



The Allapattah
Collaborative, CDC

2023 IMPACT REPORT

Fostering a vibrant Allapattah where every individual, family, and businesses thrive and where our cultural heritage is embraced and preserved.

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Our Mission

A vibrant Allapattah where every individual, family, and businesses thrive and where our cultural heritage is embraced and preserved.

Our Vision

Build an Allapattah economy that works for everyone while preserving the neighborhood unique cultural heritage

Our Goals

Empower Allapattah's small and micro-businesses to prosper and preserve the neighborhood cultural heritage.

SPECIAL AFFILIATIONS



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LATINO COMMUNITY ASSET BUILDERS



LEADERSHIP REMARKS

2023 was a year of aligned growth and transformation.

We started with a rebrand exercise that clarified our vision and mission, helping us double-down on priorities. We crafted new statements that captured the impact we are making, making it easier to tell our stories. Our goals were refined, and objectives aligned to ensure our impact is measurable. These brand changes were followed by branding and image changes as well. In 2024, we are launching a very engaging virtual community hub, which is a continuation of the website upgrade started in 2023.

Rebranding led to reorganizing and growing. We hired new roles, promoted staff internally, and created new departments of Community Asset Preservation and Main Street Initiatives. Our growth continues to be fueled by the urgent needs in our community. Internally, we have focused on strengthening the infrastructure of the organization. We have outsourced an accounting team to help us manage our growing financial operations, including creating new policies and procedures for AP, AR, budgeting, and grant management.

And so we start 2024 stronger than ever, with amazing people on board, ready to handle all the growth that has been coming our way as we boldly pursue our mission.



MILEYKA BURGOS-FLORES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



FRANCESCA ESCOTO
CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

As the 2023 Chair of the Board, I'm thrilled to share our achievements. Despite all the challenges faced throughout the year, we made great strides in supporting our community. In 2023, we prioritized economic development, education, and community well-being. We continue our steadfast focus on the preservation of our community, and in 2023 we enhanced our preservation funding and programs for that goal.

Our organizational growth was equally important. Through strategic planning and resource mobilization, we've strengthened our capacity for sustained impact in our community. None of this would be possible without our incredible team, board members, donors, and volunteers. Your support drives our success.

Looking forward, I'm confident in our ability to continue making a difference in Allapattah. With the ongoing support of our community alongside our team, board members, volunteers, and donors, we'll build on our achievements and create a brighter future for all.



JACQUELINE PEÑA
BOARD CHAIR

EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

The Equitable Development Action Plan, created in 2018 by the Allapattah community, continues to guide our daily work. We are proud of the progress we have made toward these community established milestones.

1 ESTABLISH A PLATFORM TO IMPLEMENT AN EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN

Allapattah Collaborative is the platform implementing the EDAP, and are stronger than ever. Our team keeps growing, now up to 15 staff members plus expert contractors and advisors. In 2023, we continued our implementation of our new CRM, accounting system, and Grant Management tools, which allow us to more effectively and efficiently drive the mission forward. We strengthened our Community Board, the owners of the EDAP, and saw incredible results in the mobilization of the community toward self-advocacy in important matters. Finally, with local government changes came the opportunity for new plans and partnerships. We are excited about what is coming!



COMMUNITY BOARD

Our Community Board is a hub for neighborhood leaders, such as Allapattah Neighborhood Association, FIU, business owners, United Methodist Church, and our high school. The Community Board and volunteers hold Allapattah CDC accountable to complete the goals set forth in the Equitable Development Action Plan.

2 PREVENT DISPLACEMENT OF EXISTING SMALL BUSINESSES

The December 2023 premiere of our documentary, "En Nuestras Palabras", put Little Santo Domingo on the map. This, in tandem with the National Trust For Historic Preservation's designation of our commercial corridor as Top 11 Most Endangered Places in America, has brought attention to the urgent and critical need to prevent displacement. We are diligently working with partners to continue providing our neighborhood business owners with the tools to stay in place. The Thrive In Place Fund is the best way for friends of Allapattah to donate to this effort. Our First Time Commercial Buyer Program is walking people through the process of acquiring storefronts.

3 BOOST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON THE COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR

Our new incubators are diversifying the types of businesses in the corridor, making Little Santo Domingo a hub of both retail and professional services. We are increasing the number of businesses, as well as planting high tech and food entrepreneurs in the corridor. 2024 will bring new and exciting events to 17th Avenue, which are sure to attract new patrons while letting the bigger world get to know the gems we have in the neighborhood.

Main Street Activations

Allapattah Fellows

The Community Fellows Program continued to grow in 2023. An in-depth community outreach effort to empower the next generation of local advocates that reflect the diverse and multi-racial makeup of Allapattah, the stipend 12-week program is aimed at 17 to 25-year-old residents, and dives into the neighborhood's diverse history and teaches the multi-cultural and racially diverse cohorts how to advocate for their community. The original program welcomed a new Class (Spring) and graduated four Fellows. In addition, through a partnership with Overtown Children & Youth Coalition, the Overtown Community Fellows pilot program was launched in Spring 2023 and graduated five Fellows.

The continued efforts of the Allapattah Community Fellows Alumni Board, particularly with the "Fabuloso Allapattah" campaign, exemplify the ongoing commitment to community improvement. Through various community clean-ups held throughout the year, the Alumni Board not only sustains the momentum of positive change but also inspires other neighborhood partners to take similar action. This collaborative approach to local beautification fosters a sense of unity and empowerment within the community, demonstrating the collective impact that can be achieved through concerted efforts. Such initiatives not only enhance the physical environment but also strengthen social connections and civic engagement, ultimately contributing to the overall well-being of Allapattah.



Allapattah Crawl

In 2023, The Allapattah Collaborative took part in Radical Partners' "10 Days of Connection." But instead of hosting one event in one spot, the collaborative hosted the inaugural "Allapattah Crawl," in collaboration with The City of Miami, The Salvation Army, The Miami Foundation, Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Esquina de Abuela, the Allapattah Branch, and Engage Miami. A literal "get to know our neighborhood," the May 6, 2023 event was made up of several mini events at different across Allapattah locations (the library, The salvation Army, museum) and culminated with a community event at Juan Pablo Duarte Park and a concert by The Salvation Army Band. More than 117 people participated in the event throughout the day.

Capitol Visit with Businesses

We're thrilled to share that this year, our local business owners embarked on an enlightening journey to the Capitol. This exclusive opportunity allowed them to witness the intricate workings of the lawmaking process firsthand. By gaining insights into policymaking, our community leaders are better equipped to advocate for initiatives that benefit us all.





Serving the Community

Projects

Details

Outcome

Small Business Resilience Cohort

Small businesses are the backbone of the economy, and they play a significant role in creating jobs, supporting local communities, and driving innovation. Allapattah CDC Small Business Resiliency Cohort celebrated their small business graduates after completing the program successfully.

Every participant received a \$2000 Business grant from ACDC & Total Capital acquired in loans and grants of over \$500,000.00

Negocios Activos Masterclasses

Negocios Activos Masterclass Series to learn about small business related masterclasses about starting a new business, types of business entity, local business license requirements, procurement, access to capital requirements and available resources in the area.

Businesses unable to join our committed, still had the opportunity to continue their training with our monthly tailored masterclasses.

Tropicana Flea Market Crisis Response

During Phase II of the Small Business Resiliency Cohort (SBRC), which ran from February 1, 2023, to September 15, 2023, 34 small business owners successfully completed the program. They received QuickBooks training and enhanced their accounting skills. Additionally, all 34 business owners improved their digital presence by developing websites and enhancing online marketing and sales strategies.

Participants also received support in completing Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) applications, resulting in a total of \$107,400 in assistance paid to 14 Tropicana applicants by May 18th, 2023.

Allapattah Tech Start-ups

We are proud to announce that our initiative, Allapattah Tech Startups, celebrated its inaugural graduate in November 2023, who completed a full stack web development boot camp with Ironhack in just 10 weeks. We're now in the career advisory phase, working closely with Ironhack to connect our graduate with potential employers.

Looking ahead, our goal for the coming year is to see 10 students graduate through a partnership with Miami Tech Work, which will be offering scholarships to support our students' education.

2023 Impact

500K+

In capital secured for clients

120+

minority-owned microbusinesses assisted

50+

Jobs created

120+

Jobs saved

1040+

hours of direct technical assistance to small businesses

Accomplishments



A Six-part Series from Nonprofit Quarterly & the NALCAB Network

OWNING THE ECONOMY: STORIES FROM LATINX COMMUNITIES

It is one thing to fight back, but the community needs a long-term plan to thrive—and it also needs to be able to own land.

Public Land for Public Good: Preserving Miami's Dominican Neighborhood
(PART 6)
by Mileyka Burgos-Flores, Executive Director and CEO Allapattah Collaborative CDC

National Trust for Historic Preservation
America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places
Little Santo Domingo

Get involved and learn how you can help preserve and advance Little Santo Domingo/Allapattah
www.allapattahcdc.org

MAIN STREET AMERICA | The Allapattah Collaborative, CDC

SBAN CASE STUDY VISIT
Miami, Florida

The Allapattah Collaborative CDC (TAC) works to prevent displacement in the historically Dominican Allapattah neighborhood, or Little Santo Domingo, with the Small Business Resiliency Cohort.

The Allapattah Collaborative CDC
Anti-Displacement Network



2023 SFDCD Small Business Advocate of the Year

The Allapattah Collaborative CDC received a prestigious award from the South Florida Community Development Coalition, recognizing our commitment to supporting small businesses and community empowerment. This honor reinforces our dedication to making a difference in Allapattah. We are extremely grateful for our team of individuals who make this happen, particularly our Economic Development team with our dedicated business navigators and our Chief Program Officer leading the charge. Special thanks to all who have supported our mission. We are honored and excited to continue our journey of impact and transformation.

ACDC IN FILM



“En Nuestras Palabras” Documentary

In 2023, we premiered our long-form documentary, “Stories of Allapattah: En Nuestras Palabras.” The two-year effort was led by our bold Board Member, Gaby Guzman. The multi-media effort to collect the oral history of Allapattah residents and long-time business owners was the culmination of more than two years of work and the expansion of our original 15-minute documentary. Local community leaders, small business owners, and historians with deep ties to Allapattah to participate in new documentary. The audiovisual interviews were recorded in 2023, at CIC Miami by Dominican filmmaker Eva Hart and covered not only the individuals’ history in Allapattah but a glimpse into how the neighborhood has kept the “American Dream” alive for each diaspora that has called it home. The 45-minute documentary premiered at our “Show Love Allapattah,” event on Nov. 15, at the Tower Theater in Little Havana. The project came to fruition, thanks to Florida Humanities’ “Broadcasting Hope Media Grants,” and Florida International University’s Commons for Justice program.



“We’re Still Here” Documentary

The documentary film We’re Still Here tells the story of communities and business owners fighting commercial gentrification in Miami’s Little Santo Domingo, Chicago’s Puerto Rico Town, and the Los Angeles neighborhoods Boyle Heights and East LA. Highlighting community organizing efforts and small business anti-displacement strategies, the film follows SBAN on visits to these neighborhoods, hosted by The Allapattah Collaborative (Miami), the Puerto Rican Cultural Center (Chicago), and Inclusive Action for the City (Los Angeles).



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & Advisors Updates

A Sweet Farewell



Jacqueline Peña

As you conclude your tenure as Board Chair, we express sincere appreciation for your exemplary leadership, which has been the bedrock of Allapattah Collaborative's success. Your strategic guidance and unwavering commitment have left an indelible mark. Thank you for your invaluable contributions, and we wish you continued success in your future endeavors.

Gratitude fills our hearts as we bid farewell after three incredible years on the Allapattah Collaborative CDC Board. Two years of your tenure were invested in elevating our neighborhood's stories through film - ensuring that the history of the neighborhood was documented for many generations to come. Your personal touch and transformative leadership will be dearly missed. Wishing you continued success in all your future endeavors.



Gaby Guzmán

Warm Welcome



Angela Cruz

A heartfelt welcome as board chair to Angela Cruz! Angela has been our board's secretary, and we're thrilled to see her step into this leadership role. Her dedication, insight, and passion for our community make her an excellent choice for chairmanship, and we have full confidence in her ability to lead us to even greater heights. Here's to Angela's success and the positive impact she will undoubtedly continue to bring to our organization and community. Congratulations, Angela!

Welcome on Board



Lunicel Alvarado



Ivan Jimenez



Johanna Felipe

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Angela Cruz
Charles Dabney
Ahmed Mori
Lunicel Alvarado
Ivan Jimenez
Johanna Felipe

ADVISORS

Dionne Baux
Alana Greer
Hernan Guerrero
Irving Henderson
Manuel Ochoa
Craig Emmanuel
Benji Power
Rodolfo Pou

Our Mighty Team



Mileyka Burgos - Flores
CEO



Francesca Escoto
COO



Santander Arguelles
CPO



Elysa Del Corto
Grants & Operations
Director



Zaney Pérez
Main Street Manager



Cristopher López
Program Manager



Meysa Arguelles
Business Navigator



Ana Ortega
Business Navigator



Alexander Pegues
Community Assets Fellow



Meet our dedicated team of professionals who have contributed their expertise, passion, and collaboration to drive our success.



Delia Maria
Communications Coordinator

We thank our partners' generous support



THE JORGE M. PÉREZ
FAMILY FOUNDATION



BANK OF AMERICA



U.S. Small Business
Administration



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