

RECOGNIZED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Strong neighborhoods are foundational to addressing our vacancy challenge and neighborhoods are stronger when they are organized to address common problems, advocate, and plan. Many cities have a process for these kinds of neighborhood groups to be officially recognized by the city, and that recognition typically includes certain support as well as a consistent and predictable way for residents to participate in decisions affecting the neighborhood.

A Recognized Community Organization (RCO) system is a practical solution to the City's need for more equitable and effective community engagement because it increases opportunities for city agencies to efficiently communicate with neighborhoods and respond to neighborhood concerns. It also provides more opportunities for city agencies to get broader resident participation in public meetings and other city processes.

Currently, neighborhoods have unequal opportunities to participate in decision-making and uneven access to information. For example, most neighborhood groups have no formal input into development and demolition decisions but some do. A RCO system would level the playing field by ensuring equal recognition and access to information, and it also creates more organized, transparent, and predictable opportunities for collaboration between city agencies and residents.

Primary Deliverables

- Develop a **framework for formal recognition of community organizations** to create a stronger ecosystem that is responsive to community needs
- Robust guide to **best practices** based on research on RCO systems established in other cities
- Strong relationships and **collaboration with city agencies** to support implementation
- **Stakeholder and community engagement** to guide development
- Facilitate **collaborative use and improvement of the community organizations map** that catalogues variety of existing organizations



How we got here:

Formerly the Neighborhood Engagement working group, our group worked to help others understand the vacancy challenge, the tools to address the problem, and the opportunities for inclusive and equitable investment to foster vibrancy in all neighborhoods and how best to encourage community engagement and efforts to build the capacity of residents to work collectively.

Who we are:

The RCO project group is made up of a variety of volunteers, including neighborhood residents, professional-types, City agency representatives, members of SLACO, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, SLU Law, the Federation of Block Units, and others. Earlier this year, the RCO group merged with another group of volunteers who are responsible for developing and maintaining the Community Organizations' map.

STL NEIGHBORHOOD MAP

MAP LIST

Welcome to the map!

We're mapping neighborhood associations, community development corporations, and community building organizations that have specific footprints in the St. Louis metro area. (See our [definitions](#) to understand our criteria for inclusion.)

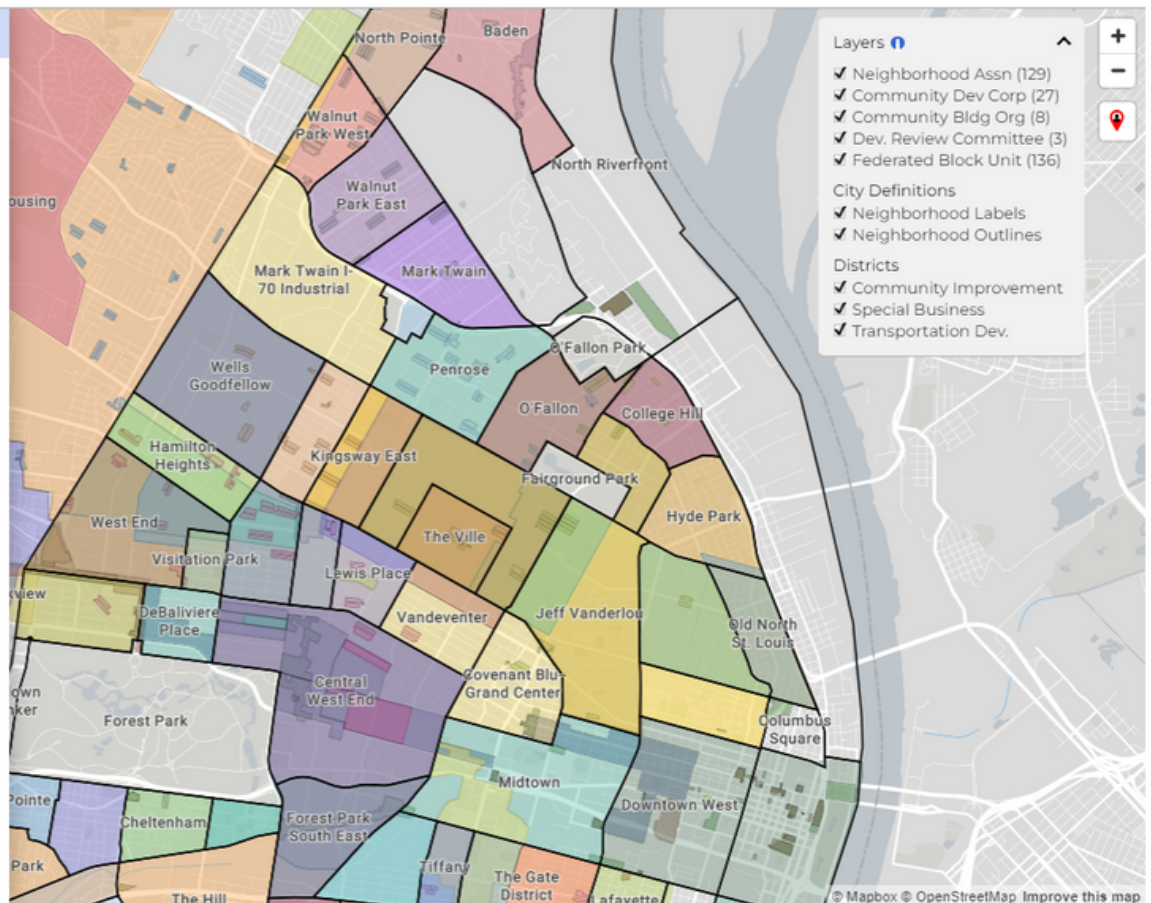
The map has been created to empower neighborhood residents to work collectively, encourage coordination and collaboration, and facilitate quality community engagement.

[Who created this map?](#)

[How is the map maintained?](#)

[Have an organization to add?](#)

[Comments or questions? Contact us](#)



Recognized Community Organizations

stlvacancy.com