

# IMPACT REPORT

2012 - 2017

## OUR GOAL

West Side Grows Together is a coalition of Wilmington's West Side residents, businesses, churches and community groups working together to make our neighborhoods the best they can be. We're working together in 6 main areas:



1. Community Pride
2. Businesses and Jobs
3. Youth Opportunities
4. Great Parks & Gardens
5. Quality Housing
6. Public Safety

## OUR COMMUNITY

	2017	Compared to 2010
Neighborhood Population:	12,364	↓
% African American:	45.54%	↓
% White:	40.32%	↑
% Hispanic:	27.59%	↑
% Living Below Poverty Level:	21.1%	↓
% Employed:	92%	↑
Area Median Income Range:	\$24,094 to \$78,828	↑

\*Data was collected from the American Community Survey and Policymap

# OUR LEADERSHIP

West Side Grows Together is led by the West Side Grows Together Steering Committee, which includes 27 community organizations, businesses, neighborhood groups, churches, and residents, and is facilitated by Cornerstone West CDC.

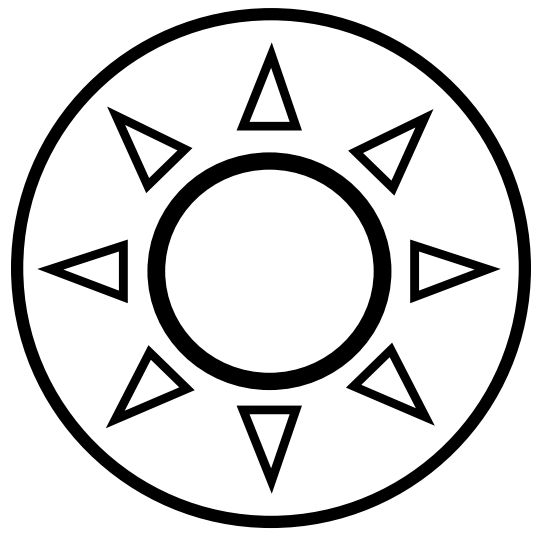
## West Side Grows Together Steering Committee Members

- Be Ready Church
- Cool Spring/ Tilton Park Neighborhood Association
- Cornerstone West CDC
- Dare to Care
- Delaware Center for Horticulture
- Family Counseling Center
- Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center
- Kenny Family Foundation
- Lincoln / Union Business Alliance
- Little Italy Neighborhood Association
- Mother African Union Church
- Nemours Health and Prevention Services
- Padua Academy
- St. Anthony's Parish
- St. Francis Hospital
- St. Paul's Parish
- University of Delaware
- West End Neighborhood House
- West Side Coalition
- West Side Community Action Committee
- Westside Family Healthcare
- Woodlawn Library
- Woodlawn Trustees
- WSFS
- 5th District Planning Council
- 7th District Planning Council



# OUR WORK 2012 - 2017

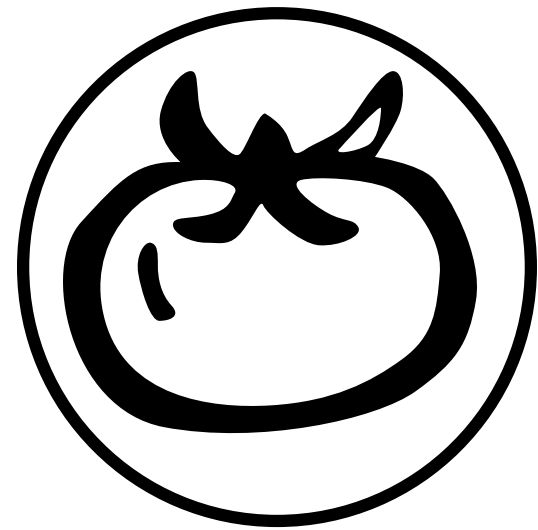
## COMMUNITY PRIDE



Hosted 450 events/ activities to engage residents.

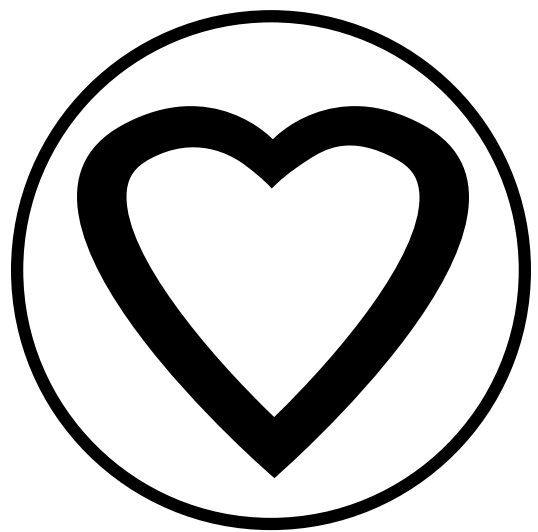
Developed 350+ leaders in the community.

Reduced blight, and # of vacant properties have decreased, specifically in 2017.

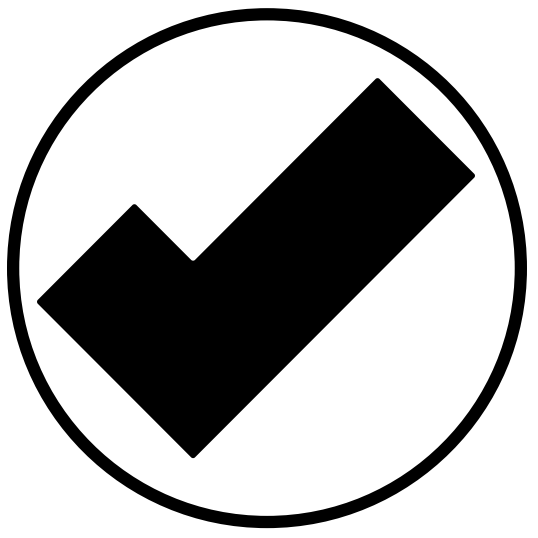


Launched the Cool Spring Farmers Market in 2014 with Bright Spot Ventures.

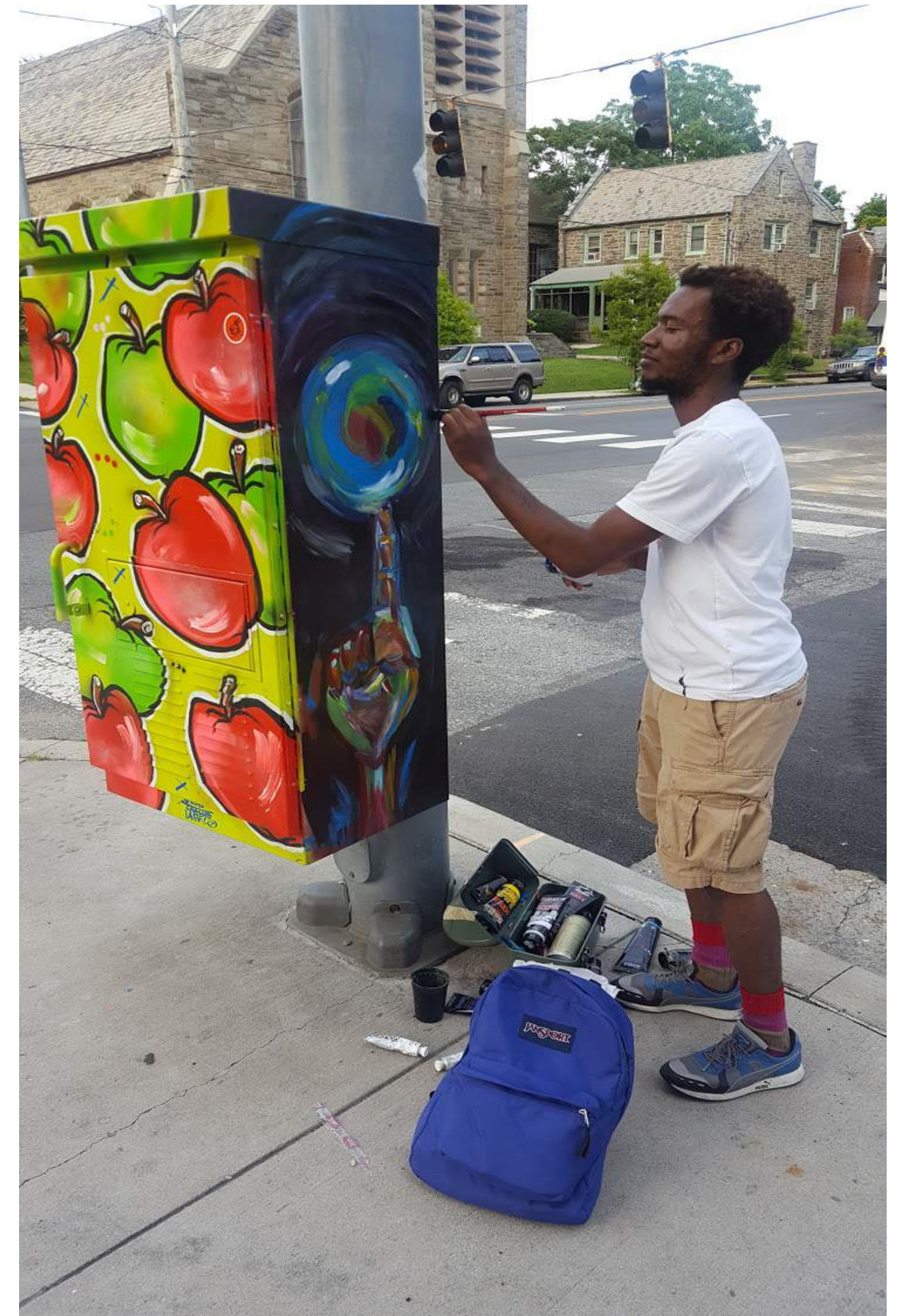
Connected and encouraged communication among 5 separate neighborhoods when historically they were isolated.



The West Side Grows Together Steering Committee has been sustainable. The Steering Committee has met 27 times in the past 5 years and averaged attendance of 15 organizations.



Planted approximately 300 trees with partners such as the Delaware Center for Horticulture and the City of Wilmington.



JaQuanne Daniels paints an electric box on Fourth Street.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Better Block 2016

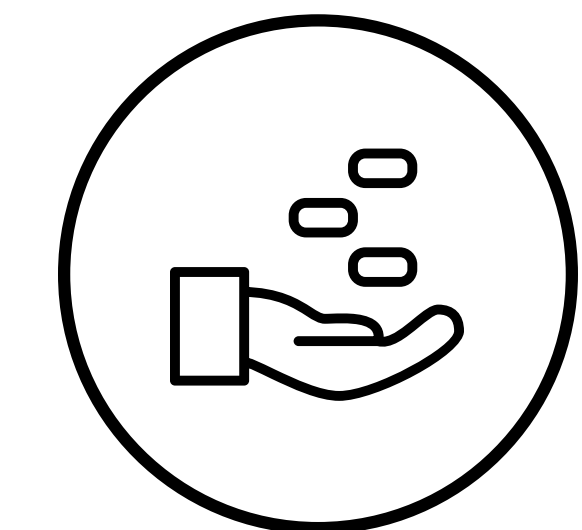
Worked with residents, business owners, and state, city and local officials to make Union Street safer for everyone. The reconfiguration of Union Street increased parking by 20%, repainted crosswalks, added a bike lane, and eliminated one lane of traffic.



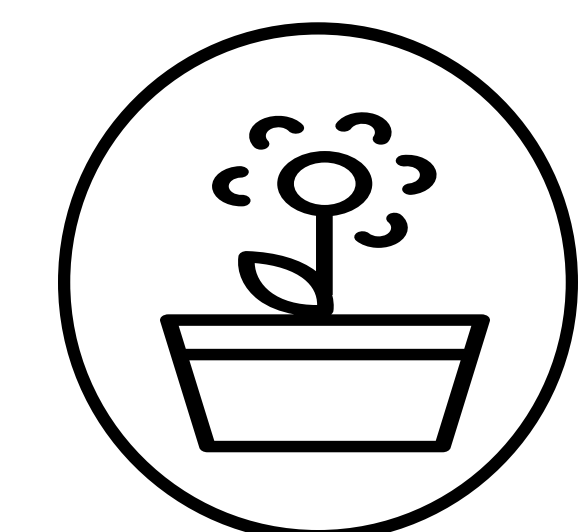
39 new or existing businesses graduated from the Launcher Entrepreneurship Program in the West Side. The program expanded to include a cohort entirely in Spanish.



Be Ready CDC, has secured financing for Phase 1 of a catalytic mixed-use economic development project along Fourth Street that will bring small businesses and affordable housing to one of the community's major arteries.



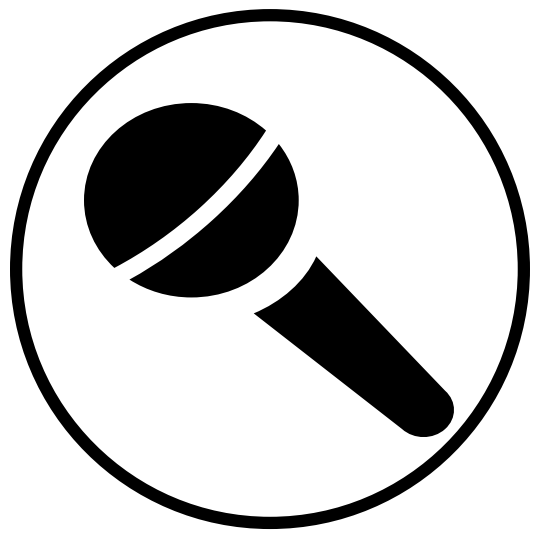
Lincoln & Union Streets were designated as a Main Street Affiliate through the State of Delaware and the business community leveraged \$4 million in streetscape and transportation enhancements.



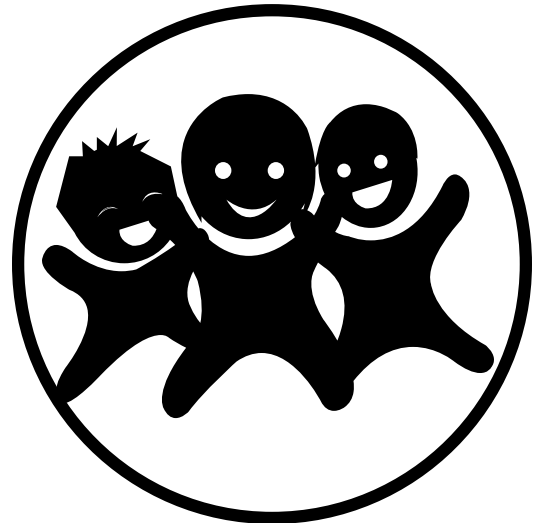
New Configuration of Union Street, 2017

# OUR WORK 2012 - 2017

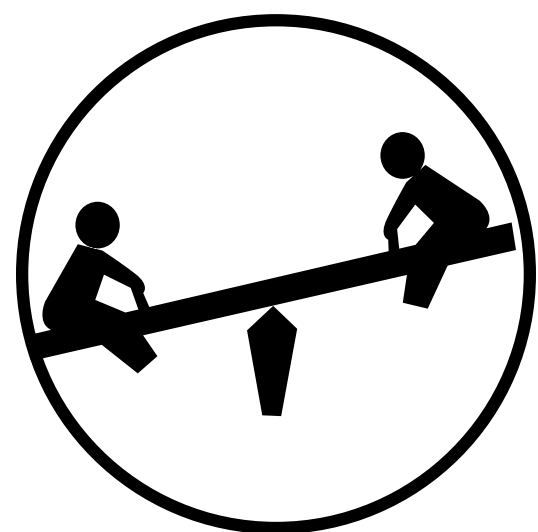
## YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES



Developed and launched the Youth Providers Network, Youth Spring Fling, Passion in the City, Youth Art Loop, and the Youth Resources Booklet.



Championed a partnership with Summer Learning Collaborative to reduce summer learning loss. Currently operating in three summer camps in the West Side - Hilltop Lutheran, West End, LACC

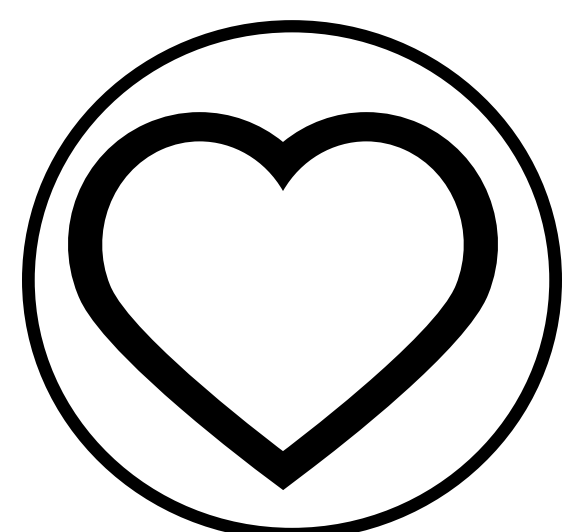


Developed MLK Peace Celebration & Parade. Averaged 100+ people for 6 years.

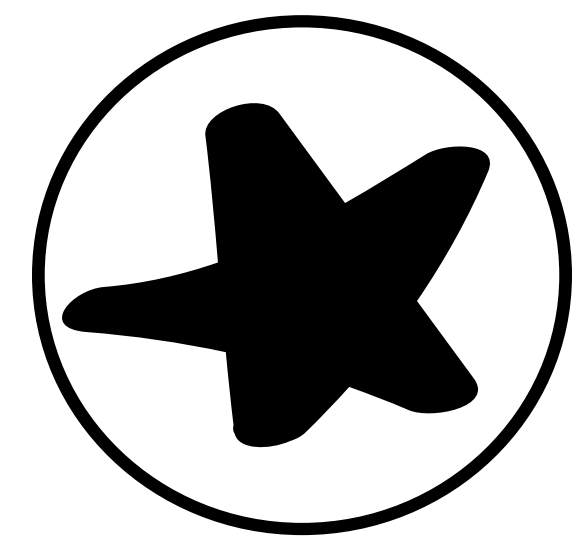


Chess in the Park 2014

The Peter Spencer Family Life Foundation established the Freedom School that serves 110 youth each year and is a recognized program by the United States Children's Defense Fund



The Latin American Community Center created the new Antonia Alonso School serving 415 bilingual students as of the 2016-2017 school year.



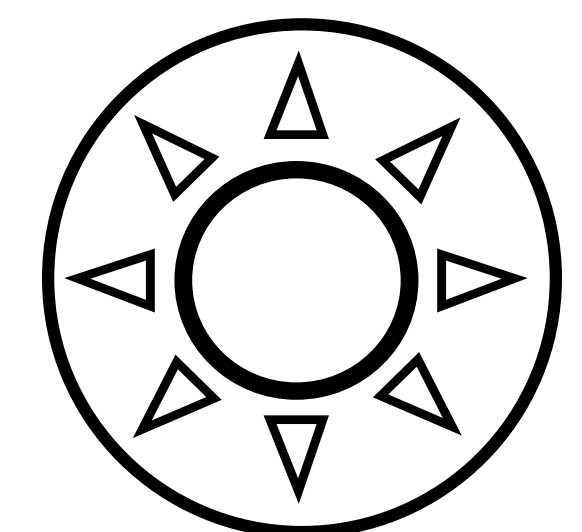
### Concept Design for Father Tucker Park "Plateau Playground"



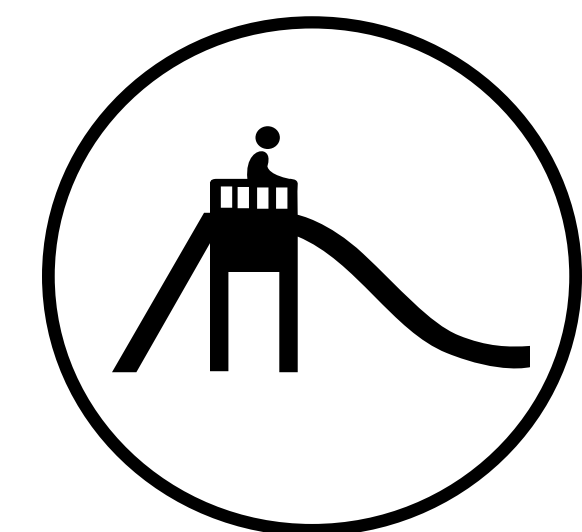
Father Tucker Park Rendering

## PARKS & GARDENS

Established 3 Friends of the Parks Groups at Fourth & Rodney Park, Connell Street Park, and Father Tucker Park



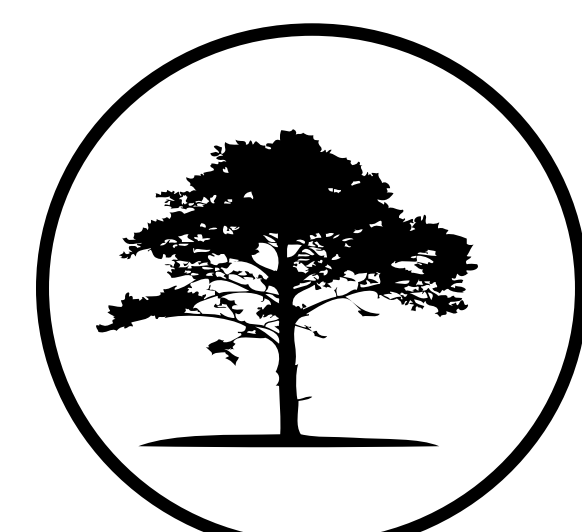
Leveraged \$1.4 million to renovate three neighborhood parks. Completed construction of two of the three parks. Observed use of 4th & Rodney Park increase 200%.



Maintained and expanded Rodney Reservoir Gardens - serves 56 neighbors in 2018. Expanded programming to include 1 new garden on a vacant property in 2017.



Influenced the way city approaches renovations of parks to include more ideas from community.



Father Tucker Park Groundbreaking 2018

# OUR WORK 2012 - 2017

## QUALITY HOUSING



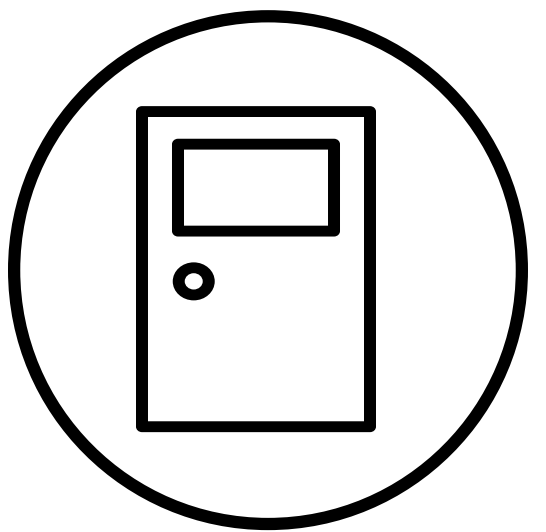
Woodlawn Trustees completed Phases I and II of The Flats, totaling \$38,000,000 investment.



Demand for low-income rentals is being satisfied by 408 new units as part of the Flats multi-phase project and 20 units as part of Fourth Street Development Project.



The number of cost-burdened homeowners has decreased over the past 5 years.



Cornerstone qualified 10 low-income and/or elderly homeowners along Fourth Street for up to \$22,000 of home repairs each.

Homeownership rates increased or remained stable in 3 of 4 census tracts. Most significant increase in Census tract 14.



*New Cornerstone homes on Dupont Street.*



*The Flats, Phase I*



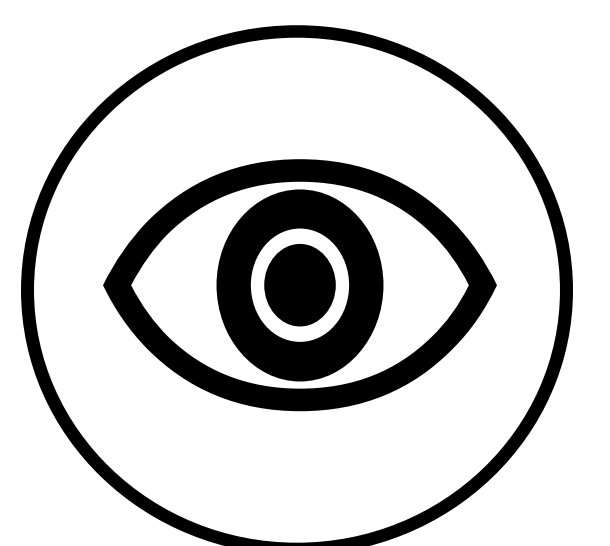
*Better Block 2015*



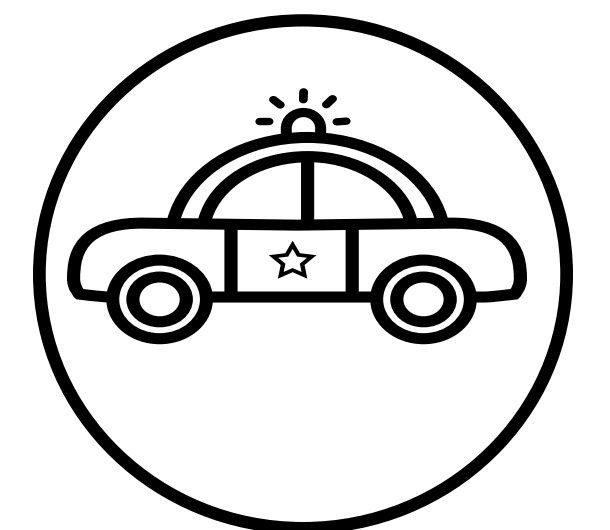
*Opening of newly renovated Fourth & Rodney Park*

## PUBLIC SAFETY

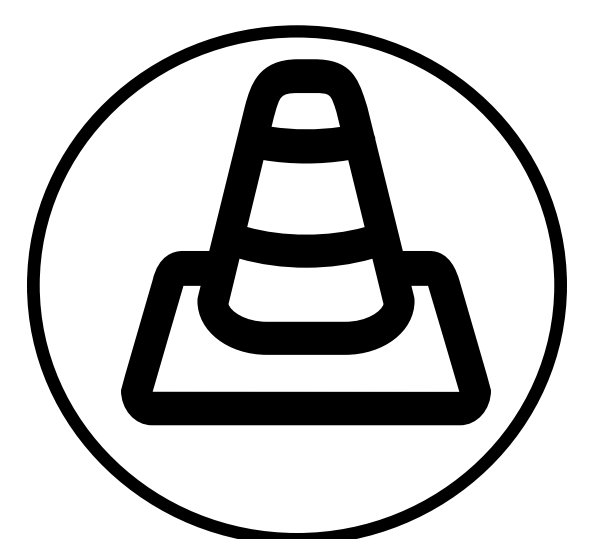
Implemented crime prevention through environmental design strategies along Union / Lincoln Streets and throughout the parks via the security camera and facade improvement projects.



Developed relationship with local police and advocated for community policing.



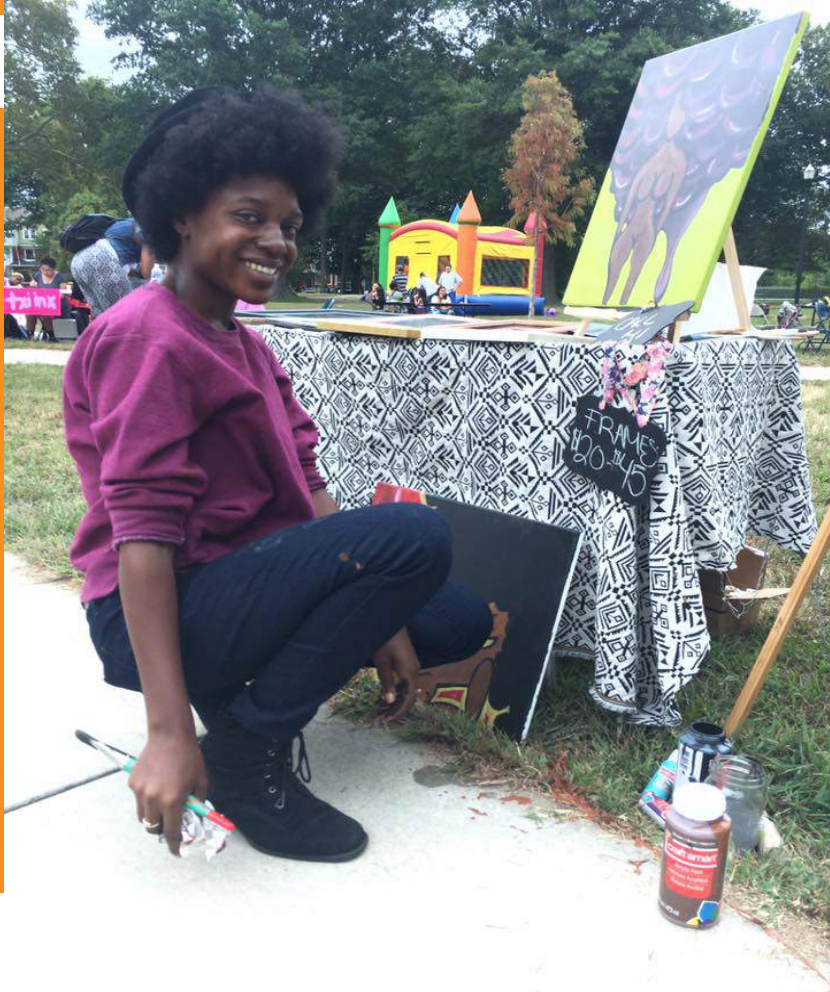
Safety is the community's primary concern and was the lowest rated quality of life aspect in the 2017 West Side Survey. We are working to change this in the next 5 years.



# HIGHLIGHTS

" We gotta come together or we're going to fall apart."

*Community Leader, 2018*



"I liked the energy at the West Side Art Loop. So many people came out. Such a mix of people participated. It created a very lovely feeling in the neighborhood."

*Participating Artist, West Side Art Loop 2016*

" People in the neighborhood with children are very excited about a new and improved playground for the neighborhood to congregate at. "

*Community Resident, Survey Respondent*



"Nice to have the technology and provides a greater peace of mind. When incidents have happened in the past we had no recourse. The security cameras add something that we can check."

*Security Camera Participant, Business Owner*



"I love that I have a key to a special part of the neighborhood: the community garden. It's elevated above the surrounding blocks and provides a sense of peace, as well as an abundance of food and flowers! I like the personal quality of life this brings to my life. I think this project contributes physically and spiritually to the improvement of the neighborhood."

*Community Resident, Survey Respondent*



"West Side Grows Together has been an amazing organization which has engaged multiple individuals and organizations to help our community. We are a strong, committed group of people who are determined to make a difference in our community. I am proud to be a part of the steering committee."

*Steering Committee Member Survey 2018*

# THANK YOU

*Our work would not be possible without numerous community leaders, volunteers, partners, and residents who are tirelessly working to improve the quality of life for everyone in the West Side.*



**A special thank you to: Artisan's Bank, Bank of America, Capital One, City of Wilmington, Delaware State Legislature, DeIDOT, Downtown Delaware, DNREC, Division of the Arts, DSHA, FHLB of Pittsburgh, HSBC, JP Morgan Chase, Kellogg Foundation, Laffey McHugh Foundation, Longwood Foundation, Neighborhood Building Blocks Fund, National Parks Service, Nemours Foundation (and the Center for Disease Control), New Castle County, Public Allies, Rockford Woodlawn Fund, Wells Fargo Regional Foundation, Wilmington Renaissance Corporation, & WSFS.**



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