

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



#13

October 16, 2014,

[Meet and Learn from Neighborhood Leaders November 1](#)

SLACO REGIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE: LET'S COME TOGETHER

Strong Neighborhoods: Regional Prosperity is our theme as we come together to think about what makes neighborhoods tick and what it will take to help each neighborhood in the St. Louis metro area thrive.

We know it's tough to give up Saturday hours, so the conference committee is going out of its way to make sure the sessions are interesting, well-presented, and relevant to many neighborhood situations. Past attendees have said that the best thing about the conference is the opportunity to talk with old friends and influential leaders, as well as to meet new people.

Encourage the next generation of leadership, as well as people who are just becoming engaged with your neighborhood, to come and catch the excitement. Registrations are running ahead of last year, and we are delighted to see so many people under 30 on the list of sign-ups.

The conference committee has put together a great lineup of topics as diverse as health disparities, neighborhood identity, lessons learned from several years of Neighborhood Ownership Model experience, the East St. Louis Collective Impact project, and mediation as a tool for neighborhood dispute resolution. If none of these move you, there are 13 other sessions.

See the [full conference program and register](#) online. If you prefer, you can call us at 314-361-9406 during business hours to make other arrangements. Please help us get the lunch count right by registering by October 27 if at all possible.

Tell Us Your Bright Idea for Improving a Neighborhood

Let's stir up some real excitement about the 250 Ways to Improve Your Neighborhood contest! Enter as many times as you like simply by keyboarding your idea into the [entry form](#).

It's our celebration of the 250th birthday of St. Louis. And we'll be sharing the ideas with the community in a variety of ways throughout the year, hoping that we can jump start some new initiatives.

Those who attend the SLACO Regional Neighborhood Conference on November 1 will vote on the winner, to be selected from among finalists chosen by the judges. The winner will be announced at the close of the day and will be treated to some \$250 value in cash and prizes.

Urge your friends, colleagues, students, children, and grandchildren to enter--let's see how many ways to improve a neighborhood we can identify.

Youth Organizers University (Y.O.U.) Coming Soon

Our SLACO Neighborhood Organizing VISTA, Mike Reid, is busy cooking up a process that will recruit and train the next generation of new leaders in our neighborhoods. Y.O.U. will work intensively with young people ages 14-20 to enable them to understand civics and organizing themselves into effective groups, including neighborhood associations.

The pilot will be the Ville/Greater Ville neighborhoods; look for the debut in early 2015.

Final CDBG and Consolidated Plan Hearing



Neighborhood Hero Nominations Needed

At this year's conference we will honor Neighborhood Heroes for the first time. We're looking especially for those people who really go "above and beyond" what is expected to make their neighborhoods great places. Some of these tasks aren't glamorous. Maybe someone you know picks up the trash every day, looks out for the elders, and volunteers for any and every neighborhood project. We're looking for those folks rather than the

The last public hearing about the 2015 Community Development Block Grant funding will be October 28 at 5 p.m. at CDA, 1520 Market Street. Also open for comment will be the five-year consolidated plan that some of our members have been following.

If you have never participated in one of these hearings, this would be a good opportunity to observe the process or speak your mind. Prepare ahead by glancing through the [Consolidated Plan](#).

obvious leaders.

[Nominate](#) them by the end of the day on Friday, October 24; winners will be honored at the Regional Neighborhood Conference.