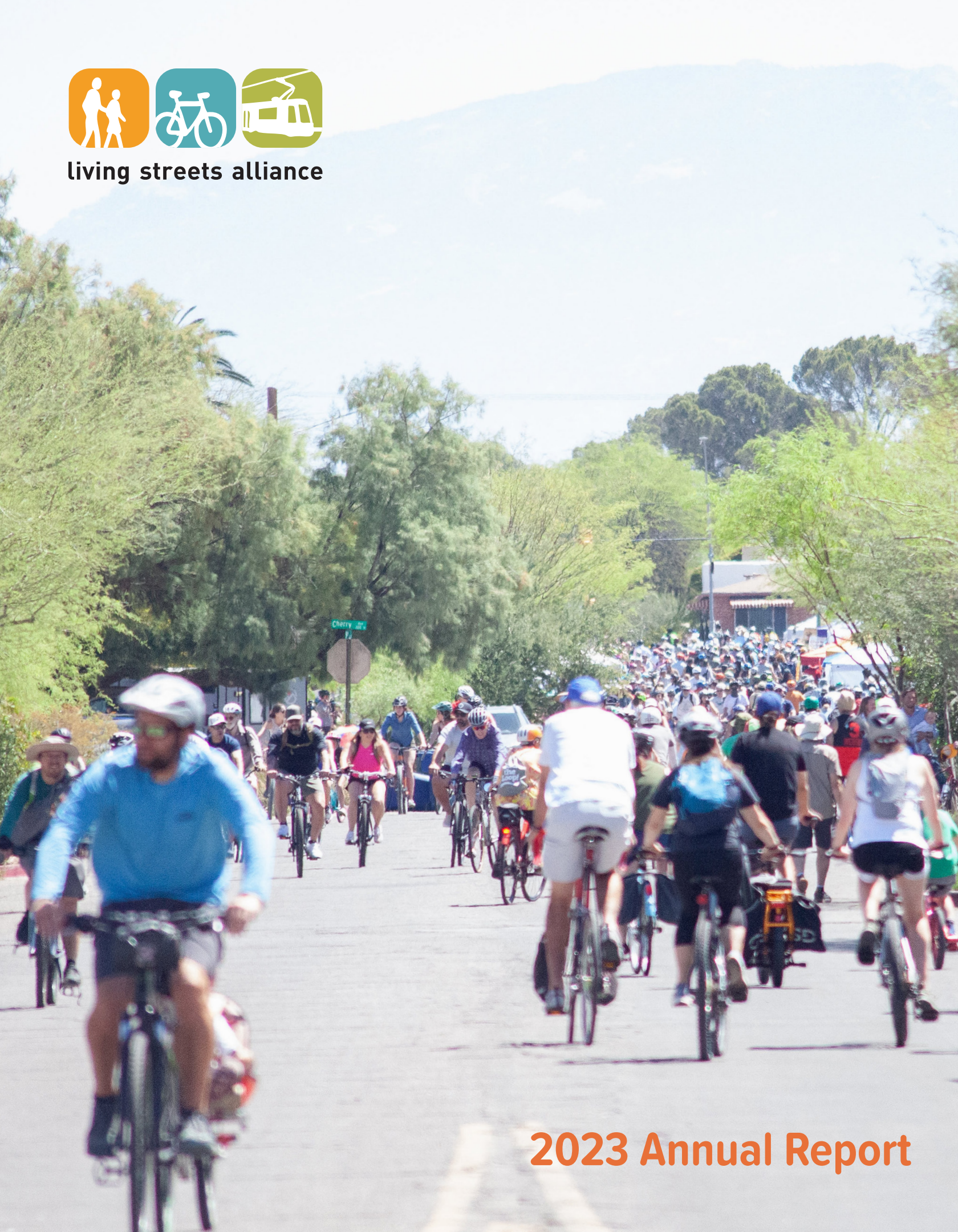




living streets alliance



2023 Annual Report



MISSION

The mission of Living Streets Alliance is to advocate for a thriving Tucson by creating great streets for all of us.

VALUES

Equity, Integrity, Inclusivity, Innovation, Collaboration

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- | | |
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VISION

We envision streets as living public spaces that connect people to places and to each other

Last year, around this time, things kicked into high gear for Living Streets Alliance starting with city-wide community engagement activities around addressing climate change. As part of the consultant team developing Tucson's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, our team worked closely with key partner organizations to center the experiences of people disproportionately impacted by climate change in our diverse community. Tucson Resilient Together, the plan adopted by our Mayor and Council this spring, surfaced both concerns and creative strategies for adapting to our changing climate and taking action to mitigate climate change while improving transportation for everyone in Tucson.

October saw the first of four asphalt-art projects, implemented over four months. The results: five colorful street murals, a new neighborhood traffic circle, three beautified traffic circles, a new raised crosswalk and curb extensions, and an entirely transformed city block in the heart of downtown Tucson.

With the arrival of 2023 came an opportunity to envision transit anew as conversations started about keeping transit permanently fare-free. Working as part of the newly

formed Transit For All Coalition, LSA and partners rallied to show the value of keeping transit fares at zero past their June sunset date. Together, we celebrated an initial win with Tucson Mayor and Council committing to extend the city's fare-free transit system indefinitely at their May 9th meeting.

Despite all of this welcome progress, we still have a long way to go. 99 lives were lost in Tucson's streets to crashes in 2022 and the urgency of Living Streets Alliance's mission and work is greater than ever. Building on the successes, collaborations, and experiences and ideas shared by diverse community members, the year ahead will see the launch of two big initiatives: a Vision Zero campaign to end preventable traffic fatalities, and a major push for better transit for all, to give Tucsonans reliable, accessible, and dignified mobility no matter who they are or how they get around.

Thank you for your steadfast support, partnership, and dedication as we go forward and for continuing to make the community-building programs we all enjoy year-round—Cyclovia Tucson, Safe Routes to School, and Quick Builds—possible. We could not do it without you.

With gratitude,



Emily Yetman
Executive Director
July 2023

LEFT
Photo: Ernesto Raul Aguilar

COVER
Photo: Matthew Miller

Action Activities add color & expression in three 85705 neighborhoods

With their Thrive in the 05 initiative, the City of Tucson set out to “promote safety and well-being, in order to ensure all community members have access to opportunities that will empower them to achieve their full potential, to thrive.” Working with partners in the 85705 zip code area, they developed a Transformation Plan outlining ideas generated by neighborhood residents and businesses for how they’d like to see improvements made. Nonprofit and other grassroots organizations including LSA were then invited to propose projects, called “action activities” to help bring those ideas to fruition.



ABOVE
Photo: Creatista

RIGHT
The traffic circle mural taking shape at 14th Ave & Helen St with Tucson House in the background
Photo: Lucas Boring



“I love it! It isn’t on my street but having art projects in Barrio Blue Moon is so appreciated. We have many children in our neighborhood, and I think this project and others like it impact the kids positively. Any sign of care for our neighborhood improves it for us all!”

— Barrio Blue Moon resident



Artist Armando Sotello holds paint for a neighbor getting ready to paint
Photo: Ernesto Raul Aguilar



The completed traffic circle at 14th Ave & Helen St with mural titled “Turtle’s Moon Cycle”
Photo: Ernesto Raul Aguilar

Traffic safety, the need for safer routes for people walking, especially youth, beautification, and spaces for cultural expression were themes that surfaced through the Plan. LSA staff identified three general areas in the ‘05 where a “quick-build” approach could help calm traffic using paint, planters, and flex posts. These projects were selected to move forward, and were implemented in Barrio Blue Moon, Old Pascua, and Miracle Manor Neighborhood.

Armando “Mando” Sotelo III grew up in Barrio Blue Moon, where he still has close ties today. Working with the neighborhood association, Mando developed ideas for a new traffic circle mural just up the street from his mother’s home. His final design, Turtle’s Moon-Cycle Shell, evokes Indigenous wisdom pertaining to the lunar calendar, which is represented in the shell of a turtle. Joined by friends and neighbors, his triplets, and his chihuahua Popeye, Mando brought the mural to life during a block-painting party in early October. Residents from Tucson House came down to enjoy the festivities and DJ Desiree kept the beat going while we all enjoyed burritos from Juanito’s taco shop up the way.

KEY PARTNERS:

City of Tucson Housing & Community Development
Barrio Blue Moon Neighborhood
Tucson House
ASU OCHER
Eco Gro
Nash Elementary
Miracle Manor Neighborhood
Old Pascua Museum & Yaqui Culture Center
Old Pascua Youth Artists
Pascua Yaqui Tribe & Richey Resource Center
Psomas
Speedy Striping
Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility
Tucson Ward III, Kevin Dahl



BELOW
The completed “Tin Toys” mural at 15th Ave & Jacinto St entitled Tin Toys, designed by Jessi Rosas



ABOVE
The completed “Dream Big” mural at 15th Ave & Kelso St, designed by Jessi Rosas

LEFT
Multiple generations take part in bringing the Miracle Manor traffic circle murals to life

Photos by Ernesto Raul Aguilar

When the Covid-19 pandemic set in, spaces for recreation—including parks—were closed in Tucson to limit spread of the disease. During that time, Tucson’s Department of Transportation & Mobility launched a pilot program called Slow Streets that added temporary traffic calming to residential streets so that people of all ages could be active within them. Miracle Manor was one of the neighborhoods selected, eventually receiving two concrete traffic circles on 15th Avenue, adjacent to Jacinto Park and near Nash Elementary School. Those concrete slabs became the perfect blank canvas for Action Activity murals.

If local artist Jessi Rosas was surprised by the popularity of space exploration amongst kids at Nash Elementary School, you’d never know it. Working with the ideas generated through in-class art workshops at Nash, she came up with two playful, inspirational, intergalactic designs for the traffic circles. On a beautiful November morning, neighbors, students and their families, and volunteers brought an eight-foot, wind-up robot to life with paint during the Miracle Manor block party. The second mural features a space theme with an alien spaceship surrounded by celestial objects. Today, kids and families pass it daily on their way to school and work - a constant reminder to “dream big.”

We lived here for over ten years and that was the coolest thing that happened. They allowed us to be involved in the creation of it. The event brought the community together. People were out and about.

— Miracle Manor resident



In 2021 a large block wall across from Richey Resource Center in Old Pascua received a beautiful mural depicting scenes and symbols important to the Pascua Yaqui, or Yoeme, people. Given the opportunity to extend this mural’s imagery into the street, Brandon Varela, Director of the Old Pascua Museum & Yaqui Culture Center, began engaging a group of young artists to generate designs.

Befittingly, the mural implemented on 15th Avenue in front of Richey was named Walk Our Path. Curb extensions delineated by flex posts helped bridge the two sides of the street, accentuating the new raised crosswalk and inviting people to cross near the artwork. In January the block-painting party was made extra special with delicious food prepared by Brandon’s family, the presence of KPVT Yoeme Radio, and prayers and blessings offered as plants were given a new home in colorful planters on either side of the crosswalk.

“It’s nice to get community together. A gathering place.”

— Old Pascua resident



Barrio Blue Moon artist Mando Sotelo visits the Old Pascua block painting party with his triplets and dog, Popeye



TOP OF PAGE
Aerial view of the new raised crosswalk and curb extensions being painted during the block painting party at Old Pascua

ABOVE
Youth artists from Old Pascua painting portions of the mural they helped design



Cyclovia Tucson: Thrive in the 05 celebrates the rich history of multiple Tucson neighborhoods

Richey Resource Center became a bustling activity hub during Cyclovia, October 2022
Photo: Elijah Garcia



LEFT
A Cyclovia participant rides in front of a Yoeme mural featured at the Old Pascua Activity Hub
Photo: Elijah Garcia

Our Fall Cyclovia event was the perfect opportunity to build on momentum and deepen relationships germinated during Thrive in the 05. On October 30th, an all-star line-up of new partners brought energy and creativity to Tucson's 18th open streets event connecting Dunbar Spring, Barrio Blue Moon, Old Pascua, Sugar Hill and Bronx Park neighborhoods. The route was designed to showcase new community-led infrastructure projects and celebrate the work of residents and community partners in the incredibly diverse 85705 zip code.

The Tucson Urban League Heritage Market at The Dunbar Pavilion was bustling from start to finish, uplifting Black creators and living history at the Dunbar Spring Activity Hub. Meantime, fry bread, paper flowers, local Yoeme artists and live performers welcomed Cyclovians to the Old Pascua Activity Hub and highlighted the rich culture of this historic neighborhood within Tucson. The BICAS block party, Barrio Blue Moon, and Pima Community College Activity Hubs provided their own unique stops on the route, filled with resources, art, activities, food trucks, and surprises.

KEY PARTNERS:

- Arizona Complete Health
(Title Sponsor)
- Barrio Blue Moon
- BICAS
- The Dunbar Coalition
- Tucson Urban League
- Old Pascua
- The Pascua Yaqui Tribe
- KPYT Yoeme Radio
- BICAS
- Pima Community College
- Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility
- Tucson Parks & Recreation
- Tucson Ward III, Kevin Dahl



TOP LEFT
Vendors from African American Heritage Market at the Dunbar Pavilion Activity Hub
Photo: Matthew Miller

TOP RIGHT
Friends from nearby Tucson House strolled over to check out the action
Photo: Kathleen Dreier Photography

BOTTOM LEFT
Photo: Elijah Garcia:

BOTTOM RIGHT
Photo: Kathleen Dreier Photography

Community Engagement plants seed for climate action and better transit

In March 2023 Tucson Mayor & Council unanimously adopted *Tucson Resilient Together*, Tucson's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan. This was the culmination of years of community outreach and engagement by the City. Living Streets Alliance came on board as part of a consultant team to dive deeper in the final year leading up to the plan's adoption.

Our approach to engagement was rooted in meeting people where they were, knowing

that engagement events would need to be customized and flexible in order to create a space for different people and communities to share their thoughts, concerns, hopes, and ideas for climate action. Working in close collaboration with Promotores (community ambassadors) from seven priority groups, we supported them in hosting and facilitating multiple rounds of community dialogues. These were supplemented by pop-up engagements at key gatherings, festivals, and everyday destinations, and by two large public



Youth at Pueblo High during a Community Dialogue hosted by Arizona Youth Climate Coalition



workshops. Community engagement activities were designed to amplify the voices of the people most impacted by climate change to ensure the plan was founded on the needs, wishes, and knowledge of these communities.

An improved transportation system was among the key themes that emerged during community engagement events. People expressed a desire for protected bike lanes, accessible and equitable public transit, affordable transit-oriented development, and electric vehicle incentives. Informed by the ideas shared, as well as climate action best practices, the Plan puts forward a set of recommendations to move away from car-centric transportation, promoting more sustainable and climate resilient mobility options (walking, biking, rolling, and public transit) and land use patterns (such as more compact and walkable neighborhoods along transit corridors) that support these sustainable modes of transportation. Recommendations also emphasize affordable housing and anti-displacement measures to facilitate equitable access to climate resilient neighborhoods and mobility options. Additionally, the Plan incorporates strategies for improving access to electric vehicles including electric bikes.

Having been closely involved in the development of *Tucson Resilient Together*, it's been at the forefront of our minds to advance

the community-driven recommendations of the Plan through our work. Considering its emphasis on investing in a safe, comfortable, and convenient transit system, this year was an opportune time to bridge our transportation advocacy efforts with climate action by supporting fare-free transit on a permanent basis.

In the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, many U.S. cities, including Tucson, joined the growing number of communities worldwide to offer fare-free transit as a measure to support public health and to relieve an economic stressor for essential workers. Due in large part to the work of local activists, some of these cities have chosen to maintain a free public transportation system permanently, and similar conversations began to take place in Tucson. We partnered with the Transit for All Coalition and other groups who have been organizing around this issue to mobilize extensive public support for fare-free transit. These collective advocacy efforts culminated in a big win in May 2023 when Mayor & Council voted to extend fare-free transit indefinitely. Our work ahead will be focused on figuring out a sustainable funding source to not only keep transit free, but to invest in it and get us to that "safe, comfortable, and convenient transit system" envisioned in *Tucson Resilient Together* as a vital piece of the climate action and adaptation puzzle.



TOP LEFT
A Promotore with Paisanos Unidos kicking-off a community dialogue with her peers

MIDDLE LEFT
Promotores join Mayor Romero onstage during Public Workshop #2

BELOW
Organizers and volunteers with *Transit for All Coalition*'s call to action at a Mayor & Council meeting in May
Photo: Antonio Ramirez

KEY PARTNERS:

- Arizona Youth Climate Coalition
- Buro Happold
- International Indian Treaty Council
- Local First Arizona
- NAACP Tucson Chapter
- Office of Tucson Mayor Regina Romero
- Paisanos Unidos
- San Xavier Co-Op Farm
- Southside Worker Center
- Transit for All Coalition



6th Avenue Asphalt Art bridges two iconic downtown destinations



A group of volunteers completing one of the shapes in the mural
Photo: Mamta Papat



Some of the 350+ people who came out to volunteer during the event
Photo: Logan Havens



Friends chatting while painting the mural
Photo: Mamta Papat



A young volunteer shovels soil for one of 33 planters installed on 6th Avenue
Photo: Mamta Papat

Land Gratitude is the meaningful name for the mural that now graces S. 6th Avenue in downtown Tucson. The sunset-like colors add joy and warmth to an area frequented by Tucsonans young and old visiting the Children’s Museum, Armory Park, and Armory Center.

Tucson was one of 21 cities selected to receive a Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Asphalt Art grant in 2021, with the goal of improving traffic safety while enhancing sense-of-place within a busy block of downtown. Together, Living Streets Alliance and Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility partnered to develop a new footprint for the area that would calm traffic and repurpose underutilized asphalt. The design added a permanent mid-block crosswalk, turned a center turn lane into a median island, and added two marked crosswalks plus extended curbs at 12th Street.

Ideas for the mural came directly from people in the area over the following year. Kids drew ideas during a pop-up at Children’s Museum Tucson’s annual “Zoom Zoom” event. Seniors who frequent Armory Center shared the colors, icons, and images that reminded them of Tucson, naming values and feelings they most wanted the mural to evoke. Stories and memories of longtime residents from Armory Park were also recorded as oral histories.

Artist Yu Yu Shiratori, born and raised in Tucson, synthesized these ideas to come up with three concepts which were voted on by the public. The winning concept took shape on October 22nd as hundreds of Tucsonans spent the day painting, mingling, and reminiscing during a block party on 6th Avenue. As the sun set at the end of the day, neighbors out for a stroll couldn’t help but notice that the sky put on a display of color to match that of the mural on the ground.

KEY PARTNERS & SPONSORS:

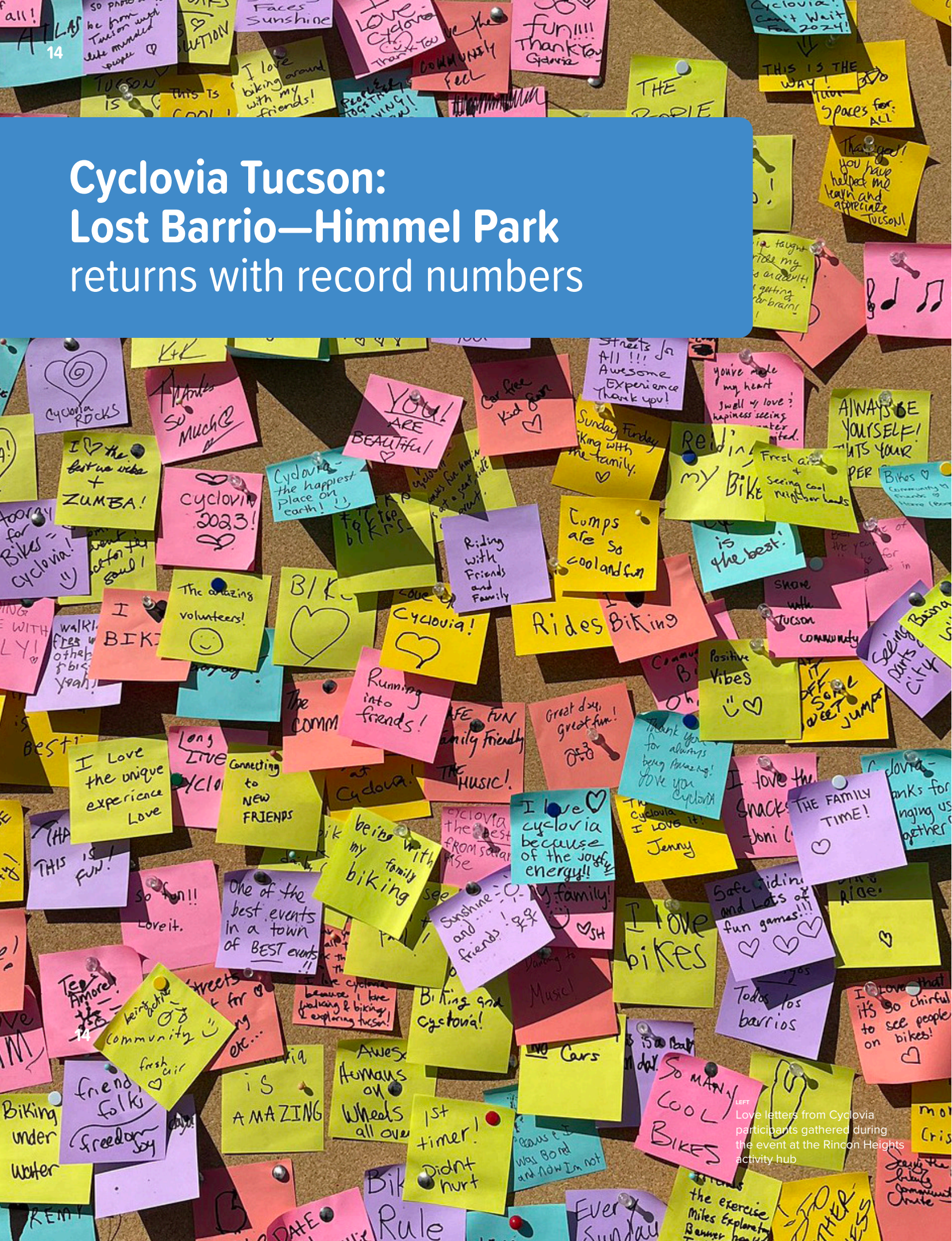
- Aveda Institute
- AARP Tucson
- Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Asphalt Art Initiative
- Children’s Museum Tucson
- Downtown Tucson Partnership
- Peach Properties
- Pima County Native Plant Nursery
- Rio Nuevo
- Tank’s
- Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility
- Tucson Parks & Recreation Ready, Set, Rec!
- Tucson Electric Power
- United Way Days of Caring



LEFT
Aerial view of the block-painting party in motion October 2022
Photo: Lucas Boring

OPPOSITE PAGE
The completed mural at sundown on the day of the block-painting party
Photo: Mamta Papat

Cyclovia Tucson: Lost Barrio—Himmel Park returns with record numbers



Love letters from Cyclovia participants gathered during the event at the Rincon Heights activity hub



Rincon Heights neighbors hosted a series of parklets, sidewalk cafes, and gathering spaces as part of their activity hub



The route highlighted new traffic calming measures on Treat Ave and 3rd St bicycle boulevards
Photo: Kathleen Dreier Photography

The last time Cyclovia visited the Lost Barrio—Himmel Park route it was 2018. A few things were different then: Campbell Ave was difficult to cross at 9th Street; Broadway hadn't been widened yet; and the pavement on 3rd Street was so bumpy it would make your brain rattle when you rode a bike on it.

It's always a joy to return to a past route and discover new things—a vintage market in the Lost Barrio Business District and the reopening of Tooley's Cafe; smooth pavement on 3rd Street and new push-button crossings across major streets—and treasures unchanged: Rincon Heights neighbors ready to jump into action to create a sweet neighborhood hub; resourceful and creative partners at Miles ELC school; businesses ready to open their doors to the masses on a Sunday when they'd normally be closed. The April 2023 Cyclovia event provided all of this and more.

This spring's event was further enriched by a new partnership with Ha:sañ Preparatory & Leadership School that helped activate Highland Avenue north of Broadway with food, demonstrations, and music, and—building on the relationship established in the previous Cyclovia—the return of the Tucson Urban League Heritage Market to complement offerings at Rincon Heights activity hub. Families arriving to the route from the north end were pleased to find new traffic calming and smooth pavement on Treat Avenue, which was incorporated into the route for the first time this year and something they'll be able to enjoy and utilize everyday going forward, as it's part of Tucson's Bicycle Boulevard network.

KEY PARTNERS:

- Arizona Complete Health (Title Sponsor)
- Ha:sañ Preparatory & Leadership School
- Tucson Urban League
- Lost Barrio Business District
- Miles Exploratory Learning Center
- Rincon Heights Neighborhood
- Sam Hughes Neighborhood
- Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility

In addition to providing free bike repairs, youth helmets, free Tugo bikes, and other resources throughout the route, we were delighted to support and partner with:

45

nonprofits and grassroots community groups

16

local artists, bands & musicians

4

local schools

15

city & county resources/public engagement opportunities

58

local businesses and food vendors

Safe Routes to School makes biking and walking fun and easy



Safe Routes to School Tucson is a program of the City of Tucson designed and executed by Living Streets Alliance. Safe Routes to School in South Tucson is made possible by Pima County Community Block and Development Grant.

LEFT

South Tucson and Ochoa Community School youth preparing for a ride at John Valenzuela Youth Center after school bike club

For seven years now, the Los Amigos 'Walking School Bus' has been going strong, bringing together students, faculty, and families to walk together every Wednesday throughout the school year. Wilbur Wildcat joined over 100 students for the 2022 school year kick-off event. These and other pop-up events throughout the year provided a great opportunity to talk with families about traffic calming needs in the Los Ranchitos Neighborhood, east of the school, where we'll be doing quick-build projects in the Fall.

At Pueblo Gardens K-8, 12-15 middle schoolers met regularly on Wednesdays throughout the school year to participate in on-campus skill sessions and neighborhood rides as part of the after school bike club. In the spring



Staff from partner organization, Environmental Education Exchange, leading 3rd graders in a game of Riders & Walkers



ABOVE
Mission View Elementary after school bike club participants

we created a live-demonstration of a future crosswalk during student-pick-up-time in anticipation of a permanent crosswalk that will be installed in Fall 2023, along with quick-build curb extensions. This is the final phase of our 'Playful Gardens' project that started with street murals and a colorful crosswalk back in 2016.

Weekly after school bike club meetings at John Valenzuela Youth Center (JVYC), Mission View Elementary, and Pueblo Gardens continued, with kids gaining bike safety skills and enjoying group rides through their local neighborhoods. BICAS also led youth 'Earn-a-Bike' programs at Pueblo Gardens and JVYC - a week-long workshop in which students learn to build a bike that they get to keep.



Los Amigos Tech Academy students, families, and faculty during the semester "Walking School Bus" kick-off event

- PARTNERS:**
- BICAS
 - Environmental Education Exchange
 - John Valenzuela Youth Center
 - Los Amigos Tech Academy
 - Mission View Elementary
 - Ochoa Community School
 - Pueblo Gardens PreK-8
 - Tucson Department of Transportation & Mobility

The impact of your support, by the numbers

30

Mobile Bike Repair clinics hosted throughout the community

460

bicycles repaired

150 Riders & Walkers classroom presentations delivered at 48 schools; 3,392 3rd and 4th graders engaged

754

volunteers mobilized in bringing our streets to life!

6

sections of street transformed

90,000

people enjoyed car-free, care-free open streets

645

youth bike helmets distributed

RIGHT

Photo: Kathleen Dreier Photography

BACK COVER

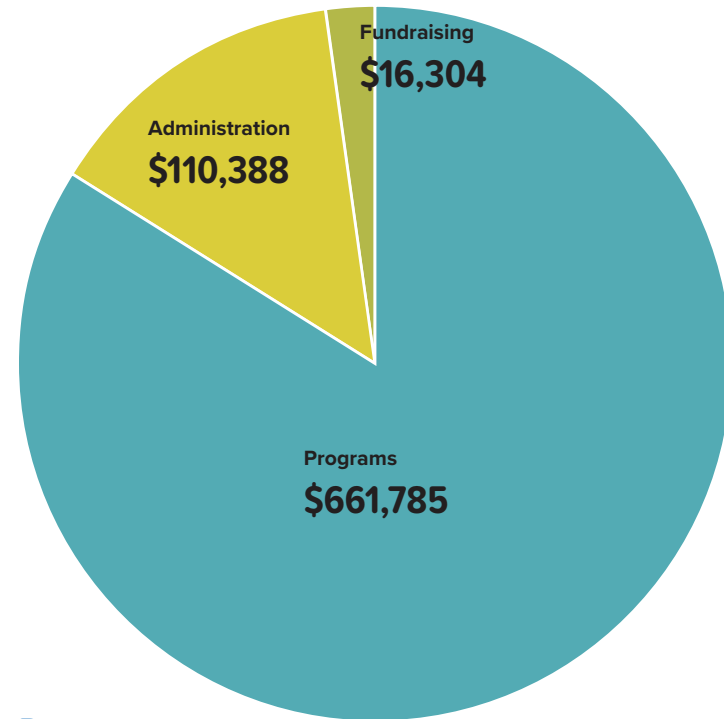
Photo: Mamta Popat

Thank you!

We're honored and grateful to live and work in a community full of creative, generous, and thoughtful collaborators. Thank you to the following partners, community members, and to all of the individual supporters who make this work possible.

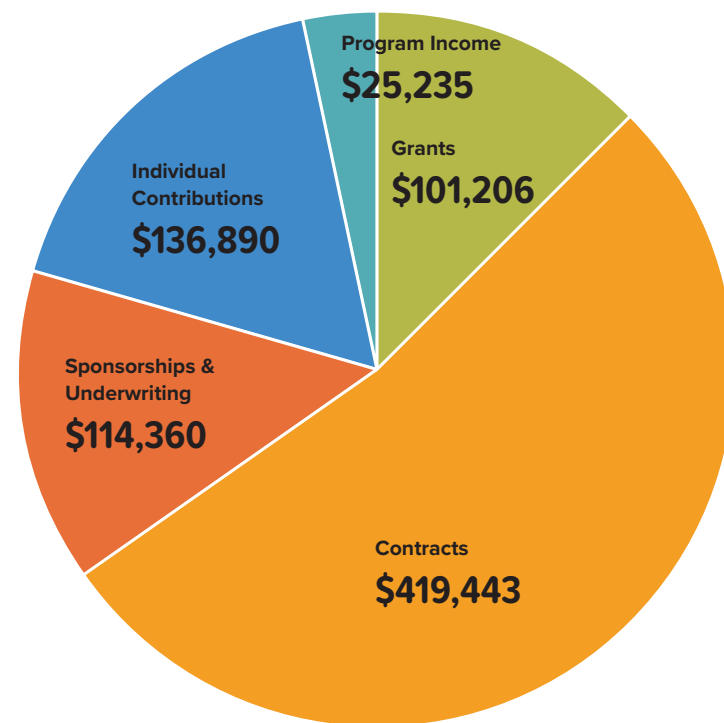
Expense

\$788,477



Revenue

\$797,134



* financials are for the 2022 calendar year



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- Betts Printing
- Black Sheep Imagery
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- El Rio Health Center
- Natural Grocers
- Pima County Health Department REACH
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- Rio Nuevo
- The Stonewall Foundation Fund held at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona
- Technicians for Sustainability
- TMC Healthcare
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- Tucson Electric Power
- Tucson Hop Shop
- Tucson Old Pueblo Credit Union
- Why I Love Where I Live

- 1-800 Water Damage
- Aveda Institute Tucson
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- Epic Rides
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- FHL Neighborhood Projects Fund held at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona
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- Originate Natural Building Materials Showroom
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- Razor USA
- Roadrunner Bicycles
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- The Talent Store
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