

EQUITY AMPLIFIER

Asset Funders Network's Equity Amplifier for Economic Security (EA) is a new series highlighting organizations or nonprofits focused on building economic security/asset building in communities of color. EA's intent is to:

- **Amplify** the voices of organizations led by people of color.
- **Reduce** systemic biases and barriers within philanthropy.
- **Encourage** AFN membership to broaden and deepen their commitment to supporting economic security and asset building strategies that target diverse communities.

EQUITY AMPLIFIER IS
GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.,
METLIFE FOUNDATION, AND
TRUIST FOUNDATION.

WEPOWER



“ We envision a future where systems are accountable to powerful communities that have been historically oppressed, and nurture our freedom, well-being, dreams, and joy. ”

What is WEPower?

Where are is WEPower headquartered?

St. Louis, Missouri

What is WEPower's mission?

WEPower's mission is to activate community power that redesigns education, economic, health, and justice systems to be just and equitable for all. We envision a future where systems are accountable to powerful communities that have been historically oppressed, and nurture our freedom, well-being, dreams, and joy.

Which area of service BEST describes WEPower?

Civil rights, social action, organizing and advocacy.



How does your work impact communities and populations that are historically marginalized, underserved and/or under-resourced?

Our work centers around Black and Latinx communities. We are working towards a future where systems are accountable to powerful communities that have been historically oppressed.

What are some specific barriers or biases from within philanthropic organizations that you believe are hindering BIPOC led or BIPOC serving organizations in accessing adequate funding or support?

The racial wealth gap is a systemic problem requiring systemic solutions. To create lasting impact, philanthropy MUST be paired with strategic investments at the systems levels beyond direct service.

Name one thing funders need to be cognizant of when connecting or partnering with BIPOC led or organizations and communities?

Funders must be cognizant of the need to provide critical, unrestricted funding for nonprofits led by underrepresented leaders.

Does your organization identify as a BIPOC led? What does that look like within your organization?

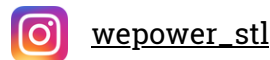
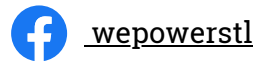
We are a proud Black Woman led organization, with a majority Black and South Asian executive team. The majority of our Board of Directors is also Black and Latinx.

Provide an example of a program or initiative that your organization is spearheading that works to advance economic opportunity and prosperity for BIPOC communities?

Throughout 2022, WEPOWER has:

- Launched a people powered coalition to pass a city ordinance in St. Louis and East St. Louis requiring a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) for all large-scale, new development projects
- Trained and supported 16 Black and Latinx founders via our business accelerator and disbursed a total of \$167,000 via our Kiva Lending Partner

Social Media



HOW FUNDERS CAN GET INVOLVED

As a benefit of AFN membership, funders may nominate local nonprofits focused on building economic security/asset building in communities of color to highlight as part of the EA series, allowing your organization to showcase innovative models and best practices to help build a more secure future for diverse communities. [Click here](#) for more information or to nominate an organization or nonprofit led by people of color for the AFN EA.

Funders who wish to learn more about WEPOWER, contact <https://wepowerstl.org>