

# Spruce Hill Community Association Annual Meeting

Resurrection Church  
November 14, 2023



# About SHCA

- Spruce Hill is bounded by Market Street, Woodland Avenue, South 38th Street, and South 46th Street.
- SHCA is a volunteer organization of neighbors committed to strengthening the Spruce Hill community and to enhancing the quality of neighborhood life for all residents.
- Membership open to all –visit us online at [sprucehillca.org](http://sprucehillca.org)



# 2023 Officers & Directors

- SHCA is governed by a 5-member Executive Board and a 20-member Board of Directors (electoral slate will be introduced later in meeting)

Officers	Directors			
<b>President</b> – Eric Santoro	Veronica Alvarez	Rebecca Geller-Puchalsky	Vicki Lewis McGarvey	Craig Santoro
<b>Executive VP</b> – Sylvia Hamerman-Brown	Alexa Bosse	Barry Grossbach	Leslie Medley	Jenine Sanzari
<b>VP for Operations</b> – Christopher Bole	Julie Bush	Richard Guffanti	Terry Mond	Sugirtha Stathis
<b>Secretary</b> – Monica Calkins	Ignacio Bunster	Evan Johnstone	Andrew Richman	Anne Thomforde
<b>Treasurer</b> – Richard Moore	Frank Chance	Laura Line	Libby Rosof	Anthony West



# Committees

- SHCA committees focus on specific activities and needs in the community. In 2021 SHCA consolidated and refocused its committee structure.

Zoning	Education	Safe Streets/Commercial Corridors
Spruce Up	May Fair	Community Engagement
	Historical Preservation	

# Featured Event

## Spruce Hill Historic District Application Update

Constant Springs  
Moderated by Jenine Sanzari,  
SHCA Board  
Historic Preservation Chair





# SHCA Supports

## Education

- Penn Alexander School, e.g.,
  - ▶ 5K Run for Arts and Sciences
  - ▶ Annual Musical
  - ▶ Ads for Grads
- Parent-Infant Center
- University City Arts League
- St. Mary's Nursery School

## Arts and Engagement

- May Fair
- Shakespeare in Clark Park
- Curio Theater
- UCD
- Local businesses

## Community Spaces

- PAS Outdoor Playspace
- Greening Lea
- Spruce Hill Bird Sanctuary
- Friends of Clark Park
- University City Garden Club
- 40th Street Trolley Portal

## Youth Activities

- Halloween Tot Parade and Party
- Clark Park Youth Soccer
- PAYSA Youth Baseball
- The Girl Scouts

# The Return of May Fair!!!



**MAY FAIR**  
**2023**

**Saturday, May 13, 2023**  
Noon to 6 p.m.  
Clark Park, 43rd & Chester

12:00pm  
1:30pm  
3:30pm  
4:00pm  
5:45pm





# 2023 Halloween Parade & Party



**Thank you to the Little Osage Neighbors for their work!**

# University City Historical Society House Tour



1



3



5



7



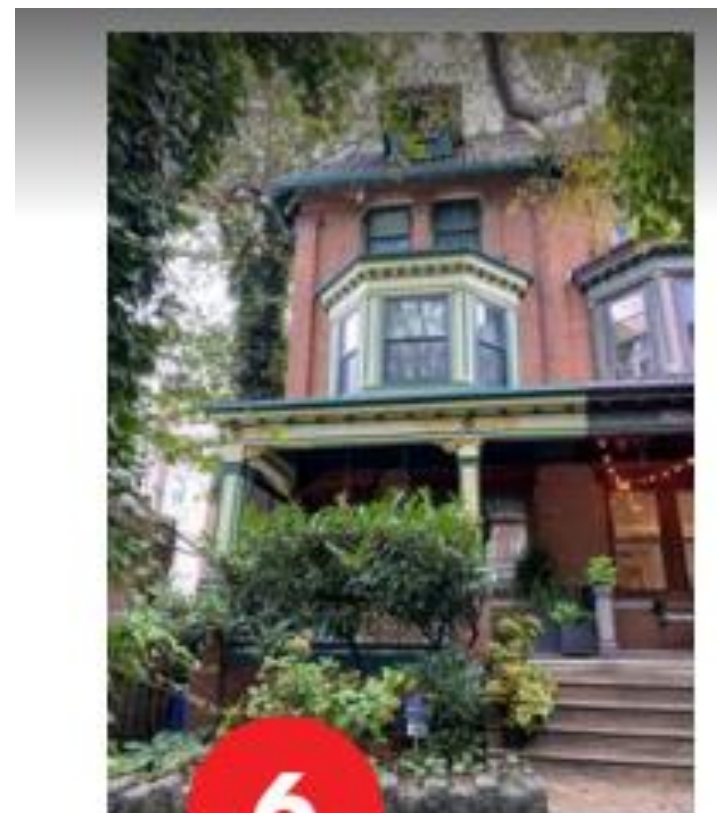
9



2



4



6



8



10

# A Community Meeting Space

Today < > January 2024

Month

SUN 31	MON Jan 1	TUE 2	WED 3	THU 4	FRI 5	SAT 6
● 5:30pm Q&TAA	● 4pm Film & Arts Club //	● 5:30pm Girl Scout meel ● 7:30pm SHCA Board	● 5pm Craft Club	● 7pm Q&T AA	● 6pm Scouts	● 9am Steppers AA
7 ● 5:30pm Q&TAA	8 ● 4pm Film & Arts Club //	9 ● 3pm Phila Dramatists ● 5:30pm Girl Scout meel ● 7:30pm SHCA Board	10 ● 5pm Craft Club	11 ● 7pm Q&T AA	12 ● 6pm Scouts	13 ● 9am Steppers AA
14 ● 5:30pm Q&TAA	15 ● 4pm Film & Arts Club //	16 ● 5:30pm Girl Scout meel ● 7:30pm SHCA Board	17 ● 5pm Craft Club	18 ● 7pm Q&T AA	19 ● 6pm Scouts	20 ● 9am Steppers AA
21 ● 5:30pm Q&TAA	22 ● 4pm Film & Arts Club //	23 ● 5:30pm Girl Scout meel ● 7:30pm SHCA Board	24 ● 5pm Craft Club	25 ● 7pm Q&T AA	26 ● 6pm Scouts	27 ● 9am Steppers AA
28 ● 5:30pm Q&TAA	29 ● 4pm Film & Arts Club //	30 ● 5:30pm Girl Scout meel ● 7:30pm SHCA Board	31 ● 5pm Craft Club	Feb 1 ● 7pm Q&T AA	2 ● 6pm Scouts	3 ● 9am Steppers AA

- 9 meetings / week
- 37 meetings / month
- Booked at least once each day of the week.
- Booked to diverse mix of organizations
- Best availability for daytime use for interested groups



# Education Committee

# Education Committee

- Attended School Advisory Council meetings at Penn Alexander
- Kept communication moving between PAS, Spruce Hill neighbors, Lea Elementary, and occasionally Paul Robeson High School.
- Sponsored events: Lea Scholastic Book Fair, PAS school play, PAS 5K
- Worked on street safety around Lea Elementary and PAS

# School & Street Safety

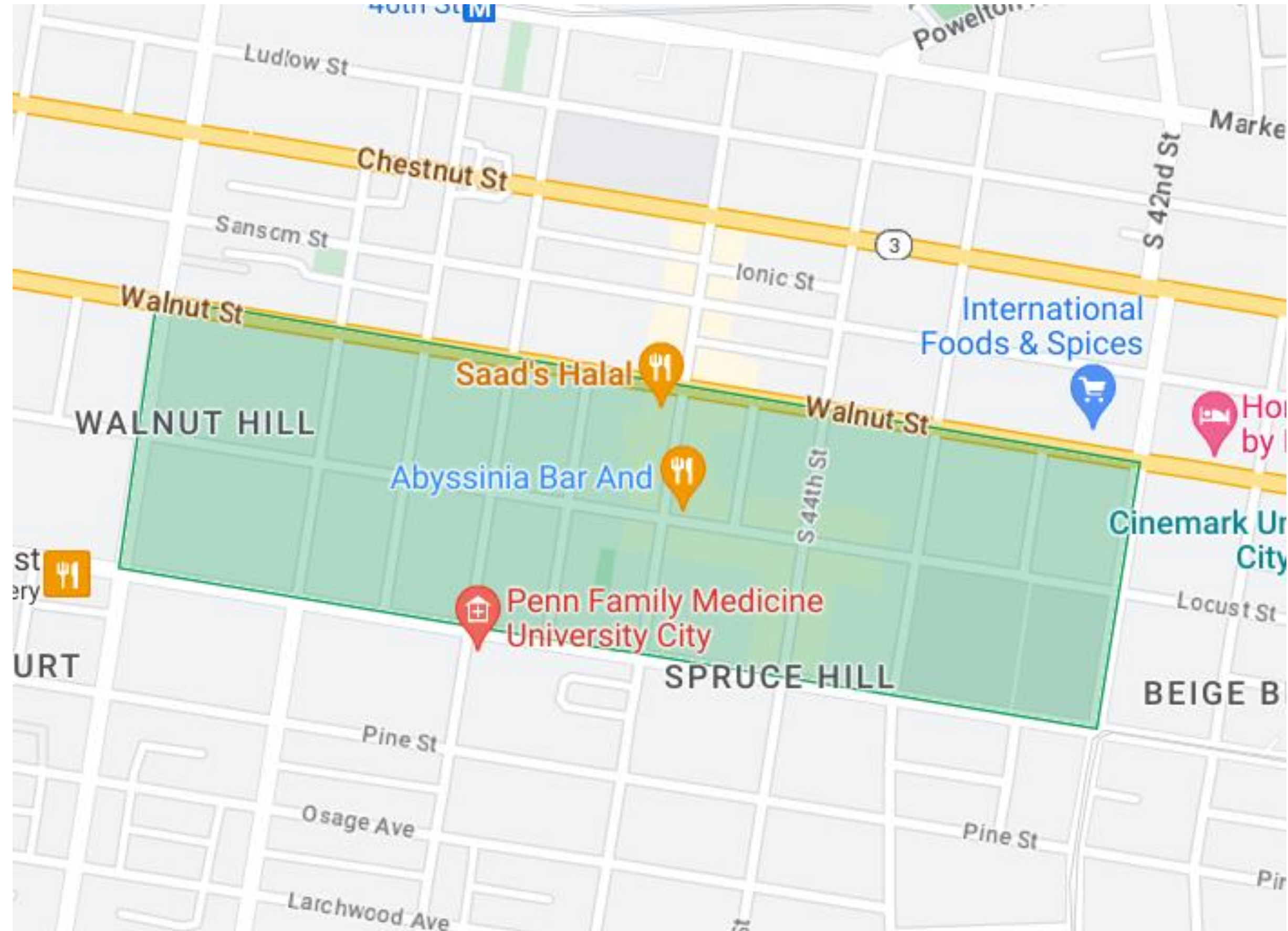
Neighborhood Slow Zone application  
Submitted January of 2023 for an area  
Surrounding both schools.

We were not selected,  
but we had  
great community  
support.



# School & Street Safety

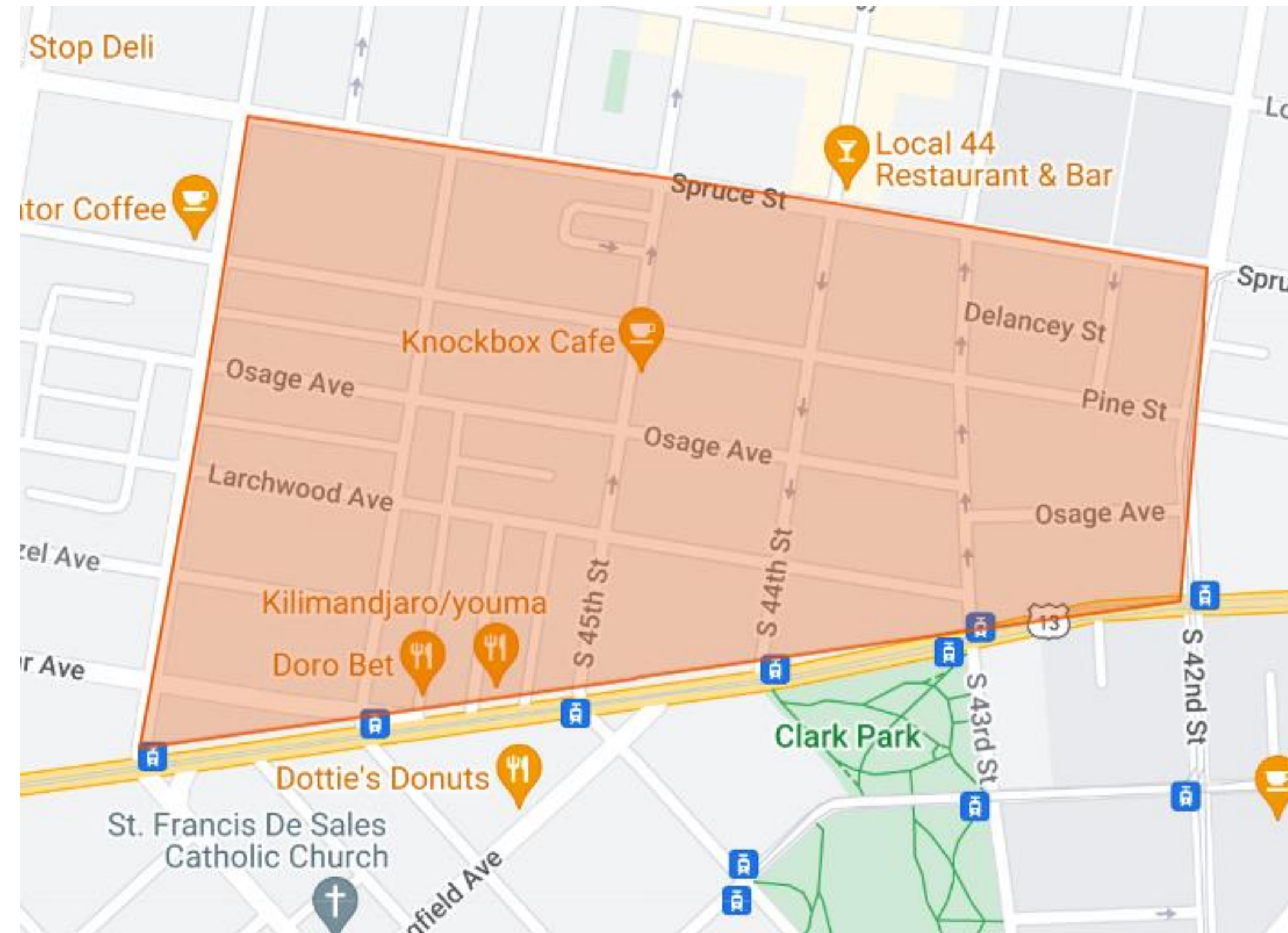
Neighborhood Slow Zone support from SHCA, Walnut Hill CA, Lea HSA and SAC, PAS HSA and SAC, City Council, and 160 signatures.



# School & Street Safety

\*\* an additional application was submitted\*\*

Neighborhood Slow Zone  
support from SHCA, Garden Court  
CA, PAS HSA and SAC, City Council,  
Friends of Clark Park and 334  
signatures





# Education Committee: Beyond the Application

- Noticed neighborhood support and momentum
- **Councilmember Anthony Phillips passed a bill to streamline** speedbump installation, so Lea now has speed bumps and Penn Alexander will have them by the spring of 2024.
- Parents of PAS, UCD **Director or Planning and Design**, Nate Hommell, and **Complete Streets DM**, Adam Smith, are working on improvements around the Penn Alexander perimeter. Safer crossings at the 43/Spruce intersection will be the first location of improvements

# Spruce Up Committee



# Spruce Up Committee

(formerly Neighborhood Beautification Committee)

Bird Sanctuary

Block improvement grants

Trash Committee (seeking a lead)

## ***Contacts:***

**Laura Line: [lmline523@gmail.com](mailto:lmline523@gmail.com)**

**Karen Redrobe: [beckmank1@gmail.com](mailto:beckmank1@gmail.com)**



# Spruce Hill Block Improvement Grants

*Application kit is on the Spruce Hill Community Association website:*

- [www.sprucehillca.org](http://www.sprucehillca.org)
- Join with a group from your block. *It does not have to be the whole block!*
- Define your project
- Get support from Spruce Up Committee to define the project &/or complete the application.
- Submit the application
- Block grants start at \$1,000 per block.

# Safe Streets and Commercial Corridors

# Safe Streets & Commercial Corridors

- **Mission:** to promote safety, quality of life, and personal dignity for all residents of the Spruce Hill neighborhood by
  - strengthening relationships with local law enforcement, University City District Safety Ambassadors, the Universities, and local Town Watch organizations;
  - supporting and promoting a business environment that enhances the vibrancy of the neighborhood commercial corridors; and
  - being a sounding board for community member with respect to any of these issue.

# Retail Survey Results

## 2023 Overview

84% of respondents think neighborhood would benefit from more retail, 83% say proximity to retail is positive	Most requested retail categories: 1. Groceries 2. Restaurants 3. Community Spaces	Residents most averse to: 1. Chains 2. Smoke/Vape 3. Fast food/bars
Favorite corridors: 1. 44th St. 2. Baltimore Ave. 3. 45th St. Spruce-Walnut St.	Corridors needing improvement: 1. Baltimore 2. Chestnut 3. Woodland	Spruce Hill as a Regional Destination? No: 51% Yes: 49%

## Comparison with 2013 Survey

<u>Most-requested retail categories:</u> Clothing Garden center Art supplies	<u>Most-requested restaurant categories:</u> Ethnic Brewpub Breakfast/brunch	<u>Residents most averse to:</u> Chain stores Bars Fast food Pharmacies
<u>Most-favored sites:</u> 1. Honest Tom's 2. Local 44 3. Lil' Pop Shop 4. Tampopo 5. Mariposa 6. Green Line Café	<u>Most-favored areas:</u> 44 <sup>th</sup> St. between Locust & Spruce Baltimore Ave. between 45 <sup>th</sup> & 50 <sup>th</sup> 45 <sup>th</sup> St. between Walnut & Locust 40 <sup>th</sup> St. between Chestnut & Locust	<u>Should we be a regional destination?</u> 76 percent of respondents were favorable about the neighborhood being a regional destination, especially as it expressed the following characteristics: Locally-owned Walkable Family-friendly





# Safe Streets & Commercial Corridors

- **Projects**

- Coordinating with planning team for ongoing Woodland Ave corridor improvements
- Issued 2023 Retail Survey
  - ▶ 524 Respondents: 93% from Spruce Hill, 70% Homeowners
  - ▶ Evaluating results and formulating long-term plan in conjunction with local partners (Penn and UCD)
- Working to build stronger ties with local retail partners and police in response to recent vandalism.

# Zoning Committee





# Crosstown Coalition

- Philadelphia Crosstown Coalition is a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation
- Federation of more than 30 civic associations united to advocate on a non-partisan basis for quality-of-life issues and to share resources, best practices and economies of scale for the benefit of the Coalition and of its member organizations.
- SHCA joined 2015
- SHCA Delegates
  - ▶ Vicki McGarvey
  - ▶ Eric Santoro
- Initiatives include
  - Candidate forums
  - Zoning and Land Use
  - Education
  - Tax and Finance
  - Affordable Housing
  - Parking and Transportation
  - Sustainability



# Treasurer's Report

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## Profit/Loss Fiscal Year 2022/23

- Total Income = \$26,504 (previous year = \$ 22,396)
- Total Expenses = **\$33,665** (previous year = **\$ 28,892**)
- Net = **\$ -7,161**

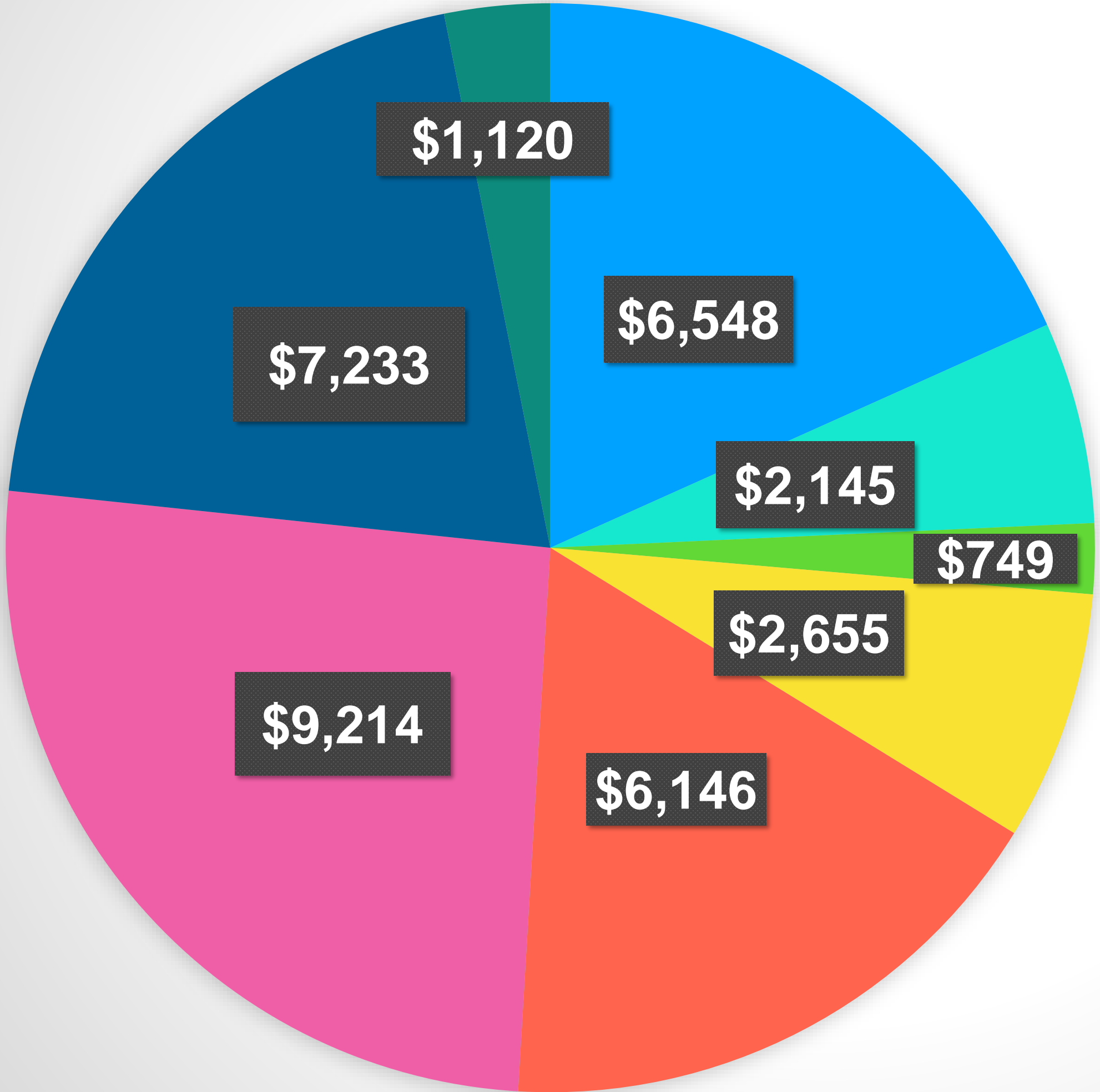
## Balance Sheet as of 06/30/23

Checking Account = \$13,291

Savings Account = \$8,642

Total = \$21,933

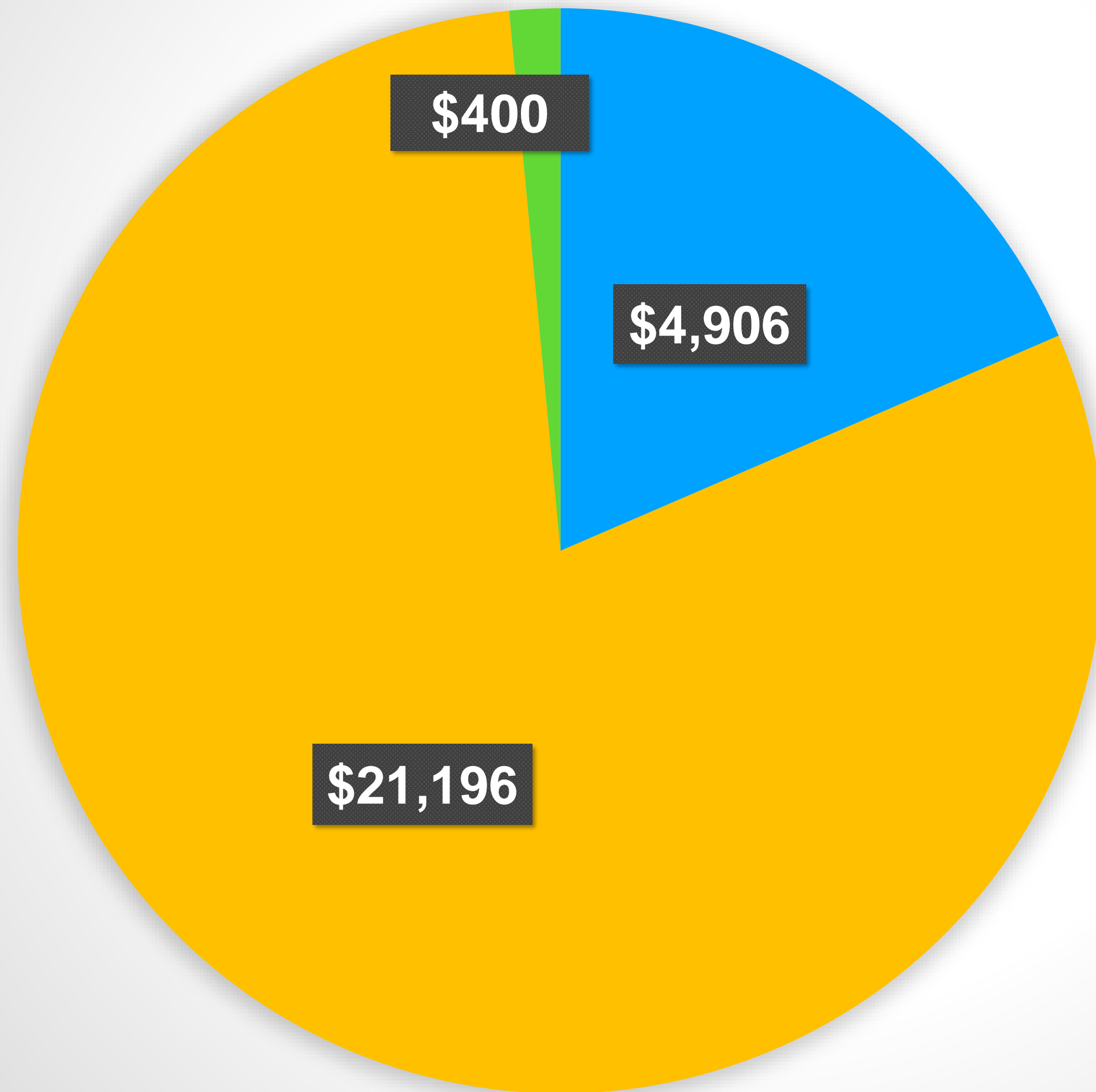
# Expenses



- Building/office
- Outreach
- Other
- Outreach/donations
- Insurance
- May Fair
- Taxes/licenses
- Rent escrow refunds



# Revenue



■ Membership

■ Rent

■ May Fair

# GOALS

1. Fundraising in support of historic district nomination
2. Increasing sponsorship support of May Fair
3. Membership campaign
4. Property maintenance and upgrades

# **Election of Board Members and Officers**

# Election Slate

## Officers, 2023

**President** – Rebecca Geller-Puchalsky

**Executive VP** – Sylvia Hamerman-Brown (incumbent)

**VP for Operations** – Anthony West

**Secretary** – Monica Calkins (incumbent)

## Directors, 2023-2024

Veronica Alvarez

Jenine Sanzari

Richard Guffanti

Anne Thomforde

Evan Johnstone

Marta Bartholomew

Vicki Lewis McGarvey

Nicole Gawel

Craig Santoro

Bridgete Lessner

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Treasurer – Richard Moore			Libby Rosof

# Members Open Discussion

# Stay in touch!!!

Join our list serve!

[SpruceHillCAsso@googlegroups.com](mailto:SpruceHillCAsso@googlegroups.com)

Follow us on Facebook!

[facebook.com/sprucehillca](https://facebook.com/sprucehillca)

Or contact at [sprucehillassociation@gmail.com](mailto:sprucehillassociation@gmail.com)

## Next meeting:

Tuesday January 9, 2024  
7:30 PM  
SHCA Center, 257 S. 45<sup>th</sup>  
**All are welcome!**

