

Design
Workshop
Foundation



2024

Impact Report

A YEAR OF INNOVATION, COLLABORATION, AND CO-CREATION

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This year has been a turning point for Design Workshop Foundation. We are moving beyond the pilot and testing phases of many initiatives, seeing our long-term partnerships blossom in remarkable and unexpected ways. These partnerships have enabled us to launch two transformative capacity-building projects in Chicago and Austin, bringing innovative solutions to communities that need them most.

In addition, we piloted a new workforce development program that has strengthened our relationship with Green Dot Coalition in Denver, Colorado, aligning efforts to create lasting economic opportunities. These advancements underscore a fundamental truth about our work: real progress takes time. While not everything can be measured neatly in an annual report, the impact we're creating is tangible and far-reaching.

We are thrilled to welcome new donors and supporters who believe in our mission and trust us to chart a course toward a brighter future. Your support in our work fuels our determination to address the challenges ahead with resilience and creativity.

Of course, uncertainties remain, and the issues we tackle are as urgent as ever. As we look toward the future, we are preparing to address the following key initiatives to ensure we stay adaptable while continuing to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our project partners.

- Providing pro-bono design support for equity-focused projects
- Building capacity with community-based organizations
- Promoting diversity in design through youth education and engagement

Thank you for standing with us on this journey. Together, we are making meaningful strides toward a better tomorrow.

With gratitude,



Sarah Konradi
Executive Director

Contents



Cover Image Credit: Aniya Bourne

Mission, Vision, Values

Our mission, vision, and values are at the heart of everything we do. They guide us in creating meaningful, lasting change in the communities we serve. By embracing innovation, collaboration, and co-creation, we strive to advance equity, resilience, and diverse perspectives—building a brighter, more inclusive future for generations to come, where everyone feels like they have a seat at the table.

Mission

Design Workshop Foundation works in service to communities to catalyze transformative change through design assistance, capacity building, and education.

Vision

Empowered and thriving communities for future generations.

Values

Innovation.
Collaboration.
Co-creation.

Goals

Advance social, economic, and environmental equity in the lived environment.

Build community resilience and adaptation.

Diversify perspectives in design and planning.

People

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Reilly Thimons



Teal Wall
Intern



Kristin Witte

Advance Social & Environmental Equity

// AUSTIN PARK ACTIVATION GUIDE

// GREENING FIVE POINTS

// ASPEN CAMP OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Imagine if we accelerated equitable access to healthy, resilient community spaces and resources.



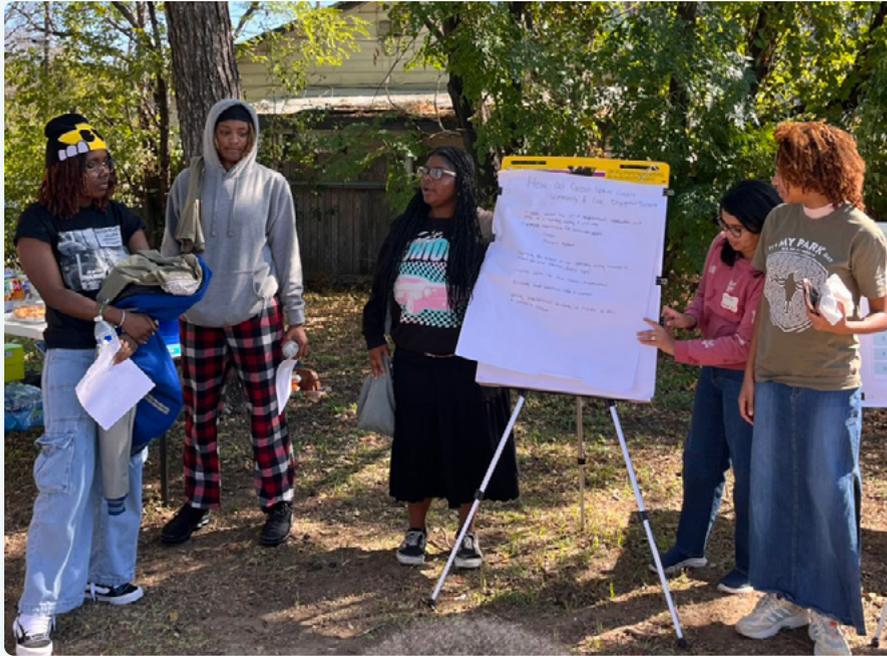
Capacity Building Initiative Grantee

AUSTIN, TEXAS

Building Community: Austin Park Activation Guide

We're building something special for Austin's communities: a toolkit designed to put the power of park activation directly into the hands of the people who know their neighborhoods best. This resource will make it easier for neighbors to come together and reimagine underused park spaces, turning them into vibrant, welcoming places that reflect the unique spirit of their community. And the best part? This transformation can start right away, without waiting for large infrastructure funding to arrive.

The toolkit is all about making park activation accessible and inclusive, with a focus on clear communication, active listening, and genuine community participation. We want every voice to be heard and every idea to have a chance to shine. By addressing historical inequities and prioritizing local input, this initiative ensures that every Austinite has the opportunity to shape the future of their parks—because everyone deserves a place they are proud of where they can gather, play, and connect.



“ This toolkit empowers communities to actively shape and participate in park activation.”
 – Annie Liu
 PROJECT TEAM



Project Goals

Community Empowerment
 Increase community participation in park activation processes.

Sustainability
 Develop a sustainable framework for ongoing community engagement and park programming.

Diversity & Frequency of Park Programming
 Activate park spaces through vibrant programming.

DENVER, COLORADO

Greening Five Points

Design Workshop Foundation and Green Dot Coalition, led by Jevon Taylor, have been collaborating for three years to bring green infrastructure to neighborhoods in Denver where it's needed most.

How It Started

In 2022, Design Workshop's Dr. Charles Fountain Interns developed the Greening Five Points plan, which identified priority areas for "greening the in-between" in Denver's vibrant and historic Five Points neighborhood.

How It's Going

Green Dot Coalition's continued advocacy, movement-building and engagement are gaining traction and attention from neighbors and decision-makers. In 2025, Denver's Department of Transportation and Infrastructure will begin a new program: Swift Implementation of Green Infrastructure (SIGI), which is designed to accelerate the deployment of green infrastructure interventions in the most tree-lacking areas of Denver, starting with Five Points.



“

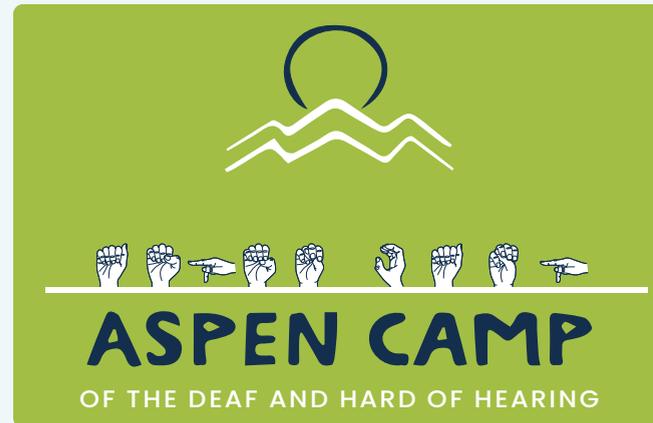
We needed more green infrastructure and less concrete, but no one was stepping up.”

– Jevon Taylor
GREEN DOT COALITION

ASPEN, COLORADO

Aspen Camp of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Master Plan

We teamed up with Design Workshop to create a plan for the Aspen Camp of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Snowmass Creek, Colorado—a one-of-a-kind retreat that connects people with nature while celebrating Deaf culture. This plan provides a roadmap for both short-term and long-term upgrades to the camp's 17-acre site, guided by DeafSpace principles to create more inclusive, accessible environments. While most of the existing features will remain, the plan introduces thoughtful improvements like better ADA accessibility, a fire truck turnaround, upgraded parking, improved trails, and new opportunities for nature education. It's all about honoring the camp's unique mission while enhancing its ability to inspire and connect.



“

We overcame many hurdles in the last few years and are in a position to grow exponentially. DWF is part of this enormous contribution to our growth.”

– Aspen Camp Board of Directors

Build Community Resilience

- // LAWDALE POP-UP SPOT: REIMAGINING 16TH STREET
- // EAST KINSTON EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN
- // GLOBEVILLE I-70 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP

Imagine if historically under-resourced communities could chart paths to a sustainable future.



Capacity Building Initiative Grantee

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Lawndale Pop-Up Spot: Reimagining 16th Street

North Lawndale is one of the most studied neighborhoods in all of Chicago and, as voiced by residents, has seen a lot of outside organizations come and go as their research or projects have concluded. Through a behind-the-scenes support role, Design Workshop Foundation has been able to meaningfully support our project partners in their transition from a grant-funded project towards ongoing collaboration of community partners who are actively developing spaces along the corridor and have a permanent presence in North Lawndale.

Design Workshop Foundation is supporting the Lawndale Pop-Up Spot's community engagement efforts by: 1) exploring how current projects and programs along the corridor align with the 2018 Quality of Life Plan, and 2) highlighting opportunities for future collaboration, community partner alignment, and available community grants.



“

Capacity building is an opportunity to learn and grow alongside a project partner—creating a two-way conversation for the sharing of ideas, values, and information.”

– Reilly Thimons
PROJECT TEAM

Project Goals

AMPLIFY & BUILD upon ongoing community efforts

CELEBRATE and make use of community strength

ENSURE that residents voices are heard

AVOID redundant planning efforts and move existing plans towards implementation



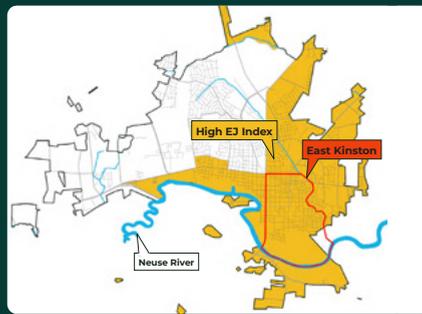
East Kinston Equitable Development Plan

East Kinston, North Carolina, is a community bursting with culture and history which has faced various challenges such as flooding, economic struggles, and underinvestment. In 2023, Kinston Teens, a local youth-led nonprofit, teamed up with residents and partners to create a bold vision for the future. Their plans include the East Kinston Neighborhood Hub, a space designed for gathering, learning, and creating, with features such as classrooms, a music studio, a community kitchen, and climate-friendly design elements incorporating solar power and flood protection.

DW Foundation was pleased to provide Kinston Teens with a capacity and operations grant in 2024.



We've also worked together with them to develop an Equitable Development Plan that tackles big-picture issues including housing, food access, and economic growth. Our Strategic Vision Plan is guiding the work ahead. Together, these efforts are setting the stage for a stronger, more connected East Kinston, where the community leads the way in shaping a brighter future.



How It's Going

Website Update

to include details about the East Kinston Neighborhood Hub Project. The site includes descriptions of the project and ways to support through donations, volunteering, and partnerships.

Presented

at the American Society of Landscape Architects conference in October 2024.

Applied

for the EPA Community Change Grant using Plans developed by DW and DWF.

Globeville I-70 Green Infrastructure Partnership



How It Started

In 2023, the Green Dot Coalition partners—made up of the National Wildlife Federation, Green Spaces, Birdseed Collective, The Park People, and Design Workshop Foundation—received a \$500,000 award from the EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Program. This program supports organizations working to tackle local environmental and public health challenges by fostering partnerships and creating community-based solutions.

How It's Going

Fast forward to 2024, the project launched with community engagement and planning efforts in Globeville, a historically underserved neighborhood in northeast Denver, Colorado. The goal? Decrease the impact of Interstate-70 (I-70) on the residents of Globeville by planting climate-friendly trees, adding green infrastructure, and reducing noise, air pollution, polluted runoff, and the heat island effect. Join us as we support Globeville residents in bringing their vision of a greener neighborhood to life.

What's Next

Community workshops kick off in January 2025. Phase One planting is scheduled for June 2025.

Welcome Intern Teal Wall to the team!

Teal will support community engagement and volunteer implementation.



Project Goals

- ACTIVATE** community through large-scale mural creation
- GROW** ownership of green infrastructure through events
- INSTALL** climate-friendly plants and trees
- LAUNCH** community-led stewardship and maintenance program
- REDUCE** sound pollution, improve air quality and reduce heat island effect through co-designed planting and restoration

Diversify Perspectives

- // CITY LAB WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
- // DR. CHARLES FOUNTAIN INTERNSHIP COLLABORATION
- // THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Imagine if doors were wide open for future placemakers, designers, and community advocates to shape the communities of the future.



DENVER, COLORADO

City Lab Workforce Development

How can we elevate the voices of thought leaders who will tackle tomorrow's challenges and are representative of the world we live in today? That's exactly the idea behind City Lab Workforce Development, a pilot program led by Jevon Taylor (founder of Green Dot Coalition and CEO of Green Spaces) and Sarah Konradi (Executive Director of Design Workshop Foundation).

This program gives high school students a crash course in critical design thinking while helping them build essential communication and teamwork skills. With hands-on field trips, collaborative workshops, and a final presentation to showcase everything they've learned, City Lab is all about inspiring the creators of tomorrow to dream big and think even bigger.

Image Credit: Divine Ramazani



Image Credit: Divine Ramazani

“
My biggest takeaway from this course is understanding that I can be a part of making changes in my neighborhood.”
– City Lab Student
AGE 17



Image Credit: Divine Ramazani

Immersive learning in community design, advocacy, and environmental justice.

12
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM 10-12TH GRADES

8
WEEKS OF HANDS-ON, COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

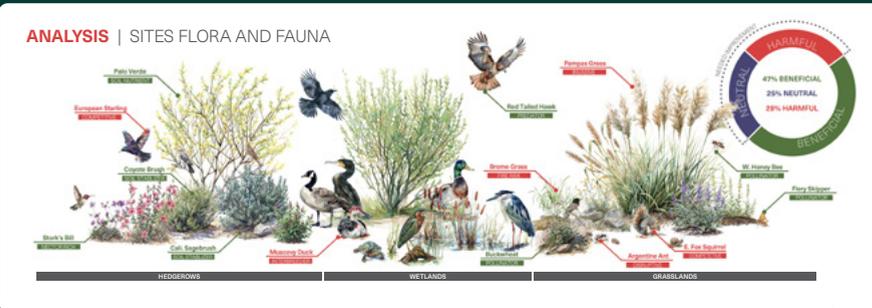
2
MENTORS PLUS INVITED GUEST INSTRUCTORS

6
SITE VISITS AND FIELD TRIPS

Dr. Charles Fountain Internship Collaboration

Design Workshop Foundation’s Design Assistance program bridges the gap between vision and implementation of projects for historically under-resourced and untapped communities. Each year, this collaborative model engages Design Workshop’s Dr. Charles Fountain interns, a diverse team of students from across the country, in support of one community-driven site design project. In summer of 2024, eight interns partnered with Design Workshop Foundation to support visioning for Augustus F. Hawkins Nature Park in South Los Angeles.

Working with guidance from Stephanie Landregan, the original landscape architect, the students created a plan that aims to ensure this 8.5-acre historic park continues to serve the community for the next 25 years and beyond. Design Workshop Foundation is working with park leadership to identify opportunities for continued support and next steps to advance the vision. Thank you to the talented group of students who dedicated their summer to this real-world, social impact project.



Student Interns

- Wijdan Almamari**
University of Nebraska Lincoln
- Sumaiya Binte Azad**
Iowa State University
- Deil Fernandez**
Michigan State University
- Naheyan Islam**
Iowa State University
- Dana Ladd**
The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture
- Lizandro Marcial-Armas**
North Carolina State University
- Sindhu Prabakar**
Carnegie Mellon University
- Zaria Wetzel**
Morgan State University

Thought Leadership

At Design Workshop Foundation, we believe transformative change starts with bold ideas and thoughtful dialogue. Our thought leadership drives us to explore innovative solutions, share knowledge, and spark conversations that advance equity, resilience, and creativity in design and planning. In 2024, we shared in dialogue with our professional communities by presenting at four major conferences, engaging with over 1,000 attendees. Through these platforms, we connected with industry leaders, community advocates, and creative thinkers to shape a more inclusive and sustainable future – one idea at a time.



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS CONFERENCE

Youth-Led Community Resilience: Trauma-Informed Practices Fostering Equitable Development

Collaborators: NCSU Just Communities Lab, Kinston Teens

B:CIVIC, DENVER METRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Building Equity: A Look at Our Built Environment Through a Social Justice Lens

Collaborators: OZ Architects, McKinstry, The Fax Partnership, Stantec

VICTOR STANLEY: LACES WEBINAR SERIES

Designing Change: Supporting Grassroots Advocacy and Coalition Building for Climate Resilience

Collaborators: Green Dot Coalition

NATURAL HAZARDS WORKSHOP

Rethinking Resilience: Designing Disaster-Aware Communities

Collaborators: MASS Design Group, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction, National Institute of Standards and Technology, FEMA



Year at a Glance

We've had a busy year! Follow along each of our Foundation goal tracks as we showcase some of the incredible work we accomplished in 2024.

Advance Social & Environmental Equity

Build Community Resilience

Diversify Perspectives



Aspen Camp JANUARY



Dr. Charles Fountain Intern Collaboration JUNE

DWF presented to **300+ attendees** on Designing Change with partners from the Green Dot Coalition in July.



ASLA Community Service Award JUNE



Austin Parks & Rec JULY

English in Action received our first ever Community Changemaker Award in August.

We raised **\$34,000** at our Impact in Bloom fundraiser in August.



City Lab DECEMBER



Globeville NOVEMBER



East Kinston Plan SEPTEMBER

DWF presented on **Youth-Led Community Resilience** with partners from Kinston Teens and NC State at ASLA 2024 in October.

Hive Park received a Merit Award in Analysis and Planning from ASLA Colorado in September.



Lawndale Pop-Up DECEMBER



Greening Five Points OCTOBER



Impact in Bloom

In August, many people gathered together to support Design Workshop Foundation's mission to co-create inclusive, equitable, and resilient places. This event allowed us to reach more communities with pro bono landscape architecture and planning services, increase impact, and grow our legacy. Thank you to our generous sponsors and everyone who attended our fundraising event. With a fantastic turnout, we enjoyed a memorable evening of engaging activities and heartfelt connections. Your support made it all possible, and we're excited about the positive impact we'll achieve together in the future!

40

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

140

GUESTS

13

EVENT SPONSORS

\$34,000

RAISED



Thank You to Our Donors and Sponsors!

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James Hines
Ben Guill
Jason Pfeifer

Financials

Thank you to our donors and partners who fuel our efforts to create impact through design, planning, and placemaking. Your support has helped us to meet communities where they are and grow our initiatives and partnerships. Design Workshop Foundation is sponsored by Design Workshop, Inc., Design Workshop employee-owners, external donors, and institutional grants.

Sum of Contributors

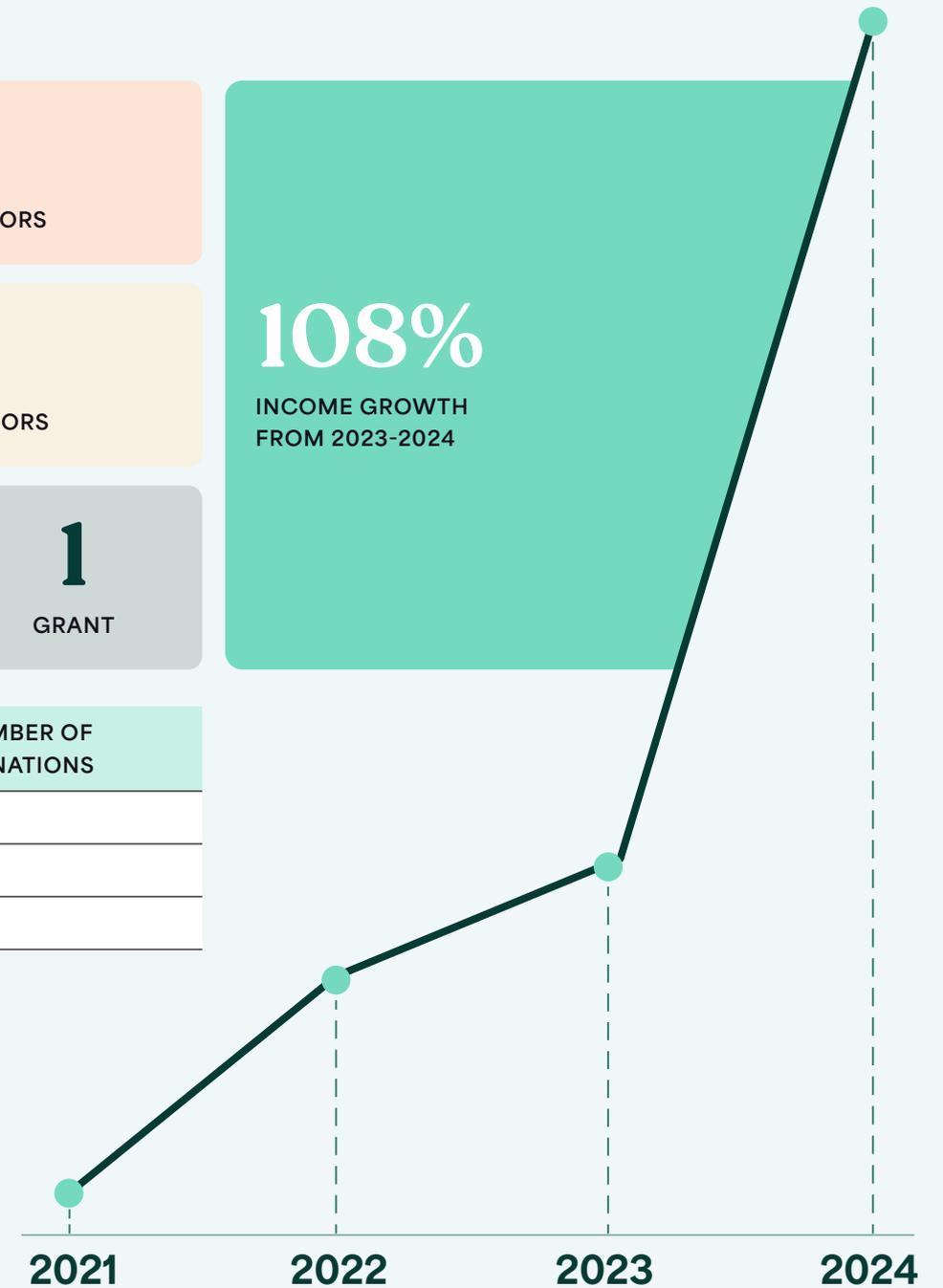


Your Support Makes a Difference

Funds raised go directly to supporting our work with communities, including program materials and engagement expenses. Professional staff time is generously donated by Design Workshop, Inc.



DONATION AMOUNT	NUMBER OF DONATIONS
Less than \$100	15
\$100-999	48
\$1,000+	12



Thank You to Our Team Members!

Design Workshop employee-owners go above and beyond to co-create outside-the-box solutions with our project partners and clients. Thank you to the following team members for contributing time and expertise to advance DW Foundation’s Capacity Building, Design Assistance, Education + Engagement, Impact in Bloom fundraiser, and other initiatives.

- | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Feras Abdallah | Sam Daniel | Claire Hempel | Michelle Loza | Sonny Sin |
| Claire Brisley | Chris Geddes | Nora Jacobs | Kristin Martinez | Paul Squadrito |
| Emily Burrowes | Ishita Ghosh | Clare Kavanagh | Sasha Mathieu | Grace Tice |
| Austin Carbo | Samata Gyawali | Conners Ladner | Ben Niefeld | Reilly Thimons |
| Alison Cotey | Ashley Hejtmanek | Annie Liu | Emily Pixberg | Zach Thomas |
| | | | Alexandra Pollock | Teal Wall |
| | | | Sindhu Prabakar | Ryan Williams |
| | | | Brenda Rodriguez | Alex Zarookian |
| | | | Peter Samuels | Luyu Zheng |
| | | | Ryley Siclair | |



Looking Forward

As we close another impactful year, Design Workshop Foundation is excited to build on the momentum of our mission to co-create thriving, inclusive places through community mobilization. With the full backing of our collective resources, imagine what we can accomplish together.

How You Can Get Involved and Support Our Efforts

ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Support Our Programs

Help us leverage funding to sustain and expand existing program areas.

Donate Resources

Contribute financial or in-kind donations to support project delivery, events, and capacity-building efforts.

Share Your Vision

Have ideas for community-led projects? Let’s collaborate to bring them to life.

DONATE TODAY

Design Workshop Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and our mission-driven initiatives are powered by generous contributions. We are proud to be supported by Design Workshop, Inc. Employee-Owners and Design Workshop, Inc., and we invite you to join us in expanding our impact. Your tax-deductible donation will help us co-create thriving communities for future generations.

Together, we can make a difference. Join us in shaping places that inspire, include, and endure.

Join us as a
supporter, donor,
or collaborator.



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