryan
Jay G Schmitt
Elissa Schufman
Lea & Kim Schuster Gllespie
Sheryl Scott
Becky Stewart
Mark Strom
Mikaela Swanlund
William Thomas
Mary Ann Van Cura
Bonnie Watkins
Chris Wells
John Werner
Kathryn Wetzal-Mastel
Marcia Zimmerman
Amber Zumski

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
F.R. Bigelow Foundation
Headwaters Foundation for Justice
Hennepin County Public Works
Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation
McKnight Foundation
Metropolitan Council
Minneapolis Foundation
Minnesota Association of City Attorneys
Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
Otto Bremer Foundation
Regional Plan Association
Saint Paul Foundation
Still Aint Satisfied Foundation
Tanzenwald Brewing
Target Foundation
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 Breakdown**
- Contracts: 17%
- Grants and contributions: 82%
- Other: 1%

**Expenses Breakdown**
- Fundraising: 3%
- Administration: 18%
- Programs: 79%

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