



Urban Squash

CLEVELAND



2021-2022 Annual Report



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USC](#)

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Briana Diller – Program Director

Duncan Steele – Director of Squash

Liam O'Toole – Operations Supervisor

Mark Riggs – Bookkeeper

Wick Ballard – Squash Coach

Elijah Dorroh – Program Associate

Tahneja Gaiter – Program Associate

Ryckia Sutton – Program Associate

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Letter from the Board President

Dear Friends,

Thank you for loyally supporting Urban Squash Cleveland. You – our generous donors, and dedicated volunteers, mentors, fund and friend raisers, board and committee members, and valued community partners – are united in your devotion to the athletic and academic success of our student-athletes. You, and they, are crushing it and we thank you.

Thanks to you, our team will return to its pre-pandemic strength of fifty-two 6th through 12th grade student-athletes once twenty-five new students join at the conclusion of an extensive tryout period in December of 2022. Meanwhile, our current team is fully engaged in 6 day-a-week academic, squash and enrichment programming; competing in local and out-of-town tournaments; and visiting colleges.

Thanks to you, we are staffing up, recently making two great hires. Duncan Steele joins us as Director of Squash and the leader of Cleveland Community Squash, our community squash club. Duncan has coached young people and built community squash clubs in cities around the world for many years. Liam O'Toole returns home to Cleveland to serve as our Operations Supervisor. He spent this past year with our sister program, Racquet Up Detroit, as a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. We are delighted that Duncan chose Urban Squash Cleveland to be the capstone of his career in youth development and that Liam chose to begin his career in youth development with us.

Thanks to you, this year we will strategically grow our Cleveland Community Squash membership for the benefit of our Urban Squash Cleveland team. Cleveland Community Squash makes squash affordable and accessible to our entire community. By involving growing numbers of Cleveland Community Squash members in our youth development program, we are breaking down socio-economic, generational, racial, and religious differences in our community and creating empowering relationships for our youth. Youth development is community development.

As a result of all you have done and given, we look confidently ahead to a brighter future for our young people and our community. Thank you for your continued generosity. Please visit us at the corner of West 47th and Lorain to see firsthand the great work you make possible!

Sincerely,



Joe Juster
Board Chair



What is Urban Squash Cleveland?

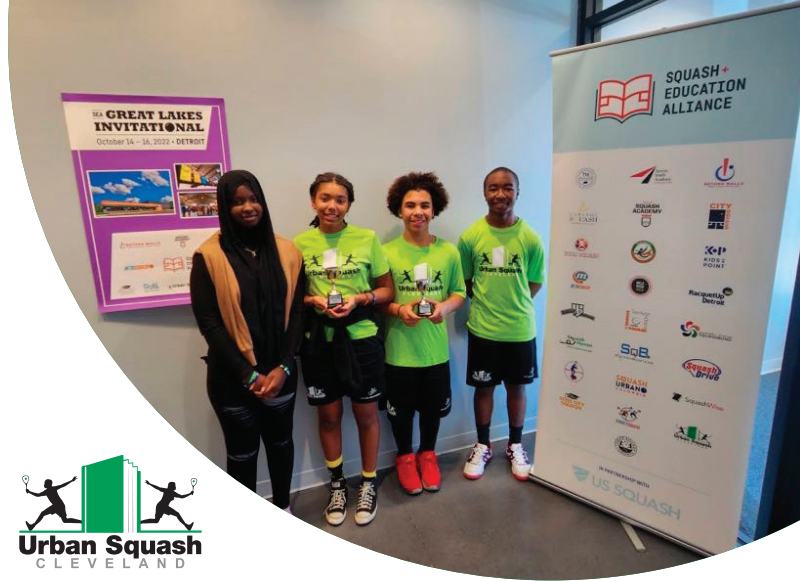
Urban Squash Cleveland ("USC") is a youth development organization that empowers youth to reach their potential through academic support, the sport of squash, and enduring life skills.

Our program is designed to prepare students for the future. USC is a long-term, rigorous, and rewarding commitment, full of exciting possibilities and opportunities.

Squash: Through regular practice and competitions, students develop endurance, coordination, physical and mental awareness, and discipline. The fascinating game is a wonderful vehicle that helps open doors and connects our team with meaningful opportunities for personal growth.

Academic Support: Students engage in homework help, literacy development, financial skill-building, ACT & SAT tutoring, and college support as they cultivate a lifelong love of learning and pursue meaningful post-secondary opportunities.

Enrichment: Team members participate in unique culinary and agricultural experiences, field trips, internships, camps, wellness sessions, and travel to cities and colleges across the country as they form relationships with mentors, volunteers, and one another.

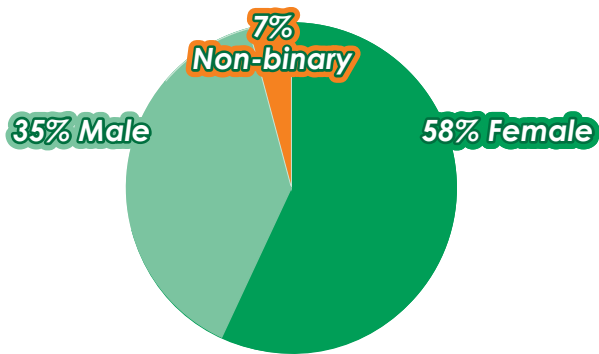


USC is part of the Squash & Education Alliance (SEA), a network of 19 member programs in cities across the U.S. and 5 international affiliates. 94% of SEA students who stay in member programs graduate from high school and enroll in post-secondary schools, in a network with a total of 2,500+ year round team members enrolled.

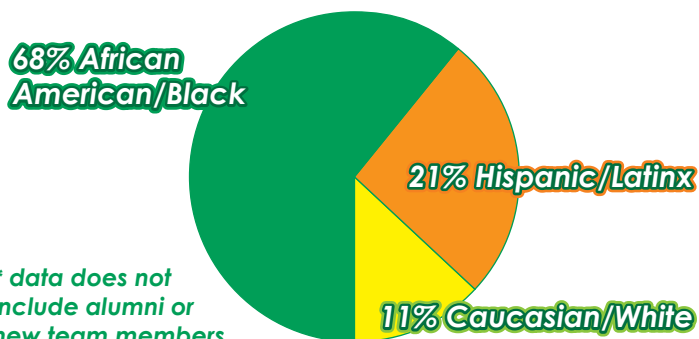
Currently serving a total of 34 students between 5th and 12th grades and 15 alumni, Urban Squash Cleveland is heavily recruiting new team members during the 2022-2023 school year, aiming to reach a total of over 50 students (December 2022), as well as expanding its outreach over the next 5 years to ultimately serve a total of 85 team members each year.

Demographic Information

Student Genders

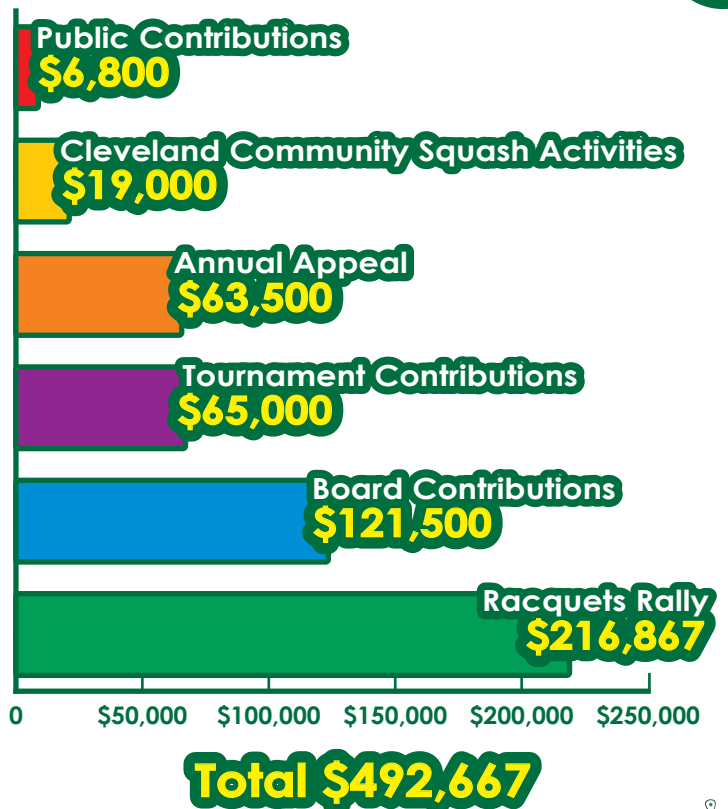


Student Race/Ethnicity



* data does not include alumni or new team members

2021-2022 Income



Academic Advancement

USC Class of 2022

Student Spotlight:

Over the summer, **Fernando Hokello**, a junior at University School, attended Camp Pemigewasset, a small wilderness adventure camp based in New Hampshire. This program empowers individuals to create a connection to self and community through wilderness and service experiences. Fernando was able to experience rafting in the San Juan River, working on a service project with a host family in the Navajo Nation, and visit the four corners during the 5 weeks he was there.



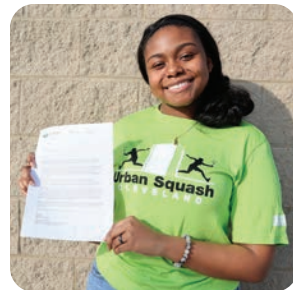
“At camp I got to participate in a service project helping build a roof for local Native Americans, go white water rafting, and hike in Colorado during my five week trip. It is an experience I will never forget and I cannot wait to go back next year as a camp counselor!”



Ramaris Crosby, a 7th grader at Urban Community School, joined the team in December of 2021. Ramaris has demonstrated the

values of Urban Squash Cleveland since day one, always putting forth his best effort, serving as a model of what it means to be a team member.

“I like that we get to meet new people here. Everyone here really helps you be your best.”



Tamar Clark

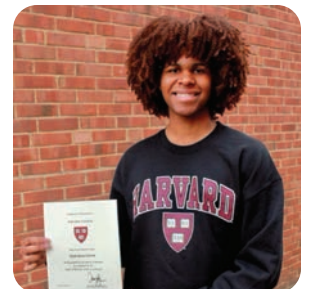
College/University:
Ohio University

Retail & Fashion Merchandising

Elijah Dorroh

College/University:
Harvard University

Psychology



Ryckia Sutton

College/University:
**Xavier University
of Louisiana**

Biology



2021 - 2022 Highlights

Back to Action!

USC was fortunate to return to full, in-person, programming during our 2021-2022 season, including tournament opportunities and summer programming. Team members reconnected with one another on and off the court, with a heavy emphasis on social-emotional development and team building throughout programming.

In an effort to hone in on our team members social and emotional well-being in a post-pandemic environment, Squash the Stress was formally introduced to programming and led by Dr. Vincent Caringi, a local child and adolescent psychiatrist. His time has been spent with our student-athletes focusing on their mental health and ways to manage stress, teaching ways in which they can cope with these stressors through mindfulness exercises. Our team members have been able to apply these techniques throughout a multi-week program that also teaches them about the physiology and science of stress.

Team members continued identifying and establishing healthy choices and refining their cooking skills through 6 unique cooking sessions with Squash Health, part of the special enrichment program launched in collaboration with Spice Field Kitchen. The program emphasizes the connection between culture, health, food and the environment. Students learned to prepare meals that are not only a healthy choice, but budget-friendly, and can be customized and shared with their families. Instilling a love for cooking has enabled USC team members to gain independence and allow them to immerse themselves in the magic of cooking within their own homes, as well as on team trips.

For the first time in over 2 years, our student-athletes had the opportunity to travel again and compete in tournaments. Student-athletes traveled to Rhode Island for the High Performance Team trials and Philadelphia



for both SEA Team Nationals and Individual Nationals. These opportunities allowed our team members to reconnect with one another and help USC thrive as a unit.

USC also led a successful 3-week summer camp with engaging opportunities for team members. Summer programming enabled students to develop athletically, socially, as well as give back to their community through various community service projects. Team members participated in activities that included gardening, exploring and learning the history of several Cleveland landmarks, hiking, and improving their squash play and fitness.





College Bound



Summer Programming

2021-22 Squash Shots



Borja Golan, 2022 Summer Coach



Amanda Shoby at USC



2022 Racquets Rally



Programming returns to full swing!

42 Hours of Summer Activities

25 hours of Mental Health & Wellness Activities



CSC PSA Matches at USC



Team Travel is Back!

27 weeks of in-person squash, academic, and enrichment experiences during the school year



Welcoming New Staff Members

THANK YOU!

The USC community came together in support of USC throughout the pandemic. Now that USC is back in full swing, we are deeply grateful for the continued support of our donors.

\$20,000 +

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NEO Squash Racquets
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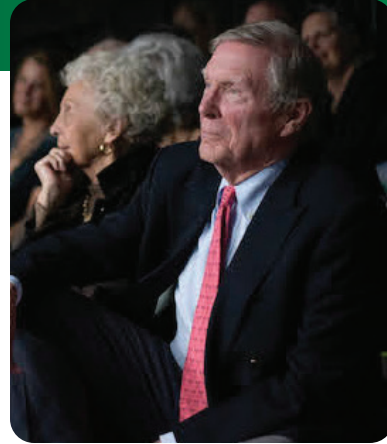


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US Squash and the Community Affiliate
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The Welsh Academy



Remembering a Legend



A founding board member of Urban Squash Cleveland, Jack Herrick, passed away in October of 2022.

Squash in the United States as we know it would not exist if not for Jack's leadership and love of the game. Mr. Herrick won the World over 45 Masters title in 1983. He was president of the board of the PSA men's circuit for an outstanding 14 years, helping the sport reach new heights at the professional level.

USC owes a large part of its success and growth to Mr. Herrick. Our organization will seek to honor his legacy now and in the future.



Borja Golan Returns to USC

Borja Golan led camps, clinics and lessons with the USC team and alumni for three-weeks in June and July of 2022. This unique opportunity to receive mentorship from one of the greatest squash players in the world generated strong growth on the squash court among our student-athletes.

The 17 times Spanish National champion also led group and individual sessions for Cleveland Community Squash members. USC was fortunate to have the squash legend help USC student-athletes and community squash members develop their skills on the court. We are grateful to Borja for his time and work in Cleveland!



Tryouts/Recruitment

USC welcomed 5 new team members after an 8 week tryout process in January of 2022.



Introducing Cleveland Community Squash



In 2021, USC joined US Squash's Community Affiliate Network, becoming the first member program in the Midwest and the fourth national member. As a result, USC launched Cleveland Community Squash in the Spring of 2022, a membership-based program that supplements, supports and creates pathways of growth for USC's team of student-athletes.

Cleveland Community Squash is a community squash club based in USC that aims to provide access to the sport and lifelong engagement in squash to people spanning the entire socio-economic spectrum. CCS fosters lasting relationships across generations, genders, races and religions, and builds a strong community rooted in shared values.

Since the spring, Cleveland Community Squash has grown to 50+ active members—a number we expect to see increase in the coming months. Because of the unique relationship between CCS and USC, members often spend time volunteering during USC's afterschool programming. Both USC and CCS benefit from the additional opportunities this presents for our student-athletes and members to compete in friendly matches on the squash court and build relationships off it.

CCS offers activities at affordable rates, including access to leagues, lessons, clinics, camps and squash events. Squash players of all ages can join and become members to enjoy the fun-filled environment led by our Director of Squash, Duncan Steele.

For more information on Cleveland Community Squash, contact Duncan Steele: duncan@urbansquashcleveland.org





Proud Member



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**Urban Squash
Cleveland**

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