

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



KILLEEN CREATORS
WE GROW COMMUNITY



ABOUT US



MISSION

To foster food security and recovery from trauma through Community Gardens, Operation Art of Recovery and Civic Engagement.

VISION

We envision a thriving and diverse greater Killeen community where everyone is healthy, valued, and empowered to contribute to their fullest potential.

VALUES

Killeen Creators are united by our commitment to a set of values - namely individual, social, racial, economic, and environmental autonomy and justice.

Killeen Creators know from experience that identifying as a creator and producer can be a powerful step toward self-efficacy for an individual as well as a community. Core to our vision and operating philosophy is that all individuals in a community and all neighborhoods within a larger community are interconnected and interdependent. When one person faces food insecurity or a neighborhood experiences blight or a food desert, it impacts everyone in neighboring communities.

Working together to lift all individuals and neighborhoods in Killeen benefits all individuals and neighborhoods of and around Killeen.

Killeen Creators will practice radical inclusivity and forgiveness for the well-being of the greater community.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

“As we look ahead, we remain committed to fostering this ecosystem where creators continue to grow, inspire, and uplift others.”



BLOSSOMING

Dear Friends, Partners, and Creators, This year, we’ve witnessed the seeds of creativity and service take root and blossom. Our AmeriCorps and members have found their voices, honed their skills, and stepped into their roles as storytellers and leaders who give back. New partnerships have strengthened our foundation, expanding opportunities for growth and impact.

The journey from seed to bloom is never without challenges, but through perseverance and collaboration, we’ve cultivated a thriving creative community. As we look ahead, we remain committed to fostering this ecosystem where creators continue to grow, inspire, and uplift others.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we keep blossoming.



With appreciation,
Kristin Wright
Chair, Board of Directors, CEO

OUR WORK - COMMUNITY GARDENS



We have four community gardens in North Killeen - no fences, no fees. members work together to plant, nurture, teach, learn and share the harvests. We also participate in the City of Killeen's Farmers Markets to offer locally grown produce to the community on a sliding-suggested donation scale to make it accessible to all residents.



Our Gardens

10th Street Garden

701 N 10th Street

Kelly's Garden

1410 Bundrant Drive

Alvarez Garden

408 N 18th Street

Teen Compassion Garden

Coming soon!!

OUR WORK - ART OF RECOVERY



Our **ART of Recovery** program offers wellness coaching, peer support groups and an Open Studio space for people in recovery from trauma, mental health and/or substance use challenges to safely explore creative expression as part of healing growth.



We believe nurturing our power to create - from tomatoes to paintings - heals hearts and minds.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT for the **ARTS**
CREATIVE FORCES



Operation Art of Recovery (O.A.R.) is a therapeutic art program developed by Killeen Creators. Our mission is to draw our military and artist communities together to create spaces and opportunities for hope and healing through art and recovery.

Operation Art of Recovery is made possible by a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts and is free to all who are currently serving or have served as well as their loved ones.



OUR WORK - CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



Through our Civic Engagement Program, Killeen Creators empowers artists to tell the stories of our community, using murals and sculptures to preserve history, celebrate identity, and spark meaningful conversations. Our Community Art Initiative connects local artists with funders and vendors, transforming public spaces into vibrant reflections of our shared experiences.

Art also serves as a powerful tool for advocacy. We work to elevate marginalized voices, particularly those of people with disabilities, through public awareness campaigns, inclusive collaborations, and opportunities for underrepresented artists to share their perspectives.

By merging creativity with civic action, we are fostering a more connected, inclusive, and engaged community—one where every story is seen, heard, and valued.



OUR WORKERS



BOARD MEMBERS



Kristin Wright-McWilliams
Board Chair, CEO



Sandra Blankenship
Vice Chair



Anna Cargill
Treasurer



CJ Bowers
Secretary



Ty Glasper



Tae Jones



Lois Mauk



Rick Rousseau

STAFF & AMERICORPS Members



James McWilliams
Director of Operations



OUR IMPACT

OVER 500
PEOPLE SERVED!

"Killeen Creators has had a big impact on our lives. We started homeschooling and there is not a lot in the area for us to go out into the community and be able to be involved. This gave us a place. It helps me to open up and be able to express myself because I'm a very private person but in here the opportunity to share with Art Journaling has really helped me to find my voice. It's just a good place to come and the people are so supportive. I love it here." - Keyairra



Keyairra
& Aydn



Derrek M.

"Another non-profit helped me out later that year, I watered their garden everyday. And the lady finally decided to hire me and that is Killeen Creators. They have free community gardens where anybody can get fruit and stuff that we grow, no borders, no barriers, and we accept volunteers... which I started out as one.

We also have the Art of Recovery studio, which is for vets, anybody that has any kind of substance abuse, homelessness or any life situation you need to recover from or have a safe place to go with other people to create and gardening." -Derrek

OVER 5,000
POUNDS OF
PRODUCE
GROWN!

92% report increased
connection!

"I know there's a place that I can be safe. To have an outlet, to do creative input, stuff like that... or even volunteer or spend time in the garden. How tranquil it is to be with nature. Also to goof around with some people, that helps out.

So mentally, spiritually [KC] has helped a lot. That's what's impacted me the most. That sense of relief that a lot of people didn't know that they needed." - Lluvia



Lluvia H.

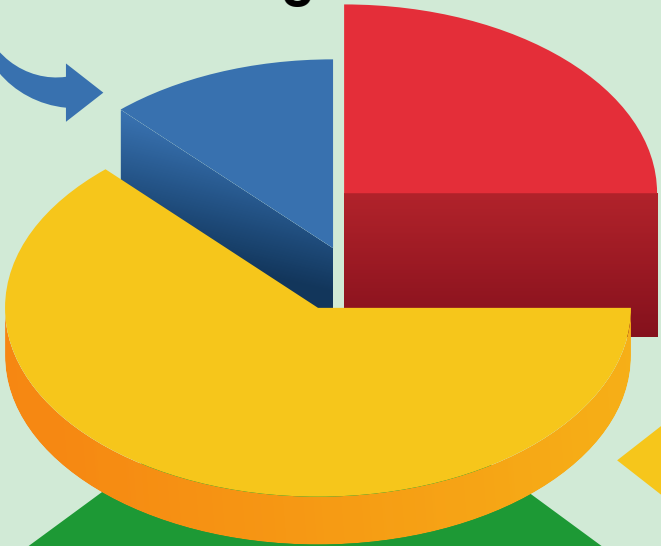
FINANCIAL REPORT



In 2024, Killeen Creators achieved significant financial growth, increasing our income by 30% while maintaining strong fiscal responsibility. We kept general and administrative costs under 20%, ensuring that the majority of our funding directly supports our programs and mission. Additionally, we strengthened our financial resilience by increasing our reserves, allowing for greater cash flow stability and long-term sustainability.

Our funding base has also expanded, with new grant awards and a rise in earned income diversifying our revenue streams. This balanced approach ensures continued support for our artists, programs, and advocacy efforts while positioning us for future growth.

3% Fundraising



OUR EXPENSES

17% General / Indirect

80% Direct Program

2024 REPORT

ASSETS.	\$36,424
INCOME.	\$80,855
EXPENSES	\$74,979

BLOOM WITH US!

WE GROW COMMUNITY!



EMAIL

outreach@killeencreators.org



WEBSITE

www.killeencreators.org



PHONE

254-213-2210



Scan to Volunteer!



Scan to Donate



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT for the **ARTS**

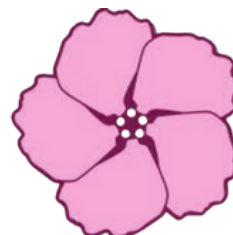
CREATIVE FORCES



MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE



City of Killeen



Rock Rose Foundation