We are proud of the many accomplishments we achieved in 2019, a time that now, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, feels like a lifetime ago.

In 2019 we made great progress on the revitalization of Brown Park, built the Spark Capital loan fund, and invested in relationships with neighborhood and community leaders. And while we are uncertain what the future holds, we know that our work supporting holistic community development will be even more vital, as we work in partnership to rebuild and revitalize our city.

We are excited to share a glimpse of our year in review, remember fondly the days of gathering together - in person - to learn from one another, and we look forward to building great things in the years to come!
Spark’s mission is to help profoundly transform disinvested neighborhoods into prosperous and thriving communities.
Spark’s Fab Four Accomplishments

1. **BROWN PARK**
   
   This year we collaborated with neighborhood leaders, Heartland Workers Center, Omaha Community Foundation and the City of Omaha Parks Department to prepare the revitalization of this “jewel of South Omaha.”

   Renovations will begin in 2021, and we hope to celebrate soon with a new playground, outdoor shelter area, sidewalk improvements and a brand new adult fitness area. Stay tuned for our progress!

2. **SPARK CAPITAL**

   Spark took the first steps needed to apply for federal status as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). This designation will bring even more financial resources holistic redevelopment work in Omaha.

   In 2019 we set up the structure for our Loan Fund - **Spark Capital** - establishing a loan committee and partnering with a mentor CDFI to support us. In 2020 we will capitalize the fund at $2.5 Million and start lending.

3. **300 X 3**

   Spark’s work is driven by the neighborhoods we work in. To inform our work and ensure that we accurately understand the assets and opportunities, we set the goal of having 300 one-on-one conversations with neighborhood residents, leaders, businesses, schools, nonprofit representatives and government officials.

   Our goal was simple, to listen and learn. At the end of 2019 we met our goal, but work continues as we use this information and lean in to engagement work in 2020 & beyond.

4. **BEST PRACTICES PARTNERSHIP**

   In 2019 Spark spent time building its infrastructure, making sure that we are grounded and guided by the best practices and operating policies and procedures in the industry. To help us, we relied upon the Nonprofit Association of the Midland’s Guidelines and Principles assessment.

   Our board’s commitment to upholding the rigorous standards makes Spark a Best Practices Partner. We continue to work and lead with honesty & integrity.
Our vision is a city where all neighborhoods have the foundational assets necessary to thrive and prosper.
How Spark Works

CATALYZE

Spark launches, leads, and evaluates neighborhood plans and projects.

In 2019 Spark led neighborhood residents of Brown Park through a park revitalization process.

ENGAGE

Spark listens and learns about community goals, builds trust, and enlists expertise.

Our Brown Park Coalition held more than 20 meetings to gather feedback and help design the new park plan.

COLLABORATE

Spark builds and participates in stakeholder coalitions to reach mutually beneficial outcomes.

Our Brown Park Coalition is comprised of neighbors, school officials, police officers, City of Omaha staff, and other nonprofits.
**ADVOCATE**

Spark learns about our community, researches best practices, and shares what we learn.

We helped the Brown Park Coalition to understand how the City’s various Departments work together, and set up a meeting with Public Works to study a few key intersections near the park.

**INVEST**

Spark makes connections to investment and directly invests in projects.

The Brown Park Coalition fundraised for the park improvements together, bringing funders to the park and sharing the story and vision of the neighborhood.
**Balance Sheet**

Year Ended December 31, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$462,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>9,661</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$471,840</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities and Net Assets</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>$ 2,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
<td>19,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,677</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Assets:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Without donor restrictions</td>
<td>425,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With donor restrictions</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>450,163</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Liabilities & Net Assets**  
$471,840

---

**Statement of Activities**

Year Ended December 31, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue and Support</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Donations</td>
<td>$389,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and Other Income</td>
<td>1,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$391,161</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$362,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and Administrative</td>
<td>85,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>26,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$474,648</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you to our generous supporters!

2019 Spark Donors

- Bank of the West Foundation
- First National Bank of Omaha
- Immanuel Vision Foundation
- Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
- Omaha Gives! Individual Donors
  - Peter Kiewit Foundation
  - The Sherwood Foundation
  - Sokolof Foundation
  - Spark Board & Staff
    - US Bank
- William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation

Spark Board of Directors

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- Carmen Tapio, Vice President
  - North End Teleservices
- Kali Baker, Secretary
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- Rishi Bhakar
  - Tenaska
- Andrea Kathol
  - Field Day Development
- Jeff Kutash
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- Sergio Sosa
  - Heartland Workers Center
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  - The Sherwood Foundation