

★ SKATEFEST ★

OMAHA

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



WHO WE ARE

We are a BIPOC led 501(c)(3) nonprofit in Omaha, NE centered on supporting and celebrating Omaha's inner city skateboarding community. We use skateboarding and creativity as a vehicle to provide Omaha with safe, diverse, and inclusive spaces for community to thrive.

Our mission is to push Omaha's inner city skateboarding culture forward.

FROM OUR

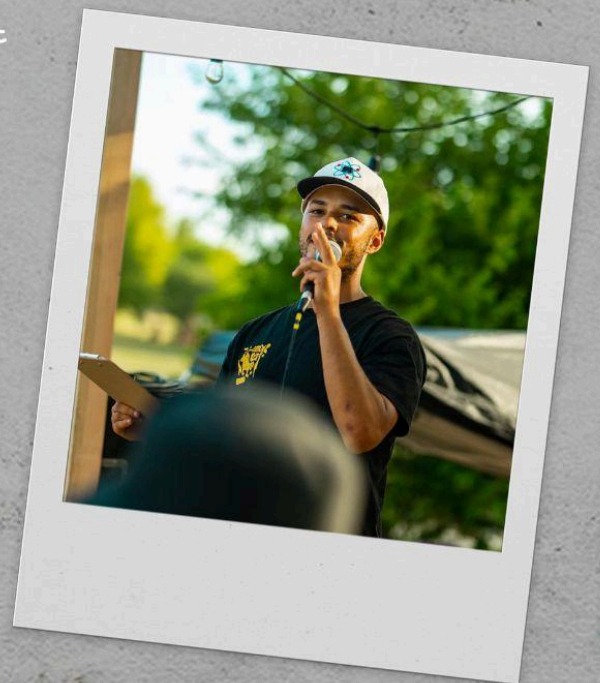
FOUNDER

2023 was the year we experienced the most growth and impact within the community.

Our organization is not only grateful to be able to serve Omaha through outlets that have personally changed our lives but also to do it with each and every one of you. In this document, you will find stories, statistics, photos, and more about what we did in 2023. However, we understand it's difficult to put the true impact and lives changed into numbers, photos, or words.

To all of our program partners, event partners, volunteers, participants, donors, & everyone in between, a huge thank you for participating on this journey with us. We are truly honored to be able to do this work and can't do it without you. We appreciate the hard work, friendships made, community formed, & lives impacted in 2023.

Let's go even harder in 2024!



B. A.

OUR

EVENTS

Hosted multiple times a year at different skateparks in Omaha, our events are an inclusive mix of skateboarding, art, music and community. Our events aim to engage, connect, and uplift the Omaha community through skateboarding and creativity. Through our events, we are dedicated to creating diverse, safe, and welcoming spaces that uplift and encourage connections between skateboarders, artists, youth, and individuals from all backgrounds.



SKATEFEST

SEYMOUR SMITH

To kick off the season, we started out at Seymour Smith on May 7th. There were A LOT of firsts at this event...



- First transition focused contest
 - First girl to take home 1st place in our beginners section
 - First Female musical performance
 - First festival performance for many musicians
 - And... after many requests, our first time hosting an event at Seymour Smith
 - Special S/O to our boy Ethan for pushing us to host.
- This was also the first skateboarding event to happen here in 10+ years.

Competition Sign ups:	Artist + Vendors Served:	Musicians Performed:	Attendance:
70	24	25	450+

SKATEFEST

ROBERTS SKATEPARK

Our second event of the season was July 9th, at Roberts Skatepark. This was our biggest event yet! There was a large number of people from all over the region and beyond who came to check in to participate. Encompassing the energy of this event in a paragraph is very difficult, you had to be there.

We had people in from:

- Nebraska
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Minnesota

...And beyond!



This event was definitely one of our favorite events to date. As always, we appreciate the community's support and thank you to everyone for coming out and participating!

Competition
Sign ups:

79

Artist + Vendors
Served:

34

Musicians
Performed:

22

Attendance:

650+

SKATEFEST

BROADWAY

SKATEPARK

Our last event of the 2023 season! It was great being able to put on a unique event in Council Bluffs and serve a community that typically doesn't get to have events like these. However, This one was unfortunately cut short due to weather conditions. Either way, we were still able to have a great time like always. Shout out to all the skaters who toughed it out through the rain and decided to finish the competition!



Competition
Sign ups:

65

Artist + Vendors
Served:

30

Musicians
Performed:

16

Attendance:

250+

EVENTS TOTALS:

Competition Sign ups:	Artist + Vendors Served:	Musicians Performed:	Attendance:
214	88	57	1350+

FROM THE PEOPLE...

"I just want to give a big shoutout to SkateFest. I am so thankful for you bringing skatefest to Seymour. I got to see so many people, so many OGs, locals, and dudes that just used to shred Seymour all the time. Even guys I looked up to watching as a kid skating and we all got to skate at Seymour.

I'm so thankful and in so much appreciation for what u guys did not just for me, but for the locals, the people of Seymour, all the skaters competing and throwing down at Seymour. I wanna thank Blake for helping me see my dream come true.

THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART I LOVE SKATE FEST, I LOVE THE PEOPLE WHO RUN IT!" - **Local Skateboarder**

"With this year being pretty rough, one thing I had to look forward to was @skatefestomaha events! So grateful to have been a participant at most of them. Thank you for helping me see my abilities are endless. I met lifelong friends, pushed my boundaries creatively & created timeless memories. All with the space skatefest created. I've loved watching this organization grow & prosper while doing amazing work in the community!"

- **Local Artist**

"You guys are giving so many people in the community opportunities! It's dope to see. Very good for the younger audience too, getting them active & creative. Keep on rocking it"

- **Local Musician/Skateboarder**

"Just wanted to share, my wife and I (a couple of boomers who have absolutely no skateboard background) stopped by to check out Skatefest today and were thoroughly impressed! A blast to watch, good food. We'll look forward to your next event."

- **Couple of boomers with absolutely no skateboard experience**

"Thank you, @skatefestomaha, for including me in everything! You all helped me see my potential."

- **Local Artist**

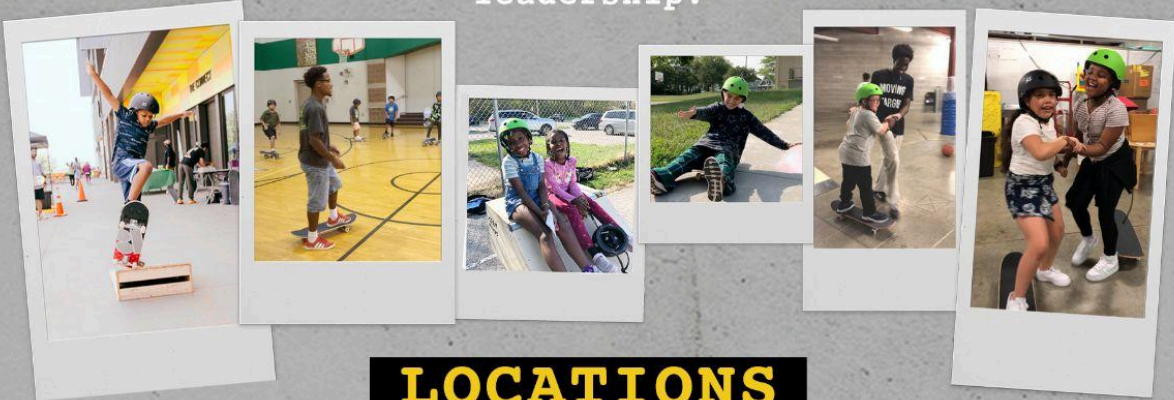
OUR PROGRAMS

Many young individuals may not resonate with traditional academic or sports pursuits, leaving them in need of alternative avenues for personal growth. That's where our programs come in. Through our programs, we aim to empower and support youth from at-risk communities by offering them positive role models and programs dedicated to nurturing leadership, determination, creativity, and self-confidence. Ultimately, guiding young individuals away from negative influences, helping them build a brighter future.



SK8 SKOOL

Sk8 Skool is our 'longer' term program where we introduce skateboarding in a fun, positive, and engaging way. Punch cards with different tricks and progression levels are provided as skills advance. With Sk8 Skool, we focus on developing the hard skills of skateboarding as well as soft skills such as confidence, determination, creativity, and leadership.



LOCATIONS

3 Parks

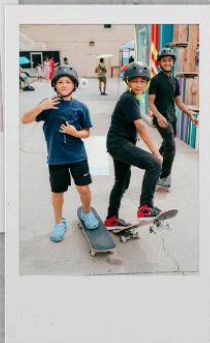
Roberts Skatepark
Upland Park
Caden's Corner

10 OPS Schools

Morton Middle
Nathan Hale Middle
Franklin Elementary
Walnut Hill Elementary
Bancroft Elementary
Jackson Elementary
Central Park Elementary
Hartman Elementary
Kennedy Elementary
Conestoga Elementary

1 Nonprofit

Fabric Lab



Since April 2023, we've roughly served

248 youth

through our Sk8 Skool program.

SK8 KAMP

Sk8 Kamp is a 1-5 day camp where we introduce skateboarding in a fun, creative, and interactive way. Youth get the opportunity to paint and design their very own skateboard, learn the functionality of the skateboard, participate in a workshop centered around skateboard culture, and learn basic skateboard tricks.

This year, we've been able to host our Sk8 Kamp at 3 different locations:

- Angel Guardians
- Highlander
- Burke High Teen Center



In 2023, **33** students got to design and keep their own skateboard through Sk8 Kamp.

DEMOS

Our Demos are 30min showcases intended to ignite excitement and foster a genuine interest in skateboarding culture among youth. Ramps, music, and local skateboarders from the community are brought in to show off their skills, producing an exciting introduction into skateboarding.

In 2023, we did **2** demos serving roughly **500+** students, staff, and parents.



PARTNERED EVENTS



Our partnered events are how we reach out to the community and introduce skateboarding to a larger audience. Whether it's setting up an SF information booth, hosting our fingerboard design workshop, or providing ramps and skateboards for people to try out (Mini Sk8 Skool)—either way, we love engaging with the community and spreading the positivity of skateboarding and creativity.

FINGERBOARDS
DESIGNED:

600+

MINI SK8 SKOOLS
HOSTED:

10

INFO BOOTHS
SET UP:

9

TOTALS FROM PROGRAMS:

Service Numbers:

Sk8 Skool + Sk8 Kamp: **281**
Demos + Mini Sk8 Skools
+ Fingerboard Workshops: **1200+**

TOTAL SERVED: 1481+

368% increase from 2022
(For Sk8 Skool & Sk8 Kamp, other programs were not yet established)

Program Locations:

Sk8 Skool + Sk8 Kamp: **16**
Demos + Mini Sk8 Skools
+ Fingerboard Workshops: **18**

TOTAL LOCATIONS: 34

750% increase from 2022

Program Partners:

OPS Schools: **12**
Other Orgs: **29**

TOTAL PARTNERS: 41

Where Each Program Was Held:

North Omaha: **65%**
Northwest Omaha: **6%**
South Omaha: **20%**
West Omaha: **9%**

WHAT

OTHERS

ARE SAYING:

"It was an amazing experience. I appreciate all you have done for my program. You are doing amazing work and I am glad I have the opportunity to witness it first hand. Much love to you and your team."

- Howard Kennedy Program Director

"Thank you so much for coming out this summer to teach my kiddo. Hes still talking about it and told all his friends at school this last week. You guys are the best!!! Hope to see you again next summer"

- Public Sk8 Skool Mom

"Thank you!!!! What a FUN afternoon! Kids could not stop talking about it and staff were so impressed! Thank you for bringing your team for the fun! Appreciate you and hope you get the opportunity to partner with other schools as well!"

- Rose Hill Elementary Principal

"My son is with DREAM at Kennedy and he is obsessed with SkateFest Omaha programming. Talks about it at home. Said he couldn't wait to go to school tomorrow because they have Skatefest after school. Thank you!"

- Afterschool Sk8 Skool Mom

"The kids absolutely loved skateboarding in the school today and did amazing! Thomas x2 did great and made it so easy for our kids to learn. A top 10 day at Teen Center."

- Teen Center Staff

CADEN'S

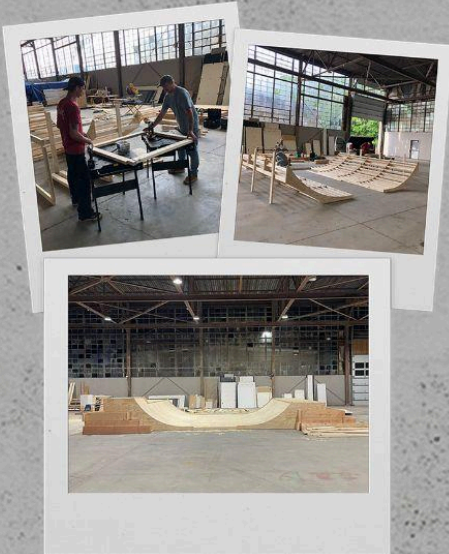


CORNER

Caden's Corner is a resident-led and community-driven pocket park featuring a ramp, garden, mural, and picnic tables. This park was designed and built by the community for free public use.

BACKSTORY:

In the summer of 2023, we had the opportunity to collaborate with local resident group, PlaceMade, in creating a ramp and garden at the intersection of Florence Blvd and Pratt Street, adjacent to King Science Middle School and Kountze Park.



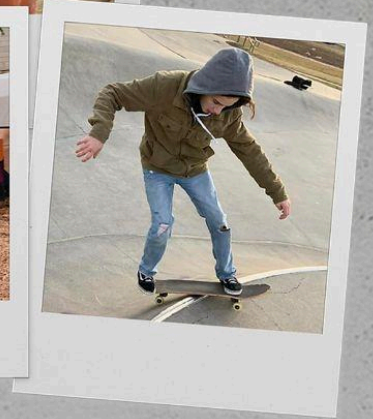
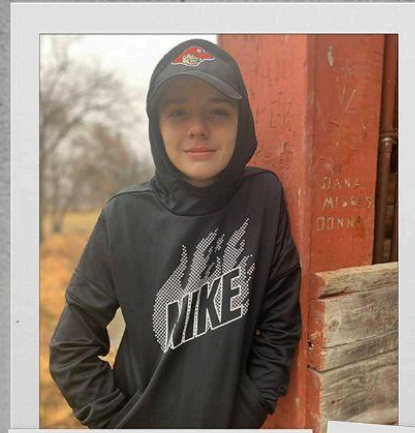
The ramp was designed and constructed by Forgamere, a local design and building company, in conjunction with Wurst Skateboards, a local skateboarding company.

The ramp's mural was brought to life by The Union for Contemporary Art's Action Brigade Youth, with local artist Oria Simonini guiding and overseeing the artistic process.



Furthermore, we sought the expertise of local urban farming groups, Manifest Acres and Healing Roots African Diaspora Garden, to assist in plant selection and lead the charge during our volunteer planting day.

As the ramp neared its completion, a local mother who lost her 14-year-old son in a recent car accident reached out with a desire to both give back to the community and honor her son's memory. The young boy, Caden, had a love for skateboarding. Recognizing Caden's passion, we collectively decided to name the park in his honor, creating a tribute that will carry forward his legacy and love for skateboarding.



Caden's mother also decided to hold a fundraiser to provide skateboards and helmets to the neighborhood youth in Caden's honor. Through fundraising, Caden's mother secured the necessary resources for 40 skateboards and 40 helmets for the neighborhood's youth.

Presently, the ramp is open from dawn to dusk for the community to freely use. We host Sk8 Skool sessions at this location every Saturday morning from 9 to 11 a.m. for neighborhood youth and others wanting to learn how to skateboard. (when the weather permits)

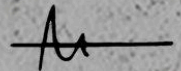
THANKS FOR THE HELP



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THANK YOU!



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