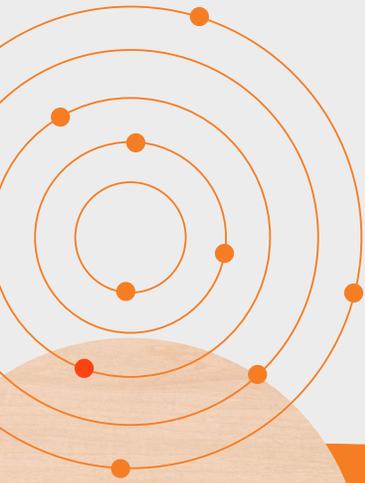




# CORTEX

## 2023 IMPACT REPORT



Accelerating  
inclusive economic  
growth in the  
St. Louis region



## WE ARE CORTEX



# LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT & CEO



**JUNE  
McALLISTER  
FOWLER**  
CORTEX BOARD CHAIR

Dear Cortex Community,

While 2023 marked another year of emergence from the COVID-19 pandemic, it was also defined by a revitalized sense of community, featuring a continued investment in Cortex's strategic mission to bolster the region's talent pipeline to ensure St. Louis achieves its goal of becoming a vibrant and inclusive place to live and work.

In July, we were awarded a \$7 million appropriation from the State of Missouri to grow our regional IT and cyber training programs. This initiative, called Missouri Tech First, was a validation of our regional tech talent partnerships that seek to empower overlooked and under-resourced communities statewide, advancing Missouri's position in the tech industry by offering new pathways to well-paying IT and cybersecurity careers. This effort will intensify in 2024, with the introduction and expansion of new partnerships aimed at adding hundreds of new talented employees to the region's highly skilled tech workforce.

Our resurgence was further evidenced by the continued buildout of Cortex's physical District:

- ◆ Cortex acquired an old factory building to be able to respond to critical needs in the growing Innovation District.
- ◆ We welcomed a new restaurant offering.
- ◆ We signed a deal with a private developer to build an apartment building designed for our new reality of living and working in the same space.



**SAM  
FIORELLO**  
CORTEX PRESIDENT  
& CEO

While all of this represented real growth, no event could eclipse the welcoming to Cortex of Washington University's Jeffrey T. Fort Neuroscience Research Building. The university invested \$616 million in construction, building on its already best-in-class research and development capabilities in the field of neuroscience. The researchers housed in this state-of-the-art facility in Cortex are developing lifesaving treatments and cures for some of the most challenging neurological afflictions.

In addition to all of this, Cortex served our largest number of entrepreneurs to date, we launched deeper sustainability partnerships, and we invested time to grow the team's skills required to meaningfully contribute to an inclusive innovation economy.

As we continue this new chapter of Cortex's journey with a collaborative spirit, we are excited about the myriad of opportunities to demonstrate the transformative power of innovation to drive positive change across our region.

*June McAllister Fowler*      *Sam J. Fiorello*

Cortex creates space for innovators from a diversity of backgrounds to transform ideas into solutions. Weaving together people, places, and organizations, Cortex accelerates inclusive economic growth in the St. Louis region.

# STRATEGIC PLAN

## OUR TARGET OUTCOME

*Foster an inclusive innovation economy in St. Louis*



### UNIQUE STRENGTHS

- ✓ Globally recognized innovation hub
- ✓ Power to convene
- ✓ Experienced regional partner



### OUR WORK

- ✓ Build out the District
- ✓ Grow & attract quality jobs
- ✓ Prepare a diversity of talent for those quality jobs



### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

**01**

Focus recruitment efforts on five priority industry clusters: Life Sciences, Technology, Cybersecurity, Geospatial, and National Security

**02**

Develop pandemic-proof spaces, such as secure meeting space, wet labs, and residential units

**03**

Double-down on entrepreneurship training for a diversity of founders, including expanding Cortex's Square One programs

**04**

Serve as a talent training intermediary, especially for bioscience, cyber, and tech-related roles

## FIVE-YEAR GOALS: 2022-2026



### GROW QUALITY JOBS

- ✓ Recruit companies that will create quality jobs
- ✓ Construct or rehab three buildings in the District
- ✓ We will collaborate on innovation-focused initiatives across the St. Louis region



### PREPARE A DIVERSITY OF TALENT

- ✓ Cortex will expand the number of entrepreneurs trained through our Square One series of programs and launch training partnerships that are both sector-specific and sector-agnostic. We will measure success by tracking skills learned, the number of businesses growing, and the jobs they create.
- ✓ We will build talent-training partnerships that will graduate 1,250 individuals and track the number who are still employed two years later.
- ✓ 70% of our entrepreneurship and workforce graduates will be women and/or people of color.

# PREPARING A DIVERSITY OF TALENT:

## CORTEX LAUNCHES WORKFORCE SYSTEMS

We must adapt the way we train and hire talent to fill today's workforce gaps



### INTRODUCING THE MISSOURI TECH FIRST INITIATIVE

With a **\$7M investment** from the State of Missouri to fuel our efforts, Cortex is addressing the state's growing skills and talent gap while **providing pathways into tech careers** for historically underrepresented, underestimated, and rural communities across Missouri.

We've built partnerships at the local, state, and national levels who today are training tomorrow's IT, cybersecurity, and coding experts – ensuring Missouri can attract and retain high-growth companies. The strategic partnership of the Missouri Tech First Initiative recognizes that there are many paths beyond a four-year degree from a college or university for preparing someone for a successful tech career.

- ✓ Free comprehensive education
- ✓ Curriculum tied to industry demand
- ✓ New apprenticeship and mentorship models
- ✓ Industry-recognized certifications
- ✓ Pathways for entry-level positions
- ✓ Continuous upskilling opportunities

### BUILDING A STRONGER, MORE CONNECTED TECH WORKFORCE ECOSYSTEM

#### Increasing Training Accessibility:

Cortex's training partners provide free education in key areas such as **Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, and IT certifications**. Plus, tech giants like NVIDIA and educational institutions like Singularity are opening doors to cutting-edge fields like AI and Exponential Technology – all at no cost.

#### Enhancing Employer Partnership Collaboration:

Simply put, our new tech learners must have the skills employers need. Our corporate partners ensure training programs are **teaching hireable skills**, putting graduates on a path for success, and streamlining the hiring process for more diverse and historically overlooked candidates.

#### Expanding Nontraditional Talent Engagement:

We're taking a holistic approach to training opportunities. An upcoming biotech-focused apprenticeship program, in collaboration with the Department of Labor and BioSTL, will offer apprentices the opportunity to earn an average of \$80,000 per year, creating another tangible **pathway to high-quality tech careers**.

### ESTABLISHED MISSOURI TECH FIRST PARTNERSHIPS



“The real benchmark of success lies in enabling economic mobility, providing job-ready talent with diverse opportunities, and supporting their interests in the most in-demand careers available.”

– KIERAN BLANKS, MBA  
VP WORKFORCE SYSTEMS, CORTEX



“One of Missouri’s strongest opportunities to grow its economy will come by leveraging the potential of our technology and innovation industries. We are proud to partner with Cortex to train Missourians for high-demand tech occupations across the state.”

DAN MEHAN, *President of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry*



“St. Louis alone currently has more than 7,000 open cybersecurity positions, and only 11% of the Metro area’s current tech workforce is Black or Hispanic. This project will help provide women and minorities tuition-free training and the industry-recognized credentials needed to fill high-paying, in-demand jobs.”

SEN. BRIAN WILLIAMS (D-14, MO)

# PREPARING A DIVERSITY OF TALENT: CORTEX'S SQUARE ONE TRAINING PROGRAMS

*Redefining entrepreneurship to be inclusive of workforce development*

Cortex's Square One Programs foster innovation in concept and early-stage entrepreneurs. Embracing a person-centered and holistic approach, the program equips participants with essential tools, resources, and mentorship to bring their visionary ideas to life in Bioscience, Information Technology, Advanced Manufacturing/Consumer Products, and Food Industries. In 2023, Cortex partnered with 30+ organizations to serve 2,700+ individuals.

## SQ1 GRADUATE SUCCESSES

### ARCH GRANT WINNER



**TASHARA EARL**  
*Shades of Color*

SQ1 Graduate Shades of Color won a \$75,000 Arch Grant to advance its interactive, personalized beauty marketplace for shoppers with unique skin tones and conditions, cultures and lifestyles. This inclusive and accessible platform uses AI and augmented reality to empower brands and consumers with personalized solutions to buy and sell products to fit their needs.

"SQ1 provided a supportive and diverse community for me to learn and grow as an entrepreneur. SQ1 provided a blueprint to help me successfully grow my business and overcome challenges ahead."

### ASIAN CHAMBER RISING STAR



**JULIANA SCHEIDHAUER**  
*Reimagine Resources*

SQ1 Graduate Reimagine Resources is a full-service fitness equipment solution designed specifically for commercial gyms. It has developed a comprehensive system that seamlessly connects commercial gyms with trusted, trained labor, equipment, and servicing solutions.

"SQ1 has been an incredible supporter of Reimagine Resources by connecting us with valuable resources, providing us with strategic connections in the region, and promoting our business in the St. Louis area."

### FOOD CITY STL GRANT WINNER



**ORLY PETERS**  
*Habuyta*

Habuyta (that means "a bite from home") is creating a sense of belonging in St. Louis and connecting people eager to shop, taste, and learn authentic home-cooked meals. SQ1 Graduate Habuyta has earned a Food City STL grant and launched its MVP app, connecting importers, suppliers, and home cooks, helping to deliver authentic cuisines to any doorstep.

"Understanding the importance of prioritizing branding and marketing before launching the Habuyta app has been a game-changer. SQ1 has empowered me to make strategic adjustments and take crucial steps toward the success of my venture."

## SQ1 IGNITE

Fast-tracking idea validation for a successful business launch

**70 EARLY-STAGE ENTREPRENEURS SERVED**

**56% WOMEN**     **74% PEOPLE OF COLOR**

### PROPEL KITCHENS COLLAB

Funded by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, SQ1 launched a new track for 34 food entrepreneurs, addressing a training gap in the St. Louis region's innovation ecosystem.

### BALSA FOUNDATION SUPPORT

SQ1 provided 10 early-stage Balsa grant awardees open access to entrepreneur training.

## SQ1 BOOTCAMP

Intensive comprehensive business education, industry mentorship, and networking for the early-stage entrepreneur

 **23 GRADUATES**

 **65% WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS**

 **70% ENTREPRENEURS OF COLOR**

### UMSL ACCELERATOR COHORT

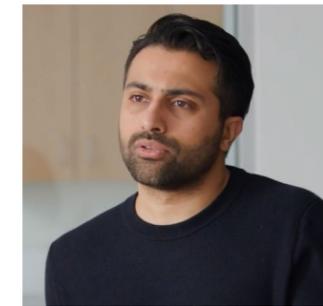


**DENISE WILLIAMS**  
*Real Document Solutions*

SQ1 Graduate Real Document Solutions has been accepted into the UMSL Accelerator to advance its SaaS platform. Targeting industries such as Real Estate, Title Insurance, Law, and Banking, which are often burdened with highly manual workflows and antiquated systems in back-office operations, Real Document Solutions ensures important documents are quickly, accurately, and securely managed.

"SQ1's early startup concept-to-commercialization classes helped me address some gaps I had in my business plan, along with potential resources to address them. It can be lonely as a founder grinding away daily, and coming up for air to connect and collaborate with likeminded and fellow business owners meant a lot."

### NEW CLIENTS, NEW VC RAISE



**DANISH NAGDA**  
*Rezilient Health*

SQ1 Graduate Rezilient Health landed two new health plans and new venture investment dollars for its concierge primary care through its technology-focused health care clinics. This model helps reduce visits to urgent care and emergency rooms by providing same-day access to multispecialty care.

"At the very earliest stages, SQ1 was critical. They give you all the tools and show you a template for what a venture-scale business should look like. Those types of core learnings were formed during SQ1."

## DID YOU KNOW?

Entrepreneurship support at Cortex has been a priority since 1998, and we have helped thousands of small business owners validate their ideas. To continue to meet community needs, Square One began offering training in **Spanish** and will roll out SQ1 IGNITE in **Farsi** this year, as we continue to support the Afghan Chamber and its members.



# IN THE DISTRICT

Celebrating innovative companies big and small that make up our Cortex Innovation District. Here is a snapshot of several successes they had in 2023:



## 1904 LABS

Building modern, custom solutions to help enterprises digitally transform. Innovative, startup-minded people passionate about problem solving help our clients break down the obstacles to transformation within large organizations.

## AON

### AON

Aon Missouri had a record year of growth in 2023. Most notably, its construction industry group is working with six of the top 10 contractors in the region, experiencing 30+% growth. Aon also contributed to more than 20 charitable organizations in the community.



## ALCAMI

This leading contract development and manufacturing organization offers analytical development, stability, microbiology, and routine testing, as well as extensive experience in Disinfectant Efficacy studies. In 2024, Alcami will invest in additional Development Services capabilities and resources to continue to support method development and validation for clients' product development programs.



## ASCEND VENTURE CAPITAL

With up-and-to-the-right performances from portfolio companies, Ascend is proving its thesis of investing in data-centric tech companies that build mission-critical tech for the future state of their industries. Ascend has launched its Fund IV for 2024.



## cic

CIC's 3rd annual Social Impact Cohort welcomed eight new small businesses focused on making St. Louis a better place. CIC also partnered with Cortex and Thermo Fisher to initiate major renovations to the 20 S. Sarah scientific labs that will host new shared equipment (sponsored by Thermo Fisher) and a variety of flexible options to meet the needs of growing life sciences companies.



## BIOSTL

The 7th annual GlobalSTL Health Innovation Summit attracted innovation from around the world to St. Louis. BioSTL also convened a new coalition, Regenerative AgriFood Coalition in the Heartland (ReACH), to address the urgent need for innovation in our agriculture and food system.

### 365

students/workers participated in bioscience-related upskilling and/or work-based learning programs — leading, for many, to permanent employment or career advancement.

### \$2M

grant awarded by the State of Missouri to BioSTL to scale its workforce programs to connect underserved employees with biotech and healthcare jobs.



## CONFLUENCE DISCOVERY TECHNOLOGIES

(ACLARIS THERAPEUTICS, INC.)

Launched out of the BioGenerator Labs and purchased by Aclaris Therapeutics Inc., Confluence Discovery Technologies (CDT) operates as a wholly owned subsidiary that completed three Phase 2 studies and one Phase 1 study on three drug candidates discovered and developed at CDT. In 2024, CDT will collaborate with Wash U scientists to advance its drug ATI-450 in investigator-initiated clinical trials for both metastatic breast cancer and pancreatic cancer.



## FILAMENT

The convener and problem-solver for many of St. Louis companies hosted a record number of nonprofits during Thinksgiving, connecting nearly 70 nonprofits with teams from smart companies for a day of creative problem-solving focused on a sustainable future.



## FORWARD THROUGH FERGUSON

FTF's Racial Healing and Justice Fund seeks to dismantle traditional power dynamics between grantmakers and grantees, so far investing \$1.3M into 67 Black- and Brown-led organizations, including \$80,000 into five Black- and Brown-led organizations and initiatives that provide frontline response to community trauma.



## GENERAL DYNAMICS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

A global aerospace and defense company, GDIT won two major contracts with the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA). An \$88.2M contract is to provide software development services to NGA. The second is a \$4.5B award for hybrid cloud services and IT operations supporting the new Next NGA West campus in North St. Louis City.



## COFACTOR GENOMICS

Leading development of immunotherapy predictive diagnostics to treat cancers, Cofactor's technology was ranked #2 on the "Top 100 in Cancer" list from Nature Publishing Group. It signed partnerships with 26 U.S. Healthcare systems to treat 11 cancers through its national PREDAPT clinical trial and also successfully validated its technology in head and neck cancer, receiving approval for clinical use.



# IN THE DISTRICT

Celebrating innovative companies big and small that make up our Cortex Innovation District. Here is a snapshot of several successes they had in 2023:



## HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Hispanic Chamber, recognized as an "Exceptional Neighbor" by St. Louis CITY SC, increased membership and program revenue by 67%. It is collecting market research on the growing Hispanic demographic and analyzing members' economic impact in the St. Louis region.



## IFF ST. LOUIS

A leading global provider of taste, scent, and nutrition solutions, IFF employs 200+ people and has a history of innovation and excellence. 2023 was a transformative year – from modernizing facilities to investing in a \$5.1M, state-of-the-art High Moisture Extrusion system, enabling the production of novel plant-based protein products for the growing alternative protein market.



## IMMUNOPHOTONICS

Immunophotonics' technology platform pairs its drug candidate with radiation and ablation to destroy tumors. Proving this is a major feat, which was bolstered by successfully closing a new financing round, receiving approval for and initiating a clinical trial in five countries (including the U.S.), forming a research collaboration with Johnson & Johnson Enterprise Innovation Inc., and successfully demonstrating the mechanism of its drug in-patient.



## NEURO360

The St. Louis region, through partnerships among Washington University School of Medicine, BioSTL, Cortex, Forward Through Ferguson, and Starkloff Disability Institute, was awarded a highly competitive NSF Engine Award to plan and pilot strategies to stimulate a thriving, inclusive, sustainable neuroscience ecosystem in the St. Louis region that will improve wellness in underserved communities, address neurobiological health disparities, and inspire accountable, innovative, human-centered practices and technologies of the future.



## OMNIOSE

Omniose has entered into a scientific collaboration with AstraZeneca to develop vaccines against bacterial pathogens, including multidrug-resistant "superbugs." Omniose also was awarded an up to \$3M grant for the further development of a Group B Streptococcus vaccine from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the U.S. National Institutes of Health.



## PER SCHOLAS

In 2023 Per Scholas enrolled 113 learners into its IT Support and Cybersecurity programs, 87% of whom were people of color and 43% women, an increase in both categories over the prior year. The non-profit expanded its hiring network, and its graduates receive an average starting wage of \$21.47 per hour.



## REGIONAL ARTS COMMISSION

As the largest public funder of art in the St. Louis region, RACSTL awarded nearly \$4.5M in grants to 350 individual artists and arts organizations – the largest allocation in its history. Additionally, RACSTL was awarded \$10.6M in federal funding through the City of St. Louis to help lift up the arts sector. It also launched StLouisArts.org – a new national cultural tourism initiative.



## SHRINERS CHILDREN'S ST. LOUIS

Celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2024, Shriners Children's St. Louis offers specialty pediatric orthopedic care to the region and beyond, regardless of a family's insurance status or ability pay. The Most Amazing Care Affair gala will celebrate a century of hope and healing and raise money to serve children for the next 100 years.



## UNLOCKED LABS

Unlocked Labs' technology team is made up of 75% current and formerly incarcerated software developers, who are building scalable, open-source infrastructure to deploy programs and track outcomes for incarcerated students. In 2023 Unlocked Labs won the Dream.org Justice Innovation Prize, the Milken-Penn GSW EdTech Pitch Competition, the Audience Choice Award at EdTech Week in NYC, and was named a MIT Solve Finalist.



## WUGEN

Generating off-the-shelf cellular therapies for cancer, Wugen announced the first patient dosing in Phase 1 trials of its lead assets WU-NK-101 and WU-CART-007. It was selected to present data for the CAR-T program at the European Hematology Association Congress and the American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting. Wugen also was selected to orally present its novel characterization of Memory-Like NK Cells and their ability to overcome factors restricting Adoptive Cell Therapy in Acute Myeloid Leukemia.



## WOMEN'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

In 2023, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) chose WBDC to host its Small Business Transportation Resource Center for five central states to help small businesses gain opportunities to work with state and local DOTs. WBDC also helps small businesses get certified as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, serving 208 clients last year.

## WEPOWER

To help redesign social systems to be just and equitable for all, WEPOWER trained 13 Black women to be future public leaders, defended early childcare funding to enhance teacher quality, invested \$300,000+ in local Black-led companies, engaged 80,000 City voters, supported the legislation to reform the city's charter, and witnessed two WEPOWER alumni win public office.

# BUILDING OUT THE 200-ACRE INNOVATION DISTRICT



## 1 NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH

At 609,000 square feet, one of the world's largest neuroscience research buildings has opened in Cortex on the eastern edge of Washington University's Medical Campus. The 11-story, \$616M Jeffrey T. Fort Neuroscience Research Building unites 120 research teams around solving some of the most challenging neurological afflictions.

## 2 GATES AG ONE

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's new nonprofit agriculture center opens its headquarters in Cortex, from which it will focus on helping smallholder farmers adapt to climate change and make food production in low- and middle-income countries more productive, resilient, and sustainable. Choosing St. Louis marks another victory for our agtech sector.

## 3 TAQUERIA MORITA

Cortex's popular seasonal taco pop-up Taqueria Morita by James Beard Award semi-finalists Take Root Hospitality (Vicia in the District), has found a permanent home for its popular seasonal taco shop at 4239 Duncan Ave., opening Q2 2024.

## 4 BJC INFUSION PHARMACY

BJC HealthCare has acquired 710 S. Boyle to convert the prior warehouse building into a state-of-the-art sterile compounding pharmacy by Q4 2024.

## 5 4232 FOREST PARK AVENUE

Cortex has purchased the strategically located, 39,000-square-foot building to be able to respond to critical needs in the growing Innovation District.

## 6 GOODWILL

BOBB, LLC, a development entity affiliated with Washington University in St. Louis, is preparing the former Goodwill site at 4140 Forest Park Avenue to be able to provide affordable lab and office spaces to early-stage life sciences companies along with potential space for workforce training programs.

## 7 CIC LABS

Cortex and CIC have partnered to invest \$2M to renovate the private and shared CIC Labs at 20 S. Sarah. Thermo Fisher Scientific is also providing CIC with state-of-art equipment, training, and services.

## 8 CARRIAGE WORKS

CW Laclede LLC is preserving the 1908 former carriage company building with \$4.5M in proposed upgrades. A new 28,000-square-foot development will offer store fronts, sidewalk activity, and offices that can house tech jobs and services for tech workers.

## 9 NEW RESIDENTIAL

Cortex has inked a deal with a private developer to build a tech talent-focused apartment building at the corner of Vandeventer and Forest Park Avenues.

# CORTEX CONTRACTED...

**45** MWBE COMPANIES, TOTALING **\$1.6M** OF WORK IN 2023.

These contractors serviced Cortex programming and administration across the organization.

# MWBE CORTEX CONSTRUCTION

SINCE 2013, Cortex has been tracking MWBE Enterprise and Workforce diversity and inclusion on all construction projects, resulting in **48 COMPLETED PROJECTS** totaling **\$390M** and meeting or exceeding the goals set by Mayor's Executive Order 28 and the corresponding ordinances 69427 & 70767.

## CORTEX IS CURRENTLY TRACKING...

**6** NEW PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT

RESULTING IN AN ADDITIONAL **\$496M** IN PROJECTS,

FOR A GRAND TOTAL OF **\$885M** INVESTED.

# WELCOMING MISSION-ALIGNED PARTNERS



## INDEPENDENCE CENTER

Cortex partnered with Independence Center to provide supported employment to individuals with chronic mental illness. The Cortex Grounds Program offers them a welcoming environment where they can get back on their feet and get back to work.



## HARAMBEE

Cortex contracted with Harambee LLC, a full-service masonry contractor, to tuckpoint 20 S. Sarah. The eight months-long project employed St. Louis City youth, most of whom received their introduction to tuckpointing from Harambee Youth Training, a non-profit organization that trains teens to tuckpoint for City residents unable to afford it. Cortex is proud to partner with Harambee LLC to give young people an opportunity to secure meaningful employment and provide for their families.

# SUSTAINABILITY

Over the past decade, Cortex steadily has been improving its sustainability, and we serve as a living laboratory for these efforts.

## KEY INITIATIVES:

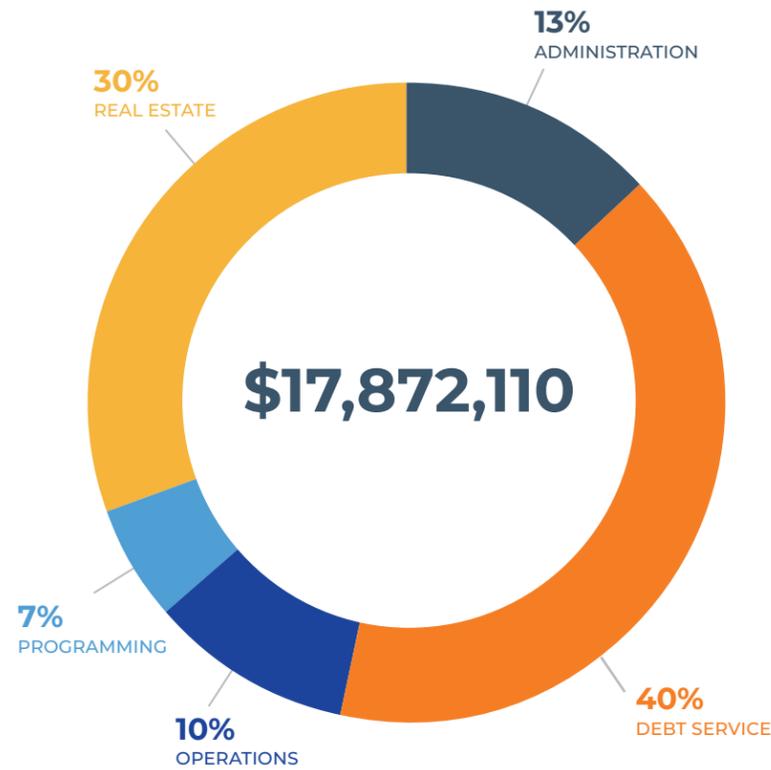
- Recipient of \$5.1M MSD Green Infrastructure Grant to enable sustainable solutions to development
- Five LEED Certified buildings in the Cortex District, including 4240 Duncan, which is LEED Platinum
- Brickline Greenway installed in partnership with Great Rivers Greenway
- Lighting Retrofit + Solar Analysis completed
- Sponsored Green Business Challenge + Green Dining Restaurants in District
- Cortex Prairie Grass Project to restore biodiversity and soil health, leading to increase in pollinators
- Zero-emissions landscaping + rain gardens on Cortex Commons
- Began quantifying greenhouse gas inventory on 15 of the largest buildings in the District
- Launched new sustainability website



# CREATING A WELCOMING DISTRICT EXPERIENCE

The District Experience team hosted more than **25 PROGRAMS FOR DISTRICT MEMBERS** — from a volunteer clean-up day to partnering with a St. Louis startup to provide local produce, along with hosting the kickoff to the Great Forest Park Balloon Glow and introducing Aglow, a drive-through holiday light experience for the community.

# 2023 EXPENSES



**ADMINISTRATION | 13%**  
Management & General  
**\$2,361,359**

**DEBT SERVICE | 40%**  
Loan Payments Principal & Interest  
**\$7,220,208**

**OPERATIONS | 10%**  
Snow Removal, Landscaping, Security, Maintenance  
**\$1,742,160**

**PROGRAMMING | 7%**  
Events, Activations, Mission-Oriented Activities  
**\$1,154,371**

**REAL ESTATE | 30%**  
Building and Leasing Activities  
**\$5,394,012**

**TOTAL\***  
**\$17,872,110**

*\*Unaudited cash-basis expenses*

## CORTEX IS GRATEFUL FOR 2023 SUPPORT FROM OUR GENEROUS DONORS:

- Anonymous
- Bank of America
- The Bellwether Foundation
- Bud and Anne Strong
- Centene Charitable Foundation
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation
- Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
- Gary and Patricia Krosch
- HOK
- James S. McDonnell Family Foundation
- James Terry
- Jeff and Jennifer McDonnell
- Lewis and Leslee Levey
- Missouri Technology Corporation
- RiverVest Venture Partners
- State of Missouri
- U.S. Economic Development Administration
- Wells Fargo
- William T. Kemper Foundation

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### June McAllister Fowler | Board Chair

Retired, Senior Vice President, Communications, Marketing, and Public Affairs, BJC HealthCare

### Robert W. Cannon | Vice-Chairman

Group President, BJC HealthCare

### Amy Kweskin | Treasurer

Executive Vice Chancellor for Finance, CFO, Washington University in St. Louis

### Donn Rubin | Secretary

Founding President & CEO, BioSTL

### Margaret Basic

Director, Advanced Air Mobility Strategy & Wisk Collaboration, Boeing Global Services

### Steven Berberich, Ph.D. (joined in Q4)

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, The University of Missouri–St. Louis

### Aaron F. Bobick, Ph.D.

Dean, James McKelvey School of Engineering, Washington University in St. Louis

### Robert Cardillo

President, The Cardillo Group

### Dedric A. Carter, Ph.D., MBA (cycled off Q3)

Vice-Chancellor for Innovation & Chief Commercialization Officer, Washington University in St. Louis

### Karl Guenther (cycled off Q1)

Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Economic & Community Development, The University of Missouri–St. Louis

### Barnali Gupta, Ph.D.

Dean, Chaifetz School of Business, Saint Louis University

### Jan Holloway

Retired, Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff, Monsanto Company

### Richard J. Liekweg

President & CEO, BJC HealthCare

### Andrew D. Martin, Ph.D.

Chancellor, Washington University in St. Louis

### Kenneth A. Olliff, DMin, MBA

Vice President for Research and Partnerships, Saint Louis University

### Fred P. Pestello, Ph.D.

President, Saint Louis University

### Jason Q. Purnell, Ph.D. (joined in Q4)

President, James S. McDonnell Foundation

### Derek Rapp (joined in Q3)

Managing Director, RiverVest Venture Partners

### Judy Sindecuse

CEO/Managing Partner, Capital Innovators

### Kristin Sobolik, Ph.D.

Chancellor, The University of Missouri–St. Louis

### Christopher D. Spilling, Ph.D., CChem, FRSC

Vice-Chancellor for Research and Economic & Community Development, University of Missouri–St. Louis

### Sean J. Walsh

Managing Director and Co-Founder, 1904Labs

### Peter Wyse Jackson, Ph.D.

President, Missouri Botanical Garden

## EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS

### L. Jared Boyd

Chief of Staff, City of St. Louis Mayor's Office

### Michael Browning (joined in Q4)

9th Ward Alderman, City of St. Louis Board of Aldermen

### Rodney Crim, CEcD

CEO and President, St. Louis Economic Development Partnership

### Sam Fiorello

President and CEO, Cortex Innovation District

### Neal Richardson, MBA

Executive Director, St. Louis Development Corporation

CORTEX RAISED MORE THAN \$5.1M IN 2023 TO DIRECTLY SUPPORT OUR PARTNERS, WHO SHARE OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ACROSS TALENT AND ENTREPRENEUR TRAINING.



“As we work with nearly 50 innovation districts worldwide, our research to elevate innovative practice continues to pull us back to Cortex. Their evolving agenda—where they are boldly taking on the imperatives to diversify talent and decarbonize effectively—is redefining the role and relevance of Cortex across the region and globe.”

– JULIE WAGNER, PRESIDENT,  
GLOBAL INSTITUTE ON INNOVATION DISTRICTS

“Cortex is an invaluable base for Immunophotonics’ operations, enabling tremendous impact on our growth and development. The people in this District have made critical introductions for us, invested in the company, and continue to show up as a constant source for collaboration.”

– LU ALLERUZZO, CEO, IMMUNOPHOTONICS, INC.

“Entrepreneurs focus on technology and fundraising while investors seek efficiency with impact. Cortex represents Class A space and support to satisfy both. Very few can match this opportunity.”

– JOHN MCKEARN, MANAGING DIRECTOR, RIVERVEST,  
AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WUGEN

“Innovation exists because of creativity, and creativity is our jam! By utilizing Cortex as our base of operations, we can give our staff the flexibility it needs to be efficient and productive while also creating a more positive work-life balance.”

– VANESSA COOKSEY, PRESIDENT & CEO,  
REGIONAL ARTS COMMISSION

“Cortex showed unwavering concern not only for the patrons of the building we worked on, but also for our staff. This made what was a long, tedious project a pleasure to complete. We look forward to a lasting relationship with Cortex.”

– ZACH HAMILTON, MEMBER/OWNER,  
HARAMBEE LLC



Cortex Offices  
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