
Spoke & Word, September 2023: Celebrating a Successful Summer!

1 message

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Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 8:37 AM

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SPKE -&- WORD

BIKES NOT BOMBS

September 2023

Thank You for a Great Bike-A-Thon!



Photo by Artemisia Luk

All of us at Bikes Not Bombs want to extend our gratitude to all of the youth, staff, volunteers, and supporters that came together on September 17th to make the 36th Annual Bike-A-Thon such a success! It was a wonderful day for the entire Bikes Not Bombs community.

This year, **100+ volunteers** supported **240 riders** from **48 teams** who raised **over \$187,000**, dollars thanks to **1,800+ donors**! [It's not too late to give](#) - our **Bike-A-Thon** riders are still fundraising to support our work.

Keep an eye on the [website](#) for photos of this year's event! Because of you, we continue to innovate programs that uplift, give voice, and empower historically marginalized people, recognizing that those most impacted by the root causes of inequity are best positioned to build lasting, meaningful change.

We're looking forward to what's to come for Bike-A-Thon 2024!

With gratitude,
The Bikes Not Bombs Team



*Left: riders enjoying the after-party with lunch and music after finishing their rides.
Right: volunteers organizing our bike valet parking. Photos by Artemisia Luk*

Bike School at DYS Graduation

Bikes Not Bombs is excited to be partnering with the **Massachusetts Department of Youth Services (DYS)** Skill Up initiative. Through this partnership, we have been able to set up a full service Bike School at the Judge John J. Connelly Youth Center. We were excited to see the first DYS Bike School class graduate earlier this month.

Our summer cohort of four youth gained mechanical skills and were all able to pass the written and practical assessments. A great way to highlight the achievements of our DYS Bike School is by looking at our written assessment; all of our summer Bike School programs had an average score of 76% and the DYS cohort achieved an average score of 80%.

All of the DYS youth showed the work ethic and achieved the mechanical skills needed to become a Youth Apprentice, if they choose to continue their journey with BNB when they transition into the community Skill Up program.

We are excited to be part of the DYS Skill Up program to provide employment opportunities, help youth grow their skills as they strive to create a successful future.



Left: DYS Bike School participants at their graduation ceremony with Senior Bike School Program Manager Phil Gay and DYS Commissioner Cecely Reardon.



Right: close-up of two of the bikes refurbished by participants during Bike School.

Upcoming Events



Pedal Power: Celebrating Community Through Biking

Saturday September 30th, 10:30am to 4:00pm

Location: Museum of Science, [Museum Of Science Driveway, Boston, MA 02114](#)

In partnership with HUBLUV, the **Museum of Science** is excited to celebrate the bicycling community around Greater Boston! Join Bikes Not Bombs for a day of celebrating the region's bicycling community organizations to celebrate the engineering, community wellness, and environmental benefits of the bicycle ecosystem. Bikes Not Bombs will be offering free bike check-ups, accepting donated bikes, and hosting an informational table inside the Museum.

Use community access code **Bike23** for **free entrance to the museum** on event day! You may use it online at check out, over the phone with Science Central, at the Box Office with a cashier, or at the Box Office at the self-service kiosks.

Tool Time

Roxbury
520B Dudley Street, Roxbury, MA 02119

Our doors are open to anyone who wants to work on their bicycle, use our tools, or get more familiar with bicycle components. No experience is necessary! You bring the bike and the supplies, we have the tools, the support, and the space.

Friday October 13th, 4:00pm to 7:00pm

Jamaica Plain

[284 Amory St, Jamaica Plain MA 02130](#)

Friday October 27th, 4:00pm to 7:00pm

Unity Ride: Ringing in the Fall

Saturday October 28th, 11:00am to 1:00pm

Location: meet at the Bikes Not Bombs Hub, [284 Amory St, Jamaica Plain MA 02130](#)

Join us for the last ride in our Unity in Community series! This short ride builds on the theme of building community while taking riders on a scenic route through the Arnold Arboretum to experience beautiful Fall colors, with a stop at to enjoy some delicious apple cider.

Events Calendar

Click [here](#) to visit our events calendar for details of each event.

Thank You to the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation



Training & Service Coordinator Victor Peguero (left) and Chain Reaction Coordinator Sterling Storm (right) in front of the new Mercedes Sprinter Van at the Bikes Not Bombs Hub

Bikes Not Bombs is thrilled to announce that, thanks to the generosity of the [Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation](#), we now have a Chain Reaction Mobile bike repair vehicle! With their generous \$50,000 grant, we purchased a lightly-used, 14-foot-long, Mercedes-Benz Sprinter Van.

Outfitted with shop tools and operated by our team of professional mechanics, the van has already hit the road – offering mobile bike repair service across Boston.

Chain Reaction Coordinator Sterling Storm shared that this new vehicle is truly a game-changer in increasing BNB's capacity to expand bike repair service beyond our brick and mortar shop walls. **"With this quality vehicle, we can essentially bring the shop anywhere. The van is easy to maneuver across the city, and it has made the set-up and execution of remote events a seamless process."**

Join us in thanking the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation for their generous gift!

RICHARD AND SUSAN

Smith
Family
Foundation

Bike Shop News: SCARY GOOD OCTOBER MTB & GRAVEL BIKE DEALS!!!

All Bianchi gravel and mountain bikes are **20% OFF** this October.

Gravel bikes aim to be your one bike for all different types of terrain. They provide clearance for wide tires, which improve shock absorption compared with typical road bikes, but keep the drop bars and road geometry, resulting in lightweight, responsive bikes that are equally capable of on-or-off-road riding.

MTB are designed for off-road first, with knobby tires to help keep traction on loose packed surfaces, and long-travel shock forks to absorb the impact of big bumps and drops. Come on down to the shop, where we can help you find your size, compare bikes, and test ride to find out what you like. Or **[shop the sale online](#)** - promotions start in October!



Welcoming New Staff!

Ndaye comes to us with a wealth of fundraising and international experience, a passion for social change, and a deep personal connection to our mission. Born in the Global South and having grown up as a person of color in Brussels, the capital of Europe, Ndaye's journey to this role is both inspiring and compelling. From a migrant to an advisor for the former Belgian Prime Minister, Charles Michel, Ndaye's career trajectory is testament to his tenacity, strategic thinking, and leadership abilities.

At heart, Ndaye is a leader and a strategic thinker. He understands team dynamics, values collaboration, and is not afraid to challenge conventional wisdom. He recognizes the



Ndaye Kanonga

power of our mission, acknowledging that our bikes not only help people, but they have the potential to save lives.

Senior Director of Development
and External Affairs



Beatriz Pleitès

Alumni Engagement Coordinator

Beatriz is a passionate advocate for human rights and diversity, originally from El Salvador. With a strong background in youth engagement, she holds a law degree from Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas and a master's in Sustainable International Development from Brandeis University. Her career has taken her through government agencies, private institutions, and nonprofits, equipping her to tackle global challenges and drive positive change.

As our Alumni Engagement Coordinator, she works to help youth develop the skills they need for better social and economic prospects. In her spare time, she enjoys outdoor activities, photography, quality time with her partner and cat, and staying connected with her family back home!

BNB is Hiring!



Do you or someone you know have a passion for social justice, youth development, and bicycles? Lucky for you, Bikes Not Bombs is hiring!

Research suggests that qualified women and Black, Indigenous and people of color may self-select out of opportunities if they don't meet 100% of the job requirements. We encourage individuals who believe they have the skills necessary to thrive at Bikes Not Bombs to apply.

Featured positions are listed below.

Assistant Director of Grants and Evaluation

The Assistant Director of Grants and Evaluation will be a critical member of the Development and Institutional Advancement Teams. In this role, you will manage a robust portfolio of foundation grants and government contracts, playing a major role in ensuring that Bikes Not Bombs meets our annual and long-term fundraising and impact measurement goals.

40 hours/week
\$65,000-\$75,000

Bike School Program Manager at Department of Youth Services

The Bike School Program Manager at Department of Youth Services leads the Skill Up program at the Metro Region Department of Youth Services facility in Roslindale, MA. In this role, you will implement our Bike School curriculum to youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system. In partnership with the Department of Youth Services (DYS), Bikes Not Bombs' goal is to provide rehabilitative services to youth through Bike School.

40 hours/week
\$21.63 - \$26.44 hourly

[View Open Positions at Bikes Not Bombs](#)

Join the Bikes Not Bombs Board of Directors!



The Bikes Not Bombs Board of Directors is seeking candidates to join our dynamic team.

The Board of Directors is responsible for guiding and providing oversight to the organization as a whole, including approving the annual budget, hiring and supporting the Executive Director, participating in strategic planning and fundraising, and other responsibilities.

We are currently recruiting folks who possess knowledge or expertise in the following areas: human resources, program development, managing change, 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.

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.

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](#)

Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

617.522.0222

<http://bikesnotbombs.org>

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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