



Land Bank | Twin Cities

**LAND BANK TWIN CITIES NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Lauren Sauer, (651) 285-5224, lauren.sauer@onesimpleplan.com

Land Bank Twin Cities Appoints Thomas Streitz as Interim Executive Director
Streitz co-founded the equitable development organization and brings deep experience in economic empowerment and anti-poverty strategies

MINNEAPOLIS – May 1, 2023 – [Land Bank Twin Cities, Inc.](https://www.landbanktwincities.org/), a nonprofit organization which works to break barriers to equitable real estate development and provide investment opportunities for underserved communities across the Twin Cities, has appointed Thomas Streitz as the Interim Executive Director. Streitz was one of the original founders of Land Bank Twin Cities more than 13 years ago and most recently served as its Board Chair. Streitz's appointment follows the retirement of Sandy Oakes, who served as President of Land Bank Twin Cities for 10 years.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to lead Land Bank Twin Cities and work with the many passionate, talented and influential members of our board and staff," Streitz says. "We are well-poised to build on our legacy to advance wealth creation in lower-income communities and establish long-term, equitable real estate solutions that uplift our communities and increase opportunities for people to invest in their futures."

Land Bank Twin Cities works with nonprofit developers like PPL, Aeon, and many others to produce thousands of affordable housing units throughout the Twin Cities metro area. The organization has also taken on cultural restoration and preservation projects, like the Victoria Theater in St. Paul. Since its founding, Land Bank Twin Cities has acquired and sold over 200 million dollars in real estate to service families, local businesses, and important cultural assets in low-income neighborhoods.

Streitz says it's his key priority at Land Bank Twin Cities to launch a comprehensive strategic planning process to build on the organization's success.

"We created Land Bank Twin Cities to be a unique flexible tool for under-invested communities and emerging developers to build equitable wealth creation strategies," says Streitz. "Looking forward, we're excited to mobilize our stakeholders to build on our established track record of innovative equitable investment in real estate and community lending to grow our impact throughout the state of Minnesota."

Streitz is a social entrepreneur, fundraiser, innovator and team leader in nonprofit, legal and government management. His strengths and experience are rooted in economic empowerment, affordable housing, systems change, wealth creation and anti-poverty strategies, leveraging capital, affordable housing development and political advocacy.

Streitz's prior roles include serving as Legislative Counsel to the U.S. Senate, Director of Housing and Policy Development for the City of Minneapolis, and Deputy Executive Director of the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority. Tom holds an LL.M. in International and Comparative Law from Georgetown University Law School, a J.D. from Seattle University, a B.A. from the University of Nebraska, and he was a Humphrey Leadership Fellow at the University of Minnesota.

"Tom's longstanding leadership history with Land Bank Twin Cities combined with his vision for creating prosperous, engaged communities make for a seamless transition," says Chief Operating Officer Shana Wenger. "He's uniquely qualified to carry our mission forward, uninterrupted."

About Land Bank Twin Cities, Inc.

Land Bank Twin Cities works with developers, nonprofit service providers and government agencies in the Twin Cities to capture strategic real estate opportunities to benefit people with low to moderate incomes, prioritizing people of color and populations facing barriers. Through land banking, lending, brokering, property management and technical assistance, Land Bank Twin Cities plays a major role in addressing barriers to equitable community development. As a result, millions of dollars have been invested in Twin Cities communities for more than a decade to support a wide range of mission-driven real estate initiatives. To learn more, visit landbanktwincities.org.

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