



BARTRAM'S GARDEN

2015 RUDY BRUNER AWARD



PROJECT NAME: Community Farm and Food Resource Center at Bartram's Garden

LOCATION: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

APPLICANT NAME: Bartram's Garden

A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK HOUSE & GARDEN

John Bartram Association, 54th St. & Lindbergh Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19143 T: (215) 729.5281 F: (215) 729.1047

BARTRAMSGARDEN.ORG

2015 RUDY BRUNER AWARD PROJECT DATA



PROJECT DATA

Please answer questions in space provided. If possible, answers to all questions should be typed or written directly on the forms. If the forms are not used and answers are typed on a separate page, each answer must be preceded by the question to which it responds, and the length of each answer should be limited to the area provided on the original form.

Project Name Community Farm and Food Resource Center Location _____ City Philadelphia State PA

Owner Bartram's Garden

Project Use(s) community agriculture, organic farming, environmental education, urban agriculture, watershed management, nutrition, mentorship

Project Size 2-acre farm, 2500-square-foot greenhouse, 60 garden beds, 140 trees Total Development Cost approximately \$300,000

Annual Operating Budget (if appropriate) approximately \$200,000 annually, shared among partner organizations

Date Initiated 2012 Percent Completed by December 1, 2014 75%

Project Completion Date (if appropriate) _____ Project Website (if appropriate) _____

Attach, if you wish, a list of relevant project dates _____

Application submitted by:

Name Maitreyi Roy Title Executive Director

Organization John Bartram Association (Bartram's Garden)

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Telephone (215) 729-5281 Fax (215) 729-1047

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Perspective Sheets:

Organization	Name	E-mail
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Architect/Designer _____		
Developer _____		
Professional Consultant _____		
Community Group <u>Pennsylvania Horticultural Society</u>	<u>Lisa Mosca</u>	<u>lmosca@pennhort.org</u>
Other <u>CityLights Network</u>	<u>Carey Davis</u>	<u>citylightscdavis@gmail.com</u>
<u>Camp Sojourner, Girls' Leadership Camp</u>	<u>Alisha Berry</u>	<u>alisha@girlsleadershipcamp.org</u>

Please indicate how you learned of the *Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence*. (Check all that apply).

Direct Mailing Direct Email Previous Selection Committee member Other (please specify) _____

Online Notice Previous RBA entrant Professional Organization

Social Media Bruner/Loeb Forum

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Signature Maitreyi Roy

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Date December 9, 2014

2015
RUDY BRUNER AWARD
PROJECT
AT-A-GLANCE



PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

Please answer questions in space provided. If possible, answers to all questions should be typed or written directly on the forms. If the forms are not used and answers are typed on a separate page, each answer must be preceded by the question to which it responds, and the length of each answer should be limited to the area provided on the original form.

This sheet, the Project Data sheet, and the representative photo will be sent to the Committee in advance as the *Project Overview*.

Project Name	Community Farm and Food Resource Center at Bartram's Garden		
Address	54th Street and Lindbergh Boulevard	City/State/ZIP	Philadelphia, PA 19143

1. Give a brief overview of the project. Approximately 500 words.

The Community Farm and Food Resource Center (CFFRC) at Bartram's Garden is an award-winning hub for urban agriculture, education, and community empowerment in the underserved neighborhood of Southwest Philadelphia. Established in 2012 in partnership with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS), the Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative (AUNI), and the City of Philadelphia, the CFFRC has had a transformative effect on the neighborhood's food habits and connections to nature. It has also served as a model for similar projects throughout Philadelphia, providing thousands of low-income local residents with the opportunity to connect with their food sources and the natural world.

Southwest Philadelphia is one of the city's most disenfranchised and industrialized neighborhoods: riddled with abandoned industrial sites, brownfields, and vacant lots, it averages just 1% tree coverage. Access to the Schuylkill River is largely blocked by oil refineries and waste disposal sites, and the community suffers disproportionately from poverty, violence, chronic illness, and poor nutrition.

Although this may seem an odd setting for a farm, the area has deep connections to agriculture: John Bartram, America's first naturalist, built his farm along the banks of the Schuylkill River in the 1700s. The legacy of the Bartram's dedication to the natural world is preserved today at Bartram's Garden, a public park and a National Historic Landmark. The Garden spans 45 acres of historic garden, riverfront, reclaimed meadow, and woodland, welcoming nearly 40,000 visitors each year.

The CFFRC, built on previously underutilized green space at the southern end of the site, consists of 2 acres of produce beds, a 2500-square-foot greenhouse, an orchard of 140 fruit trees, 60 community garden beds, and several outdoor classroom spaces where students can tend class gardens and prepare healthy dishes from their harvests. The farm adjoins the Garden's 2.2-acre tidal wetlands, the only tidal wetlands on the Lower Schuylkill River and an important resource for watershed management and water quality monitoring. It also links directly to the 58th Street Greenway in the south. In 2015, the Garden and the CFFRC will welcome Bartram's Mile, a new recreational trail connecting the site to the popular Schuylkill River Trail and introducing more space for safe riverfront recreation.

2. Why does the project merit the *Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence*? (You may wish to consider such factors as: effect on the urban environment; innovative or unique approaches to any aspect of project development; new and creative approaches to urban issues; design quality.) Approximately 500 words.

The CFFRC is the result of a highly successful partnership devoted to engaging, empowering, and transforming one of Philadelphia's most underserved communities. Thanks to creative re-use of urban open space and ongoing audience-driven programming, the project invites residents to connect directly with their food sources and with nature, inspiring everything from healthier eating to increased interest in science education to greater appreciation for the natural world.

Since its founding in 2012, the CFFRC has grown to offer many things to many people from diverse backgrounds:

- **A Place to Dig In:** The CFFRC produces more than 7,000 pounds of organic produce and 60,000 seedlings each year. An estimated 500 families grow or purchase an average of 5 servings of organic produce each week at the CFFRC, while seedlings are distributed to support community gardens throughout the city. A new container gardening program offers participants an easy introduction to growing their own healthy food, especially for those for who prefer not to take on a community garden plot owing to mobility issues or childcare needs.
- **A Place to Learn:** More than 10,000 schoolchildren visit Bartram's Garden each year for hands-on lessons in science, nature, and healthy eating. The outdoor classroom spaces at the CFFRC invite children to dig in the dirt and taste heirloom vegetables as part of lessons on nutrition, urban agriculture, pollination, and life cycles.
- **A Place to Grow:** 20 local high school students from Bartram High School work to help tend the CFFRC. In addition to gaining vocational skills, these students serve as community ambassadors by managing the weekly farmstand, modeling food-systems change, and educating shoppers during workshops and cooking demonstrations. They also focus on college readiness, with more than half of this year's seniors earning early admission to college.
- **A Place to Connect:** A wide range of community partners work with the CFFRC to support outreach and community building. This year's expanded Harvest Fest, held on October 19, attracting almost 1000 visitors for a day of free outdoor activities. Local residents report feeling an increased connection to nature and increased sense of community safety and engagement.

2015 RUDY BRUNER AWARD PROJECT DESCRIPTION



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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1. Describe the underlying values and goals of the project. What, if any, significant trade-offs were required to implement the project? Approximately 500 words.

This project demonstrates the impact of a team of committed partners with shared values. Each of the four main partners—Bartram's Garden, the Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and the City of Philadelphia—is driven by a commitment to sustainability, stewardship, and education.

On a deeper level, this project also represented an opportunity to revitalize the historic usage of the site. Although today Southwest Philadelphia is one of the most industrialized areas of the city, its history is deeply rooted in agriculture: John Bartram's farm once spanned more than 100 acres in this neighborhood, and his family's devotion to nature profoundly influenced the development of American horticulture and gardening. The CFFRC restores agriculture to this landmark neighborhood, including the cultivation of many heirloom and specialty strains.

Given the strong partnership grounding the project, very few trade-offs were required. In fact, all the project's challenges have been positive changes resulting from its significant impact. The project allowed for creative re-use of an underutilized recreational space; the CFFRC now welcomes many more users than did the site's earlier ballfields. The project has also generated significant program activity, leading to additional demands on the Garden's already-busy meeting and program spaces, especially during the winter months.

2. Briefly describe the project's urban context. How has the project impacted the local community? Who does the project serve? How many people are served by the project? Approximately 500 words.

The CFFRC at Bartram's Garden is located in Southwest Philadelphia, one of the most distressed and industrialized neighborhoods in the city. Our nearest neighbor is the 490-unit Bartram Village public housing complex; the neighborhood is riddled with brownfields, abandoned industrial sites, and vacant lots. In addition, the area is a food desert with just 1% tree coverage.

The neighborhood is disproportionately affected by poverty, violence, and chronic illness. A 2008 study by the University of Pennsylvania found that residents feel a need for more "safe zones" in their area to support social networking, community participation, and security.

The creation of the CFFRC has provided the community with access to fresh, organic produce and safe outdoor space. An estimated 500 families grow or purchase an average of 5 servings of produce at the CFFRC each week, while an additional 30 families maintain their own gardens at the CFFRC. 20 at-risk local high school students work to help tend the farm, receiving vocational training and mentorship.

The CFFRC has also impacted the wider community. Community events at the CFFRC and Bartram's Garden regularly bring more than 1000 people to the site for free nature-themed activities, including harvest celebrations, safe river recreation, and cooking demonstrations. In addition, the CFFRC has served as a model for two other urban agriculture projects within Philadelphia, effectively tripling its impact.

3. Describe the key elements of the development process, including community participation where appropriate. Approximately 400 words.

This project began with an urban agriculture partnership between Bartram's Garden and the Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative, as both organizations sought to establish an urban agriculture resource in Southwest Philadelphia and to revitalize the historic use of the land at the southern edge of the Garden. Additional partners, including the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and the City of Philadelphia, were brought in to ensure that the project reached its full potential.

In 2008, Bartram's Garden developed its new strategic plan with significant community input. The community participants voiced a clear mandate for the Garden to use all aspects of the 45-acre site, including finding a more vibrant use for the underutilized recreational space. Additional community input was sought as the CFFRC was conceived and developed, and community stakeholders continue to participate in guiding new programming at the CFFRC.

4. Describe the financing of the project. Please include all funding sources and square foot costs where applicable. Approximately 400 words.

The CFFRC was made possible through the generous support of its partners and several outside stakeholders:

- Bartram's Garden provided approximately \$15,000 to support the 140-tree orchard in addition to access to land, ongoing basic maintenance, and educational programming for children and school groups.
 - The City of Philadelphia provided approximately \$40,000 in in-kind support, including on-site hook-ups for water and electricity.
 - The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society provided approximately \$60,000 in in-kind support, largely to construct the 2500-square-foot greenhouse and to supply seedlings.
 - The Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative provided approximately \$150,000 to support staff, programming, and supplies for the 2-acre produce farm.
- In addition, the CFFRC benefited from donated services from design and horticulture professionals as well as donated supplies and materials.

5. Is the project unique and/or does it address significant urban issues? Is the model adaptable to other urban settings? Approximately 400 words.

Municipalities around the country are investing in locally supported urban agriculture as a way to reduce dependency on established food systems and to support underserved communities. This project represents one of Philadelphia's major efforts to bring local food, healthy habits, and accessible green space to a disenfranchised neighborhood.

The success of the CFFRC depends upon the complementary missions and combined strengths and resources of the participating non-profit and municipal partners, and these resources can be easily replicated in other urban settings. The essential elements of the CFFRC include access to land and programming, provided by Bartram's Garden; expertise in urban farming, brought by AUNI; PHS' mission-driven interest in urban agriculture and horticulture; and the municipal partnership made possible by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Each of the partners is also committed to education, which ensures that the project can have a lasting impact in the Southwest Philadelphia community.

The CFFRC has already served as a model for similar projects in the area. A community garden in the Strawberry Mansion neighborhood opened this spring, backed by a range of non-profit and municipal partners, including PHS. The garden is already host to 22 families, with an additional 20 plots and a greenhouse planned for other neighbors and local students. A third such garden is currently being built, and the City of Philadelphia is developing additional programming and resources in urban agriculture.

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This sheet is to be filled out by staff representative(s) of public agency(ies) who were directly involved in the financing, design review, or public approvals that affected this project.

Name	Michael DiBerardinis	Title	Deputy Mayor for Environment & Community Resources
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Signature **Michael DiBerardinis**  Digitally signed by Michael DiBerardinis
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Date: 2014.12.09 09:50:02 -0500 Date **December 5, 2014**

1. What role did your agency play in the development of this project? Describe any requirements made of this project by your agency (e.g., zoning, public participation, public benefits, impact statements). Approximately 400 words.

Bartram’s Garden, including the land on which the CFFRC stands, has been owned by the City of Philadelphia since 1893. The City has managed and maintained the property in partnership with the John Bartram Association; Bartram’s Garden is now a public park within the Philadelphia Park System.

The Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation (PPR) serves as the governing and permitting agency for Bartram’s Garden and the CFFRC. When the CFFRC was founded in 2012, the PPR provided infrastructure and funding support, as well as codifying the lease agreement and establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with the partners. The city continues to receive yearly updates on the project and ongoing capital investments, while also taking a lead role in continuing infrastructure developments like the Bartram’s Mile recreational trail.

Philadelphia has a rich history of horticulture and urban green space. In the nineteenth century, the city was at the vanguard of the American park movement; today, we are working towards a new vision of urban agriculture and sustainability for the twenty-first century. The CFFRC at Bartram’s Garden is Philadelphia’s first comprehensive urban agriculture resource on public land.

Its creation and continued success are reflections of the city’s investment in greening our community: in 2009, the City of Philadelphia introduced Greenworks, an ambitious 14-point plan for advancing sustainability throughout the city by 2015. The plan’s 14 goals fall into 4 categories—energy, environment, equity, and economy—and the CFFRC supports individual goals in accessible healthy food, improved stormwater management, and accessible green space. The PPR is proud to partner with Bartram’s Garden, AUNI, and PHS to ensure the CFFRC’s continued growth.

2. How was this project intended to benefit your city? What trade-offs and compromises were required to implement the project? How did your agency participate in making them? Approximately 400 words.

As the city’s first comprehensive urban agriculture resource, there were several goals for the CFFRC:

- Serve thousands of low-income Southwest Philadelphia residents with access to organic produce, necessary support and resources to make healthy food choices, and access to nature;
- Establish an effective partnership between public, private, and community organizations in order to share resources;
- Revitalize previously underutilized green space at the outskirts of Bartram’s Garden, including an underused but functional recreational facilities; and
- Create a replicable model for establishing other community farms and urban agricultural resources throughout Philadelphia and in other cities.

The site on which the CFFRC was established had previously been recreational space: a baseball field and a tennis court. Although these facilities were not tremendously popular, they were used regularly by a small segment of the local community. Choosing to establish the CFFRC meant losing these recreational spaces. That decision was weighed carefully and members of the community were consulted before the project moved forward.

3. Describe the project's impact on your city. Please be as specific as possible. Approximately 400 words.

The CFFRC has been transformative, both directly and indirectly, for thousands of low-income Philadelphia residents. For the Southwest Philadelphia community most directly served by the CFFRC, this project has provided thousands of pounds of fresh, organic produce; accessible support and resources on healthy eating and nutrition; and safe and accessible urban green space. The project has also revitalized a previously underused space and positively impacted the Southwest Philadelphia watershed.

The CFFRC has also had a positive impact on the wider Philadelphia community. It served as a successful model for establishing other comprehensive urban agriculture resources in other areas of the city; as a result, Philadelphia has significantly expanded its investment in urban agriculture. The third such resource is currently being developed, and the city has hired an urban agriculture coordinator. We have also launched FarmPhilly, a new program supporting food-producing gardens at 13 recreation centers, including programming for day camp students and nutrition education for community members. We are well on our way to meeting our Greenworks goals of 316 farms, gardens, and farmers' markets—up from 230 in 2008—by 2015.

4. Did this project result in new models of public/private partnerships? Are there aspects of this project that would be instructive to agencies like yours in other cities? Approximately 400 words.

This project clearly demonstrates the impact of a mix of committed partners with diverse resources. The success of the CFFRC depends upon the complementary missions and combined strengths and resources of the participating non-profit and municipal partners. The essential elements of the CFFRC include access to land and programming, provided by Bartram's Garden; expertise in urban farming, brought by AUNI; PHS' mission-driven interest in urban agriculture and horticulture; and the municipal partnership made possible by the City of Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation. Each of the partners is also committed to education, which ensures that the project can have a lasting impact in the Philadelphia community.

5. What do you consider to be the most and least successful aspects of this project? Approximately 400 words.

Now in its third year, the CFFRC has met or exceeded almost all of its original goals. Several achievements stand out as particularly successful:

- The importance of the project's public health impact cannot be overstated. The Southwest Philadelphia neighborhood, a one-time food desert, now hosts a weekly farmstand, regular cooking and nutrition workshops, a CSA, and community garden beds. Hundreds of families now have access to fresh, organic produce, and thousands of local schoolchildren are learning to embrace healthy eating and to be stewards of the environment.
- The creation of the CFFRC has brought new relevance and energy to previously underutilized space in a disenfranchised neighborhood. In a community marred by abandoned industrial sites, brownfields, and vacant lots, the creative reuse of accessible green space is a significant achievement.
- The project's ecosystem investments are paying off. Three years of planting and harvest have significantly enriched the soil, while improved stormwater management and invasives management have had a significant effect on the nearby tidal wetlands. Honeybees were recently installed at the CFFRC, furthering the longterm goal of creating positive environmental change.

With any large project, there are always challenges. In this case, the largest challenge has simply been growing towards ensuring the project's self-sufficiency. With increased soil quality and improved techniques, the CFFRC has effectively extended the growing season and maximized productivity. We are also working towards energy independence for the entire site.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Please answer questions in space provided. If possible, answers to all questions should be typed or written directly on the forms. If the forms are not used and answers are typed on a separate page, each answer must be preceded by the question to which it responds, and the length of each answer should be limited to the area provided on the original form.

This sheet is to be filled out by someone who was involved, or represents an organization that was involved, in helping the project respond to neighborhood issues.

Name	Lisa Mosca	Title	City Harvest Food Systems Specialist
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Signature Lisa Mosca Date Dec 8, 2014

1. How did you, or the organization you represent, become involved in this project? What role did you play? Approximately 400 words.

PHS City Harvest program provides training, plant material, and supplies to volunteers at community gardens, urban farms, and on individual formerly vacant lots, who agree to improve community food security in Philadelphia and the region by growing and donating produce, or growing and selling at affordable rates for their neighbors. Philadelphia has over 400,000 people who are considered food insecure. Many of these are children and seniors. PHS had been partnering with the Urban Nutrition Initiative (UNI) for many years by providing them resources for other growing sites when we began our partnership on this project.

PHS's City Harvest team had also been creating a series of neighborhood Green Resource Centers in partnership with organizations like UNI as propagation and distribution sites for our urban food producers in the PHS City Harvest Program. We had been searching for a few years with UNI for a collaborative space to implement a Green Resource Center, when Ty Holmberg received word from John Bartram Association's Director that they would be interested in providing land. We had also been working to look for appropriate land with Philadelphia's Parks and Recreation Department (PPR) for multiple years. After creating mutually agreed upon plans and presenting them to PPR, our proposal was accepted. PHS's role has included fundraising for the infrastructure at the site and leading the implementation of this infrastructure, including the utilities, the greenhouse, the shadehouse, the solar hot water heater, the community garden beds, and hundreds of cubic yards of compost for the farm fields and community garden beds, as well as small fruits and perennial flowers.

For the past three growing seasons the site has served as the location from which transplants and supplies are distributed at multiple times a year to community gardeners and urban farmers. They in turn grow food for donation to emergency soup kitchens and food cupboards in the region, as well as sell at urban farm markets in neighborhoods that would not otherwise have access to farm stands with fresh, affordable, culturally appropriate produce. We also use the site for education of our growers around organic growing techniques in conjunction with UNI. Finally, we have used the space for over 1,000 volunteer-hours this past season alone, in preparation for these other activities.

2. From the community's point of view, what were the major issues concerning this project? Approximately 400 words.

The major issues facing this project included community visibility and concerns about prior use as well as historic preservation of the site. Our project occurs on a former baseball diamond, tennis court, and playground that are across railroad tracks from the largest Philadelphia Housing Authority complex in Philadelphia, where many children and community members live. It is also on land owned by the Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR) department, leased to the John Bartram's Association. PPR wanted the temporary structures planned on the site to meet their standards for spaces with historic structures. As a result, we were limited to where we could grow, so as not to disturb potential future archeological work. We studied the use of the site by the community for multiple months at different times of day and days of the week to ensure that we were not removing spaces that the community used heavily. Through our use studies, we decided to leave the playground equipment in the community garden area, because it was being heavily used, and we decided to build the community garden around the playground equipment. As a partnership we also decided to situate the future community garden and children's garden in that area, so that the community would also have new community amenities in spaces they were used to using heavily. The baseball diamond and tennis court had not been heavily used for many decades since a neighboring quarry closed, so now the Community Farm and Food Resource Center has re-purposed those spaces to grow food and propagate 60-80,000 seedlings a year for local community food security projects.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE PERSPECTIVE (CONT'D)

3. Has this project made the community a better place to live or work? If so, how? Approximately 400 words.

The CFFRC space has become a vibrant community space. Over 10,000 people visited the space this past year, for numerous seasonal celebrations, like the fall harvest festival, and the UNI end-of-summer youth and family cookout. UNI is providing employment for youth at the site, including some neighboring youth who attend John Bartram High School. The community garden plots are given out with priority ranking to near neighbors, so many neighbors now have spaces where they can grow their own fresh organic produce. John Bartram Association (JBA) has been providing expanded outreach to the community by hiring neighbors for on-site jobs, by hiring a community outreach specialist, and by offering more community-oriented programming. JBA is providing UNI with indoor space for winter programming that allows them to continue their work with youth in the winter months. The CFFRC also has a small solar-powered learning space at the farm that was built and installed by local high school students through the Workshop School, a year-long alternative high school program that unleashes the creative and intellectual potential of young people to solve the world's toughest problems.

The CFFRC is also now a distribution site and educational space for hundreds of urban food producers from the region, including many with growing spaces within a mile of the site. It has also been turned into a space of beauty to be enjoyed by community members, with flowers and other landscaping. Additionally the community now accesses both growing spaces in the community garden and weekly fresh affordable produce at the on-site farm market.

4. Would you change anything about this project or the development process you went through? Approximately 400 words.

No. The partnership between the four participating organizations, community gardeners, youth and neighbors is strong and is making a powerful impact on fulfilling needs for access to green spaces and fresh, affordable, and culturally appropriate food. The process has been enormously rewarding to all involved and there is nothing, at this point, that we would recommend changing.

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This sheet is to be filled out by someone who was involved, or represents an organization that was involved, in helping the project respond to neighborhood issues.

Name	Carey Davis	Title	Director
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Signature	Carey Davis		Date	December 4, 2014
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Date: 2014.12.05 14:17:05 -0500

1. How did you, or the organization you represent, become involved in this project? What role did you play? Approximately 400 words.

CityLights is a network in the Southwest Philadelphia community. We have been involved with Bartram's Garden, the host site of the CFFRC, for over a decade, promoting their programs and resources to community partners. When the CFFRC began work on the property, we engaged them with the network in order to support their efforts and spread the word about their initiatives. We have worked with them to promote the farm through articles in our local paper, link them to other urban farms in Southwest Philadelphia, provide farm tours for community residents, recruit residents as farmers in their community garden program, and encouraged partner organizations to attend farm classes and workshops.

2. From the community's point of view, what were the major issues concerning this project? Approximately 400 words.

The CFFRC adapted underutilized recreation space within Bartram's Garden's property, converting an old baseball field into a crop-growing area, putting an orchard along the hill leading up to the historic house, constructing a greenhouse space, and building community gardens.

While opportunity for some to use the field for recreation was lost, much was gained in terms of community involvement, with high school students hired in their farm mentor program, residents gardening in the community garden spaces, etc.

I am not aware of any community concern over the shift in usage of the space. With new park space coming to the adjacent property within a year, recreation spaces will be re-established.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE PERSPECTIVE (CONT'D)

3. Has this project made the community a better place to live or work? If so, how? Approximately 400 words.

The CFFRC has been a wonderful addition to the Southwest Philadelphia community for several reasons:

1. It draws new patrons to Bartram's Garden, a beautiful historic and environmental gem which has been underutilized by residents living nearby. Coming to the farm requires people to drive through the Garden and be encouraged to come and enjoy it. Staff at Bartram's Garden and the CFFRC work together on joint programming.
2. The farm provides an opportunity for people to come and garden, along with opportunities for workshops and classes in gardening, nutrition, food access, and food justice.
3. The farm offers job opportunities for youth at Bartram High School and learning experiences for other young visitors in farming, nutrition, etc.
4. The farm has beautified the landscape of the space where it resides and inspires VISION for residents for what it might be, ie "How might I reuse space? Grow things where I live? Try out a dream that I have?"

4. Would you change anything about this project or the development process you went through? Approximately 400 words.

CityLights could certainly be more engaged in promoting the farm and its programs, linking specific organizations--churches, seniors' groups, youth programs, teen offenders--to the work happening there. While we have started the process of helping generate interest and support, we could do more.

We would love to get the farmers out into the community more to speak to groups about the farm and also about issues of food access and how it impacts nutrition. The farmers' spirits are contagious. They bring a passion and joy to what they do. Meeting them and interacting with them, especially in their farm space, would encourage more residents to connect with important issues and get excited about participating.

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This sheet is to be filled out by someone who was involved, or represents an organization that was involved, in helping the project respond to neighborhood issues.

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Signature	Alisha Berry	Date	December 3, 2014
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Date: 2014.12.03 09:44:07 -0500

1. How did you, or the organization you represent, become involved in this project? What role did you play? Approximately 400 words.

In January of 2012, approximately 25 girls and adults involved with Camp Sojourner, Girls' Leadership Camp volunteered for MLK Day at Bartram's Garden. Our girls loved the experience so much that I contacted Bartram's Garden to inquire about further volunteer opportunities. It turned out that the farm and community garden were just getting started and that the work of the CFFRC at Bartram's Garden fit right in with the mission of our organization (to help build youth leadership to bring about positive change in themselves and the larger world.) I met with farmer Ty Holmberg to discuss scheduling and possible curriculum to supplement volunteering on the farm, and we began monthly volunteer days that winter/spring.

For the past almost three years since, we have volunteered monthly at the CFFRC and attended other community workshops, learning about growing organic food, food sovereignty, and food justice. This fall we launched a Food Justice Campaign to help bring organic produce from local farms to the large grocery store near Bartram's Garden and to help our girls learn about social change as it relates to food justice--the idea for this campaign was originally conceptualized by the farmers at the CFFRC.

The role I played in Camp Sojourner's involvement has been to outreach to girls, families, and other adult volunteers to get them to come out to work on the farm and participate in related workshops. I have also designed our monthly workshops, often built around curriculum supplied by the farmers. On farm days I do ice breakers with our girls, help them stay organized and motivated throughout the work morning, provide lunch for our volunteers, and facilitate workshops in the afternoon.

2. From the community's point of view, what were the major issues concerning this project? Approximately 400 words.

The reason Camp Sojourner got involved in this project is because our girls were concerned about the environment and health, and it seemed like a great way to contribute towards building a positive alternative institution, a local organic farm where they could learn about ways to grow food that do not have a negative impact on the environment or consumers.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE PERSPECTIVE (CONT'D)

3. Has this project made the community a better place to live or work? If so, how? Approximately 400 words.

The CFFRC at Bartram's Garden has made Southwest Philadelphia an infinitely more beautiful, healthy, positive place to live. The space they have created is a true oasis, where people can go to experience the natural world right in the middle of the city and learn how to grow healthy, organic food. Many of our girls and their families have been astounded when they come to the farm, having grown up in the area and never having seen such a place before. Moreover, the space is made available for community events such as harvest festivals, which offer food and entertainment for free, so that people can come and experience the space and then come back and visit on their own. The farm also, of course, offers affordable, accessible organic produce to the local neighborhood.

Our girls have been transformed in many positive ways by being part of the farm and Bartram's Garden. From the fresh produce they are often able to take home with them, to the learning they have done about health/nutrition, food growing cycles, food production cycles, and food justice.

4. Would you change anything about this project or the development process you went through? Approximately 400 words.

The only change I would seek would be more support for the farmers to help organize and communicate with community groups like us.

VISUAL REPRESENTATION



The Community Farm and Food Resource Center at Bartram's Garden. In the foreground are community garden beds, maintained by families and individuals from the Southwest Philadelphia neighborhood, and individual fruit trees from the 140-tree orchard. In the distance can be seen the 2-acre produce farm (left) and the path leading to the 2500-square-foot greenhouse (right, behind the playground). Photograph by Pete Prown.



Local Head Start students learning about soil health and nutrition at the Children's Garden, an outdoor classroom space at the CFFRC. More than 10,000 children visit Bartram's Garden each year for hands-on lessons in science, nature, and healthy living. Photograph by Pete Prown.



A student farmer preparing a tasting session and cooking demonstration featuring the hot peppers grown at the CFFRC. Photograph by Kim Massare.



Student farmers preparing the produce beds for spring planting. Photograph by Kim Massare.



Student farmers sorting seeds for spring planting. Many of the varieties grown at the CFFRC are heirloom breeds. Photograph by Kim Massare.



Student farmers selling fresh, organic produce at the CFFRC's weekly farmstand. Photograph by Kim Massare.

Bartram's Garden

GREEN

Resource Center

One of the most historic landscapes in the Philadelphia region is now a hub for twenty-first-century urban agriculture.

BY JANE CARROLL

After driving through the gritty streets of Southwest Philadelphia, an area filled with oil refineries, housing projects, and brownfields, it is quite a revelation to pull into the tree-lined entrance road leading to Bartram's Garden. The home of John and William Bartram, the legendary Philadelphia naturalists and plant collectors, is a living link to the region's agricultural and horticultural heritage. But this Philadelphia landmark is much more than a beloved historic site.

John Bartram (1699-1777) built his family farm on the banks of the Schuylkill in 1728, purchasing what was then a 102-acre tract from Swedish settlers. In 2011, the garden joined the urban agriculture movement when it became the home of the Community Farm and Food Resource Center. The "Farm"—created through a partnership between PHS, Bartram's Garden, the University of Pennsylvania's Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative (UNI), and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation—has become a key asset for the PHS City Harvest program, which works to bring fresh, nutritious, affordable food to underserved city residents.

"The Community Farm and Food Resource Center has provided an opportunity for the community to grow, connect with their food, build sovereignty, and also re-connect with the land at Bartram's Garden," says Ty Holmberg, UNI co-director of the Farm.

For PHS, the Farm serves as one of the City Harvest program's Green Resource Centers. These are hubs for community gardeners who grow and

donate produce to their neighborhood emergency food cupboards and for small urban farmers who sell and donate their produce locally. The centers provide gardeners and growers with a comprehensive mix of training, networking, and supplies, as well as marketing assistance.

"PHS had formed a relationship with the Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative in 2006 when their University City High School garden joined City Harvest. A few years ago we started exploring the idea of working with them on a Green Resource Center in West Philadelphia," says Claire Baker, PHS director of garden programs. "We have a lot of community gardens and entrepreneurial growers in West and Southwest Philadelphia and wanted to build a hub that they would have easy access to."

Bartram's Garden was very interested in exploring the possibility of a Green Resource Center on its site. The Bartram property—which includes the National Historic Landmark house and gardens, as well as riverbank, reclaimed meadows, and tidal wetlands—is on land owned by Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, so the agency embraced the partnership and has provided financial resources for infrastructure.

An old baseball field now supports two and a half acres of vegetable beds. PHS installed a greenhouse atop an old tennis court and designed a community garden that now has 50 plots tended by local families. There is also an orchard—created with assistance from the Philadelphia Orchard

Community garden plots at Bartram's Garden give local residents space to grow.



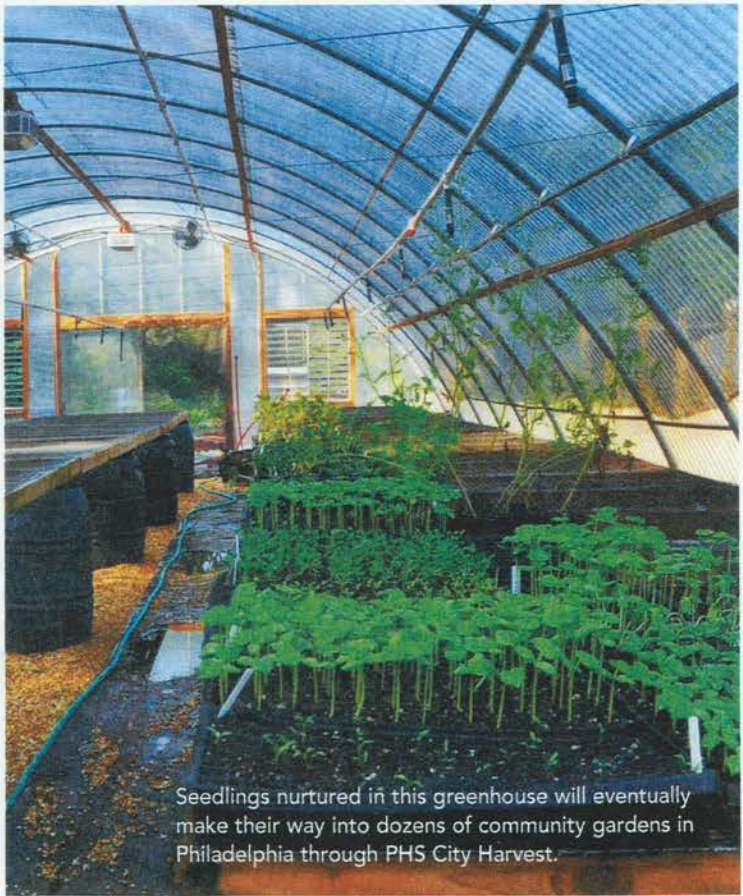


The greenhouse, buzzing with activity, is used by PHS, UNI, and Bartram's Garden.

“The Community Farm and Food Resource Center serves as a twenty-first-century model of John Bartram’s interests in sharing knowledge and innovation.”



UNI Co-Director of the Community Farm and Food Resource Center Chris Bolden Newsom works with a student farmer.



Seedlings nurtured in this greenhouse will eventually make their way into dozens of community gardens in Philadelphia through PHS City Harvest.

Project—that is brimming with 115 fruit trees such as plums, peaches, figs, hardy almonds, jujubes, and native species like pawpaws, northern pecans, and persimmons.

UNI manages the community garden and the student-run farming operation. The UNI staff works with a team of 15 high school students who mostly live in the immediate area. A program of the Netter Center for Community Partnerships at Penn, UNI engages youth, university students, and community members to promote healthy lifestyles and build a just and sustainable food system. The students learn gardening and farming techniques as well as organic pest management, urban watershed practices, basic cooking, and other life skills. The program also stresses nutrition and fosters an appreciation for science and the natural world.

The Farm reaches out to the local community in a number of ways, especially through a weekly student-run farm stand. Residents can also grow their own vegetables in the community garden plots, and nearby schools and families visit the Farm for educational programming. PHS provides educational workshops through its City Harvest and Garden Tenders programs.

"Installing this greenhouse and sharing it with UNI has worked so well for us," explains Eileen Gallagher, PHS senior project manager for City Harvest. "The UNI team uses half of the greenhouse to start their farm crops, and supports us by maintaining the greenhouse and watering our City Harvest seedlings."

The greenhouse, which uses a solar hot-water heating system, has produced tens of thousands of vegetable starts for City Harvest. The seedlings are transplanted into community gardens all over the city, where they are grown by volunteers who then harvest the produce and donate it to food pantries, serving 1,200 families per week.

The Farm also has a shade structure for protecting young seedlings, a walk-in cooler, a small solar-powered classroom, and two former shipping containers converted into storage units. Projects in the works include a community kitchen and a high tunnel for growing cool-weather crops.

Other new developments at Bartram's Garden will connect this treasured resource to its community and the rest of the city in excit-

ing new ways. Riverfront activities are growing through weekend boat tours and this summer's Riverfest. The Philadelphia Airport has recently invested in the expansion of tidal wetlands within the property—the only existing tidal wetlands on the Lower Schuylkill River—replacing invasive species with native and edible plants for wildlife habitat. In conjunction with the recently completed 58th Street Greenway, an improvement project for nearby 56th Street is in the works on the south side of the Garden, which will provide even more opportunities for recreation and river access.

"The Community Farm and Food Resource Center serves as a twenty-first-century model of John Bartram's interests in sharing knowledge and innovation," says Maitreyi Roy, executive director of Bartram's Garden. "Together with our partners in this project, we've been able to bring renewed purpose to the southern section of the Garden and establish a model for increasing access to affordable, healthy food, while connecting with our neighbors in a deeply meaningful way."



Photo by Kim Massare

The orchard at Bartram's Garden features more than 10 different heirloom fruit species.

Bartram's Farm Receives Governor's Award

The Community Farm and Food Resource Center at Bartram's Garden has received the 2014 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. The site includes a solar heating unit for the greenhouse, a solar-powered mobile classroom, and a passive solar high tunnel for growing cool-weather crops. The award was presented at the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Annual Dinner in April.



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