



Athletics at the McKim Center

Founded in 1821, the **McKim Center** is the oldest continuously active community center in the United States (and, to our knowledge, in all of America). The McKim Community Association, Inc. is one of the earliest known 501(c)(3) nonprofit designations in Baltimore City and the state of Maryland.

In 2021, we celebrated the 200th anniversary of our “Free School,” which has provided no-cost athletic and academic out-of-school-time enrichment for thousands of low-to-middle income Baltimoreans since 1821. At a time when peace is deeply needed in our city and beyond, our free/no-cost after-school program and related support groups and training for adults are responsible for the maintenance of nonviolence and wellness in the lives of countless youth and families enrolled in our programs. We instill our pillars of structure, discipline, love, and respect into the hearts and minds of everyone involved in our “Free School.”

We are a longtime regional leader in physical education for youth. For over 50 years, **Coach Dwight Warren**, our Executive Director Emeritus, changed the lives of hundreds of youth athletes through programs in sports like Wrestling. Today, under the direction of **Coach Garfield Thompson**, our Executive Director, McKim’s athletics include Wrestling, Track & Field, Basketball, Cross Country, Badminton, Archery, and Volleyball, and other sports and games. Athletics train and practice at the McKim Center’s historic “Temple Building” at 1120 East Baltimore Street and at select sites in the greater Baltimore area.

Athletics at McKim have endured for centuries as a model for structured physical education programming for youth. Our athletic programs serve as powerful social and cultural diversions for children. McKim athletes have gone on to become business and civic leaders and we are so proud of the high impact of our work.

Conceived and steered by Coach Thompson, the **McKim Community Games** is an annual all-day spring Track & Field competition for youth aged 5 through 14. The games epitomize the community center’s foundational vision of peace through athletics.

The 1st annual McKim Community Games debuted on Saturday April 23, 2022 on the grounds of the Frederick Douglass High School. The 2nd annual McKim Community Games at Frederick Douglass High School was held on Saturday April 22, 2023.

The **McKim Community Games** is a family event that attracts almost 2,000 youth competitors from across the Middle Atlantic states and their families. Multiracial and multi-gender Track & Field clubs gather to compete according to the highest ideals for sportsmanship in youth athletics while demonstrating the best hallmarks of community healing and public safety.

Families and clubs set up tents to fellowship with home-cooked food on and around the track field’s stands. The games are a much-needed time and place for family and community bonding across cultural and neighborhood differences. This vision of peaceful community camaraderie for youth stands out in the state of Maryland and beyond.

The McKim Community Games is one of the largest youth athletic events in the greater Baltimore area. The games are also the largest multicultural youth sporting event in the Middle Atlantic states. At a time when the news media focuses on Baltimore’s challenges for youth, the games represent an unprecedented time and place to celebrate peacemaking within Baltimore’s families and neighborhoods.

McKim youth athletes regularly compete in the Junior Olympics and in local and national competitions year-round.

Please support athletics at McKim by donating via Cash App to \$mckimathletics or donating via PayPal to @mckimcenter.