



2024

ANNUAL REPORT

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Melany Edwards-Barton
Chief Executive Officer



Maria Jimenez
Director of Community
Engagement



Krystal Gomez
Office Administrator

21 E. WILCOX Dr
SIERRA VISTA, AZ 85635
(520)458-6940

395 MEMBERS



82.3% Retention Rate

RIBBON CUTTINGS 21



67 NEW MEMBERS

OVER



5,000

Business Directories Distributed

Including: 3000 Maps

EVENTS 47

Totaling
2,291
ATTENDEES

DIRECTORY HITS

883,125

Member Exposures



visits to
www.skyislandsrp.com

17,813 site visits

page visits 30,547

From Our CEO:

Dear Members,

This year marked a bold new chapter for our organization with our rebranding from the Sierra Vista Area Chamber of Commerce to the **Sky Islands Regional Partnership**. This shift reflects our broader vision, deeper regional focus, and commitment to uniting the diverse communities of southern Arizona.

Our new name symbolizes the beauty and connectivity of our region—and our work is matching that promise. We’ve expanded our reach, deepened collaboration, and raised our voice for the issues that matter most.

At the center of everything we do is **you—our members**. Your success is our mission. This year, we expanded our offerings to better support your growth with **new networking opportunities, business spotlights, advocacy access, and regional visibility**. Whether you’re launching a new venture or scaling an established business, we are here to connect, elevate, and advocate for you every step of the way.

As part of that advocacy, we hosted a **Fireside Chat with Governor Katie Hobbs**, a **State of the District with Congressman Juan Ciscomani**, a **candidate meet & greet**, and **three Cochise County Supervisor debates**. These events provided direct access to decision-makers and reinforced our role as a convener for informed civic and business engagement.

We also celebrate the early success of the **Sky Islands Foundation**, which is already investing in the future of our region. The Foundation has sponsored **two innovative tech start-ups**, with a third on the way. Its flagship program, **Leadership Southern Arizona**, is shaping **19 emerging leaders**, and its newest initiative, **Future Forward Leaders**, will launch next summer as a camp to inspire high school students across the region.

We’re especially proud of our strong and growing regional partnerships. Our gratitude goes to the **City of Sierra Vista**, **Huachuca City**, the **City of Benson**, and the **Mexican Consulate in Douglas** for their collaboration and shared commitment to the vitality of our communities.

Together, we are building a future rooted in connection, innovation, and opportunity. Thank you for being part of this journey—we can’t wait to see what we accomplish next, together.

Warm regards,
Melany Edwards-Barton
CEO
Sky Islands Regional Partnership

Board of Directors

Jason Bowling
SSVEC

Gloria Grab
Cross Country Mortgage

Eric Grisham
Arizona@Work

Brandon Jeter
BSI Group, Inc.

Marilyn Nation
Rocking Horse Antique Mall

Brenda Pettitt
Haymore Real Estate, LLC

Maria Riggio
Yoga+Studio

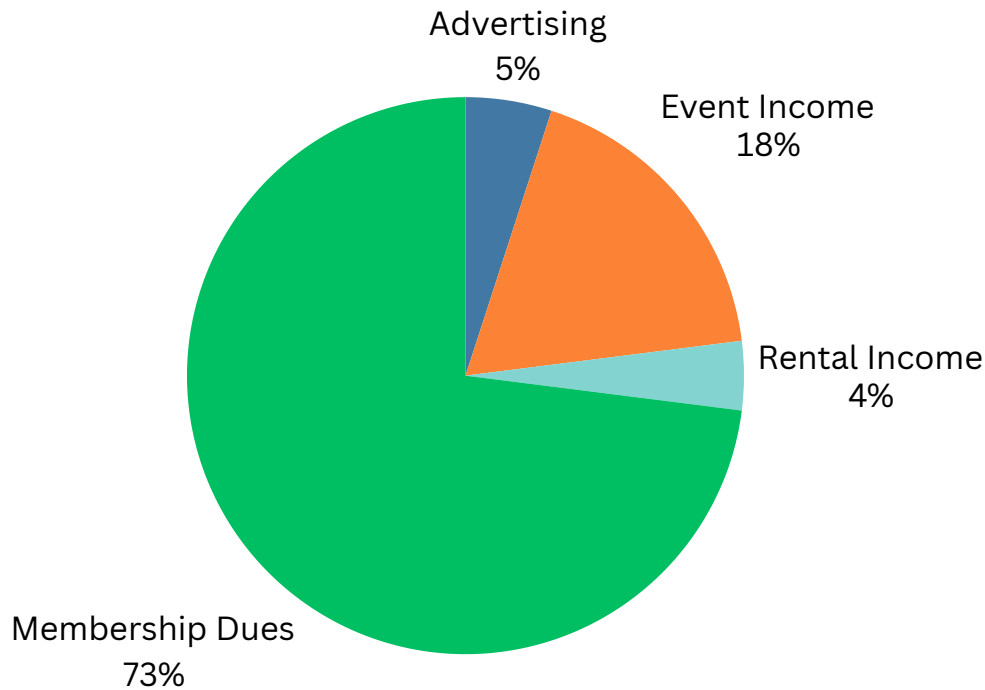
Mike Smith
Truly Nolan

Regina Swan
Comfort Inn & Suites

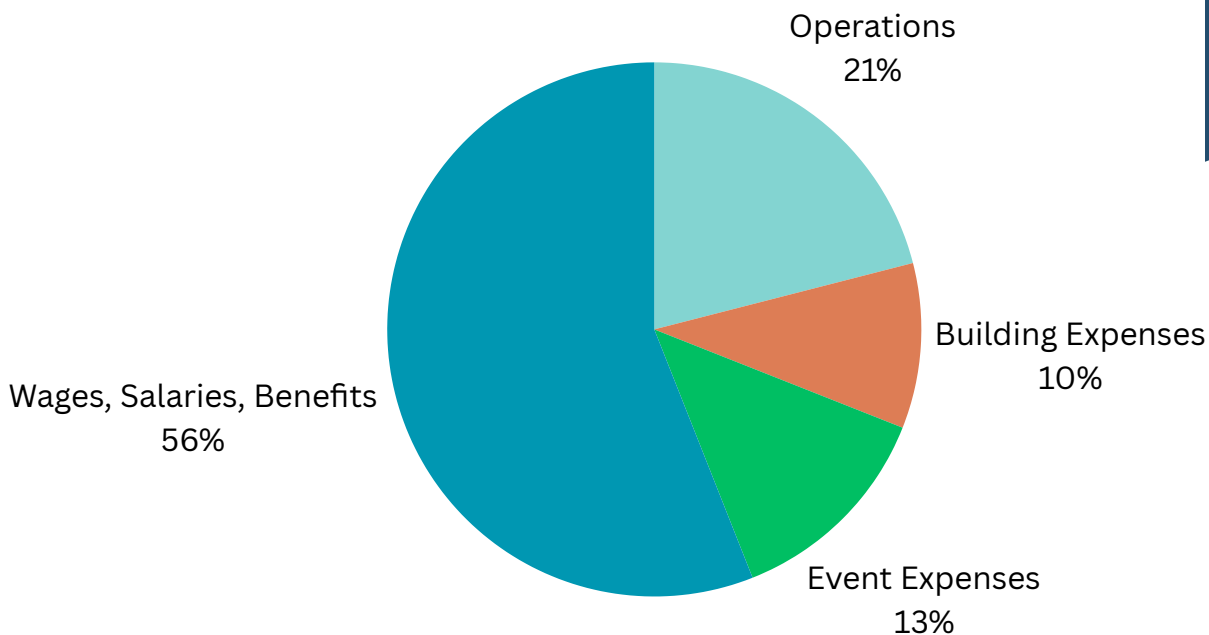
Tim Timson
Agile Defense, Inc.



2024 Percentage of Revenue



2024 Percentage of Expenses



Executive Committee Officers

Cosette Britton

Board Chairperson
Canyon Vista Medical Center

Jay Williamson

Past Chair
American Southwest Credit Union

Dr. James Perey

Chair-Elect
Cochise College

Phil Vega

Treasurer

Wendee Grinde

Secretary
Wick Communications



Thank you
Wendee Grinde
for serving
6-years on the board!



Our Foundation Board Chairperson:

Jennifer Sorenson, Herald/Review Media Board Chairperson



Dear Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of the Sky Islands Foundation, I am proud to share the incredible work our organization continues to accomplish in Southern Arizona. Our mission is broad yet deeply rooted in community impact—from advancing research and educational programs to supporting workforce development, leadership training, and the arts. We are also committed to fostering economic development and offering low-cost programs for emerging businesses, all with the goal of improving the quality of life across our region.

In February 2025, we proudly launched our 24th Leadership Class, welcoming 20 outstanding participants from local businesses. These individuals will spend the year learning directly from community leaders about what it takes to make Southern Arizona such an exceptional place to live, work, and play.

We're also excited to announce a new initiative currently in development—Future Forward Leadership Camp, launching in the summer of 2026. This innovative program is designed to help high school students build leadership skills, confidence, and career readiness through a dynamic, hands-on curriculum. It reflects our continued commitment to preparing the next generation for success in both the workplace and in life.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Sky Islands Foundation relies on the generous support of individuals and organizations to sustain and grow these impactful programs. It is through fundraising efforts and sponsorships that we are able to continue offering our 10-month leadership class, create workforce development opportunities, and support Southern Arizona's emerging leaders and businesses.

We hope you will consider finding a way to support the Foundation—whether through a donation, sponsorship, or partnership—so we can continue making a lasting difference in the community we all call home.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Sorenson

Board Chairperson

Sky Islands Foundation

Sky Islands Foundation:

Jennifer Sorenson

Board Chairperson
Herald/Review Media

Mike Smith

Chair-Elect
Truly Nolan

Alexandria Guerra

Secretary/Treasurer
Casa de la Paz Hospice

Fanny Weiland

Board Member
Wick Communications

Amanda Mancini

Board Member
Canyon Vista Medical Center

Tracy Shilt

Board Member
Quiburi Nursing &
Rehabilitation

