

St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO) NEWS AND EVENTS



December 3, 2014, #15

[Meeting Key Leaders, Learning about Other Neighborhoods](#)

ENERGETIC CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS ENTHUSIASM FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PEER LEARNING

The 63 percent increase in attendance at this year's annual neighborhood conference November 1 demonstrated keen interest in the importance of sound neighborhoods in creating a thriving region. Those who attended cited interacting with experts, meeting people involved in other neighborhoods, and hearing about exciting local initiatives in about equal measure as their favorite aspects of the conference.

Already the conference committee and SLACO board members have read and discussed the evaluations. We have heard you, and 2015 will be even bigger, more inclusive, and more packed with actionable information! Expect a November Saturday date again in 2015.

If you missed it, presentations that have been shared with us appear on our [website](#).



250 Ways to Improve Your Neighborhood Contest Winner Chosen, Text of Entries Posted

Conference attendees voted Doug Bram's idea entitled 250 Exchanges of Peace as the winner of the 250 Ways to Improve Your Neighborhood Contest. This entry, as well as several others, zeroed in on the need for more understanding among groups. Look for a SLACO response to these ideas in the coming months. You can see the text of the winning entry and the other 12 finalists right now at our [website](#).

Y.O.U., Young Organizers University, to Begin January 26

SLACO is pleased to announce its first class of Y.O.U., which will convene weekly on 12 Monday evenings at our offices in the West End. This program invites young people ages 13-24 to learn about their communities, leadership, listening, facilitation, and neighborhood organizing. A hands-on project in each participant's own neighborhood will ground the learning. This program will be offered at no charge. For an application form, prospective attendees should e-mail Mike Reid at mreid@slaco-mo.org.

Next Up: All-Neighborhoods Forum on City-County Government Issues

The next large public event SLACO will sponsor will be a forum about issues of governmental organization and equity being raised again by events in Ferguson and by the Better Together reports on City and County governmental efficiency. In the next newsletter we'll give a date for this January evening event. We'll hear from three knowledgeable panelists but leave plenty of time for audience questions and answers.

River City Recycling Rewards Program Seeks to Increase Recycling, Reward Neighborhoods

The City of St. Louis is launching a community recycling rewards program. This new city-wide, recycling education & outreach program seeks to activate 20-30 neighborhood-based recycling programs. Participating neighborhood groups will be eligible for incentives from local businesses, as well as cash prizes each month from the program. The St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District is funding the program. For information contact Ron Morten, ron@ecourbanstl.com.



Above: Angela Pinex of First Bank, one of the conference presenters on how bankers and philanthropists can move neighborhood development to the forefront.

Benton Park Neighborhood Association Is Latest SLACO Member

We are pleased to say that Benton Park Neighborhood Association has joined SLACO, a coalition of neighborhood associations.

We won't rest until we have complete coverage of the urban neighborhoods in our region. We all know that we will be stronger as we enlarge our collective experience base.