



BAM Foundation



BAM

Institute of Civic Biodesign

The BAM Institute of Civic Biodesign raises up emergent leaders who deploy whole-system, regenerative strategies through immersive learning in embedded community contexts.

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OUR GOAL

The goal of the BAM Institute of Civic Biodesign is to be a higher education organization dedicated to raising emergent leaders who deploy whole-system, regenerative strategies through immersive learning in embedded community contexts. Each of these terms requires some unpacking to understand just how different the Institute is.

Emergent. Students become mature humans by daring to practice adaptive, emergent patterns. They iterate; they are free to fail. The school itself embraces rapid iteration as the new normal. The Institute rejects the cult of safety, which shelters students and staff from true growth.

Whole-system. Students are always thinking about the interrelation of things, examining how elements and subsystems influence one another within a whole. The school itself is unabashedly interdisciplinary. The Institute rejects the culture of specialization and silos.

Regenerative. Students engage in projects that look for “the renewable” and develop “the sustainable.” They learn from nature. The institute itself strives to be self-renewing and self-funded. The Institute rejects pedagogies of short-term gain delivered by unsustainable programs.

Immersive. Students learn in real-world environments where education and action become one. Their campus is on the job site, river, backyard – wherever holistic education happens. The institute itself is multi-locational. The Institute rejects abstracted classroom learning.

Embedded. Students tackle projects in their community contexts that help the city and region thrive. Research and solutions, while local, aim to be globally relevant. Students work closely with regional businesses, the government, and their networks. The Institute rejects educational isolation.

Achieving emergent, whole-system, regenerative, immersive, embedded learning is no small vision. To build such a learning culture, the Institute will structure its curriculum according to the emerging practices of three alternative pedagogies:

- project-based, in which learning is done through relevant projects in immersive environments
- competency-based, in which educational progress is measured in terms of demonstrated proficiency
- network-based, in which the learner taps into a personal network for supervision.

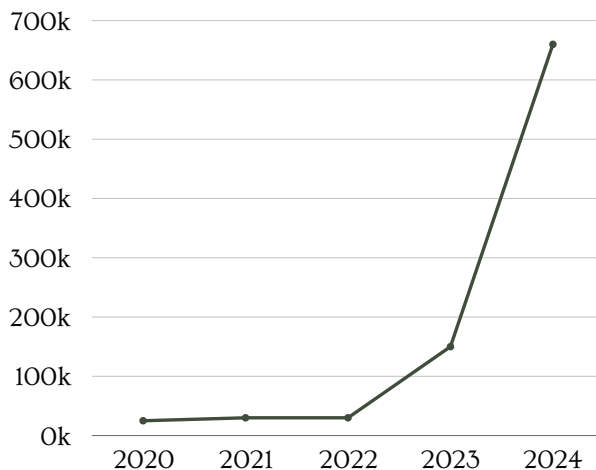


FUNDING THROUGHOUT 2020 TO 2025

Raising up emergent community leaders is at the core of what we do.

The BAM Foundation is deeply committed to fostering healthy soil and nurturing healthy communities. At BAM, we understand the intrinsic link between these two endeavors – they are mutually reinforcing, and we believe in the holistic transformation that occurs when we invest in both.

In our bioregion of focus, we find ourselves at the crossroads of two essential areas: investing in people and investing in soil. Our team members are passionately engaged in community-focused projects such as tool libraries and community kitchens, recognizing the profound impact these initiatives can have on the well-being of individuals and neighborhoods. Simultaneously, we are devoted to restoring wetlands and prairies, understanding the critical role healthy soil plays in the broader ecological context.



Our journey began in the pre-pandemic world of late 2019 and early 2020 when we received initial funding to create an alternative graduate school.

In 2022 and 2023, the pivotal role of "project-based learning" in our curriculum became evident through our work on the Community Revitalization Collective. As we approach 2024, we are circling back to focus on curriculum development and student onboarding. This is where your support becomes invaluable, and we invite you to be a key participant in the continued growth of this transformative institution.

At BAM we fundamentally believe that if you invest in local people who have an irrationally persistent passion in their community to improve dysfunctional systems, then communities become a better place from the inside.

OUR PARTNERS

No one can whistle a symphony.



South Dakota Community Foundation
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sioux Falls
Union Gospel Mission
Wesley United Methodist Church
Collision Ministries
Cherry Rock Farms
Blackshire Farms
Caselli's Market Garden
IronFox Farm
En Place Catering
Rudy Navarrete's Mexican Food
Nikki's La Mexicana
Windy City Bites
Kidlink
Project Food Forest
Reaves Buildings
WS Construction
Deffenbaugh Homes

Community partners play a pivotal role in the success and impact of the BAM Institute of Civic Biodesign. In our pursuit of fostering regenerative strategies and civic biodesign practices, collaboration with local organizations, businesses, and residents is paramount. These partnerships contribute diverse perspectives, expertise, and resources that enrich the learning experiences and projects undertaken by our students.

By engaging with community partners, the BAM Institute ensures that its initiatives are deeply rooted in the local context, addressing real challenges and opportunities. These collaborations create a dynamic ecosystem where knowledge exchange and collective problem-solving flourish, fostering a sense of shared ownership and responsibility for the well-being of the community.

Furthermore, community partners serve as invaluable mentors, providing students with practical insights and guidance as they navigate complex, real-world projects. The reciprocal nature of these partnerships strengthens the bonds between the BAM Institute and the communities it serves, reinforcing the commitment to mutual growth, sustainability, and the advancement of civic biodesign principles.

OUR PROJECTS

01 COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION COLLECTIVE

The Community Revitalization Collective (CRC) is an emerging cross-agency collaboration focused on the future wellness of the Whittier neighborhood in Sioux Falls, SD. The CRC will connect the dots for the neighbors and the city as a whole system. Understanding the Whittier neighborhood's human and environmental ecology is essential to the program's success. This year, we will continue with all year-one activities, build/rebuild the neighborhood association, build out any infrastructure projects that come from ideation and prototyping, and build active listening and feedback sessions into the neighborhood governance system.



02 KAROL'S PRAIRIE

Situated in Turner County in Southeast South Dakota, Karol's Prairie, once an overgrazed pasture, now stands as a 45-acre canvas for the manifestation of a visionary mission.

The overarching vision for Karol's Prairie is one of abundance—abundant with birds, bees, butterflies, native animals, and thriving native grasses. This vision extends beyond the immediate landscape, positioning the prairie as a perpetual sanctuary for conservation, education, and inspiration. The mission, therefore, is clear: to create a sanctuary that not only restores but also preserves this land as a natural, uninterrupted prairie.



03 SIOUX FALLS TOOL LIBRARY

The Sioux Falls Tool Library was started as a resource to serve the community of Sioux Falls. It is a volunteer-led organization that emphasizes access over ownership. The goal is to help strengthen the community by allowing members the ability to complete projects without the need for expensive tools that ultimately they may not need on an ongoing basis. The approach minimizes waste while improving our homes and communities.



OUR PROJECTS

04 THE PRESERVATION KITCHEN

In a society grappling with homelessness and food insecurity, the need for innovative solutions that address both the immediate needs of the marginalized and their long-term empowerment is paramount. The Preservation Kitchen Project established a preservation kitchen on the main floor of a houseless shelter. This multifaceted initiative aims to provide job training, home economics education, and large-scale local produce preparation to be utilized by area service organizations, thus creating a self-sustaining cycle of support and empowerment.



05 COMMON ROOTS SEED LIBRARY

The seed library facilitates a positive and active relationship between the local ecology and citizens. Seed libraries significantly promote biodiversity, community resilience, and sustainable agriculture. Think of them as the hipster cousin of your local library but for seeds instead of books. These green treasure troves allow people to borrow and exchange seeds, encouraging the cultivation of diverse plant varieties. The seed libraries are at revolving locations.



06 PRAIRIE ALLY OUTDOOR CENTER

In the heart of Luverne, MN, the Prairie Ally Outdoor Center stands as a testament to the transformative power of nature and community collaboration.

Central to Prairie Ally's allure is the enchanting food forest—a three-dimensional, edible landscape that mimics the diversity and patterns found in nature. This lush expanse serves as a living classroom, inviting visitors to explore and harvest a bounty of fruits, nuts, berries, and herbs. The food forest is a living laboratory, showcasing how ecosystems can be harnessed to improve air and water quality while providing habitat for wildlife.



OUR PROJECTS

07 CITIZEN TACO

Citizen Tacos are like the town hall meetings of the modern age – they bring people together to share their thoughts, concerns, and ideas. These gatherings are not just bureaucratic box-ticking exercises but essential for a thriving, democratic society. They give a voice to the people. Let's face it – decisions made in a vacuum are usually terrible. Public forums and input sessions provide a platform for the community to express their views directly to decision-makers. All of this happens while enjoying a taco.

08 FUTURE SIOUX FALLS

Future Sioux Falls forums foster a sense of ownership and community engagement. When people feel their opinions matter, they're more likely to be invested in the well-being of their community. It's like the difference between being told what to do and having a say in how things are done – one feels like a lecture, and the other feels like teamwork. Future Sioux Falls tackles messy topics in a non-hierarchical format so that all voices are heard. The goal is establishing neighborhood hubs, neighborhood congresses, community organizations, and community development corporations (CDCs) through dynamic citizen engagement.

09 COMMUNITY WORKSHOP: LAUNCHING 2024

The Community Workshop is a skills-building and fabrication laboratory located downtown in the Union Gospel Mission Women's Shelter. Local fabricators will use the space to conduct business and teach shelter residents and neighbors how to do light manufacturing.

The goal is to create workforce and skills pathways for the houseless and out of work.



OUR TEAM



CLINTON BROWN
Founder and Executive Director

JAMES BURZYNSKI
Sioux Falls Tool Library Lead

SHANNON WARD
Preservation Kitchen

JORDAN DEFFENBAUGH
Founder and Community Liaison

CHARLIE SAUM
Common Roots Seed Library Lead

NATE BOSCALJON
Preservation Kitchen &
Community Workshop

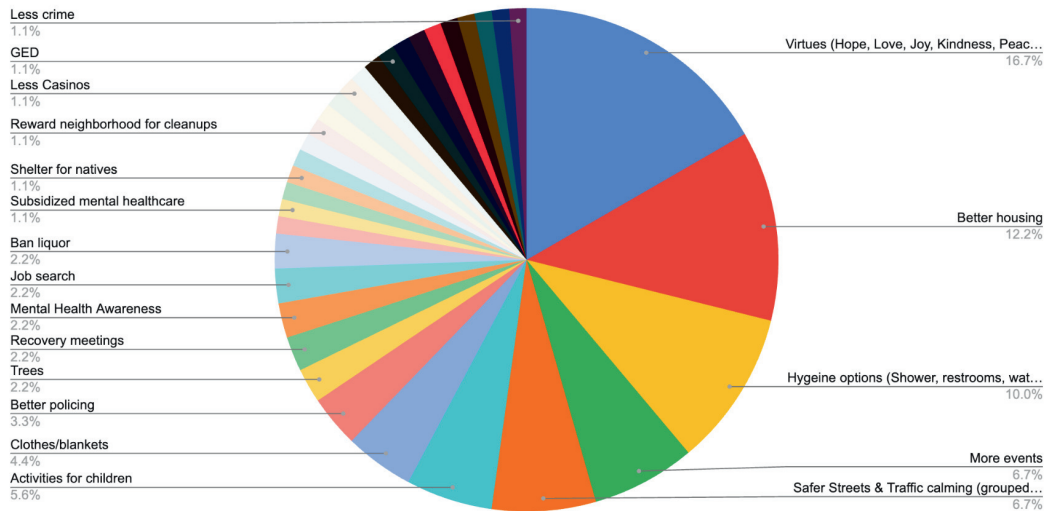
JACKELYN SEVERIN
Land Restoration Specialist

ADAM LANE
Land Restoration Specialist

SHEILA FOX
Preservation Kitchen

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION COLLECTIVE

Ideas to make the neighborhood better Totals



In 2023 we:

- Conducted monthly open forums for the neighborhood at various high pedestrian traffic locations.
- Gathered door-to-door feedback from our neighborhood walks
- Hosted quarterly potlucks or block parties to understand the neighbors further
- Met weekly with the CRC team to brainstorm, ideate, and prototype solutions.

In 2024 we hope to:

- Continue with all year-one activities
- Build/Rebuild the neighborhood association.
- Build out any infrastructure projects that come from ideation and prototyping.
- Build active listening and feedback sessions into the neighborhood governance system.

Join the CRC team to build solutions based on the data above.

We will partner with neighbors and surrounding agencies to alter the built environment using regenerative strategies to build wellness into the system.

Your donations will help us:

- Host more events
- Redesign safer streets
- Provide activities for children
- Plant more trees
- Setup a neighborhood association

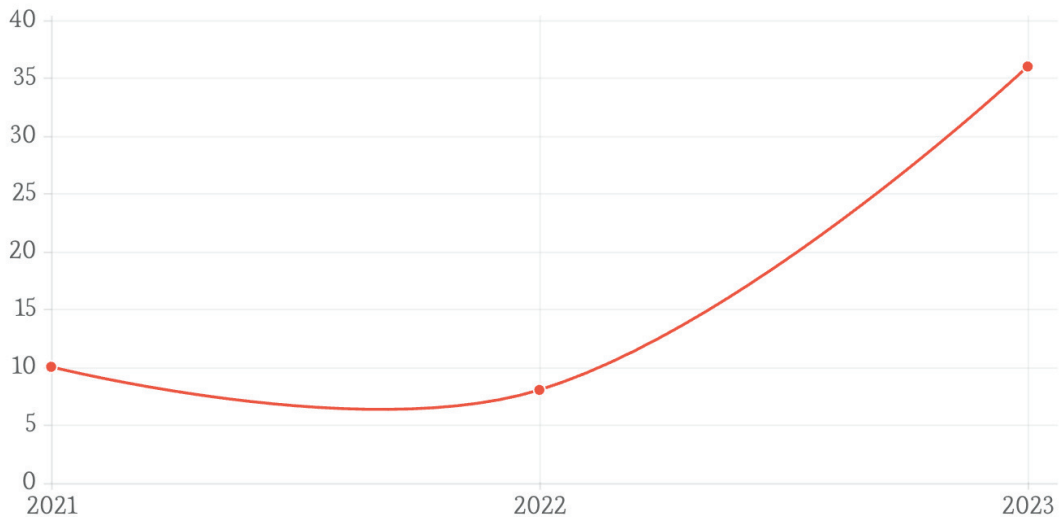
2024 Goal: \$170,000.00

Million-dollar idea: Purchase abandoned homes in the neighborhood and put them into a community land trust to build wealth amongst neighbors.

Partners: Union Gospel Mission, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sioux Falls

KAROL'S PRAIRIE

NEW SPECIES DISCOVERED ON THE PRAIRIE



In 2023 we:

- Built three Beaver Dam Anologs to retain rainwater
- Seeded 5 acres with pollinator mix
- Identified 36 new species
- High-intensity rotationally grazed 24 heifers and two bulls.
- Divided the land into 10 test paddocks
- Collected 26,000,000 gallons of rainwater.

In 2024 we hope to:

- Conduct a controlled burn to test the seed bank.
- Collect soil samples in each paddock.
- Fill in the cattle dugout from the 1940s.
- Remove the remaining sheep fencing.
- Partner with local wildlife groups to better understand the ecology.
- Seed 10 more acres.

Join us in restoring the prairie.

We will continue to partner with neighboring farmers and conservation organizations to bring diverse biology to the prairie.

Your donations will help us:

- Install interpretive signage
- Conduct controlled burns
- Seed for pollinators
- Repair the well

2024 Goal: \$10,000.00

Million-dollar idea: Purchase adjacent pastures north and south to create a 1.5-mile-long wildlife corridor and riparian prairie.

Partners: Brue, Enright, Graber, and Waltner Families.

SIOUX FALLS TOOL LIBRARY



In 2023 we:

- Remodeled a retail location to house the tool library.
- Set up our inventory and membership software.
- Received 1000 tools as donations.
- Added 67 members.

In 2024 we hope to:

- Bring on a 15-hour per week staff member.
- Add 200 new members.
- Build out partnering Community Workshop.
- Host classes taught by members on how to build and repair items for home.

Join the Tool Library to provide resources to build the community.

We will continue to partner with local neighbors and organizations to bring affordable access to high-demand tools for maintenance and repair.

Your donations will help us:

- Staff the library
- Repair tools
- Purchase high-demand tools
- Host educational events

2024 Goal: \$25,000.00

Million-dollar idea: Build a skills-building laboratory.

THE PRESERVATION KITCHEN



In 2023 we:

- Built out the prototype kitchen.
- Prepped food for the CRC
- Preserved 1500 pounds of food from local farms
- Made meals for the women's shelter.

In 2024 we hope to:

- Partner with local universities to teach nutrition classes
- Complete a master design of the kitchen to optimize flow and safety.
- Teach cooking/preservation classes.

Join the preservation kitchen staff in reducing harvest waste from local producers while increasing nutrition for the local homeless.

We will partner with neighbors and surrounding farms to educate and empower through food.

Your donations will help us:

- Host more classes
- Contract a master design of the kitchen

2024 Goal: \$50,000.00

Million-dollar idea: Create a centralized local food co-packing facility to employ the homeless and increase access to healthy food.

Partners: Union Gospel Mission

COMMON ROOTS SEED LIBRARY



In 2023 we:

- Conducted six seed-saving classes via the local library system.
- Distributed hundreds of seed packs.
- We had 107 people attend our classes.
- Set up a satellite location in a local library.

In 2024 we hope to:

- Teach additional classes
- Set up two more satellite locations.
- Partner in planting three more pollinator gardens.
- Have a farmers market stand.

Join the Seed Library team and help protect the local ecology.

We will partner with local gardeners and organizations to promote seed saving for production and pollination.

Your donations will help us:

- Host more events
- Participate in local fairs and markets
- Purchase additional seeds

2024 Goal: \$10,000.00

Million-dollar idea: Lease farm to produce seeds ready for future plant migration.

Partners: Sweetgrass Soapery

The Beverly Ann Miller Foundation

PRAIRIE ALLY OUTDOOR CENTER



In 2023 we:

- Planted, harvested, and shared vegetables from the annual garden with the community.
- Built a 100 ft long hugelkultur mound
- Built a 25 ft footbridge over the creek from industry waste supplies.
- had 4000+ visitors

In 2024 we hope to:

- Build a greenhouse educational space
- Finish the bridge and access to the east loop
- Conduct controlled burns on the grassland portions
- host 5000+ visitors

Partners: Project Food Forest, University of Minnesota Extension, A Healthier Southwest, Southwest Initiative Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Americorps

Join the Prairie Ally team as we empower people to feed themselves through agroforestry, edible landscaping, and education.

We will partner with neighbors and regional organizations to educate citizens on the power of edible landscaping.

Your donations will help us:

- Host more events
- Improve trails
- Built a teaching shelter

2024 Goal: \$35,000.00

Million-dollar idea: Geodesic teaching greenhouse and adjacent 40-acre prairie restoration.

The Beverly Ann Miller Foundation

CITIZEN TACO



In 2023 we:

- made 4000 Tacos
- held 20 Citizen Tacos
- fed 2000+ People
- gathered hundreds of data points
- partnered with 2 local food trucks

In 2024 we hope to:

- purchase a food truck/trailer
- host at multiple locations
- find sponsoring partners

Join the Citizen Taco team in facilitating community input while enjoying tacos.

We will partner with neighbors and local food trucks to pursue listening to all of the voices in the community.

Your donations will help us:

- Host more events
- Process the data for community improvement

2024 Goal: \$65,000.00

Million-dollar idea: Build 3 food trucks that can be deployed regionally to host Citizen Taocs.

Partners: Union Gospel Mission, Rudy Navarrete's Mexican Food, Windy City Bites

The Beverly Ann Miller Foundation

FUTURE SIOUX FALLS



In 2023 we:

- Held 4 rounds of the Sioux Falls Urban Food Forum
- Launched the Preservation Kitchen
- Launched the Glean team

In 2024 we hope to:

- host 6 Future Forums
- build a new website

Join the Future Sioux Falls team in discovering pathways for new leaders and ideas to merge.

Through dynamic citizen engagement, we will partner with neighbors to establish neighborhood hubs, neighborhood congresses, community organizations, and community development corporations (CDCs).

Your donations will help us:

- Host more events
- Build a website

2024 Goal: \$5,000.00

Million-dollar idea: Fund to promote neighborhood associations.

Partners: Various community hosts

The Beverly Ann Miller Foundation

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP



In 2024 we hope to:

- Start skill-building classes
- Produce a unique product line
- Finish building out the shop

Join the Community Workshop space team creating a safe space for skills building and workforce development.

We will partner with local fabricators and makers to bring production access to the community.

Your donations will help us:

- Start skill-building classes
- Produce a unique product line
- Finish building out the shop

2024 Goal: \$50,000.00

Million-dollar idea: Build a full-scale maker lab.

Partners: Composite, LLC, Union Gospel Mission, Boscaljon Design Co. Sioux Falls Tool Library



Donate via your credit/debit card at www.civicbiodesign.org/donate

MAIL-IN DONATION FORM

Please print this form and complete the information below to ensure we can properly process and acknowledge your gift.

DONOR INFORMATION

Donor Name (First Name and Last Name): _____

Organization Name (Fill this out only if you're making your donation on behalf of an organization): _____

ADDRESS INFORMATION

Address (If you're making this donation on behalf of an organization, please provide the company's address): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Country: _____

Email (optional): _____

Telephone Number (optional): _____ Home Mobile

By providing your email address and/or phone number, you will receive disaster news and alerts, preparedness tips, and other ways to get involved with BAM. You may unsubscribe at any time.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

One-Time Gift Amount: _____

I'm enclosing my check made payable to the BAM Foundation

Please charge my credit/debit card:

Donate via your credit/debit card at www.civicbiodesign.org/donate

I WANT TO SUPPORT

Please designate your gift to one of the following:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Where It Is Needed Most | <input type="checkbox"/> BAM Foundation General Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Scholarship Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> The Community Revitalization Collective (CRC) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BAM Institute Development | <input type="checkbox"/> The Sioux Falls Tool Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Innovation Forums | <input type="checkbox"/> Karol's Prairie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Impact Assessment Projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Ally Outdoor Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student-Led Community Projects | <input type="checkbox"/> The Preservation Kitchen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Roots Seed Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen Taco |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Future Sioux Falls | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Workshop |

*If the BAM Foundation is not raising funds for the specific cause you have indicated and/or donations exceed BAM Foundation expenses for that cause, your gift will be applied to Where It Is Needed Most.

Your questions and feedback are fundamental to us. Please feel free to contact us at civicbiodesign.org. Thank you for your support.

Please mail this completed form to: BAM Foundation | 660 S Main Ave | Sioux Falls, SD 57104



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BAM

Institute of Civic Biodesign

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