

DEEP SPACE MIND
215 CO-OP

Annual Report

2025



Deep Space Mind 215 Co-op has made significant progress this year in strengthening its infrastructure for sustainability and self-determination to support neighborhood-led mental health, training, and community engagement.



a word from our founders



To Our Community,

2025 has been a year of maturation for DSM.215. As we have moved from piloting our model of neighborhood wellness and spatial justice to planning for long-term sustainability, it has been a year of reality, perseverance, and determined strategy towards a future we are intent on enacting. Funders, fiscal sponsors, and organizations all around us have contended with delays, legal and fiscal issues, and changes in priorities. Thankfully we are still here, and with the guidance, love and practical support of our community we can be proud of what was built through the haze of political, economic, and environmental challenges that our city and country has faced.

We have built lasting relationships based on trust and practicality. We have written love letters to our community. We have learned from the trees, the hummingbirds, and the grasshoppers who graced us. And we have emerged with clarity and strength.

We join with our neighbors to call for action and transparency from those who steward community funds serving Black neighborhoods, and to help build infrastructure and support for fiscally sponsored projects like ours towards achieving self determination, autonomy and independence in a rapidly changing landscape. The structures we need to continue existing as a thriving, functioning community are being built now, and we intend to see it through, and to document and amplify this work.



about deep space mind 215

Deep Space Mind 215 Co-op is a Philadelphia-based mental health and wellness initiative that seeks to invest in community-grown practices, systems, initiatives that improve and enhance the wellness of our city.

our approach

Deep Space Mind 215 [DSM.215] is a self-determined community-driven site of diverse practices and initiatives informed by mutual exchange between members of DSM.215, neighbors, and people living with madness, neurodivergence, and disabilities in Philadelphia.

- We deploy community grown, recovery oriented practices in neighborhoods like afrofuturist, restorative, peer support, and harm reduction interventions
- We train those with lived experience, including organizers, land stewards, care professionals, youth and more in these practices, and co-create them with the communities we partner with
- We vision stewarding a thriving community of practitioners who can access an equitable mental health platform promoting economic and disability justice for people with lived experience.





In 2025, DSM.215 built a 3-5 year strategic plan with Roadmaps Consulting that identifies 4 of DSM215's top goals and priority actions:

Building a thriving and impactful community of practitioners

- DSM.215 is a thriving community of practitioners who can access an equitable mental health platform that promotes economic and disability justice for people with lived experience.

Building a sustainable business structure

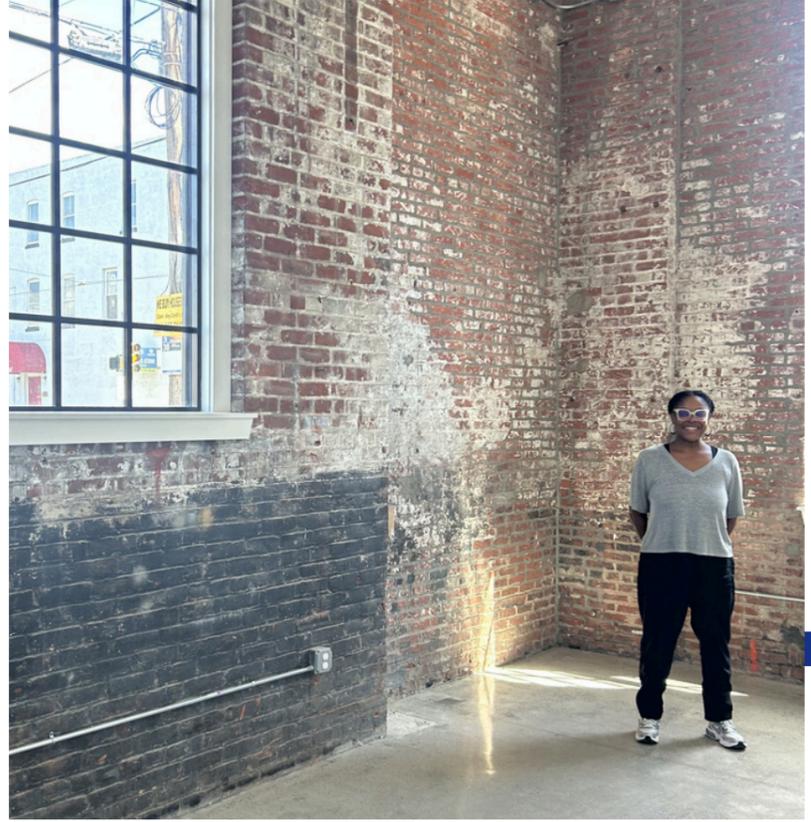
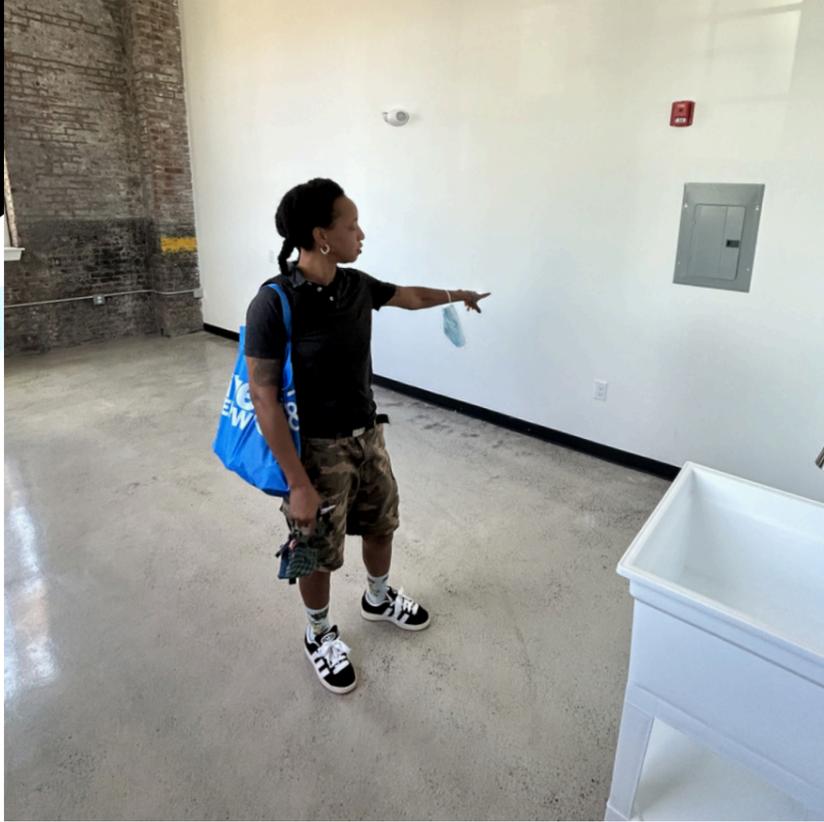
- DSM.215 launches a practice consisting of a consistent, diversified income stream, including sliding scale services and a steady flow of clients and contracts.

Building a thriving Community Arts and Narrative Change Practice

- DSM.215 strengthens Philadelphia's Black community through maintaining, expanding, documenting, and promoting arts and narrative change as collective care and resilience practices.

Securing land and space for our present and future

- DSM.215 owns and offers mental health care and programming on land inside of and outside of the city.



Additional steps toward sustainability include:

Transitioned to a new fiscal sponsor at the Praxis Project

- In this transition we focused our efforts to assure financial transparency with funders by conducting a full audit and recovered funds for the former fiscal sponsor Federation of Neighborhood Centers.
- Founded DSM.215 as a Model L organization

Built a fundraising Campaign for DSM.215's head quarters- Space is the Place

- Hosted our first fundraiser at Pentridge Station in August which brought out community members and collaborators citywide for karaoke, food, and games!
- Launched an online store front for DSM.215 swag- (website needs to be relaunched)
- Signed a two year lease for DSM.215's HQ
- Our new space will be used for office space, workshops/circles, and therapy.

Attended the Non Profit Leadership Circle

- Hosted by the Barra Foundation, which gathers leaders across areas that are doing community focused work in the nonprofit sector.

Built a organizational wide WRAP Plan and anti-burnout plan

- As an organization that is responsive to community crises, we practiced an internal process for crisis prevention. This information will be added to our external facing organizational handbook, currently being written.

— from our neighbors

Deep Space Mind 215 has set a standard for what robust, curated, and aligned partnerships should look and feel like for our organization. Through youth-facing workshops on mad mapping and afrofuturism, staff trainings and case consultations on navigating the child welfare system, Deep Space Mind 215 has equipped us with the base knowledge needed to ensure our program participants are informed about the systems around them and empowered to shift and reconstruct how they engage with them.



**Our Partners at
Collective Climb**

expanding our foundation for community training

Partnered with multiple restorative and transformative justice organizations for intergenerational thought partnership, collaboration on trainings and events, and skill-building in the community:



- *Restorative Justice certification program with Community College of Philadelphia* – Prepared to host an intern from CCP’s inaugural RJ certification program cohort
- *Collective Climb* – Initiated a contract for case consultation and professional development for Collective Climb staff around navigating institutionalization and increasing resource connectedness to better support their juvenile diversion and community youth RJ training programs.
- *Tiny WPA* – Supported the connection and facilitation of a community build at Pentridge Children’s Garden – 21 hours of green space community training for multi-generational group of neighbors and land stewards, ages ranging from 6 year-olds to local elders
- *NACRP Community Driven Planning Curriculum* – Rashni served as a consultant with members of The National Association of Climate Resilience Planners to support the development of a Community Driven Planning curriculum, to be accessed by communities nationally
- *Social Work Internships* – DSM215 served as a social work internship site for Bryn Mawr College School of Social Work and Social Research, hosted organizer Riz Carthins for the ‘25 Spring Semester

staff training and professional development

- Established line item to provide clinical social work supervision to DSM215 staff.
- Rashni completed Certified Peer Specialist supervision training with Mental Health Partnerships and received CPS Pennsylvania state board certification in preparation to launch peer support services
- Secured social work supervision in preparation to offer therapy services to community partners and neighbors
- Rashni trained as a Philly Tree Tender with the Philadelphia Horticultural Society

Launching Co-operative Model

Partnered with various entrepreneurial organizational resources to build permanent co-op infrastructure.

- Bunni launched services as the first member of the co-op and accepted clients.
- Rashni launched contracts with organizations such as Collective Climb and The City of Philadelphia's Climate Resilience Partnership, initiating new organizational income streams
- Blueprint realty specifically works with city developers to include nonprofit organizations and grass roots organizations in realty planning. They assisted us in finding a commercial space and negotiating a lease for our new headquarters.
- PACA (second half of tech support) we focused on building out scaffolding for establishing cooperative membership, internal decision making procedures, and roles for current members. Next steps include the formation of DSM.215's first autonomous board.

Future Vision and Focus

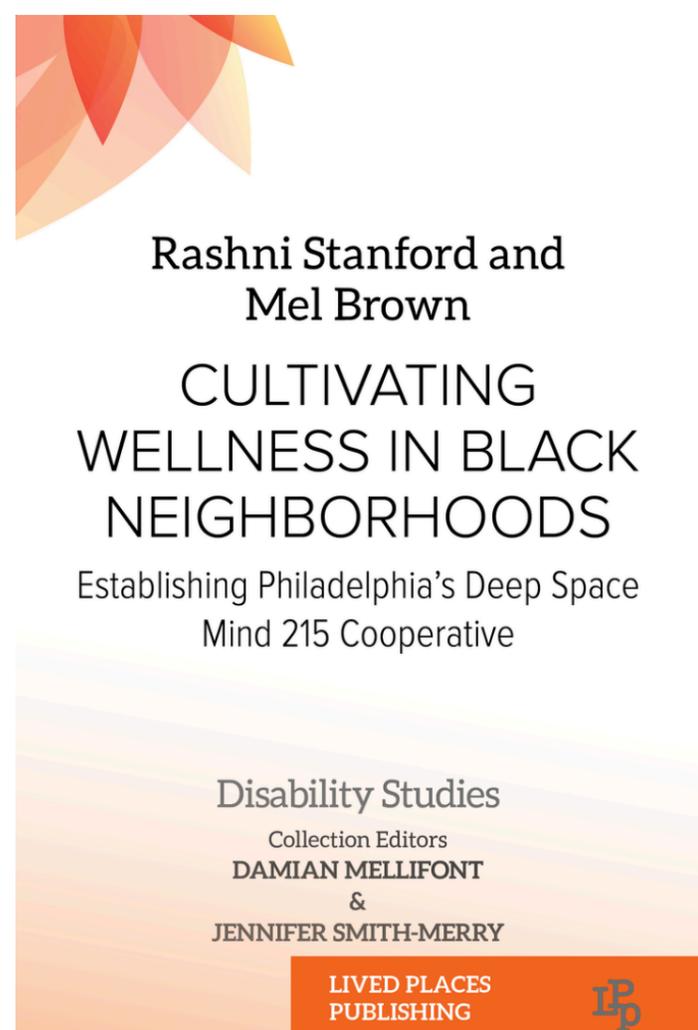
- Climate Resilience Planning
 - Neighborhood skill ups/survival skills
 - Community visioning and planning
 - 40th and Wallace
- Ancestree and Collective Climb
- Black & Brown affinity space for a small community of herbalists, artists, and care workers
- Focused on grief/herbs/whimsical/experimental
- Offering herbs and flowers to community
- New contracts and partners



Narrative Change Through an Art Practice Lens

Cultivating Wellness in Black Neighborhoods published by Lived Places Publishing is in print and available online for sale.

- Will be distributed to social work, Black studies, disability studies and public health academic programs.
- DSM.215's commitment to expanding and challenging narratives about Black Madness includes a cross-disciplinary practice with Afrofuturisms, speculation, and dreaming at the crux of community organizing work.
- Bunni performed in a short film by A.M.Frison who is a filmmaker, writer, and PhD candidate at Temple Film department entitled, Thread of Technology: three.
- Rashni and land stewards in collaboration with Word for Worlds produced an animation short that will be utilized for green space advocacy
- Bunni performed in, Viewing Hours, by choreographer/performer Mayfield Brooks. Viewing Hours is a performance about grief and reflection on the work that it takes to dismantle the effects of anti-black violence. This performance was featured at the Death and Arts Festival (Death & Arts Festival).
- Rashni facilitated community workshop 'Giving up the Ghost' exploring ancestry and dissociative experiences as part of the DIY afrofuturist gathering Future Smoke at The Rotunda





Community Engagement and Inclusion in Green Spaces

Established partnerships with movement builders in restorative practice, disability justice, youth-leadership, green space initiatives, land justice, and other movements relevant to authentic community-led mental health.

- BLACK DISABLED LEADERSHIP: ESSENTIAL YET OVERLOOKED *moderated by Patrick Cokley (more on him) and panelist Britney Wilson (link)*. -- National Panel Discussion with leaders from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation at the disability & philanthropy forum-
- Climate Resilience Partnership– Deep Space Mind 215 serving as West Philly’s Climate Resilience Ambassador, Rashni will facilitate feedback from neighbors and community partners that will inform the City of Philadelphia’s emerging Climate Resilience Plan. Includes training, community building, and collective curriculum development with 16 other community organizations throughout Philadelphia
- Next Cities Conference hosted by Vanguard – Presented our model of community inclusion and green space preservation alongside other Philly changemakers to national conference on urban innovation
- Ancestree project and Collective Climb – Initiated Collaboration with new initiative, The Ancestree Project, along with Collective Climb, working towards engaging West PHilly middle schoolers in learning ancestral knowledge around green spaces and tree planting, to be completed Fall of 2026.
- Supported community builds of new beds with Tiny WPA at Pentridge Children’s Garden

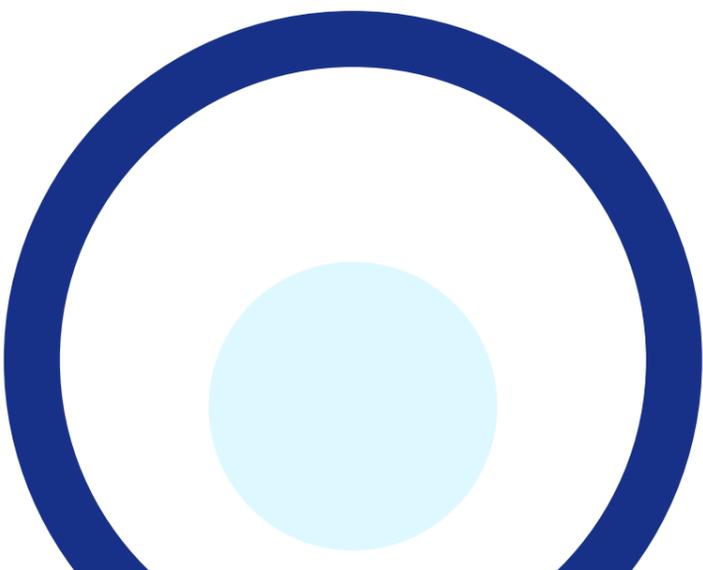
COMMUNITY IN ACTION



GROUNDWORK

Join Heinz Wildlife Center
Collective Climb
Non-profit Leadership Community
Lived Places Publishing
National Association of Climate
Resilience Planners
Vanguard Next City
Word for Worlds
Mental Health Partnership Philadelphia

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
PhillyCam
Eddie's House
Rent Control Coalition
Non-Profit Leadership Circle
Creative Praxis
Hinge Collective
Office of Sustainability
Metropolitan Christian Council
of Philadelphia



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