

### Letter from the Director



#### Dear Friends,

I am excited to present this annual report highlighting the significant growth we experienced in 2023. It is with great pride that I share the collective success stories and milestones that have defined this transformative year for our organization. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in propelling us forward, and I am excited to showcase the positive impact we have made on the Kensington Corridor. Together, we have navigated challenges and capitalized on opportunities, reinforcing our commitment to fostering a thriving and vibrant community. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

#### Onward and upward.

In Solidarity,

Adriana Abizadeh



## **Our Compass**



### **MISSION**

Utilize collective ownership to direct investments on the corridor that preserve culture and affordability while building neighborhood power and wealth in Kensington.

#### **VISION**

Kensington Avenue is a safe, healthy, and socioeconomically diverse commercial corridor with accessible opportunities for the existing and future residents of Kensington.

### **VALUES**

- Equity
- Community
- Stewardship
- Transparency

### Meet Our Staff



#### Adriana Abizadeh, Executive Director

Adriana has a BA from Rutgers University in Political Science with a minor in Security Intelligence and Counter Terrorism. She also has an MS in Public Policy from Drexel University. All of Adriana's professional working experience has been in the nonprofit sector and she is passionate about serving others. Immersed in policy initiatives, she has facilitated community collaboration to address the intersectionality between immigration status, housing, poverty, and race. She has committed herself to serving on several boards that reflect some of her deepest passions: immigration, racial and health equity, and youth development.



### Josh Harris, Construction Project Manager

Josh Harris is the construction project manager for the Kensington Corridor Trust. Josh is an innovative design build industry professional whose career spans sustainable building practices from passive house to adaptive reuse. He also has experience with visual arts fabricating for contemporary artists and exhibition projects for museums and cultural institutions. Josh is passionate about work that contributes to the economic, social, and environmental fabric of the city.



### Jasmin Velez, Lead Community Organizer

Jasmin is an applied practicing anthropologist and an almost life-long resident of the Kensington neighborhood. Jasmin grew up in Puerto Rico and moved to Philadelphia when she was five years old. She attended Bloomsburg University of PA, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology, and later graduated from the University of Colorado Denver with her master's in Medical Anthropology. Missing the diversity of her community and the east-coast city vibes, she returned to Philadelphia following her studies and returned to her neighborhood to begin her career. She has been working in community engagement for several years throughout North Philadelphia in community beautification, community gardening, and environmental stewardship and justice.



# Trust Stewardship Committee



Brian Tejada Youth Leader



Daisie Cardona Youth Leader



Darlene Burton Board Representative



Chef Dionicio Jimenez Business Leader



Crystal Ortiz Business Leader



Margarita Gonzalez Community Leader



Maria Riva Community Leader



George Acevedo Resident Leader



Mary Nash Resident Leader



### **Board of Directors**



Jonathan Arrieta, Impact Services Current Resident



Darlene Burton, Community Activist Current Resident



John Chun, Chun's J&J Restaurant Business Owner KCT Board Secretary



Jimmy Duran, Small Business Lending Business Owner KCT Board Treasurer



Chuck Evans, Evans Pest Control Business Owner



Juan Perez, Esperanza Health Ctr. Invited Representative



Alexander Robles, Voyage Investments Former Resident KCT Board Chair



Tayyib Smith, IF Lab Business Owner



# In Loving Memory



**CHUCK EVANS** 

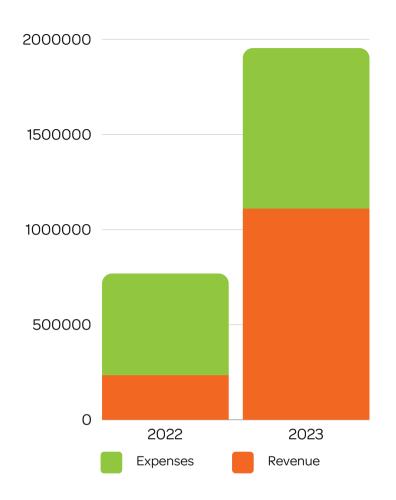
Beloved father, friend, and neighbor.

Chuck grew up in Kensington and opened his business, Evans Pest Control, in the neighborhood in 2010. When he started Evans Pest Control, he was the only Technician and worked out of the trunk of his car. Due to hard work, determination, and his strong ties to this neighborhood he was able to build a small 1-person business into a 10-person business. Chuck hired locally and supported folks in recovery.

Chuck joined the KCT board in 2021 and was an active member of our real estate subcommittee. Supporting us in evaluating acquisitions and preparing for rehab and leasing. He was a beloved husband and loving and devoted father. He will be missed.

In his honor, the KCT will be planting a tree at the community garden.

### **Our Financials**



# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS















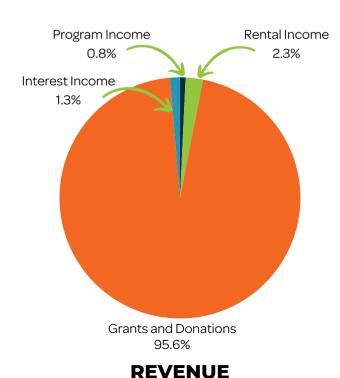
Administrative





Fundraising

1.8%



Programming 91%

**EXPENSES** 

# Our Stewarded Properties







## **Our Community**



#### **Xerces Habitat Kits**

In the Summer of 2023, KCT was a recipient of Xerces Habitat Kits. The kits included 550 pollinator plugs that we shared across 6 other local community gardens including the Butterfly Garden, the Lily Garden, Hart Lane Farm, Ruth Street Garden, the Healing Garden, and the Kensington Klean Garden. Installations took place across three days and included planting and mulching. We were fortunate to have volunteers from Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, The Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance (PACA), and various community members, all of whom helped with the installations in each garden and beautifying Kensington!

# **Kensington Photovoice Exhibit**

We want to thank all the artists who participated in the Kensington Photovoice Exhibit for their outstanding work. Each photograph showcased the Kensington community's unique character and highlighted the neighborhood's beauty and vibrancy. The exhibit provided a platform for local artists to tell their stories through photography, giving voice to the community. It was heartwarming to see how the exhibit celebrated Kensington's rich history and culture and changed the narrative about what it means to be from the neighborhood. We extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed to this project and made it a huge success. The exhibit was a powerful reminder of the power of art to bring people together and inspire positive change.





















# New Business Spotlight



### **ZERBEARTZ**

Meet J.C. Zerbe, an artist and community activator known for his expressive and vibrant artwork that fuses street art elements with his graphic lines. Zerbe's passion for community building and social change is reflected in his regular participation in neighborhood projects in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia. He has also led art workshops that aim to bring healing to those experiencing addiction, homelessness, or other forms of ongoing trauma. His work inspires and provokes movement toward social change in Kensington and beyond.































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