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

Chef Dionicio Jimenez
Business Leader

Mary Riva
Community Leader

Margarita Gonzalez
Community Leader

Daisie Cardona
Youth Leader

Crystal Ortiz
Business Leader

George Acevedo
Resident Leader

Darlene Burton
Board Representative

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

REVENUE

Grants and Donations 95.6%

Interest Income 1.3%

Program Income 0.8%

Rental Income 2.3%

EXPENSES

Programming 91%

Administrative 7.2%

Fundraising 1.8%
Our Stewarded Properties

- Vacant Lots: 12
- Commercial Mixed-Use Buildings: 7
- Total Protected Assets: 19
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.
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.
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT