



# FIGHTING FOR THE SOUL OF OUR CITY

**STAND UP**  
**NASHVILLE**

## 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

### PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY

#### MUSIC CITY CONSTRUCTION CAREERS

Nashville's construction industry continues to boom, but far too much of the work still goes to bad actors who don't hire locally or provide apprenticeships. SUN is a proud partner of Music City Construction Careers, a life-changing apprenticeship readiness program to solve this problem by creating pathways to careers in the union trades for underrepresented Nashville residents, with an emphasis on women, communities of color, and veterans. The program graduated and changed the lives of 33 students this year!

[READ NEWS CHANNEL 5 SPOTLIGHT FEATURE](#)

#### CBA FIRST SOURCE HIRING PROGRAM

The Community Benefits Agreement we won in 2018 includes a First Source Hiring Program to ensure jobs go to those who need them most. We're proud to report that 81 Promise Zone residents were hired in 2022 - that is roughly 40% of hires! And it doesn't stop there. Thanks to the hard work of our Community Advisory Committee, the wage floor was raised from \$15.50 to \$17/hour!

[READ THE NASHVILLE POST SPOTLIGHT FEATURE](#)



We're proud to report that we took heavy blows, but are unbowed and ready for the next round. We'll never back down in this fight for our city. – MICHAEL CALLAHAN-KAPOOR, INTERIM DIRECTOR

#### PROFILE IN POWER

One of SUN's goals is to combine transformative leadership with powerful policy feedback loops. Larry Turnley, known as LT, personifies this aim. **Since returning from prison, LT has dedicated himself to interrupting violence and uplifting the Black community.** He's passionate about social and economic justice. That's why we chose him for our inaugural Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute, as well as our MC3 Apprenticeship Readiness Program. As a result, LT was just appointed to the Procurement Standards Board in a community position created by our Get It Right Bill.

#### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR SECRETARY MARTY WALSH VISITS NASHVILLE

It was a big honor to have a member of the President's Cabinet visit Nashville to learn about our Community Benefits Agreement and worker organizing in the South. The energy was electric as we heard directly from MC3 graduates who shared how the Apprenticeship Readiness Program changed their lives. Secretary Walsh was very impressed with the good work happening in Nashville.

#### SETTING THE STANDARD FOR CBAS IN MUSIC CITY

We are proud to say that Block C of the soccer stadium development, which includes 160 of the affordable housing units and the 4,000 square feet of retail incubator space for small businesses has gone vertical and is on track to be completed in 2024! We will share more CBA updates at our last public meeting of the year on December 13.

SUN has moved the Overton window on community benefits in Nashville. Now there is an expectation that major developments will include them. But corporate developers and lobbyists are trying to co-opt the powerful tool with “community benefits commitments” and “community benefits platforms” that are weak on centering those most impacted and lack meaningful community engagement. These platforms have minimal enforcement, lack accountability, and in many cases are being signed with groups that have no connection to the community in question. The upshot is that we will have to build even stronger bases and campaigns to ensure the integrity of CBAs.

[READ AXIOS NASHVILLE SPOTLIGHT FEATURE](#)

## THE FUTURE OF EAST NASHVILLE

Over 200 Nashvillans came out to our Fish Fry & Facts event where we had the community weigh in on what they wanted to see on the East Bank. Our organizing and advocacy resulted in “Housing for All” and “Economic Opportunity for All” to be guiding principles in the East Bank Vision Plan. We also partnered with NOAH to convene a panel of experts to discuss the pros and cons of the proposed new NFL stadium in the East Bank. [READ THE FULL REPORT](#)

### RALLYING AGAINST DISPLACEMENT AT RIVERCHASE

When news broke that Cypress Real Estate Advisors would be buying the RiverChase apartments and displacing over 175 Black and Brown families, SUN and our coalition partners immediately sprung into action. From knocking doors to building relationships to formulating demands at community meetings, we worked directly with Riverchase residents to get their needs met and hold CREA accountable. While Riverchase was ultimately rezoned, we held the Texas-based corporate developer accountable for commitments they made and successfully fought for the Riverchase residents to receive better housing outcomes. [READ THE TENNESSEAN SPOTLIGHT FEATURE](#)

## KEEPING AMAZON FROM TAKING OVER NASHVILLE

SUN has played an important role keeping Amazon from gaining undue influence over our city’s policymaking. SUN led the effort to kill a \$1 million transportation grant that would have given the corporation unprecedented influence over transit-oriented development. We also created a report and ran a public education campaign on Amazon’s so-called Housing Equity Fund, highlighting how the fund could actually intensify inequality in Nashville. [READ THE FULL REPORT](#)

## DEFENDING LOCAL DEMOCRACY

State interference is serious business in Tennessee. We formed We Decide TN to challenge our state legislature aggressively preempting policies that would benefit our communities. In 2022, our coalition worked to repeal the ban on paid sick leave as workers struggled to take care of their families during the pandemic. We built out a broader defensive network that helped defeat harmful bills: We stopped a bill that would have banned books depicting LGBTQ+ people, we defeated a bill that would have prevented local officials from enacting policies that promote racial and gender equity, and we beat back a bill that would have blocked local governments from regulating short-term rental properties.

## SHIFTING THE POWER TO THE PEOPLE IN 2023

### LAUNCHING THE ELLA BAKER FREEDOM SCHOOL

To win bigger fights in our hostile environment, we have to build a wider, deeper, and stronger base in Nashville and across Tennessee. This is why we’re launching the Ella Baker Freedom School. The school will cultivate the skills, relationships, and strategic campaigns needed to build People Power mighty enough to transform our state’s politics and economy.

### EAST BANK OUR WAY

2023 will be a pivotal year for what happens with the massive East Bank redevelopment. Billions of public dollars and over 100 acres of public land are at stake. The votes on building a new Titans stadium, which as proposed would make it the most expensive publicly funded stadium in the NFL, will take place in February and March. We will organize our communities to demand transparency and equitable outcomes.

### THE BGLI IS BACK!

We know there’s more than one way to serve your community. Some people run for office or start their own community group, while others seek leadership positions within their faith community or their school. But there’s one path to leadership that far too few of our people pursue: appointment to one of Nashville’s boards and commissions. These bodies have immense power to make change - or protect the status quo - in our city. Our Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute will be back and better than ever in 2023! Applications are open now through January 15 for our second cohort. [APPLY HERE!](#)

