



Spoke & Word, December 2024

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Mon, Dec 23, 2024 at 6:38 AM

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BIKES NOT BOMBS

December 2024

A Message from the CEO

As we approach the end of 2024, we're grateful to reflect on another year filled with growth, joy, and community — both on and off the bike. The bicycle continues to be a powerful vehicle for social change, transforming lives and fostering sustainable development.



This milestone — [our 40th year](#) — has reaffirmed the relevance of our mission and the power of two wheels. Our talented team of staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to **divert thousands of bikes from the waste stream** — collecting, processing, inventorying, stripping, refurbishing, flattening, donating, and shipping bikes to people, both in Boston and abroad. Continuing the work that started it all — sending bikes, not bombs, to our partners overseas — we shipped 2,243 bicycles to our partners in the Global South in 2024.

Hundreds of used bikes powered our hands-on bicycle education programs, providing **85 youth and young adults** with hands-on skills and leadership opportunities in our Bike School programming. Our **35 Youth Apprentices** stepped up to co-lead these programs and more as paid employees, gaining knowledge in everything from bicycle rotational systems to self-awareness, perseverance, and community-mindedness.

We're also looking forward to the changes and challenges for the next 40 years, starting with exciting new partnerships, events, and campaigns in 2025:

- Growing our youth-led **Bicyclists Organizing for Community Action (BOCA)** program, reaffirming our commitment to community organizing for mobility justice.
- Launching a new **Field Worker Fellowship Program** in partnership with Learn Work Develop in Rwanda;
- Partnering with Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition to bring the national **Youth Bike Summit** to Boston;

All of this is possible through the strength of our community —supporters, volunteers, youth participants, board and staff, donors and funders. **Together, we can achieve even more over the next 40 years!** We look forward to the opportunities that 2025 will bring and wish you a restful and joyous holiday season!



Cheers,
Elijah Evans

Check out our 40th anniversary video!

Reminder: Holiday Closures

To celebrate all of our achievements and recharge for 2025, **we will be closed from December 24th until we reopen on January 2nd.** [Please take note of special hours during the first two weeks in January for our Bike Shop.](#)

Thank you for understanding and we look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Congrats to our Bike School Graduates!



Thank you to all of our Bike School participants in 2024 for inspiring us to continue riding forward!

The end of the year also marks the end of another successful Bike School session! Our Fall cohort of Bike Institute participants were guided by two Youth Apprentices and two adult staff as they mastered basic bike mechanics and maintenance. Through hands-on, collaborative learning, our five graduates each refurbished a bicycle to keep as their own for years to come.

Our participants were hardworking and eager to overcome challenges. While most participants come to BNB able to ride a bike, we were especially impressed with one participant, who decided that learning *how* a bike works would be the best way to start learning how to ride — and they did!

Youth Bike Summit Updates

BNB is thrilled to co-host the **2025 Youth Bike Summit (YBS)** with our partner, Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition, from **May 30th to June 1st** right here in Boston! If you missed our **Q&A session** earlier this month, [you can watch it online here](#).

We've opened our call for workshop proposals! Whether you're a youth or young adult, involved in the cycling community, or work with youth, we want to hear YOUR ideas! Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis until March 1st 2025. [Check out the proposal submission form here](#).

Questions? Email us!
event@youthbikesummit.org



Container Loading Recap

We wrapped up our fifth and final container loading of the year, loading up a container full of adult bicycles for our partners at the **Village Bicycle Project** in **Ghana**! Thank you to our committed team of volunteers who braved the chilly December weather, loading **397 bikes** in only a day and half! Their hard work and the fun energy Stay tuned for more container loadings in 2025, as we gear up to collect more used bicycles through bike drives.



Left: long-time volunteer Jon Allen loads the first bike into the container. Right: volunteer and Board Member Peter Cheung seals the container headed for Ghana!

Bike Shop News

The BNB Hub is closed until January 2nd – but it's not too late to lock in one of our year-end sales! Our online store is open 24/7 at shop.bikesnotbombs.org, and all our current promotional pricing is good through December 31st!

Check out our [2024 Gift Collection](#) today and grab a last minute stocking stuffer – or treat yourself to a our deepest ever discounts on [new pedal assist electric bikes](#).



We're Hiring: Youth Apprentices



[Applications are currently open](#) for our Winter 2025 cohort of Youth Apprentices! Applications will close by January 13th, 2025.

[Youth Apprenticeships](#) are designed to place youth and young adults in various work roles in the Bike School, Bicyclists Organizing for Community Action (BOCA) program, and the Bike Shop & Operations teams to build critical workplace skills and develop post secondary plans to achieve economic mobility.

Questions about Youth Apprenticeships? Check out our [program page](#) for more information here, or contact Elyse Oliver, Director of Youth Pathways at elyse@bikesnotbombs.org

Year in Review: 2024 Impact Report

At Bikes Not Bombs, we believe that everyone should have equal access to the opportunities and resources they need to reach their full potential. With your help in 2024, BNB staff, Youth Apprentices, volunteers, and community partners embraced shared core values while using the bicycle as a vehicle for social change, blazing trails for Black and other marginalized people to achieve economic mobility. **Read all about what we accomplished together in our [2024 Impact Report here](#).**

Together, we are transforming our world into a place where everyone has the resources they need to pedal forward. Your voice and action are vital in this journey toward lasting change, whether through partnership, volunteering, or spreading the word. **Thank you for riding with us on this journey; we couldn't do it without you!**

Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Night

Every 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Wednesday* of the month, 6 to 9pm

No volunteer night on 1/8/25 for Shop Inventory

Tool Time

Every 4th Friday of the month, 4 to 7pm

January's Winter Group Bike Ride: Mattapan

Saturday January 11th, 10:30am to 12:30pm



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

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Bike Shop & Training Center Hours:

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 12pm - 7pm
Wednesday: 12pm - 7pm
Thursday: 12pm - 7pm
Friday: 12pm - 7pm
Saturday: 10am - 5pm
Sunday: Closed