

The cover features a central blue diamond shape containing a portrait of a woman in a headwrap. Surrounding this are several triangular photo cutouts: a woman in profile (top left), a young boy (top right), a woman with a laptop (middle left), and a man with a beard (bottom center). The background is white with scattered geometric shapes in shades of blue, green, and yellow.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

2017 Highlights

72 Small businesses started, expanded or stabilized

 **\$8,680**

Average monthly earnings from NEON Property Maintenance Contractors

 **5,585+ Hours**

Hours of technical assistance provided

 **234** Feasibility assessments conducted



President's Message

A New Beginning!

First, kudos to my predecessor, Marcus Owens, who is now the Executive Director of the African American Leadership Forum. Marcus, we applaud you for your vision and your inspirational leadership in bringing NEON to be the force that it is in the community today.

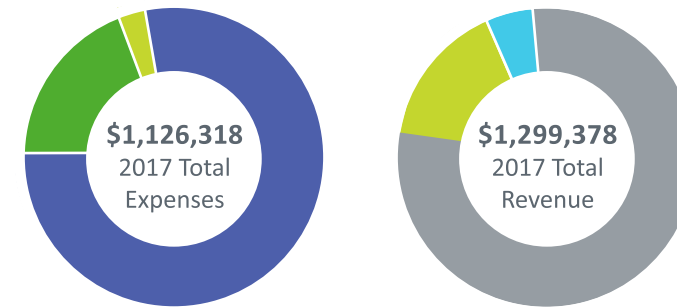
Wow, what a year! Last year NEON continued to build on its momentum. We served more clients and garnered more support than ever. The most important resource in any community is its people. The Northside is brimming with talent waiting to be unleashed and harnessed.

NEON is the place where the talented aspiring entrepreneurs can make their dreams become reality. The Northside is the place where undervalued assets abound and the most undervalued asset of all are the Northside residents. There is a very popular phrase about changing the narrative, many times that phrase is applied to others regarding the Northside, but the most important narrative we need to change is the narrative concerning ourselves. At NEON, we desire to fuel a Culture of Entrepreneurship.

When asked what we needed to succeed, we responded that we needed commitment, a committed and talented staff, committed board and committed funders. We are grateful and pleased that we have all three.

Warren McLean
NEON President

2017 FINANCIALS



EXPENSES

● Program Services	\$854,982
● Management and General	227,593
● Fundraising	43,743
TOTAL	1,126,318

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

● Grants and Contributions	\$922,386
● Government	221,490
● Earned Income	95,322
TOTAL	1,299,378

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Lynn Farmer, *Board Chair*
Hamline University

Nerita Hughes, *Vice Chair*
North Hennepin Community College

Beth Dumke, *Secretary*
US Bank

Trent Bowman, *Treasurer*
Klein Bank

DIRECTORS

Arthur Gardner, Jr.
Thor Construction

Dennis Werneke
American Chemical

Lamont Bowens
Bowen Companies

KB Brown
Wolfpack Promotions

Russell Knighton
Retired Bank Executive

EX-OFFICIO (2017)

Marcus Owens
NEON President



Where entrepreneurs
start, grow + thrive

Reach Us

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