
2023 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT





CAPOEIRA: STRONGER TOGETHER

Capoeira was developed by African warriors enslaved in Brazil and used to fight for their freedom. CapoeiraDC's mission is to promote the Afro-Brazilian martial art of capoeira in the DC community. Our vision is to empower the DC community with Capoeira's art form of liberation for generations to come.

While the year brought many unique challenges, CapoeiraDC forged ahead stronger than ever – growing our membership and introducing new programs and events to our members and the broader DC community!

OUTCOMES

300

Members served

We served **167** new clients, including **92 youth**, while retaining **75%** of our membership.

14

**Performances
& Events**

We held **2** graduation ceremonies and **3** free community Axé Fests for the DC public. We performed at the DC Afro Latino Festival, Lotus & Water Lily Festival, Open Streets DC, Ward 5 Day, Sankofa Cafe, THEARC, World Culture Festival, WHUT Kids Culture Festival, and Smithsonian Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

8

Partnerships

We taught capoeira to an additional **120 DC youth** through partnerships with Global Citizens PCS, LAMB PCS, Social Justice School, DC Dream Center, Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools, Kelly Miller Middle School, Brookland Middle School, and Higher Achievement



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

This was a momentous year with many firsts! Below are some highlights. In addition, we held our annual graduation ceremonies for our kids and adult programs, graduating **97** members including 66 youth. We organized travel to capoeira events in New York, New Jersey, Florida, California, Arizona, and Illinois for our youth and adult members, fostering the cross-cultural exchange that capoeira provides.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

We celebrated our 20 years as a nonprofit with a 5-day Axé Fest, culminating in our first-ever theatre production, *Evolução*, which was sold out!



DEVELOPING TEEN LEADERS

We built up our Teen Teachers in Training program! Our teens have been assisting with kids classes and allowed us to launch our first-ever capoeira summer camp!



BRINGING CAPOEIRA ACROSS DC

We showcased capoeira across DC through performances with the Mayors Office on Latino Affairs, the Smithsonian, Howard University TV, and more! We partnered with schools and afterschool programs to teach capoeira to **120** DC youth!





MEMBER IMPACT

Khari began as a supportive parent to his three children who have been part of our youth program for 8+ years. In the last year, Khari took capoeira to be his own passion.

“When I first came, I was just a consumer. It was a place for me to bring my kids and have them participate in an activity they liked. But the longer we stayed the more we started to appreciate the community for what it is and what it does for us and for what everybody does for each other.”



“Once my kids decided they liked it, I was here all the time and I just fell in love with the community and the movement. There is also certainly a physical aspect to it. I have found that in my life the way I was moving my body wasn't serving me so capoeira gives me a different type of movement that I think will help me age gracefully.”



Khari's favorite thing about The Capoeira Spot is “the community and the way that everyone relates to everyone. People are kind to one another, it's more than just a place to train, it's a place for everyone to commune with one another.”



2024 GOALS

We aim to continue growing our youth and adult programs at their current rates while maintaining the high-quality, high-impact programming we are known for. In addition, we are undertaking strategic initiatives to further enhance the experience of our members, educate and inspire the DC public about Capoeira, and build the capacity and sustainability of our organization.

GOAL

Cultivate our members' development and innovation in Capoeira

Inspire and educate the DC public about the Capoeira's impact

Transition teachers from volunteer to paid staff

PURPOSE

We want our members to have more opportunities to deepen their knowledge of Capoeira's history and gain exposure to other global perspectives on the art form, so that they can develop as leaders and innovators in Capoeira and ultimately inspire and pass on the benefits of Capoeira to future generations.

We find that many people are still unaware of what Capoeira is and why it matters today. In 2023, with our production *Evolução*, we received feedback from people unfamiliar with Capoeira how much they enjoyed the show and how it educated them about Capoeira and inspired them.

We began as a volunteer venture, and our members' commitment to our community has made our work possible. However, reliance on volunteerism is not sustainable for an organization of our size and scope. We require 8+ years for students to become teachers. To sustain our quality, impact, and growth, we must pay our teachers.

STRATEGY

Build partnerships with mission-aligned Capoeira schools across the country and globe. Organize group field trips to other schools' events. Invite guest mestres (masters) to our studio for special events and workshops.

Develop a performance program that includes both our youth and adult members and culminates each year in a production that showcases the history, culture, and stories of Capoeira that can inspire today's families and youth.

Increase our funding from individual donations and corporate sponsorships by launching fundraising campaigns aligned with our events for the DC public. Continue to apply for private and government grants.



2024 CALENDER

TRAVEL EXCHANGES

March 8-9
North Carolina Event with Mestra Tigresa

April 27
Orlando Event with Mestre Folclore

May 4
New Jersey Event with Mestre Gaivota

June 15
Sua Casa North Carolina Event

Aug 17-24
Brazil Trip with Mestre Gaivota

Dec 2
North Carolina Kids Event with
Instrutora Reba

For the DC Public

EVENTS BY CAPOEIRADC

Jan 12-14
MLK Weekend Axé Fest with
Guest Mestre Malandro: Roots

March 20-24
Destination Jamaica

April 6
Axé Fest with Guest Mestre Mariano

May 9-11: KIDS BATIZADO
GRADUATION CEREMONY!

June 18-28
Capoeira Summer Camp

Sep 7
Brazilian Independence Day Axé Fest

Sep 26-28: ADULT BATIZADO
GRADUATION CEREMONY!

Nov 15-17
Theatre Production

Dec 14
End of Year Roda & Celebration



WE'D LIKE TO THANK ALL OUR DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Funders

DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities
HumanitiesDC
EventsDC
Power of She Fund by Altheta and Women's Sports Foundation
DC Housing Authority
Spur Local

Our Board

Brian Alston, Janice Burgess, Yashieka Anglin, Sam Whitfield, Maria Coor, Laura McGorman, Malori Rhones

Our Leadership Team

Renford Powell (Mestre Morcego)
Aysha Corbett (Professora Borboleta)
Alina Liao (Professora Esquilo)
Adriel Harris (Instrutora Bambu)
Jennifer Lee (Professora Espoleta)
Carole Sneed (Idalina)

Our Teachers

Mestre Morcego, Professora Borboleta, Professora Espoleta, Professor Caranguejo, Professora Esquilo, Instructor Feijaozinho, Instrutor Bambu, Instrutor Doutor, Instrutor Sargento, Instrutor Cipo, Instrutor Pirata, Maré