

# Annual Report



2023

The Evolution

# Introduction

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Benefits are up, and losses are down! We are very proud of the progress our team has made. Today we'll review our wins and losses from last year and give you an overview of what you can expect for next year.

2023 challenges were accepted and CABA's evolution was necessary to successfully complete every task, every program, every event!

**Annual Report**  
01/26/2024





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# The Stables



**2023, was the year to name the Stables CABA's Forever Home.**

The Stables Coworking Studios, located at 1303 Central Avenue has been CABA's operating location for the last 3 years. The building and its location tie up very well with our mission and we hope it positively impacts the community with all the services and amenities it holds.

**In 2023 we had the opportunity to acquire the building and we did it!**

The Stables is now the forever home of CABA, the advantages of owning the Stables are endless. CABA not only has a permanent home, but we also can generate additional income by managing the facility, leasing the coworking studios and small event spaces. The building has a conference room, and several working bays and storage spaces. Currently, The Stables shelters important businesses and non-profit organizations like our Free Wheels for Kids Bike Shop, the Toolbox Small Business Resource Center, the Advocates for Immigrants Rights and Reconciliation, the Stitching Change, Justice for Wyandotte, 1 Core Construction, Santa Fe Painting and Santa Fe Athletic Club.

Obtaining control of The Stables is a sign of CABAs stability, strength, longevity and helps cement its place in the community to move our mission forward.

The strategic plan to improve and add new features to The Stables is an ongoing project that we are looking forward to completing in 2024.

The Stables is currently generating its own revenue and covering its own operating expenses; however, we have received the financial support of the BPU for capital investment and will be seeking other potential community partners to invest in the continued building improvement.

The Stables Improvement and Design Plan

During 2023, many new potential organizations showed interest in renting shared office space and contacted the Stables administration to entertain the conversation. However, as it is right now, our available shared space is full, and we need more spaces to cover the demand.



The need for new spaces led us to move forward in planning the construction of new offices in the back room of the building. Oak Design Studio services have been contracted to re visioning the space according to our needs and the project is on its way to be completed during 2024.

### The Open House at The Stables

On Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, we had our Grand opening and ribbon cutting at The Stables, more than 60 Important businesses and VIP attended this event. Our proud Team, Board members and the Executive Director hosted the successful event. We all enjoyed Mexican food, snacks, drinks, and live entertainment. On that day, CABA officially opened its new home and welcomed our community to our forever home.





# “ Free Wheels 4 Kids

Our Free Wheels program gives bicycles new life by redistributing them as tools of empowerment in the local community. The staff, partners, and supporters have enabled new life for over 300 bicycles. Hundreds of children and adults have been empowered to access resources and opportunities that otherwise could have been out of reach –reducing waste, lessening pollution, and improving health in the process attending to our clubs like the cyclones to ride together



## Free Wheels 4 Kids Community Bike Shop 2023

Free Wheels 4 Kids is a bicycle program that operates under the leadership of Central Avenue Betterment Association (C.A.B.A.), which is a 501c(3). Freewheels 4 Kids operates on a tight budget with a part-time Program Director and some funds for bike parts, helmets, and operational expenses. We rely on donated bikes which Trek of Shawnee is one of our main partners.





## Free Wheels 4 Kids Mission

We teach youth to repair bicycles and ride safely, to increase exercise and fight obesity, provide mobility and empower participants, and provide leadership opportunities and experience to at-risk youth.

### Free Wheels 4 Kids main programs:

#### Let's Get Rolling

- This is a program to teach riding skills and cycling safety to 3rd-5th grade students. This program works primarily with Physical Education classes in area Elementary Schools. Students learn safety, how to wear a helmet, and improve riding skills by riding bikes during classes. Many learn to ride for the first time! Free Wheels 4 Kids maintains a fleet of 30 bicycles and helmets for these classes.

#### Earn-A-Bike

This is a program that is designed for after school with middle and high school students. In 2023, this hands-on program helped 410 students that work on bicycles and learn basic maintenance and repair. This is often the first time many students use tools. The students get to repair a bicycle for themselves and keep the bike and helmet at the end of the program.



#### Bike Clubs and Rides

Free Wheels 4 Kids coordinates weekly rides and provides loaner bikes for people of all ages to experience cycling. In 2023, we have worked directly with over 400 students and some adults and have given away or provided over 225 bicycles in working condition. We have encouraged riders at the monthly Art Walks and yearly parades.





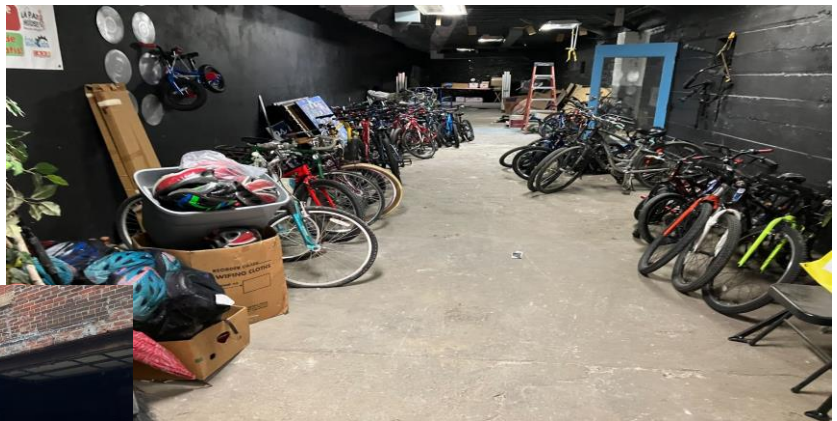
## Community Bike Shop Project

As you already know, CABA's major hub in our community is called The Stables Coworking Studios, it serves as C.A.B.A.'s headquarters as well as an operating space for other community organizations and small businesses. In the lower level, we are working to create a bicycle shop that will be used for bicycle storage, bike repair, bike repair classes for youth and adults, and even entrepreneurial opportunities for youth. We are excited for this for several reasons.

Currently, we are storing bikes and parts in 3 different locations. This will centralize our storage and help us manage our bikes better. Our programs are currently limited by the school calendar and activities. This will open more opportunities to work with students and adults outside of school hours.

We plan to offer repair and training to residents.

We are working on other initiatives to promote active living, 2024 looks very promising.





## Earth Day Celebration

The Earth Day celebration on April 22<sup>nd</sup> was an exciting day for Central Avenue. In the world, over one billion individuals worldwide participated, millions of trees were planted, awareness spread in 149 countries. 39 million cleanup volunteers participated including all our volunteers from CABA becoming a small but strong part of these statistics.

In 2023, we did trash pick up of course, but besides this, we provided trash bags to all the businesses on the avenue, we asked them to help themselves. We removed old tree branches and the trash from Bethany Park and lots around the neighborhood. Like every year we received support from the restaurants on the avenue that provided breakfast and lunch for our volunteers. We had two clean up events, one with the help of the members of our community and the second with around 80 volunteers from Barkley Marketing and Advertising during the “Good Day” community outreach.

The theme of Earth Day 2023 was “Invest in Our Planet”, calling to all businesses worldwide to use sustainable practices. We partnered with the WyCo Streets Department, WyCo Planning and Zoning Department, Bridging The Gap and 7th Street Casino Grant from then Commissioner Brian McKiernan and started the reforestation of Central Avenue. We are happy to announce we will continue working on this project with the help of MARC

Earth Day Celebration this year will be on Monday April 22<sup>nd</sup> and the theme is “Planet vs Plastics” to raise awareness of the environmental issues that plastic causes to our planet and how to properly discard or recycle plastic.



# Cinco de Mayo Celebration

The Cinco de Mayo Celebration was very special this year! Thanks to Mayor Tyrone Garner for proclaiming the 5th of May as the Wyandotte County Mexican Culture Pride Day!

The Celebration in 2023 started early with over 40 vendors setting up their tents and food trucks on the Bethany Park grounds. We received close to 5000 attendees. On this day, the activities included the performance of live signers, folkloric dance numbers by Rosemarie's Fiesta Mexicana KC.

A morning horse ride organized by The 7 Leguas Friends and Family, followed by a Charro Horses Show, dancing to a live band performance.

The highlight of this celebration/parade was the announcement of the Wyandotte County Cinco de Mayo Mexican Pride Day Proclamation (Celebration del orgullo Mexicano).

"In the City of Kansas City, Kansas, County of Wyandotte the County Commission Proclaims May 5th as the day to remember and celebrate Mexican Culture Pride, in honor of the individual and collective members of our community of Mexican descent". The proclamation was dated and signed by the Mayor Tyrone Garner and was such a great honor for the CABA to receive the proclamation.



**During 2024, the Cinco de Mayo Celebration will be on Saturday May 4th!**





# La Placita Market

This year, La Placita Market started on May 6th and ended on August 26th, 2023. During these months, la placita goes on each Saturday from 11 AM to 3 PM.

La Placita Market at the Park Program, hosted 20 events on Bethany Park, with 34 small businesses participating as vendors, this season the program accepted 16 businesses, 9 of them participated in previous years. Most of the new applicants were home-based operations, with minimum information about how to manage a business and working day in and day out, without true knowledge of their business viability. With the help of the Kansas State Department of Agriculture, Our food vendors invested in registering their businesses and undertook health inspections like professionals. With the help of our team lead by the Program Director, all of our grass roots vendors passed inspections with flying colors. Every Saturday, la Placita Market welcomed between 150-300 visitors per event. Some Organizations like El Centro, Big Brothers Big Sisters and The WyCo Health Department also participate in La Placita, All these organizations were able to inform the community of the services and help they offer.



La Placita Market at the Park gross earnings are estimated at \$41,000.00 collected during the 20 events, not including the earnings made during the extra curricular events where La Placita vendors participate out of their regular scheduled program. Events like 3rd Friday Art Walk, Tacos and Tequila Concerts, and the NFM Tacotopia festival were fertile ground for our vendors to reinvent themselves, not break under pressure and earn the benefits our market offers.

La Placita Market at the Park, is scheduled to start on Saturday May 4th and end on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024!!!



# The Flavors On Central Tour

Our annual food tour this year was another successful event for CABA!

We were sold out once more, The Restaurants, food trucks, the street vendors and bars were thrilled to welcome the visitors and provide them their best yet culinary tasting experience. Over 209 People attended the tour, we had 23 local restaurants and bars serving specialty drinks as well as traditional Mexican dishes and desserts.

We are grateful to have amazing sponsors like Toro Insurance Agency, the Rock Island Bridge, the Wil Fischer Company, WaterOne, Martell's Agency, WyCo Unified Government and as always, the amazing support of the Redemption Powerhouse.

Like last year, we had volunteers along the tour to help and guide the visitors. We also placed wayfinding signage to help them with directions, once again, we provided our visitors with a map to follow the different routes and as always, Loaner bicycles to make their tour more pleasant by exercising to the different locations within the map. This event is one of the community's favorites due to the savory uniqueness and special selection of dishes offered every day in their menu.

Save the Date! The flavors on central tour is coming up on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



**Big Thank you! to our Sponsors**

#TheFlavorsOfCentralTour  
#SeeYouOnCentral  
WWW.THEFLAVORSOFCENTRALTOUR.COM  
#LetsDoTacos

cabackck.org (913)281-9222

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|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| <p><b>1. Barbacoa de Pecos</b><br/>1120 Central Ave.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66102<br/>913-484-6586<br/>Taco de Barbacoa</p>         | <p><b>4. El Jefe Taqueria</b><br/>1264 Central Ave.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66102<br/>913-730-8434<br/>Taco al Pastor</p>             | <p><b>7. El Pollo Guasave</b><br/>1600 Central Ave.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66102<br/>913-621-1515<br/>Pollo a la Parrilla</p>                  | <p><b>10. Burritos La Chiquita</b><br/>1328 Minnesota Ave.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66102<br/>913-291-0118<br/>Taco de Barbacoa or Asada</p>               | <p><b>13. Alta Couture</b><br/>805 Minnesota Ave.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66101<br/>913-249-7218<br/>Choice of Cake Bite</p>     | <p><b>16. Fat Matts Vortex</b><br/>411 N 6th St.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66101<br/>913-296-7142<br/>\$2 Grog Shot</p>                                 | <p><b>19. Spilling Coffee</b><br/>548 Central Ave.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66101<br/>913-949-4904<br/>Fresh Brew Coffee</p>                 | <p><b>22. El Rio Bravo Supermarket</b><br/>11 S. 10th St.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66102<br/>913-281-7705<br/>Tamal or Taco al Gusto</p> |
| <p><b>2. La Michoacana TO GO</b><br/>1259-B Central Ave.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66102<br/>Elote or Paleta</p>                       | <p><b>5. El Torito Grill</b><br/>1304 Central Ave.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66102<br/>913-217-7435<br/>Taco de Alambre</p>             | <p><b>8. Pollos El Junior</b><br/>904 N 18th St.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66102<br/>913-403-0003<br/>Pollo, your Choice of Sauce</p>             | <p><b>11. Mi Pueblito Meat Market</b><br/>1311 Minnesota Ave.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66102<br/>913-766-3615<br/>Tamal de Elote</p>                       | <p><b>14. El Camino Real Lounge</b><br/>903 N 7th St. Trfy<br/>Kansas City, KS 66101<br/>913-342-4333<br/>Taco al Pastor</p> | <p><b>17. The Shop Cigar Lounge</b><br/>407 N 8th St.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66101<br/>913-354-2592<br/>\$5 House Cigar</p>                          | <p><b>20. Slaps BBQ</b><br/>553 Central Ave.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66101<br/>913-213-3736<br/>Pulled Pork or Cheddar Jalapeno Sausage</p> | <p><b>23. Tacos El Tio</b><br/>78 N 10th St.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66102<br/>913-281-7388<br/>Taco of Choice</p>                      |
| <p><b>3. Taqueria Jalisco</b><br/>1259-A Central Ave.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66102<br/>913-395-2721<br/>Taco al Pastor or Asada</p> | <p><b>6. Taqueria el Torito</b><br/>1409 Central Ave.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66102<br/>913-233-0483<br/>Gordita de Maiz c/ Asada</p> | <p><b>9. Nevelandia Ice Cream Parlor</b><br/>908 N 18th St.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66102<br/>913-499-1553<br/>Elote en Vaso or Agua Fresca</p> | <p><b>12. GO's Barbacoa Cafe</b><br/>1032 Minnesota Ave.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66102<br/>913-562-8264<br/>Mini Quezabirria or French Carriotta Bite</p> | <p><b>15. Kinship Cafe</b><br/>719 N 6th St.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66101<br/>913-268-5613<br/>Fresh Brew Coffee</p>            | <p><b>18. 403 Club</b><br/>614 Reynolds Ave.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66101<br/>913-499-8392<br/>\$2.50 Modelo Can \$5 Cuevo Tradicional Margarita</p> | <p><b>21. Osuna Bakery</b><br/>749 Central Ave.<br/>Kansas City, KS 66101<br/>913-279-0430<br/>Special Cupcake</p>                      |   |



# Summer Mentoring Program

Our Summer Leadership Mentoring program took place during June and July of 2023, Once again with the support of the Board Public Utilities, and Water One. The participation of our local High Schools and the many Mentors from all our community partners. CABA stood firm to promote leadership values and community engagement, encouraging cooperation among all participants and generating strong personal values.

The applicants to the Summer Mentoring Program are the 11th and 12th grade high school students from all the high schools in our district. This time around, the program hosted 21 events from the 6th of June to the 26th of July. This Year, our mentoring program had 20 applicants and 11 students completed the full program. The relationship between mentors and our students became strong as the mentors' experiences showed with each visit. With the help of community leaders our youth engaged in conversations about hardship and success in life; these included career planning, job-seeking, as well as broader issues such as shaping a life's vision for the future and mastering personal finances.

Our students felt free to ask questions, share their own vision, and goals. At the end of the program the student/mentee should be capable to plan their career, understand the path to successfully achieve their professional goals.



In our 60-hour program, credits are earned during each event; 85% participation is the success threshold in order to be rewarded. With 90% of our students reaching 100% of their credits, and many giving strongly positive reviews to their experience, your CABA leadership mentoring program achieved an outstanding success rate during our 2023 production, setting the stage for strong student results in their final year of High School and for their future.

# Summer Mentoring Program

The new event in our leadership program was an introduction to the carrier in aviation. The Red Tail Academy started their summer by hosting 10 of our students for a one-day open house at the Kansas City Downtown airport (MKC) general aviation terminal. The location was special because one year earlier, the city renamed the terminal after Documented Original Tuskegee Airman and Kansas City aviation legend, Brig Gen Charles McGee. One of the last things he said at the ceremony was that Kansas City Metro needs to commit to the development of our youth. We don't intend to let him down!



During the CABAs' participation, Red Tail Academy had a total of 15 volunteers from the FAA, MKC airport operations, Whiteman Air Force Base, ATD flight school and a local helicopter pilot. All these mentors provided the participants with their personal experiences in aviation. The FAA brought Air Traffic Controllers from MKC who showed the students a "repeater view" of the local air traffic picture on the big screen. Whiteman Air Force Base brought seven personnel from air traffic control, aircrew flight equipment and a B-2 pilot. The participants had the opportunity to view two aircraft and a helicopter on display and they were also able to get a flight in our simulator.

We are thrilled to bring the Summer Mentoring Program back in June 2024 as we continue seeking partnerships and sponsorships to offer motivational rewards to the students attending the program.



# Dotteversity Parade

On September 9<sup>th</sup> we produced and enjoyed the 46<sup>th</sup> Central Avenue Dotteversity Parade, celebrating our community pride. We had an estimated 8000 visitors, 50+ vendors during our festival and 33+ floats walking on Central Avenue towards Bethany Park. Wyandotte County showed up with pride the authenticity and diversity of our community. The participants wore authentic colors, and many carried flags showing the diversity of our origins.



This year, we honored our new County Administrator, David W. Johnston by naming him our 2023 Parade Marshal. Johnston, ICMA-CM, joined the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas as its third County Administrator. He comes from Covington, KY where he served as City Manager from 2017 to 2021. During that time, he raised the city's Moody Bond rating to A2 status, effectively addressed blighted properties and poverty, successfully guided a major redevelopment effort and renewed focus on customer service within city government that improved staff morale. The CABA welcomed County Administrator Johnston to our community, the central area and the central avenue commercial corridor.

Our Dotteversity Parade was an inclusive event to celebrate the "Central Avenue community, Including many schools, private and public organizations and the Marching Bands of 5 local high schools, all of us celebrating our "Community Pride" we brought several country flags and their representation forward. We are all Proud Dottes!



In 2024, we promise an international show to bring everyone to Bethany Park. We will be asking everyone to bring your most authentic community colors. We want it to be a collage of all the cultures that makes Wyandotte County Unique. Save the date, Central Avenue Dotteversity Parade, September 7th.



# Day of the Dead Celebration



What a celebration! Our rain or shine event was a total success even though it rained on us for around 2 hours and the weather didn't cooperate. Our community is so proud of this celebration that it endured the cold, the rain and took amazing pictures of everyone against a colorful rainbow once the sun peeked through the clouds before setting down and signaling the starting of our nighttime parade!

On November 4th, the Day of the Dead Celebration on Central Avenue evolved to its maximum attendance, participation and popularity yet!!



The celebration included our traditional Catrinas and Altars contest. Talented members of our Catrina Club worked on planning and making their costumes for over 6 months prior to our event. The 20+ live performers were ready to deliver their best performance from any of our 10 stages and for the first time, we included street performers playing music for the visitors at the request of their favorite songs.

This year and due to the high number of attendants, a new plan to ensure the safety and security of all our participants and visitors during the celebration was implemented. We want to thank the KCKPD, the Sheriffs Office, The KCKFD, the WyCo Street Control Department, Parks and Recreations Department of WyCo and the Mayor's Office for the enormous amount of support extended to make sure our celebration was an incident free event.





# Earl Watson Recreation Center

This year CABA submitted an Official Petition to Rename the Bethany Community Center located at 1120 Central Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66102 after Mr. Earl Watson Sr. following the established procedure by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County / Kansas. Many ignore the fact that CABA started this process in 2019 and it finally was supported by the community as well as the Unified Government Board of Commissioners promoted by Mayor Tyrone Garner's office.

Mr. Earl Watson Sr., an exceptional community driven Individual, has gained the love and respect of the community with his stellar dedication to serving the underserved youth and encouraging physical activities in Kansas City, Kansas. For more than 20 years, Mr. Watson has been caring for and operating the daily activities and events in what is known today as the Bethany Community Center

Having investigated and verified all Mr. Earl Watson's magnificent lifetime achievements and demonstrating beyond doubt Mr. Earl Watson Sr.'s dedication and commitment to our community and especially our youth. The Central Area Betterment Association and the Community at Large, requested that given the exceptional circumstances and significant impact to the community created by Mr. Earl Watson Sr. service,



Volunteers and CABA staff collected the community signatures in the surrounding areas of the Bethany community center to support the petition. Many in the community supported the petition and worked hard to bring testimony to the commissioner's final presentation. The name change was unanimously approved and executed by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County / Kansas City, Kansas full Board of Commissioners to be known as: Earl Watson Sr. Recreation Center



# Third Friday Art Walk

Including this event into our annual report is more to honor the enormous success that our community partners have created, than bringing credit to our participation.

Each event allowed our vendors to gain more experience to the point that registering their food sales business was a clear and productive investment, no doubt. But it was not our work, we only supported and helped when we could. Congratulations to CHWC, DTS, Bike-O-WyCo and the many volunteers who worked hard for 2 years, going on 3 to bring more than 3,000 people to 6th Street once a month.

We had more than 10 vendors participating constantly, these vendors have become community favorites. All because of the community's coalition partnership. We look forward to help the ArtWalk grow much more and for it to become a staple of progress and pride for all in our community.





