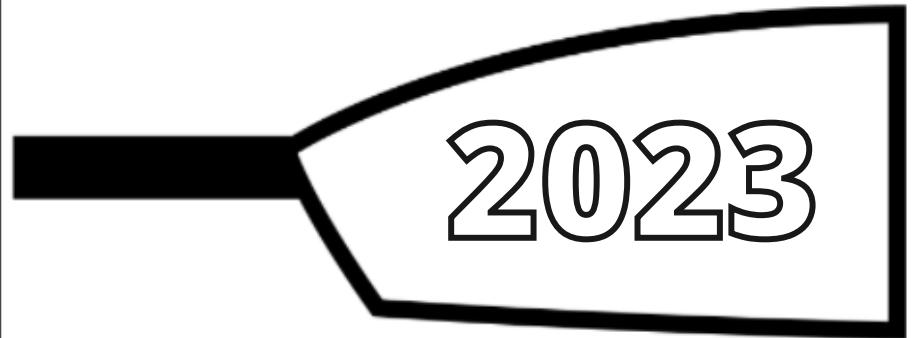


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INDIANAPOLIS ROWING CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT



2023



MESSAGE FROM **JANET FRANCIS** **IRC BOARD PRESIDENT**

The Indianapolis Rowing Center (IRC) continues to evolve, expand, and build a solid foundation for the future. In 2023, we continued to pursue our mission to transform lives through rowing by growing our programs, improving our facilities, upgrading our equipment, strengthening our financial position, and retaining and recruiting highly skilled staff and coaches. Our 5-year strategic plan was refreshed with a focus on becoming the preeminent Midwest Rowing destination.

A critical part of this plan is to create a culture of an engaged community that is inclusive, enthusiastic, and positive, with a team spirit that supports the organization and each other, all while enjoying the sport of rowing.

Success on the water is another component of our strategic plan and is not just measured by medals at regattas but also by the encounters each individual has with IRC. Offering youth, adults, and individuals with mental and physical disabilities, the opportunity to experience the wonders of rowing through our programs, clinics, regattas, and memberships is success.

Top-tier facilities, venue, and equipment are required for IRC to support what we do. We took steps in 2023 to improve our infrastructure by replacing key components of our launch docks with safer, sturdier, state of the art docks. Over the next several years we need to replace the remaining launch docks as well as our retrieval docks. We also continue to improve our fleet by securing newer shells and launches. Defining a fleet replacement plan that supports the needs of our programs is also a necessity as we grow. As we look forward, improvements to our Finish Tower and a permanent winter facility are also in the plans. Our ability to secure future national regattas hinges on having top-tier facilities and venue.

IRC's financial strength will dictate what and when we can support our growth plans. IRC has improved our financial position by continuing to be fiscally responsible, strong budget management of hosted regattas, improved financial processes, managing costs and fees for our programs, and of course, donations from our friends, family, members, and sponsors! Moving IRC forward also requires having highly trained staff and coaches. We completed a position, role, and compensation review and will be evolving to three full-time positions. We firmly believe this evolution is essential as we strive to become a preeminent Midwest rowing destination and provide unwavering support to our members, regatta partners, donors, parents, and sponsors. Having full-time positions with competitive salaries is pivotal to attracting the best talent.

The friends, family, and members of IRC are what makes this organization great. Without each of you, we would not be where we are today. In over 20 years of being part of IRC, I have never seen the organization in a better position. I am very excited about where we are headed, and we need your continued help and support to get there!

Thanks,
Janet



MESSAGE FROM **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** **ANGELIA THORPE**

IRC Community,

I am delighted to present our annual report, reflecting upon the exciting year we've navigated through together in 2023. We have seen community and growth reflected in everything we've done from our programs and clinics to our events, and your support and dedication have been the cornerstone of it all.

This year the Indianapolis Rowing Center continued to offer strong programming for adults and youth in the Indianapolis and surrounding areas. Our masters and juniors received many accolades over the course of their season sending multiple boats to their respective national regattas. We partnered with area organizations to conduct clinics that introduce rowing to new community members and continued to offer our adaptive program.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to developing youth and adults of all social and economic backgrounds through the sport of rowing. Through your generosity, we've been able to provide financial assistance that allows those who would otherwise not be able to participate in our programs the ability to fully participate without the worry of the financial impact. Your time and monetary contributions have empowered us to impact the lives of the Indianapolis community.

Over the course of the outdoor season, we hosted five regattas with the Big Ten Women's Championship, MACRA, and US Rowing Masters Nationals in addition to our two annual regattas. This brought over 3,100 athletes to our venue and we filled over 900 volunteer shifts!

None of this would have been possible without the collective efforts of our dedicated team, partners, and, most importantly, you—the driving force behind our success. As we move into 2024, we invite you to continue this journey with us. Your ongoing support ensures that we can further our mission and create even greater positive change in the coming year.

Thank you for believing in our vision and for being an integral part of our community.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Angelia

MISSION STATEMENT

“

To develop youth and adults of all social and economic backgrounds through the sport of rowing by providing experienced and knowledgeable instruction, and a variety of skill-enhancing programs.

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ABOUT US

In 1984 Indianapolis made the commitment to build a rowing course in the north pool of the reservoir and to bid for the World Rowing Championships. The development of the rowing course was fast tracked when Indianapolis was unexpectedly awarded the 1987 Pan American Games after it was determined that Cuba was unable to host the games. The Indianapolis Rowing Center is a premier Midwest destination for rowing enthusiasts and athletes alike. Nestled inside picturesque Eagle Creek Park, the facility offers a four-story finish tower, an eight-lane fully buoied course, and a large two-bay boathouse.

PROGRAMS

- **Youth**
- **Masters**
- **Outreach**



YOUTH ROWING

6TH - 12TH GRADES

Our Junior team includes **students from over 35 schools in the greater Indianapolis area.** Mike Burroughs serves as our interim head coach. Mike, in addition to 6 additional coaches has worked with our Middle and High School Rowers. In the Spring of 2023, our Juniors qualified 10 boats for the US Rowing Youth National Championships. Additionally, Junior rowers Charles Boldt (Junior) and Ryan Miller (Sophomore) were selected to participate in the national team selection camp in California.

Our Middle School program, led by coach Sharon BonDurant, continues to introduce the sport of rowing to kids in 6th through 8th grade. Meeting twice a week, rowers learn the basics of rowing, water safety, and the fun and value of being on a team! We average 40 rowers in this program each season.



MASTERS

21 YEARS AND OLDER

Our Master's rowing program offers something for all skill levels. For those new to rowing, our month-long Learn-to-Row program provides an introduction to the fundamentals of rowing. These sessions, led by experienced coaches, focus on technique, safety, and fostering a passion for the sport.

Our technical program provides ongoing coaching to provide a solid foundation, focusing on individual improvement and mastery of the rowing stroke while preparing rowers for local regattas. This level is tailored to various skill levels and aspirations. IRC also offers a competitive team that focuses on advanced technique and training preparing rowers for regional and national regattas.

During the spring, summer, and fall seasons, our rowers are out on Eagle Creek Reservoir perfecting their technique. During colder months, our program transitions to indoor winter training. This period allows our members to maintain fitness, refine technique, and bond as a team in a controlled environment, ensuring continuity and progress throughout the year.

Above all, our Masters program is about more than just rowing. It's a community that fosters friendships, encourages personal growth, and celebrates the joy of being on the water. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned rower, **there's a place for everyone in our Masters program at the Indianapolis Rowing Center.**



OUTREACH

ADAPTIVE AND OTHER OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Adaptive rowing at the Indianapolis Rowing Center began in 2011 with a Learn to Row clinic for all individuals with a disability. The Indianapolis Rowing Center is proud to continue to offer rowing to the physically challenged individuals in the Indianapolis community. IRC has acquired adaptive equipment through a Christopher Reeve Foundation grant allowing us to teach on the indoor rowing machines and then provide on-the-water rowing opportunities.

Some of our other outreach programs include learn-to-row clinics for college students, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Joesph Maley Foundation, and a Traumatic Brain Injury Group. Clinics and programs are led by our coaches in addition to volunteers from our Masters and Youth programs.

Outreach programs help us connect with our community and meet our mission of developing the skills of all rowers!



INDIANAPOLIS ROWING CENTER

BY THE NUMBERS 2023

3,100

Number of athletes who participated in an event HOSTED by IRC.



50% 50%

Over 50% of our 23 graduating 2023 seniors are participating in a collegiate rowing program.

1984

Founding Year of IRC

A black icon of a rowing team in a boat, with six individuals rowing.

ninety five

participants in clinics/adaptive rowing programs

5 EVENTS HOSTED

A black and red icon of a rowing shell, representing the sport of rowing.

Indianapolis Indoor Rowing Championships
Indianapolis Junior Sprints
Big Ten Rowing Championships
MACRA's
US Rowing Master's Nationals

A black icon of a house with two people standing in front of it, representing volunteers.

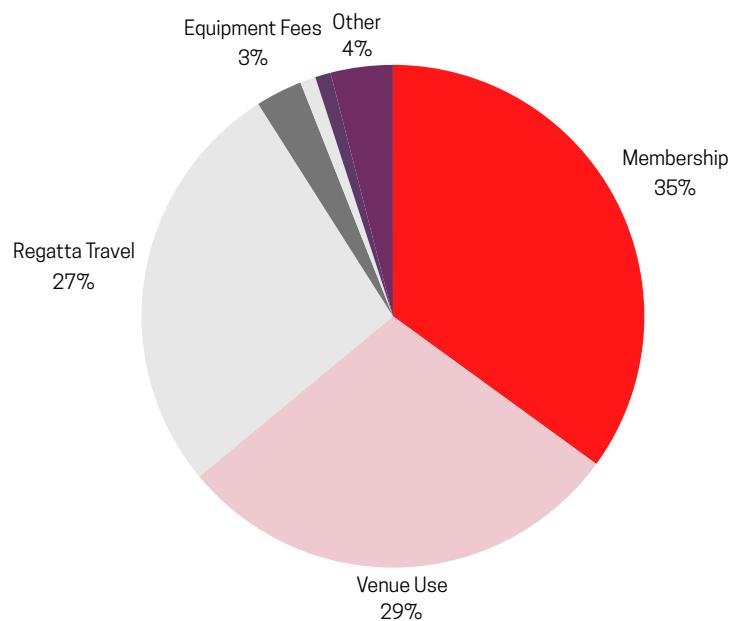
900+
Volunteer Shifts Filled



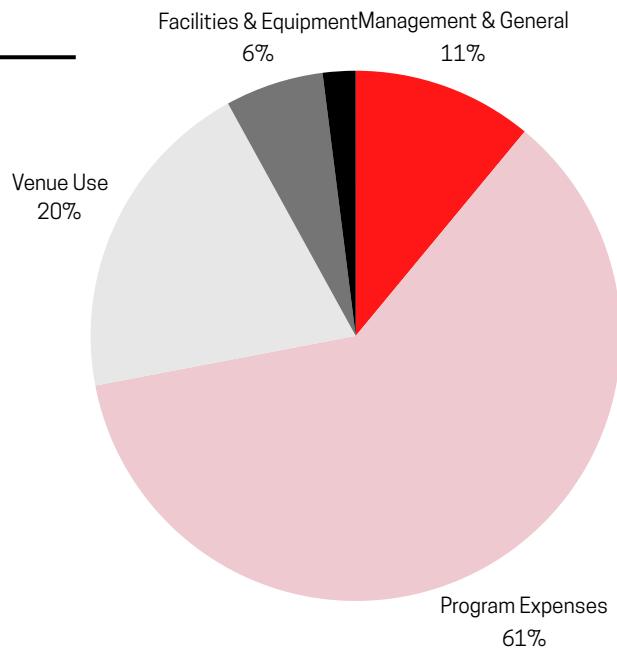
35

Number of Schools represented in our Youth Programs.

Income



Expenses



IRC LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

Janet Francis	Larry Bechtel	Sue Iffert
Tracy Barta	Sarah Billings	David Mann
Denise Bain	Dave Carter	Michael Sapper
Megan Barr	Amanda Coddens	Mark White

Staff

Angelia Thorpe <i>Executive Director</i>	Sam Knauss <i>Director of Rowing</i>
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Coaches

Sharon BonDurant	Robin Lybolt
Mike Burroughs	Catherine McNutt
Julia Burroughs	Elizabeth Myers
Zach Christopher	Sarah Norton
Jayna Dolfi	Colleen Pavlicek
Sue Gath	Daniel Reyes
Nich Holston	Eric Stoll