



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Dear Supporters and Friends,

At Grow Pittsburgh we work hard to support food growing projects across Allegheny County so we can all realize the many benefits gardens bring to our lives. In this difficult moment in history, with the outbreak of COVID-19, I'm particularly struck by both the therapeutic benefits that gardening can provide, as well as the health benefits and nutrition that growing our own food offers our community.

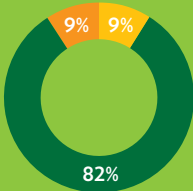
The past year certainly reflects these positive impacts across each of our programs. In 2019, we celebrated ten years of our community garden program, which started as an internship project. Thanks to your gifts of time, talent, and treasure, along with the efforts of so many neighbors and communities all over Pittsburgh, we've been able to support more than 100 community gardens in Allegheny County over the past decade. These thriving green spaces account for over 450,000 square feet of new garden space and 300,000 pounds of fresh, nourishing food in our community. Beyond numbers, the people involved in our community, school, and backyard gardens consistently share that they feel the most happy when working in the soil.

As I write this note from the quiet of my home, my thoughts are with you all in the hopes that this finds you and your loved ones and colleagues in good health. May we all find resilience, patience, and deep connection to help us move through this difficult time. As spring begins blooming around us, I'm reminded that growing and preparing our own food is truly an essential function, and we remain committed to reaching our vision where everyone in our community is able to grow and eat fresh local food. Thank you for believing in and supporting this vital work.

Sincerely,

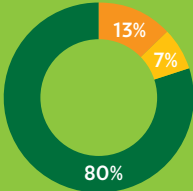


Jake Seltman , Executive Director



**INCOME\***  
**TOTAL: \$1,708,963**

- MEMBERSHIP: \$149,160**  
Corporate & member support
- GRANTS: \$1,395,317**  
Includes multi-year grants
- EARNED: \$164,486**



**EXPENSES:**  
**TOTAL: \$1,548,262**

- OPERATIONS: \$206,241**
- FUNDRAISING: \$105,178**
- PROGRAMS: \$1,236,843**

\* Figures based on un-audited financial statements



## GROWING COMMUNITY

- In partnership with Allegheny Land Trust, protected EastField Cooperative Garden in East Liberty and Garden Dreams Urban Farm & Nursery in Wilksburg in perpetuity through Three Rivers Agricultural Land Initiative (TRALI)
- Celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Community Garden Program in partnership with The Gardens of Millvale, one of the first gardens established through the program a decade ago
- Grew member community to more than 500 individual donors and volunteers



## LOOKING AHEAD

### BUILDING OUT URBAN AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION HUB AT GARDEN DREAMS SITE

including building a new greenhouse space, launching a workshare program, expanding youth and young farmer apprentice programs, and establishing a community gathering space



**“THAT’S MY FAVORITE PART. JUST BEING THERE, MEETING PEOPLE. IT GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY, KEEPS EVERYTHING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.”**

—Tyree, Homewood Youth Market



## WE GROW FOOD

- Sold over 24,000 pounds of food to local residents between two weekly farm stands at Braddock and Shiloh Farms and through a partnership with Penn’s Corner Farm Alliance
- Donated more than 3,800 pounds of food to Braddock Youth Project, Heritage Community Initiatives, Rankin Christian Center, and Wilkinsburg Youth Project
- Sold 460 pounds of produce during inaugural year of biweekly SOKO Community Markets in the Hill District following the closing of the neighborhood’s Shop’N Save
- Hosted 57 farm tours to 984 individuals from school, community, and corporate groups, as well as part of the Pittsburgh Urban Farm Tour
- Grew over 20,000 seedlings, 2,000 of which were donated to users at the Garden Resource Center, area community gardens, and nonprofit partners
- Distributed more than 4,000 pounds of food through a youth market initiative in tandem with Urban Farmers in Training program at farm stands in Homewood and Braddock

## LOOKING AHEAD

### CONTINUING TO INCREASE ACCESS TO FRESH FOOD IN BRADDOCK

by increasing the number of farm stands held each week on-site the farm, based on community feedback

**“YOU DON’T EVEN HAVE TO BE A GARDENER TO PARTICIPATE. PEOPLE LIKE COMING AND WALKING AROUND THE GARDEN BECAUSE IT MAKES THEM FEEL GOOD.”**

—Scott,  
Duquesne Community Victory Garden



## WE BUILD AND SUPPORT GARDENS

- 181 new users joined 185 renewing users at the Garden Resource Center, surpassing 11,000 all time loans in its fifth year of operation
- More than 700 area growers convened for the 7th Annual Seed and Plant Swap, put on in partnership with Phipps Conservatory and Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
- Partnered with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to award \$20,000 in materials to support improvement projects at 39 gardens, as part of our Community Garden Sustainability Fund
- 343 community gardeners from 8 community gardens in our program logged 3,090 volunteer hours at garden workdays, events, and workshops
- Worked with garden groups to support 1.2 acres of new gardens in Allegheny County
- Received 12 applications from regional garden groups interested in pursuing site protection under TRALI

## LOOKING AHEAD

**LAUNCHING A MASTER COMPOSTER CERTIFICATION COURSE** to train community members in best management practices for coordinating and operating community compost projects at five existing garden sites throughout Allegheny County

**“I SAW STUDENTS WHO RARELY PARTICIPATE IN MY CLASSROOM OPEN UP AND JUMP IN WHEN WORKING IN THE GARDEN, AND AFTER THAT THEY WERE MORE ENGAGED IN CLASS.”**

—Teacher in Learning Garden



## WE TEACH PEOPLE HOW TO GROW FOOD

- Hosted 14 adult Garden Workshops with a total of 234 participants
- Partnered with Homewood Children's Village and Braddock Youth Project on Urban Farmers in Training, a six-week summer education and employment program for 20 youth
- Hosted two events as part of the 6th Annual Youth Garden Summit, attended by over 100 youth from across the region who spent their summer focused on food growing projects
- Piloted school garden programming with 234 students in six early childhood education centers in Pittsburgh Public Schools and Hosanna House as part of statewide Ready, Set, Grow! initiative
- Partnered with The Frick Pittsburgh to lead the Learning Tree Program, in which 221 students from Colfax and Faison schools learned curriculum-based garden and cooking programming
- Hosted four Teacher Trainings for 50 educators representing 36 schools

## LOOKING AHEAD

### ENVISIONING CONTINUED GROWTH AND LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF LEARNING GARDEN PROGRAM,

leading up to and following completion of 40 Learning Gardens established since 2016, with gardens in 28 of 54 Pittsburgh Public Schools

# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

## COMMUNITY

412 Food Rescue	Crankshaft Service Co.	Local Government Academy	Sankofa Village
AgRecycle Compost Center	Cutting Root Apothecary	Marcus Studio	Community Garden
Allegheny County	DRE media Solutions	McKeesport Family Center	Seed Savers Exchange
Conservation District	Duquesne Family Center	Mon River Fleet Lion's Club	Smith Construction
Allegheny Intermediate Unit	East End Brewing Company	Nature Works Farm	Spirit
Allegheny Land Trust	East End Food Coop	New Academy Charter School	Sprezzatura
AmeriCorps/KEYS Service Corps	Easy Digging	New Sun Rising	Square Cafe
Apple Cookie and Chocolate Factory	Eisler Landscapes	Nine Mile Run	Strassburger McKenna
Associated Master Plumbers of Allegheny County	Eminent Hospitality Solutions	Watershed Association	Gutnick & Gefsky
Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds	Ethos Collaborative	Northgate School District	Student Conservation Association
Bonfire Food & Drink	Evey True Value Hardware	Office of Public Art	Superior Motors
Bathhouse Ceramics Studio	Farm to Table Western PA	Ohio Earth Foods	Sycamore Estate
Bear Left Bear	First Presbyterian Church of Duquesne	Operation Better Block / Junior Green Corps	The Environmental Charter School at Frick Park
Bible Center Church	Fresh Thyme Farmers Market	Pashek + MTR	The Food Trust
big Burrito Restaurant Group	Frick Art and Historical Center	Paragon Foods	The Gardens of Millvale
Big Green	Garden Club of Allegheny County	Penn State Cooperative Extension	Thomas Blvd Group
Black Urban Gardeners and Farmers of Pittsburgh	Garden Dreams	Penn's Corner Farm Alliance	Threadbare Cider and Mead
Co-op (BUGS)	Urban Farm and Nursery	Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture	Tree Pittsburgh
Bloomfield Yoga	Gateway School District	Pennsylvania Women's Agricultural Network	Triple A&R Farm
Braddock Borough	Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank	Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens	Trellis Legal
Braddock Carnegie Library	Grist House	PittMoss	Triboro Ecodistrict
Braddock Economic Development Corporation	Grounded Strategies	Pittsburgh Food Policy Council	Trident Enterprises/DeerBusters
Braddock Redux	Harvie	Pittsburgh Paralegal Association	United Somali Bantu of Greater Pittsburgh
Braddock Youth Project	Herbein and Co.	Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy	University of Pittsburgh's PittServes
BTC Center Inc.	Hill House Association	Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation	Urban League of Pittsburgh
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh	Hill Community Development Corporation	Pittsburgh Public Schools	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Chatham University	Hilltop Urban Farm	Pittsburgh Public Schools Food Services	Whitaker Community Cares
School of Sustainability	Homewood Children's Village	Pittsburgh Urban Gardening Project	Whitaker Borough
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh's Healthy School Program	Idea Foundry	PNC Bank	Wilderness Lumber Co.
Churchview Farm	Johnny's Selected Seeds	PrimeLending	Wilkins Township
City of Duquesne	Just Harvest	Procopia	Wilkinsburg School District
City of Pittsburgh	Kurzweg Tavern Co.	Propel Schools	Wilkinsburg Youth Project
City of McKeesport	Landforce	RAND Corporation	Woodland Hills School District
Common Threads	Let's Move Pittsburgh	Repair the World Pittsburgh	YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh
			YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh

## FUNDERS

Allegheny County Economic Development	Evan and Tracy Segal Family Foundation	Paul and Dina Block Foundation	The Opportunity Fund
Allegheny County Health Department	Farm Aid	Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	The Pittsburgh Foundation
Allegheny Foundation	Grable Foundation	PNC Charitable Trusts	The Sampson Foundation
Benter Foundation	Henry L. Hillman Foundation	PNC Foundation	Tull Family Foundation
Birmingham Foundation	Howard & Nell E. Miller Foundation	Posner Foundation	Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh
Buhl Foundation	Kraft Heinz Company Foundation	Richard King Mellon Foundation	USDA Farm to School
Colcom Foundation	McSwigan Family Foundation	Snee-Reinhardt Charitable Foundation	Zeve Family Foundation
Edwin R. Crawford Estate Trust	Neighborhood Allies	The Heinz Endowments	

## CORPORATE

American Eagle Outfitters	Dollar Bank	Giant Eagle	UPMC Health Plan
CannonDesign	Eat'n Park Hospitality Group	Penn Fencing	Whole Foods Market
Carnegie Mellon University - Heinz College	EIS Solar	Pirates Charities	
	FedEx Ground	Rivendale Farms	

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

\* NEW BOARD MEMBERS IN 2020

Shannon Anglero  
Jacob Bacharach, *Chair*  
Jennifer Bonfili, *Treasurer*  
Paulina Gatarz\*  
Simon Huntley

Taray Kelly\*  
Anne Marie Kuchera, *Vice Chair*  
Sarah Miley  
Gretchen Moore  
Jamie Moore

Oliver Pinder\*  
Sara Thompson, *Secretary*  
Anne Marie Tockett\*  
Damon Weiss  
Renee Wilson

## GROW PITTSBURGH TEAM:

Eva Barinas  
*School Garden Program Manager*

Raqueeb Bey  
*Garden Resource  
Center Coordinator*

Ian Bonnet  
*Garden Educator*

Adia Effiong  
*Director of School  
Garden Programs*

Meg Flores  
*Operations and  
Communications Coordinator*

Erin Gaughan  
*Garden Educator*

Silvan Goddin  
*Frick Greenhouse  
and Shiloh Farm Assistant*

Robert Grey  
*Farm Education  
and Outreach Coordinator*

Adam Holley  
*Braddock Farms Assistant*

Denele Hughson  
*Director of Farm Education*

Redding Jackson  
*Learning Garden Educator*

Rebekah Jenkins  
*Director of Operations*

Alyssa Kail  
*Garden Sustainability Coordinator*

Raynise Kelly  
*Learning Garden Educator*

Nick Lubecki  
*Braddock Farms Manager*

Carla Lukehart  
*Learning Garden Project Manager*

Kathy Mahoney  
*Accountant*

Claire Matway  
*Community Garden Coordinator*

Hanna Mosca  
*Frick Greenhouse  
and Shiloh Farm Manager*

Jake Seltman  
*Executive Director*

Rayden Sorock  
*Director of Community Projects*

Russell Thorsen  
*Community Garden Coordinator*

Victoria Thurmond  
*Farm to School Coordinator*

Sydnee Turner  
*Farm Outreach Assistant*

Emily Voelker  
*Learning Garden Educator*

Ryan Walsh  
*Director of Development  
and Communications*

## THANKS TO OUR STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, AND BOARD FOR THEIR HARD WORK IN 2019!



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