



WESTSIDE COALITION

2023/2024 Annual Report

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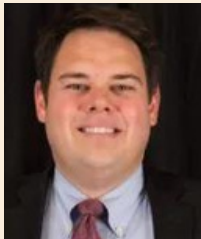
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About the Westside Coalition

Our mission is to advocate for the health, safety, and quality of life of Westside Salt Lake City residents.

Six community councils of the Westside of Salt Lake City are served by the Westside Coalition's advocacy efforts: Fairpark, Glendale, Jordan Meadows, Poplar Grove, Rose Park, and Westpointe.

Each Westside community council sends one appointee and one representative to the board. Additionally, six at-large members are selected from the community. These 18 leaders serve to effect positive change under the WSC umbrella.



Daniel Strong
President

At-Large Member
Rose Park



Jason Wessel
1st Vice President

Council Appointee
Rose Park



Charlotte Fife-Jepperson
2nd Vice President

At-Large Member
Poplar Grove



Jake Erickson
Secretary

At-Large Member
Neighborhood House (Organization)



Rick Silver
Treasurer

At-Large Member
Poplar Grove



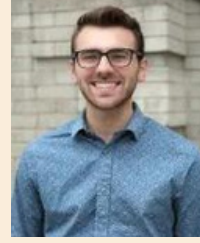
Billy Palmer

Glendale Appointee



Bill Watts

Fairpark Appointee



C.J. Hellige

At-Large Member
Rose Park



Chaise Warr

Fairpark Chair



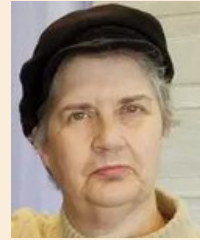
Chilton Hawk

Westpointe Chair



Daniel Tuutau

Poplar Grove Chair



Dorothy P. Owen

Westpointe Appointee



Esther Jackson-Stowell

Poplar Grove Appointee



Izumi Okamura

At-Large Member



Kevin Parke

Rose Park Chair



Nigel Swaby

Fairpark Appointee



Terrance Marasco

Jordan Meadows Chair



Turner Bitton

Glendale Chair

A New Vision of Engagement on Issue Areas

Traditionally the Westside Coalition organized individual teams to advocate on the following issue areas: education, environmental resources, housing, homelessness, public safety, transportation, and Westside development. This changed on May 23rd, 2023, when WSC 1st Vice President Jason Wessel proposed an overhaul of the issue area teams in favor of a new system where issue areas are addressed by the entire Coalition with team leads approved by the WSC board.

This new approach to issue area advocacy is best exemplified by the diligent work of 2nd Vice President Charlotte Fife-Jepperson on the topic of education. Drawing from her extensive background as a piano teacher at Glendale Middle School, Charlotte successfully organized a meet and greet with Dr. Elizabeth Grant: Salt Lake City's new School Superintendent. The listening session on August 30th, 2023 offered community councils and local daycare centers like Neighborhood House the opportunity to learn about Dr. Grant's vision for the future of the SLC School District.

An unconstrained approach to issue area advocacy has also allowed the Westside Coalition to be a better advocate for local families. Take for instance the topic of school closure. With several neighborhood elementary schools identified as potential candidates for closure, Board President Daniel Strong played a key role in lobbying to keep schools on the Westside open. In his advocacy, Daniel pointed to projections of exponential population growth on the Westside in tandem with other Westside leaders to successfully argue against the closure of Newman Elementary School. With his own children attending Newman, Daniel Strong's effort to protect Westside schools is illustrative of the intimate relationship between the Westside Coalition and the constituents it is privileged to serve.



**The August 30th, 2023 Meet & Greet With SLC School Superintendent
Dr. Elizabeth Grant**

Advocating Against the Expansion of the I-15 Highway

Interstate Highway 15 has been slated for expansion as part of a long-term planning process by the Wasatch Front Regional Council. Since the project's initial unveiling, the Westside Coalition has received high volumes of constituent feedback from Westside communities impacted by the construction project. This feedback informs the WSC's opposition to highway expansion.

The publishing of an Environmental Impact Study by the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) has further informed the coalition's decision to oppose the expansion of the freeway outright. WSC advocacy efforts have successfully acquired concessions from expansion planners that include a formal statement that no homes shall be removed as a result of expansion.

On May 23rd, 2023, the WSC unanimously agreed to "...continue moving on the issue of coordinating with impacted families and their respective neighborhoods in dealing with noise and pollution from the freeway" (WSC, 2023).

In serving Westside residents, the WSC will continue to press for concessions on transportation that include improving air quality, further electrifying the grid, making public transportation more accessible and affordable, and lobbying against any harmful impacts on citizens from construction on the I-15 project.

"The Westside Coalition is opposed to I-15 expansion. But if it happens, then the coalition has the following positions stated for the public record: that no houses should be removed, efforts must be targeted towards prioritizing cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, and air quality accountability studies must be published."
WSC Board President Daniel Strong, 11/23/23



Citation: "I-15-EIS-map-9.29-960w.jpg." Utah Department of Transportation, <https://i15eis.udot.utah.gov/>. 4/19/2024.

Cultivating Dialogue On Issues of Critical Importance

All six Westside community councils expressed concern about homelessness to the Westside Coalition in 2023. To respond to this constituent feedback, 2nd Vice President Charlotte Fife-Jepperson was elected by the Coalition to organize an event that would identify potential solutions by bringing together those who suffer from homelessness, residents who feel its impacts, and organizations who work to address it.

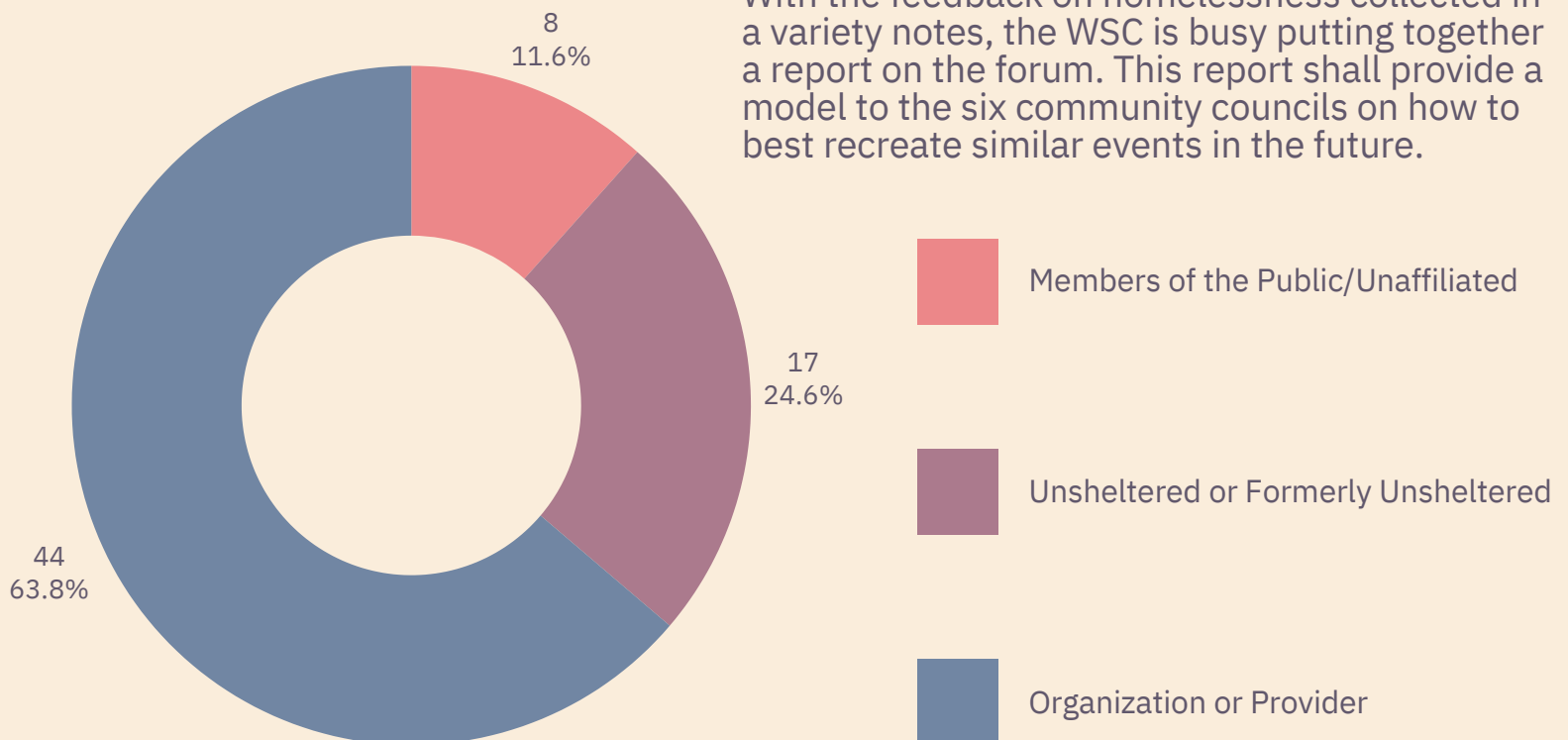
Partnerships played a critical role in seeing the forum titled 'Constructive Conversations About Homelessness' play out. Salt Lake City's Human Rights Commission, the University of Utah's University Neighborhood Partners, and Living Room Conversations all joined forces with the WSC over the course of four months and nine planning sessions.

Each member of the 15+ planning committee was trained in the Living Room Conversations Format. These 'hosts' would serve as facilitators of guided discussions to moderate discourse between event participants in a friendly, humane manner.



Trained hosts served at eight different tables. Event attendees included Westside residents, 17 members of the homeless community, and various tabling organizations who also participated in the moderated discussions. Importantly, each unsheltered person was given one gift card of \$100 to thank them for their attendance. The Homelessness Forum Planning Committee felt this gesture was vital to ensure the event was as inclusive as possible of people who suffer from homelessness.

With the feedback on homelessness collected in a variety of notes, the WSC is busy putting together a report on the forum. This report shall provide a model to the six community councils on how to best recreate similar events in the future.



Building Bridges: The Westside Candidate Forum of 2023

WSC events empower residents by providing an outlet to make their voices heard. To cultivate an engaged westside community, the Westside Coalition allocated more than \$12,000 of its 2023 budget to Community Engagement. This funding pool was used by the WSC to organize events attended by relevant policymakers and decision-making authorities.

In 2023, SLC residents witnessed an election take place between Mayoral candidates Erin Mendenhall, Michael Valentine, and Rocky Anderson. Seeking to provide Westside residents with an opportunity to hear from the candidates, the WSC partnered with the Utah State Fairpark and the League of Women Voters Salt Lake (LWV) to organize a candidate forum. On September 26th, 2023, these candidates engaged in a debate on city governance as moderated by Fox 13's Ben Winslow.

Bottom (from left to right): Forum Moderator Ben Winslow (Fox 13), Candidates Erin Mendenhall, Rocky Anderson, and Michael Valentine

Bottom Right: Event Attendees on September 26th, 2023

Months of planning by six different members of the Westside Coalition's board were needed in order to host a successful candidate forum. At the event, the League of Women Voters was responsible for setting up a voter registration table to encourage greater Westside participation in the city's political processes.

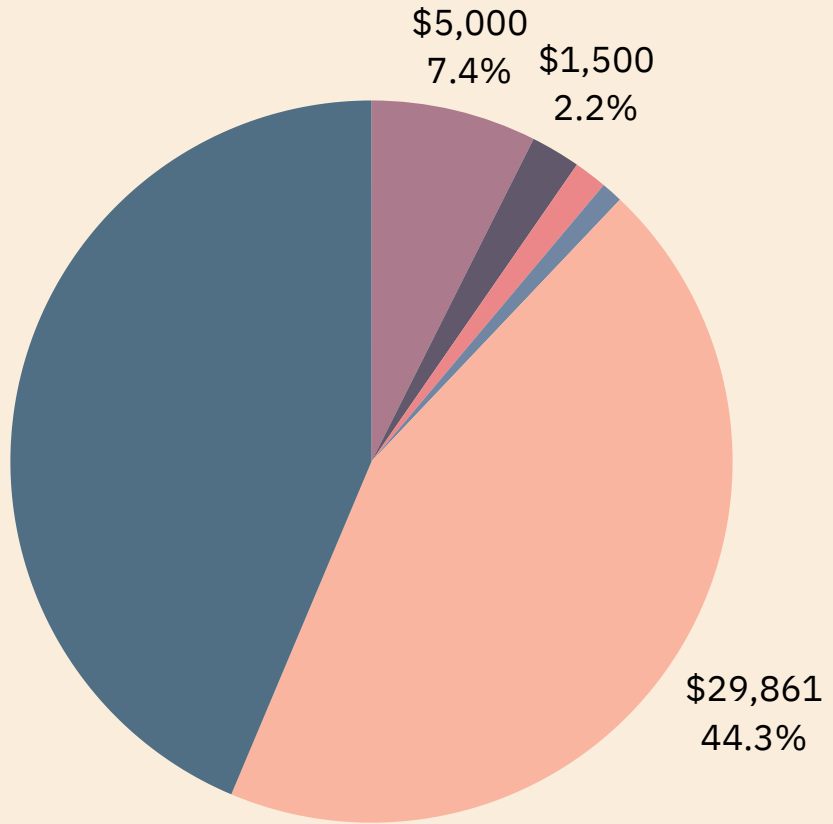
Forum planners also set aside tables for various non-profit institutions to network with residents. Organizations who focus on improving the environment, enhancing childcare access, and developing infrastructure in SLC were especially common, with partners like Utah Clean Cities and DDI Vantage present. The tabling space featured other candidates for political office as well. They included District Two Candidates Becky Edwards, Kathleen Riebe, and Celeste Maloy.

The Candidate Forum was the most well attended WSC event in 2023. More than 330 citizens, 21 tabling organizations, and 7 candidates for political office were present. American Sign Language and Spanish translation services were also made available to ensure the event was inclusive of the many different residents who call the Westside home.



2023 Restricted and Unrestricted Funds

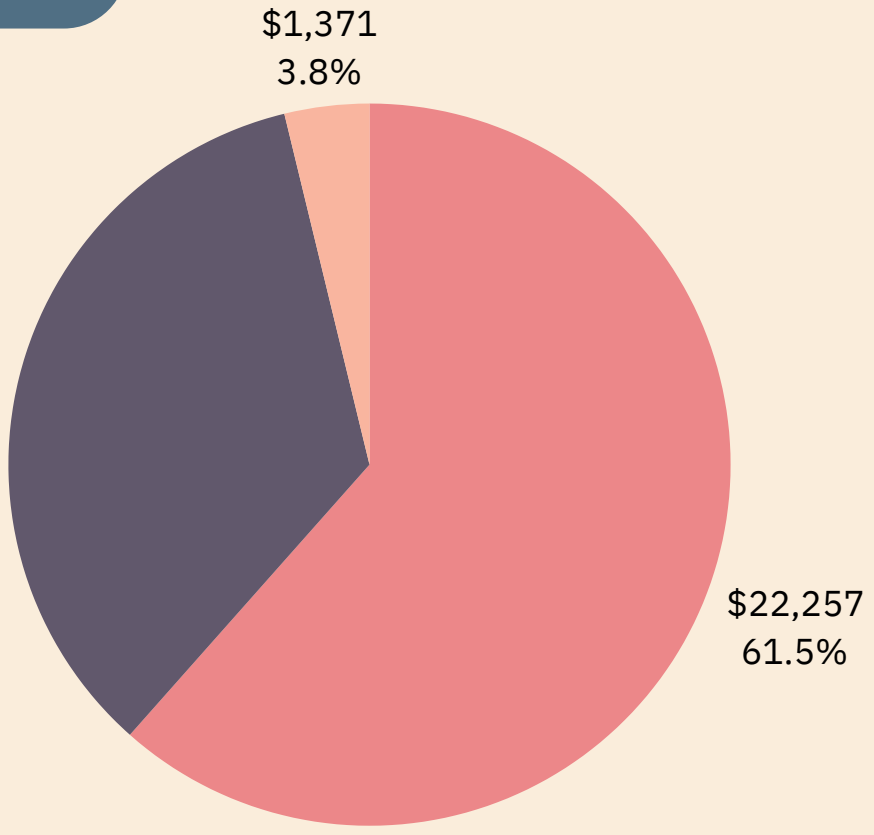
- Existing Cash
- Utah Inland Port (Restricted) \$29,449
43.7%
- Utah Clean Energy
- Micro-Grants
- ACE Funding (\$1,000)
- League of Women Voters (\$650)



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2023 Expense Report

- Consulting/Report Writing
- Community Outreach \$12,535
34.7%
- Administrative Costs and Food



Partners

- ASPIRE
- Clever Cucumber
- Danna Foundation
- Fairpark Community Council
- Glendale Community Council
- Jordan Meadows Community Council
- League of Women Voters of Salt Lake
- Living Room Conversations
- Mestizo Coffeehouse
- Neighborhood House
- NeighborWorks Salt Lake
- Poplar Grove Community Council
- Red Iguana
- Rose Park Community Council
- RubySnap Bakery
- Salt Lake City Human Right Commission
- Santo Taco
- Sego Lily Center for the Abused Deaf
- Sorenson Impact Center
- Sorenson Unity Center
- Swaby Real Estate
- University Neighborhood Partners
- Utah Clean Cities
- Utah Clean Energy
- Utah Inland Port Authority
- Utah State Fairpark
- Westpointe Community Council
- West View Media

Looking Ahead

Utilizing the Inflation Reduction Act

The WSC is currently applying to a grant in concert with University of Utah professors Daniel Mendoza and Lexi Tudenham to the Track 1 Opportunities listed under the Inflation Reduction Act. As stated by Prof. Mendoza, the ultimate goal of the effort will be to “...make amenable transportation hubs by working directly with communities...” (Mendoza, 11/23/23). This application effort shall also propose the construction of community resilience hubs for vulnerable residents to escape heat advisory and poor air quality days.

Executive Director Pilot Program Proposal

On June 27th 2023, the Westside Coalition formalized its intent to pursue funding for a part-time or full-time staffer. This individual would be charged with fulfilling many of the day-to-day tasks currently carried out by the volunteer board. A full time staffer would reduce board member workloads and enhance the quality of WSC advocacy.

Big League Utah

Led by the Larry H. Miller Group, Big League Utah is a coalition that seeks to situate Salt Lake City within the MLB’s expansion market. A prospective 30-35,000 seat stadium would be positioned in the heart of the Westside with direct access to the Utah State Fairpark and straddling the Jordan River. In his presentation to the WSC, Larry H. Miller Company CEO Steve Starks stated that upwards of \$3 billion would be invested in the project district.

To formalize its relationship with Big League Utah, the WSC successfully lobbied for a seat on the project’s community advisory board that would be allotted to a member of the Westside Coalition. The WSC endorsed its Board President Daniel Strong to be the designee of this seat.