

SQUASHWISE '23 - '24 IMPACT REPORT



SquashWise®

LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



Dear Friends,

SquashWise is at a special and unique time in our organization's journey. After a much longer and larger than anticipated capital campaign, our team can finally say that construction at the Greyhound building is underway! The historic and once-vacant bus terminal will soon be transformed into a 6-court, 3-classroom facility – a home for both our youth programs and increasingly the greater Baltimore community. Our youth development program for Baltimore City Public School middle and high school students will continue and, once in the new center, be able to double in size, and we will expand our current school and community squash offerings. This growth will be gradual, but we are so excited to put into action the plans we've been working on over the past three years. More information on our opening, anticipated for mid-2025, to come soon.

I encourage you to read through this Impact Report to learn more about our capital project and the accomplishments of our programs over the past year. As I think you'll see, SquashWise has evolved in the 17 years since our founding. Our afterschool youth development program is now joined by PE Clinics, Community Squash Nights, and Women's and Girls' Squash Clinics. This catalog of opportunities allows more youth and adults to engage with SquashWise and is a re-commitment to our mission to make the sport a more accessible and welcoming one for all. We have been thrilled with the response we've received so far and look forward to further enhancing this community squash model at the SquashWise Center.

Thank you for your support of our community,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sage Platt', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sage Platt
President and Chairman

WHO WE ARE



FACTS AND FIGURES*

Nearly 93% of our students live in Baltimore City, and 75% reside in West Baltimore.



Participants attend 15 different middle and high schools.



97% of our students identify as youth of color; 82% identify as Black or African American.



The majority of our students are first generation degree-seeking youth.



87% average SquashWise attendance rate.



* Of our youth development program participants.

2023 - 2024 Team

Youth Development Program

60

middle and high school students

69

alumni

Summer Camp

44

middle and high school students

School and Community Squash

3

new programs

75

adults

400

students

Our People

14*

board members

10

staff

39

volunteers

* In addition, five new members joined our Board for the '24-'25 year, including a SquashWise alumnus and a SquashWise parent.

WHAT WE DID



"Squash has shifted my entire focus on and off the court. It has made me want to maintain my high GPA to continue to travel and compete, and open myself up to additional opportunities."

Jayden '28

"I am fortunate to have a positive athletic community around me. If I am having a bad day, I can channel that energy into my court time as opposed to doing something non-productive. I love that I can see myself improving from middle school."

Ella '28

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – SQUASH

As the only public school squash program in Baltimore, SquashWise has recreational, JV, and Varsity teams. They played in nearly 30 matches and tournaments last year alone! The travel tournaments are the highlight of the year for our students, as they look forward to experiencing new cities and meeting players from across the country. One of these tournaments, the Squash and Education Alliance's 2024 Team Nationals, is where SquashWise team captain, Marisa '26 shared her SquashWise story (bit.ly/SquashWiseVideo).



583

hours of school-year squash instruction



140

hours of summer squash instruction



15

team matches



13

SEA and US Squash tournaments

WHAT WE DID



"I appreciate that we get time to focus on our studies, have a quiet classroom space, and access to computers to complete our work. We can work with tutors, staff, and other volunteers who help us keep our GPAs up."

Haniyyah '28

"SquashWise has supported me in my studies so much. I never feel judged or uncomfortable when asking for help or support. I feel empowered!"

Zaria '27

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT – EDUCATION

SquashWise also layers academic skill-building, college and career planning, and mentoring to ensure that all of our students graduate from high school prepared for postsecondary life. Each year, 100% of our high school seniors graduate on-time. They pursue a variety of paths – college, vocational programs, military, and the workforce. Of the Class of 2024, 100% are attending two- or four-year schools.



90

college applications



12

career speakers



9

financial aid workshops



4

college visits

WHAT WE DID



GRADUATE SUCCESS

SquashWise alumni are doing big things, and we are here to partner with them on their college and career journeys! SquashWise offers 1:1 advising and a variety of scholarship programs to a growing number of alumni, ages 18-25, each year.

In addition to this support, alumni stay engaged with SquashWise through holiday and summer reunions as well as 'alumni connect' events where they share more about their college and career journeys with current middle and high school students. A SquashWise alumnus also sits on our Board of Directors, an opportunity to incorporate the alumni perspective in shaping our organization's exciting future.

85% of alumni have matriculated to two- or four-year colleges, as compared to 37% of graduates from Baltimore City Public Schools.

Of the 31 alumni who accessed support last year, 84% were attending two- or four-year schools, 3% were attending vocational programs, 3% were in the military, and 10% were working full-time.

During 2023-2024, SquashWise alumni graduated from Loyola University, Sheffield Institute, Dickinson College, Morehouse College, and the University of Maryland School of Social Work.



31

**alumni accessed
support during
2023-2024**

ALUMNI SNAPSHOTS



Justin '24

A first-year student at Morgan State University.

What have you found to be most beneficial about the SquashWise program?

I find the Department of Graduate Success to be extremely helpful, especially as a college freshman. **Having SquashWise staff on standby to talk about class schedules, getting your financial aid in order, setting up a resume, etc. has been so useful.** I plan to reach out throughout the year so I can ensure my first year of college is a success.



Sammi '23

A second-year student at Bucknell University.

Think about the first day that you walked into SquashWise. How have you changed or grown as a person?

Initially, I was nervous to try something new. But, once I got into it, SquashWise helped me to expand my thinking and be open to new experiences. For example, I've joined the dance team and am currently the co-president of the Black Student Union at Bucknell. **I've grown in my confidence and ability to advocate for myself through these experiences, and SquashWise helped me to get there.**



Quentin '22

A third-year student at St. John's University.

How do you see growth in yourself from your participation in SquashWise?

SquashWise has opened up my world – taking me on squash and college trips that I'll never forget. Since high school, I've traveled more and more and gone places that I never would have imagined. **SquashWise helped me to tap into a curiosity that I didn't know was there before and encouraged me to lean into any opportunity that I get.**

WHAT WE DID



SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SQUASH

Since 2022, SquashWise has delivered a variety of new school and community squash programs. More than 400 youth from BCPSS have engaged with these programs over the past year, and we plan for participation numbers to grow upon moving to our permanent home.

- PE Clinics take place at Baltimore City Public Schools during the school day. Students try something new through various stations that teach them the basics of squash and support team-building.
- Community Squash Nights and Women's + Girls' Squash Clinics are accessible, fun, and free! All skill levels are welcome and equipment is available for anyone who needs it.



17

PE Clinics



6

Community Squash Nights




16

Women's + Girls' Squash Clinics

Subscribe to our newsletter at baltimoresquashwise.org and follow us on social media for updates about our programs and opportunities to get involved.

 BaltimoreSquashWise

 squashwise

WHERE WE'RE GOING



THE SQUASHWISE CENTER



WHERE WE'RE GOING



Over the past year, SquashWise completed our capital campaign, raising \$15m to transform the historic Greyhound bus terminal into a youth and community squash center! Included in this total are contributions from our students, alumni, families, volunteers, and staff – all of whom will be recognized in the building alongside our other generous donors.

We also finalized the design for our 6-court, 3-classroom facility and started construction at the building. In April 2024, we celebrated this major milestone at our groundbreaking ceremony with students, families, donors, and elected officials including Comptroller Brooke Lierman and U.S. Congressman Kweisi Mfume.



In the news

Our capital project has been featured in the *Baltimore Banner*, *Baltimore Fishbowl*, *Baltimore Heritage*, *Baltimore Sun*, *TODAY'S 101.9*, *WMAR*, and *WYPR*. It also was featured in the Summer 2024 issue of *Preservation Magazine* as one of five unique re-uses of Greyhound stations across the country. All of these pieces can be found at baltimoresquashwise.org/about/news-reports/.



THE SQUASHWISE CENTER



The SquashWise Center is anticipated to open in mid-2025. This new facility will allow us to double the size of our youth development program and expand our school and community squash programs to include field trips, youth and adult leagues, tournaments, and sliding-scale memberships.

We began recruiting members this past year as part of our Founding Members' Initiative. Through their commitments, this group of enthusiastic members are supporting our youth programs now and locking in their discounted gym membership for when the facility opens.



Everyone has a role to play! Here's how you can get involved:

- Make a gift to support our programs – contributions of all sizes are meaningful!
- Select SquashWise in your workplace giving guide.
- Donate your vehicle.
- Tour the Greyhound building and bring a friend!
- Gather your colleagues for a team-bonding session at SquashWise.

Visit baltimoresquashwise.org to learn more.



SquashWise[®]

Baltimore SquashWise
16 West Madison Street*
Baltimore, MD 21201



*Temporary office until
the grand opening of the
SquashWise Center.