



The JK Movement Jimmy Lee Recreation Center

"Where Black, BIPOC youth are healed, inspired, empowered and celebrated to create and live healthy, safe, self-sustaining futures."

IMAGINE

- A place where Black and BIPOC youth are the **solution to the future**, not the problem.
- A place built by the "voices" of Black youth and the **community** where Black futures are created.
- A **place of healing, safety & growth** where Black excellence is fostered with youth and the broader community.

ABOUT

The JK Movement (JKM) is a Black-founded, Black-led, grassroots organization providing healing-centered engagement and culturally responsive support for Black and BIPOC youth, ages 13–24, with generational trauma from the Rondo. Started more than a decade ago, the JKM helps young people build self-belief, positive relationships, and the self-advocacy needed to turn their dreams into futures of safety and opportunity. The JKM equips young people with practical tools to aspire and develop pathways to futures of stability, safety, health, and equity. The JKM offers programs and activities under three areas of service:

- **Youth Empowerment**
- **Career and Future Readiness**
- **Community Engagement**

Located directly across from Central High School, the JKM serves over 1,400 youth in Rondo, a historic community fractured by systemic injustice (federal highway construction I-94); today, Rondo still faces racial and educational disparities. In partnership with the City of St. Paul, JKM operates the Jimmy Lee Recreation Center, providing vital programs and support to strengthen and uplift the neighborhood.

Our Mission

To empower and inspire effective change in the minds, bodies, and spirits of young people.

Our Vision

To be the leading culturally responsive, healing-centered resource, uniquely equipping diverse youth to grow into confident self-advocates and impactful leaders shaping safe, fair, and thriving futures.

Our Future

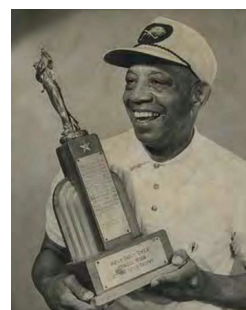
In 2023, JKM launched an ambitious three-year campaign to "Renew, Reunite and Rally" support for reclaiming the Jimmy Lee Recreation Center as a vibrant community resource. As the center's operator and service coordinator, JKM is dedicated to create a safe, empowering space where Black and BIPOC youth can shape and lead inclusive futures that are safe and promising for all.

The 2025 vision for JKM and the Jimmy Lee Recreation Center:

To be an inclusive, cutting-edge, culturally responsive, and healing-centered hub that serves as a trusted community resource. A place where Black and BIPOC youth, along with their families and allies, can safely dream, believe in their potential, and turn their skills and interests into self-sustaining futures rooted in opportunity, care, and impact.

Our History

At the age of 15, Jimmy Lee bravely fled Mississippi to travel north searching for greater opportunity and freedom. According to Henry Louis Gates, Jr., those who made it to the north should be remembered "heroes in African American history." Jimmy Lee settled in St. Paul, rose to be the city's "gentleman" and last city elevator operator (First National Bank); and he also became a national hero among sports referees. Upon his passing, Jimmy Lee was inducted in the MN coach's hall of fame. The business community named the city's recreation center in the Rondo Neighborhood in his honor.





Concept renderings provided by 4RM+ULA

Features (not comprehensive)

Building Structure

- Up-to-code standards
- Environmental inspection analysis, abatement
- Mitigations
- Roof analysis, replacement

Kitchen: Social Venture Teaching

- New refrigeration and oven ventilation
- Sanitizing (industry dishwasher)
- Hot food transport, creation capacity
- Meal preparation & teaching lab space

Entry and Vestibule: Welcoming & Safe

- Youth/traffic registration
- Entry is visible externally
- Accessible access from both levels
- Complete facility safety & security by professionals (risk assessment, cameras at exit/entrance)

Classrooms

- Technology & Digital access
- STEM lab ready classroom
- 2 Large instructional classrooms (capacity 50)
- 5-10 Small instructional classrooms (capacity 10-15)
- Multi-purpose and multi-functional

Other Space

- Hoteling space for community onsite partners
- Health clinic
- Digital/Gaming career space
- Heritage & Legends Room (reflective and healing spaces)
- Conference rooms & interactive training room
- Art gallery
- Fitness area
- Youth lockers (secure)
- Board & community room
- Career preparation space

Basketball Court

- Bleachers (safety)
- Backboards from the ceiling & flooring

FUNDING PLAN - \$12.25 MILLION GOAL

• Capital Campaign / Foundations	\$1.5 Million
• City of St. Paul Investment	\$2.8 Million
• Capital Investment ask for the 2025 Legislative Session (EST)	\$5.7 Million
• LCDA / TOD	\$1/2 Million
• MDE Community Center Grant	\$1/4 Million
• Ramsey County	\$1/5 Million
• Donors and sponsors	\$1.3 Million

TOTAL **\$12.25 Million**

Timeline

January 2023	• Fundraising Start Date
January 2025	• Predevelopment Start Date
October 2025	• Construction Start Date
October 2026	• Anticipated Completion Date / Grand Opening