

HILLSIDE VENDOR LIST



Compiled by:

Food to Power Street Team

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Some businesses will be labelled by ownership as fits - look out for these tags!

BIPOC-owned

woman-owned

queer-owned

veteran-owned



FOOD TO POWER

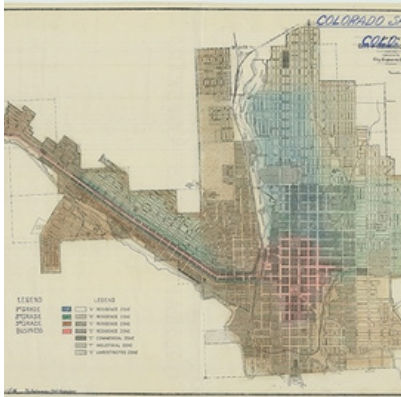
Founded in 2013, our flagship program designed to reduce food waste while increasing food access quickly evolved into “organism with a mission. This evolution grew into multi-faceted programming in collaboration with community residents and partners to cultivate a healthy, equitable food system in the greater Colorado Springs community. Food is an essential source of everyone’s power to work, play, serve, and live. Our mission is to work with community to transform our food system in ways that are inclusive of all residents and builds power.

The food systems assessment we conducted in partnership with El Paso County residents, public health, and Colorado College beginning in 2017, found that the Hillside neighborhood faces disproportionate barriers to food access. Through conversations with residents and further research, Food to Power determined a place-based solution that considers unique neighborhood characteristics and demographics is the first step toward breaking down barriers in food access. In June 2022, a new building, named the Hillside Hub, became the home of Food to Power’s operations. This 3.5 acre space includes urban farming, compost production, micro-enterprise development, educational workshops, & fresh grocery distribution. The impact has already been incredible, and in the words of a longtime Hillside resident, “This Hillside Hub is getting ready to change lives for generations.”

No challenge exists in isolation, and this vendor list was created to support investment in the Hillside neighborhood as a part of community wealth building. This list was also made in collaboration with the Colorado College class SO328: Community Based Research with Dr. Florencia Rojo, who conducted archival research on demographics and businesses in Hillside over time. It was truly an honor to interview these businesses, capture their stories, and share them with you.



HILLSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD



Although Colorado Springs has a reputation of being a predominantly white, conservative, military town, people of color have been present since the city's earliest years and played significant roles in building its social and economic contexts. Since the 1870s, Black residents have participated in the local economy. Some familiar examples include Fannie Mae Duncan's Cotton Club and Mama Susie's impact on housing.

Hillside in the 1930's was affected by redlining, a discriminatory practice from the Federal Housing Administration that led to segregation of neighborhoods through financial policies. The Hillside neighborhood was flagged as a "risky" investment due to the presence of Black homeowners. These conditions contributed to Hillside becoming a historic black neighborhood, and since then, the neighborhood has faced disinvestment and neglect. Despite this, Hillside has been a home to a diverse population of residents, organizers, entrepreneurs and community builders that have persisted who to weave the community's economic fabric.

Between the 1970s and the 1990s, the number of black-owned businesses increased and expanded in the types of establishments that were offered. Businesses from this time period included general department stores, food and drink establishments, barbers and beauty shops, tailor and laundry shops, and rental agencies. The process of gentrification threatens to eliminate these important cultural and community spaces.

In 1976, dedicated residents released the first ever edition of "Who's Who in Black Colorado Springs." This publication highlighted prominent businesses and people in the Black community, and many businesses were located in the Hillside neighborhood. This vendor list is intended as a modern continuation of efforts to highlight local businesses and strengthen the neighborhood economy. We've also prioritized including information about the people behind the businesses. This list is by no means comprehensive and is intended to be just one of many projects. We would also love your feedback! Who else should be represented here? Please email info@foodtopowerco.org with any additions of your own.



Thank you for your efforts to learn and shop local!



BIPOC-owned

woman-owned



**Address: 1027 E Cucharras ST
Colorado Springs CO 80903**

Phone: (719) 630-7634





EDITH'S HAVEN



Daycare center

Hear directly from owner Deborah Harvin:

“Edith's Haven licensed Family Child Care Home (FCCH) was born in 2006 to fulfill the personal need of being able to care for my own children aged eleven, eight and two after a divorce and relocation back to Colorado Springs, CO. Edith's Haven FCCH is housed in the home I grew up in from birth. Our mission is to provide a loving, structured, organized environment in which all young children can love, learn and laugh.

“Philosophically, I believe that every child, regardless of his/her socio-economic background, race, or gender is capable of greatness through the process of education. I have partnered with Early Connections Learning Centers and Home Network of the Pikes Peak Region since 2006 for coaching, training and constant participation in the various quality improvement programs in El Paso County. In 2008, I entered into a partnership with Community Partnership for Child Development (CPCD) offering a Headstart/Early Headstart program within my home. Edith's Haven will participate in a third Colorado Shines observation in the fall of 2022 with the goal of achieving a Level 5. Edith's Haven has been rated as a level 4 in Colorado Shines since 2016 and is continuously striving to improve and attain a level 5.”



“...every child, regardless of his/her socio-economic background, race, or gender is capable of greatness through the process of education.”



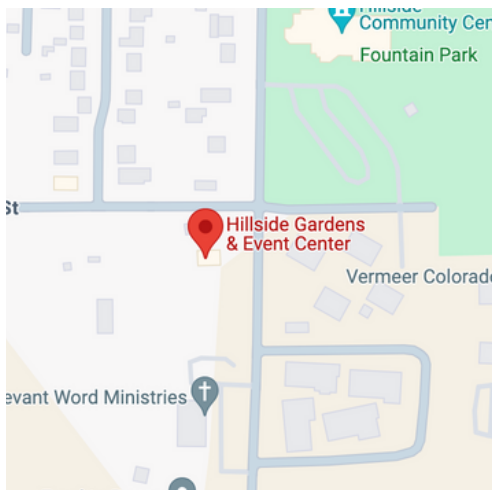


Hillside

GARDENS

—
SINCE
2000

woman-owned



**Address: 1006 S Institute St,
Colorado Springs, CO 80903**

Phone: (719) 520-9463

Website:

hillsidecolorado.com

HILLSIDE GARDENS

Newly owned by a sister and brother dynamic duo

The Hillside Gardens is owned by Colorado Springs sister and brother Ashlee and Donovan Kennedy. A beautiful 4 acre venue with scenic mountain views, the land that became Hillside Gardens started out as a dairy farm in the early 1900s and transitioned into a neighborhood nursery in 2000. Because of its magnificent charm and splendor, many people started requesting to have their weddings there, which led to the transformation of the whole place to the venue it stands as today.

Ashlee Kennedy, as an adventurer, became a world traveler, opening her eyes to the beauty of different cultures, food, and drink. She felt the desire to share her experiences and bring that passion for food, drink, community, and culture to create a welcoming and enjoyable experience to the Hillside Gardens. Donovan Kennedy in 2008 co-founded the Yobel Market, and in his time there he loved teaching small business owners all over the world how to build strong sustainable businesses and help fund school building projects in developing countries. At the end of 2021, Ashlee and Donovan took over ownership of the Hillside Gardens as a sister and brother team. They both bring a wealth of experience to the Hillside Gardens, where their goal is to grow the Garden Center and continue to be an asset to the city.



“Because of its magnificent charm and splendor, many people started requesting to have their weddings there...”





BIPOC-owned

woman-owned



**Address: 910 S Institute St,
Colorado Springs, CO 80903**

Phone: (240) 750-8205

**Website:
facebook.com/HouseofHoundsGrooming/**

HOUSE OF HOUNDS

Voted FIRST PLACE, “pet groomer” category in the Colorado Springs Indy 2021, 2022 AND 2023!

“My name is Jenna. I’ve been grooming for about 12 years professionally. I’ve always loved and been around dogs. I started grooming when I worked front desk at a boarding facility in Maryland. One of the groomers quit on Christmas Eve, and that’s one of the worst times for someone to quit. They needed someone to bathe a dog, my boss threw me in, and it worked out from there!

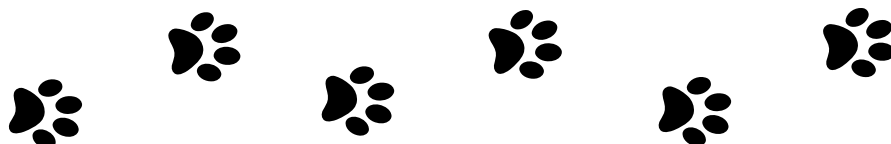
I moved to Colorado Springs in 2016. Maryland had become too expensive, and I saw that Colorado Springs was one of the most dog-friendly places in the nation! I’m disabled so working for myself was always a goal, in order to be able to rest when it’s needed.

I have set up a licensed facility at my home in the Hillside. Grooming is needed for every dog, even if they don’t need a haircut. Sometimes the experience is overwhelming for dogs, and there’s separation anxiety when their person drops them off. It doesn’t have to be stressful or scary. I have great relationships with my dog clients. They run up to see me now!

I have two dogs of my own that are my babies and I promise to treat any dog that comes through my door with the same kindness.”



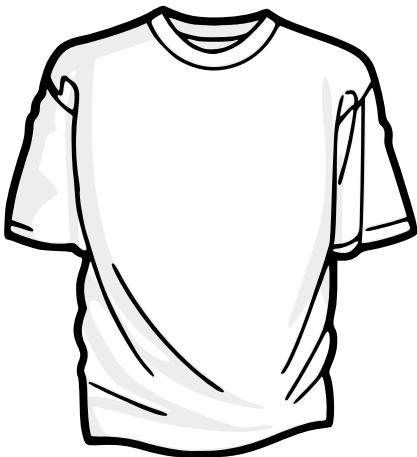
“I have great relationships with my dog clients. They run up to see me now!”





BIPOC-owned

woman-owned



**Address: 225 S. Academy Blvd
suite 104C Colorado Springs,
CO 80910.**

Phone: (719) 459-0637

Website: mentallyillshop.com

**Facebook & Instagram:
[@MentallyIllShop](https://www.instagram.com/MentallyIllShop)**

MENTALLY ILL CUSTOM PRINTING

In the Southside community. Mentally Ill LLC stands as more than just a custom apparel printing company – it is a beacon of triumph over adversity. Shequan Smith, the owner behind the business, has transformed personal struggles into a source of inspiration, fostering a community that understands the profound impact of mental health and cancer on our lives.

The journey of Mentally Ill LLC is a testament to the transformative power of empathy and support. Shequan’s own experiences with pain and loss have shaped the company’s mission to not only provide high-quality customized apparel but also to raise awareness about mental health and cancer. The brand serves as a reminder that even in the darkest chapters of life, there is an opportunity for rewriting the narrative.

What sets Mentally Ill LLC apart is the commitment to giving back to the community, including the Hillside. Actively supporting and collaborating with local organizations and businesses, the company seeks to make a positive impact beyond its products with a particular emphasis on mental health and ovarian cancer awareness. Mentally Ill LLC is dedicated to making a difference in these critical areas.

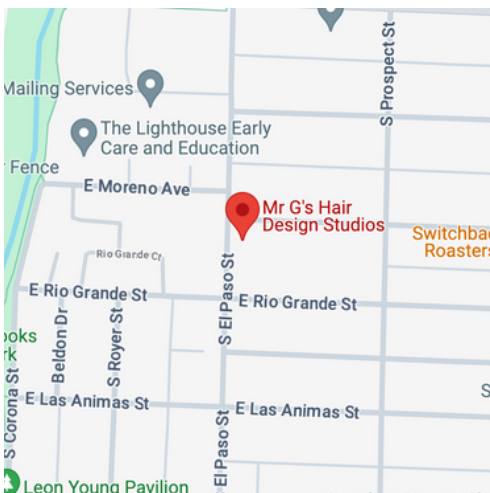


“What sets Mentally Ill LLC apart is the commitment to giving back to the community, including the Hillside.”





BIPOC-owned



**Address: 603 S El Paso St
STE C, Colorado Springs, CO
80903**

Phone: (719) 632-0027

MR. G'S HAIR DESIGN STUDIOS

Legacy of a community pillar

Gene Southerland is a familiar name to many Hillside community members. He came to Colorado Springs as an army dental assistant, but another passion led him to become a barber. He started at Old Man Price's Barber Shop on 8th street, and his popularity inspired him to start his own shop in the Hillside neighborhood. His shop became one of the oldest Black businesses in the Springs alongside Fannie Mae Duncan's Cotton Club and Leon Young's Janitorial Service.

Mr. Sutherland wasn't just a barber but a pillar of the community. He was the President of the Shooks Run neighborhood community for 3 years, and a lifetime member of the local NAACP. He was also known for encouraging the neighborhood children to do well in school by giving them money in the form of \$2 bills as a reward for good grades. Mr. Southerland loved the Hillside neighborhood, and his barbershop was definitely the place to be on Saturdays.

Mr. Sutherland passed away on February 28, 2021, but his legacy continues. His barbershop is thriving and is now run by Ronnie Tolbert. Ronnie was hired by Mr. Southerland straight out of beauty school and has been with the Southerland family for over 36 years.



“Mr. Sutherland wasn't just a barber but a pillar of the community.”



MOIRÉ



*Creative
BEVERAGES
&
Catering*



BIPOC-owned

woman-owned

queer-owned

veteran-owned

Hillside resident owned

Phone: (719) 463-8373



NOIRE CREATIVE BEVERAGES



Mobile catering services

Noire Creative Beverages is a dynamic duo bartending and catering team founded in 2023 founded by two individuals who had a common passion for the Spirits & Food industry. Noire Creative Beverages & Catering is a testament to the power of creativity, passion, and entrepreneurship. With a shared commitment to redefining the culinary and beverage experience, these trailblazing founders have brought to life a company that stands at the intersection of innovation and elegance.

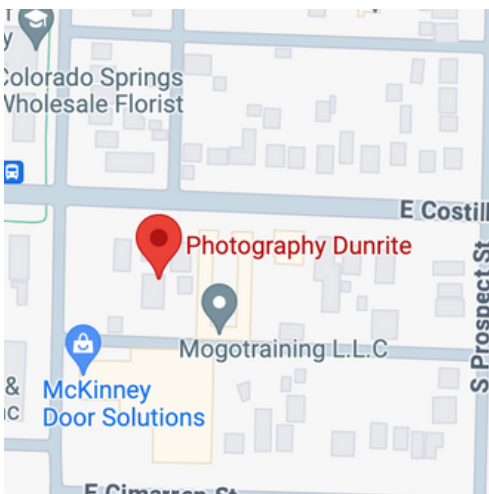
At Noire Creative, each menu item and event detail is infused with a touch of feminine flair, showcasing a dedication to sophistication and style. The founders' unique perspectives and diverse backgrounds contribute to a culinary journey that embraces both tradition and contemporary trends, ensuring a memorable experience for every client.

Beyond crafting exquisite dishes and beverages, these women entrepreneurs have created a company that values inclusivity, empowerment, and the celebration of diverse flavors. Noire Creative Beverages & Catering is not just a business; it's a representation of the resilience, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit of its dynamic founders.



“...these women entrepreneurs have created a company that values inclusivity, empowerment, and the celebration of diverse flavors.”





**Address: 711 E Costilla St,
Colorado Springs, CO 80903**

Phone: (719) 650-2542

Website:

photographydunrite.com

PHOTOGRAPHY DUNRITE



A true Hillside treasure

Truly the people's photographer, Charlie Dunrite began his journey of photography as a teenager with camera in hand taking dog pics down at Dorchester park. Mr. Dunrite is largely self-taught and learned through absorbing the knowledge of fellow photographers, supplemented with some formal education.

He created his own photography business in 2010 and chose the location in the Hillside neighborhood due to love for the great outdoor scenery, as there are many parks located in the area for photos. "It is all about the climate," shared Mr. Dunrite. Passion drives his movement, not greed. Mr. Dunrite is not about price gouging - he works with the community with pricing so that they have access to great photography that is affordable to all. This respect for the community is shown back to him as he works constantly, easily shooting thousands of photos in a day and upwards of 3000 in a weekend.

Mr. Dunrite now has over 20 years of experience and is considered one of the best. His goals are to expand on his existing sets to more options, so in case of weather conditions or situations that prevent shooting pictures outdoors, sessions can go on without delay.



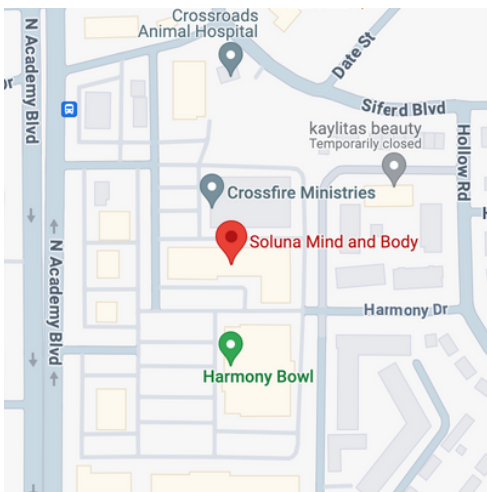
"[Photography] is all about the climate."





BIPOC-owned

woman-owned



Address: 3945 N Academy Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80917

Phone: (719) 650-4513

Website: linktr.ee/solunamindandbody



SOLUNA MIND AND BODY



Small group sound baths, belly dance for empowerment and yoga with various Asana styles

Hear from Hillside residents and owners Shannon and Marizadeb about Soluna:

“Soluna Mind and Body is on a mission to create an inclusive and vibrant community where people from all walks of life can come together and support each other on their wellness adventures.

“We want to empower individuals at any level and any background to take charge of their well-being.

“We use a wide range of tools to boost your body, mind, and soul. It's all about fostering a sense of belonging, embracing diversity, and having an absolute blast while nurturing your holistic health.

“So join us, because at Soluna, everyone is welcome to thrive and shine.”

Marizadeb is a first generation immigrant from The Philippines, and he’s lived his life right here in Colorado. Shannon was born and raised in Colorado Springs, and both are fiercely passionate about the people and history of the city.



“We want to empower individuals at any level and any background to take charge of their well-being.”





BIPOC-owned

queer-owned



Hillside resident owned

Phone: 719-484-9308

Website:

[instagram.com/justicelord87](https://www.instagram.com/justicelord87)

SÜT & TYE

LUXURY SERVICES LLC

Justice Lord is the co-creator of Süt & Tye Luxury Services. He moved to Colorado Springs in 2009 from New York City, and is a local advocate for LGBTQ+ rights. Hear more about how the business started and its services in his own words:

“With my sister Dani Savage, we birthed Sut & Tye through fed up emotions that accompany being an entrepreneur of color in Colorado Springs. Süt & Tye was created in late 2019.

“We started out wanting to have a way to service the Southside, with specific attention to the Hillside residents with no vehicles or any true means of transportation. Our service first focused on medical marijuana delivery and eventually turned into a full blown medicinal tincture that would help homebound people with chronic mental/physical disabilities.

“Over the years, Süt & Tye has blossomed into a multitude of services that are not limited in any capacity of need. It has grown to provide visionary programmatic involvement with Hillside residents as well as the rest of Southside Colorado Springs.

“I started doing this so I could spend more time with my children and more time servicing my community and city in a fashion unheard of: through pure love, dedication, and commitment to my children’s hometown, my legacy, and grassroots for People of Color in the city, and state of Colorado.”



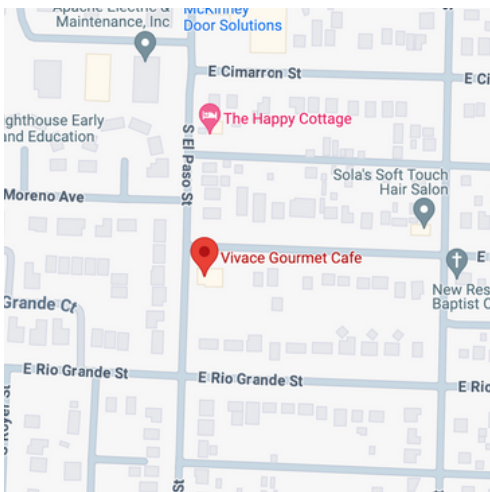
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BIPOC-owned

woman-owned

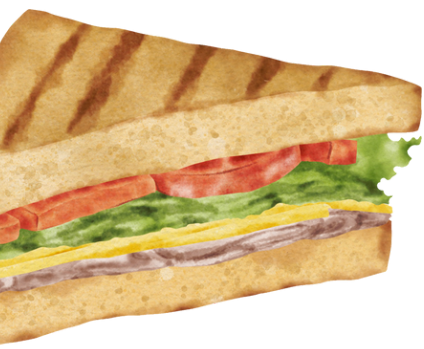


**Address: 603 S El Paso St,
Colorado Springs, CO 80903**

Phone: (719) 766-2223

Website:

www.vivacegourmet.com



VIVACE GOURMET CAFE

**Tuscan Style Signature Sandwiches on Fresh Focaccia
Cappuccino, Breakfast, and More!**

Jenner Sutherland is the daughter of Gene Southerland and was born and raised in the Hillside neighborhood. The Sutherland family has a long history of building community – check out the page on Mr. G’s Hair Design Studio for more information!

As a professionally trained chef, Jenner was inspired to open her own business after leaving the corporate world. She has traveled to Italy many times and brought the skills and knowledge to her menu. Vivace Gourmet now provides delicious food for the community, a safe place for Hillside residents to hang out, and access to healthy food in the neighborhood.

“Vivace Gourmet cares about the environment and community,” Jenner shares. “All carry-out items will be served in earth-friendly containers that are 100% biodegradable.”

Vivace has been recognized by the Colorado Springs Independent’s 2023 Best of Colorado Springs as Silver for “Best Neighborhood Restaurant South” and Bronze for “Best Sandwich.”



“Vivace Gourmet cares about the environment and community”



**THANK YOU
LOCAL VENDORS!**



**Interested in other projects by
Food to Power? Learn more at
<https://foodtopowerco.org/>**