About

Mission Statement:
The primary goal of The Third Hand Bicycle Co-op is to promote cycling as safe and environmentally responsible transportation. The non-profit organization provides community members with the facilities and tools, as well as the skills and knowledge to help make cycling an essential part of their everyday lives

The Third Hand Bicycle Co-op (THBC) was loosely organized years ago, but went into hibernation a year later when its leadership disbanded. The sight of its remnants - abandoned bikes, tools, parts, literature - gave another small group of people little choice but to re-form the Co-op.

Columbus needed a place where people could use tools freely, learn the mechanics of repair, spend sunny afternoons organizing dusk rides, or volunteer to repair bicycles. So several years later, some people began spreading the word that someone had donated their garage for such a purpose. That same few would embark on the challenge of organizing the Co-op and making it a sustainable.

The sight of so many people coming out to help with this project, whether wrenching or organizing, was astonishing. THBC grew to several hundred members, and moved to a rented storefront in the Weinland Park neighborhood. The need for a community bike shop that offered low cost parts and bikes, advice from skilled mechanics, and a full tool shop was evident from the long lines at open shop sessions from spring through fall. Because of a need for more space and a more permanent presence, THBC purchased and set up operations in a building at 979 East 5th Avenue in the Milo Grogan neighborhood in September 2012. By sharing mechanical and organizational knowledge, THBC hopes to be a sustainable organization that will be around for many years to come.