



# PEOPLE UNITED FOR MOBILITY ACTION (PUMA)

## ANNUAL REPORT

2020/2021



PREPARED BY  
PUMA BOARD  
**SEGMENT B**

# WHERE WE ARE NOW

PUMA recognizes the difficulties, grief, and losses spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing systemic racism. We honor and appreciate health care and front line workers who continued to deliver care during a time of ongoing disruption. You make our city, our home, move.

Thanks to support networks, collaboration, partners, and you, PUMA regained momentum halted by two ongoing pandemics. Challenges that PUMA addressed last year included balancing policy and organizing, determining whether efforts were strategic or tactical, demanding that equity be centered at various tables with decision-makers, and recognizing a stagnant social media presence. A special thank you to Tane Ward for facilitating PUMA's 2021 Strategic Planning meeting and helping us voice and identify these challenges and responses.

The following pages in PUMA's first annual report highlight new people, give thanks, celebrate wins, and set goals for a just and mobile future.

Moving with you,

## **PUMA's Board of Directors**

**Yasmine Smith**

**Rachel Stone**

**Shavone Otero**

**Tom Wald**

**Jason Lopez**

**John-Michael Cortez**

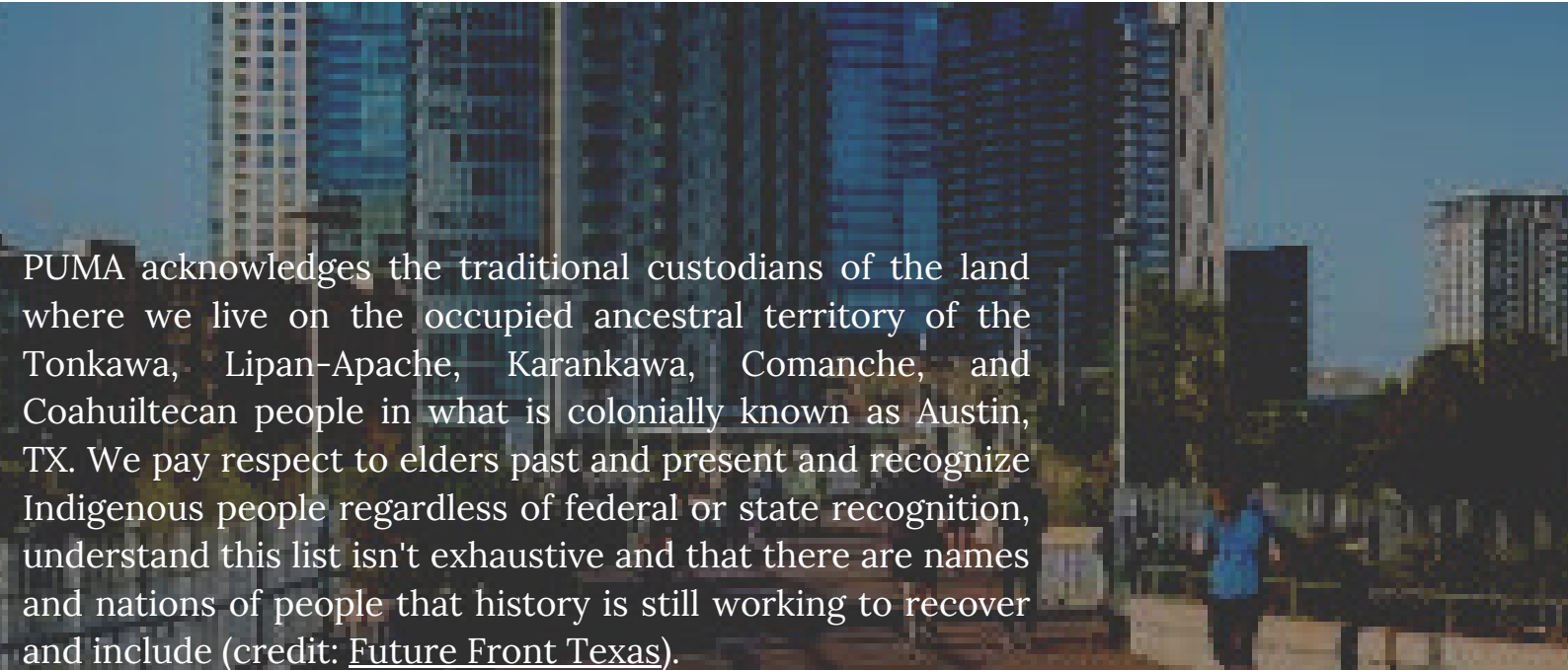
**Priya Patel**

**Magdala Boyer**

**Uttara Ramakrishnan**

**Eric Goff**

**Annie Szotkowski**



PUMA acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land where we live on the occupied ancestral territory of the Tonkawa, Lipan-Apache, Karankawa, Comanche, and Coahuiltecan people in what is colonially known as Austin, TX. We pay respect to elders past and present and recognize Indigenous people regardless of federal or state recognition, understand this list isn't exhaustive and that there are names and nations of people that history is still working to recover and include (credit: [Future Front Texas](#)).

## ABOUT PUMA

People United for Mobility Action (PUMA) is dedicated to transforming Austin so that every person has access to safe, affordable, and convenient choices to get around and meet their daily needs. PUMA is an organization of leaders from the spheres of social justice, housing, mobility, environment, and labor that seeks to work directly with communities to identify and implement practical projects that will improve access to transportation by using principles of mobility justice.

## MISSION, VISION, AND GOALS

We commit to:

- Transforming Austin so that every person has access to safe, affordable, and convenient choices to get around and meet their daily needs.
- Focusing on ways to meet people where they are in their communities or support trusted leaders to discuss mobility hurdles and to gather perspectives on solutions.
- Examining each solution through the lenses of equity, affordability, justice, accessibility and environmental concerns to fully understand the impacts of mobility decisions and planning.
- Working with decision-makers to operationalize equity by shifting power dynamics and centering transportation planning and policy on the inclusion of underserved communities.



# WELCOME AND THANKS

PUMA is building an organization of leaders from social justice, housing, mobility, healthcare, environment, education, labor, small business communities and more to work directly with communities to identify and implement practical projects that will improve access to transportation. Join us and build your mobility dreams! Email [info@puma-atx.org](mailto:info@puma-atx.org).

## WELCOME, NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**Magdala Boyer,**

Programs Committee

*"Joining PUMA provides me with the opportunity to get involved locally in issues that affect me directly as a transplant, while elevating the voices of those who have struggled with the same issues for much longer."*

**Uttara Ramakrishnan,**

Programs Committee

*"As an immigrant, I am very excited to be a part of this group, to learn more about the city I now call home, to amplify voices and work towards real change."*

**Annie Szotkowski,** Marketing and Communications Committee

## THANK YOU, OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

**Audrea Diaz**

*Thank you, Audrea, for bringing the voice and perspective for MetroAccess experiences and policies.*

**David Foster**

*Thank you, David, for being instrumental in the founding of PUMA, and your commitment and leadership in environmental and transportation advocacy in Austin.*

*Thank you, **Quinterius Enzor and Chris Harris!***



[/PUMAPrideATX](https://www.facebook.com/PUMAPrideATX)



<https://puma-atx.org/>



[Donate](#)

# PUMA POLICY AND PROGRAM POINTS

PUMA's 2021 and 2020 Policy and Program Committees' Wins and Highlights

- 01** **CO-FOUNDED ATX MOBILITY COALITION**  
Advocates on equitable transportation policy
- 04** **EQUITY FOR I-35**  
Instrumental in the equity steering group to center equity, make sure disparity impacts avoided
- 02** **EQUITY VOICE FOR PROJECT CONNECT**  
Broadened scope for community engagement committee and advocated for equitable processes.
- 05** **BIKE EQUITY ALLIANCE A SUCCESS**  
See page 5.
- 03** **GUIDED JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT**  
A formal agreement among agencies responsible for implementing Project Connect. Ensures community engagement is the pulse of the project's implementation.
- 06** **MOBILITY JUSTICE ORGANIZING**  
Thanks to a grant awarded by the National Resources Defense Fund, PUMA is able to hire its first Mobility Justice Organizer to manage a community mapping project.

# PUMA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

## FIERCE

- Facilitate
- Integrate
- Educate
- Resonate
- Coordinate
- Evaluate



# BIKE EQUITY ALLIANCE (BEA) HIGHLIGHTS

## MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE

5

## TOTAL BIKES DISTRIBUTED

57

## NEW POSITION: MOBILITY JUSTICE ORGANIZER

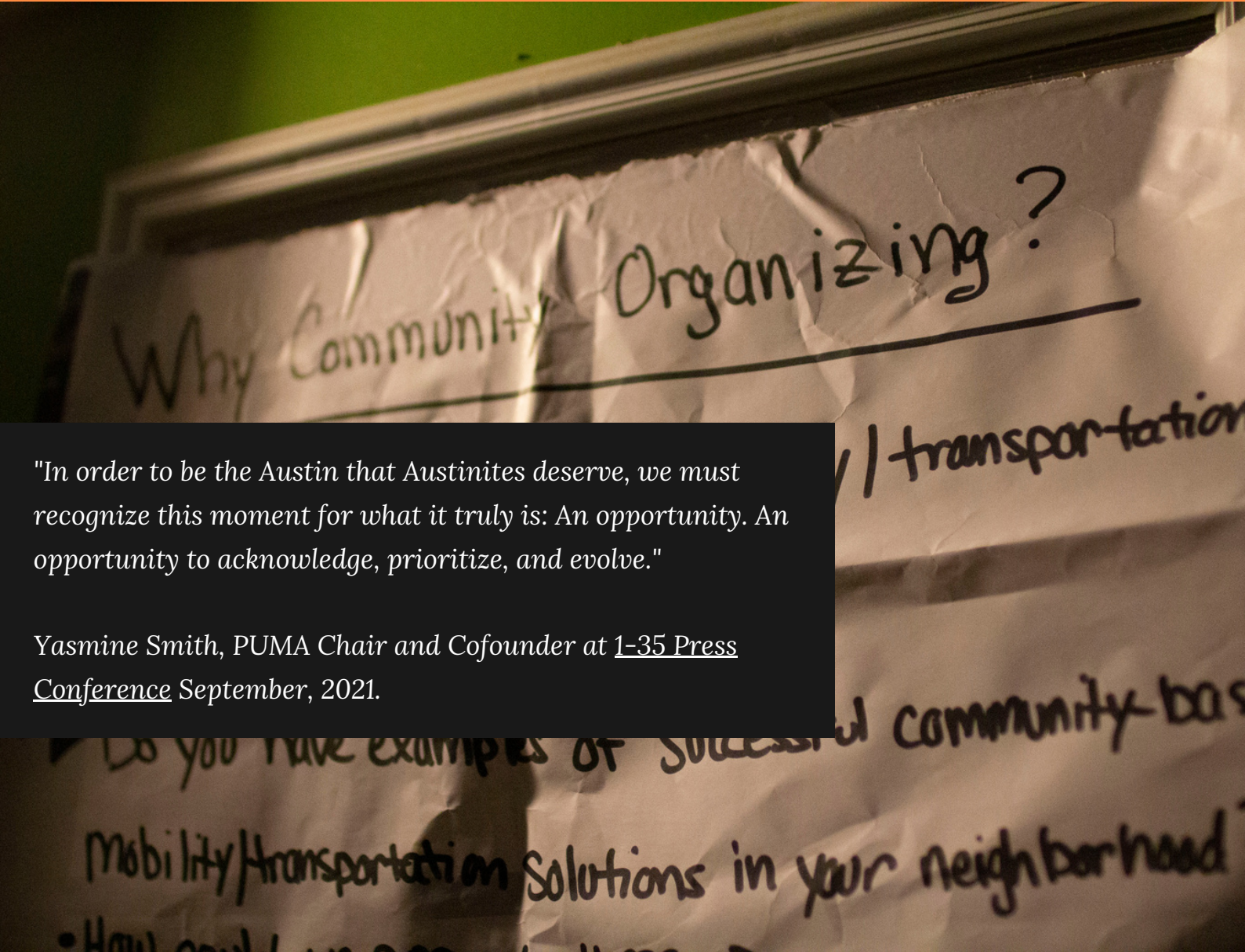
1

During an equity in transportation workshop, PUMA, along with government and non-government stakeholders, envisioned ways to turn items left behind on Capital Metro buses into community resources. Together through a creative, values-led, community-centered process, the group became the Bicycle Equity Alliance in 2020. The idea to redistribute abandoned bikes emerged with help from alliance partners such as [Cap Metro](#), [Ghisallo](#), [GAVA](#), [PODER](#), and Smart Trips Austin.

The BEA awarded a grant to the [Yellow Bike Project](#) to distribute Cap Metro's abandoned bikes to the community. Pete and his team at Yellow Bike Project repaired the bikes and offered them to low-income community members for free. The grant also supported bike safety and maintenance training, supplying helmets, and coordinating pickup and distribution to community members.



## 2022 GOALS



*"In order to be the Austin that Austinites deserve, we must recognize this moment for what it truly is: An opportunity. An opportunity to acknowledge, prioritize, and evolve."*

*Yasmine Smith, PUMA Chair and Cofounder at [1-35 Press Conference](#) September, 2021.*

PUMA's Strategic Plan connects values with strategy while committed to anti-racism. PUMA is dedicated to challenging the overwhelmingly racist institutions that overlap to create our current transportation institutions.

Transit is a tool of racism, an engine of capitalism, a structuring agent of colonialism, and an extreme example of the corruption of our political and economic culture. It is therefore a vital target in radical efforts to transform the world.

In 2022:

- Programs and grassroots organizing will be the core of PUMA.
- A clear strategy with built out tactics will guide policy, organizational, and fundraising priorities.
- Highest echelons of decision makers in the industry will be challenged.
- An executed Communications Plan will increase engagement online and offline.