

ONE
ALBUQUE
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CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

The State of the Summer Report

*Spotlighting key achievements and insights from
Albuquerque's youth summer program activities.*

P. 311

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Above: Mayor Tim Keller, Mayor of Albuquerque. **Left:** Albuquerque youth flourishing through art and dance.

From the Mayor

A quick message from the Mayor.

Dear One Albuquerque Families,
We believe in the limitless potential of our youth and their families. Youth Connect signifies more than just programs; it represents our unwavering commitment to forging a brighter future for everyone.

Our experiences are meticulously crafted to empower, inspire, and enrich the lives of young individuals. Whether it's through youth employment and educational opportunities, exciting summer adventures, or active community involvement, we are resolute in our mission to offer a diverse range of programming that fosters personal growth, learning, and pure enjoyment.

In the promise of Albuquerque, we see a home that appreciates diversity, creativity, and resilience. Through Youth Connect, we are nurturing the talents, dreams, and aspirations of our youth because we genuinely recognize that their success is the cornerstone to fulfilling our city's promise—to be the best place for families.

This year, we've expanded our reach with an increase to 306 summer program locations and witnessed a remarkable 13% surge in summer program registrations.

This means more choices and opportunities for families than ever before.

We understand that achieving our goals takes a collective effort. Our dedicated staff, along with our invaluable network of partners, are instrumental in propelling us toward new milestones year after year.

Their collaborative spirit have been the driving force behind our continued success. Together, we work tirelessly to ensure that these opportunities have a lasting, positive impact on our community.

So, let's harness the extraordinary potential within our city. Together, we are shaping a future filled with even more promise and possibility.

In the spirit of Albuquerque,

MAYOR TIM KELLER



About Youth Connect

Albuquerque’s Youth Connect is a city-wide initiative dedicated to empowering the city’s young residents by offering them a wide range of resources and opportunities.

This initiative unites dozens of city departments in a shared mission of supporting our youth through mentorship programs, educational support, job training, and access to vital services and programs.

Youth Connect is committed to nurturing personal development and fostering civic engagement among young people, equipping them with the skills necessary for success and thereby contributing to a brighter future for our city.

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.

Above: Fostering pets can teach kids responsibility. **Top:** Creativity and expression at its finest with Youth Connect. **Left:** Youth Connect’s flower of resources throughout the city.

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, on line resources, activities, and more at yc.cabq.gov.

NEWSLETTER

Find information about Youth Connect events and programming through our quarterly digital newsletter on our [website](http://yc.cabq.gov).



Above: Exploring new activities with Youth Connect programs.

About This Year's Report

Our Motivation

The 2023 Youth Connect Team serves as a shining representation of Albuquerque's unwavering dedication to becoming the best city for families. We embrace the responsibility of meeting the diverse needs of Albuquerque's families by offering a comprehensive range of programs and services, particularly during the summer months.

Our summer meal programs not only ensure that children and families have access to nutritious meals but also create a sense of community and togetherness. These programs go beyond simply nourishing bodies; they nourish the bonds that make Albuquerque a great place to call home.

Not just during the summer months, but all year long we understand the importance of safe and inclusive spaces. We take pride in working collaboratively with all city departments to ensure that every program we offer is not only enjoyable but also welcoming to all members of our diverse community. Inclusivity is not just a buzzword; it's a fundamental value that guides our efforts.

Every year, we are filled with excitement and determination to reach new heights in serving Albuquerque's families. We believe that by creating a network of supportive programs and initiatives, we can build a stronger, more vibrant community where every family thrives. The emphasis of Youth Connect is to be a source of opportunity and support, and a testament to the enduring promise of our beloved city.

CONTACT US

Youth Connect

CABQ.GOV/YOUTH-CONNECT

Youth Connect Mobile

YC.CABQ.GOV

Mayor's Office

CABQ.GOV/MAYOR

Department of Arts and Culture

CABQ.GOV/CULTURALSERVICES

Office of Equity and Inclusion

CABQ.GOV/OFFICE-OF-EQUITY-INCLUSION

Parks and Recreation Department

CABQ.GOV/PARKSANDRECREATION

Department of Senior Affairs

CABQ.GOV/MULTIGENYOUTH

Department of Technology and Innovation

CABQ.GOV/TECHNOLOGY-INNOVATION

Transit

CABQ.GOV/TRANSIT

Youth & Family Services

CABQ.GOV/FAMILY

OUR NEWSLETTER

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



Above: The 2023 cohort of Mayor's Creative Youth Corps.

2023 Program Highlights

Throughout the 2023-year, Youth Connect's dedication to serving the community and empowering youth yielded inspiring results. We served an impressive 31,512 more meals compared to the previous summer, addressing a critical need for nourishment. Registrations for our summer programs experienced a remarkable 13% increase, with a total of 42,294 enthusiastic young participants.

Our Summerfest Series was a resounding success, attracting over 25,000 attendees and providing a platform for community celebration. Albuquerque Museum enriched the educational experiences of local youth by hosting 45 school-aged groups from May 31 to August 4.

The Mayor's Creative Youth Corps (MCYC) made a memorable impact by premiering the feature-length documentary "Your Dreams Aren't Stupid" to a sold-out audience at the Guild Cinema.

Our Multigenerational Centers fostered meaningful connections through bi-monthly multigenerational and family nights, promoting togetherness within the community.

Lastly, at the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center, the Intergenerational Tradition series brought different age groups together each week as part of our summer program. These highlights exemplify our unwavering dedication to forging positive and impactful experiences for youth and families year-round.

BY THE NUMBERS

238,047

Youth Attendance

111

Programs

306

Sites

219,277

Meals

STAFF & INTERNS DEMOGRAPHICS

736

Total Staff

396

Youth Staff Retention

340

New Youth Hires

42%

Women Youth Staff Members



Above: The Youth Connect hopes to influence and encourage developmental growth of local kids.

Left: Kids playing at the new North Domingo Park Splash Pad.

Beyond the Playground

Our Programs

Youth Connect Programs break free from the confines of traditional playgrounds, extending to all interests and enthusiasms. Regardless of one's age or preferences, our wide-ranging selection of over a hundred programs offered ensures that there's a perfect fit for everyone, catering to families, teenagers, and those who are young at heart. Here are some examples of our diverse programs that cater to a myriad of passions.

Beginning Bird Kits at Public Libraries: For the budding ornithologists or those simply curious about our feathered friends, our Beginning Bird Kits provide an engaging introduction to the world of birdwatching and the joys of avian observation.

Family Nature Club Hikes: Families looking to connect with nature can discover the wonders of the great outdoors and bond over shared explorations.

Bike Rodeos: Young cycling enthusiasts can hone their riding skills, learn about bike safety, and embrace the thrill of two-wheeled adventures through our Bike Rodeos.

Teen Nights: Teenagers looking for a night out with friends can enjoy a safe space with entertainment, and opportunities to socialize and be themselves.

Teen Nature Program: Teenagers passionate about the environment and the natural world can experience ecology, conservation, and outdoor adventures.

APD Camp Fearless: Building character and resilience in young individuals, our Camp Fearless program empowers young people to overcome challenges and develop vital life skills.

Traditions Programs (a multigenerational program): Embracing the rich tapestry of cultural diversity, the Traditions Programs offer a platform for generations to connect, share, and celebrate their heritage through a variety of engaging activities and events.

These programs are a testament to our commitment to fostering a sense of community, lifelong learning, and all-inclusive well-being. Beyond the confines of an outdoor park or playground, Youth Connect Programs cater to all passions, ensuring that everyone can find something meaningful and exciting to engage with.

Our Program Accomplishments

Over the course of our summer programs, the collective efforts and dedication of our staff, interns, and youth have yielded remarkable accomplishments.

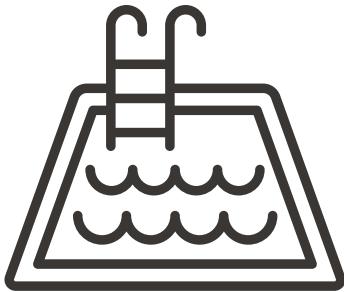
From fostering community engagement initiatives to spearheading innovative projects, their collaborative spirit has led to impactful transformations within our local sphere.

Through their commitment and passion, these programs have not only flourished but have also become catalysts for positive change, leaving a lasting imprint on the community we serve.

5,000

ATTENDEES

at this year's
"Cruzin' into the School
Year" event



West Mesa Aquatic Center's \$2 million in facility upgrades and renovations

FREE

bus rides for
all youth



135

interns in the Job Mentor Program (JMP) for summer work



NEW SPLASH PAD



at North Domingo Baca Park

Free WiFi Citywide

locations (90 locations,
45 have outdoor access)





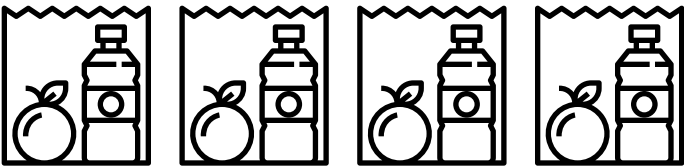
Left: Albuquerque's goal through Youth Connect programs is creating the best place for raising families.

200+
HAIRCUTS



PROVIDED AT OUR
CRUZIN' INTO THE
SCHOOL YEAR EVENT

219,277



total number for the summer meals provided
to the community

1,760



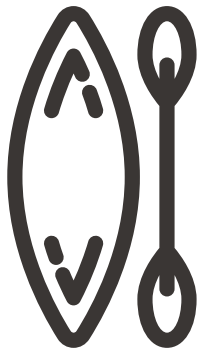
BACKPACKS DISTRIBUTED
AT OUR CRUZIN' INTO THE
SCHOOL YEAR EVENT



Over
25,000
attended
the 2023
Summerfest

**New Kids'
Paddleboard
Class**

at Los Altos Pool





Above: Our summer meal program expanded, serving thousands more meals than the previous year, ensuring access to nourishment for our community. **Left:** Barelvas Park transformed with a new playground and inclusive amenities for all ages.

Facing Page: Make a splash with Parks and Recreation Aquatics this summer. Fun for the whole family awaits!

Community Success in Youth Connect

Community Feedback

Youth Connect Programs are dedicated to providing every child in our city with access to enjoyable, enriching summer activities. Accessibility and inclusion are the cornerstones of our programs, open to all youth, regardless of ability, ethnicity, language, economic status, or orientation.

In the summer of 2023, our programs increased to 306 locations across the city, including community and multigenerational centers, libraries, pools, museums, parks, open spaces, and even the BioPark. We experienced growth in program participation, serving a total of 42,294 young participants.

At Youth Connect, we consider accessibility and inclusivity as paramount. Our City's ACCESS Program, part of the Youth and Family Services (Y&F), collaborated with four departments and five different divisions to make our programs more inclusive and accessible for children with and without disabilities.

This effort involves conducting assessments of participants who require additional support, offering technical assistance to program coordinators, and ensuring a welcoming environment for all.

As we pledge to deliver innovative and high-quality programming for all, we actively seek input from parents to infuse fresh ideas into our offerings.

Each year, surveys are distributed to parents and guardians upon the conclusion of the City's Summer Youth Programs. The consistently positive survey results, reflecting satisfaction with our programs, staff, and safety measures, motivate Youth Connect to continuously enhance and expand opportunities for youth and families. These survey responses serve as valuable tools, offering insight and foresight for the years ahead.



The Partners

Partnerships are essential for Youth Connect’s citywide impact. This summer, we collaborated with over 174 partners to provide diverse activities such as arts, music, dance, swimming, and nature experiences.

The pinnacle of our summer, the 6th annual Cruzin’ Into the School Year event, welcomed 5,000 families and offered 1,760 backpacks and 200 haircuts to ensure a great start to the school year.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our title sponsor, Western Sky Community Care, for their support and sponsorship.

We also value the contributions of our diverse staff, interns, and partner organizations, all of which enhance our city’s youth programs.

The Staff

Youth employment is a cornerstone

of Youth Connects mission to foster opportunities and instill life skills for future success. Our youth employees bring the City’s summer youth programs to life; their dedication is integral to our success.

During the past summer, our youth employees assumed diverse roles, serving as recreation leaders, lifeguards, cashiers, instructors for swim, tennis, and pickleball, clerical staff, maintenance personnel, and adventure leaders.

Additionally, the Annual Youth Job Fair, which targets young workers aged 14-25, has been a resounding success, with over 900 enthusiastic attendees applying for positions across dozens of city departments, both seasonal and permanent, further demonstrating our commitment to empowering the next generation.

Beyond summer employment, the City

SURVEY PARTICIPATION RESULTS

84%

of Parents would recommend our Programs

83%

of Parents were satisfied with their family’s experience in summer youth programs

89%

of Parents were satisfied with the costs of the program(s)

83%

of Parents agree that City staff provided good care

hosted two highly successful internship programs: the Job Mentor Program (JMP) and the Mayor’s Creative Youth Corps (MCCYC).

MCCYC interns made a lasting impact by producing commercials for Teen Nights and creating the documentary film “Your Dreams Aren’t Stupid,” inspiring young adults to pursue their passions fearlessly in their career journeys.

These youth employment and internship opportunities offered by the City of Albuquerque not only empower our talented youth but also enrich and invigorate our city.

Experienced Perspectives

Staff, interns, and youth share their perspectives on the essence of our summer programs.



“

Summer is the best when you spend time with good people. I had a blast creating memories of a great first job.”

–Erica S.

Holiday Park Community Center Youth Staff

“

The best part about being an instructor for me is getting to work with kids. I love knowing that I get to play a role in ensuring my students will safely swim in the future.”

–Ming R.

Rio Grande Pool Instructor



“

I like this center so much, its my home. I've been coming here for so long. I like that we had sports and the talent show. Best Summer Ever.”

–Markos O.

Cesar Chavez Community Center Summer Program Participant



“

This is my favorite job that I've ever had, I've been here for two summers and love it. I love how flexible my hours are. I really like my coworkers, they're fun to be around and the kids are a joy.

–Jessie W.,
Manzano Mesa
Multigenerational Youth Staff

“

The splash pad was fun and the whole summer was fun. All the different field trips made me happy. I want to come back next year.”

–Lina J.
North Domingo Baca Summer
Program Participant



UNSPLASH / RACHEL FLYNN, COURTESY OF CABQ, UNSPLASH / FRANK MCKENNA



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