2019 was a year of important growth and change for the Community Builders Network. You’ll find pictures and stories about that growth in this report. But at this moment, it feels strange to greet you without acknowledging the context of 2020 and the heavy uncertainty that’s been churning around all of us this year.

It has been heartening and inspiring to see the ways in which our member organizations, especially our place-based Mission Members, have gone above and beyond to serve our region’s neighborhoods during this year of crisis. But we know, as all of you do too, that the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic is currently intensifying are not new at all. The fault lines of systemic racism, injustice, and violence against People of Color, especially our Black and Indigenous neighbors, run centuries deep in this country. As people wiser than I am have been saying for a long time, systemic racism is our most persistent pandemic. The community builders who fight day after day for a more equitable future for St. Louis give me hope that we can leverage this year’s upheaval to start closing some of those fault lines and healing our most chronic disease.

This summer, we started convening a Racial Equity Workgroup of CBN member representatives, Board members, and staff, and initially they were tasked with ensuring that racial equity is centered in our strategic plan, process, and resulting actions. At an early workgroup meeting, one of our members wisely pointed out that while CBN exists and has always existed to support community building organizations as they grapple with the effects that systemic racism has had on our community, historically CBN has not and does not overtly state that we do the work we do because systemic racism has starved communities of color for resources and opportunity for far too long. No amount of change on the surface of this reality can create a better future for our region’s neighborhoods when the roots of racism are still intact.

So this is us committing ourselves to publicly speaking this truth, and to doing better. And we know that saying this means nothing if it doesn’t fuel real action. Although in many ways our journey into antiracism work started with Anti-Bias, Antiracism training in 2019, this year has been a powerful reminder that deeper, more transformative change is needed at CBN if we’re truly going to center the fight for racial justice in all our work.

We hope you’ll join us in this ongoing conversation and transformation, because it will not be possible without you, your support, and your partnership. If we’re going to keep growing, we have to keep asking each other hard questions and holding each other accountable. Thank you for everything you do to hold us accountable as partners at our tables, and for everything you share as partners of St. Louis’ neighborhoods.

With gratitude,

Jenny Connelly-Bowen
Executive Director

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Mission

CBN gathers community leaders of all backgrounds to build engaged and equitable neighborhoods.

Vision

As a network, CBN envisions a St. Louis region where all people live in safe, economically strong, and vibrant neighborhoods and all community-based organizations are sustainable, supported, and valued.

We believe strong, inclusive communities are the building blocks for a better St. Louis. CBN supports, connects, and celebrates neighborhood and regional leaders who make these places possible by focusing its work on three fronts.

Strong Organizations:
Supporting our members and their partners so they can do their best work

Supportive Systems:
Building bridges and advocating for policy that strengthens civic muscle

Sharing Stories: Spreading the word about what it takes to make our neighborhoods great places to live
Strong Organizations

Supportive Systems

Sharing Stories
CBN’s Organizational Capacity Building Committee began reimagining their work as a more collaborative, member-driven effort and launched a CBN member-only Slack workspace (bottom left) to help folks in the network connect with each other more easily and often.

Strong Organizations

CBN staff was part of the team that compiled the United Way of Greater St. Louis’ 16-county Community Needs Assessment to inform their reimagined funding strategy, now a competitive process open to all nonprofits serving needs identified in the report.
CBN worked with advocates and elected officials to support the creation of St. Louis County's first-ever Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) and partnered to call for more funding for the City's AHTF, which received another $1 million for FY 2019.

Supportive Systems

The Social Policy & Electoral Accountability Collaborative (SPEAC) hosted another local candidate forum focused on the Forward Through Ferguson Report's key priorities.

The work of the St. Louis Vacancy Collaborative continued to gain momentum and evolve thanks to its growing base of talented volunteers, dedicated staff, and 2019-2021 Work Plan.
CBN started partnering with Humans of St. Louis to compile unique photostories about our Annual Community Building Awards honorees, crafted in part to help spread the word about what community building looks like through the eyes of folks who are doing the work every day. Thanks to your generous support, our 2019 event topped our highest fundraising goal to date.

The CBN team migrated most of our monthly newsletter segments to new homes on our website, where they can be accessed and updated in real time throughout the month.
Mission Members

Carry out place-based work focused on community development, economic development, and affordable housing.

Beyond Housing
BRAND Foundation
Carondelet Community Betterment Federation
Community Action Agency of St. Louis County
Cornerstone Corporation
DeSales Community Development
Dutchtown South Community Corporation
Grace Hill Settlement House
Greater Alton CDC
Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis
Hamilton Heights Neighborhood Organization
The Housing Partnership, Inc.
Hyde Park Neighborhood Association*
International Institute of St. Louis CDC
Kingsway East Conservation Association
Lemay Development Corporation
LinkSTL
Lutheran Development Group
North Newstead Association
Northside Community Housing, Inc.
Old North St. Louis Restoration Group
Park Central Development
Park Place Housing & Economic Development*
Rebuilding Together St. Louis
Revitalization of Baden Association*
Rise Community Development
Spanish Lake CDC
St. Joseph Housing Initiative*
Tower Grove Neighborhoods CDC
University Square CDC
Washington University Medical Center
   Redevelopment Corporation
Wellston Loop CDC

Supporting Members

Support the place-based work of CBN members and partners with resources, connections, and expertise.

BMO Harris
Busey Bank
Carrollton Bank
The Clark-Fox Policy Institute
Commerce Bank
Creating Whole Communities
Enterprise Bank & Trust
FCB Banks
Gateway Community Development Fund, Inc.
Great Rivers Greenway*
Great Southern Bank*
Horizon Housing Foundation
IFF
Justine PETERSEN
Legal Services of Eastern Missouri*
Midland States Bank
Midwest BankCentre
North County Incorporated
PGAV Planners
PNC Bank
Prosperity Connection
Rosemann & Associates, P.C.
Rung for Women
Saint Louis University Urban Planning & Development
Saint Louis Regional Health Commission
St. Louis Association of Community Organizations
St. Louis Community Credit Union
St. Louis Community Foundation
St. Louis Development Corporation
St. Louis Equity Fund, Inc.
St. Louis Housing Authority
St. Louis Promise Zone*
St. Louis REALTORS®
Trailnet
UMSL Community Innovation & Action Center
Urban Strategies
U.S. Bank
Washington University in St. Louis
Membership Dues 14%
Sponsorships 23%
Grants 24%
Donations 7%
Fees for Service 32%

Dues-Paying Member Organizations

70+ members strong
32 do place-based work that’s deeply rooted in local neighborhoods
39 support place-based work with resources, connections, & expertise

St. Louis City
St. Louis County
Madison County
St. Clair County

Finances
2019 Revenue Streams

2019 Total Revenue
$222,066
2019 Total Expenses
$217,631

Membership Dues 14%
Sponsorships 23%
Grants 24%
Donations 7%
Fees for Service 32%
2019 Sponsors, Friends, Affiliates

Community Level Sponsor - $5,000

Block Level Sponsors - $3,000

Street Level Sponsors - $1,000
2019 Friends & Affiliates of CBN

Sara Anderson
Adam Bowen
Susan & Maurice Bowen
Emily Bowen-Marler & Travis Marler
Kim Brown
Kevin Buchek

Joe Cavato
Stephanie Co
Fran & Mac Connelly
Lucas Delort
Dara Eskridge
Ted Floros

Colleen & Jake Hafner
Claire & Dan Hutti
Kimberly & Kevin McKinney
Staff of Louis Community Credit Union

House Level Sponsors - $500

Neighborhood Backers

Opportunity Sponsors

2019 Sponsors, Friends, Affiliates
2019 CBN Board & Staff

Board of Directors

Jenny Ryan, President (not pictured)  
PGAV Planners

Stephanie Co, President-Elect  
Beyond Housing

David Noble, Treasurer  
Midland States Bank

Abdul Kaba-Abdullah, Secretary  
Park Central Development

Michael Burns (not pictured)  
Northside Community Housing

Monica Campbell  
Enterprise Bank & Trust

Laura Gilbert  
Commerce Bank

Alana Green  
St. Louis Housing Authority

Colleen Hafner (not pictured)  
Rise Community Development

Sal Martinez  
North Newstead Association

Kimberly McKinney  
Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis

Timetria Murphy-Watson  
Urban Strategies

Angela Pinex  
Spanish Lake CDC

Tom Pickel (not pictured)  
DeSales Community Development

Sean Spencer  
Tower Grove Neighborhoods CDC

Staff

Jenny Connelly-Bowen, Executive Director
Gary Newcomer, Director of Operations
Tara Aubuchon, Vacancy Coordinator
Fatimah Muhammad, Partnership Coordinator
Ronald Jones, Vacancy Collaborative VISTA

Lilly Murphy, Vacancy Collaborative VISTA
Anesha Goode, Summer Intern
Laura Muther, Summer Intern
Alana Janssen, Practicum Student
Beth Kernaghan, Practicum Student
Thank you to CBN’s member organizations for making this work possible...and fun.