



Impact **REPORT**



2022/2023



Letter From the Executive Director

Every Executive Director dreams of the growth their organization could have, the programs they would like to see, the space they would like to occupy, the staff that will propel them forward, the budget they need to fund it, and the difference they can make to achieve their mission.

In my tenth year at Green Living Science, and fifth year as Executive Director, I am starting to see these dreams come to fruition more and more each day. Our team is solid and yet we are still ready to continue to grow our capacity to meet our community's needs. With your unwavering support we have come a long way and are ready for this transition.

The team is working on the plans to revitalize the Lincoln Street Art Park and our Activi-Tree Shipping Container Classroom come Spring, thanks to generous donor support and a matching grant from Michigan Economic Development Corporation. This space will be filled with pollinator flowers, waste bins, and new seating – we can't wait for you to see it!

Our long-time dreams of a Zero Waste Education Center have begun to take shape thanks to a pre-planning grant from KIP:D. An ideal space has been identified, funding has been applied for, and preliminary design plans are happening now. The realization of this amazing educational space is so close and we couldn't be more excited about the possibilities of what this project will look like.

The Board of Directors also decided to shift the direction of our policy and advocacy work — work that has been happening all along — to be more proactive in sharing these activities. Activities that are helping to propel the sustainability goals of the City of Detroit forward, including supporting a pilot program to transition from an opt-in recycling program to an opt-out recycling program that would encourage more homes to participate in curbside recycling.

This work wouldn't be possible without our supporters — old and new — so thank you for being there for us while we grow. It is making a difference.

Warmly,



Natalie Jakub



OUR VISION

Universal environmental literacy, advocacy, stewardship, and justice.

Green Living Science envisions a Detroit with a robust circular economy and citizens who are mindful about our environment and natural resources.



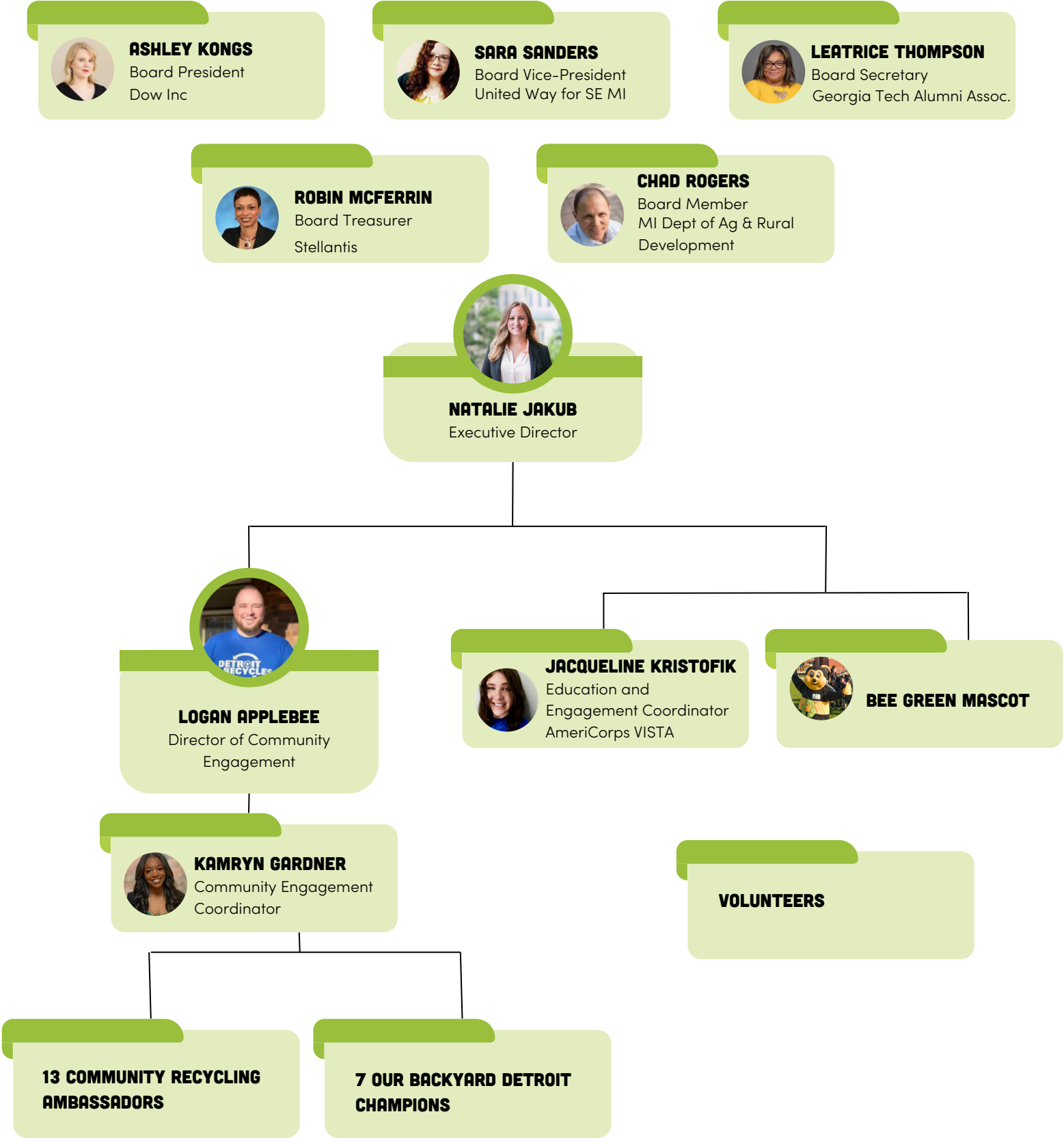
OUR MISSION

To transform Detroit by teaching about waste and recycling.

Green Living Science is dedicated to working alongside Detroiters to increase recycling participation and awareness of environmental issues and personal responsibility through education.

OUR TEAM

GLS can't operate alone, our staff is small but when supported by our amazing board, volunteers, interns, and contractors we are able to accomplish so much more. Thank you to each and every one of our team members who help us accomplish our goals.

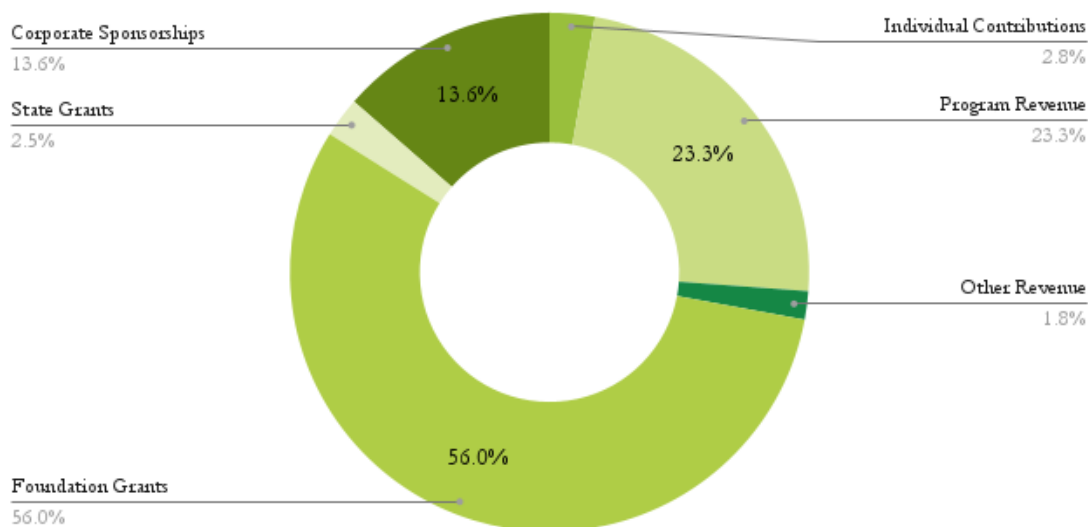


FINANCIAL YEAR IN REVIEW

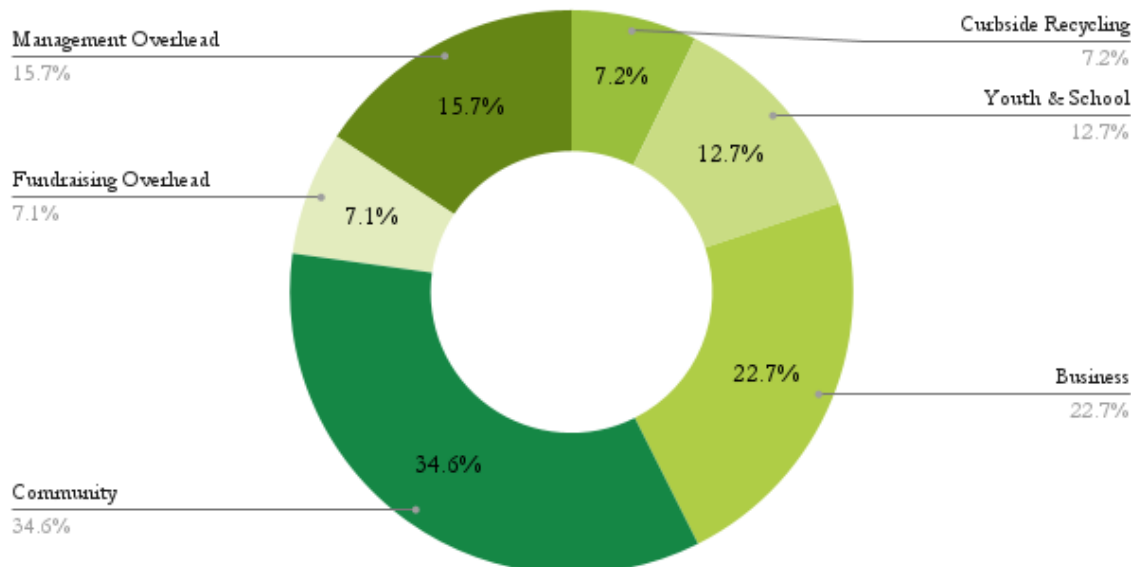
In reflection of our non-profit's fiscal year, we are delighted to report a year of steadfast financial health and impactful stewardship. Through unwavering support of our donors and partners, we exceeded our monetary goals. Our revenue streams were diversified and strengthened, allowing us to expand our reach and deepen our impact in the communities we serve.

Importantly, a significant portion of our funds was directed toward our core mission, enabling us to initiate and sustain projects that align with our organization's values. This year's financial achievements not only position us for continued growth and sustainability but also reaffirm our commitment to transparency and accountability in the pursuit of our mission.

FY 2022/2023 Revenue



FY 2022/2023 Expenses



YOUTH PROGRAMMING

GLS youth programming is the backbone of our work. We love the enthusiasm of the kids we work with and their love of the environment. For the 2022/2023 fiscal year, GLS was able to provide environmental education programming in the following ways:

- 404 Students received in-class lessons
- 6,890 Students attended assemblies
- ~500 Students participated in Earth Day Activities
- 18 Girl Scouts engaged in summer programming
- 20 Detroit area High School Students completed the Student Recycling Ambassador Program

Detroit's youth learned a lot about recycling during Green Living Science's Earth Day event. This student is holding a jar representing microplastics found in our waterways and systems.



CURBSIDE RECYCLING

The initial goal of Green Living Science, and a continued primary focus of our work, is signing up residential homes in Detroit for curbside recycling carts. To do this we hold workshops, attend community events, do door-to-door canvassing, and utilize Recycling Ambassadors. For the 2022/2023 Fiscal Year, GLS was able to:



2,183 Curbside recycling carts distributed



461 Households signed up for recycling carts by Recycling Ambassadors



121 Community events attended



13 Recycling Ambassadors working to educate the community about curbside recycling



Citywide curbside recycling participation rate at an all time high of 39.74%

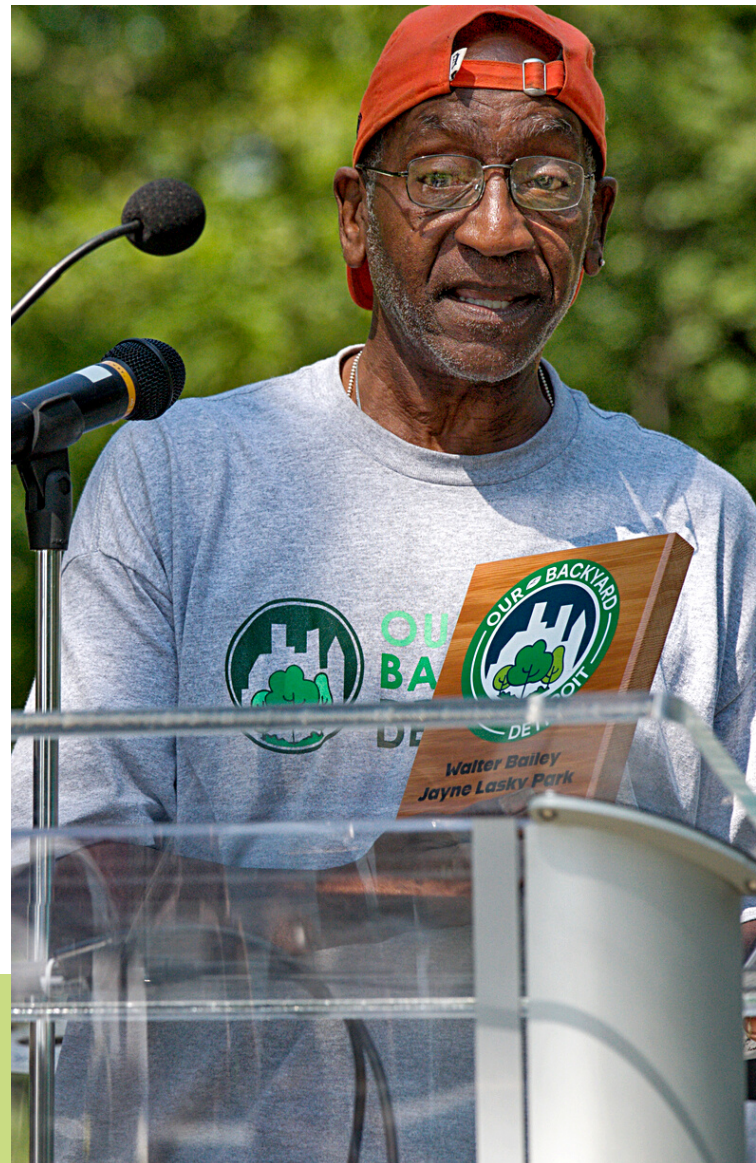
Green Living Science distributed approximately 40% of all curbside recycling carts in the City of Detroit this year.

OUR BACKYARD DETROIT

New to GLS in the is the Our Backyard Detroit program. Thanks to funding from the Gilbert Family Foundation, GLS was able to take environmental education and awareness to local parks. This data is for the program year of 2023 and not aligned with our fiscal calendar.

- Identified and engaged 8 parks for programming
- Hired and Trained 8 park Champions
- Hosted 23 events across the parks including a block party for all parks
- Engaged over 1,400 residents at park events
- Cleaned up over 350lbs of waste from the local parks

Residents of Detroit show up as ambassadors, stewards, artists, volunteers, and leaders to partake in the betterment and beautification of their neighborhoods.



BUSINESS

With the City of Detroit's commercial recycling program, non-residential properties can increase their waste diversion practices by opting into the low-cost program and by taking advantage of the free educational services provided by Green Living Science. This program helps to increase access to recycling and provides education to reduce contamination and greenhouse gas emissions generated. In the 2022/2023 fiscal year this program was able to:



- Worked with Ally Financial for over 30 hours of Bee Green Business consulting to reduce their waste
- 91 of commercial businesses engaged in educational resources regarding recycling and increasing their sustainability
- 4 multi-family apartment complexes signed up for the new recycling program
- 11 commercial businesses signed up for recycling contracts
- 195 people were given education on commercial recycling for their organizations

GLS is working with graduate students on a way to track and calculate the amount of waste diverted and carbon offset through the work with our business programming.

WASTE AUDIT

This year the GLS team undertook a waste audit for the City of Detroit to determine the contamination levels of the recyclable materials collected across the city. This audit took the GLS team and volunteers a full day to sort, weigh, and collect data to determine the types of educational materials residents need.

- 2,362.67 lbs of residential recycled materials were sorted for the audit
- Items were sorted into 39 categories
- Over 45 Volunteer Hours were needed to complete the audit
- 25% of material audited was cardboard - an easy to recycle material

GLS team and volunteers spent a day sorting, measuring and collecting data on what households in Detroit are recycling.



OUR PARTNERS

GLS is grateful for our 2022-2023 partners. Their financial support, both new and recurring, helps GLS operate, supports our youth programming, and allows us to focus on the work of transforming Detroit. For us these are more than just a financial sponsorship – they are true corporate partners who align with our values.



Mercedes-Benz
Financial Services



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Coriander Kitchen and Farm
Michigan & Trumbull Pizza
Save Detroit Jobs
Impact Detroit

