



40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

CAMDEN COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIP

DRIVEN BY PROGRESS | FOCUSED ON EQUITY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Camden Community Partnership Hosts 2024 Annual Meeting and  
40th Anniversary Celebration in Camden**

**Camden, NJ** – On Wednesday, October 23, civic and business leaders from around the southern New Jersey region gathered to celebrate continued progress in the City of Camden and highlight the many successful programs, projects and policies making a positive impact on local residents and businesses at Camden Community Partnership’s *2024 Annual Meeting*.

Held at Adventure Aquarium in Camden, this year’s theme was *40 Years Building Camden Invincible: Past, Present, and Future* – a celebration of the organization’s 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, highlighting the organization’s growth and impact through its investment in the City, commitment to its residents, and transformative revitalization efforts which honor Camden’s past and present, while looking toward an even brighter future.

“This year’s Annual Meeting illustrates the positive change that can happen when government, economic leaders and businesses work collaboratively towards a shared vision for the future,” said Mark McDonough, President of New Jersey American Water and Board Co-Chair of Camden Community Partnership, who welcomed guests and provided remarks to kick-off the event. “Camden’s success lies in our collective commitment to transformative change, which can only be achieved through strong partnerships and collaboration. Economic development, education, safety, arts and culture, environmental stewardship, and community development impacts all residents – as leaders in our respective industries, it is our responsibility to think creatively, spur growth and enact positive change for not only us all here in the present, but also generations to come.”

The event also included a special presentation from Camden’s Mayor Victor G. Carstarphen, with an introduction by Kevin O’Dowd, Co-President and Chief Executive Officer of Cooper University Health Care.

“Camden would not be where we are today without all of you who stand before me, as well as the many who have come before us and those who have yet to make their impact on our great city,” said Mayor Carstarphen. “Each of us here are stewards of Camden’s story of resiliency and strength – tasked with forging a path forward and ensuring a brighter future for future generations. Today, I am uplifted by our collective commitment to innovation, ingenuity and



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collaboration and know that we will see many more advancements and progress in the years ahead.”

Mayor Carstarphen spoke on the various initiatives that the City of Camden and its partners have put in motion to continue to contribute to Camden’s growth and progress, including the unveiling of two innovative new programs:

- **Buy Camden 1<sup>st</sup>** – an innovative new program in partnership with [LAEDA](#), a leading nonprofit community economic development organization based in Camden that is focused on businesses and individuals who face barriers to starting, securing capital and operating small businesses. This program would create a searchable, online business directory, called [BuyCamden1st.com](#), to help small businesses raise broader awareness and publicize their services to the community and broader region. Additionally, the directory would also be a hub for Camden’s corporate sector and anchor institutions to provide purchasing opportunities for Camden-based small businesses.
- **Camden Home Improvement Program (CHIP)** – due to the resounding success of the original CHIP initiative in 2010, Camden Community Partnership has secured \$5 million in funding to re-launch the program in 2024, which will give qualified Camden homeowners access to funding that can be utilized to address critical home improvement repairs/rebuilds, including but not limited to structural, life safety, code and energy-efficient upgrades.

This year’s Annual Meeting also included a special award ceremony, presented by Joe Myers, Chief Operating officer of Camden Community Partnership, who unveiled this year’s recipients and honored them for their continued work, dedication and impact on the City of Camden:

- **2024 Camden Community Impact Award** – [Sixers Youth Foundation](#), award accepted by Leslie Walker, Executive Director of the Sixers Youth Foundation
- **2024 Camden Cultural Innovator Awards**
  - [The Super Poor Kids Art Collective](#), award accepted by Lu and Jay Reyes
  - [We Live Here Artist Collective](#), award accepted by Breiner Garcia, Donald T. Williams and Priscilla Rios

In keeping with the Annual Meeting’s theme, Camden Community Partnership’s history and milestone 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year remained at the forefront of celebration during the event. Over the years, Camden Community Partnership has experienced much evolution and growth – below is a brief history of the organization’s four decades in the City of Camden:



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- Initially founded in 1984 as Cooper’s Ferry Development Association (CFDA), the organization started as a private, nonprofit corporation dedicated to planning and implementing high-quality urban redevelopment projects, with founding partners including the City of Camden, Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center, Rutgers-Camden, Campbell Soup, and RCA.
- From 1984 until 2000, CFDA worked to fulfill its mission by concentrating on the redevelopment of the Downtown Waterfront – serving as the lead urban planner, promoter, special events coordinator, and master developer that attracted and coordinated over \$600 million in public and private sector investment helping to transform the Camden Waterfront into a tourist destination that attracts over three million visitors each year.
- In 2000, CFDA made an intentional shift from the Downtown Waterfront to begin focusing on the neighborhoods of Camden. The Greater Camden Partnership (GCP) was formed in 2001 to bring together leaders from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to promote the revitalization of the City of Camden – devising the Downtown Camden Strategic Development Plan, which established the blueprint for anchor institution-led development in Camden. After a decade of working separately but focusing on the same mission, the two organizations merged in 2011 and emerged as Cooper’s Ferry Partnership (CFP) – a new single nonprofit corporation focused to create sustainable economic and community
- Following the global COVID-19 pandemic, CFP changed its name to Camden Community Partnership, Inc. in June 2021 to better reflect the organization’s mission, mandate and vision in order to contextualize its brand in the city the organization calls home.

Today, Camden Community Partnership continues to advance its mission to serve as a catalyst for the preservation and growth of a vibrant Camden, by facilitating high-quality urban redevelopment projects in the city. The organization remains “*driven by progress and focused on equity*” – bringing together various stakeholders, including community leaders, residents, employers, educators, and nonprofit organizations, to implement a comprehensive approach to the revitalization of Camden. With a strong emphasis on putting residents first, the organization continued to focus on housing, public safety, infrastructure, transportation, education, neighborhood initiatives, park and green space development, employment opportunities, and more.

To learn more about Camden Community Partnership, economic development in Camden and the City’s continued growth, visit: <https://camdencommunitypartnership.com/>.

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**About Camden Community Partnership:**



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# CAMDEN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

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Camden Community Partnership (CCP) was founded in 1984 as a private, non-profit corporation dedicated to planning and implementing high-quality urban redevelopment projects to revitalize the City of Camden. CCP's initial focus was concentrated on the redevelopment of Camden's downtown waterfront area – serving as the planner, promoter, and master developer of more than \$600 million of private and public investment at the Waterfront. Since then, CCP has expanded their mission to act as the umbrella organization to bring stakeholders together and implement a holistic approach to revitalizing Camden. With a residents-first approach at the core of what we do, CCP focuses on housing, public safety, infrastructure, education, neighborhood initiatives, park and green space development, and facilitates the creation of employment opportunities. Strategic investments in these areas act as a catalyst for future growth and bring a renewed sense of pride in Camden as a vibrant place to live, work, and play. Learn more: [CamdenCommunityPartnership.com](http://CamdenCommunityPartnership.com).