



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024





**The mission of Gotham Volleyball is to improve the quality of life for LGBTQIA+ individuals by building community through the sport of volleyball.**

# GOTHAM 2024 ANNUAL MEETING - AGENDA

- Meeting Called to Order and Introduction
- Division Play – Bryan Hobgood
- Training – Alex Deng
- Activities & Outreach – Brandon Gillis
- Tournaments & Open Play – Andrew Dowdye
- Financial Summary – Johnny Cordero
- Q&A
- Fall 2024 Captains Election Results



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF GOTHAM VOLLEYBALL

Hi Friends,

This year's Annual Report looks back at another fantastic year of Gotham Volleyball. We continue to increase the amount of volleyball and the amount of volleyball players associated with Gotham.

Throughout the year we played more volleyball than ever as an organization, and we did so with new faces stepping into each of the Activity VP Roles. We saw the addition of more programming as we worked to find creative ways to maximize all court time available to us and added Seward Park and John Jay to our roster of locations. We even expanded into a different borough as we are now hosting consistent programming in BK at The Post!

As I look back over the past year, I am amazed by what we have accomplished as a League. On one hand it feels like my first term as president flew by, but I also remember the tons of hours put in, not only by me, but by all the folks who volunteer their time to make Gotham the great organization that it is. I said this last year, and I will say it again, we continue to be more than just a Volleyball League; we are a community. While we exist in an ever-changing landscape that includes some terrifying and frustrating attacks against our rights to exist authentically, it's amazing to see all that we can accomplish when we all work together to achieve a common goal. I would be remiss if I didn't take a second to say **THANK YOU** to all the Gotham Leaders who give of their free time, and all of the Contractors who work to keep the league running at the high standard that we have set for ourselves.

Looking Forward to More Great Volleyball and Many Great Years Ahead!



Kyle Williams  
President  
Gotham Volleyball League

**LEADERSHIP**

**06**

**DIVISION PLAY**

**09**

**TRAINING**

**14**

**ACTIVITIES & OUTREACH**

**18**

**TOURNAMENTS & OPEN PLAY**

**21**

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

**25**

# LEADERSHIP



September 2023, Gotham Leadership partaking in an Open Play at Howe to celebrate the end of a successful tryouts season..



February 2024, Gotham Leadership takes to the court to try out our new location, The Post BK.

## **GOTHAM VOLLEYBALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **President**

Kyle Williams

### **Secretary**

Greg Rubin

### **Treasurer**

Andre Carneiro

### **Vice President for Division Play**

Bryan Hobgood

### **Vice President for Training**

Alex Deng

### **Vice President for Activities & Outreach**

Vergial Parker (6.1.23 – 4.28.24)

Brandon Gillis (Current Acting)

### **Vice President for Tournaments & Open Play**

Andrew Dowdye

### **Directors-At-Large**

Joe Mignano

Blake Rogers

### **Past Presidents**

Josh Christensen

Lew Smith

### **Grievance Officer (Acting)**

Eric Eichenholtz



## DIVISION PLAY

## **DIVISION PLAY LEADERSHIP GROUP**

### **Vice President for Division Play**

Bryan Hobgood

### **Division 1 Representative**

Douglas Christian

### **Division 2 Representative**

Ron Medina

### **Division 3 Representative**

Royce Bugarin

### **Division 4 Representative**

Jason Shaw

### **Division 5 Representative**

Eric Ma

### **Division 6 Representative**

Brady

### **Division 7 Representative**

Tom Hornberger

### **Division 8 Representative**

Anthony Fontanello

### **Division 9 Representative**

Amy Santiago

### **Division 10 Representative**

Barbara Waginski

### **Division 11 Representative**

Rob Gaetano



DIVISION PLAY LEADERSHIP GROUP serving in more than one way at a group meeting in November 2023

## **DIVISION PLAY LEADERSHIP GROUP**

Contributed by Bryan Hobgood, Vice President for Division Play

**Tryouts:** The 2023-2024 season saw a few changes to how we do things. Starting with tryouts, we began running Division 1 and Division 2 tryouts on separate weekday evenings. We also began using a new administrative Google doc for all tryouts that streamlined most of our processes. The last major change to the tryout process was the implementation of the system where players would be "invited" to teams if selected by captains in a draft rather than us having to manually add all players to every team. All in all, these changes were super successful.

**Regular Season:** With respect to the regular 10-week seasons, there were some minor changes this year. While all numbers of divisions and teams stayed the same, we updated the play schedule to make the balance of early matches and late matches more equitable. We had to alter the schedules/format of play for Divisions 1-3 since Rustin delayed our weeknight permit time start to 7:30 pm. Unlike the rest of the divisions, Divisions 1-3 played all three sets starting at 4-4 with the third set lasting only twelve minutes (rather than the normal fifteen) and with no overtime in that final set. This was certainly not an ideal change, and we'd still love to go back to the old schedule, but until that is possible, this was a suitable solution. The biggest change to our administration of regular season matches was the implementation of "ArbiterSports" software to manage, assign, and pay our referees more efficiently. That program has been a massive success. Since then, we've expanded our use of this system able to pay all of our contractors (power coaches, NAGVA officials, some Security personnel). We were able to utilize the 1st floor at Howe for practice space using the Booking feature of "LeagueApps". This was an extremely popular program, especially with Divisions 8-11. Finally, and probably most importantly, we had NO interruptions to our scheduled Division Play matches this season!!!! We did have to move some things around for Week 8 as Howe was unavailable over Easter weekend, but we knew far enough in advance that we were able to secure other space (John Jay College) for that one day with the help of Austin Voges (one of our Power coaches who also coaches the men's and women's varsity volleyball teams at John Jay) and Leah Hughey. It's rare that we make it through an entire season without some unforeseen issues, so this was a massive win.



## **DIVISION PLAY LEADERSHIP GROUP**

Contributed by Bryan Hobgood, Vice President for Division Play

**EOS Tournaments:** We piloted a program this year where we hired charter buses to shuttle players to and from Queens College on EOS days. This was extremely popular, and we got a ton of positive feedback. We officially changed the Rules of Play so that losers' bracket matches would be one set from 0 to 25 rather than 0 to 30. Lastly, we experimented with new awards for EOS MVPs (and regular season All Stars). Rather than wasting money and plastic on trophies that are often left behind/never collected, we tested out custom collectible pins. The reaction to these was mixed, but we'll continue to gauge how people respond to them.

**Summer Play:** Because facility availability for summer 2024 is uncertain, we have chosen not to offer summer Division Play going into the new 2024-2025 year.

# TRAINING

**TRAINING LEADERSHIP GROUP**

Vice President for Training  
Alex Deng

Power Director  
Leah Hughey

**Power Coaches:**

**Power A**  
Eric Lodde  
Nicolas Sanchez

**Power B**  
Chris Lacap  
Nicolas Sanchez

**Power C**  
Troy Riddle Tenzin  
Kunga

**Power D**  
Leah Hughey  
Ryan Schickling

**Power E**  
Austin Voges  
Mariam Ouattara

**Power F**  
Troy Riddle

**Power W**  
Leah Hughey  
Tenzin Kunga

**Power W2**  
Leah Hughey  
Redd Sevilla

**Power W3**  
Leah Hughey  
Shyne Mon

**Team Power 1**  
Nicolas Sanchez  
Ryan Schickling

**Team Power 2**  
Edgar Lazaro  
Tenzin Kunga

**Team Power 3**  
Shyne Mon

**PowerPlay**  
Leah Hughey  
Heriberto Estrada  
Mariam Ouattara  
Ryan Schickling

## **TRAINING LEADERSHIP GROUP**

### **Power A Representative**

Kyle Alexander

### **Power B Representative**

Keishi Takata

### **Power C Representative**

Donna Kong

### **Power D Representative**

Jonny Hsieh

### **Power E Representative**

Ryan DeRosa

### **PowerPlay Representative**

Michael Blauschild

### **Power W Representative**

Sonia Parada

### **Power W2 Representative**

Barbara Waginski

### **Team Power 1 Representative**

Matthew Rosano

### **Team Power 2 Representative**

Abishek SM



## TRAINING LEADERSHIP GROUP

Contributed by Alex Deng, Vice President for Training

This year offered continued opportunities for Gotham to expand and maintain a program that is unique to our organization, our Power Training program. Through our adult volleyball training classes and clinics, our team sought to meet the needs of players at all levels of play seeking to improve their individual skills with the help of our excellent coaching staff. In service of our mission statement, the Training team remained committed to offering training opportunities to members throughout our community, regardless of level, background, or experience.

The Fall 2023 season included the return of all of our Individual Power classes (A-E, W-W2, and PowerPlay) and our Team Power B-BB programs. Our Team Power programs provided opportunities for teams at multiple levels looking to prepare for upcoming NAGVA tournaments. The Spring 2024 season expanded largely with the inclusion of Power F, Power W3, and Team Power 3. We also introduced a new program called Power Drills, which are GLOD-led drill sessions designed to maximize touches for players at all levels and served 119 players over the season. Year over year, **we increased the number of players served by for Individual Power by 6%, Team Power by 27%, and Clinics by 42%.**

All of these programs were organized by our Training Leadership Team, consisting of VP of Training Alex Deng and Power Director Leah Hughey, and led by a lineup of new and returning coaches who worked hard to ensure that our classes gave players the opportunity to better their skills in a supportive, community-building atmosphere.

The Training Team will continue to expand and provide new opportunities for Gotham's members to take to the court more knowledgeably and confidently than they were when they started.

## ACTIVITIES & OUTREACH



Members enjoying just a few of the events that A&O helped spearhead throughout the year.

## **ACTIVITIES & OUTREACH LEADERSHIP GROUP**

### **Vice President for Activities and Outreach**

Vergial Parker (6.1.23 – 4.28.24)

Brandon Gillis (Current Acting VP)

### **Members**

Felix Ma

Paul Martinkovic

Doug Morris

Mateo Onori

Gregory Romulus

Bleron Samarxhiu

Justin Strodtman



# TOURNAMENTS & OPEN PLAY

## **TOURNAMENTS & OPEN PLAY LEADERSHIP GROUP**

### **Vice President for Tournaments & Open Play**

Andrew Dowdye

### **Friendship Tournament Director**

Michael Dreimiller

### **Open Play Director**

Bleron Samarxhiu

### **Fire Island Tournament Director**

Andrew Dowdye

### **Big Apple Director**

Josh Christiansen

### **Spring Fling Directors**

Eric Eichenholtz

Barbara Waginski

### **Members at Large**

Barbara Waginski

Felix Ma

Justin Strodman

Luis Sanchez

Mike Johnson

Jonathan Cordero

Nate Skaggs

Simon Xin

## TOURNAMENTS & OPEN PLAY LEADERSHIP GROUP

Contributed by Andrew Dowdye, Vice President of Tournaments and Open Play

The 2023-2024 year for Tournaments & Open Play has been bustling with programming and implementing new ideas to keep things fresh. This term started off with a new trio of leaders (Michael D., Bleron S., and I) to take this group to new heights.

We kicked off the summer with our annual Fire Island Tournament. Along with a spectacular group of volunteers, Vergial (VP of Activities and Outreach) and I put together a fun-filled event that the participants thoroughly enjoyed. There was a big increase in registrations from 21 teams (73 players) to 29 teams (150 players). We also introduced a Welcome Party, on the Thursday prior to the tournament, as a fun way for players to meet each other and get their swag before heading out east.

While this summer event was going on, the leadership group continued as normal planning our pre-season programming, moving into our regular events and concluding the Fall & Spring seasons with EOS Prep events for extra practice. A couple of highlights to mention are:

- Our admin team has taken an extra effort in supporting our members by manually opening our Open Plays at 12PM (noon) to give more players a chance to secure a spot.
- With the new addition of gym space in Brooklyn, we were able to add more Open Plays/Friendship Tournaments per week for member to choose from.
- The Director of Open Play has piloted Division-specific Mixers to give players an opportunity to play with other levels they wouldn't normally play with during the season. (Ex: D5 & D9)

On our tournaments side, we brought some of Gotham's favorite specialty events. For Fall 2023, we had the sickening **Drag Tournament** and **Gotham Cares Mixer**, where a portion of the fees were donated to our AIDS Walk Team. In this past season, we set up a **Women's Mixer Tournament** for all levels and end the Gotham year with **Spring Fling XIV**.



FIRE ISLAND TOURNAMENT 2023



GOTHAM CARES MIXER 2023



WOMEN'S MIXER TOURNAMENT 2024

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY



FY24 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Contributed by Andre Carneiro, Treasurer

**\$442K - \$7K = \$435K**

Cash on hand, net<sup>1</sup>  
May 31, 2023

FY24 results<sup>2</sup>

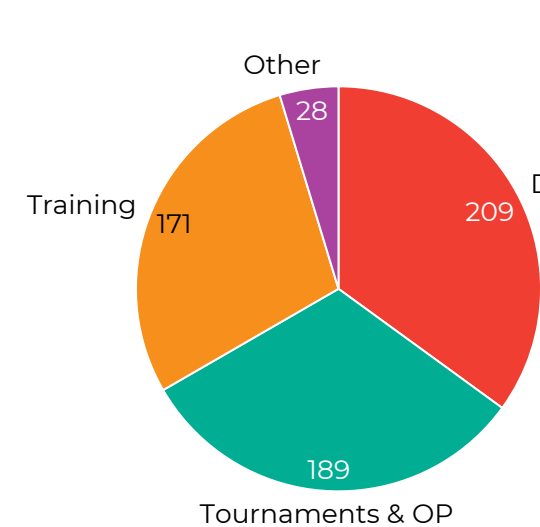
Cash on hand, net<sup>1</sup>  
May 31, 2024

1 Bank account balances minus credit card balances (Gotham has no other assets / liabilities)  
2 FY24 Income minus expenses from Jun 1, 2023, to May 31, 2024

**A note on our fiscal policy:** When Gotham’s cash balances exceed \$300K, we aim for a neutral or slightly negative year.

This ensures we’re providing maximum value to members, without creating any risk to the league.

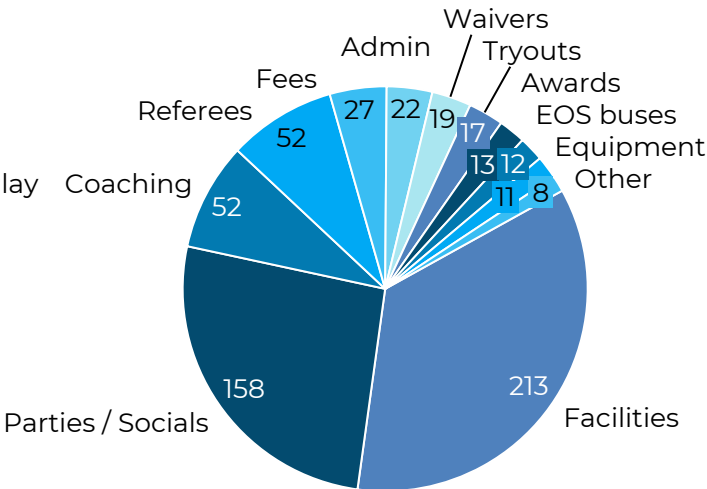
FY24 Income



**\$597K**

Other income: practice space rentals, interest, party tickets, merch, etc.  
Other expenses: donations, volunteer / contractor expenses, etc.

FY24 Expenses



**\$604K**



# Q & A

## FALL 2024 DIVISION PLAY CAPTAIN'S ELECTION RESULTS

### Division 11:

**Captains:** Erik Johnson, Jason Grobstein, Kendall VanAmburg, Marco Pretell-Vazquez, Sam Mehta, Shannon Carter Norris\*\*

**First Alternate:** Julian Burger\*\*

**Alternates:** David Pan, Joe Ng , Laurel Dillon\*\*\*, Paul Rosenberg\*\*\*,

### Division 10:

**Captains:** Fabio Del Carlo, Jery Valencia, John Rafael Perez, Jon Chin Cheong, Mateo Onori, Mitt Schwartz, PABLO MADRIZ, Peter Englert,

**First Alternate:** Rennel Flores

**Alternates:** Alan Jean, Bill Caruso, DAVID TABUZO, Harris Mendez\*\*\*\*, Jason (Jase) Adoniz\*\*\*\*, Josue Avendano Reyes,

### Division 9:

**Captains:** ALANDY BAUTISTA , Eric Eichenholtz, Jeffrey Yao, Kevin Park, Paul Kang, Paul Reeping, Steven Ott, Thomas Zembowicz\*\*\*\*\*

**First Alternate:** Tim O'Keeffe\*\*\*\*\*

**Alternates:** Alex Zhaz, Amy Santiago, Aniru Thomas, Dalton Baker, Gregory Fratellone, Sandi B,

### Division 8:

**Captains:** Alex Evanciew, Anthony Fontanello, Faissal Darwish , Howell Ma, Kevin Hickey, Nick Anthony Dantuono, Raul Huezos, Vinny Loke,

**First Alternate:** Cory Zhou

**Alternates:** Alfonso Antonio, Bradley Schleyer, Dillon Galvis, Jonny Hsieh, Kyle Svehla , Tyler Fields,

**Other Participants:** Mike Gindes

## FALL 2024 DIVISION PLAY CAPTAIN'S ELECTION RESULTS

### Division 7:

**Captains:** Blake Hartle, Connor Johnston, Eduardo Perez-Torres, Mathew Shepard, Omar Hameen, Sothdra Nguon-Devereaux, Tom Hornberger, Yih-Jen Ku

**First Alternate:** Johjoh Demol Jenae

### Division 6:

**Captains:** Brady , Dan McCabe, Emilis (Em) Bružas, Felix Ma, Frank Ivancic, Mikey Castro, Robert Fang, Thomas Gallino

**First Alternate:** Johnny Cordero

**Alternates:** Andrew Ibendahl, Dan Johnson, Greg Ford

### Division 5:

**Captains:** Bryan Hobgood, Connor Carmichael, Joseph Peralta, Julia Teta, Keishi Takata, Mateusz Wysocki, Richard Del Pino, Roland Wu

**First Alternate:** Bradley Click

**Alternates:** Tom Ciaccio

### Division 4:

**Captains:** Barry Brown, Dave Fredericks, Doug Morris, Emmanuel Sterling, Jorge Ruiz, Marvin Castro\*\*\*\*\*

**First Alternate:** Pete Gouvitsas\*\*\*\*\*

**Alternates:** Ricardo Polanco\*\*\*\*\* , Rich Tucker

## FALL 2024 DIVISION PLAY CAPTAIN'S ELECTION RESULTS

### Division 3:

**Captains:** Abishek Sm , Dennis Koster, Deonne Francisco, Eric Alcantara, Nicholas Louie, Peter Myers, Royce Bugarin, Sid He

### Division 2:

**Captains:** Clifton Wallace , David Torres-McConnell, Edgar Lazaro, Gibson Ho, Karl Kruz, Kyle McCormick, Luis Pena, Mike Johnson

**First Alternate:** Ron "Chona" Medina

**Alternates:** Melvin Punzalan, Ricky Mora

### Division 1:

**Captains:** Ariel Baraquiel, Brendan McCullagh, Christopher Mapa, Doug Christian, Eric Lodde, Klinger Ribeiro, Kryon Grant, Kyle Williams

**First Alternate:** Gregoire Romulus

**THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER  
GREAT YEAR!!!**