

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Good neighbors

RDA receives grant funds for program expansion and new projects

By Alissa Workman

As a nonprofit organization, RDA relies on the support of generous donors and grant-making foundations to engage in our community informed work in Rosedale. This spring and summer, RDA received a number of local grants to strengthen our work to build a thriving and resilient Rosedale for all who live, work, and play here. On behalf of all Rosedalianians who benefit from these efforts, RDA is grateful for the following support:

Kansas City Children's Assistant Network (KC CAN!) supports expanding the Summer Youth Employment program (SYE) so that youth can work beyond the summer on community projects with RDA staff while receiving ongoing mentorship on job-related skills during the school year. Through this expansion, youth not only have the opportunity to receive a paycheck throughout the year, but are

also better prepared to enter the job market next summer.

Neighborhoods Rising Fund lays the groundwork toward bringing a community center to Rosedale. With this two-year grant, RDA will survey the community on their priorities for a Rosedale community center; engage partners and potential funders in the process; train board, staff, and neighborhood leaders; and complete the other necessary steps toward launching the ambitious project.

Hall Family Foundation provides emergency assistance funding (help with utility bills, rent, or groceries) for Rosedale residents. Applications for this assistance can be found at: rosedale.org/emergency-assistance/.

The Health Forward Foundation continues to fund the Advancing Rosedale Commu-



The 2021 Summer Youth Employment students meet with representatives from Rosedale businesses at the beginning of June. The program received a grant from KC CAN! that allows students to work and receive mentorship throughout the year.

nity Health (ARCH). This one-year funding supports a bulk of RDA's work in Rosedale, including youth programs, minor home repair, garden and trail maintenance, community cleanup events such as those held this past spring, advocacy toward things like complete streets, sidewalks,

and parks, and community events like Healthy Halloween and the Luminary Hike.

To learn more about how to support RDA's efforts in Rosedale, contact the RDA office at 913-677-5097, email alissa@rosedale.org, or visit rosedale.org/donate.



THE ROSEDALIAN

ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

RDA and Vox Theatre to host Rosedale Business Social

By Alissa Workman

Individuals who work at or own businesses in Rosedale are invited to join Rosedale Development Association and the Vox Theatre Event Space for a Rosedale Business Social networking event, on Wednesday, July 28. Attendees will mingle with fellow Rosedale colleagues, enjoy light food and drinks, and discuss issues currently facing the Rosedale business community.

The event will take place at RDA and the Vox's shared backyard space, located at 1401 Southwest Blvd. Individuals can come and go anytime between 6-8 p.m. While there is no formal program or presentation taking place, RDA is excited to welcome Mayor Alvey, Commissioner Ramirez, and Commissioner Burroughs to the event. Light snacks and refreshments will also be served, thanks to the generous support of the RDA Board of Directors.

In 2020, RDA conducted focus groups and a community survey to determine what Rosedalianians needed, so that

they could better respond to the pandemic and address the ripple effects that continue to linger. One recurring suggestion was the need for more connections among Rosedale business owners, many who live in the area as well, to create a network that can work together to address future community challenges.

"After over 18 months of being somewhat siloed, we wanted to bring folks back together and listen to what issues they are currently facing," said Erin Stryka, RDA's Executive Director. "I am looking forward to seeing people outside of a square on my computer screen."

RDA will follow county guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and encourages those who have not been vaccinated to wear a mask during the event.

To learn more about this Neighborhood Social event, please contact Juanise Oliver at 913-677-5097 or juanise@rosedale.org.



Rosedalians coming together for a past community survey.

Community survey coming soon

By Erin Stryka

Over the past year, RDA has been studying what it would take to build a community center in Rosedale. From touring and meeting with other community centers, to starting a community center stakeholder group, RDA has been putting pieces in place to start our biggest project yet.

People who live, work and play in Rosedale have been advocating for a community center of their own since the Bell Recreation Center closed in 1997. In the 2015 Rosedale Community Survey, the results were clear — a community center is still very much needed. The 2016 Rosedale Master Plan and the 2017 University Town Plan also both call for a community center in Rosedale. No one else is going to make this plan a reality; it is up to us.

To make this dream a

reality, we need your input. RDA believes that neighbors are the community experts, and for this new project, your expertise is invaluable. A community center can be a lot of things: a place to gather, a place to exercise, a place to play or to learn. We need guidance on what, exactly, we are trying to build, and what is the most important use of our limited resources?

Please watch your mailbox for a postcard inviting you to take the Community Center Priority Survey within the next month. The survey will be available in English and Spanish, with both an online and paper option.

If you want to be involved in the stakeholder group working to bring a community center to Rosedale, contact erin@rosedale.org.

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Emergency Assistance available to Rosedalians

By Sarah Waggoner

RDA is happy to announce that they have received \$10,000 of additional funding for emergency assistance for rent, utilities, and groceries. The last time we received a similar award, the need was so high that the funds were exhausted within one month. These funds are specifically for neighbors living in the 66103 zip code, and they have helped numerous fami-

lies who have experienced Covid-19 related setbacks. One of these families recently reached back out to RDA and let us know these funds helped them (names withheld for privacy).

“We were unable to pay our rent bill because I had been looking for work for three months because of the pandemic,” shared the mother of the Rosedale family, who received assistance in January of 2021. “My husband’s hours at work had also been reduced, and it seemed like we had just been behind for months. Between the help with rent, the LIEAP program and the food pantry, we made it work throughout the winter. When you all said you would pay our rent, I felt like I could take a deep breath for the first time in a long time.”

RDA is thankful that there is an opportunity to assist additional families this summer. Grocery store gift cards are available as well. The emergency assistance application is on the RDA website, and if you do not have access to a computer, paper applications are available at the RDA offices.

To learn more about emergency assistance and other area resources, visit rosedale.com/emergency-assistance.

"Rosedale has potential to become a model for other cities to follow in America, We are race, economically, politically diverse and have people all over the board in their beliefs that seem to respect each other. RDA can further lead the way."



Summer Youth Employees smile for a group photo

Summer Youth Employment participants make an impact

By Victor Michimani

RDA is hosting its annual Summer Youth Employment program, with nine active participants in this year’s cohort. Last year, due to the pandemic, youth employees were placed at RDA with a focus on community based betterment projects, with great results. For this summer, we are thrilled to be able to return to placing youth back in the typical workforce, with many local businesses signing on as first-time hosts.

The youth participants are working with a variety of different local Rosedale businesses including Chixen KC, Dynamic Discs, the Rainbow Summer Program, Little Angels Daycare, Cross-Lines Community Outreach, the KCK Farmers Market, and E Edwards Workwear. Participants work alongside these businesses to gain critical work development skills as well as long-lasting mentorship. The business hosts are able to gain a new employee and give back to the community, while RDA pays the youth employee’s wages with grant funding. Each Friday, the participants convene for a weekly lunch and learn in which they share about their work experi-

ences, socialize, and learn professional development skills. These skills cover a variety of topics such as resume building, brand development, and interview preparation.

Kamahni Jackson, age 14, has been placed at Dynamic Discs, and shared she has had the opportunity to develop excellent communication and customer service skills. Along with the customer service exposure, she has the pleasure of learning more about disc golf including the opportunity to practice with some of her colleagues.

Alejandro Rodriguez, age 14, has been placed with the RDA offices assisting with the Rainbow Summer Program and helping staff work on larger projects. Alejandro has the opportunity to develop discipline rules with the Rainbow Summer Program, in which he was a participant in past years.

In addition to providing these opportunities this summer, the summer youth employees have the opportunity to continue a lasting relationship with local Rosedale businesses and can continue to work with RDA on special projects after the summer session ends.

Community calendar

JULY:

July 17 at 9:30 a.m.

Yoga in the park
Whitmore Park

July 26-30

Rosedale goes to Wildwood
Wildwood Outdoor Education Center

July 28 at 6 p.m.

Rosedale Business Social
1401 Southwest Blvd.

AUGUST:

August 6

Movie night in the park:
Scooby Doo
Rosedale Park

August 18

RDA Block Party Fundraiser
1403 Southwest Blvd.

SEPTEMBER:

September Date TBD

9/11 Day of Service
Community Service project

September 18

Rosedale Disc de Triomphe
Rosedale Park

Entry fee required.

To learn more about upcoming events and other community happenings, visit rosedale.org or call 913-677-5097.

Rosedale Development Association

Our mission is to work with residents, businesses, and institutions to develop a thriving Rosedale community.

1403 Southwest Blvd.
Kansas City, KS 66103
Phone 913-677-5097
Fax 913-677-3437
info@rosedale.org
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Erin Stryka Executive Director
Sarah Waggoner Editor
Lizzardbrand Design/illustration

Staff and Board of Directors
online at rosedale.org
[Facebook.com/RosedaleDevelopment](https://facebook.com/RosedaleDevelopment)
[Twitter.com/RosedaleDA](https://twitter.com/RosedaleDA)
[Rosedale.org](https://rosedale.org)

Rainbow Summer Program returns to Southwest Blvd.

By Juanise Oliver

It’s summertime and for the children in Rosedale that means one thing . . . Rainbow Summer Program! This year we are pleased to have the program back in-person at Rainbow Mennonite Church. We welcome back Program Director Samanthé Burton-Bosket and Site Director Ajhanæ Franklin for a full six weeks of literacy and activity-based fun. Along with four classroom facilitators and culinary and cleaning staff, they welcomed 26 scholars to the program this year, a smaller group than past years, due to safety regulations and distancing protocols.

While this summer is a little different than others, scholars continue engaging in financial literacy, gardening, mini society, and social justice projects using our new Couch to commission guide. Facilitators also continue efforts to prevent summer reading-level loss by incorporating books that meet the scholars’ interest.

When asked about their experience this summer as a classroom facilitator, the Americorps members all echoed sentiments of enjoying spending time with the youth, assisting them in retaining knowledge, growing over the summer break, and their ap-

preciation for working with an awesome team.

“Having the program back in person has been challenging, yet it is so much more interactive than last year. The kids definitely are having more fun being in person and being a part of a classroom,” Samanthé shared during a recent day of learning in the community gardens.

With the scholars being back in person, there will be a finale show at the end of

the summer, but in a limited capacity. So we would also like to culminate the program by inviting school-age scholars and their family to join us at RDA on August 18, Block Party Fundraiser with back-to-school giveaways with our neighbors ChixenKC.

To learn more about the Rainbow Summer Program or to volunteer to read to our scholars, visit rosedale.org/rainbow-summer-program.



Photo: RSP students work in the garden

Let’s be rock solid together!
Please accept my donation in support of RDA.

Name of business or name of household

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Preferred phone

Email address

Please mail or bring this form along with your gift to:

Rosedale Development Association, 1403 Southwest Blvd., Kansas City, KS 66103
OR contribute online at rosedale.org/archclub.

Updated vaccine information

Former Kmart building
7836 State Ave., KCK

Covid-19 **vaccines** (ages 12+)
Wednesday-Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Covid-19 **testing**:
Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Childhood **immunizations**:
Wednesday, 12-6 p.m.

Request a ride to a vaccine site:
Visit wycovaccines.org or
click the QR code.

