



As we planned for the new building, our community contributed through community engagement processes, and everyone shared how they wanted the new building to feel welcoming.



Our building's design, with its layout, natural light, and use of art and bright colors, helps create a welcoming feel for everyone who visits. Local artists, Roger Cummings of Juxtaposition and Jordan Taylor of Neuger, offered their talents to create custom murals for our building.

The exterior mural by Roger Cummings features symbols that represent community, support, equity, innovation, etc. The inside murals throughout the building by Jordan Taylor feature scenes from community and Keystone programs and highlight special recognition to supporters for their significant contributions to the project.

We are deeply grateful for your support in opening the Keystone Community Food Center, which gives us the space to create a more comfortable and welcoming space for our community.



YOU ARE THE KEY



An update for our Keystone supporters

Summer 2024

A NOTE FROM ADERO RISER COBB, PRESIDENT



In June, we celebrated the official Grand Opening of the Keystone Community Food Center. It was wonderful to see so many of you there, and thank you for your support! For many of us at Keystone, this new building has been a labor of love over the last five years as we worked on this historic capital campaign. As you can tell by my face in the photograph to the left, we are ecstatic to celebrate the occasion officially, and we owe this joyous moment to you!

This edition of the newsletter is filled with many other joy-filled moments at Keystone so I hope you enjoy reading this to see how you put smiles on people's faces throughout our programs. Thank you!

With joy-filled gratitude, Adero Riser Cobb

NEWSLETTER FEATURES:

- 2 Musical programs inspire people of all ages
- 3 Teen gains confidence through 1st job
- 4 Art creates welcoming feeling at KCFC

YOUR GENEROSITY MANIFESTED - CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE KEYSTONE COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER

While we have been operating from the new Keystone Community Food Center since January, this June we marked the celebratory occasion with a party, ribbon cutting, and grand opening. What a joy!

Our new space reflects our history of providing the high-quality and effective programming people have come to expect from Keystone. But it says so much more about our vision for the future.

Our vision was to create a place to serve as a central Keystone hub for community engagement, where neighbors can help neighbors, and everyone is welcome.

Thank you for embarking on this journey with us. Thank you for caring about our neighbors and helping people in our community live with dignity and hope.



Keys Fest 2024

NEIGHBORS - LIVE MUSIC - FOOD TRUCKS - ACTIVITIES & COMMUNITY FUN

Monday, July 29 | 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

West 7th Community Center (265 Oneida Street, St. Paul, MN 55102)

The event is FREE, but we encourage attendees to bring a school supply donation or cash contribution!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

YOUR SUPPORT SPREADS HAPPINESS THROUGH MUSIC

In May, the Keystone Community Singers, a community musical program for older adults offered in partnership with VocalEssence, had its inaugural choir concert. The community center was filled with music, peace, and joy from the audience and singers alike!

During the concert, Chris, one of the choir members, shared what the choir means to her, saying, “There is something magical and life-affirming about joining your voice with others in the community to make music.”

Thank you for giving older adults in our community meaningful and joy-filled opportunities to be engaged!



MUSIC + TECH = YOU GIVE INNOVATIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEENS

People of all ages enjoy music, and this year, some teens even got a closer look at how music is created. During 10 sessions of a Digital Music Production Camp at Keystone’s Best Buy Teen Tech Center, teens got first-hand experience expressing themselves through music with the help of Stefon “Bionik” Taylor, a Compass teaching artist. Keystone’s Best Buy Teen Tech Center is a modern technology space for youth aged 13 to 19 on Selby Avenue. This after-school space allows teens to work on projects they are passionate about and learn valuable skills from both fellow youth and adult mentors.

During the Digital Music Production Camp, youth worked together to create a musical piece that included ideas from singing and rapping to spoken word. Once the group had their ideas, they worked together to compose, record, and produce the music using modern tools and technology to create their masterpiece.

With the help of Bionik, the youth learned how to express themselves creatively, compose music using the technology at the tech center, and gained confidence in their musical skills while creating community with other teens in the program. A few teens in the program shared highlights of what they enjoyed about participating in the workshop.

One teen enjoyed the technical components that Bionik taught them about mixing music, and another appreciated his passion for music. The comradery teens felt working together was a favorite takeaway for many. One participant, Nicholas, said, “I’ve enjoyed this program because of the community we’ve created. We all have unique strengths, so it’s been amazing to see us all come together on this cool song we created.”

With your support, you have played a crucial role in creating a nurturing environment for the teens in our community. Your contributions have helped them learn new technology skills and, most importantly, have given them a space where they can collaborate, learn, and build a strong sense of community.



“Art is the key to a good education, in my opinion. The technology aspect of it is just a bonus. Programs like this are great because it makes art and technology more accessible to youth wanting to explore new possibilities.”
~ Bionik

YOU HELP YOUTH BUILD CONFIDENCE AND GAIN VALUABLE SKILLS THROUGH YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS



“I’m so glad programs like these exist in our community! This job at Express Bike has helped boost my confidence, especially with communicating with new people, which I know will help me in college and my future.” ~ Jun

Do you remember how you felt on the first day of your first job? Anxious? Ready to quit on the first day? For youth, working their first job can be an overwhelming experience.

Thankfully, your support of Keystone’s social enterprise, Express Bike Shop, helps youth like Jun have a supportive first job experience where they can build confidence and gain the skills needed to succeed in today’s workforce.

Express Bike Shop is a full-service bike shop and a social enterprise of Keystone Community Services where all proceeds from the bike shop are reinvested into our youth employment program. At Express Bike, youth like Jun can work alongside experienced mechanics, learning the ins and outs of bicycle maintenance, customer service, and more.

Jun, a Central High School graduate, has worked at Express Bike Shop for two years as a youth apprentice. Jun was quite nervous when he first started working at Express Bike Shop, but he quickly noticed that he started to gain a lot of confidence as he began shadowing Express Bike staff members and interacting with customers more.

Jun says, “I remember when I started working here, I was more in the front on the floor talking to customers and answering the phone. I was nervous doing this, but I worked towards gaining more confidence in talking to people so much that Sam and Shue [Express Bike mechanics] now rely on me to answer the phones.”

For Jun, working at Express Bike Shop has not only helped build his confidence but has also helped him build the skills necessary to work in the Health Science field, which he plans to do after obtaining his degree from Century Community College.

Your support is the key that unlocks the potential of Express Bike Shop’s youth apprenticeship program! Thank you for empowering youth like Jun with early job experiences that he’ll carry with him into the future.



SAVE THE DATE - KEYS TO SUCCESS GALA Thursday, September 26 at Allianz Field

Gather with our Keystone community for an evening of fun, food, and connection at the Keys to Success Gala. Enjoy an inspiring evening with like-minded caring people, making a big impact with every dollar raised in support of the programs valued by thousands of neighbors in our community! Watch for your invitation soon!