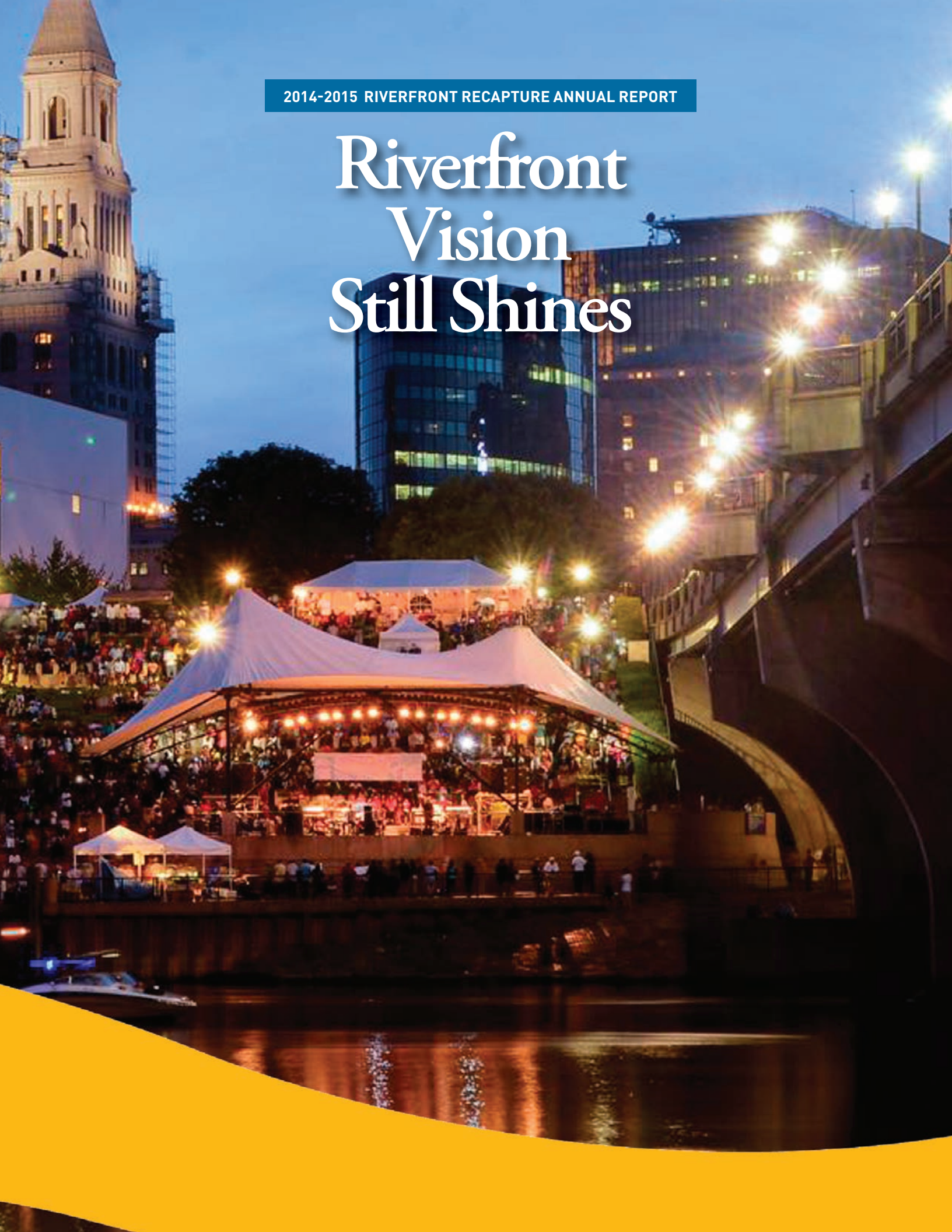


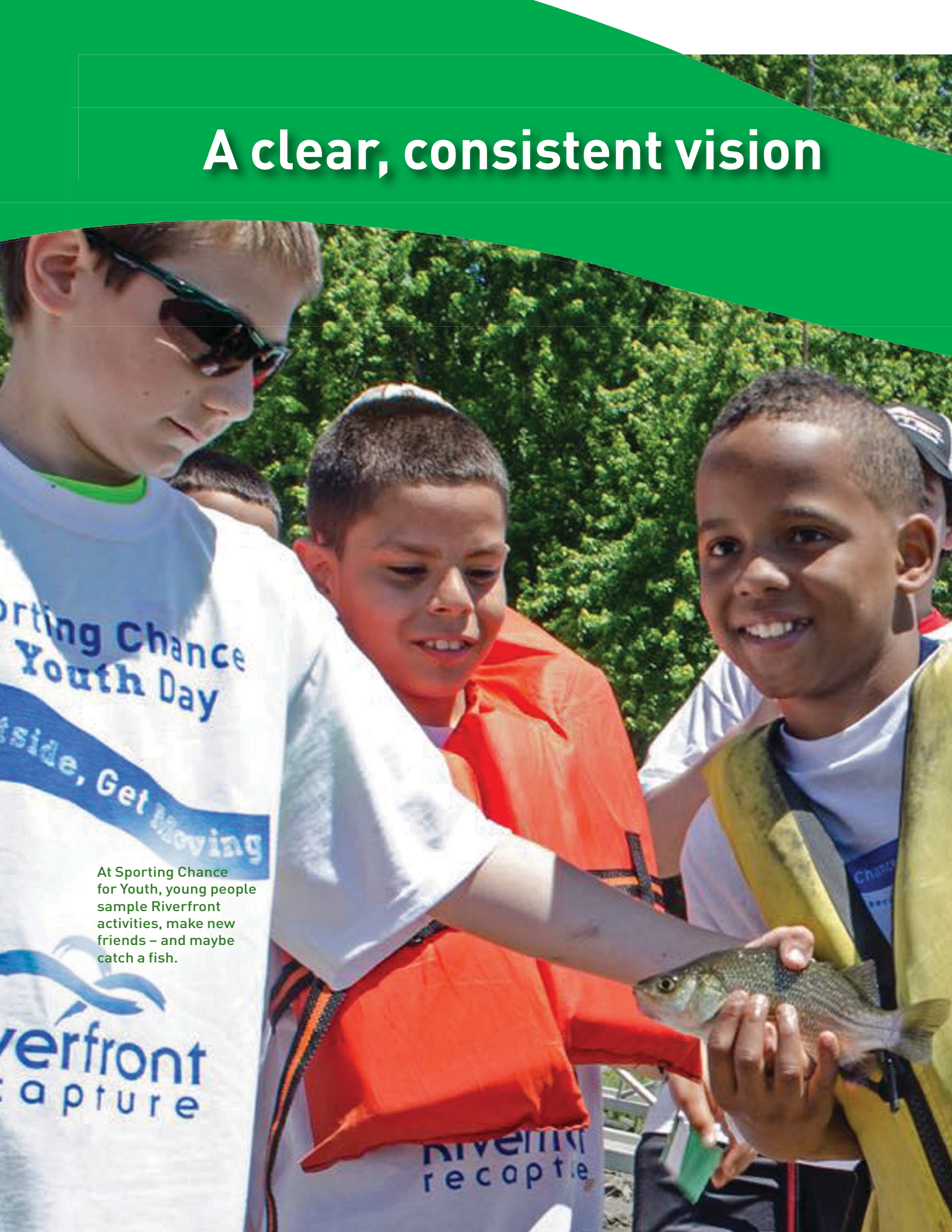
2014-2015 RIVERFRONT RECAPTURE ANNUAL REPORT

# Riverfront Vision Still Shines





# A clear, consistent vision



At Sporting Chance for Youth, young people sample Riverfront activities, make new friends – and maybe catch a fish.

Riverfront  
capture

Riverfront  
recapture

**T**HE CONNECTICUT RIVER was out of sight, out of reach, and out of mind when a visionary group of men and women decided in 1981 that they wanted to make the river a vital part of the community again.

They envisioned the transformation of inaccessible, overgrown land along the river into an attractive destination – a welcoming gathering place where people of all ages and backgrounds would come together to enjoy waterfront recreation. And they made it happen.

They began by creating Riverfront Recapture to work with Hartford and East Hartford to reconnect the communities with the river. Last season, Riverfront Recapture's network of four public parks attracted 900,000 visitors.

These results are especially impressive when you consider that, as a nonprofit organization, Riverfront Recapture had no authority to make things happen and no assets to support the effort. But the organization had a clear, consistent vision of how a revitalized Riverfront would make the Hartford region a better place to live, work, and visit. And the community rallied behind that vision.

Riverfront Recapture remains committed to its original goal of an accessible, active, and attractive public park system. That commitment shapes every discussion about the Riverfront's future.

One exciting possibility for enhancing existing park improvements is the creation of a new entrance to the parks that would restore Coltsville's historic connection to the Connecticut River. Congress' recent designation of Coltsville as a National Historical Park gives the plan even greater significance for the Riverfront.

As accessibility to the Riverfront has improved, so has the quality of programming – and that effort is building a national reputation. The Riverfront Dragon Boat Festival is ranked among the top 10 dragon boat races in the U.S. and the Head of the Riverfront rowing regatta is one of the largest single-day rowing races in the nation.

Youth programming provides new, positive experiences for students. Each year, thousands of young people come to the Riverfront, where they can participate in – and succeed at – activities such as learning to row as part of an eight-person crew or making it to the top of a climbing tower.

The Riverfront is a vibrant, dynamic place – because the vision that sparked the initial recapture effort still shines brightly.



THOMAS P. CODY, Chairman



JOSEPH R. MARFUGGI, President and CEO





## Preserving what we've built

**R**ECAPTURING A waterfront is a bigger challenge than a single nonprofit can take on by itself.

Recognizing that reality, Riverfront Recapture reached out to a cross-section of the community for support – and brought together a strong public-private partnership to help produce historic change on the Riverfront.

Local corporations provided the initial funding to get Riverfront Recapture started. The Connecticut Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration agreed to expand their plans to rebuild the I-91/I-84 interchange by including a plaza over the highway – reuniting downtown Hartford with the river. Corporate sponsorships and foundation grants have supported programming in the parks.

Contributions from individual donors provided most of the funding for the Riverfront Boathouse as well as ongoing organizational support. State bond funds have made it possible to design and construct riverwalks.

This kind of public-private support has generated \$150 million in cash and in-kind contributions to restore public access to the river, build park facilities and riverwalks, program the parks with a wide range of activity, and provide daily park maintenance.

Riverfront Recapture is committed to preserving this impressive investment:

In 1998, Riverfront Recapture and the Metropolitan District (MDC) entered into a parks management agreement that recognized the Riverfront as a regional asset – and spread the cost of that support across

MDC's eight member communities, through a small portion of their water bills.

An expanded volunteer service program supplements the daily maintenance done by MDC. In 2014, 1,300 volunteers contributed more than 5,400 hours of work on projects such as weeding, mulching, and painting.

Three years ago, Riverfront Recapture created the Marfuggi Parks Fund to provide a source of funding for park repairs that go beyond day to day maintenance, such as replacing docks used by the Hartford Belle river boat.

Together, we're working to preserve Riverfront improvements – so that future generations won't have to redo what we started.





## And making the Riverfront even better

**S**UCCESSFUL DESTINATIONS continually refresh themselves, giving people new reasons to return again and again. They stay ahead of the “been there, done that” syndrome that sends visitors elsewhere.

For Riverfront, that means making capital improvements in the parks and introducing new programming.

Planned physical enhancements include a two-year project to upgrade the park system’s 391 lights to LED – improving park lighting, reducing electric bills, and saving on maintenance costs. We leveraged the State’s Neighborhood Assistance Act Credit Program to secure funding from Travelers to get the lighting upgrades started in 2015.

The popular downtown performance space also is scheduled for a major renovation. A multi-

year grant from the Mortensen Foundation will fund a replacement stage canopy and other enhancements.

In addition to clean, attractive parks, Riverfront visitors expect high-quality programming, such as annual favorites like Riverfest and dragon boat races. But they also ask “What’s new?”

In 2015, one answer is “More food.”

A three-day Food Truck Festival will flow into Riverfest, featuring multiple food trucks, music, and a movie night.

The first annual Bear’s Smokehouse New England BBQ Championships, a two-day event, will showcase award-winning cook teams from around the nation. While guests sample good food, they will generate funding to support Riverfront.

Riverfront traditions like

**Volunteers from corporations, community groups, and schools pitch in with park maintenance tasks such as mulching and weeding.**

Pipes in the Valley, Taste of the Caribbean, a full season of high school and adult rowing, and a busy schedule of youth programming will be among the busiest calendar of programs and public events ever offered in the parks.

To keep building this momentum, Riverfront Recapture is expanding the Marfuggi Parks Fund to generate additional funding for ongoing operations, including public programming, communications, and other organizational needs.

The goal is to put the organization in a stronger position to respond to new ideas about making the Riverfront even more vibrant – and financially stable – than it is today.

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**\$100,000+**

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City of Hartford  
The Metropolitan District  
Travelers

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**Corporate, Foundation, and Government Support**

Support from corporations, foundations, and government provide nearly 40% of Riverfront Recapture's annual funding. We hope you will share your thanks with representatives of the following organizations:

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## A little help from our friends goes a long way.

Your support of Riverfront Recapture changes the atmosphere along both banks of the river – providing a sense of community as well as improving quality of life for the nearly 900,000 visitors who explored our parks, joined us for recreation and outdoor adventures, tasted foods and experienced arts and music of diverse cultures in 2014.

Thank you for joining our efforts to preserve and enhance Riverfront Recapture for the benefit of so many to enjoy now and for the next generations to appreciate in the future.

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### **\$20,000 – \$24,999**

David R. Robb

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### **\$10,000 – \$19,999**

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Created in 2011 to recognize and honor President and CEO Joe Marfuggi's 25th anniversary with Riverfront, this special fund provides a source of long-term support that can be used to make essential repairs and improvements in Riverfront parks. We especially thank the following contributors for their support in 2014:

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Carolyn S. Arvidson  
Nancy and Robert Bolgard  
Mary and Edward Budd  
Ranjana and Surendra Chawla  
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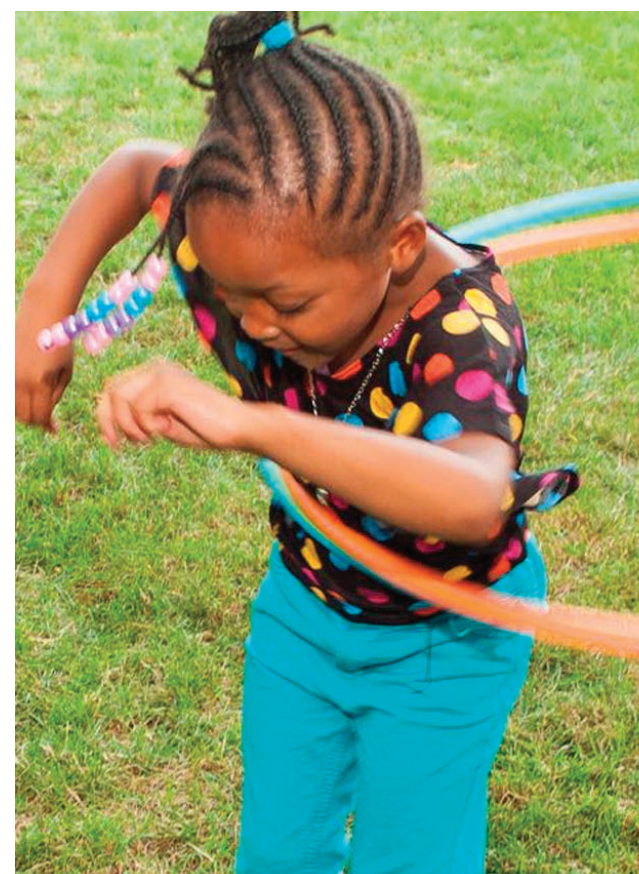
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Kirsten Taylor

**Mary Ellen and Richard E. Thibodeau**

Mr. and Mrs. Rene A. Twarkins

**The Taste of the Caribbean and Jerk Festival, a survey respondent told us, "is like a mini-vacation to the Caribbean" – right here at home.**

**Robert and Elizabeth von Dohlen**

**Mark and Dawn von Mayrhauser**

Brooke and Ted Whittemore

**Patricia and Thomas R. Wildman**

**Susan L. Winter**

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## **RIVERFRONT LEGACY SOCIETY**

A vibrant Riverfront leaves a lasting impression on visitors from near and far as they explore the parks via the Riverwalks, promenade, and wooded trails or enjoy our festivals and performances.

We thank the following individuals who have included Riverfront in their wills or other estate plans – leaving a legacy for future generations:

Mr.† and Mrs. Maurice A. Belanger

Dr. G. Peter Bloom

Ellsworth† S. and Virginia† Grant

David Klein

Alison Coolbrith and Barry Lastra

Mimi and Brendan Lynch

Harriett S. MacGuiness†

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If you would like to learn more about legacy giving, please contact Deborah Baker, director of development, at 860-713-3131 x326 or [dbaker@riverfront.org](mailto:dbaker@riverfront.org).

Allison Coleman

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**Philip and Mary-Alice Dennehy**

Simon DeSantis

**Lorraine and Ted DiLorenzo**

Thomas Donahue and Holly de Young



The Down and Dirty Obstacle Course event takes competitors through challenges like mud pits – while the 5K Riverfront Scrambles are good clean fun.

## RECOGNITION GIFTS

We are grateful for those individuals who choose to honor or remember their loved ones with a contribution to Riverfront in 2014.

### IN HONOR OF:

Ranjana Chawla  
David Dumeer  
Chris Hayes  
Chris Hayes and Brian Wendry  
Mary M. Hobart  
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Carle and Larry Mowell  
Larry Mowell  
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Jack Riege  
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- create accessible Riverfront parks and public recreational facilities to improve Metro Hartford's quality of life;
- make the Riverfront an attractive destination for visitors and residents;
- and use the revitalized Riverfront as a catalyst for investment to create jobs and improve residents' standard of living.

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Bryan Zoll  
 Greg Zoll  
 Allyson Zoppa  
 The Zoppa Family

#### **MANY HANDS MAKE CLEAN PARKS AND FUN EVENTS**

In 2014, 1,932 people volunteered 8,392 hours in service to Riverfront, including 39 local businesses, corporations, and organizations participating in "days of caring" on the Riverfront. Some of them donated multiple days of service, and all of them made the Riverfront a more beautiful, welcoming place for everyone to use and enjoy. Volunteer activities ranged from trail maintenance to painting to gardening as well as supporting events and festivals. Many thanks to all who donated their skills and tireless efforts!

Aetna AIS Enterprise Architecture  
 Aetna Professional Development Department  
 Aetna's Procurement Department  
 Americorps  
 Big Mo' Volunteers  
 Bob "D" Summer Volleyball League  
 Boys & Girls Club of Hartford  
 Capital Preparatory Magnet School

Community Health Center Association - CT  
 Connecticut Ballet Volunteers  
 Connecticut Bass Federation Nation  
 Ernst & Young  
 ESPN  
 ESPN Technology Department  
 Federal Express  
 The First Tee of Connecticut  
 Fleet Feet Sports of West Hartford  
 Ray González Latin Jazz & Salsa Festival Volunteers  
 Greater Hartford Jaycees Soccer Program  
 The Hartford  
 Hartford Community Court  
 Hartford Job Corps Academy  
 Hartford Marathon Foundation  
 Riverfront Scramble 5K Volunteers  
 Hartford Marriott Downtown  
 Hartford Police Athletic League  
 Hartford Police Explorers  
 Head of the Riverfront Rowing Regatta Volunteers  
 ING/U.S.Voya  
 Insurity  
 JCPenney  
 JADHA Foundation & Family Double Dutch Training Program  
 KNOX/Bud Light  
 Lincoln Financial Sculpture Walk Volunteers  
 Manchester Youth Services  
 MassMutual  
 Merrell Down and Dirty Obstacle Race Volunteers  
 Movies After Dark Volunteers

The Phoenix Companies Inc. Interns  
 Phoenix Life New Business Department  
 Pipes in the Valley Celtic Festival Volunteers  
 Professional Disc Golf Association  
 Riverfest Volunteers  
 Riverfront Community Rowing Volunteers  
 Riverfront Crossfest Volunteers  
 Riverfront Dragon Boat & Asian Festival Volunteers  
 Riverfront Earth Day Volunteers  
 Riverfront Office Volunteers  
 Riverfront Tournament of Champions for Veterans Volunteers  
 Riverside Cricket Club  
 Samba Fest Volunteers  
 A Sporting Chance for Youth Volunteers  
 Taste of the Caribbean & Jerk Festival Volunteers  
 Trinity College  
 UConn/Husky Sport  
 UnitedHealthcare  
 University of Hartford  
 Voya Investment Management  
 Whittlesey & Hadley







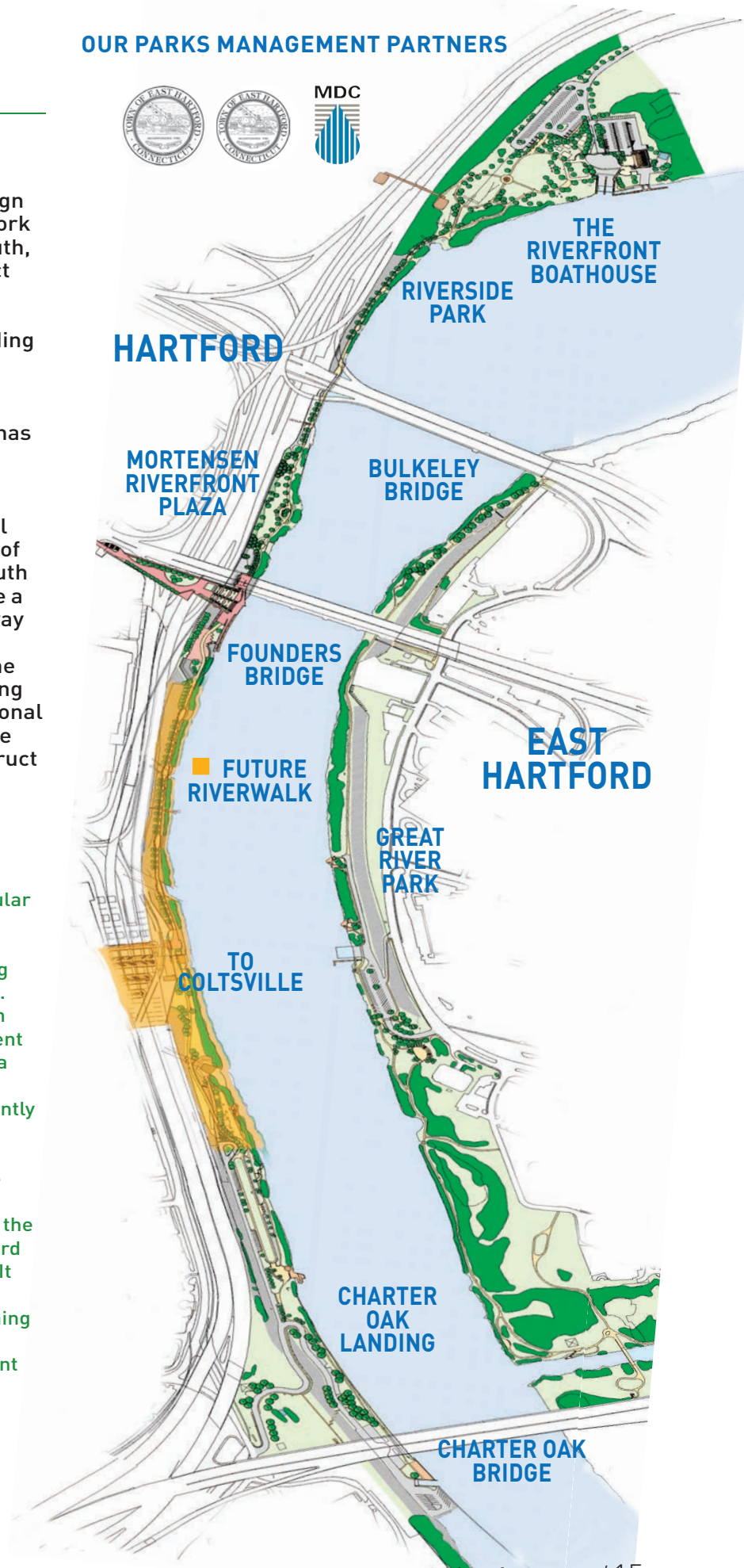
## MOVING FORWARD

A State bond authorization of \$1.5 million is funding final design and permitting work for Riverwalk South, which will connect the downtown Riverfront with Charter Oak Landing and create a new entrance to the Riverfront from Coltsville, which has received Congressional designation as a national historical park. This phase of the Riverwalk South project will create a temporary walkway to open up public access through the area while planning continues. Additional fundraising will be required to construct the permanent improvements.

Front Street, a popular new entertainment district near the Riverfront, is adding apartments in 2015. More than \$1 billion worth of development projects, including a total of 1100 new apartments, is recently completed, in construction, or approved and in the pipeline – all within walking distance of the Riverfront in Hartford and East Hartford. It took time but the Riverfront is becoming the catalyst for economic investment that was always envisioned.



## OUR PARKS MANAGEMENT PARTNERS





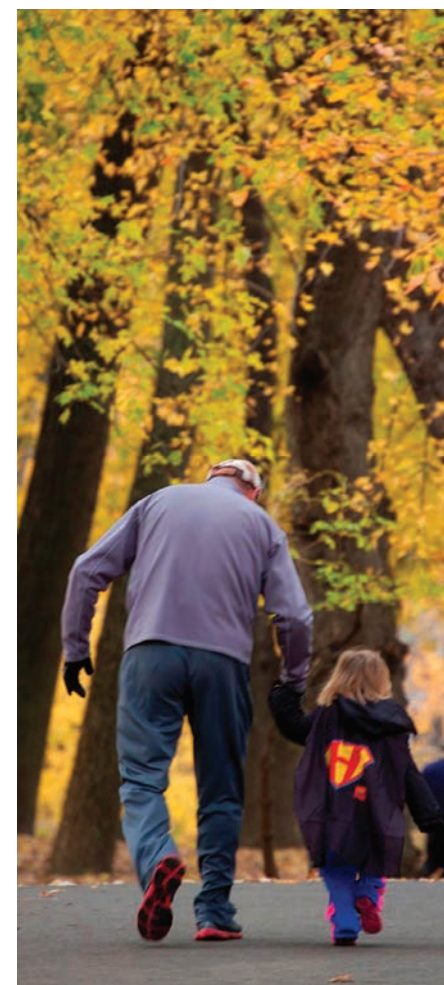
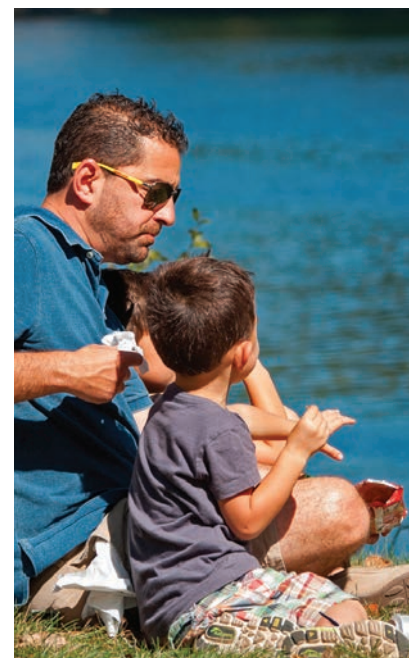
# RIVERFRONT RECAPTURE, INC.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

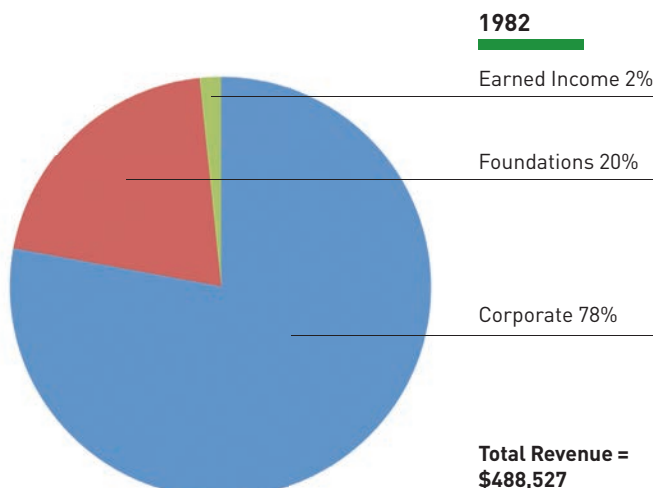
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	OPERATIONS	CAPITAL PROJECTS AND ENDOWMENT
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 276,876	\$ 72,585
Investments	643,402	1,606,022
Pledges and Contributions Receivable	129,335	349,949
Grants Receivable	97,062	—
Due from Funds	—	150,836
Prepaid Expenses	19,175	—
Accounts Receivable	3,243	—
Equipment, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	243,270	—
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$ 1,412,363</u>	<u>\$ 2,179,392</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 95,541	\$ —
Due to Funds	150,836	—
Refundable Advances	47,507	—
Loan Payable	26,013	—
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>319,897</u>	<u>—</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	1,022,821	—
Unrestricted—Board Designated	—	591,779
Temporarily Restricted	69,645	1,383,289
Permanently Restricted	—	204,324
<i>Total Net Assets</i>	<u>1,092,466</u>	<u>2,179,392</u>
<i>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</i>	<u>\$ 1,412,363</u>	<u>\$ 2,179,392</u>
<b>STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>Support and Revenue</b>		
Government Grants	\$ 553,995	\$ 43,745
Corporate Support	310,594	150,000
Contributions from Individuals	236,660	15,247
Foundation Grants	365,122	349,409
Special Events Net Revenue	112,690	—
Program Fees	474,871	—
Other Earned Income, Net	247,670	—
Investment Income/Gains	29,622	75,764
Reallocation of Investment Income to Operations	61,210	( 61,210)
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<u>2,392,434</u>	<u>572,955</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program Services	2,107,409	—
Capital Projects	—	49,303
General and Administration	120,933	400
Fundraising	336,003	—
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<u>2,564,345</u>	<u>49,703</u>
<b>Change in Net Assets:</b>		
Unrestricted	(196,122)	2,423
Temporarily Restricted	27,748	516,955
Permanently Restricted	—	4,274
<i>Total Change in Net Assets</i>	<u>( 168,374)</u>	<u>523,652</u>
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	1,260,840	1,655,740
Net Assets, End of Year	<u>\$ 1,092,466</u>	<u>\$ 2,179,392</u>

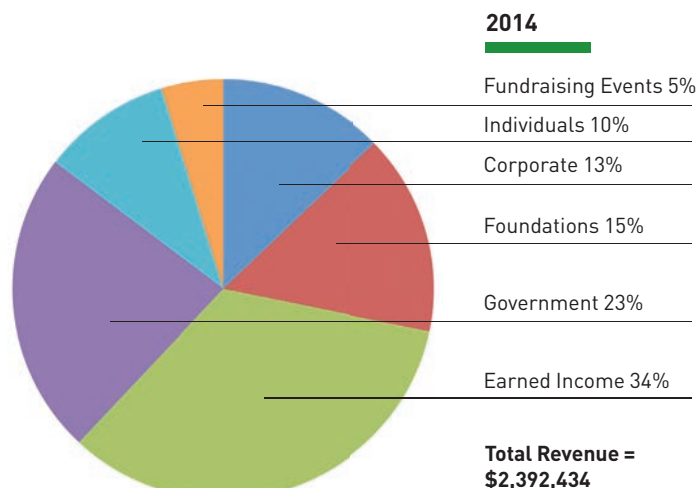
These condensed statements are derived from the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2014. A copy of the complete statement is on file and available at the offices of Riverfront Recapture, Inc., 50 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT. Riverfront Recapture's auditor is CohnReznick LLP.



## Riverfront Recapture Diversifying Sources of Operating Revenue



1982 was the first full year of operations. Corporate support and a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving funded Riverfront's master plan.



By 2014, the revenue base had become more diverse, with 34% of all revenue coming from earned income sources such as program fees, vendor fees, and private events at the Boathouse.

### RIVERFRONT RECAPTURE, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(AS OF APRIL 23, 2015)

A diverse group of men and women, representative of the MetroHartford community, generously contributes time and talent to Riverfront Recapture's Board of Directors.

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(AS OF APRIL 23, 2015)

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