

UpCyclesABQ

A 501(c)(3) New Mexico Corporation

info@upcyclesabq.com

<http://www.upcyclesabq.com>

November 23, 2024

Statement of Purpose

Many people use bicycles as their only mode of transportation. Often these bicycles cost less than \$200. They are built by department stores, by non-expert staff, with the least expensive frames and components available. As a result, they are often poorly tuned, as well as difficult to tune. Cheap components bend or break, or simply don't work, yielding poor safety and reliability. These "Bicycle Shaped Objects," BSOs, promise enjoyment but deliver only frustration.

UpCyclesABQ aims to eliminate as many of these BSOs as possible from the streets of Albuquerque. We will offer reliable replacement parts built by SRAM, Shimano or Microshift. Additionally, we will source inexpensive, possibly used, frames to replace the heavy stock frames.

Essentially, our goal is to upcycle cheap department store bikes into quality bikes that will provide safe and reliable transportation at no cost to their owners.

I have been a volunteer at Esperanza Bicycle Education Center on and off since 2020. They offer similar services, with a slightly different business model. They provide free parts, free service, free advising, education and free earn-a-bikes. However, rather than replacing BSOs, in 90 minute blocks they guide customers as they attempt to restore base functionality, often using existing parts. Users must call on the day to reserve space and go either there, or to one of their pop-up clinics. We plan to provide services where people can't get to Esperanza, or can't get into Esperanza either because they don't have phones or transportation. Additionally, we hope to offer mobile services and clinics.

NM Sport Systems sells used bikes at market value.

The only other used bicycles or parts I've found around Albuquerque are through Craigslist, which has its own issues.

Cleaning up the streets of Albuquerque, one bicycle-shaped object at a time.