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# 2025 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT





# CAPOEIRADC: 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.

In 2025, CapoeiraDC continued to grow our membership and introduce new programs and events to our members and the broader DC community!

## OUTCOMES

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**340** Individuals  
served

We taught classes to **182** adults and **168** kids and reached **168** new clients.

**11** Community  
Events

We held **2** graduation ceremonies and **3** free community Axé Fests for the DC public. We provided performances and free classes at the Anacostia River Festival, DC Greens, Batala, DC Public Libraries, and the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art.

**87%** Retention

We achieved an 87% retention rate among our active members (both adults and kids).



# 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

This was a momentous year! We held our annual graduation ceremonies for our kids and adult programs, graduating 90 members. We traveled to capoeira events in Brazil, New York, New Jersey, Florida, California, and Chicago, fostering cross-cultural exchange.

## ESTRELA PRETA

We became known in the global capoeira community as Estrela Preta ("Black Star") Capoeira, signifying a new era of self-determination for our group. We produced and performed a theatre show, *Estrela Preta*, telling our story.



## ACCESSIBILITY

We made capoeira more accessible with the addition of our Capoeira Lite class and concurrent "Power Hour" childcare, making this class our fastest growing class, especially among parents.



## MESTRE FORMATURA

Our Executive Director and the mestre of our group, Mestre Morcego, was formally recognized by the global capoeira community with his *mestre* title at his Formatura, a once-in-a-lifetime achievement.





# MEMBER IMPACT

Hear from parent and student, Silvia M:

As a Brazilian mother, I was initially drawn to CapoeiraDC because I wanted my daughter to grow up connected to her roots and to carry a living piece of her culture with her. What we found was far more than an extracurricular activity. As both a participant and a parent, I can say plainly that CapoeiraDC has had a profound impact on my family.



For my daughter, it has strengthened physical confidence, discipline, resilience, and self-trust. It has also deepened her connection to Brazilian language, music, and cultural history in ways I could never have taught her alone.

For me, it has offered something equally valuable. A true sense of belonging. It is a place where people are known, welcomed, and held in community. That kind of cultural and social infrastructure is increasingly rare, and it matters deeply.



One of CapoeiraDC's greatest strengths is its teen teaching pipeline. My daughter adores her teen instructors. They are role models, mentors, and beloved guides. That kind of intergenerational continuity is both unusual and deeply valuable. It creates visible leadership, cultivates confidence and responsibility, and gives younger students a tangible model of who they can become.



# 2026 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 our members' experience and ensure our long-term sustainability.

## GOAL

### Build the next generation of teachers

### Position ourselves to acquire a home

### Expand childcare to all classes

## PURPOSE

We are committed to ensuring the quality of our programming over the long-run and to passing on of the knowledge of capoeira from generation to generation.

Our lease ends April 2027. We are at capacity in our current space. The time is right for us to acquire our own building that can meet our capacity needs - such as for concurrent classes and performances - and that can ensure our community has a home for generations to come.

Our offering of "Power Hour" childcare concurrent with our new Capoeira Lite class has been well received and cited as a main reason participants can attend. We want to remove childcare as a barrier for all our classes, as we have parents who attend our other classes too.

## STRATEGY

With the support of a grant from EventsDC, we are holding a formal youth internship program. We have a cohort of 7 interns developing and teaching live classes under the supervision of our senior teachers.

Work with a realtor, accountant, and legal counsel to support our search for a new home. Set up a dedicated money market account for funds for our building acquisition. Launch a fundraising capital campaign for \$500k.

Streamline the organization of "Power Hour" provided by our teen teachers/interns.



# 2026 CALENDER

## TRAVEL EXCHANGES

April 10  
Miami, FL Event with Mestre Cabecao

April 25  
New Jersey Event with Mestre Gaivota

May 3  
Brooklyn, NY Event with Professor Sete

May 30  
New Jersey Event with Mestra Amazonas

June 20  
Sua Casa North Carolina Event

July 25  
Melbourne, FL Event with Professor Ray

October 25  
Trazer Dende Durham, NC Event  
with Mestra Tigresa

For the DC Public

## EVENTS BY CAPOEIRADC

Feb 13-15  
Capoeira Intensive with Guest  
Mestre Gugu Quilombola

Feb 14  
Axé Fest: Black History Month

May 14-16: KIDS BATIZADO  
GRADUATION CEREMONY!

June 22 - July 17  
Capoeira Summer Camp

Sep 9  
Axé Fest: Brazilian Independence Day

Sep 10-12: ADULT BATIZADO  
GRADUATION CEREMONY!

Nov/Dec  
Axé Fest

Dec 12  
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 Althetha and  
Women's Sports Foundation  
DC Housing Authority  
Spur Local

### Our Board

Carlos Parada (President), Brian Alston,  
Janice Burgess, Sara Harriger, Calvin  
Haney, Derecka Purnell, Sam Whitfield,  
Maria Coor, Laura McGorman

### Our Leadership Team

Renford Powell (Mestre Morcego)  
Aysha Corbett (Professora Borboleta)  
Iansa Powell (Instrutora Maré)  
Alina Liao (Professora Esquilo)  
Carole Sneed (Idalina)

### Our Teachers

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