

PEASLEE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM PEASLEE

Dear Friends,

For 39 years, Peaslee Neighborhood Center has remained a community hub for education, enrichment, connection, and organizing. This year's annual report highlights our collective work as a small but mighty community center with deep roots. At Peaslee, children, young people, and elders continue to learn, grow, create, and work together to build a better world.

It is no small task to maintain Peaslee as an accessible resource benefiting working class families. In October 2023, Peaslee experienced a flood, due to a boiler pipe breaking, across all three floors of our building. We worked hard to maintain programming and restore the center, and we thank all of you who supported us throughout this ordeal. Now Peaslee is moving forward with upgrades to improve the building's sustainability and ensure that our families and tenant partners can continue engaging in essential education and justice work uninterrupted. Your commitment to education and justice makes this work possible, and we are grateful for your gift at this time to be a part of Peaslee's growth.



In solidarity,
Jennifer Summers, Director

TENANT PARTNERS



mobilizes, educates
and organizes low wage and
immigrant workers to achieve
positive systemic change



nurtures a resilient,
interconnected network of
worker-owned businesses in
Greater Cincinnati. Our goal:
an economy that works for all



educates and advocates for
peace, challenges unjust
systems, and promotes the
creation of a nonviolent
society





416
PARTICIPANTS

SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

We provided social justice curriculum anchored in our community's lived experience to a total of 416 individuals across ten schools and eleven programs. Nine local residents and community members consistently served as educators alongside our staff. A significant portion of this education is done in deep partnerships, where students engage in an ongoing way, over a whole school year or even multiple years. This year, we expanded our program connections at **Xavier University** and also our collaborative coursework at **Miami University**. We also strengthened internship opportunities, enabling some of the students in our Urban Cohort partnership program at Miami University to serve as educators in our summer youth programs.



POPULAR EDUCATION



1,347
NEIGHBORS

We engaged at least 1,347 members of the public, providing education in support of organizing and collective action to address structural injustices our community faces. This year, we were part of **Cincinnati Action for Housing Now**, the coalition behind the ballot initiative for truly affordable housing in Cincinnati. Peaslee was one of over 50 endorsing organizations, and our staff served on the campaign's lead team. We assisted in crafting the amendment language, developing educational materials, providing transparency on the actions of City government, gathering signatures, engaging voters, and much more. We have stayed active in pursuing our community-driven plan for the land at Main and Schiller, we developed and presented new content for community councils and residents on zoning reform, and we remain on-call for folks using our Equitable Development Rubric toolkit – from local community councils to coalitions in Chicago and Buffalo, NY!



CREATIVE EXPRESSION

WRITING CIRCLES



Through continued partnership with **Rothenberg Preparatory Academy**, we engaged **13 STUDENTS** in self-expression and creative thinking with our Girls' Writing Circle in 2023. In addition, more than **20 WOMEN** participated in the Justice Seekers Writing Circle.

*"I am a superwoman
because I am brave and smart
My momma is a superwoman
because she protects me"*
—K'eshell, 5th grade

PIANO



Peaslee's piano program provided weekly lessons for **28 STUDENTS** in 2023, including five adults. Adult students showed a particular interest in learning more music theory, so we also began offering monthly music theory sessions. Thanks to a partnership with **Christ Church Cathedral**, students were able to take a field trip to see the Cathedral's organ and harpsichord, and play their spring recital in the chapel there. Students performed in a fall recital at **St. Francis Seraph**, and two students played at Peaslee's annual event.

AGENTS OF CHANGE



During summer camp, Agents of Change (ages 13-15) learned about the Poor People's Campaign, celebrated the 50th anniversary of Hip Hop, and investigated bias that happens in the media. For their creative project Agents learned about filmmaking and developed their own film projects. In the fall while discussing state and local elections, Agents learned about ballot issues including affordable housing. We also hosted our inaugural Agents of Change homecoming event for 10 program alumni.

20 PARTICIPANTS

SUMMER CAMP

In summer 2023, Peaslee welcomed 25 new and returning campers ages 6-9 into our Peaslee Kids summer camp, where teachers work to provide a safe, nurturing environment for kids to express themselves and build positive relationships. Campers participated in weekly swim lessons, yoga sessions, art projects, visits to the **Civic Garden Center's** Pendleton children's garden, and reading time. Throughout the summer they collectively read **394 BOOKS!** Social justice lessons covered topics including animal rights, bullying, and immigration. Peaslee Kids also visited **Camp Ernst** for the first time, exploring nature and braving the ropes course along with Agents of Change campers. Risers summer camp for ages 10-12 engaged 20 campers in self-discovery and building interpersonal skills through activities including origami, storytelling, writing, and dancing. The Risers concentrated especially on social and emotional regulation with the help of breathing techniques and poses they learned in yoga sessions. They became so confident throughout the summer that they even **DESIGNED 9 YOGA ROUTINES** themselves, which they demonstrated for audience members at their showcase!

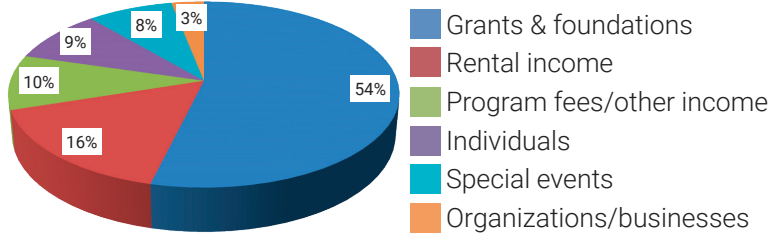
Peaslee Kids, Risers, and Agents of Change all participated in our second annual Summer Field Day. Throughout the games, which included puzzles, relays, and a water balloon toss, campers were both mixed amongst each other and competing in teams. Agents of Change were the winners of the final race, the Peaslee Pursuit. At an awards ceremony the next day, campers were recognized for their team spirit, leadership, and physical abilities.



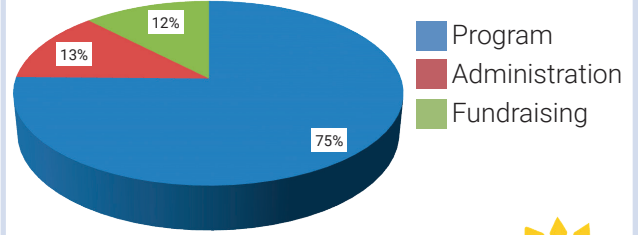
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INCOME



EXPENSES



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