



*Annual Report*  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2021**

**BRONZEVILLE FENCING ACADEMY**

The Bronzeville Fencing Academy is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit dedicated to providing and meeting the existing and future needs of underprivileged and underserved urban youth in the Bronzeville area; contributing to the personal growth of its participants through the development of character-building programs, tools and training that promote self-respect, academic excellence and positive social skills and behaviors.

Intricately woven into the fabric of this program is the high-level academic tutoring assistance available to all program participants.

We are focused on providing expert instruction and mentorship targeted exclusively at closing the academic achievement gap, to support the youth in and out of the classroom to develop their leadership qualities.

The Academy works diligently to keep our operating costs as low as possible but it is difficult to meet the needs of all of our children and that is why we look to the community for financial assistance and support.

## **MISSION**

The Academy's mission is to expand our uniquely defined program in alternative sports beginning with the sport of Fencing, through expert instruction from coaches, athletes, officials and other professionals in the sport. In addition to promoting a pathway to secondary and post-secondary institutions both academically and athletically, this program will empower the student-athlete to compete at the national and international level and this is why we look to the community for financial assistance and support.

# We raised over **\$10,000** for our community programs.

We thank all of our donors and supporters. We are particularly grateful to our community stakeholders who diligently work to keep youth programming in the community.

The uniqueness of the Academy's programs and impact to the youth we serve, is immeasurable and so we welcome any support from you in continuing these valuable programs that positively influence the youth in our community

Your generosity is a testimony to their potential.

## FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE GRANTS

\$1,000 - \$5,000

DEW Foundation

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

\$999 and Below

Norman Parish, III

Michael Sklovsky and Family

Christopher Miller and Family

Sean Armstead and Family

Christopher Jones, CMJ Tech Connection

# VOLUNTEER AND IN-KIND DONORS

Fernando Delgado  
Maria Armstead  
Bakhyt Abdikulok  
Henry Cash  
Jason Burns  
Lawrence Baldwin, Sr.  
Orlando Lewis  
Robert Johnson, Esq.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Malcolm Muhammad  
Founder & Chairman of Board  
Kasey Muhammad, Vice Chairman  
Jay D. Johnson, Treasurer  
Michele Cash, Secretary  
Kyle Riley, Director  
Judge Arthur P. Wheatly, Director



# ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Orlando Lewis, 100 Black Men of Chicago, Inc.

Fernando Delgado, Chair

United States Fencing Association, Illinois Division

Head Coach, Fencing - Men & Women Adlai E. Stevenson High School

Meredith Delgado, Treasurer

United States Fencing Association, Illinois Division

Thelonius Muhammad

Johns Hopkins University Peabody Conservatory

Auset Muhammad

Temple University, Lady Owls Fencing Team





# IN MEMORIAM

## MOSES JONES, Tuskegee Airman and Educator

The Academy was devastated by the loss of our beloved friend and founding Board Member, Moses Jones. His support of the Academy was immeasurable and he was a fierce advocate when it wasn't all that popular to do so.

Moses, a living, historically and culturally significant piece of history and a New Generation Tuskegee Airman, America's first black military aviation squadron, was a veteran, gifted educator in District 299, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and a resident of the Woodlawn community of Chicago.

He began his teaching career at Magellan Educational Vocational Guidance Center on the West Side of Chicago, providing instruction in the subject of Mathematics and concluded his 27-year tenure at South Shore High School. A tutor in the Chicago Public Library's Teacher in the Library after-school homework series, which places certified teachers in high-need and high-risk neighborhoods to provide homework assistance to students within the community. Moses was an Assistant Treasurer of the Chicago (DoDo) Chapter of Tuskegee Airman, Inc., a 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose mission is to spread the extraordinary legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen in promoting and supporting minority youth in pursuing post-secondary education and careers in the aerospace industry. He also coordinated the chapter's Young Eagles program to introduce children to the wonderful world of flight. The program operates out of Gary International Airport which according to him, is often the first chance some youth have ever set foot on an aircraft.

And as the former president of the DuSable High School Alumni Coalition for Action, he worked to ensure that the historical legacy of DuSable High School was accorded landmark status so that future generations have the opportunity to learn that some of the world's most extraordinary entertainment, civic and social minds were cultivated there. It was central to the fabric of the Bronzeville community, having been built to alleviate overcrowding at Wendell Phillips High School due to the migration of blacks from the rural south. Notable alumni include Chicago's first Black mayor Harold Washington and Ebony-Jet magazine founder John H. Johnson. Dr. Margaret Burroughs, co-founder of the DuSable Museum taught at the school for more than 20 years along with music teacher, Captain Walter Dyett who taught budding musical prodigies Nat King Cole, Dinah Washington, Bo Diddley and Von Freeman.

He was an active volunteer and member of the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago, who enjoyed introducing the joy of flying to the next up and coming group of young aviators.

In recognition of his wonderful service, the Academy is pleased to announce the *Moses "The Airman" Jones* scholarship.

# PROGRESS REPORT

Bronzeville Fencing Academy's (the "Academy") programs serve at-risk youth who struggle with chronic poverty and systemic prejudice. We achieve this through high quality programming that is regularly evaluated, and by ensuring our coaches and volunteers have the resources they need to develop our youth. Our programs, aimed at keeping kids safe and educated, and strengthening communities, includes an after-school academic enrichment program offering tutoring assistance and an athletic enrichment program teaching the Olympic sport of Fencing. Over the past year, the program has enjoyed many successes.

## I. Accomplishments.

Our program staff celebrates all accomplishments big and small. Youth enter the program with challenges, so all forward movement is progress, and our criteria for success is that each youth make advancements towards the goals that are set in the initial meetings. Not all students will advance at the same pace, for some, seemingly minor accomplishments are in fact, some of the greatest successes. Success is having a students' level of functioning improve as they achieve the goals in their plan.

Daniel\* is a recent example of such a success as a result of his work with one of the Academy volunteers. In most respects, Daniel is a normal youngster. Somewhat awkward but highly precocious, and he loves school. Unfortunately, Daniel's dad died and as a result, he completely shut down. He lost all interest in school and any extra-curricular activities. His mom had reached the limit of her endurance, and was incredibly troubled by the deterioration of Daniels' physical and emotional wellbeing when she found the Academy program.

Initially when he entered the program, Daniel reluctantly participated at the lowest level of activity possible. Getting him to focus on any of the exercises proved to be very challenging. He often reacted to the slightest provocation or perceived threat with a barbed response. Weekly work with Daniel in improving his problem solving, reasoning and communication skills beget promising results. He was able to make relational adjustments to behaviors that were limiting his success in both school and his interpersonal relationships. As a result, his grades improved, and he developed a newfound, life-long interest in the Olympic sport of fencing.

At a recent event, Daniel's mother expressed how enormously grateful she was for the Academy's intervention in her son's affairs. She literally said, "Y'all saved my son's life." And it is stories like this that fuel our resolve to continue the work that we do.

# PROGRESS REPORT

## II. Progress towards Achieving Goals.

During the past year, the program has seen continued success with meeting program goals. An average of 90% of Academy youth return for all four sessions: winter, spring, summer and fall. We are also happy to recognize a 60% increase in the retention and recruitment of volunteers and mentors bringing a sense of permanency to youth who in addition to poverty, have experienced systemic neglect and abandonment issues. Additionally, we are pleased to report:

- 60% of youth maintained and/or achieved an improvement in their reading and math grades.
- 70% of youth maintained and/or achieved an improvement in social, emotional, cognitive and physical development.
- 75% of the parents increased their awareness of the benefits of fitness for the youth.

The high rates of participation by the youth and families in our program is a testament to the efforts of our volunteers and mentors.

And as a testament to the Academy programming, the Chicago Park District, formalized its 2021-2022 agreement with the Academy to expand programming to ten (10) additional parks located in Area 6, Bronzeville community on the south-side of Chicago.

## III. Conclusion.

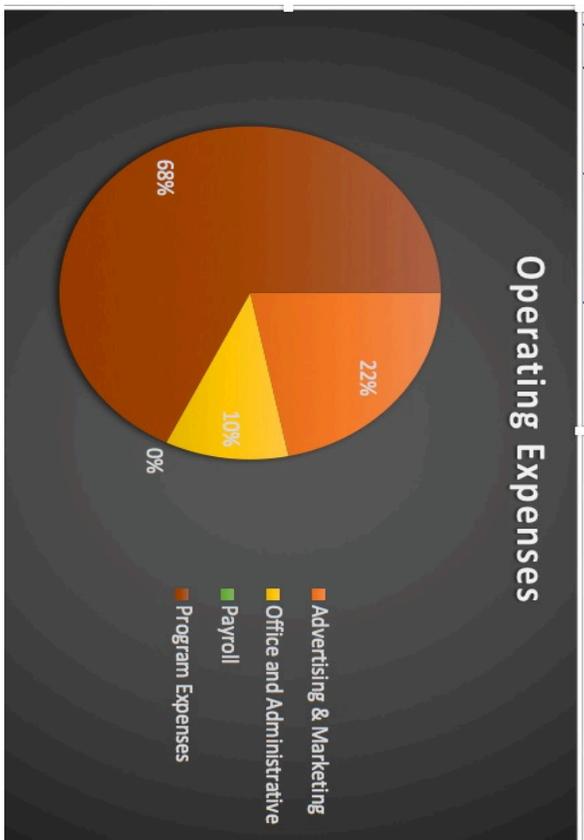
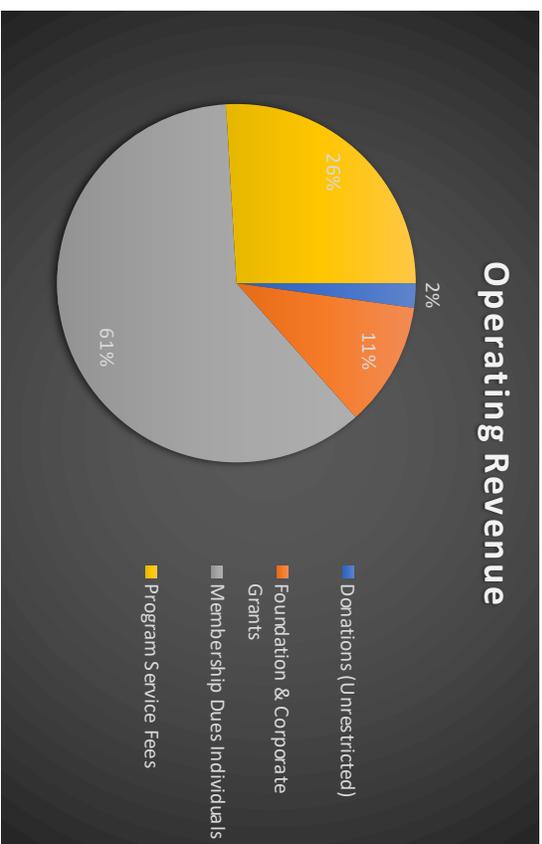
The Academy's enrichment program generously funded by our stakeholders helps our youth reach their potential and build productive lives. We sincerely appreciate the support of the Academy's programming. We work diligently to keep our operating costs low, but it is difficult to meet the needs of all of our youth, and that is why our stakeholders are instrumental in the Academy's ability to provide comprehensive, quality programming for our youth.

\*Name changed to protect the minor's privacy.

**BRONZEVILLE FENCING ACADEMY**  
January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Donations (Unrestricted)	\$984
Foundation & Corporate Grants	\$5,000
Membership Dues Individuals	\$27,002
Program Service Fees	\$11,550
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$44,536</b>
Advertising & Marketing	6,711.06
Office and Administrative	6,195.92
Payroll	0.00
Program Expenses	32,286.15
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$45,193</b>
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$45,193</b>
Admin & FR Costs/Total Expense (%)	14%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$45,193</b>
<b>SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(\$657)</b>



# COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Principal, Community School

*"We appreciate and are excited to partner with the Bronzeville Fencing Academy!"*

# CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

Park Supervisor

*"The Academy's alternative and innovative programming has been a wonderful addition to our community of students.. The students are eager participants."*

# HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Parent, Academy Program

*"The Bronzeville Fencing Academy is passionate and beyond. My son has loved studying fencing with them..."*

# COVID-19 RESPONSE

Academy Operations

*The Academy is operating club activities in accordance with local and state laws, regulations, executive orders and other legal mandates regarding COVID-19.*

# MENTORSHIP MATTERS

Parent, Summer Camp

*"The Bronzeville Fencing Academy has been a wonderful asset to the community as well as an excellent role model to our children."*

# SAFE HAVEN

Community Advocate, Partnership

*"This is a wonderful outlet and discipline to sharpen the mind and body. Great sport, greater people."*

# BRONZEVILLE FENCING ACADEMY

Students enter the Academy's enrichment program through the after school programs at our Partner sites. The Academy accepts youth in grades four to twelve (4- 12) and students come to the after school program from throughout the Chicago-land area.

Services provided through the program include the following:

- Academic enrichment, support and tutoring.
- Mentorship to enhance and optimize the student's ability to use principles in several disciplines to understand and develop solutions to a diverse range of problems, and the ability to analyze and manage multiple sources of information.
- Athletic enrichment in the Olympic sport of Fencing.
- Performance driven coaching to the student's footwork and accuracy; motor, distance and timing; strength and agility; tactical and decision making; and individual teamwork skills.
- An alternative safe haven during after- school hours.

