



Funds Awarded to 26 Urban Agriculture Projects Led by Public Gardens and Community Partners

(February 2024) – The United States Botanic Garden (USBG) and American Public Gardens Association (Association) are awarding support to 26 public gardens and their community partners, including San Diego Botanic Garden and Healthy Day Partners.. The 26 awards total \$445,600 in support for public garden partnerships across the United States that will foster public engagement and education in urban food growing and build capacity in urban agriculture programs. The Urban Agriculture Resilience Program aims to strengthen collaborations, promote resilience, and gather best practices from across the U.S.

As the sole recipients in California, funds will allow [Healthy Day Partners](#) in collaboration with [San Diego Botanic Garden](#) to continue offering its monthly [Grow Food - End Hunger - Save the Planet](#) workshops to engage and empower low-income, food-insecure individuals and families to grow their own food. Workshops will be offered on the fourth Saturday of each month, and are free for attendees with a \$10 refundable deposit. Takeaways include organic seedlings, organic seed packets, garden tools, a local garden resource and planting guide, tips for zero-waste kitchens, and more.

“We believe this important collaboration will help cultivate more resilient communities, increase access to healthy food, address systemic inequities, and climate challenges associated with the traditional global and local food systems,” said Healthy Day Partners CEO and Founder Mim Michelove.

The USBG and Association funds will help programs in 25 additional states and Washington, D.C. integrate urban food growing and urban agriculture education while addressing food security challenges in their communities. The program seeks to leverage the strength of public gardens working with partners in their communities, ranging from schools, universities, and urban farms to food pantries, community gardens, local government agencies, and nonprofit organizations. This year, the program especially sought to support collaborations involving smaller public gardens, as well as organizations demonstrating a strong commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility.

Over the UARP’s previous four years, the program has awarded \$1.57 million to 80 collaborations in 30 states and D.C. These programs have grown and shared over 690,000 pounds of produce, distributed more than 260,000 seedlings, and provided more than 46,000 hours of urban agriculture training to students, interns, and trainees.

“The collaborations supported through this year’s Urban Agriculture Resilience Program demonstrate many creative ways that urban agriculture can connect people and plants through food,” said Dr. Susan Pell, USBG executive director. “We are thrilled to embark on a fifth year of supporting such vital urban food-growing programs across the country and to expand the existing Urban Agriculture Resilience Program community with these 26 new projects.”

The Urban Agriculture Resilience Program began in 2020 as a way for the USBG and the Association to support and expand urban agriculture and food-growing programs at public gardens. Learn more about previous awardees at www.USBG.gov/UrbanAg.

2024 Urban Agriculture Resilience Program Awardees:

Alabama

- **Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens**, in collaboration with the City of Birmingham Park and Recreation Department

Alaska

- **Georgeson Botanical Garden**, in collaboration with the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Office of Sustainability; UAF AFES Vegetable Variety Trials; Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District; and Calypso Farm and Ecology Center

Arkansas

- **Botanical Garden of the Ozarks**, in collaboration with Seeds that Feed

California

- **Healthy Day Partners** in collaboration with San Diego Botanic Garden

Colorado

- **The Gardens on Spring Creek** in collaboration with First People’s Community Center
- **The Urban Farm** in collaboration with Denver Public Youth Services

District of Columbia

- **Covenant House Greater Washington**, in collaboration with OurFarm DC and THEARC Farm–Building Bridges Across the River

Florida

- **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens**, in collaboration with Operation Eco Vets

Georgia

- **Historic Westside Gardens**, in collaboration with Green Team of English Avenue
- **Smith-Gilbert Gardens**, in collaboration with Our Giving Garden

Idaho

- **Idaho Botanical Garden**, in collaboration with City of Good

Illinois

- **Growing Healthy Veterans**, in collaboration with Cool Learning Experience

Maryland

- **Charles Koiner Center for Urban Farming**, in collaboration with Montgomery County Public Schools, Division of Sustainability and Compliance

Michigan

- **Michigan State University Extension**, in collaboration with Keep Growing Detroit

North Carolina

- **Raleigh City Farm**, in collaboration with Salvation Army of Wake County and Red Shield Club of Raleigh

New York

- **Buffalo Botanical Gardens**, in collaboration with Gerard Place
- **Ithaca Children's Garden**, in collaboration with The Learning Farm
- **Randall's Island Park Alliance**, in collaboration with LSA Family Health Service

Oregon

- **Growing Gardens**, in collaboration with Providence Hospital Garden of Giving and Community Teaching Kitchen
- **Zenger Farm**, in collaboration with David Douglas School District

Pennsylvania

- **Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens**, in collaboration with Just Harvest
- **Wyck Association**, in collaboration with People's Kitchen Philadelphia

Tennessee

- **Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum**, in collaboration with Little Chefs, Big Change

Texas

- **Botanical Research Institute of Texas**, in collaboration with Union Gospel Mission of Tarrant County
- **Clark Gardens**, in collaboration with Let's Grow Crazy

Wisconsin

- **Allen Centennial Garden**, in collaboration with Rooted WI and REAP Food Group

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[Photos available in an online folder](#)

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About United States Botanic Garden

The United States Botanic Garden (USBG) is the oldest continuously operating public garden in the United States, established by Congress in 1820. The U.S. Botanic Garden inspires people to appreciate, study, and conserve plants to enrich society locally and globally. With over a million visitors annually, the USBG strives to demonstrate and promote sustainable practices. It is a living plant museum accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and Botanic Gardens Conservation International. www.USBG.gov

About American Public Gardens Association

The American Public Gardens Association is the leading professional organization for the field of public horticulture. We advance the field by encouraging best practices, offering educational and networking opportunities, and advocating on behalf of our members, our programs and public gardens worldwide. We work together with our members and others to strengthen and shape public horticulture, providing the tools and support industry professionals need to better serve the public while preserving and celebrating plants creatively and sustainably. Since 1940, we have been committed to increasing cooperation and awareness among gardens. Our members include more than 600 institutions, spanning 49 states, the District of Columbia,

Canada, and 20 countries. Our members include, but are not limited to, botanic gardens, arboreta, zoos, museums, colleges and universities, display gardens, and research facilities.

www.publicgardens.org

About San Diego Botanic Garden

Established in 1970, San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG) is a 37-acre urban oasis located in Encinitas, California, just north of San Diego. The Garden's four miles of trails and 8,000 square foot glass conservatory display more than 5,300 plant species and varieties. A premiere institution for botanical science and conservation, SDBG is actively involved in conservation horticulture, botany, and applied plant sciences to address our biggest local and global challenges, from biodiversity loss to climate change, food insecurity to environmental degradation. SDBG has the largest public bamboo collection in North America; gardens representing different regions and flora of the world; and demonstration gardens showcasing fruits and vegetables, water-smart ornamentals, and native plants. Through an array of educational programming, events and activities for both children and adults, the Garden aims to create, share, and apply plant wisdom to the world. Learn more at sdbg.org. | FB [@SDBotanicGarden](https://www.facebook.com/SDBotanicGarden) | Instagram [@sandiegobotanicgarden](https://www.instagram.com/sandiegobotanicgarden) | Twitter [@SDBGarden](https://twitter.com/SDBGarden) | TikTok [@sandiegobotanicgarden](https://www.tiktok.com/@sandiegobotanicgarden)