Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on 2021 and my first year as Grow Pittsburgh’s Executive Director, I’m so grateful for all the ways you’ve helped make a real difference through growing and sharing food. This continues to be a challenging time, but I’m encouraged by the incredible generosity and determination you and our community have shown through all the uncertainty. We’ve accomplished so much together, and helping people of all ages learn how to grow food remains critical.

Thank you for all of the ways you’ve helped people access resources to grow their own food and share in the many benefits of gardening this past year. Thanks to you, fresh produce availability is improving where it’s needed most, and more people than ever have what they need to grow their own fruits and vegetables.

With your support last year, Grow Pittsburgh staff was able to help schools use gardens as safe outdoor learning spaces when students returned to classrooms. Our team was also able to launch new gardens and programming at six early childhood education centers to spark wonder in our region’s youngest learners. All while growing and distributing more fresh produce throughout the community and helping folks learn how to grow their own food. This would be impossible without your kindness and compassion.

Momentum and interest in gardening and urban agriculture continue to grow. As spring approaches and seedlings germinate in our new greenhouse at Garden Dreams, I feel a sense of renewal and possibility. I’m optimistic about the future and pleased to share with you Grow Pittsburgh’s new strategic plan, as well as highlights from 2021 that you helped make possible. Thank you for helping to provide residents of all ages with the resources, tools, and know-how to grow vibrant gardens and share fresh food across communities. I hope that the many benefits of gardening have sustained you this past year, as they have for so many members of our community.

Yours sincerely,

Denele Hughson, Executive Director

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**INCOME**

- **TOTAL:** $2,273,932
- **DONATIONS:** $212,089
- **GRANTS:** $1,636,077
- **CORPORATE:** $43,350
- **EARNED:** $382,415

**EXPENSES**

- **TOTAL:** $1,605,172
- **OPERATIONS:** $211,256
- **FUNDRAISING:** $86,093
- **PROGRAMS:** $1,307,198

* Figures based on un-audited financial statements
GROWING FOR THE FUTURE

During the summer and fall of 2021, Grow Pittsburgh convened a Strategic Planning Committee to work alongside board and staff to create our next five-year strategic plan (2022-2026). The work of this strategic planning process allowed for a dedicated period of reflection and a deep dive into Grow Pittsburgh’s future work, strategies, and vision for food-growing projects both within and beyond our existing programs.

Our focus is to ensure that all people in our community have the resources, capacity, and knowledge to fully realize the benefits that food growing projects bring to our neighborhoods. Having worked for 15 years with partners like you to promote and encourage backyard, school and community gardens and urban farms, these efforts have become embedded in the fabric of the region. Grow Pittsburgh must now focus on ensuring that these existing and future food growing projects thrive as essential regional assets for generations to come.

WE’VE NAMED THREE MAIN GOALS TO REACH THIS VISION:

1. **CULTIVATE** the future of urban agriculture in the region by building sector-wide capacity

2. **DEEPEN AND ENACT** Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (J.E.D.I.) efforts across the organization and the greater community

3. **PRIORITIZE** internal efficiencies and capacity for organizational stability
“AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A COOL JOB OPPORTUNITY, BUT I LEARNED ABOUT HARVESTING AND AGRICULTURE & FOUND OUT I LIKE GARDENING!”

—Hadassah, Braddock Youth Market

WE GROW FOOD

Through our food production sites and weekly farm stands, we provide residents access to affordable fresh fruits and vegetables. Our urban farm sites in Braddock, Point Breeze North, and Wilkinsburg demonstrate what is possible for urban agriculture in our region.

28,340 pounds of food grown on our urban farms.

13 youth participated in virtual and in-person learning with our urban farmers in training and youth markets programs.

522 volunteers spent a combined 21,924 hours working on the Grow Pittsburgh farm sites.

20,083 seedlings sold in our annual seedling sale, including 3,191 seedlings donated to area school, community, and backyard growers.

6 additional part-time staff hired to meet additional seasonal needs, including 3 former apprentices hired.

LOOKING AHEAD

INCREASING ACCESS TO FRESH FOOD AND FARM EDUCATION

by adding market days and creating solid pathways to make agriculture a real career option for our youth.
“THE GARDEN HAS BECOME A SPACE THAT STUDENTS CAN GO TO WHEN THEY’RE FEELING ANXIOUS OR OVERWHELMED.”

—Principal, South Allegheny Education Center

WE TEACH PEOPLE HOW TO GROW FOOD

Our educational programs span from on-site learning and workforce development for youth and workshops for community members, to garden and cooking activities that are integrated into classroom curriculum in schools across Allegheny County.

5 new learning gardens built in the 2020-21 school year

6 new early childhood education gardens created in 2020-21 school year

1,421 Grab & Grow kits distributed to students with everything needed to plant and grow while learning at home

94% of teachers believe garden programming enhances student engagement with classroom work

93% of teachers believe the garden encourages environmental stewardship in their students

LOOKING AHEAD

INVESTING IN OUR REGION’S YOUNGEST CHILDREN
by ensuring accessibility at our school gardens and continuing to grow our early childhood program.
“GROWING FOOD IS SO EMPOWERING. IN A WORLD WHERE SO MANY WHO LOOK LIKE ME HAVE SO LITTLE, THE GARDEN MEANS A LOT.”

—Trina, Garden Resource Center member

WE BUILD AND SUPPORT GARDENS

We partner with communities across the Pittsburgh region to establish and support community and school gardens. Our Garden Resource Center is a tool lending library and materials depot, making gardening more accessible and affordable to all our neighbors.

6 community gardens established
6,050 seed packets shared through localized seed swaps
40 additional gardens supported through our Sustainability Fund
325 active Garden Resource Center (GRC) members, including
68 new GRC members

11,054 square feet of new garden area added in Allegheny County
7 new people from 5 sites completed Master Composter certification
24 participants in the “How to Start a Community Garden” virtual workshop
2 community garden sites permanently protected through Three Rivers Agricultural Land Initiative

LOOKING AHEAD

CONVENING A COHORT OF COMMUNITY GARDEN LEADERS
supported by programming and stipends to enrich gardens’ capacity and ensure long-term sustainability.
THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

2021 COMMUNITY PARTNERS
AgRecycle Compost Center
Allegheny County Conservation District
Allegheny Intermediate Unit
Allegheny Land Trust
AmeriCorps / KEYS Service Corps
A Second Chance, Inc.
baker creek heirloom seeds
Bible Center Church / Oasis Farm & Fishery
Bear Left Bear
Best of Blawnox
Black Urban Gardeners and Farmers of Pittsburgh Co-op (BUGS)
Blawnox Borough
Braddock Borough
Braddock Carnegie Library
Braddock Youth Project
Chapon’s Greenhouse
Chatham University School of Sustainability
Churchview Farm
City of Pittsburgh
City of McKeesport
Commonplace Coffee
Crankshaft Service Co.
Cutting Root Apothecary
East End Food Coop
Encentiv Energy
Ethos Collaborative
evolveEA
Evey True Value Hardware
Frick Art and Historical Center
Gateway School District
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Greater Washington County Food Bank
Grounded Strategies
Harvie
Herbein and Co.
High Mowing Seeds
Hill District Consensus Group
Hilltop Urban Farm
Just Harvest
Manchester Bidwell Corporation
Marcus Studio
McKeesport Family Center
New Academy Charter School
New Sun Rising
Northgate School District
Office of Public Art
Operation Better Block / Junior Green Corps
Pashek + MTR
PASA Sustainable Agriculture
Pennsylvania Women’s Agricultural Network
Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
PittMoss
Pittsburgh Food Policy Council
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
Pittsburgh Public Schools
Pittsburgh Urban Gardening Project
Procopia Consulting
Propel Schools
Repair the World Pittsburgh
Sankofa Village
Community Garden
Seed Savers Exchange
Sharpsburg Borough
Sharpsburg Neighborhood Association
Soil Sisters
Student Conservation Association
The Environmental Charter School at Frick Park
The Food Trust
Thomas Blvd Group
Tree Pittsburgh
TriBoro Ecodistrict
Tube City Renaissance
Uptown Partners
Verona Borough
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Wilderness Lumber Co.
Wild Rise Bakery
Wilkinsburg School District
Wilkinsburg Youth Project
Woodland Hills School District

2021 FUNDING PARTNERS
1409 Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation
Allegheny County Economic Development
Allegheny County Health Department
Allegheny Foundation
Allen H. and Selma W. Berkman Charitable Trust
Benter Foundation
Birmingham Foundation
Colcom Foundation
Collage Giving Fund
Edwin and Kathryn Clarke Family Foundation
Estate of Edwin R. Crawford Trust
Farm Aid
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Hans and Leslie Fleischner Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation
Henry John Simonds Foundation
Henry L Hillman Foundation
Howard & Nell E. Miller Foundation
Juliet Lea Hillman Simonds Foundation
McElhattan Foundation
McSwigan Family Foundation
Montague Family Foundation
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
PNC Charitable Trusts
PNC Foundation
Posner Foundation of Pittsburgh
Proteus Foundation
Richard King Mellon Foundation
Roy A. Hunt Foundation
Shear Family Foundation
Snee-Reinhardt Charitable Foundation
The Heinz Endowments
The Opportunity Fund
The Pittsburgh Foundation
The Sampson Foundation
Theo & Pia van de Venne Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County
Walter Limbach Family Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation
Walton Family Foundation

2021 CORPORATE PARTNERS
Dollar Bank
Duquesne Light Co.
Eat’n Park Hospitality Group
EIS Solar
Giant Eagle
Kraft Heinz Foundation
Patagonia
Pirates Charities
PrimeLending
Stantec
Steelers Charities
Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky
Trellis Legal
UPMC Health Plan
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Director of Farm Education

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Victoria Bleiweiss
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Garden Educator

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Greenhouse and Farm Assistant Manager

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Hanna Mosca
Garden Dreams Greenhouse and Farm Manager

Jaagrit Randhawa
Communications Coordinator

Rayden Sorock
Director of Community Projects

Victoria Thurmond
Early Childhood Garden Educator

Ryan Walsh
Director of Development and Communications

THANKS TO OUR STAFF, BOARD, & MEMBERS!

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