



ANNUAL REPORT

2013

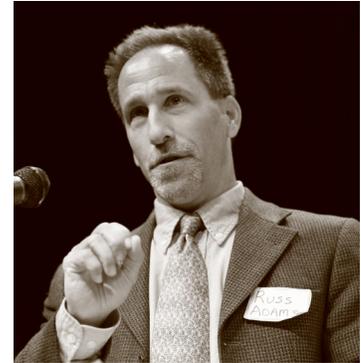
CHANGING THE GAME: ADVANCING EQUITY IN THE TWIN CITIES

FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Thank you for helping advance the work of the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability in 2013. Because of your ongoing support, our coalition is building a more equitable and inclusive region where all people can prosper.

We are challenging the status quo that has discounted people of color for far too long. Together with our partners, we are holding contractors accountable to meeting their goals, bringing those most affected by development decisions to policymaking tables, and advocating for the investment that would allow us to build our transit system twice as fast. We are committed to this work because we know it is possible to live in a region free from racial, economic and environmental injustice.

The work that you will read about in this report illustrates the steps that we are taking to make equity a reality in this region. Thank you for joining us in that work.



Russ Adams, Executive Director



REGIONAL PLANNING:

CHANGING THE GAME BY CREATING PLACES OF OPPORTUNITY

The Alliance believes that every community in our region should offer connections to jobs, housing, transportation, education, and other necessities so that people can thrive.

Unfortunately, many communities in the Twin Cities region cannot access these opportunities. In neighborhoods that are home to low-wealth communities and communities of color, people are often disconnected from these essential resources. Regional planning can be a tool to steer more investments to communities that need them the most, but in order for those plans to effectively address barriers to opportunity, residents of low-wealth communities and communities of color need to be at the table and positioned as leaders in the process.

With this in mind, the Alliance, in partnership with the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, convened a table of community residents and leaders to inform the Fair Housing Equity Assessment in 2013. The FHEA is an assessment of regional opportunity being conducted by the Metropolitan Council. We built a coalition of community groups that typically are not engaged in this level of policymaking to ensure the assessment would lead to tangible benefits for low-wealth communities and communities of color.

A component of this work was encouraging the Met Council to examine the intentional and unintentional policies that have impacted people of color. We helped them to understand that naming race was essential in any policymaking effort moving forward to make sure that our region works for everybody.

As a result of this work, we have begun to see the Met Council staff and leadership leading with messages about racial equity. For the first time ever, they have placed equity as a top priority in our regional plan, Thrive MSP 2040. In addition, the Met Council has committed to a process that will engage multiple jurisdictions and community organizations in discussions about how to invest resources in historically disinvested communities.

This body of work represents a significant shift in our regional planning systems toward valuing the expertise and wisdom of the community. We will continue to build off of these successes to ensure that these communities' visions shape the way our region is planned in the future.



“I believe that the Equity in Place initiative has gotten to the grassroots level of engagement. Individuals at the table represent communities directly affected by the issues, and together we are connecting up with those who normally make decisions for our communities. We are now that much closer to those in decision-making roles and are influencing public policy. This illustrates the importance of having community involvement in this process.”

Denise Butler, African Career and Education Resource, INC outreach coordinator



“HIRE Minnesota gives us hope that racial equity in employment can be achieved. The coalition’s work provides a model for bringing advocates, community-based organizations, policy makers, employers and regular folks together in a difficult but necessary effort to include historically disadvantaged people in our region’s bright economic future.”

Joel Luedtke,
The Jay & Rose Phillips Family
Foundation of Minnesota
senior program officer

HIRE MINNESOTA:

CHANGING THE GAME BY ADVANCING HIRING EQUITY FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR

In 2013, HIRE Minnesota continued our work to move Minnesota from worst to first in employment equity for people of color. Our first victory came early in the year when the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority (MSFA), the governing body for the new Vikings stadium, confirmed that it would commit to hiring 32 percent people of color and 6 percent women for the stadium’s construction. This win is significant because it means that people of color could work more than 1 million hours on this project and earn an estimated \$20 million in wages. Moreover, this move sends a strong message that public agencies can and should meet the state’s new hiring goals.

While HIRE Minnesota congratulates the MSFA for making this commitment, we want to ensure that it is successful. HIRE Minnesota helped assemble a partnership between 19 community organizations, crossing cultures and geographies, to lead the advocacy, outreach, transparency, and workforce development efforts for construction on the stadium. Working together, these partners will ensure that the project is positioned to employ a highly skilled and diverse workforce.

Since we formed this partnership in 2013, our community partners have joined HIRE Minnesota in providing public testimony and expressing our concerns over the MSFA’s initial performance. As a result, the MSFA has made deeper commitments to ensuring that workforce goals are met. Stadium authorities are now making public statements about the regional importance of hiring a diverse workforce on the project. The MSFA has also approached other state agencies, asking them to prioritize their hiring goals.

This work is changing how communities of color have access to the construction industry. By building strong relationships between community-based groups and the construction workforce system, we are ensuring that the progress we make in hiring equity on the Viking stadium lives beyond this particular project.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM:

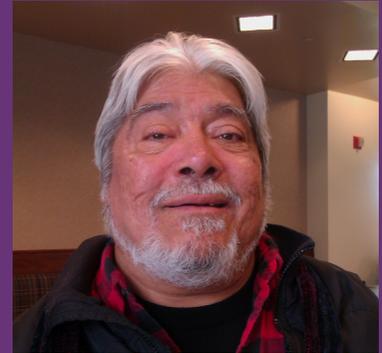
CHANGING THE GAME BY ELEVATING COMMUNITIES AS DECISION-MAKERS

2013 was the final year of the Corridors of Opportunity initiative. This project brought together dozens of stakeholders over three years to plan for economic prosperity and inclusion along our regional transitways. As part of that initiative, the Alliance and our partners in the Community Engagement Team, the Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing and Nexus Community Partners provided financial resources, technical assistance and organizing support to community based organizations along transitways.

Overall, this grant initiative has proven to be instrumental in improving the way that communities are engaged in influencing transitway development. According to the Wilder Foundation, grantees engaged more than 20,000 residents throughout the region and also brought more than 1,000 residents to key decision-making tables. In addition, the Met Council reports that 46 community members representing these communities have joined formal corridor planning groups.

The CET also convened and supported the Community Engagement Steering Committee (CESC). The CESC consists of grassroots leaders from communities along our transitways, which came together to improve community engagement in decisions about transportation infrastructure. The CESC was able to work with the Metropolitan Council to transform the agency’s longstanding Public Participation Plan for transportation projects into a Public Engagement Plan that applies to all Met Council activities. In addition, the CESC developed the Twin Cities Equitable Development Principles and Scorecard to help communities throughout the region secure equitable development from public investments.

The work of the Corridors of Opportunity initiative has been so successful that the partners agreed to work together as the Partnership for Regional Opportunity through 2014. The Alliance and our CET partners continue to play a leadership role in elevating the voices of communities along our regional transitways.



“I have found working with the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability on community engagement has been helpful in increasing the opportunity for people of color, low-income folks, and in my case, persons with disabilities, to participate in government decision-making processes. Ultimately, our participation leads to better policies and brings about equitable treatment for all people, while simultaneously improving our lives.”

Rick Cardenas, Advocating Change Together co-director



“ Native American Community Development Institute views Alliance for Metropolitan Stability’s work as instrumental in bridging and bringing together other communities of color across the region to work towards a more equitable and inclusive transit system. This work is also key in educating and informing our communities in how to affect systems and policy change.”

Jay Bad Heart Bull, Native American Community Development Institute executive director

TRANSIT EQUITY:

CHANGING THE GAME BY EXPANDING TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS THROUGHOUT THE REGION

In 2013, the Alliance worked with Transit for a Stronger Economy, a 50-member coalition, to advocate for a $\frac{3}{4}$ -cent sales tax increase to be dedicated to transit funding. This investment would have generated an additional \$200 to \$300 million for transit each year and would have allowed us to build our transitway system twice as fast. We knew that a significant win for transit would change the game in terms of how people accessed essential destinations throughout the region—providing people of color and low-income people with necessary connections to jobs, housing and educational opportunities.

But the Alliance and our coalition members were not only interested in building out our transitways—we wanted them built right. We convened a group of community leaders who monitored transit developments at the Capitol and raised racial and economic equity considerations with legislative leaders. While legislators failed to agree on a funding bill, our coalition advocated for and won policy language that encouraged better community engagement in transit planning projects and better construction hiring outcomes for women and people of color.

Throughout the year, we strengthened existing partnerships with our members and other partners along transitways. With the Harrison Neighborhood Association, we convened a group of leaders along the Southwest Light Rail Transit corridor to map out equitable development opportunities throughout the corridor. We also worked with the Blue Line Coalition, a partnership formed by Nexus Community Partners and grassroots groups along the Bottineau Transitway, to secure a community benefits agreement for communities in North Minneapolis and Brooklyn Park.

In addition, the Alliance worked with the city of Minneapolis to engage residents around the proposed North Minneapolis Greenway. The Alliance and our allies believe that it is important for the greenway to reflect the community’s vision. We have helped the city and lead project partners make sure that the voices of people of color, low-income people, renters, seniors and youth are brought to this project.

Our work in these areas is changing how people are connected to and able to access transit. But it is also changing the game in terms of who has access to tables where important development decisions are made. People of color and low-wealth communities need to have a voice in these decisions to ensure they benefit from future investments.



CAPACITY BUILDING:

BUILDING THE FIELD OF REGIONAL EQUITY LEADERS

In 2013, the Alliance continued our work to connect groups of various backgrounds and constituencies to the regional equity movement. With the help of our members and partners, we provided grassroots organizers, community leaders and advocates with resources to advance the field.

Throughout the year, we gathered 344 people for our monthly Organizer Roundtables. These events created an opportunity for organizers and other community leaders to network, share information and add new skill sets to their organizing tool box. In 2013, we hosted a series on white privilege and allyship, which allowed people to discuss ways to challenge white privilege at the individual, organizational and policymaking levels. These discussions also gave people a space to learn how to be better allies to communities outside of their own.

The Alliance knows that in order to make significant gains in the regional equity movement, it is important to continually challenge the dominant worldview around racial, economic and environmental injustice. We produced resources that offered shared language to challenge the inequities in the Twin Cities region. This included the fourth and final paper in our Race and Regionalism series – “Hiring Equity: Can MnDOT End 20 Years of Failure to Meet Hiring Goals for People of Color?” This paper addresses the institutional and cultural changes that will be necessary to end employment disparities within the Minnesota Department of Transportation and other institutions in the region.

The Alliance’s work to build relationships, networks and a knowledge base with regional equity organizers in the Twin Cities helps to sustain our field’s long-term work. Each of us is a part of this movement, and together we can build the power and capacity to create change.



“By being able to provide technical assistance on three key issue areas: community benefits agreements, transit justice and workforce development in the construction sector – all of it with a racial equity lens, the Alliance serves as an important knowledge and content partner to Nexus Community Partners, especially for our Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute. Over the past inaugural year at the program, whether on the selection committee or at Saturday training sessions, Alliance staff brought their skills and experience on these issues to life with our fellows.”

Terri Thao, Nexus Community Partners program director

MEMBERS



BOARD MEMBERS 2013

Asad Aliweyd, New American Academy
Jim Erkel, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
George Garnett, Summit Academy OIC
Larry Hiscock, at large
Kenya McKnight, at large
Karen Monahan, Sierra Club
Joo-Hee Pomplun, Asian Economic Development Association
Eleonore Wesslerle, West Side Community Organization

STAFF MEMBERS 2013

Russ Adams, executive director
Ebony Adedayo, programming coordinator
Tracy Babler, development and communications director
Maura Brown, associate director
Owen Duckworth, coalition organizer
Avi Viswanathan, HIRE Minnesota coalition organizer
Joan Vanhala, coalition organizer

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS 2013

African Career, Education & Resource, Inc.
All Parks Alliance for Change
Asian Economic Development Association
Aurora St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation
Community Stabilization Project
District Councils Collaborative of St. Paul & Minneapolis
Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota
The Family Partnership
Fresh Energy
Harrison Neighborhood Association
HOME Line
Housing Preservation Project
Jewish Community Action
League of Women Voters MN
Twin Cities LISC
Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers
Metropolitan Interfaith Coalition for Affordable Housing
Minneapolis Urban League
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance
Native American Community Development Institute
New American Academy
Northside Residents Redevelopment Council
Office For Social Justice, Catholic Charities
Sierra Club North Star Chapter
Somali Action Alliance
St. Paul Area Coalition for the Homeless
Summit Academy OIC
Transit for Livable Communities
West Side Community Organization
Women's Environmental Institute

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Headwaters Foundation for Justice
Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation
Jim and Linda Lee Family Foundation
McKnight Foundation
Northwest Area Foundation
Otto Bremer Foundation
REAMP
Schwab Charitable Fund
Stephen and Luisa Hornstein Family Fund #2
of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Still Ain't Satisfied - A Foundation with Attitude
The Minneapolis Foundation
Winthrop A. Wyman Family Fund

2013 FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	286,181
Prepaid Expenses	14,220
Grants Receivable, current portion	288,500
Total Current Assets	588,901
NonCurrent Assets	
Grants receivable, net current portion	35,000
Total Assets	623,901

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	8,147
Accrued Expenses	25,354
Total Current Liabilities	33,501
Net Assets	
Unrestricted Net Assets	166,226
Temporarily Restricted	424,174
Total Net Assets	590,400
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	623,901

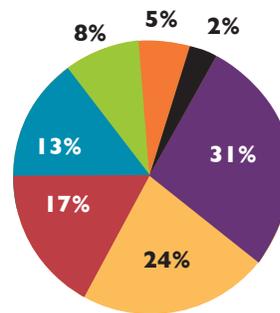
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUES

Grants	625,000
Contracts	113,504
Donations	14,485
Earned Income, Interest and Other	3,978
Total Revenues	756,967

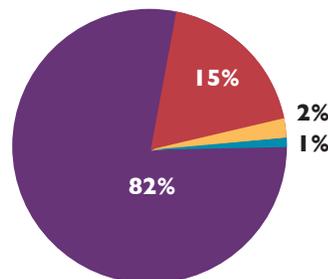
EXPENSES

Regional Equity Project	
HIRE Minnesota	134,500
Transit Equity	177,226
Capacity Building	75,630
Equitable Opportunities	93,418
Total Regional Equity Project	480,774
Management	45,288
Lobbying	14,023
Fundraising	26,638
Total expenses	566,723
NET INCOME	190,244



EXPENSES

- Transit Equity
- HIRE Minnesota
- Equitable Opportunities
- Capacity Building
- Management
- Fundraising
- Lobbying



REVENUES

- Grants
- Contracts
- Donations
- Earned Income, Interest and Other

