

# Annual Report

# 2025



Armourdale Renewal Association Annual Report

## **Letter from the Executive Director**

In 2025 work brought to us the opportunity to accomplish ideas and make plans for growth. We are grateful for the support of many who see the benefit of a local organization that continues to work towards the vision and mission of serving residents and businesses of Armourdale. The Armourdale Renewal Association (ARA) will continue to work in 2026 with the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and its respective partners for the enhancement and development of the Armourdale district.

En el 2025, el trabajo nos trajo la oportunidad de lograr ideas y hacer planes de crecimiento. Estamos agradecidos por el apoyo de muchos quienes ven el beneficio de una organización local que continua en el trabajo hacia la visión y misión de servir a los residentes y negocios de Armourdale. La Asociacion de Armourdale (ARA) continuara trabajando en el 2026 con el Gobierno Unificado el Condado de Wyandotte y los respectivos socios para el acrecentamiento y desarrollo del distrito de Armourdale.



**Monica Mendez**  
Executive Director

# Organization Overview

## **Vision**

To serve the residents and businesses of Armourdale, working with the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and its respective partners for the enhancement and development of the Armourdale district.

## **Mission**

To enhance residents and businesses in the development of a strong and vibrant community.

## Board of Directors



Kathi Butler



David Mehlhaff



Claudine Sanders



Archie Smith



Jennifer Lee



Nick Moreno



Marc Lonesk



Andy Manivong



Eric Tebbe



Joe Graham



Brandon McNeely



José Durán



Martín Jiménez

## Section 1: Community Renewal

### Earth Day!

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 we celebrated earth day with a couple of activities, we brought **Remake Learning Days** to Armourdale and conducted our annual clean-up. We cleaned a selected area in the neighborhood with the assistance of the Key Club members as volunteers and other community members. Thanks to the 37 volunteers who participated!



## ARA Summer Camp

This year ARA welcomed 22 kids who joined the camp, we continue to host this program that engages children in learning life skills, building team spirit while **exploring nature, Arts, STEM, Sports, Safety, and Intro to Financial Ed (new!)**

Mr. & Mrs. Reed bring lots of fun and structure for these young kids. We added extra activities and everyone left with a lot of joy! Our youth continued to participate in learning and fun fieldtrips as they contributed in the Armourdale Artworks Initiative completing a survey and in sidewalk painting activity outside of their school. Special mention to Heart of America US Volleyball for allowing us to utilize their space as a place for this camp.



## Hispanic Heritage Festival

ARA and John Fiske Elementary celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month on October 4<sup>th</sup> at Shawnee Park. This event saw **150 participants and 28 volunteers** while promoting community connectedness in the neighborhood.

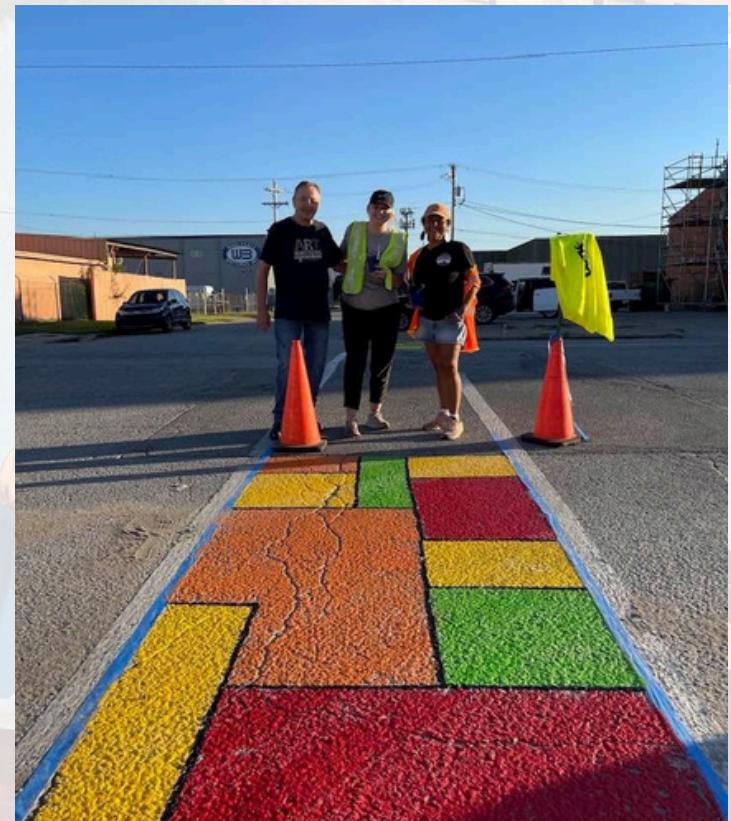


## Armourdale Artworks Initiative

This project is divided in phases to include the arts as part of our education programs and to add beautification to the community.

This year our summer camp participants completed sidewalk paint at John Fiske Elementary as part of a PILOT phase.

For Phase I we hosted an activation day where **37 community member volunteers** joined to bring vibrant public art to the neighborhood, painting a mural, 10 sidewalk art designs inspired by Loteria Mexicana, chosen by local residents to reflect the neighborhood's culture. A newly designed crosswalk connected to the mural space with colors representing different parts of the area. **The Mural about the 1951 Flood** was recently unveiled in a ceremony with **110 attendees**. This mural is to honor the strength, loss, and determination that shaped our neighborhood. The artwork stands as a tribute to the Armourdale community's ability to rise, rebuild, and move forward. The mural was performed by Jose Faus whose talent is demonstrated at 631 Kansas Avenue for all to view.



## Adopt an Angel

This annual program continues to grow thanks to all of our sponsors, in addition to our many sponsors we were able to introduce the **Farm2Families** project in Armourdale. This year **77 children received gifts** and **22 families obtained free food**.



## Section 2 Economic Growth

### Business Luncheons

ARA members attended a couple of meetings that informed about important topics to the community. This year presentations included two topics:

*“Homeless: What It Is & What It Isn’t presented by Cross-lines” and “Development Shaping Armourdale and Wyandotte County” presented by Wyandotte Economic Development Corporation.”*

During these lunch meetings we share activities organized by ARA and recognize sponsors and donors while we learn with new businesses that join the ARA. Combined attendance is of **74**

**participants.**



## Summer Youth Employment

BPU has made this program possible for youth ages 14-18. This year we partnered with Argentine Betterment Corporation and Rosedale Development Association to provide tools needed before entering the workforce. Youth visited local business to see work environments and were interviewed. We closed the program attending the Future Leaders Day event hosted by BPU. ARA hosted **10 students** who after training performed real jobs in the Armourdale neighborhood. This was a 7 weeks program.



## Youth Leadership Week!

This pilot project hosted **8 high school** and **4 middle school students** during the spring break. The program focused on time management, effective communication, goal setting, teaching basic financial principles, promoting entrepreneurial thinking, and preparing for Real-World Employment.

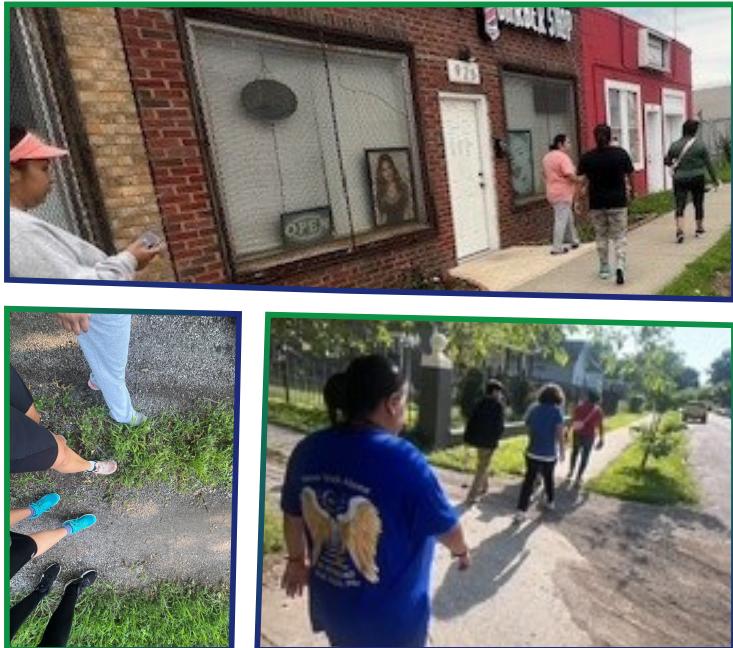


## New Annual Fundraisers

- **ARA Pickleball Tournament**
- **ARA 5K Run & Walk**
- **Shadow Buddies Golf Tournament**

## Section 3: Healthy Living

### Walking Club



Formed by residents of the area who wanted to promote physical activity. The duration of this program lasted 4 months, from May to August. This was a **consistent small group of 9 people including children**.

### Neighborhood Cleanup

This year the neighborhood was hosted on our city-wide efforts to keep our areas clean adding a dumpster for residents to bring their big items to dispose of. Armourdale Neighborhood Clean-Up is part of our Earth Day celebration.



## Love Notes and Mind Matters Program

Our middle school attendance grew this year, we saw **20 youth participating** and this educational program that oversees healthy lifestyles covering topics such as healthy building relationships, empathy, emotions, mindfulness, ACES, and had some time to practice some sports!

---

## Volleyball Clinics

We collaborated with **Heart of America Volleyball** and brought free volleyball clinics to our area along with free play time!



## Annual 5K Run & Walk

Our first ever 5K Run & Walk event occurred in Armourdale. We saw **participants from different cities** including Armourdale and John Fiske families.



## Our Contributors

### Donors

Unified Government of Wyandotte County  
Board of Public Utilities  
Liberty Fruit Co. Inc.  
Shadow Buddies Foundation  
National Beef, Kansas City Steak  
KC Scaffold  
Advantage Metals Recycling  
Ecovyst  
Midmark  
Heart of America Volleyball  
American Riggers Properties LLC  
Universal Construction  
Prime Investments  
NTS  
LA True Value Hardware  
Sturgis Materials  
Cross-Lines  
CSTK  
Road Builders  
Pro Electric  
Midwest  
OakStar Bank  
MJ Designs & Parts LLC  
Keller Fire & Safety  
U.S. Auto Force

### Individuals

Dr. Joe Graham  
Jennifer Lee  
Melissa Bynum  
Jane  
Douglas B. Hereford and Kendra A. Mays  
Dr. Michael Camp and C. Jane Threlkeld  
Janet Bunce  
Williams Bruns, JR and Nancy W Burns

### Grantors

Hollywood Casino Grant  
Better Block University  
Neighborhoods Rising Funds  
Kansas Health Foundation

## Connect with Us!



(913) 371.5696



[ara@armourdale.org](mailto:ara@armourdale.org)



[www.armourdale.org](http://www.armourdale.org)



801 Armourdale PKWY  
Kansas City, KS 66105