

ONE  
ALBUQUERQUE



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE  
YOUTH CONNECT

# State of the Summer Report

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**Above:** Timothy M. Keller, Mayor, City of Albuquerque. **Left:** Two kids having fun at Youth Connect's annual Spring into Summer event.

# A Message from Mayor Keller

Each year when summer comes, we know our students are ready for summer fun, and we all look forward to a little more quality time with family. But we also know that this out-of-school time can be a challenge for working families. As parents, we want to make sure our kids stay safe and engaged in our community which is why my administration has placed such a focus on the City's summer youth programming—a range of opportunities to provide safe, fun, and enriching programs that families across our city can utilize. This past summer, the Departments of Arts and Culture, Parks and Recreation, Senior Affairs, and the Family and Community Services continued their work together under our Youth Connect initiative, building public safety by expanding our efforts to create positive and inclusive spaces for Albuquerque's youth to share interests and develop friendships.

In addition to regular Youth Connect programs serving 37,237 children this summer, department staff worked hard to add even more opportunities for teens by bringing back our Friday Teen Night Series. These five events allowed 445 teens to safely enjoy their weekend nights and socialize after a difficult year coming out of the pandemic. We also knew that with the rising cost of everyday shopping, our annual Cruzin' Into the School Year event at the end of the summer would be

crucial to help families start the school year off prepared and with less stress. With over 3,500 attendees, we were able to distribute 2,007 backpacks filled with school supplies, provide 348 fresh haircuts, and offer 75 sports physicals—allowing parents to stay focused on creating excitement for their children about going back to school.

We often say it “takes a village” and that's exactly why we continue to expand our reach to offer more opportunities than ever before. I am proud of the hard work each City team member puts into making our youth programs a success. In the following report, I invite you to look at the data from this summer and reflect on the invaluable impact our programs continue to make on our future generations.

In the spirit of Albuquerque,

TIMOTHY M. KELLER, MAYOR,  
The City of Albuquerque



# About Youth Connect

The City of Albuquerque is committed to creating positive experiences and opportunities for youth in our city. City departments work together to connect youth to opportunities including out-of-school-time programs, events, camps, classes, resources, training, and jobs.

Summer is an especially important time of year to keep young people safe and engaged in their community, and the City ramps up offerings for youth and families in the summer months.

## How to Contact Us

The list on page 5 includes the website information for all of the participating departments with the City of Albuquerque. Be sure to check out these websites for more individualized information on our programming.

## NEWSLETTER

Find information about Youth Connect events and programming through our quarterly digital newsletter.



**Above:** Two girls hugging at Youth Connect's annual Spring into Summer event. **Left:** The Youth Connect flower of influence. **Right:** Intern in the Mayor's Creative Youth Corps working on the "Lost and Found" public art project.

## YOUTH CONNECT WEBSITE

Have you taken advantage of the Youth Connect mobile site? It's your one-stop-shop for programs and events. Find City and non-city programs, online resources, activities, and more at [yc.cabq.gov](http://yc.cabq.gov).

## OUR MISSION

*The mission of One Albuquerque "Youth Connect" is to enrich the lives of the people of Albuquerque and create a community of safety and inclusion by connecting Albuquerque's youth to opportunities in our city.*



**CONTACT US**

Youth Connect

[CABQ.GOV/YOUTH-CONNECT](https://CABQ.GOV/YOUTH-CONNECT)

Youth Connect Mobile

[YC.CABQ.GOV](https://YC.CABQ.GOV)

Mayor's Office

[CABQ.GOV/MAYOR](https://CABQ.GOV/MAYOR)Department of Arts  
and Culture[CABQ.GOV/  
CULTURALSERVICES](https://CABQ.GOV/CULTURALSERVICES)Office of Equity  
and Inclusion[CABQ.GOV/OFFICE-OF-  
EQUITY-INCLUSION](https://CABQ.GOV/OFFICE-OF-EQUITY-INCLUSION)Family and Community  
Services[CABQ.GOV/FAMILY](https://CABQ.GOV/FAMILY)Parks and Recreation  
Department[CABQ.GOV/  
PARKSANDRECREATION](https://CABQ.GOV/PARKSANDRECREATION)Department of  
Senior Affairs[CABQ.GOV/MULTIGENYOUTH](https://CABQ.GOV/MULTIGENYOUTH)Department  
of Technology  
and Innovation[CABQ.GOV/TECHNOLOGY-  
INNOVATION](https://CABQ.GOV/TECHNOLOGY-INNOVATION)

Transit

[CABQ.GOV/TRANSIT](https://CABQ.GOV/TRANSIT)

# About This Year's Report

On behalf of the Youth Connect team, we are pleased to share the 2022 State of the Summer Report. This report includes highlights from the 2022 summer season and represents the work of seven City departments that offered programming for kids and teens in Albuquerque.

The City is committed to keeping our young people safe and engaged, and we know meaningful opportunities for connection are even more important in the summer months.

Our goal is for every child, parent or guardian to be completely satisfied with their summer experience with the City, to feel safe and enriched by their participation in City programming.

# 2022 Program Highlights

*As Albuquerque and the rest of the world has had to redefine the new “normal” after the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s summer youth programs continued to operate at full capacity as they did since the start of the pandemic.*

While many cities across the country struggled to open facilities, pools, and programs, the City of Albuquerque was committed to keeping doors open for local kids. Fun, safe, engaging, and inclusive programs brought kids back together while easing their family’s worries.

In 2022, we knew young people needed safe spaces to come together to hang out and have fun. This summer saw the long-awaited return of Teen Nights, with a total just shy of 500 teens participating. City youth programs had more inter-department collaboration, as well as new partnerships with external organizations. The new “normal” might look a little different than before COVID-19, but programs, staff, and participants thrived within it.

BY THE NUMBERS

**37,277**

Total Youth Registered

**258,151**

Total Youth Attendance

**116**

Total Programs

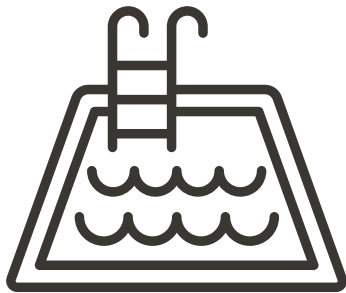
**169**

Total Sites

**187,765**

Total Meals Served to Youth

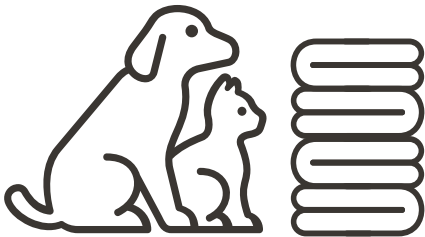
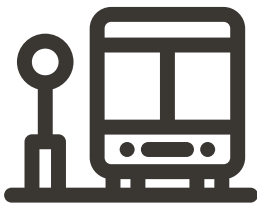
## EXTENDED HOURS



for all CABQ pools

**FREE**

bus rides for  
all youth



Acts of Kindness: A partnership  
with Animal Welfare to  
provide homemade blankets for  
pets in shelters

**335**

youth participated in Any Given  
Child Circus Arts program



**Free WiFi  
Citywide**

locations (90 locations,  
45 have outdoor access)







**Left:** City Summer Program participants test their climbing skills at the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center.

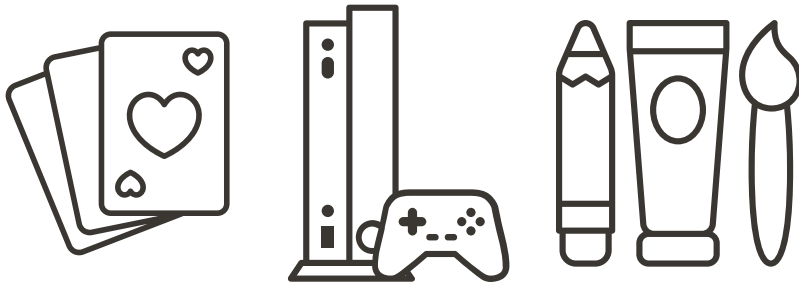
“

*I really have enjoyed the time I spent in the program. We are blessed that we get to do a lot of things that aren't expensive like really cool field trips.”*

—Jenson, 10

North Domingo Baca Community Center

## Return of Teen Nights!

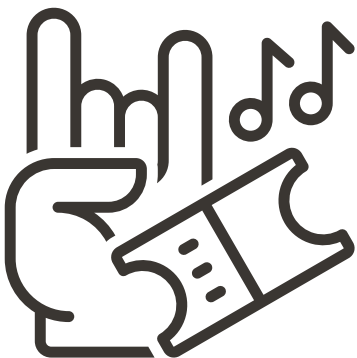


448 in attendance, 5 total events

# 2,007



BACKPACKS DISTRIBUTED  
AT CRUZIN' INTO THE SCHOOL  
YEAR EVENT

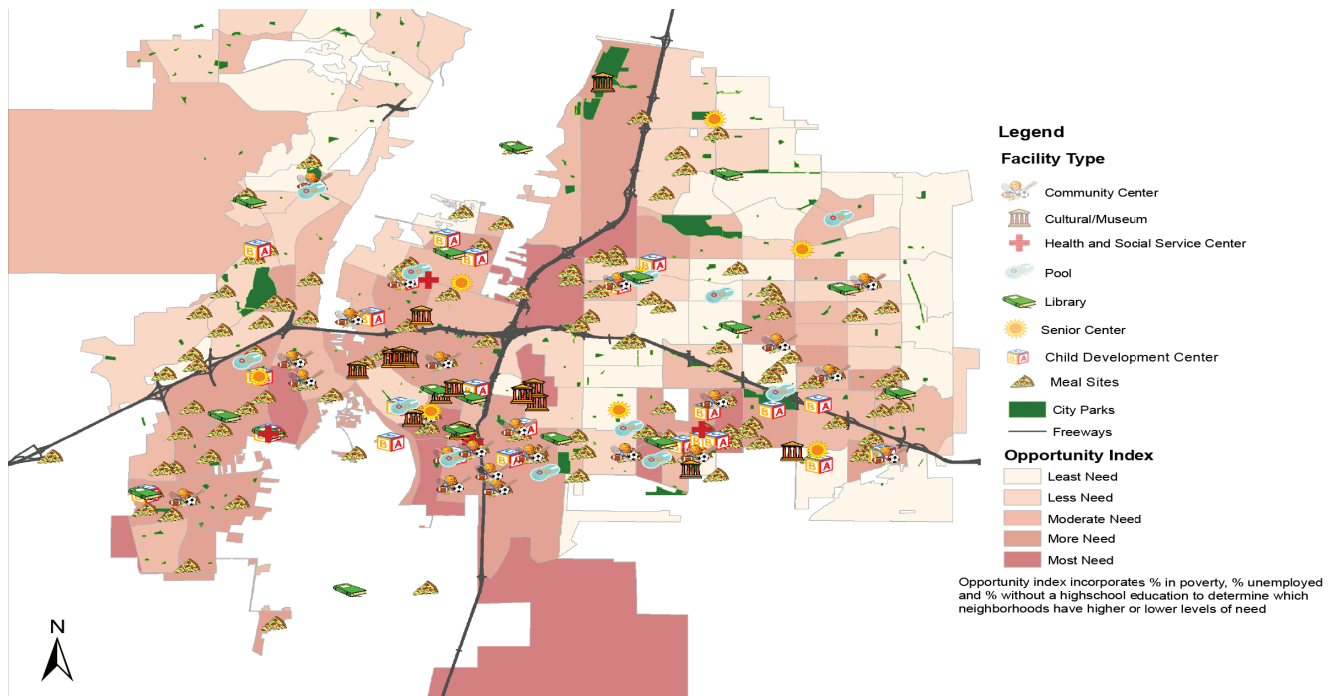


Over  
70,000  
attended  
the 2022  
ABQ  
Summerfest

## New Youth Kayak Classes

at West Mesa Aquatic  
Center and Sunport Pool





# Our Impact in the Community

## Our Programs

Youth Connect strives to provide every child in our city with access to meaningful, fun, and enriching summer programs. Accessibility and inclusion are at the core of our offerings: City of Albuquerque summer programs are for all youth, no matter their ability, ethnicity, economic status, or orientation.

We are proud to offer a wide array of programs and activities for Albuquerque families so that there is an opportunity to fit each family's unique interests and needs. Our programs range from outdoor adventures to STEAM-based camps to summer reading.

### PROGRAM SITES

This summer, programs were offered at 169 locations in every part of the city including community and multigenerational centers, libraries, pools, museums, parks, open spaces, and even the BioPark! This year, program participation grew, serving 37,277 children.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Making youth programs accessible and inclusive is vital to Youth Connect. The City's ACCESS (Arts, Community, Culture, Education, Sports, & Science) Program, housed in the Department of Family and Community Services (FCS), worked with four departments and five different divisions to make programs more inclusive and accessible to children with and without disabilities. This is done by conducting assessments of participants who need extra support, providing technical assistance to program coordinators, and

**Above:** Map of Youth Connect program sites and facilities.

**Left:** Albuquerque youth learn to rock climb.

offering extensive staff training on inclusion and inclusive practices.

### LANGUAGE ACCESS AND SUPPORT

With technical assistance from the Office of Equity and Inclusion, language access support was rolled out to all Youth Connect sponsored activities so non-English speakers could access events and information.

## Community Feedback

### OUR GOALS

Our goal is for every child, parent, or guardian to be completely satisfied with their summer experience with the City of Albuquerque.

We accept feedback from participants throughout our programs to improve our offerings and ensure families have a positive summer with the City.





#### SURVEY RESPONSES

We want to give every child, parent or guardian a great experience when they choose a summer program with the City of Albuquerque.

At the end of the City's Summer Youth Programs, surveys went out to parents and guardians of participants in order to gauge satisfaction and get new ideas for programming. Survey results indicate an overwhelming satisfaction of programs, staffing, and safety. The Youth Connect management team continuously strives to improve and grow programs and opportunities for youth and families and this survey is a useful tool in doing so.

#### Our Partnerships

Partnerships play an important role in helping Youth Connect reach children and families across the city with unique and engaging activities.

This summer, over 170 partners collaborated with the City to offer arts, music, dance, swimming, and nature activities. The summer culminated in the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Cruzin' Into the School Year event where the City distributed 2,007 backpacks and over 2,000 books, gave 345 haircuts, and provided 75 sports physicals to kids returning to school. A special thanks to our title sponsor, Western Sky Community Care for their continued support of this event and the City's youth.

We were also kindly provided with

City interns who make our work run smoother, and partners who provided additional programming for young people throughout our city.

#### Our Staff

Youth employment is another important way in which Youth Connect prepares youth for their futures in school, career, and life. Our youth employees are instrumental in the planning and facilitation of the City's summer youth programs. This summer, employees served in a variety of capacities including: recreation leaders; lifeguards; cashiers; swim, tennis, and pickleball instructors; clerical workers; maintenance workers; and adventure leaders. The City also hosted two internship programs through the Job Mentor Program and the Mayor's Creative Youth Corps.

Interns had vast experiences as well, including learning forensics in the Albuquerque Police Department lab, experiencing the importance of community gardening, and seeing first hand how the City's Economic Development Department plays a role in making Albuquerque a great place to live and work. Interns in the Mayor's Creative Youth Corps installed art pop ups at the 2022 State of the City event, managed and installed a month-long art installation at a local gallery, and learned about the creative economy in Albuquerque.

#### PROGRAM SURVEY RESULTS PARTICIPATION

# 94%

of Parents would  
recommend our Programs

# 94%

of Parents were  
comfortable sending their  
children to City Programs

#### STAFF & INTERNS DEMOGRAPHICS

# 966

Total Staff

# \$3.1M

Total Youth Wages

# 76%

Youth Staff Members  
of Color

# 57%

Women Youth  
Staff Members

# 19

Average Age (of Youth  
Staff Members)

# 124

Total Youth Interns

# Hearing From the Community

*Our staff, interns, and youth participants are the heart of City programs.*



“

*I have enjoyed learning and growing this summer. I hope I impacted these kids as much as they have impacted me.”*

**–Hope Davis, 17**  
Rec Leader, North Domingo  
Baca Community Center

“

*The MCYC [Mayor’s Creative Youth Corps] opened so many gates for me. I met many people who have presented multiple other opportunities in the career path I want to continue in. I could not be more grateful for these relationships.”*

**–Emily Baron, 17**  
Mayor’s Creative Youth Corps



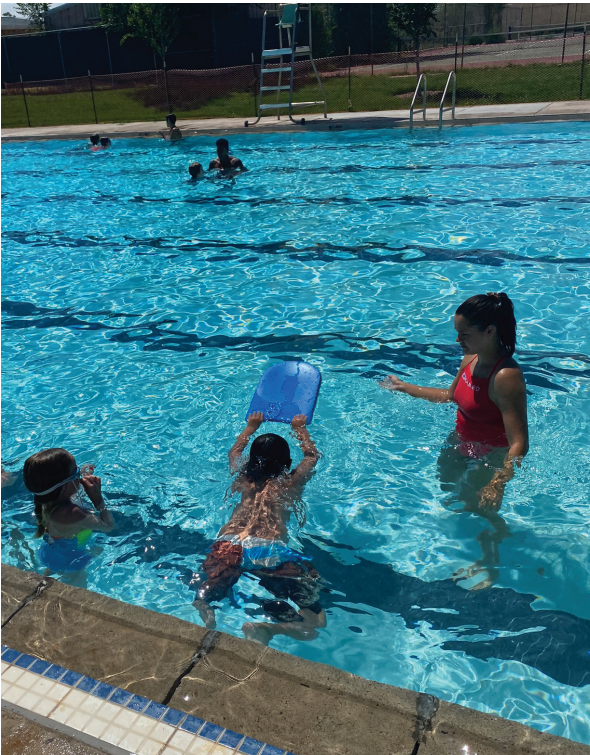
“

*The staff are really nice and cool, that’s my favorite part of the summer.”*

**–Terrance, 10**  
North Domingo Baca  
Community Center







JULIE HAMLIN (3), COURTESY OF CABQ



**CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE**

State of the Summer Report  
*Youth Connect*

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**FALL 2022**