



ANNUAL
REPORT
.....
2013



DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

As a relatively new Board member and your current President, I admire the accomplishments of this organization since its founding, and I'm ignited by the ones I've been a part of in 2013. Over the last year, we have empowered the Bike Union to make measurable good on the mission.

Our support and presence has meant progress, from better infrastructure design and commuter encouragement, to increased access to community repair education, innovative data analysis, political attention, and more. Together we can deliver a safe, multimodal and collaborative Boston, one with more and more transformative and celebrated community experiences.

For me, Bike Union membership has consistently meant opportunities to grow as a cyclist, a professional, a community member and a leader. At each stage of involvement, I've learned to be more skilled at identifying obstacles to safer streets (including my own riding, driving, and walking behaviors); to listen better to others' points of view in considering policy and business approaches; to maintain trust across a core team within a broader network of allies; to build mutual respect and understanding across neighborhoods, professions, organizational missions and socio-economic divides. I greatly appreciate the dedicated staff, intern and volunteer time that merges with and amplifies other active transportation organizing efforts in this city, which in turn informs our programming so we can adapt to community needs.

Our collective role in shaping this organization is critical to creating a robust Boston bike culture. The goals we set, the methods we adopt, and the progress we make through the rest of this year and beyond depend on each of us in this evolving Boston bicycle movement. The pace of change on our streets, shifts in our transportation culture, and the Union's ability to respond to your needs relate directly to the energy and support you contribute to Union activities.

In the face of climate change, cyclist and pedestrian casualties, health disparities and socio-economic tensions, there is no time to waste in revealing this truth: The bicycle is a simple solution to some of the world's most complicated problems.

To do this well, we need you. Come learn from, grow through, and accomplish personal and collective goals with us. I look forward to working with you!

With gratitude,



Vanessa L. Green
Board President



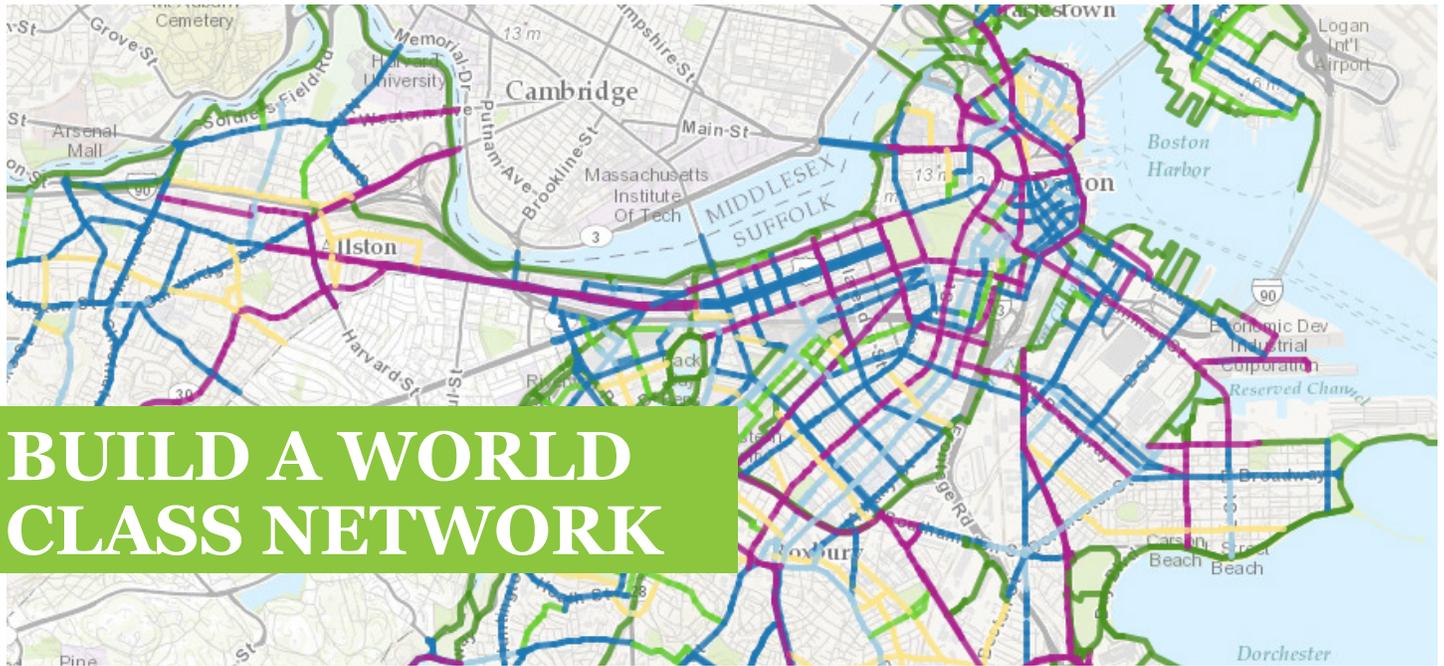
OUR MISSION

To promote the bicycle

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OUR VISION

Boston is
world renowned
for year round cycling,
a place where people ride
for fun, exercise, and
transportation.



BUILD A WORLD CLASS NETWORK

BIKE NETWORK MASTER PLAN

With representatives on the city of Boston's Bike Network Plan Advisory Group, the Bike Union advocated to include a long-term vision that now serves as the ultimate goal for a fully built-out network. Knowing what's possible on every desired part of the network gives local bike activists a powerful tool in their own neighborhoods. Look up your part of the city at: maps.cityofboston.gov/bikennetwork

NEPONSET GREENWAY AND DORCHESTER COAST TRAIL

In 2012 and 2013 the Bike Union supported the DCR and MassDOT on two TIGER grant applications by completing bike counts in the area and creating a video of the future path's route. Neither grant succeeded, but the paths quickly became a priority for Gov. Deval Patrick. 100 percent design is funded and construction funding is likely coming soon.

SEAVER STREET CYCLETRACK

The Bike Union helped neighborhood residents organize and make suggestions to Boston's Public Works Department that resulted in an improved design for Seaver Street in Roxbury. What was once a bike lane is now a mix of bike lanes and cycletracks.

MORTON STREET BUFFERED BIKE LANE

The new Morton Street Buffered Bike Lane—won by the Bike Union as part of a repaving project—is the first step in acquiring a cycletrack that will connect Mattapan and Dorchester residents to the benefits of the SW Corridor.

CONNECT HISTORIC BOSTON

The Boston Cyclists Union participated in the Connect Historic Boston advisory group that proposed a figure-8 cycle-track through downtown Boston, supported an application for a federal TIGER grant, and worked in local communities and citywide to bring 80-120 supporters to each public meeting on the project. The first phase of the "Boston loop" as it is sometimes called, will include Atlantic, Commercial and Causeway streets, and will likely be complete by 2017.

CASEY ARBORWAY/SW CORRIDOR EXTENSION

After successfully organizing public support for an at-grade solution for Casey Arborway in 2011-12, the Bike Union sat on the Design Advisory Group for the project in 2013. The result, going out to contract in April 2014, is an off-street bike path connection from the Arboretum to Franklin Park that isn't in the shadow of a highway bridge, and a cycle-track connection that allows cyclists to avoid exposure to cars on a difficult stretch of Washington Street toward Roslindale. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2016.

ORGANIZING GROUP FOUNDED

The influence of the Organizing Group, founded in 2013, is beginning to be felt with the citywide coordination of the #winterbiker social media campaign and many other efforts. The O.G. brings together bike activists from all parts of Boston, Brookline, Cambridge and Somerville to share best practices, devise ways to build the bike movement, and press forward with local and citywide campaigns. Participate in the Organizing Group's monthly meetings by calling 617-516-8877 or emailing us at info@bostoncyclistsunion.org.



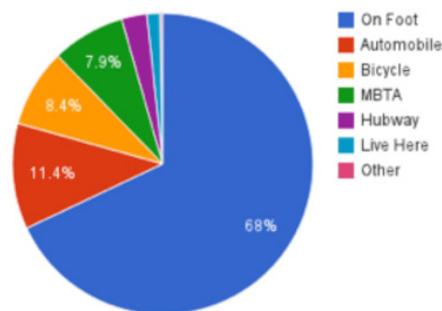
PAVING THE WAY ON THE PUBLIC GARDEN CYCLETRACK

The Bike Union has been slowly building grassroots support groups in Beacon Hill and the Back Bay for a two-way cycletrack around the Public Garden. The work began with a Union volunteer’s rendering of what the facility would look like. The rendering has appeared in many publications and blogs since, and has influenced the city to use renderings in their presentations of this and other cycletrack projects.

BEACON STREET CYCLETRACK

When Somerville’s plan for cycletracks on Beacon Street ran into opposition from the business community in 2013, the Bike Union sprang into action. Bike Union interns created and executed a Customer Intercept Survey, which illustrated that local businesses could actually benefit from a better bike facility—and that bike customers are just about as common as car customers on Beacon. A handful of local businesses now support the cycle-track plan, which is currently in the 75% design stage with a potential completion date of 2015.

How Did You Get to Beacon Street Today?



Ridership has increased
23%
 since the Bike Union began in 2010
 (based on ACS data)

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Boston is ranked 13th
 for bike commuting among the 70 largest cities

————— AND —————

Cambridge is ranked 5th
 for bike commuting of all cities and towns.

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The Bike Union launched
28
mobilizations
 for public meetings in 2013

CHANGE THE PUBLIC DEBATE

BOSTON MAYORAL ELECTION

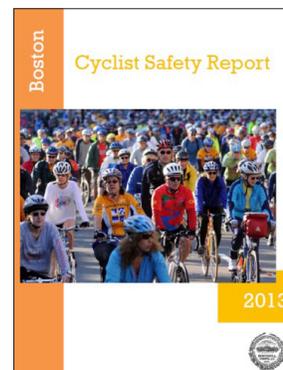
The Bike Union brought together a coalition of bike groups to create a video questionnaire for Boston's hotly contested mayoral election in 2013. Top tier candidates answered the questionnaire, and the Bike Union's Annual Meeting was the first place then Councillor John Connolly and state Rep. Marty Walsh appeared together following September's primary election.

CRASH DATA

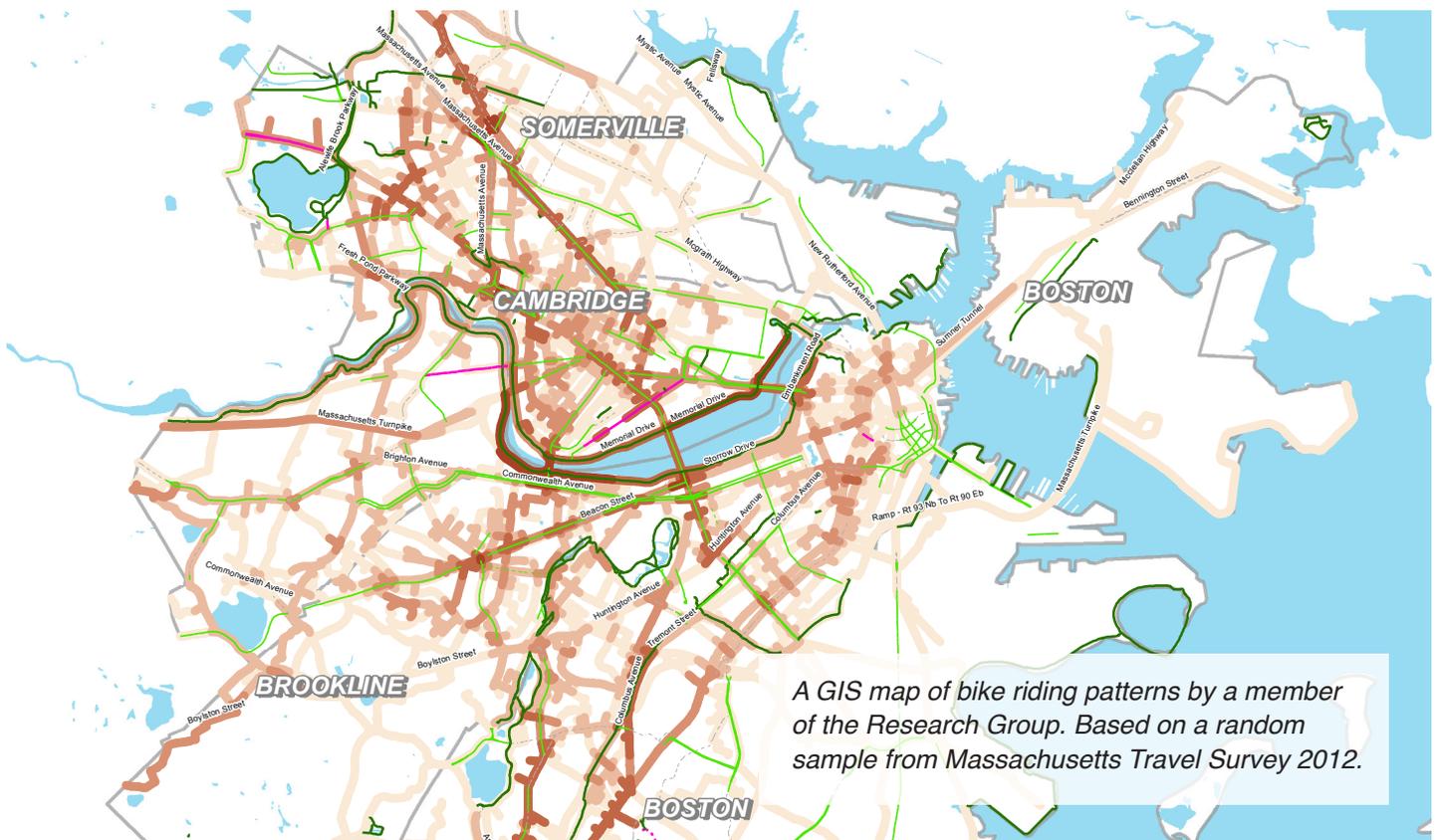
Staff and volunteers of the Boston Cyclists Union working in the Research Group received a Commissioner's Commendation from Boston Police Commissioner William Evans in 2013 for advocating for and helping to complete the BPD section of Boston's 2013 Cyclist Safety Report. It was the first time police reports, which indicate the cause of crashes, were used in any crash analysis in the City of Boston. The Union's crash data work will help the city's transportation department design better streets for bikes, and also inspire more attention to tracking and learning from pedestrian and motor vehicle crashes as well.

RESEARCH GROUP FOUNDED

The Bike Union Research Group is a group volunteers and interns who love research, GIS, and data analysis. Founded in 2013, they meet monthly and get involved in several research endeavors. Got a big idea and need a support crew? Want to add your skills to the mix? Contact us at 617-516-8877 or info@bostoncyclistsunion.org and ask to be added to the Research Group listserv.



"The Bike Union was instrumental in advocating for the analysis of bike crash data and making the initial connections that put me in a position get the job done."
—Dahianna Lopez, Rappaport Fellow and co-author of the report



A GIS map of bike riding patterns by a member of the Research Group. Based on a random sample from Massachusetts Travel Survey 2012.



Marty Walsh at the Bike Union's Annual Meeting, a step on the path to becoming Mayor of Boston.



"WHEEL WARS" BECOMES "RIGHT OF WAY"

The Bike Union's social media muscle started flexing with this campaign in 2013 to head off what appeared to be a very negatively themed series of articles at WGBH and Gatehouse Media. After pressure was applied from the Bike Union and its members (you!) the name of the series was changed from "Wheel Wars" to "Right of Way." This kind of grassroots social media activism became even more effective with the founding of the Organizing Group later in the year.



5 Candidates answered the Mayoral Questionnaire. Their answers were sent to more than

8,000 PEOPLE

2 finalists, Marty Walsh & John Connolly attended Annual Meeting

Boston Cyclists Union quoted in 10 articles in the BOSTON GLOBE

1,066 PEOPLE signed petition to change title of WHEEL WARS SERIES

GROW THE BICYCLE MOVEMENT

VOLUNTEERS

The 268 people who gave their time to move forward the Bike Union's mission of promoting the bicycle in 2013 are the lifeblood of the organization. Their dedication made the Union's organizing and commuter encouragement programs successful and put thousands of smiles on faces. Thank you.

BUSINESSES

It's clear that more and more of Greater Boston's businesses are jumping on the bicycle bandwagon. Through their support of the Bike Union's discount program, through event sponsorships and other donations they encourage more people to join the Union, and that means more great programming and organizing. In 2014, the Bike Union will be launching a new initiative under the 'Commute Boston' banner that will help employers encourage their employees to bike to work by teaching bike commuting and bike maintenance workshops, and helping to make workplaces more bike-friendly.

MEMBERS

Bike Union members provide the backbone of the organization and the bike community in Boston. The Bike Union's board and staff are grateful for the support, and strive to build an organization that engages the membership in accomplishing their own goals and realizing their collective vision. Members can get directly involved in working groups, board committees, and as volunteers—and it is their membership dues that keep the organization alive and help it grow.

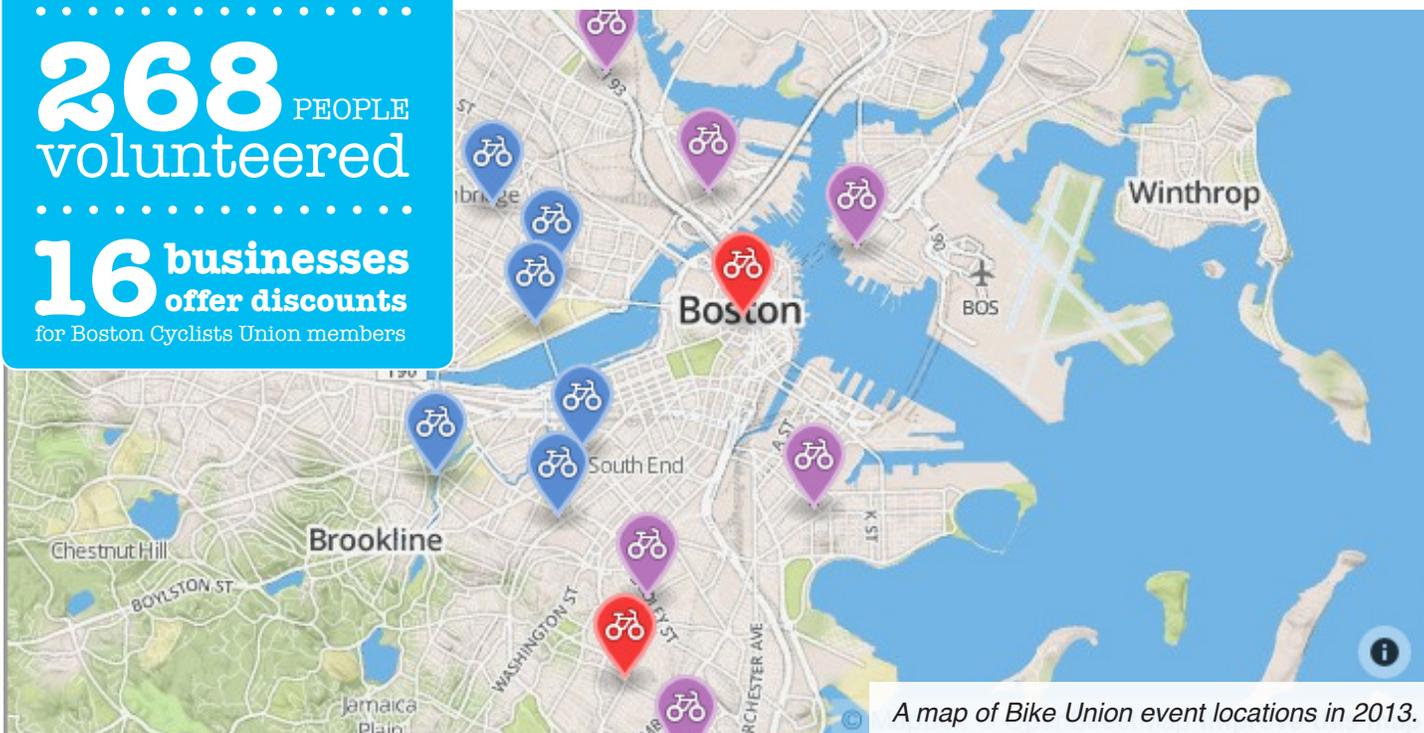
COMMUNITY BIKE GROUPS

Boston is known worldwide as a center of innovation and as such, there is no shortage of new bike groups popping up in the city. The Bike Union helps these smaller groups grow and achieve their goals. Whether it's helping JP Bikes organize the Spring Roll ride in Jamaica Plain, supplying parts and bike repair stands to the Bowdoin Bicycle School in Dorchester, or advising the Commonwheels Bicycle Collective in Allston on how to administer a small non-profit, the Bike Union helps these and many other small groups that have bicycles in their heart. Providing assistance to these new leaders in the bike community helps serve the Bike Union's core mission in exponential ways.

The Bike Union
came into contact with over
17,000 PEOPLE

268 PEOPLE
volunteered

16 businesses
offer discounts
for Boston Cyclists Union members



A map of Bike Union event locations in 2013.



ENCOURAGE MORE RIDERS

OVER 120
unique volunteers spent

1,286
hours

teaching bike maintenance at
Bike to Market events 59

selling 600
helmets, fixing 921 bikes

Over 60 unique volunteers
SERVED OVER

1,500

cyclists **FREE** breakfasts at

19 **BIKE TO WORK**
EVENTS

More than
10,000

people experienced Open Streets

BIKE TO MARKET

The twin goals of the Bike to Market program are to build capacity for bike repair and maintenance in every neighborhood of the city, and to inform and organize people who support better biking. In 2013 the Bike to Market program held 59 weekly events in six locations in Dorchester, East Boston, Charlestown, South Boston, Somerville, and Roxbury. Each location was led by a Bike to Market captain who helped other volunteers grow and learn.

COMMUTE BOSTON (FORMERLY KNOWN AS BIKE TO WORK)

In 2013 the Bike Union analyzed the city's bike commuting patterns and used that data to pick six of Greater Boston's busiest bike thoroughfares. With help from dozens of local cafés and restaurants, the Bike Union rewarded bike commuters with free coffee and breakfast, and in the process connected with hundreds of new faces.

OPEN STREETS

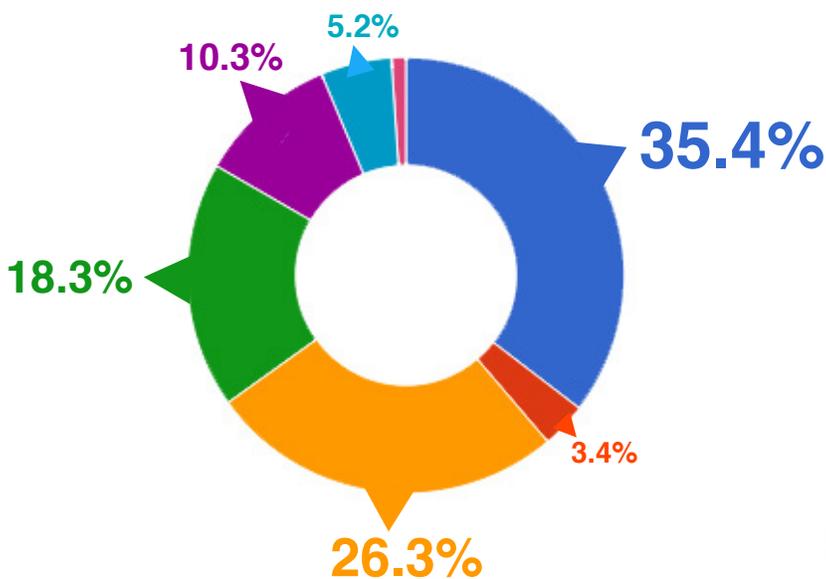
In a collaborative effort between the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, LivableStreets Alliance, and the Sustainability Guild, the Boston Cyclists Union opened up Blue Hill and Huntington avenues to people. The Boston Globe said the event "took on deeper meaning on Blue Hill Avenue, a street residents believe has been unfairly maligned as a haven of crime and violence... transforming the busy thoroughfare lined with storefront churches and Caribbean restaurants into a neighborhood festival brimming with musicians and families."

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance Sheet

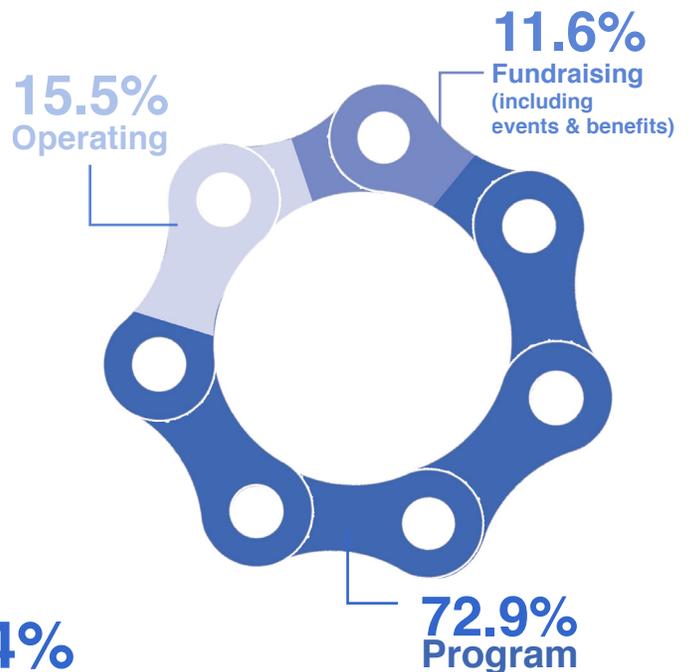
TOTAL INCOME	\$104,615.32
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$102,894.60
NET INCOME	\$1,720.72
BEGINNING NET ASSETS	\$31,159.61
ENDING NET ASSETS	\$32,880.33

Income

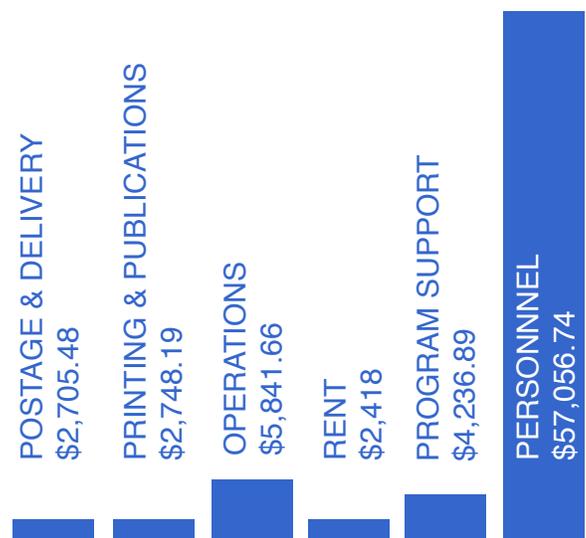


- Membership Dues
- Business Contributions
- Events & Benefits (includes Member & Business Contributions)
- Grants
- Contracts
- Program Services & Related Sales
- Miscellaneous Income

Expenses



Program breakout



STAFF

Pete Stidman, *Executive Director and Founder*
Angela Haynes, *Membership and Development*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (April 2014)

Vanessa Green, *President, Programs & Education
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Kristine Aristide, *Vice President*
Rebecca Wolfson, *Treasurer*
Phil Stango, *Clerk, Governance Committee Chair*
Christine Casalini, *Development Committee Chair*
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Peter Furth
Yvonne Lalyre
Jason Stockman
Conor Semler
Jon McCurdy, *Founder*
Dana Ostberg, *Founder*
Luis Sanchez, *Founder*

THANK YOU!

THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES, FOUNDATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS GAVE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE IN 2013.

\$5,000 and above

City of Boston
Steve Gag & Laura Gang
Helen and William Mazer
Foundation
Zipcar

\$1,000-\$4,999

Erik Adams
Beantown Taqueria
Beer Works
Steven Bercu
Boston Public Health Commission
Breakstone White & Gluck
Charles River Wheelmen
City of Somerville
Climate Ride Inc.
Colucci, Colucci, Marcus & Flavin
El Pelon
Flat Top Johnny's
William & Renee Furr
Peter Furth
Jason & Fischer Attorneys at Law
Ken Kruckemeyer & Barbara Knecht
Jonathan McCurdy & Jen Urhane
Nels Nelson
Pedros
Julie & Nate Sharpe Charitable
Fund
Bob Shulman
Solomon Fund

\$250-\$999

AB Printing & Imaging, Inc.
Ace Wheel Works
John Adams
Allandale Farm
Ashmont Cycles
Back Bay Bicycles
Baxter Brewing Co.
Be Our Guest, Inc.
Body Centre Massage
Boston Brewing Co.
Broadway Bicycle School
Buckle Farm
Cabot Creamery
Cambridge Brewing Company
Josh Campbell Photography
Cape Ann Brewing Co.
Cezanne Cartier
Christine Casalini
Chow Thai Cafe
City Feed and Supply
Cohen's Fashion Optical
Mark Coleman
Bob Dizon & Kris Richardson
Nick Doriss
Eastern Mountain Sports
El Pelon Taqueria
Equal Exchange
Tom Evans & Jessica Parsons
Laura Everett & Abbi Holt
Sarah Freeman & Sam Sherwood

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Vanessa Chou, *Lead Graphic Designer*
Fan Zhang, *Assistant Graphic Designer*

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