

2023 Annual Report



EKAR

FARM

CONNECT. GROW. NOURISH. REPAIR.



Who We Are

Now in its 14th season, Ekar serves as a focal point for Denver’s Jewish community to come together around issues of food security, environmentalism, and urban farming. Each year, Ekar commits to growing 20,000 pounds of produce for food access partners including Jewish Family Services’ Weinberg Food Pantry, Metro Caring, Kavod Senior Life, Hope Communities’, preschools throughout the Denver area, SAME Cafe, Spirit of the Sun, and a WIC immigrant CSA program.

We’ve brought together thousands of people—young and old, Jewish and non-Jewish—to cultivate a better food system. Through garden-based programming, celebrating Shabbat and other holidays, and acting in solidarity against systems of oppression that impact our environmental and social wellbeing, we’ve created a meeting place for people to come together outdoors and connect, grow, nourish, and repair the land and our human ties to one another.

OUR MISSION

Connect. Grow. Repair. Nourish.

Ekar Farm and Community Gardens is a communal urban farm, inspired by Jewish values. We work to build community, provide experiential and environmental education, and grow sustainably produced fruits and vegetables, expanding access to those in need.

Our Values

- Kayamut:* Sustainability
- L'ovdahul'shomrah:* Land Stewardship
- Kehilah:* Building Community
- Adam v'adamah:* Interconnectedness with the Earth
- Peah:* Sharing Abundance
- Tzedek:* Food Justice
- Shabbat & Shmita:* Honoring Sacred Cycles of Work & Rest





Letter from Ekar Farm's Executive Director



In my first year as the Executive Director at Ekar Farm it was incredible to witness the impact our work has on our community. Our commitment to sustainable agriculture, community engagement, and addressing food insecurity has never been stronger, thanks to the dedication of our team and the support of our incredible community.

2023 brought many changes to Ekar Farm including adding our Farm Manager, Kevin Oster, and our Community Outreach and Programs Manager, Becca Harley. Kevin's innovative approach to regenerative farming practices and his commitment to community collaboration align perfectly with our mission. Becca's enthusiasm for community engagement and her creative initiatives have already made a significant impact. Together, Kevin and Becca form a dynamic duo that is driving positive change on our farm and in the communities we serve.

In 2023 Ekar Farm remained dedicated to addressing food insecurity in our community by growing nutrient-dense organic produce, participating in local initiatives, and developing deep connections to our food access partners. Coinciding with our hunger relief work, our programming and education work expanded to new communities in the Montebello neighborhood and beyond, creating a bigger impact than ever before.

Ekar saw new commitments to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice work, organizational development, and financial sustainability. As we continue to grow and evolve, we are grateful for the ongoing support of our community, volunteers, and partners. Together, we are cultivating a future where everyone has access to nutritious food and where sustainable farming practices thrive.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Ekar Farm family. We look forward to the continued journey of growth, impact, and positive change in the years to come.



Jason Plotkin

Updates from the Farm

50+ vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers harvested from **1.5 acres** of active farmland

17,212 pounds of produce harvested

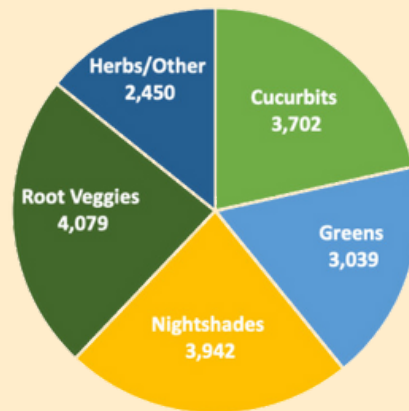
2.3 million calories generated on the farm

100% of our harvest sent to local food access organizations

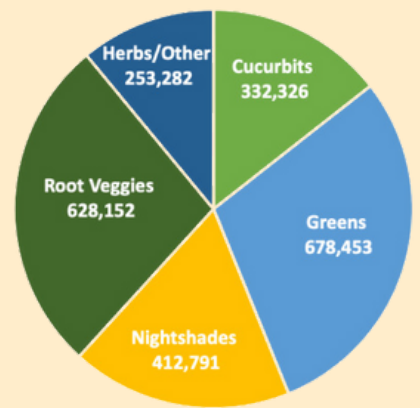
1,054 volunteers on the farm, contributing **over 5,000 hours** of assistance



Total Harvested (lbs)



Estimated Calories



A special thank you to Patricia Willis who volunteered over 150 hours on the farm this season!

"The tomatoes were gorgeous this year!! They were a big hit with our community. All our Ekar produce goes very quickly and is well received by our community."

**Cory Scrivener, Metro Caring,
Senior Food Access Manager**



Community Programming Update



"Students are engaged and remember lessons taught. They come with an excitement and eagerness to learn!"

Jessie Boukarim,
Monarch Montessori,
Facilities/Outdoor Learning
Administrator

19 local organizations engaged through our Experiential Education Initiative

201 onsite and on-farm visits to partner organizations

8,137 individuals reached through community programming

23 community gardeners growing their own food at Ekar Farm

460 meal kits distributed to families through the **Healthy Food for Denver Kids** program

Cooperative Garden Initiative Updates:

We provided seeds, compost and plant starts to **22 local organizations** to be grown in their own gardens

Through a partnership with Food Bank of the Rockies, we sent **over 12,000 seed packets** to **13 organizations** across the state of Colorado

"With the high cost of plants this year, you are really saving our school gardens. I wouldn't be able to plant as much without EKAR's support!"



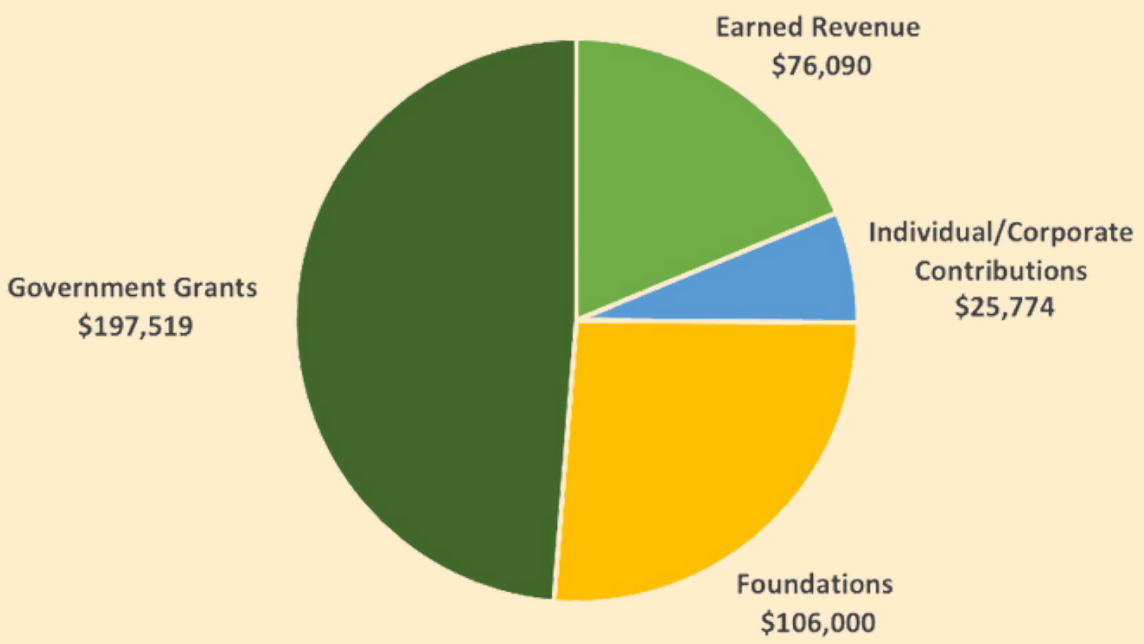
Kelly McCartney,
Temple Emanuel,
Outdoor Ed Leader

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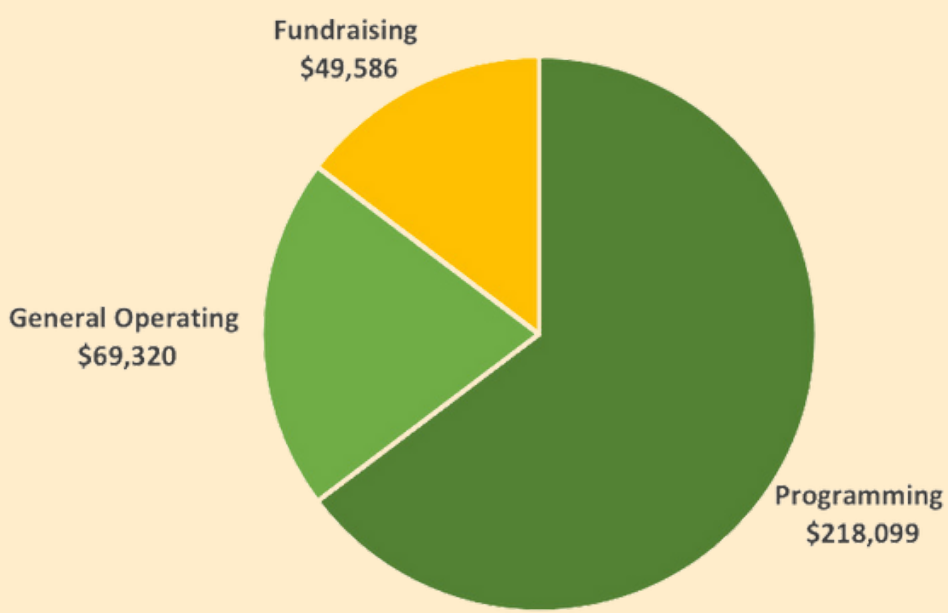


2023 Financials

2023 Revenue - \$405,383



2023 Expenses - \$337,005





Outlook for 2024

CAMP EKAR

NEW IN 2024!

This summer, we will host a day camp for 3 weeks on the farm. Campers will learn about pollinators, growing food, farm ecology, food access, seasonal eating, community building, and much more!

While most campers may not grow up to become farmers, they will leave the farm as the next generation of stewards of the land.



2024 Organizational Goals

1

Bring people to the farm and engage individuals/families in our work to cultivate the land as a community space

2

Continue to reach, educate, and connect people to locally grown, nutrient-dense food through programming and produce distributions

3

Nurture and explore new relationships in food system spaces to strengthen our role in environmental/social justice, food hubs, community kitchens, and food/garden/seed coalitions

Farm Goals

- 20,000+ pounds produced
- 100 weekly CSA shares sent to partner orgs
- 1,200 volunteers

Programming Goals

- Reach 25 local organizations through educational programming
- Develop 20 new lesson plans for all ages





Thank You to Our Sponsors!

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Seed Donors

