Mission: To advance equity and justice for all women through advocacy and collaboration.
Vision: A day when all women and girls have the confidence, power and freedom to reach their full potential.

CELEBRATION 39: OUR BODIES, OUR MINDS, OUR SOULS, OUR RIGHTS, OUR LIVES
March 27, 2019

Especially in times of turmoil, women give much of themselves away while enduring tough emotional and spiritual strain. After our own “break” to reflect and reassess in 2018, we appreciated that we could fight for others as well as fight for ourselves. This includes listening to our bodies, letting our spirituality guide us and rejuvenating our souls. It was only appropriate to highlight some of the admirable artists in healing in our own community, taking approaches rooted in tradition and re-grounding equity warriors all around us.

Artist in Healing Honorees:

Dr. Joi Lewis, Founder & CEO
Joi Unlimited

Nancy Bordeaux
CEO, Tawacin Tanka

Rebeka Ndosi, Co-Owner
People’s Movement Center

Keynote speaker:
Suzanne Koeppinger,
Director,
The Catalyst Initiative of
The Minneapolis Foundation

GIRLS ROCK! THE CAPITOL
February 18, 2019

This year, nearly 60 young women had the opportunity to tour the Capitol, hear from women serving in public office, participate in a mock legislative committee hearing and cast a vote. Thank you to the attendees for making it a great day: Girls Are Powerful, Girls Getting Ahead in Leadership, Girls Taking Action and Women of Today-District 2.

(left to right) Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan, Saint Paul City Council Member Mitra Jalali Nelson, Hennepin County Commissioner Angela Conley and MN State Representative Kaohly Her.
MWC IN THE COMMUNITY

As a small organization with 1.6 FTE, we greatly value working in partnership with our member groups and community partners. We are thankful for opportunities to attend gatherings addressing gender equity and racial justice. We also appreciate the invitations to speak to community groups that share our mission to advance equity and justice for all women through advocacy and collaboration.

Learning Opportunities

- Dismantling Racism Workshop by The Racial Equity Institute hosted by YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities - October 2017
- Independent Sector Annual Conference, Detroit, MI - October 2017
- Women's Convention by Women's March on Washington, Detroit, MN - October 2017
- Equity Summit by PolicyLink, Chicago, IL - April 2018
- United State of Women Conference, Los Angeles, CA - May 2018
- National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA - November 2018
- Indigenous Women's Conference, Minneapolis, MN - March 2019

Presentations

- Oral History and Activism hosted by the Oral History Association - Minneapolis, MN Oct 2017
- Increasing Diversity, Fostering Inclusion by MN Association of Volunteer Administrators - Saint Paul, MN March 2018
- Women and Worth hosted by Pollen - Saint Paul, MN April 2018
- Meet Me At My Intersection hosted by MNWest Community College - Worthington, MN April 2018
- Gretchen Carlson Leadership Institute Regional Gathering hosted by All In Together - Saint Paul, MN February 2019
- Listening to Greater MN Women hosted by MNxMN – Saint Paul, MN February 2019
- Girls Getting Ahead in Leadership Celebration hosted by Women’s Initiative for Self-Empowerment – Saint Paul, MN May 2019

COMMUNITY INPUT SESSIONS

In December of 2018, MWC held nine community input sessions to hear from women around the state. There were two in-person sessions in the Twin Cities, two virtual sessions and a session each in Duluth, Brainerd, St. Cloud, Mankato and Rochester. We heard from women on pressing concerns in their communities, initiatives responding to these concerns, and planned legislative activities. This was the first time in at least five years that MWC has had the opportunity to meet with women leaders from Greater MN. We met some influential leaders who have committed to working with MWC to hold future regional gatherings. A Report Summary of the community sessions provides an overview of the conversations.

FIVE YEARS OF THE WOMEN’S ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT

On Mother’s Day in 2014, Governor Mark Dayton signed the Women’s Economic Security Act into law. The Minnesota Coalition for Women’s Economic Security worked for months to prioritize seven provisions that support family caregiving and strengthen family economic security. MWC is coordinating an impact assessment of WESA with the help of our Policy Fellow, Carla Molloy. After obtaining her PhD in English with a focus on aesthetics and economics, Carla began a career in public policy at the Ministry for Women's Affairs in New Zealand. The Ministry for Women’s Affairs (since renamed the Ministry for Women) is a policy-only agency that advises the New Zealand government on policy related to women. Her primary focus was on violence towards women, with a secondary focus on ending the gender pay gap. She migrated to the United States with her husband, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. She is the Board President of Turningpoint for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence, a nonprofit that provides services for victims of domestic and sexual violence in two counties in western Wisconsin.

We hope to have the impact evaluation completed by end of summer in 2019 and begin gathering feedback and input over the next year and present an updated Women’s Economic Security Act in 2021. We are looking for coalition partners at varying phases of this project and at different levels of engagement. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Carla at carla.molloy@gmail.com.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

MWC followed a set of bills aligned with our legislative priorities. At the time of this publication, special session has just adjourned, and we are still finalizing our update. We will have completed legislative summary completed shortly.

THANK YOU!

MWC has one full-time Executive Director and a part-time Director of Administration and Finance. We could not do what we do without the volunteer power throughout the year. We are grateful for their expertise, skills and commitment.

Minnesota Women’s Consortium Board of Directors

2018-2019: Tamara Stark, Tubman (Chair); Deontee Kofa, Kofa Foundation (Vice-Chair); Dave Kirkwood, AAUW-MN (Treasurer); Barb Schubring, YWCA-Minneapolis, (Secretary); Marsha Cressy, Minnesotans Standing Together to End Poverty; Nicole Juan, MN Association of Professional Employees; Lucia Skinner, Member At-large; Mary Turner, MN Nurses Association; and Amanda Ziebell Mawanda, Member At-large.

2019-2020: Tamara Stark, Chair; Deontee Kofa, Vice-Chair; Dave Kirkwood, Treasurer; Kristin Brietzke, Women’s March MN; Marsha Cressy, Minnesotans Standing Together to End Poverty; Nicole Juan, MN Association of Professional Employees; Verona Mitchell, Member At-large; Antonia Wilcoxon, Member At-large; La Ong Yang, Girls Scouts River Valleys; and Amanda Ziebell Mawanda, Member At-large.

Minnesota Women’s Consortium Interns

Fall 2017: Stefany Calderon (St. Catherine University), Policy Coordinator and Jina Rahimi (St. Catherine University), Policy Coordinator
Spring 2018: Bao Lee (Metropolitan State University), Policy Coordinator
Spring 2019: Mai Kia Vang, Events Coordinator and Allyssa Williams (Hamline University), Policy Coordinator