

DEEP SPACE MIND 215 PROJECTS

2024

Annual Report



Deep Space Mind 215 Projects has made significant progress this year in strengthening its infrastructure and expanding its network to support neighborhood-led mental health, training, and community engagement.

table of contents

01 a word from the founders
about deep space mind 215

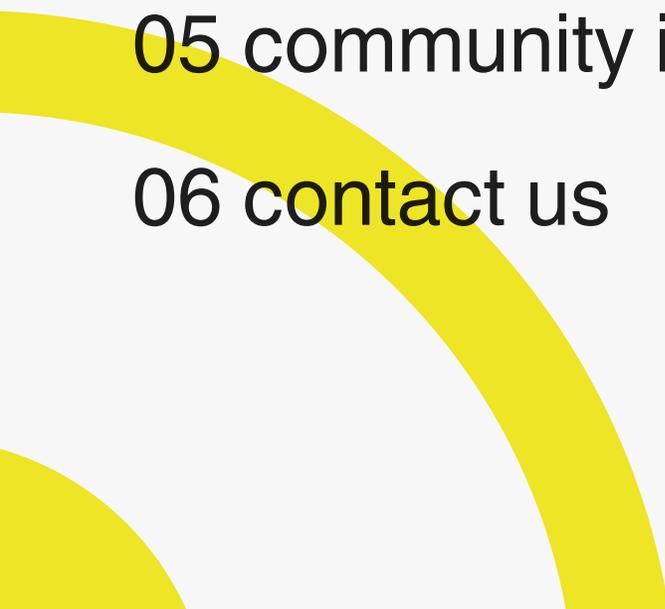
02 community activation
community education

03 strengthening network
narrative change

04 staff investment
building sustainability

05 community in action

06 contact us



01

a word from the founders



To Our Community,

We remain vigilant and steadfast in the community and continue to expand our work as both organization and practitioners.

This past year was one that came and went like a whirlwind, as the dust settles we can see how efforts made to build with neighbors have paid off. Our afrofuturist art project blossomed into the makings of a sustainable site for movement building around authentic collective mental health in Philadelphia neighborhoods.

The time is now to take up space and continue practicing what we've learned in our collective 20+ years of on the ground organizing work, theory building, and community driven education. Our lived experience continues to be informed by our collaborators, peers, and community member's resilience.

We look forward to this next year of resistance to the invasive violent political machine that continually divides communities locally in Philadelphia and globally.

We thank all of you for your shared wisdoms and we look forward to building better and bigger with you in the future!

about deep space mind 215

Deep Space Mind 215 Projects 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.

Technical Assistance Completed

- **Pentridge Children's Garden:** reactivated the historic Black community garden in West Philadelphia post-COVID-19. Established programming and pathway to independence.
- **Philly Homes 4 Youth Coalition:** revitalize a youth-led movement against youth homelessness. Increased youth leadership and inclusion in coalition operations.

Partnerships in restorative practices, disability justice, youth leadership, green space, and land justice movements:

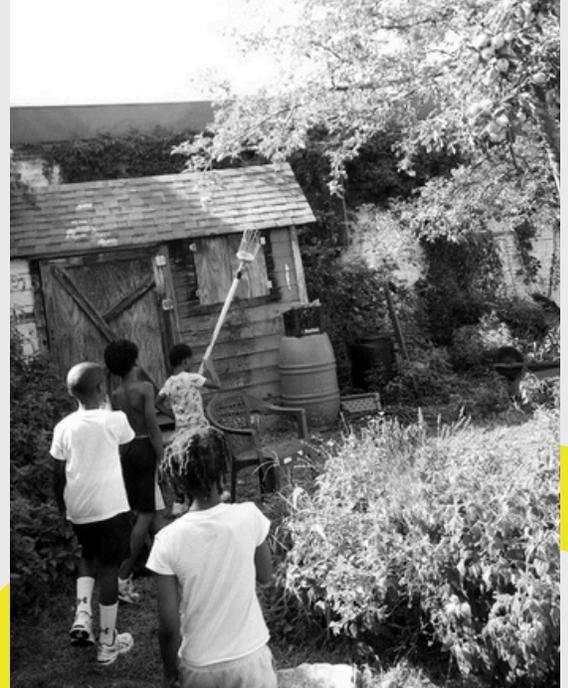
- Feedback circle with North Eastern Black agriculturists at the Black Urban Growers Conference.
- Funded facilitator stipend for National Council of Elders sessions and supported community members' travel.

community education**Facilitating community psychoeducation and neighborhood leadership:**

- Launched **Restorative Neighborhood Mental Health Training** for local neighbors with lived experience.
- Facilitated **Land and Wellness Summer Series** and skill-share at Pentridge Children's Garden.

Engaged community partners in restorative and transformative justice trainings , and skill-building in the community:

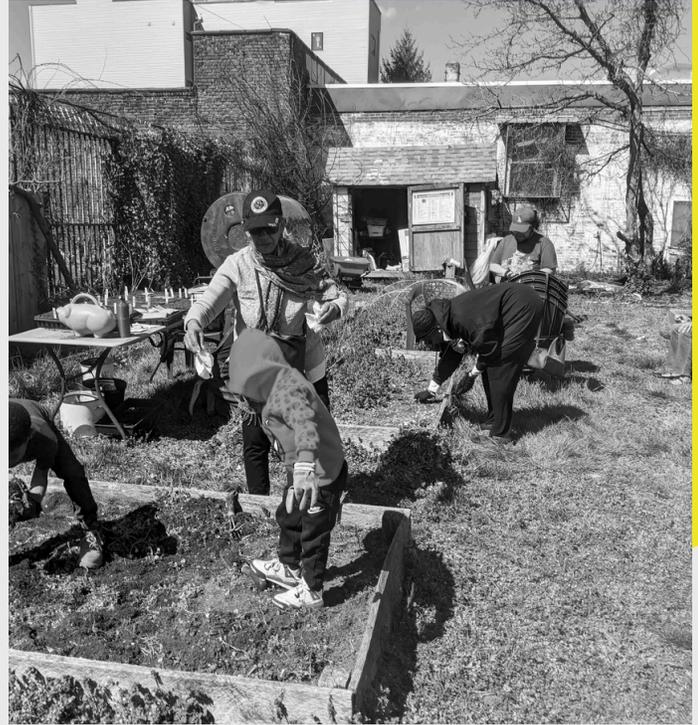
- Restorative Cities Initiative
- Dynamic Justice Collective
- Collective Climb
- Youth Art and Self-empowerment Project [YASP]
- National Council of Elders
- John Heinz Wildlife Center
- *and many, many more*



03

strengthening network

- Joining mission-aligned organizations at ***Disability Justice Conference*** in Chicago.
- Member of the ***Nonprofit Leadership Community*** via the Barra Foundation.
- The ***Black Disability Convening*** hosted by the Borealis Foundation.
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's ***Disability and Philanthropy Forum***, consulted foundations on funding needs in disability justice.



narrative change

- Completed the manuscript ***Cultivating Wellness in Black Neighborhoods*** with Lived Places Publishing for distribution to social work, Black studies, disability studies, and public health programs.
- Developed a ***mental health model and curriculum*** to enhance collective wellness in Black communities outside institutions.
- Created a ***community-driven archival*** process.
- ***Co-authored research with Temple University*** on the young adult peer support workforce.
- Invited to include the model in ***SAMHSA's SPARK program***.
- Presented model at ***Taking Action for Wellbeing Conference***.

staff investment

- **Community-driven learning and evaluation** training with the National Association of Climate Resilience Planners.
- UPENN's PEACE Project intensive training in **Prolonged Exposure Therapy for gun violence**.
- Technical assistance in **board development and organizational management** with Roadmaps.
- **Clinical social work supervision** provided for DSM215 staff.
- CEUs completed to **maintain social work licensure**.
- Hired a **Communications Specialist and first social work** intern from Bryn Mawr College.



building sustainability

- Partnered with entrepreneurial organizations to **build permanent infrastructure**.
- Offered consulting services on **neighborhood-led mental health, training, and community engagement**.
- Technical support from the Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance, Nonprofit Leadership Community, and **Borealis funding**.
- **Secured multi-year funding from Barra Foundation**, Borealis Black Disability Inclusion Fund, and partnerships with land justice organizations like the National Association of Climate Resilience Planners.



contact us

06

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