

isles

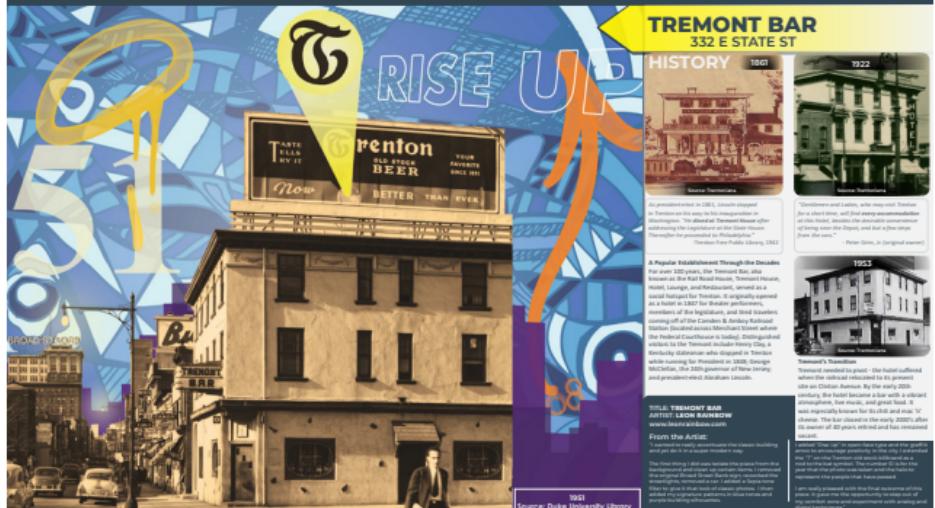
*Self-Reliant
Communities*

40 YEARS OF IMPACT

HIGHLIGHTS 2021



REFLECTING TRENTON



Reflecting Trenton is a research and art project that combines local history with local art, vintage with contemporary, and archives with the passerby.

isles
Self-Adjoint Commutants

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Want to learn more
about this project?
Visit:
[sciencebulletin.org](#)

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our APPROAC

TRAIN & EDUCATE

- 157 individuals were trained in environmental health and energy efficiency (both virtually and in-person)
- 33 certifications were earned by Isles Youth Institute students in CPR, OSHA, and Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Training
- 25 youth participated in Isles' Love, Peace, Joy summer enrichment program, which included workshops in emotional intelligence, self-worth and mental health, therapeutic painting, and African drumming



LIVE GREEN & HEALTHY

- Made 28 homes lead-safe and weatherized 45 homes
- Provided 70+ online interactive workshops in gardening, nutrition, beekeeping, and cooking, reaching more than 200 youth
- Distributed more than 200 free "grow kits" to promote at-home gardening, and donated more than 700 lbs of produce to emergency food suppliers

Alumni Spotlight

Mi'Quel Blackshear came to Isles Youth Institute looking for more personalized attention to earn his high school diploma. He soon became a student leader at IYI and was chosen to give the senior message at the 2021 IYI Commencement Ceremony. Mi'Quel is currently training to become a welder, and is a teacher assistant at his technical school.



"In other schools it was hard getting that one-on-one guidance that I needed. Being in traditional high school...it's not for everybody though. IYI shaped me as a man and gave me a second chance, having all that guidance from the staff gave me the belief that people care about you."

Julio's Journey

When IYI Alum and CEET Assistant

Julio Vasquez

wanted help with his savings, he reached out to



Isles Financial Solutions. Together, they came up with a plan to help him achieve his dream of becoming a homeowner, saving \$400 a month over his previous rent. Watch Julio's first-time homebuyer journey at:

isles.org/julios-journey.

"It's just a sense of peace knowing that we'll be able to have something that is ours and that we can create generational wealth for future family members." – Julio Vasquez

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BUILD WEALTH

- 284 individuals participated in first-time homebuyer and foreclosure prevention counseling
- 236 received Isles Financial Solutions coaching
- 81 earned housing certificates to qualify for financial assistance when purchasing their home
- 42 purchased a home

- Harvested over 500 pounds of honey and again received first place in the blind taste test division of the annual NJ Beekeepers Association Honey Show
- With support from NJ DEP, began development of NJ's first Electric Vehicle Pilot to provide Trenton-area residents with transportation options through a car share, rideshare, and shuttle service

REVITALIZE COMMUNITIES

- Completed rehab of a 3 bedroom apartment and first floor commercial space at 118 N Montgomery in Old Trenton
- Led the development of the "People Plan" component planning effort for the Donnelly Homes neighborhood in North Trenton, in partnership with the Trenton Housing Authority and the City of Trenton
- Collaborated with six local artists to beautify locations in downtown by combining custom artwork, vintage photographs, and research on large-scale design, known as "Reflecting Trenton"
- Added 25 tenants to the Social Profit Center at Mill One, which officially opened its doors in early 2021



One of 8 parklets built and installed outside of restaurants throughout the City, providing creative outdoor spaces for dining and socializing



Isles successfully advocated for the passage of the new Lead Safe Certificate Bill, signed into law this July! We worked closely with the Governor's office, co-sponsors of the bill, and the leadership in the NJ State Legislature to ensure that we close a lead-inspection loophole that disproportionately affected children of color in communities around the state.

Become an Isles Bridge Builder



Annual donors of \$1,000 or more build a bridge between those we serve and those who want to make a difference. Go to Isles.org/donate for more information.

isles
Self-Reliant Communities

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