

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Giving
Old Bikes
New Life





North Lawndale, Chicago, IL

2022 IN NUMBERS

WORKING BIKES gives donated bicycles new life by redistributing them as tools of empowerment in local and global communities. Since 1999, the amazing community of WB volunteers, staff, partners, and supporters have enabled new life for over 100,000 bicycles across the globe and tens of thousands here in Chicago. Over one hundred thousand people have been empowered to access resources and opportunities that otherwise could have been out of reach – reducing waste, lessening pollution, and improving health in the process. We know that bicycles are the most reliable, sustainable, and environmentally friendly transportation option available, and we’re working towards a world where everyone has access to bicycle transportation.



10,894 bikes were collected from around the Chicago area and the Midwest. We also received countless donations of parts, bike accessories, clothing, and tools.



Working Bikes volunteers and staff loaded **7,141 bikes** into **16 containers** for partner bike projects in Africa and Central America.



Through our local donation program, we donated **1,621 bikes**. **1,067 of those** were fixed up by our volunteers to be donated right here in Chicago. **554 as is bikes** went to our friends and partners at other Midwest bike nonprofits.



Working Bikes hosted **521 volunteers** who clocked **6,029 hours** in 2022. In addition to fixing up **1,138 bikes**, volunteers also helped spread our mission by tabling at community events.



The Service Department kept **hundreds of customers, neighborhoods, and community partners** rolling this year, and helped train **24 future bike mechanics** that participated in our Community Mechanics Training Program.



We sold **1,635 bikes** through our webstore and store front, with our team of production mechanics refurbishing **1,601 bikes** of all different styles, shapes, and sizes.



2022 ON TWO WHEELS

A personal highlight of 2022 came at the beginning of the busy season, right at end of the school year and the start of summer activities. Working Bikes volunteers fixed up over 50 bikes to give out, along with accessories, to our friends at [Latinos Progresando](#) and the [Telpochcalli Community Education Project \(TCEP\)](#). Two dozen of those bikes went to graduates of TCEP's Ollin Youth program, who got their bikes, locks, and helmets, at a barbecue just a few blocks away from WB.

Throughout the summer, I saw those bikes -- cruisers with the white Cycle of Power logo on the down tube -- all over the neighborhood. At Pete's Market, cruising down Cermak, even back at Working Bikes. One Ollin Youth grad, G, rode his bike so much and so hard that he wore out the coaster brake and needed a repair. Talking to G with his bike in a stand, we heard about riding to school at Juarez, to work, and around our community. G came back to help with our next container load, and went on to wrench in Brandon's Bike Shop, fixing bikes for the Cycle of Power program.

Working Bikes makes over 10,000 stories of empowerment and mobility like G's possible every year, around Chicago and around the world, thanks to the thousands of donors, hundreds of volunteers, and amazing staff and board members who know the power of bicycles and help spread that power to others. Whether wrenched on for a livelihood in Zomba, Malawi, ridden on an elder health check to a village outside Lunsar, Sierra Leone, or to the supermarket down the street here in Chicago, the bicycle has the power to make lives better. We'll be building more bike power in 2023, with a new strategic plan to guide our growth, and look forward to growing our community of supporters and partners. [Roll with us!](#)



WHO WE ARE

STAFF

Aaron Brown

Production Mechanic

Alan Lloyd

Production Mechanic

Carolyn Weber

Bookkeeper

Cauria Duarte Lutton

Retail & Service Mechanic

Colette Balas

Community Programs Manager

Derek Villanueva

Webstore, Retail, & IT Associate

Eli

Retail Mechanic & Admin Support

Filiberto Esparza

Production Mechanic

Francisco Rubio

Production Mechanic

Gabe Cohen

Bicycle Acquisitions Specialist &
Social Media Manager

Jay Pee Perry

Production Mechanic

John Clark

Production Mechanic

Josh Korby

Bicycle Shop Manager

Maxx Aguilar

Production Mechanic

Mikey Young

Teaching & Service Mechanic

Sarah Fiorito

Service Mechanic

Sophia

Retail Wrangler

Trevor Clarke

Executive Director

Wren Amundson

Production Mechanic

Xail Hernandez

Community Bike Repairs Manager

BOARD

Jim Lindsey

President

Phil Kaplan

Vice President

Amy Little

Treasurer

Dave Gorman

Secretary

Lee Ravenscroft

Angela Taylor

Caronina Grimble

Dalia Garcia

Ellen Gibbon

Jerry Cohen

Mark Dabrowski

Michael "Magic" Santomauro

Ruth Rosas



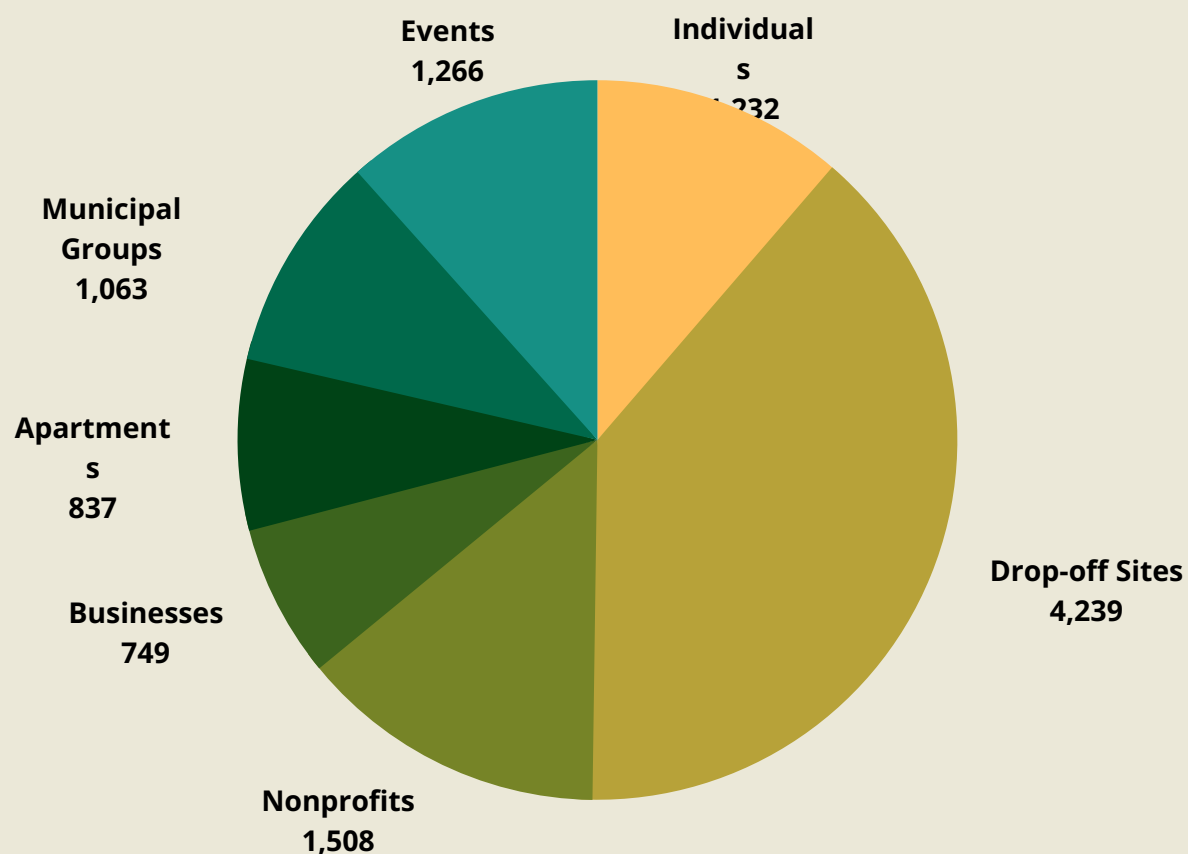
Motley
the shop dog!

WHERE OUR BIKES COME FROM

Working Bikes receives and processes thousands of bikes a year, collected from all over the Midwest. Bikes fuel our mission, and the additional donations of accessories, tools, and parts keep everything rolling, updated, and looking good! In addition to individual donations dropped off directly at our shop, staff and volunteers help collect bikes from [our amazing community of drop-off partners](#), fellow non-profits, collection events, municipalities, and individuals. [Contact us if you'd like to get old bikes to new homes!](#)



Working Bikes receives donations from individuals, businesses, nonprofits, & municipal groups.



Bikes are brought to the WB warehouse or dropped-off at one of our partnering donation sites & picked-up by our drivers. At the warehouse, repairable bicycles are sent to one of three places.

WE RECEIVED 10,894 BIKE DONATIONS IN 2022!



To the dock, where bikes are stored, then prepped for shipment to one of our partnering bikeshops abroad where they are fixed up and distributed in their community.



To Brandon's Bike Shop, where they are fixed-up by volunteers to be donated locally.



To the production shop, where professional bike mechanics refurbish bikes to be sold through our storefront & webstore.



Little Village, Chicago



Africycle, Zomba, Malawi



GROWING BIKE ACCESS ABROAD

Even though scheduling shipments was a bit unpredictable in 2022, we still managed to load **7,141 bikes** into **16 containers!** These shipments, paid for in part by WB, provided necessary materials like repairable adult and kids' bikes (even [unicycles!](#)), tools, accessories, and cycling apparel to parnters in [Malawi](#), [Uganda](#), [El Salvador](#), [Sierra Leone](#), [Tanzania](#), [Zambia](#), and [Madagascar](#). Locally run shops in these often rural communities support educational and professional opportunities for residents, and ensure that community members have a well-tuned bike that will get them and their families safely where they need to go, whether it be schools, nearby markets, medical, or community services. The value of bicycles in these regions has even gained national attention. In September 2022, US Senator Dick Durbin introduced [The Bicycles for Rural African Transport Act](#), which we'll be following closely throughout the upcoming year. We love to see a national spotlight shine on the work we've been engaged with for decades and are glad to be part of the mobility solution for our friends in [Africa and Central America](#).

JANE ANYANGO VISITS CHICAGO

In April, WB was excited to host long-time friend and partner through [Abercrombie and Kent Philanthropy](#) Jane Anyango (and her two children!). Jane is the director of the [Bwindi Community Hospital and Nursing School](#) and knows first hand how valuable bicycles are as tools of mobility in rural communities, like the [Bwindi Bike Shop](#) that WB supplies with bikes and [sometimes even mechanics](#)! Jane has utilized bikes to both expand her student body, with a particular emphasis on getting women on bikes to receive nursing training, and expand the coverage area served by healthcare practitioners in Bwindi. Jane is currently in a PhD program in the US and able to expound upon maternal health interventions and outcomes as readily and thoroughly as she can speak to the power of two wheels. Attendees at WB were in awe of her multidisciplinary work, and left feeling excited to be able to contribute to the empowerment of her community of Bwindi. WB board member and longtime volunteer Ruth Rosas also [wrote about Jane's visit](#) for the online newsource Streetsblog Chicago.



CYCLES FOR FARMERS

Last year, Working Bikes sent a container of 467 bikes to our partners [Cycles for Farmers](#) (CFF) in Kampala, Uganda. WB has been connected with the folks behind CFF since 2007, when they were the Women Prisoner Support Organization (WPSO) and helped get bikes to recently released prisoners as part of WPSO's larger transition programs. In supporting formerly incarcerated people, WPSO noticed how many of the individuals served worked in the agricultural sector and needed to transport their goods. After a change in Ugandan policy on NGOs working on prisoner support, WPSO closed down and Cycles for Farmers was born! Thanks to a supply of bikes, parts, and tools from WB, CFF offers assistance to farmers and youth working in the trades who need a way to transport their products to markets. CFF runs [several programs](#) to increase access to bikes, including bike rentals and repair workshops. It's always great to hear about the work our international partners are doing in their communities and are thankful for folks like Irene (seen with some bikes in Kampala in the top right image) for [keeping us up to date on CFF's needs and accomplishments!](#)





Little Village, Chicago, IL



GETTING OUR CITY ROLLING

We love seeing our bikes around the neighborhood, and through our [Cycle of Power and Cycle of Peace local donation programs](#), we provide bikes to community members that otherwise couldn't afford one. In 2022, **1,621 bikes** were donated through these programs, with **1,067 of these bikes** going directly to an individual or partner organization after being fixed up by our volunteers. These donations are made possible by the support of local social service organizations, schools, churches, and neighborhood groups who help ensure that the bikes go to folks that need them the most. In addition to a bike, recipients receive a helmet, u-lock, and set of lights (many donated by our friends at [Bike Lane Uprising!](#)). Recipients are also encouraged to join a volunteer session or a Knowledge is Power workshop to learn the skills to keep their bikes rolling and connect with the broader WB community. As a central hub for bike donations in the Midwest, we like to share the wealth with our friends at like-minded bike shops throughout the region. In 2022, we were able to donate **554 raw bikes** to partners like [Free Bikes 4 Kidz Detroit](#), Bikes in Da Hood, and Al Schroeder for use in their own local donation and educational programs.

SUPPORTING NEW ARRIVALS TO CHICAGO

Chicago welcomed over 5,000 "new arrivals" to town in 2022, with many arriving by chartered bus from Texas. Early on, transportation was identified as an essential need for asylum seekers -- necessary to find work, get to their jobs, and take advantage of the resources available in our city. Already working at capacity to get bikes to folks through our Cycle of Power program, Working Bikes recognized the acute need and mobilized the broader bike community to meet that need. The amazing mechanics at [Irv's Bike Shop](#), [Blue City Cycles](#), [Comrade Cycles](#), [Goodspeed Cycles](#), and [Bikes N' Roses](#) all pitched in for the cause. Some shops fixed and donated bikes they had on hand, others turned bikes from the Working Bikes basement into useful tools. Together, we got bikes out to individuals and started a bike library at a housing center, which got folks rolling right away. Divvy/Lyft joined in the effort by smoothing the application process for its Divvy for Everyone program, allowing new arrivals to move from bike library bikes to city-wide Divvy riding. We plan on expanding bike libraries and new arrival support in 2023, and continue to appreciate the incredible bike community that makes this kind of support possible.







REPRESENTING WORKING BIKES

Year-round, you can catch Working Bikes staff and volunteers out and about. Whether you catch us tabling at a [neighborhood block party](#), [encouraging festival goers to travel by bike](#), or just [rolling around the city](#), participating in community events is how we connect with friends and partners, and help spread the WB mission. We joined our North Lawndale partners [Boxing Out Negativity](#) on regular rides throughout the year, including the annual [Bike Out Negativity ride](#) in May and [Street Love Ride](#) in September. [Think Outside Da Block](#) also kept us busy with their [Bike Outside Da Block program](#), which had youth from the org learn some basic bike mechanic skills so they could help prepare bikes for their yearly Englewood based [Roll N Peace Ride](#) in June. We joined in some new events this year too. [Pilsen Fest](#) was an absolute blast; not only did WB provide free bike parking and [adorn the stages with some choice two wheelers](#), we also set up the [the WB tent](#) with games, free safety checks, and a [bike raffle](#)! And one of our favorite events of the year was the end the school BBQ hosted by our friends at the [Telpochcalli Community Education Project](#). We provided participants with bikes that we still see around the neighborhood!

RIDING WITH THE SAFE AMBASSADORS

This past year, we were excited to work more closely with our longtime partners at the SAFE Ambassadors program! [The SAFE \(Streets Are For Everybody\) Ambassador](#) program is the Chicago Department of Transportation's safety education and engagement team, providing resources and educational opportunities for cyclists and pedestrians across the city. WB collaborated with the SAFE Ambassadors [in a number of different ways in 2022](#) - including donating kids' bikes to their summer Learn to Ride program in order to accommodate families that couldn't afford a bike for their child to learn on. Towards the end of the year, mechanics from our Service Department joined forces with SAFE Ambassadors to run a 5-week after school bike club at the nearby Eli Whitney Elementary School. Ambassadors also joined us at local donation events, helping fit recipients with helmets and show them some basic cycling tips to keep them rolling safely and confidently!



23 YEARS AND COUNTING

In 2022, the Working Bikes community helped raised a record amount of financial donations. Our anniversary celebration is our main fundraising event each year, and last year's party was one for the books! To celebrate turning 23, Working Bikes hosted a block party at the warehouse. Volunteers, staff, board members, community partners, neighbors, family, and friends came together for an afternoon of connecting, dancing, bike racing, and great food cooked by our friends and partners at the [Telpochcalli Community Education Project](#). In addition to the funds raised via the silent auction and always exciting raffle, WB also receives generous support from event sponsorships. Individual donors make-up a large portion of our yearly giving community as well. This includes the father and son cycling duo Fred and John, who [rode their bikes from Chicago to New Orleans](#) to raise funds for WB! All money raised fuels our mission and supplements the revenue we generate through our refurbished bicycle sales. We are so thankful for our community of [financial sponsors](#) and donors who help support our work.





Little Village, Chicago



HELPING, GREASY HANDS

All that we accomplished in 2022 was made possible by the amazing team of volunteers and interns that supported our work both in and out of the warehouse. In total **521 volunteers** and **12 interns** clocked **over 6,000 hours** wrenching in [Brandon's Bike Shop](#), fixing up **1,138 bikes** for local donations and giveaways, prepping bikes for international shipment on the dock, loading **16 containers** in rain, snow, or shine, sorting parts on the sales floor, and lending a hand at community events, bike collections, and more! And while there are lots of ways to get involved with WB, [attending a volunteer session](#), including the Thursday's [BikePOC & Queer Night](#), is still the best way to get plugged in and grow your bike mechanic skills. The Brandon's Bike Shop also welcomed about two dozen volunteer groups last year. Volunteers in these groups come from schools, small businesses, corporate organizations, and other non-profits, and are very helpful when we need lots of hands to get the work done! Folks interested in bringing a group to volunteer with Working Bikes can learn more about opportunities [on our website](#).

TRAINING A NEW GENERATION OF MECHANICS

In 2022, the [Community Mechanics Training Program](#) (CMTP) saw **24 participants** turn their interest in bikes and mechanics into solid skillsets, fostering the next generation of Chicago bike mechanics and aiding greater bike access. Many participants in the program came from Chicago's West, Southwest, and South sides, and represented communities that are historically unrepresented in the cycling industry. Guided by a curriculum developed by Xail and supported by Sara, Eli, and John as well as adept interns, CMTP participants learned the necessary mechanical and industry knowledge to support a career in the cycling industry. The program ran 3 cohorts throughout the year and offered participants lessons in both English and Spanish. You can learn more about the CMTP by listening to this [WBEZ interview with Xail and Eli](#), where they discussed the importance of expanding access to bikes and bikes knowledge to promote greater transportation equity throughout Chicago.





Village Bicycle Project, Lunsar, Sierra Leone



THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT

The Service Department got a makeover in 2022, with a more open and sunny layout and user friendly benches featuring labeled tools in both English and Spanish. The department shifted its mission as well, focusing on providing same-day repair services for community members and neighbors to help keep everyone rolling! Service mechanics continued to provide support in ensuring Cycle of Power bikes stay in tip-top shape for recipients, and assisted folks who couldn't afford services at other bike shops with repairs that got them back on the road safely and quickly. The Service Department also continued its educational efforts last year, transforming into the ideal space to share the basics of bike maintenance with interns, volunteers, customers, and staff interested in expanding their skills. Mechanics from the Service Department oversaw the training of up-and-coming wrenchers through the Community Mechanic Training Program, and helped run the [Thursdays evening volunteer sessions](#) focused on providing an inclusive learning space for BIPOC and Queer volunteers. As the department and the team continue to grow, Working Bikes becomes more of a community resource.



ROAD BIKES

KRYPTON

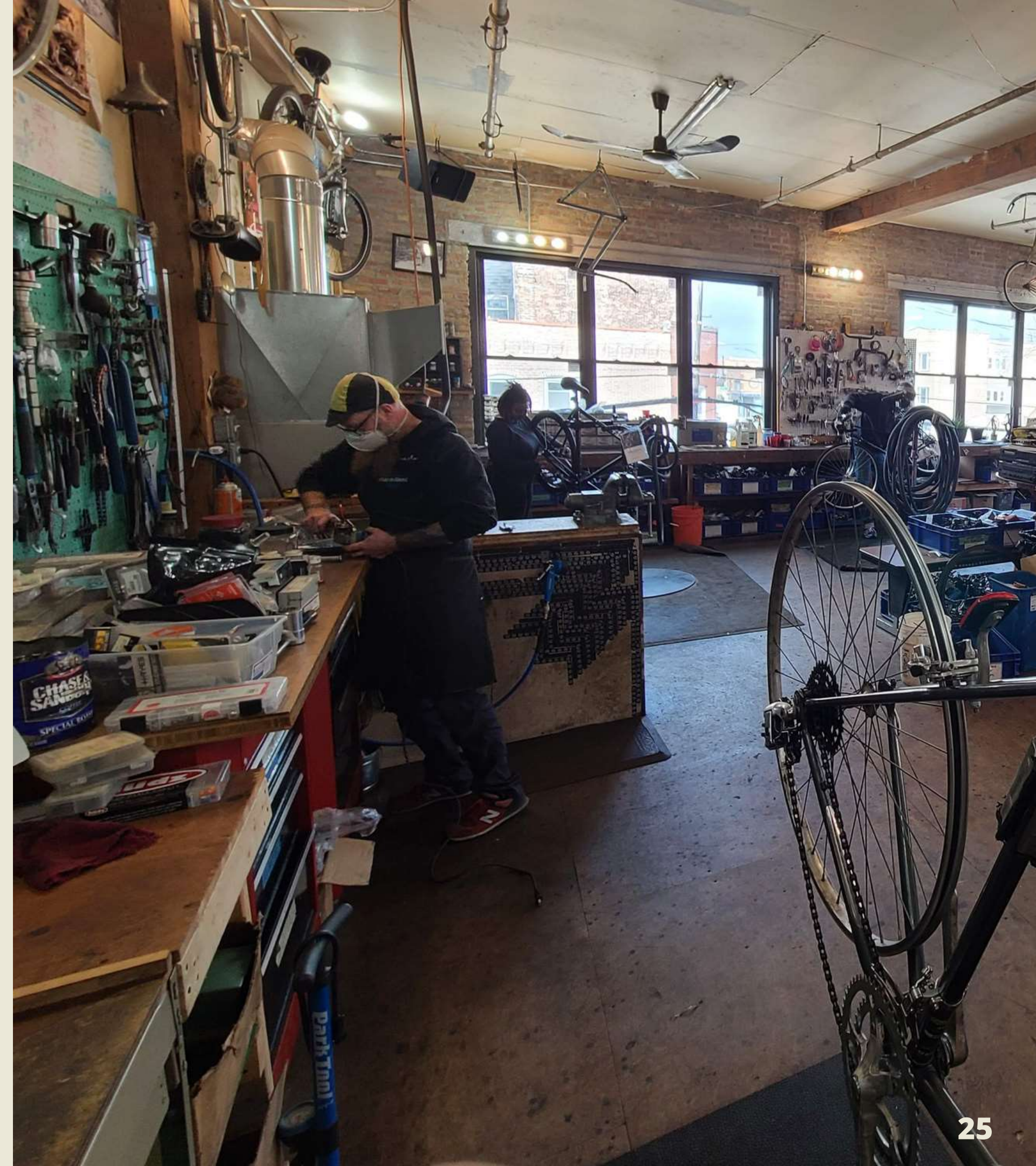


THE SALES FLOOR

Since the summer of 2021, Working Bikes has been running a hybrid sales floor, with customers able to shop both in person and [online](#) for refurbished bikes, accessories, and gear. With the help of the top notch team of WB staff and volunteers, **1,635 bikes** found new homes last year across an impressive 147 different zip codes! This was due in part to the customer service provided by the WB community, who helped customers navigate the tricky process of picking out a bike that meets their riding needs. In addition to providing [sizing guides on our webstore](#), staff and volunteers in shop already offered assistance on ideal bike fit, as well as answered questions about riding safety, parts upgrades, and accessories. Speaking of accessories, our collection of used parts continued to grow, ensuring a steady supply of raw materials and inspiration for at-home mechanics, aspiring wrenchers, and DIY bike builders. In addition to offering a destination for all things bike, we've begun to really engage customers, local donation recipients, and shop visitors to participate in our volunteering and educational programs. Through the support of [Evanston Bicycle Club](#) and [Latinos Progresando](#), we launched a new workshop series called Knowledge is Power, or Saber es Poder. These workshops, offered in both English and Spanish, provide an opportunity to share resources, knowledge, and empower recipients using their own bicycles as tools of empowerment.

THE PRODUCTION SHOP

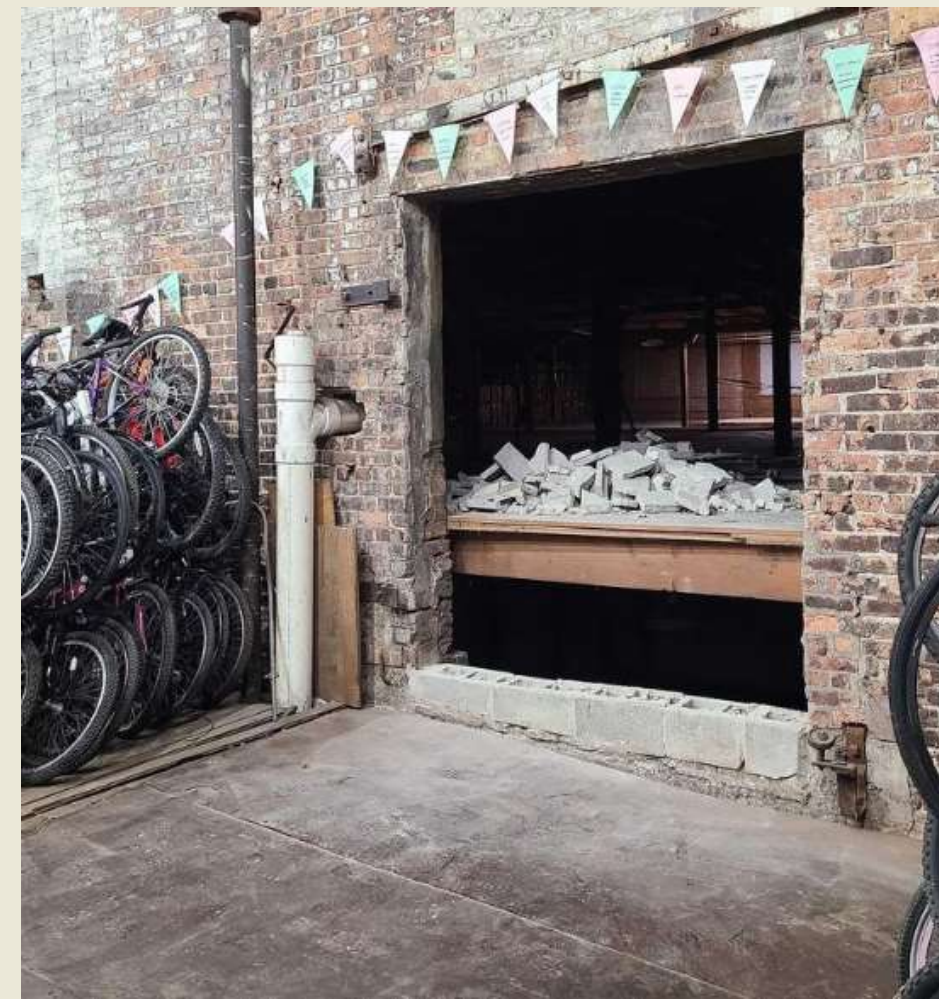
Tucked away on the second floor of the warehouse, the production shop is where our team of Production Mechanics crank out thousands of bikes for the sales floor and webstore. About 15% of the bikes donated to Working Bikes are refurbished by the team on the second floor for sales at affordable prices. In fact, in 2022 production mechanics built up **1,601 bikes** that ranged from [everyday commuters](#) to [vintage BMXs](#) to the famous [Buddy Bike](#). We also welcomed several new members to the Production team in 2022. Wren, Maxx, and Francisco (a graduate of the third Community Mechanics Training Program cohort!) have made quick work of learning the ins and outs of WB, not only refurbishing bikes for sale but pitching in where needed with the rest of the WB crew to repair bikes for local donation, helping answer volunteer questions, and assist during the always daunting annual inventory counting extravaganza. The production shop is also a favorite stop during warehouse tours and has, in addition to bicycle parts and tools galore, an eclectic assortment of decorations, cycling memorabilia, and even fish!





THE WAREHOUSE

The Working Bikes warehouse is the hub of our organization and our home; we do our best to keep it spruced up and productive year-round! In addition to the solar panels installed in 2020 that provide the building with [sustainable energy](#), our rooftop now features honey bees thanks to WB volunteer and beekeeper for [El Paseo Community Garden](#) Nikki Patino! We also saw a lot of organization throughout the warehouse, including some of the tougher areas to keep tidy like the basement (look at those rows of labeled wheels in the previous picture!) and our ever changing loading dock. And with 2022 being a busy year for incoming donations and community partnerships, we realized we needed a bit more room to grow and rented temporary space for the City's bike giveaway program from our new neighbors to the west. Speaking of expansion, last year also saw the addition of a new truck to our fleet, fondly referred to as Percy. You might see Percy around town picking up donation bikes to bring back to our home base. The fall saw the return of some of our favorite warehouse traditions, including opening our doors during Open House Chicago and our [23rd Anniversary Celebration](#) block party. We love our home and welcome folks interested in seeing where the bike magic happens to stop by for a tour!





Little Village, Chicago, IL

COLLECTION PARTNERS

Working Bikes is proud to partner with an amazing [group of collection sites throughout the Chicago area](#), ensuring that folks looking to donate a bike to our organization can do so even without visiting Little Village. Our partners include individual households, businesses, municipal groups, and other bike shops, and can be found in nearby neighborhoods and surrounding suburbs - we even have a few partners just across the border in Indiana and Wisconsin! Of the over 10,000 bikes that were donated to WB in 2022, **4,239 bikes** came through our collection partners! Our recent partner [World Vision](#) helped us out this past year as well, donating hundreds of like-new bikes that have become favorites of our international partners. Collection sites also help store and distribute repaired local donation bikes, donate accessories and tools, and spread the word about our work, getting word about WB out throughout the Midwest. Interested in becoming a collection partner? [Contact us to learn how!](#)





Little Village, Chicago, IL

SUPPORT WB & GET INVOLVED

DONATE BIKES

Bike donations support our mission and sustain our organization. Learn how you can make a donation of a bike, parts, tools, accessories, and apparel [on our website](#) or contact us at donations@workingbikes.org.

DONATE TIME

Working Bikes is supported by an amazing community of volunteers and advocates. Whether wrenching on bikes at the shop, loading a container for international shipment, or lending a hand at a bike drive or community event, our volunteers help us do what we do best! We'd love to have you join us. Learn more about volunteer opportunities [on our website](#) or contact us at volunteer@workingbikes.org

DONATE FUNDS

Financial contributions help grow our local and international donation programs, bolster community partnerships, and provide critical funds for Brandon's Bike Shop, the Service Department, and our home in Little Village! Foundations, businesses, and individuals interested in providing financial support can learn more about the different giving opportunities available on our [donation page](#) or email trevor@workingbikes.org.

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