



Julia Karr <julia@bikesnotbombs.org>

Bikes Not Bombs' Spoke & Word, August 2025

2 messages

Elijah Evans, Bikes Not Bombs <elijah@bikesnotbombs.org>

Thu, Aug 28, 2025 at 6:35 AM

Reply-To: elijah@bikesnotbombs.org

To: "\"Julia Karr\"<julia@bikesnotbombs.org>

SPOKE - & - WORD

BIKES NOT BOMBS

August 2025

Get Ready to Ride: Century Challenge and More!



Our inaugural [Century Challenge](#) fundraising ride is right around the corner and we're thrilled to ride with you! Each and every rider and volunteer helps contribute to BNB's mission. [Sign up today to ride](#) 63 or 105 miles with us, or [volunteer your time](#) to help make the event a success!

Ride With Us!

Riders who raise \$1,000 before ride day will receive a **custom long-sleeved cycling jersey**! We'll have these delivered directly to you, just in time for fall cycling in New England.

Beyond bragging rights of saying you conquered a century ride, your fundraising efforts contribute directly to our work locally and globally. What are you waiting for? [Sign up today!](#)

Highlights from Summer Youth Apprentices at BNB

Summer has flown by at BNB! Our summer cohort of Youth Apprentices have been hard at work **refurbishing bikes**, supporting **group rides**, assisting with **development & community engagement** work, and planning for **future youth programming**. On Saturday morning rides, our Apprentices pushed themselves to tackle large hills and take on crucial ride support roles, ensuring that all participants stayed safe and that each ride went smoothly. Rides have gone to the **Arnold Arboretum**, **Franklin Park**, the **Museum of Science**, and even to the highest point in Boston — **Bellevue Hill**!



Bellevue Hill in West Roxbury



Youth Apprentice Wislem talks about how BNB has impacted him to the event participants at the Great Commuter Challenge.

As we wrap up our final week, Youth Apprentices have completed their assessments, demonstrating their bike mechanics skills and summer progress as they build up an entire bike from scratch. All of our Apprentices have completed at least one refurbished bike of their own to keep, with many of them opting to give it (or a second bike they also built up!) to a Bostonian in need through our **'Bikes for All'** program. They've also had a hand in planning for the future, including a **spring Commuter Challenge** and an exciting bikepacking trip to Cape Cod in summer 2026. We're sad to say goodbye to this amazing group, but we're thankful for the impact that they've had on our programs and look forward to seeing many of them again in the school year. **Thank you to all of our Youth Apprentices for spending the summer with us!**

Bike Shop News

Fall is the perfect time to bike in Boston, taking advantage of milder weather and beautiful foliage. Looking for a new ride? We've got a **new batch of refurbished bikes**, each one built up with new parts and components. Right now we've got three newly refurbished commuter bikes, **all under \$600!**

Picture yourself riding on your new bike to pick up cider donuts or taking in the fall foliage through the Arboretum. Check out our full stock of new and refurbished bikes in person and take a bike (or two) for a test ride!



Check out this purple 48cm Specialized step-through city bike!

Get ready for cooler weather and earlier sunsets with the right parts and accessories! Keep your fingers warm with lightweight gloves from locally owned **Endurance Threads**. Make sure you're seen with **Look's Geo City Vision Grip lighted pedals**. Are you into fall aesthetics? Deck out your bike with limited edition orange tires from Gravel King. All of these and more are available in person — stop by our Shop and check them out for yourself!

Great Commuter Challenge Recap

On Saturday, August 16th, we hosted our first ever **Great Commuter Challenge**! Teams went head to head completing multiple challenges in different categories throughout the city. We spotted bike infrastructure gaps, in accessible pieces of infrastructure, and many places where road redesigns were working as intended. Groups competed by car, MBTA, and by bike, with the majority of our participants biking throughout Boston and Cambridge.



Participants stopped to fix a stranger's bike at Mozart Park, made 311 requests to fix infrastructure, and navigated to statues and public art installations along their routes. **Huge thanks to all of our participants**, to our **Youth Apprentices** and **Community Advisory Council** members for helping plan this event, and to [Casa Bikes](#) for hosting us in Cambridge!

Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

[Century Challenge Fundraising Ride](#)

Sunday September 7th

[Volunteer Night](#)

Wednesday September 3rd, 3 to 7pm

Wednesday September 17th, 4 to 7pm

[Community Advisory Council Meeting](#)

Wednesday September 24th, 6 to 8pm

[Holding Up the Sky Film Screening](#)

Wednesday September 10th, 7pm

[Tool Time](#)

Friday September 26th, 4 to 7pm

Staff Spotlight: Wheelie of the Month

August's Wheelie of the Month goes to **Tamirah Brown!**

Tamirah is a Youth Pathways alumnus and currently works in our Shop as the Sales Coordinator. While on summer break from Northeastern, Tamirah came back to BNB to work full time in our Shop for the busy season. Since leaving our programs and coming back as a seasonal staff member, Tamirah has continued to grow. Her willingness to learn new tasks has helped make the shop run smoothly and impressed her coworkers. Multiple colleagues note that Tamirah has really stepped up since she's come back.

Tamirah takes on leadership roles whenever needed to make sure things get done, taking initiative and training Youth Apprentices to work in the Shop. We're thrilled that she'll be staying on with us part time once she goes back to school this fall, working towards her degree in psychology and human services. **Congratulations Tamirah and thank you for your stellar work!**



Tamirah Brown

Donor of the Month

A memorial bike donation as a tribute to their son, Axel



Paul and Robyn Bostrom donating Axel's bike

On Saturday, August 9, 2025, Bikes Not Bombs was humbled and deeply grateful to receive the gift of a very new carbon Specialized road bike donated by **Paul and Robyn Bostrom**. The bike belonged to their late son **Axel**, an enthusiastic young cyclist who died tragically earlier this summer in a car accident. As Paul and Robyn thought about what to do with Axel's beloved bike, they reached out to Bikes Not Bombs to inquire how we might make use of it. When they learned of our Bikes for All program, they were hooked and donated Axel's bike for use there - in a program that matches donated bikes with marginalized people in the community in dire need of affordable transportation.

A member of Concord Academy's Class of 2024, Axel excelled academically, socially and athletically, culminating with his acceptance to Duke University. Axel's natural athleticism shined at Concord Academy as a tri-season Varsity athlete, where he played soccer, basketball, and track & field. **People were Axel's passion.** Here and abroad, Axel's light shines on through his friendships and the countless memories he shares with his loved ones. **Axel lived life with positivity and light, and that legacy will live on in many ways, including the second life his bike is receiving at BNB.**



Axel as a senior athlete



Axel with his bike

Funder Spotlight: REDF

Join us in thanking [REDF](#) for three years of intensive capacity building support through their [Growth Portfolio](#)! With the help of Managers Sarah Burns and Alyshah Aziz, along with the entire REDF team, BNB has strengthened our service delivery models, bolstered our operations, and deepened our impact as a youth employment social enterprise.



Amanda Coombs

In 2025, key projects included:

- Branding overhaul with [Kern Design Lab](#) with a follow-up marketing plan with [Deloitte Service Corps](#);
- Strategic Fundraising plan with [Inspire Philanthropy](#);
- Organization-wide Strategic planning with [Empower Success Corps](#).
- Youth Pathways data optimization with [Archer Consulting](#), and
- Business plan for a Wheels 2 Wellness indoor cycling pilot by [Farber Fellow Amanda Coombs](#). Amanda is an MBA student at Duke, with a background in nonprofit management and operations, and is passionate about expanding economic mobility through workforce development and education equity.

Thank you to these incredible partners for ensuring that BNB continues to create pathways to meaningful employment, empower young people to thrive, and build a more confident, inclusive cycling community!

Film Screening: *Holding Up The Sky*

Award-winning filmmaker Bob Nesson, a longtime BNB supporter, examines justice, parole and second chances in powerful new documentary. Join BNB and friends at this special screening and Q&A on September 10th at the Somerville Theatre.

A deeply human new documentary from Boston-based filmmaker Bob Nesson, *Holding Up The Sky* will screen at the **Somerville Theatre on Wednesday, September 10 at 6:30pm**. This 48-minute film follows the intertwined lives of two formerly incarcerated men whose powerful personal stories reveal the transformative role of education, mentorship, and opportunity - and challenges audiences to rethink what it truly means to be free. [Tickets available for purchase online.](#)



View the trailer for [Holding Up The Sky](#)

Seeking Board Advisors



Bikes Not Bombs is seeking candidates to serve as board advisors. Board advisors provide guidance to the organization, participating in strategic planning and fundraising, and other responsibilities.

Racial equity is central to the mission of BNB and is highlighted in our 2025 Strategic Plan. We seek to more fully represent our community and constituencies, particularly Black and other marginalized people in Boston so as to amplify those voices ensuring equitable participation in the overall leadership and direction of the organization. We actively encourage people with a strong connection to our programs, mission, and the communities we serve to apply.

We are **currently recruiting folks who possess knowledge or expertise in the following areas: human resources, finance, fundraising, nonprofit leadership, management, and racial equity.** We know that there are many more skills that aren't on this list, but these areas are critical for developing an effective board of directors.

If you are interested in applying, please send an email describing your interest, and a copy of your resume to elijah@bikesnotbombs.org in order to receive an official application form.



Donate to Bikes Not Bombs



Our Contact Information

Bikes Not Bombs
284 Amory Street
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Bike Shop & Training Center Hours:

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 12pm - 7pm
Wednesday: 12pm - 7pm
Thursday: 12pm - 7pm