



living streets alliance



2022 Annual Report

MISSION

The mission of Living Streets Alliance is to advocate for a thriving Tucson by creating great streets for all of us.

VALUES

Equity, Integrity,
Inclusivity, Innovation,
Collaboration

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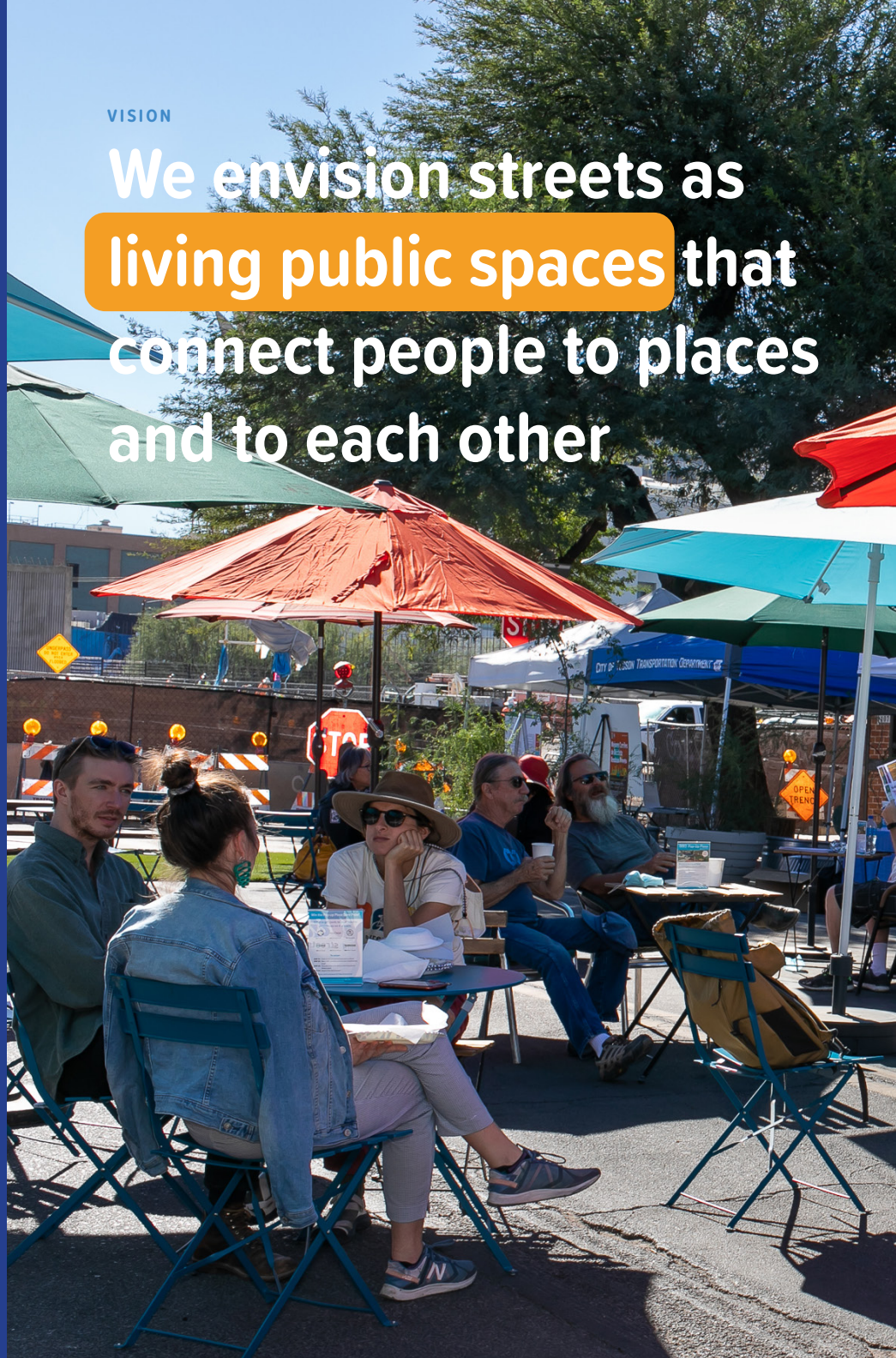
Val Timin

Devon Underwood

Rachel Wilson

VISION

We envision streets as
living public spaces that
connect people to places
and to each other



August 2022

Thinking back to August of last year it's hard to believe how much has taken shape since then. Despite our desire to return to Cyclovia in the fall we listened to the community and made the decision to pivot to a hybrid approach. Cyclovia Remix turned out to be the right move, allowing us to bring opportunities for connection in ways that felt comfortable and safe for people amid continued uncertainty. We were able to bring resources, activate spaces, and support local businesses even as two new COVID variants surged. When we were finally able to bring Cyclovia back in full form this March it felt like the biggest celebration ever—a huge reminder of how streets are public spaces, crucial to our sense of community and our connection to one another and the places that shape us. The energy and joy in the air was electric.

Our work continues to call us to go deeper, showing up for issues that are intrinsically linked to and affected by transportation, and advocating for holistic solutions. This year that included standing up for ADUs (accessory dwelling units) to provide critical infill housing

options which in turn help create the density to support viable transit. It included supporting a minimum wage increase in Tucson so that people don't necessarily have to travel long distances for a decent paying job. It included pushing for local restaurants to be able to permanently turn parking into extended outdoor seating without needing to replace it with parking elsewhere—after all, the last thing we need in a warming climate is more asphalt.

The passage of Proposition 411 this May presents a significant opportunity to build the small but key things that will make biking, walking, and transit a dignified experience: shade and trees, safe crossings, traffic-calming in our neighborhoods. Coupled with massive new federal transportation funding, the coming year is going to be huge for Tucson. This is the time to take Complete Streets to the next level and accelerate the implementation of Move Tucson, our city's mobility master plan. We're here for it and can't thank you enough for standing alongside us as we advocate for the Tucson we know is possible.

With gratitude,



Emily Yetman
Executive Director



Cyclovia Remix

reimagines open streets amidst a continuing pandemic

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City of Tucson

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Cigna

Pima County Department of
Environmental Quality Clean
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Patricia Schwartz
Open Streets
Coordinator

Patricia calls Cyclovia Remix “practice Cyclovia.” The event brought six months of activities along six former Cyclovia routes organized by LSA and the community, at a much smaller scale. “Living Streets Alliance has been implementing projects for 10+ years in partnership and community with so many people who want to come and integrate their ideas. We wanted to reconnect with those partners and see what’s changed on these routes and in the places we’ve been before.” Through Remix, Patricia connected with and learned from the people who have made Cyclovia happen in their respective neighborhoods. “Every route is different, making new connections and building relationships. Every neighborhood is so unique.”

Patricia has spent their career and graduate research focused on environmental adaptation projects, particularly in urban landscapes, where they think the biggest interventions are needed and can be made. The Remix group rides and pop-up events allowed neighbors to engage in collective visioning about their unique needs and goals. “We discovered an appetite among people to do smaller, more neighborhood-focused rides. That’s something we’ll probably take with us into the future even though we can do bigger events now.” Highlights include October’s La Doce route which featured a kick-off ride, pop-up party, and the most community-led events of all the routes. November’s 4th Avenue Remix culminated with a day-long Pop-Up Plaza at 6th Avenue south of 6th Street, featuring food trucks, exercise classes, and places to sit and enjoy the mild Tucson winters. February’s Bungalow Roll connected two group bike rides, who met up on the Sunshine Mile to paint a mural on the Arte de la Vida building at Broadway and Tucson.

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Trial & Error Collective
University of Arizona
Museum of Art

Cyclovia Tucson returns after a two-year hiatus



Valerie's first experience with Cyclovia Tucson was as an employee at the Museum of Contemporary Art, when the route went past the museum. "It was the first time I'd seen Cyclovia in person and it was amazing. I didn't know the possibilities of what this city could look like if it was designed with different types of people in mind. Just seeing that for a few hours at Cyclovia, it was a visual of what's possible. It seemed so extraordinary in the moment, but it doesn't have to be that way. This could be normal."

This year's Cyclovia was another highlight. "I learned from that team that the event doesn't really get rolling until about an hour in. I was at my first hub and at 9 on the dot there were cyclists everywhere, so I knew people were especially excited about it." Valerie loved seeing people who would never have

otherwise crossed paths start up a conversation while watching mariachis or waiting for ice cream.

"Cyclovia was my first time riding a bike in 15 or 20 years. It gave me a whole new perspective of what people who ride bikes have to go through to move through the city. People outside of a vehicle, by choice or not, could really benefit from infrastructure changes, and that can support and encourage more people to move in something other than a vehicle."



Valerie Sipp
Manager of Operations



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& Recreation Ready,
Set, Rec!



Safe Routes to School
engages youth to use streets safely



140 Riders & Walkers presentations in 3rd and 4th grade classrooms across the region, engaging 3,074 students



431 bicycles repaired over the course of 28 Mobile Bike Repair clinics throughout the community

“I got to know the work of Safe Routes to School through rebuilding the program after the pandemic,” says Jessica. “I was ready to make the career switch to working with communities, and even though I wasn’t familiar with issues of transportation, the emphasis on equity and amplifying local voices was intriguing.”

Jessica noticed that a lot of the Safe Routes components, including bike clubs, mobile bike repair, walking groups, and safety education, were things that schools already wanted to be doing, but did not have the resources to make happen alone. “That was inspiring. These movements are already starting to happen and they need some guidance. Schools have a lot of assets, but they need community support.”

It was watching the kids engage with the learning that was the biggest source of joy in Jessica’s first year. “I learned that people need to be given the chance to try activities such as walking and biking, and there is a lot of motivation from community. Kids get excited by the independence of being able to explore their

community, with their community. The first time I went on a group ride as a leader, I was nervous being with all these kids and they all exceeded my expectations. Kids just go for it, they’re not scared! They rose to the occasion of keeping themselves safe, doing the right thing, and helping each other.”

Cyclovia in the Spring was a high point. “When the school year started, some students didn’t know how to ride a bike at all or how to ride it safely on the streets with other bikes or cars around. Then Cyclovia was introduced to them and it became a goal for them to participate. When I saw the Mission View and Ochoa bike clubs ride by with other bike clubs during the event, it was a really proud moment. They were out there, doing it!”



Jessica Estrada
Safe Routes Coordinator

Safe Routes to School Tucson is a program of the City of Tucson designed and executed by Living Streets Alliance. Safe Routes to School in South Tucson is made possible by Pima County Community Block Development Grant

PARTNERS

Bicycle Inter-Community
Art & Salvage
Environmental
Education Exchange
John
Valenzuela Youth
Center
Los Amigos Tech
Academy
Mission View
Elementary
Ochoa Community
School
Pueblo
Gardens PreK-8



Kate Saunders
Community
Engagement
Coordinator

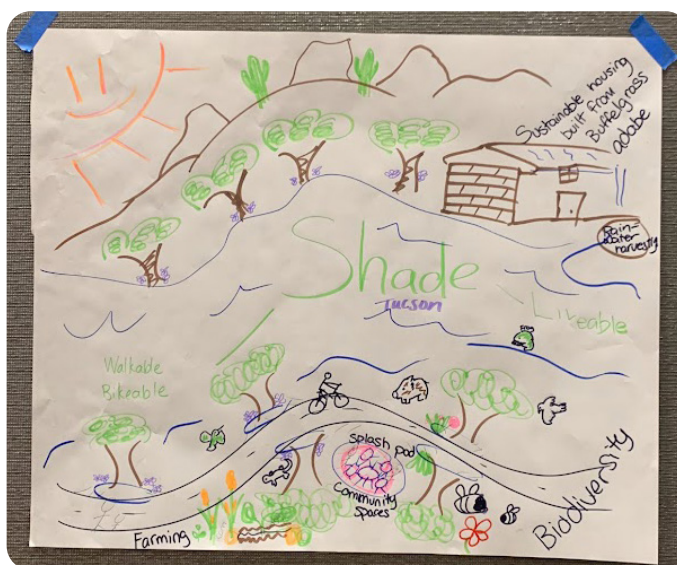
Climate Action & Adaptation Plan
connects the community to decisions
that impact them the most

Kate came to Living Streets Alliance out of grad school, looking for something community- and equity-focused. “Transportation, mobility, safety, and infrastructure are new areas of advocacy for me, but LSA is really very aligned with my skills as far as approach and intentionality behind the work. As I’ve started to engage with the community, I’ve learned how deeply transportation is connected to all areas of our lives. Something that was so simple to me before, like a transit line, now I’m seeing the nuts and bolts about how that is rooted and connected to housing, policy, economic growth, access, and equity.”

Kate works on a City of Tucson project called the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), in which Living Streets Alliance is a subcontractor. “The work is with the Mayor’s Office, engaging community members who are most impacted by the effects of climate change to develop a plan specifically from the community’s needs and desires. The City did a series of listening sessions, and now we’re engaging Promotores, or community ambassadors, to lead a series of community dialogues. We train, support, and provide resources to the Promotores, but it is their work to speak candidly within their communities to ensure their own voices are amplified.”

PARTNERS

San Xavier Co-Op Farm
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Coalition
Paisanos Unidos
Local First Arizona





Prop 407
community engagement continues



Evren Sönmez
Director of Strategic
Policy & Practice

Evren got her start at Living Streets Alliance building the Walkability Assessment Program as a consultant. “I was working with another consultant to start something from scratch. What does the program look like, which neighborhoods are interested in participating in the pilot phase? We developed materials and started to run the assessments, which included a Walkability Workshop as well as a Neighborhood Walk and Talk component.” By building and growing the program, Evren’s path to transportation advocacy through community engagement was in motion, and she joined staff a few years later.

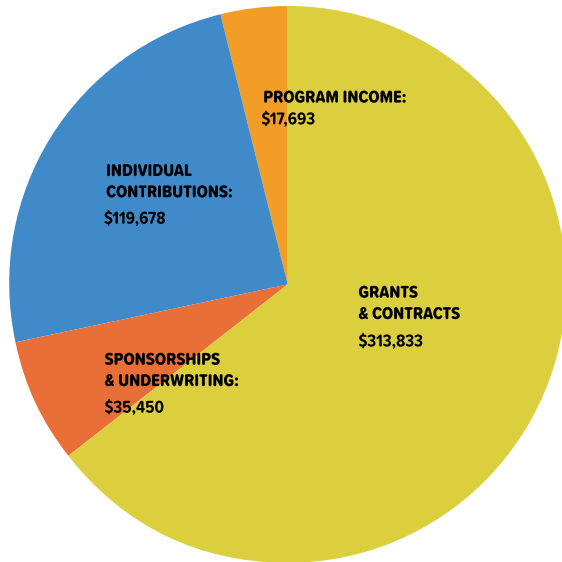
Prop 407 was an exciting bond package approved by City voters in 2018 focused on parks and connections in the city via bike boulevards, pedestrian safety and walkability projects, multi-use greenways, and some protected bike lanes. “It’s been really rewarding to see the joy at the engagement events we’ve been helping the City host, like ice cream socials and movies in the park, to



get input about the projects. There’s been some learning that this kind of engagement doesn’t automatically translate into equitable engagement, but participation has been notably more diverse compared to traditional engagement events like open houses.” After delays due to the pandemic, many of the projects are just entering the construction phase now.

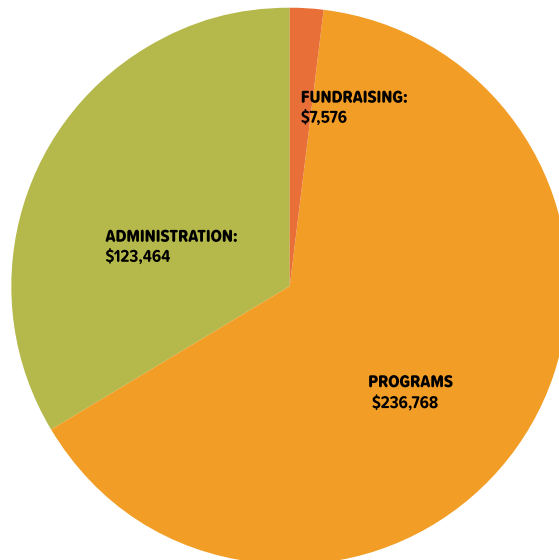
With the passage of Prop 411 this year, there will be an opportunity to implement “complete streets” improvements identified in Move Tucson, the City’s transportation master plan. “With Prop 407, Tucsonans voted for a very specific list of projects. For Prop 411, the projects for the ‘Safe Streets’ component of funding will be defined later. It’s exciting because we can collectively be shaping what that looks like, and we hope to support engagement efforts when the time comes.” Until then, Evren will continue to listen and engage the community to advocate for practices and policies that create a multi-modal Tucson.

Financials*



Income
\$486,654

Expense
\$367,808



Thank You!

Nancy never expected that her education in library science would lead her to a career outside of a library. “It turns out my ability to organize information is useful in nonprofit administration,” she said. The skills came at the right time, as Living Streets Alliance has celebrated ten years of transportation advocacy and placemaking in Tucson. “As nonprofits grow, it’s important for teams to get out of the scrappy mindset and start to invest in their organizational structure. Structurally sound organizations are the most healthy.”

LSA has done that in the past year, hiring in Development, Operations, and Communications, a leap made possible through the donors and partners who support our mission. We are looking forward to ten more years of listening to Tucsonans, celebrating place, and envisioning safer and more inclusive transportation systems all in the mission to advocate for a thriving Tucson by creating great streets for all of us.



Nancy Siner,
Development Associate

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It takes shared vision, dedication, and collaboration to cultivate a city in which everyone can thrive. Thank you to all of the generous and committed community partners, sponsors, underwriters, businesses, foundations, and individuals who join Living Streets Alliance in working to create vibrant streets in Tucson and beyond!

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