

Chicago Botanic Garden
2016 Operating Plan
Windy City Harvest

Goal	Objectives	Deliverables
<p>1. Model how botanic gardens can provide vital, year-round support for a strong local food system through urban agriculture jobs training, youth education, and school-based programs that strengthen communities and increase access</p>	<p>1.1 Provide education and summer employment for youth that emphasizes the people-plant connection and educates teens about green careers through organic food production and sales.</p>	<p>Strategy 1: Continue to refine the Windy City Harvest Youth Farm work-training program for teens in Lake County, North Lawndale, and Washington Park communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue recruitment from local high schools to expand student participation. - Strengthen the training opportunities provided during the school year and throughout the summer. - Continue a weekly farmers' market schedule for the youth to provide a strong entrepreneurship component. - Continue food preparation and healthy lunch sessions to expose youth to food and nutrition issues. - Continue the WIC/CEDA cooking demonstrations in North Chicago and Chicago. - Complete the transition of the Youth Farm—Lake County operational cost to the Lake County Forest Preserve District Preservation Foundation. - Place Windy City Harvest Apprenticeship interns at Windy City Harvest Youth Farm sites where applicable to further reduce the budget impact.
		<p>Strategy 2: Develop a more comprehensive Urban Garden Lab program with After School Matters (ASM):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue recruitment efforts with ASM to include a diverse student body. - Build out the rooftop garden space as determined by ASM. - Develop three-season programming that works with ASM's schedule.
	<p>1.2 Provide education and job-skills training for at-risk and hard-to-employ young adults that emphasizes the people-plant connection and educates participants about green careers through organic food production and sales.</p>	<p>Strategy 1: Deliver nine-month certificate program in sustainable urban horticulture in collaboration with City Colleges of Chicago:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruit 25 students to participate in the certificate program; after completion of a six-month curriculum, they will begin a three-month internship working with the Youth Farm program and with Regenstein Fruit & Vegetable Garden staff, City Farm, and other placement partners. - Under the USDA Beginning Farmers and Ranchers grant, develop and implement an additional two to three short certificates per the grant, and recruit at least five post-release graduates into the Windy City Harvest Apprenticeship certificate program.
		<p>Strategy 2: Continue to strengthen and refine Windy City Harvest production and training program business activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek funding from Department of Family and Support Services to sustain employment support for eligible categories of youth/young adults. - Evaluate the business and entrepreneurship course and make necessary changes. - Identify graduated incubator plots for successful incubator farmers. - Secure partnerships for land use for incubator farmers and production/training. - Expand contractual support of urban agriculture/rooftop gardening ventures by education and service organizations (e.g., Legends South).
		<p>Strategy 3: Develop the concept of "Food as Medicine" and complete build-out of the new facility in partnership with Lawndale Christian Health Center and with PCC Wellness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan and implement space design in collaboration with LCHC architect and designers. - Assist development team with fundraising for capital budget of phase 1 site design. - Implement Veggie Rx box program with PCC Wellness Center and LCHC physicians. - Develop culturally focused nutrition education program for new facility. - Work with program partners to assess food landscape in the community, including individual assessments of perception and needs of local, fresh produce.

		<p>- Train ten TJ members in building of the aquaponics and hydroponics system builds.</p> <p>Strategy 4: Develop a working partnership with the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice to serve both detained and post-release youth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop transitional job placement opportunities for approximately 30 17- to 21-year-old graduates of the Illinois Youth Center's Chicago school sites. - Work with the Lake and Western school site on program training opportunities modeled on the Windy City Harvest Youth Farm program, possibly incorporating aquaponics. - Develop the West Garfield production site as a training location for Illinois Youth Center juveniles. <p>Strategy 5: Continue to develop the relationship with McCormick Place/SAVOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with SAVOR to expand green roof space. - Continue to refine the trials and amendments to increase production. - Work with SMG/SAVOR to secure additional funds for green roof expansion. - Develop an Edible Landscapes and Rooftop Gardening Certificate (as a USDA industry-specific certificate). - Publish an article on experimental rooftop growing. - Work with Edelman and the Garden's Marketing and Communications department to secure national coverage of the Windy City Harvest model.
	<p>1.3 Continue to diversify our role in public educational programs on horticulture and garden design throughout the Chicago region and nationally.</p>	<p>Strategy 1: Develop an associate degree program in Sustainable Urban Horticulture with the City Colleges of Chicago based on additional USDA certificates.</p> <p>Strategy 2: Expand the Community Workshops (Saturday Windy City Harvest workshops, Lunch and Learn programs at Kraft, talks, etc.) concept to include corporate on-site events and other fee-based presentations.</p> <p>Strategy 3: Provide public presentations and classes throughout the city, as staffing allows, at appropriate venues such as at the Chicago Flower & Garden Show, the Green & Growing Fair, Lake County Habitat for Humanity, etc.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue organic gardening short courses that could be offered at various venues, including the Arturo Velasquez Institute and Urban Garden Lab. - Promote/disseminate the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) funded manual on establishing and managing gardens for people with disabilities; and determine whether there should be a follow-up publication on an urban agriculture model for working with incarcerated and just-released populations. - Explore opportunities for expanding Garden reach and expertise around food growing on rooftops via classes, conferences with rooftop partners, and other education outreach activities.
	<p>1.4 Continue the Chicago Botanic Garden's key role and further the Garden's reputation in Chicago's urban greening network through gardening assistance, collaborative projects, and technical support.</p>	<p>Strategy 1: Market a sponsored/contract Corporate Campus program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use variations of the Kraft Corporate Campus model as a plan expanding production and training options for vegetable production and native seed farms. <p>Strategy 2: Support the network of urban greening and community gardening throughout Chicago through various outreach and educational activities and events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support collaborative projects with other city greening organizations and with university-sponsored research projects. - Provide expertise and resources for key donor-funded community gardening projects having favorable impacts on the local community and on our reputation in Chicago's urban gardening efforts.