

Where We Live

In 2025, we kept choosing our neighborhood, not just as an address, but as a shared responsibility. We worked to attract local businesses and quality gathering spots, places where neighbors meet by accident and stay on purpose.

We learned again that belonging is not automatic. It's built...between people, between people and place, and between the systems meant to serve both. Our parks, streets, and community spaces became anchors, places where memory collects and pride takes root. When neighbors feel connected to a place, they protect it without being asked.

How We Looked Out for One Another

Safety was not a checkbox, it was a daily practice. Safety is foundational to community. Our work focuses on prevention, education, and design. Creating environments that discourage harm and encourage care. Priorities include litter control, safer streets through speed management, bike lanes, crosswalks, and traffic calming; burglary reduction through education; improved lighting in dark corridors and alleys; and expansion of the gated alley program. We addressed illegal dumping, open fires, hazardous materials, drug activity, and encampments with urgency and coordination, seeking solutions that prioritize safety, dignity, and long-term stability. We picked up litter. We slowed traffic. We talked about crosswalks, bike lanes, speed bumps, and lighting not as infrastructure, but as invitations, to walk, to gather, to feel safe. A safer neighborhood is one where people feel seen, protected, and empowered to participate. A safer neighborhood doesn't happen all at once. It happens one light turned on, one clean up, one neighbor paying attention.

How We Came Together

Community showed up wearing many hats. It looked like outdoor festivals and shared tables. Like clean-ups in washes and alleys. Like volunteers hauling bags, sorting donations, registering voters, and handing out food, toys, and hope.

We celebrated Sunnyslope's buildings, parks, trails, and stories, protecting the places that remind us who we've been and who we're becoming. We used grants and donations carefully, letting them amplify what neighbors were already doing with their own hands and hearts. Gratitude became a practice. Pride became contagious. And stewardship felt less like work and more like belonging.

Looking Ahead

We believe strong neighborhoods grow from the inside out. By welcoming local and high-quality businesses, quality restaurants, and essential services, we strengthen our economy while protecting the character that makes this place feel like home. We believe belonging builds stewardship, when people feel connected to a place, they protect it. Our parks, streets, and community spaces are not amenities; they are touchstones. They hold memory, identity, and pride. When neighbors feel rooted, that sense of belonging radiates outward, to blocks, to systems, to the city itself.

Good hearts build great blocks. And great blocks build strong cities. In 2025, we continue to invest in our community, protecting what we love, strengthening our bonds, and choosing each other, block by block.

A Place That Knows Itself

We talked a lot this year about growth, what belongs, what doesn't, and how to invite new energy without losing our soul. We worked to attract local businesses and quality gathering places, not because we needed more things, but because we needed more reasons to linger. We looked at vacant lots and saw not emptiness, but potential, adding signage, clean ups and reminding people that every piece of land here still holds someone's sense of home. We learned, again, that people protect what they feel connected to. Belonging creates care. Care creates stewardship.

Our parks and community spaces became meeting grounds, places where neighbors crossed paths, conversations happened without planning, and pride of place quietly grew.

Watching Out, Together

Safety showed up in small, determined ways. It looked like neighbors picking up litter on morning walks. Like conversations about speeding cars and safer crossings. Like lights installed in dark places so no one had to hurry home. We talked openly about difficult things, burglaries, illegal dumping, open fires, hazardous materials, drug activity, encampments, not to assign blame, but to find solutions. We worked alley by alley, block by block, turning darkness into light and isolation into shared responsibility.

We invited growth carefully, asking not just what comes here, but how and why. Seeking businesses that add life, not friction. Places to eat, to linger, to belong. Not just commerce, character. This year, vigilance mattered. 21 new Liquor rezoning applications didn't just try our patience. They reminded us that decisions made on paper change how a neighborhood feels at night. We showed up. We read the fine print. We asked hard questions about proximity, density, safety, and impact. We didn't oppose change, we did our next level best to try and shape it first, for the greater good. Advocating for balance, accountability, and a neighborhood that stays livable for families, elders, and future neighbors. No single action fixed everything. But taken together, they changed how it felt to be here. And feeling safe changed how willing people were to show up.

Planning For Tomorrow

Our stewardship relies heavily on grant project opportunities and neighborhood volunteers. Through partnership and advocacy, we amplify impact, streamline coordination, and ensure neighborhood voices are heard in decisions that affect our community.

This neighborhood doesn't wait to be saved. It shows up for itself. It believes good hearts build great blocks. It invests where it lives. It protects what it loves. And it keeps choosing community, not because it's easy, but because it's worth it.

