



35th Annual GreenThumb GrowTogether

CUNY Graduate Center

March 30, 2019

Conference Guide

GreenThumb GrowTogether en Español, p. 18



NYC Parks
GreenThumb

PROGRAM

Registration	8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Dining Commons, 8th Floor
Breakfast	8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Dining Commons, 8th Floor
Opening Ceremony	9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Proshansky Auditorium (C Level)
Opening Ceremony en Español	9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Room C205 (C Level)

Welcome: Bill LoSasso, Director of NYC Parks GreenThumb

Remarks: Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, NYC Parks Commissioner

Remarks: Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President

Keynote Address: Onika Abraham, Director of Farm School NYC

T-shirt Design Contest Winner: Ruth Martinez

Morning Workshops	10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	C Level, 5th, 6th, 8th, & 9th Floors
Lunch	Noon - 1:15 p.m.	Dining Commons, 8th Floor
Lunch Meet-Up A	Noon - 1:15 p.m.	C Level, 5th, 6th, 8th, & 9th Floors
Lunchtime Intensives	12:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	C Level, 5th, 6th, 8th, & 9th Floors
Lunch Meet-Up B	1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	C Level, 5th, 6th, 8th, & 9th Floors
Afternoon Workshops	3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	C Level, 5th, 6th, 8th, & 9th Floors
Exhibitors / Networking	11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Dining Commons, 8th Floor
T-shirt Pick-Up	11:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Skylight Conference Room, 9th Floor

Follow GreenThumb on:

FACEBOOK: @GreenThumbNYC

TWITTER: @greenthumbgrows

INSTAGRAM: @greenthumbgrows

Share your day at the 35th Annual GreenThumb GrowTogether on social media and use #GTGT2019. We will share some of your posts on our accounts in the coming weeks.

Stop by Room C203 to view photos, publications, and past GrowTogether T-shirts from GreenThumb's archive. You can also:

- Get your community garden established on social media! GreenThumb staff or a volunteer can help you set up an account today.
- Sign up to host events at Make Music New York (June 21) and on Open Garden Day NYC (July 20).
- Submit nominations for the 4th Annual GreenThumb Garden Recognition Awards.
- Pick up seeds for the Harvest Fair Competition at our 40th Annual Harvest Fair (Sept. 21).
- Bring your hydrant letter to get a hydrant permit from DEP.

Comparta su día en la 35ª edición anual de GreenThumb GrowTogether en las redes sociales y use la etiqueta #GTGT2019. En las próximas semanas, compartiremos algunas de sus publicaciones en nuestras cuentas.

Visite la sala C203 para ver las fotos, publicaciones y camisetas anteriores de GrowTogether del archivo de GreenThumb. También puede:

- ¡Mostrar su jardín comunitario en las redes sociales! El personal de GreenThumb o un voluntario pueden ayudarlo a configurar una cuenta hoy.
- Registrarse para presentar eventos en Make Music New York (Haga Música en Nueva York) el 21 de junio y en Open Garden Day NYC (Día de Jardín Abierto de NYC) el 20 de julio.
- Enviar las nominaciones para la 4ª entrega anual de los Premios de Reconocimiento GreenThumb Garden.
- Recoger semillas especiales para el Concurso de la Feria de la Cosecha en nuestra 40ª feria anual de cosecha el 21 de septiembre.
- Traiga su carta de hidrante para obtener un permiso de hidrante del DEP.

WELCOME FROM BILL LOSASSO, DIRECTOR OF GREENTHUMB

On behalf of the entire team at NYC Parks GreenThumb, welcome to the 35th Annual GreenThumb GrowTogether! Community gardeners from across New York City have been gathering at GrowTogether each spring since 1984 to celebrate the start of the garden season with a day of learning, networking, and reconnecting with friends.

New York City is a very different place than when the doors opened for the first GrowTogether. The city has struggled and rallied. Gardens were lost and saved. But the one constant has been the dedication and perseverance of GreenThumb's volunteer gardeners. For over 40 years, community gardens have strengthened neighborhoods across New York City, and for over 40 years, GreenThumb has taken pride in supporting them in that effort.

The theme of this year's GrowTogether is "Roots, Shoots, and Fruits: Celebrating Generations of Gardening." If the roots of a plant are what anchor and nourish it, then certainly GreenThumb's roots are our volunteer gardeners, especially those who have been with us from the very beginning. Without you, there would be no GreenThumb. Because without you, there would be no gardens. It is your vision and perseverance that has brought us this far, and that is what inspires the next generation of GreenThumb gardeners.

We're thrilled that you've joined us for GrowTogether 2019, and this year promises to be the best one yet. As you enjoy the day, please take a minute to say hello to the GreenThumb staff (we're all wearing pink) and let us know how we can continue to best support community gardening in New York City. Our job is to support you!

I hope that you have a wonderful day with us, and we look forward to another great garden season in New York City.

Best,

Bill LoSasso
Director, GreenThumb



GreenThumb staff at the 2018 GreenThumb GrowTogether Conference | Photo by Daniel Avila

ABOUT OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ONIKA ABRAHAM

Onika Abraham is the director of Farm School NYC, which offers adults comprehensive, professional training in sustainable agriculture that is grounded in social and food justice. A farmer and educator with more than 15 years of experience in nonprofit management, Onika completed the Farm and Garden Apprenticeship and Certificate in Ecological Horticulture at the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS) in Santa Cruz, Calif. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgetown University and an MBA in marketing and entrepreneurship from Baruch University. Onika is a founding member of Black Urban Growers, and she lives and gardens in beautiful Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn with her husband and son.

ACERCA DE NUESTRA ORADORA PRINCIPAL: ONIKA ABRAHAM

Onika es la directora de Farm School NYC, la cual ofrece a los adultos capacitación integral y profesional en agricultura sostenible basada en la justicia social y alimentaria. Onika, una agricultora y educadora con más de 15 años de experiencia en gestión sin fines de lucro, completó el Programa de Aprendizaje y Certificación en Horticultura Ecológica en el Centro de Agroecología y Sistemas Alimentarios Sostenibles (Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems, CASFS) en Santa Cruz, California. Obtuvo una Licenciatura de la Universidad de Georgetown y una Maestría en marketing y emprendimiento de la Universidad de Baruch. Onika es miembro fundadora de Black Urban Growers, y vive y trabaja en el hermoso barrio Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, con su esposo e hijo.



Photo courtesy of Farm School NYC

GROWTOGETHER THROUGH THE YEARS



Clockwise from top left: Manhattan Borough President, Gale Brewer with NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver in 2015; Gerard Lordahl represents the Cornell Cooperative Extension in 1985; a young participant at the 1996 Conference shows off their artwork; Marisa DeDominicis of Earth Matter NY demonstrates vermiculture in 2018.

CUNY Graduate Center Room Guide

Proshansky Auditorium, Rooms C201-C205, C197, C198, C415A

C Level

Rooms 5382, 5383, 5417

5th Floor

Rooms 6417, 6421, 6496, 6596

6th Floor

Rooms 8203, 8301, 8304, 8400, 8402, Dining Commons

8th Floor

Rooms 9204-9207, Skylight Conference Room

9th Floor

	Morning Workshops 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. p. 8	Lunchtime Meet-Up A Noon – 1:15 p.m. p. 12
Featured Panels	Living the Dream: Starting a Farm Proshansky Auditorium (C Level)	
Cultivating Community Engagement	Community Cats in our Community Gardens Room 8301 Growing NYC's Solidarity Economy Room C205 Living Archives: Uncovering Grassroots Stories of Women and Cultivating Community Room 5383 Preserving Communities and Documenting Local Heritage Room 5382 South American Indigenous Agroecology Practices Room 6496	Bronx Gardeners Meet-Up Room C204 Brooklyn Gardeners Meet-Up Room C197 Manhattan and Staten Island Gardeners Meet-Up Room C201 Queens Gardeners Meet-Up Room 6421 School Gardeners Meet-Up Room 6494
Financial and Political Support	Make It Rain: Getting Grants for your Green Space Room 6495	
Food Justice	Tracing and Reclaiming Southern Crops Room 6417	
For Teachers and Garden Educators	It's Not All Lettuce! Room 8304 Tracking Butterflies in NYC Community Gardens Room 6494	
Gardening and Horticulture	Beekeeping in NYC Room 8402 Caribbean Vegetables Room 8203 Climate-Friendly Gardening Room 5417 Composting 101 Room 6421 Crafting with Compost: Earthy Crafts for Every Garden Room C201 Garden Design with Perennial Edibles Room C415A Growing Mushrooms in Gardens and at Home Room C198 Herb Spirals and Straw Bales: Small Space Gardening Methods that Produce Bountiful Harvests Room C204 Tomato Heaven Room 9206 Welcoming Wildlife in Your Garden: Part 1 – Inviting Wildlife Room 8400	
Making Things with Plants and Herbs	Herbal Hand Sanitizer Room C197 Herbal Soap Making Room 9204 Make Your Own Herbal Bath Salts and Shower Scrub Room 9205 Natural Bath and Body Products Room 9207	
Information and Resources	GreenThumb Information Room C203 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get your community garden on social media! • Sign up to host events at <i>Make Music New York</i> and <i>Open Garden Day NYC</i> • Submit nominations for our annual GreenThumb Garden Recognition Awards • Pick up special seeds for the Harvest Fair Competition • Bring your hydrant letter to get a hydrant permit from DEP 	Lunch Dining Commons, 8th Floor T-shirt Pick-up (until 3:30 p.m.) Sky Conference Room, 9th Floor

Lunchtime Workshop Intensives 12:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. p. 13	Lunchtime Meet-Up B 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. p. 12	Afternoon Workshops 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. p. 14
<p>Film Screening: Green Streets Room 6417</p> <p>Film Screening: City Farmers Room 6496</p> <p>Film Screening: El Rincón Criollo - A Tribute to José “Chema” Soto Room 6495</p> <p>Training of Trainers with Farm School NYC Room 9207</p>	<p>Ask Bill! Room 8203</p> <p>Garden Coordinators Meet-Up Room C202</p> <p>Garden Elders Meet-Up Room 9206</p> <p>Oral Histories Projects Meet-Up Room 5383</p> <p>Urban Farmers Meet-Up Room 8400</p> <p>Youth Meet-Up Room C205</p>	<p>Growing for the Future: Learning from Black and Indigenous Farming Practices Proshansky Auditorium (C Level)</p> <p>Breath and Meditation in the Community Garden Room 8203</p> <p>Empowering Youth in Community Gardens Room C205</p> <p>Introduction to Off-Grid Solar for your Community Garden Room 6495</p> <p>Living Archives: Uncovering Grassroots Stories of Women and Cultivating Community Room 5383</p> <p>Urban Agriculture Policy and Community Gardens Room 6417</p>
<p>Consenting Hearts, Minds and Bodies in the Garden Room 5382</p> <p>Healing and Restoration in Community Growing Spaces Room 9205</p> <p>Seed Sovereignty in a Colonized Food System (and a Seed Swap!) Room C198</p> <p>Uprooting Racism in the Community Garden Room 5417</p>		<p>Beyond GreenThumb Room 6421</p> <p>Eminent Domain for Good Room 6496</p> <p>The Enterprising Garden: What’s OK to Sell and How to Do It Room C198</p> <p>Composting as an Act of Liberation Room 8304</p>
<p>Keeping your Garden Rat-Free Room C415A</p>		<p>Afro-Centric School Garden Lessons Room C201</p> <p>Food, Gardens, and Agriculture in Your Classroom Room 8402</p> <p>Multicultural Children’s Literature in the Garden Room 8301</p> <p>Using Scientific Experimentation to Optimize Growth on a Hydroponics Farm Room C204</p>
		<p>Brassica Pests Room 5417</p> <p>Building a Simple Rainwater Harvesting System Room C197</p> <p>Cheap or Free Urban Gardening Room 9206</p> <p>Cultivating a Pollinator Garden Room 6494</p> <p>Garden Design with Perennial Edibles Room C415A</p> <p>The Hip-Hop Hauler Room 5382</p> <p>Just Soil: A Community Science Partnership for Limiting the Legacy of Lead Room 9207</p> <p>Rebuilding Soils: Linking You to the NYC Compost Project Room C202</p> <p>Welcoming Wildlife in Your Gardens: Part II – Coexisting with Wildlife Room 8400</p> <p>Herbal Soap Making Room 9204</p> <p>Herbs for the Anxious Room 9205</p>
<p>GreenThumb Information Room C203</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get your community garden on social media! • Sign up to host events at <i>Make Music New York</i> and <i>Open Garden Day NYC</i> • Submit nominations for our annual GreenThumb Garden Recognition Awards • Pick up special seeds for the Harvest Fair Competition • Bring your hydrant letter to get a hydrant permit from DEP 		<p>GreenThumb Information Room C203</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get your community garden on social media! • Sign up to host events at <i>Make Music New York</i> and <i>Open Garden Day NYC</i> • Submit nominations for our annual GreenThumb Garden Recognition Awards • Pick up special seeds for the Harvest Fair Competition • Bring your hydrant letter to get a hydrant permit from DEP

Morning Workshops:
10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Featured Panel

Living the Dream: Starting a Farm / Proshansky Auditorium (C Level)

Thinking about scaling up, starting a farm, or retiring on a farm, but don't know where to begin? Hear stories about the inspirations, challenges, and experiences of farmers who transitioned from life as NYC community gardeners and urban farmers to rural farmers. Rock Steady Farm & Flowers, Rise and Root Farm, and Truelove Seeds all still maintain close ties with and sell their produce and seeds back here in NYC, and consider social justice as part of their mission. GreenThumb Outreach Coordinator Gregory Anderson will moderate a conversation about what inspired them to do this work, what it was like accessing land, what the work is like, and how and why they still remain tied to communities here in NYC.

Moderator: Gregory Anderson (NYC Parks GreenThumb)

Panelists:

- Rafael Aponte (Rocky Acres Community Farm)
- Maggie Cheney (Rock Steady Farm & Flowers)
- D. Rooney (Rock Steady Farm & Flowers)
- Owen Taylor (Truelove Seeds)

Cultivating Community Engagement

Community Cats in our Community Gardens / Room 8301

Anja Krause (Mayor's Alliance NY Feral Cat Initiative)

The feral and stray cat population in many NYC community gardens can sometimes interfere with the use and enjoyment of our precious green spaces. This workshop will provide an overview of the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program and address the question of how to reduce the abundant cat population in our communities.

Este taller se ofrecerá con traducción al español.

Growing NYC's Solidarity Economy / Room C205

Evie Zavidow and Jess Turner (Cooperative Economics Alliance of NYC)

Explore how community gardeners can work with other collectively managed and democratically governed initiatives throughout the city, like worker, food, housing, and financial cooperatives, CSA programs, and land trusts.

Living Archives: Uncovering Grassroots Stories of Women and Cultivating Community / Room 5383

LaTonya Jones and Raul Flores (NYC Department of Records and Information Services)

Explore ways to capture and preserve the unknown narratives of women in your community garden. In this workshop, gardeners will learn about the NYC Department of Records and Information Services' work with community gardens to document and celebrate their experiences, how to interview someone, what questions to ask to elicit memories, and how to permanently preserve these important narratives in the NYC Municipal Archives.

Este taller se ofrecerá con traducción al español.

Preserving Communities and Documenting Local Heritage / Room 5382

Taina Evans and Acacia Thompson (Brooklyn Public Library)

Explore Brooklyn Public Library's oral history/ community scanning events as part of the Our Streets, Our Stories oral history project. Attendees will learn preservation methodologies to document their own garden's history.

South American Indigenous Agroecology Practices / Room 6496

Katharhy G. (Victor Flores) (Environmental Sciences Analytical Center, Brooklyn College)

This workshop will help us understand our relationship to agroecosystems and the immediate environment by exploring a 1000-year-old social ecology practice in Andean indigenous communities of Ecuador.

Este taller se puede ofrecer con traducción al español, portugués, y quechua a pedido.

Financial and Political Support

Make It Rain: Getting Grants for your Green Space / Room 6495

Lindsay Sierra (Partnerships for Parks)

Learn the basic components of writing a grant and about some financial resources available for community garden projects.

Este taller se ofrecerá con traducción al español.

Food Justice

Tracing and Reclaiming Southern Crops / Room 6417

Maya Stansberry and Shannon Burgher (KCC Urban Farm)

Learn about the rich agricultural and culinary history of Southern American cuisine! See how sustaining our communities is rooted in traditions planted by our ancestors.

For Teachers and Garden Educators

It's Not All Lettuce! / Room 8304

Manna Hara, Shari Rose, and Gabrielle Hayes (City Parks Foundation - Learning Gardens)

One of the goals of Learning Gardens is to engage, inspire, and teach youth in our gardens. This workshop will highlight varieties of leafy greens that can be planted year-round, both indoors and outdoors. A recognizable crop for all ages, leafy greens are easy to grow, have nutritional and agricultural benefits, and are delicious to eat.

Tracking Butterflies in NYC Community Gardens / Room 6494

Katie Grassle (Citizens Committee for New York City), Chrissy Word (City Parks Foundation), Ursula Chanse (Bronx Green-Up), and Dina Garcia (New Roots Community Farm)

This interactive workshop on butterflies introduces an exciting citizen science project for adults and youth. Learn about these amazing creatures and how to provide long-term data to support their conservation.

Este taller se ofrecerá con traducción al español.



Gardening, Composting, and Horticulture

Beekeeping in NYC / Room 8402

Gemma Garcia (St. John Cantius Community Garden), Sara Jones (LaGuardia Corner Gardens), and Liane Newton (nycbeekeeping.org)

Curious about what it takes to keep honey bees in your community garden? Join longtime beekeepers for an introduction to the world of bees and learn about what it takes to be a beekeeper.

Caribbean Vegetables / Room 8203

Marlene Wilks (Triple R Garden)

Learn how to grow a variety of Caribbean crops that thrive in this region. This workshop will cover how to plant some Caribbean vegetables here in New York City, as well as some of their medicinal benefits.

Climate-Friendly Gardening / Room 5417

Shawn Connell and Spencer Harbo (GrowNYC)

This workshop will demonstrate how to reduce your garden's climate footprint and tips on how to make your garden a model for responding to climate change in your community.

Composting 101 / Room 6421

Jenae Joseph, Malcom Reid, Al Reid, Remarl Wilkinson, Jefferey Smith, and Tamara Davis (Bed-Stuy Campaign Against Hunger – Saratoga Farm)

What exactly is compost, and how do you do it? Join us for an introduction to composting in the city. We'll be covering several types of compost methods, from vermicomposting to yard trimmings.

Crafting with Compost: Earthy Crafts for Every Garden / Room C201

Vanessa Ventola (NYC Compost Project hosted by Queens Botanical Garden) and Lia Lucero (NYC Compost Project hosted by LES Ecology Center)

Compost can be used for so much more than topping off your raised beds each season! Learn fun uses for compost in potting mixes, starting vegetables, and making wildflower seed balls.

Garden Design with Perennial Edibles / Room C415A

John Paul Learn

Do you want to grow superfoods in your community garden? Gardening with perennial edible plants can be easy with some guidance. Learn about some locally adapted fruits, nuts, and vegetables and how to harvest nutrient dense, delicious crops year after year.

Growing Mushrooms in Gardens and at Home / Room C198

Yolanda Gonzalez (Cornell Cooperative Extension) and Jie Jin (Curiousseed)

Mushrooms are a wonderful crop to grow in the city, and can be incorporated into many existing growing systems to offer healthy, nutritious, and medicinal food to people and community. This workshop will offer gardeners and farmers of all sizes insight into a wide range of both outdoor and indoor growing methods for mushroom production, including a hands-on demonstration of growing oyster mushrooms using toilet paper rolls.

This workshop is offered with Chinese translation.



Herb Spirals and Straw Bales: Small Space Gardening Methods that Produce Bountiful Harvests / Room C204

Carolyn Zezima and Chris Batenhurst (Campos Community Garden)

An herb spiral is a permaculture garden that uses a spiral of rocks or bricks to contain soil and other filler to grow a diverse array of herbs. Straw bales are another fun and easy way for new and experienced gardeners of all ages to grow lots of healthy food in small spaces or with poor soil conditions. Learn about the many benefits of these and other unique garden styles for urban settings, small garden spaces, schools, areas with questionable soil, or anywhere you want to put a gorgeous and unique conversation piece.

Tomato Heaven / Room 9206

Maureen O'Brien (Brooklyn Botanic Garden)

Hard-to-find heirloom tomato varieties like Gold Medal, Mortgage Lifter, Red Brandywine, Amish Past, and Black Cherry are luscious globes of food tradition and chock-full of vitamins. Learn hands-on how to successfully start tomatoes from seed. Everyone will create a tomato six-pack to take home.

Welcoming Wildlife in Your Garden: Part I - Inviting Wildlife / Room 8400

Dan Tainow and Jesika Tixi (NYC Parks Urban Park Rangers)

Batty about bats, butterflies, and bees? Urban Park Rangers will share how to encourage and consider ecological communities in garden planning, discussing ways to encourage beneficial wildlife to visit your garden.

Este taller se ofrecerá con traducción al español.

Making Things from Plants and Herbs

Herbal Hand Sanitizer / Room C197

Marisa DeDominicis, Ilsa Enomoto, and Tisha Magsino (Earth Matter NY Inc.)

Prepare your own bottle of hand sanitizer using aloe, witch hazel, and essential oils to use after working in your soil and compost.

Herbal Soap Making / Room 9204

Sharon Griffin (New Roots Community Farm)

Learn how to make soap from scratch using olive oil, coconut oil, castor oil, and additional natural ingredients, including essential oils and herbs from the garden. Participants will each make one small bar of soap to take home.

Make your Own Herbal Bath Salts and Shower Scrub / Room 9205

Marshalla Ramos-Inde (Patchen Community Square Garden)

Learn how to make your own herbal sea salt scrub own using the aromatherapy properties of herbs from the garden such as lavender and eucalyptus. Participants will make a 4-ounce sea salt herbal scrub to use in the shower and bath.

Natural Bath and Body Products / Room 9207

Gioya DeSouza-Fennelly and Sabrina Fennelly

When was the last time you checked what was in your bath and body products? Use natural products as alternatives to make some of the most decadent body products. In this workshop participants will make small containers of natural bath products to take home.



Lunch Schedule:

Noon – 1:15 p.m. – Lunch, Lunch Meet-Up A, Networking area

12:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. – Lunchtime Intensives

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. – Lunch Meet-Up B, Networking area

Lunch Tracks:

This year, we are expanding our programming to include multiple options for learning and networking during lunch. Please choose one of the three tracks below.

1. Networking area

Enjoy your lunch in the Dining Commons (8th Floor) or on your own. Visit the many organizations tabling in our networking area (Dining Commons, 8th Floor). You can also stop by the GreenThumb Room (C203) to find out more about what we're planning this year.

2. Lunch Meet-Ups

Bring your lunch to a classroom to meet like-minded gardeners, start new collaborations, and troubleshoot common challenges.

3. Lunchtime Intensives

Bring your lunch to a classroom to join a 2.5-hour in-depth training on a variety of topics. We expect participants to stay for the whole duration of the intensive.

Lunch Meet-Up A: Noon – 1:15 p.m.

Meet gardeners in your borough and share community gardening strategies.

Bronx Gardeners Meet-Up / Room C204

Kadeesha Williams (Bronx Green-Up), Nancy Ortiz-Surun (La Finca del Sur), Zonia Ortiz (La Isla Community Garden), and Claudia Urdanivia (NYC Parks GreenThumb)

Brooklyn Gardeners Meet-Up / Room C197

East New York Farms! and K.C. Alvey (NYC Parks GreenThumb)

Manhattan and Staten Island Gardeners Meet-Up / Room C201

Charles Krezell (LUNGS), Cindy Worley (Joseph Daniel Wilson Memorial Garden), and Anthony Reuter (NYC Parks GreenThumb)

Queens Gardeners Meet-Up / Room 6421

Kenneth Williams (NYC Parks GreenThumb)

School Gardeners Meet-Up / Room 6494

Kristin Fields (Grow to Learn)

Lunch Meet-Up B: 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Ask Bill! / Room 8203

Bill LoSasso and Carlos Martinez (NYC Parks GreenThumb)

Meet Bill LoSasso, Director of GreenThumb, to hear updates on GreenThumb initiatives and to ask questions about community gardens.

Garden Coordinators Meet-Up / Room C202

Marouh Hussein (Partnerships for Parks) and Eric Thomann (NYC Parks GreenThumb)

Strategize with fellow community gardeners in leadership positions at their gardens.

Garden Elders Meet-Up / Room 9206

Darryl Montgomery (Hancock Community Backyard Garden Park) and Gregory Anderson (NYC Parks GreenThumb)

Meet fellow longtime garden stakeholders and brainstorm solutions to common issues.

Oral Histories Projects Meet-Up / Room 5383

LaTonya Jones and Raul Flores (NYC Department of Records), Taina Evans and Acacia Thompson (Brooklyn Public Library), Elena Dubas (NYC Parks GreenThumb)

Share and learn about community garden oral history projects taking place across the city.

Urban Farmers Meet-Up / Room 8400

Nick Storrs (Homegrown Nurseries) and Gabrielle Hayes (City Parks Foundation – Learning Gardens)

Does your garden grow a lot of food? Meet fellow farmers and share strategies.

Youth Meet-Up / Room C205

Nando Rodriguez (Brotherhood/Sister Sol), Jestine Roper (Jez Good Rewards), and Ijendu Obasi (NYC Parks GreenThumb)

Network with fellow youth doing urban farming and gardening from across the city.

Lunchtime Intensives:
12:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Consenting Hearts, Minds, and Bodies in the Garden / Room 5382

Amara Ullauri, Cris Izaguirre, and Maya Stansberry (KCC Urban Farm)

Let's cultivate a deeper understanding of how patriarchy impacts food and farming spaces and create strategies for disrupting gender-based oppression centering consent, respect, and self-determination practices in our farms and gardens.

Film Screening: Green Streets (NYC Community Gardens 1970s/1980s) / Room 6417

Maria de Luca (Filmmaker, Green Streets) and Ian Barnett

This award-winning film visits 35 community gardens in the 1970s and 1980s throughout all five boroughs. Experience the early decades of community gardening in NYC and how the early gardens can teach us about today, and inspire us for tomorrow, in this tumultuous world where nature is fighting for its balance to survive. Film will be followed by a Q&A.

Film Screening: City Farmers (NYC Community Gardens 1980s/1990s) / Room 6496

Meryl Joseph (Producer and Director, City Farmers)

City Farmers (1996) takes a deep look at the community gardening movement in NYC and honors the gardeners' spirits, voices, and hard work that brought about the "quiet revolution" that ultimately changed the face of New York. In this collective narrative, the gardeners share stories about life on both sides of the garden fence, from the struggle to remove drug dealers and gangs, to the success of the gardens providing food for the community, and empowering and educating neighborhood children. As the gardeners tend their rows, they remember childhood days on farms down South, in Italy or Puerto Rico, while others, who've known only pavement under their feet, find new directions for their futures. For more information about the film visit chefsconsortium.com/city-farmers. Film will be followed by a Q&A.

Film Screening: El Rincón Criollo – A Tribute to José “Chema” Soto / Room 6495

Ivette Rivera and Desseree Soto (El Rincón Criollo Community Garden)

Casitas are deeply important to community gardeners in NYC, particularly those in the Puerto Rican community. This documentary by Felipe Garcia looks at the casitas movement and la Plena music in the Bronx with a focus on José “Chema” Soto, one of the founding community gardeners and Plenero at El Rincón Criollo, also known as La Casita de Chema. You can view this film at youtu.be/rLZoaqQqJjA. Film will be followed by Q&A.

This film is in Spanish and English, with Spanish and English subtitles.

Esta película es en español e inglés, con subtítulos en español e inglés.

Healing and Restoration in Community Growing Spaces / Room 9205

Karen Rose (Sacred Vibes Apothecary), Sawdayah Brownlee (DreamYard Project and Brooklyn Queens Land Trust), and Sheryll Durrant (Kelly Street Garden)

How can we use the plants we grow as a partner in our healing, and return to the land with a vision of abundance? In this workshop we will focus on healing the fractured relationship with ancestral plants and land as Black farmers and other farmers of color through the practice of retelling our stories, decolonizing the histories of farming, and entrepreneurship.

Keeping Your Garden Rat-Free / Room C415A

Caroline Bragdon and Kristina Fernandes (NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene)

Learn Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies to keep rats from wrecking your garden. In this workshop, participants will learn proper rat prevention measures, how to look for signs of rats, and how to correct conditions that attract rats.

Seed Sovereignty in a Colonized Food System (and a Seed Swap!) / Room C198

Jacqueline Pilati-Rodriguez and Genna Cherichello (The New York Botanical Garden), Lex Barlowe, and Owen Taylor (Truelove Seeds)

This workshop explores the history of seed saving and seed control in the United States and highlights the resilience movements in response to our current colonized food system. We will discuss how to buy responsibly grown seed for your garden and how to plan for seed saving from growth to storage. During this workshop we will demonstrate how to harvest seeds from dry fruited and wet fruited crops and conclude with a seed exchange. Non-GMO, open-pollinated seeds welcomed.

Training of Trainers with Farm School NYC / Room 9207

Cole Carothers and Ravi Ramaswamy (Farm School NYC)

Want to facilitate a fun, interactive workshop in your garden that dissolves the teacher/student hierarchy and harnesses the knowledge of learners of all ages to learn from each other? Join us for this brief introduction to popular education methods for the garden and community work. This workshop is a sample of Farm School NYC's Training of Trainers course to be held in December 2019.

Uprooting Racism in the Community Garden / Room 5417

Amani Olugbala (Soul Fire Farm)

Uprooting Racism will be a practical training for community garden leaders to address racism in our communities. We will delve into the history of our community gardens and food system, and look at our personal and collective roles as stewards of the land. We will spend time developing tangible action plans for uprooting these dynamics within our own gardens.



Afternoon Workshops:

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Featured Panel

Growing for the Future: Learning from Black and Indigenous Farming Practices / Proshansky Auditorium (C Level)

Practices like seed saving and maintaining diverse and resilient crops, managing floods and droughts, and growing with agroecological and restorative values are rooted in Black and Indigenous farming practices. In this panel, we will discuss traditional growing methods and how they can be applied to gardening and farming in the age of climate change and an uncertain future.

Moderator: Genea Foster (NYC Parks GreenThumb)

Panelists:

- Onika Abraham (Farm School NYC)
- Katharhy G. (Victor Flores) (Environmental Sciences Analytical Center, Brooklyn College)
- Rosalba Lopez Ramirez (Remedios)
- Jess Turner (Cooperative Economics Alliance of NYC and Stellaria Farm Cooperative)
- Amara Ullauri (KCC Urban Farm)

Cultivating Community Engagement

Breath and Meditation in the Community Garden / Room 8203

Dr. Eileen J. Ain (LaGuardia Corner Community Garden)

The urban community garden creates a space to further experience the benefits of breathing practices and meditation. This workshop welcomes all to practice meditating together.

Empowering Youth in Community Gardens / Room C205

Nando Rodriguez and youth gardeners (Gaia Renaissance at The Brotherhood/Sister Sol)

Join staff and youth members from the Gaia Resistance at The Brotherhood-Sister Sol to develop a sample project or program to empower youth at your organization or garden. This workshop will help you develop a program or project to recruit youth members, engage them in your program, and keep them coming back.

Introduction to Off-Grid Solar for your Community Garden / Room 6495

Nicole De Feo (Friends of the High Line)

In this session, participants will learn about the basic components of off-grid solar and what factors to consider when planning to install these systems in their garden space.

Living Archives: Uncovering Grassroots Stories of Women and Cultivating Community / Room 5383

LaTonya Jones and Raul Flores (NYC Department of Records and Information Services)

Explore ways to capture and preserve the unknown narratives of women in your community garden. In this workshop, gardeners will learn about the NYC Department of Records and Information Services' work with community gardens to document and celebrate their experiences, how to interview someone and what questions to ask to elicit memories, and how to permanently preserve these important narratives in the NYC Municipal Archives.

Urban Agriculture Policy and Community Gardens / Room 6417

Aziz Dehkan (New York City Community Garden Coalition) and a representative from NYC City Council Member Rafael Espinal's office

Over the past few years there have been policy proposals by politicians and community organizations around urban agriculture. In this workshop we will discuss various policy initiatives and brainstorm the how gardeners can work together to make urban agriculture policy that benefits to our garden spaces.

Financial and Political Support

Beyond GreenThumb / Room 6421

Gregory L. Ingram (East New York 4 Gardens Inc.)

This workshop is for longtime community gardeners to get together to discuss what matters today and the future of our gardens. We will share with one another who, how, and where we get support for our community gardens to carry on the work of maintaining these spaces.



Eminent Domain for Good / Room 6496

Paula Segal (Equitable Neighborhoods Practice, Community Development Project) Nancy Hoch (Maple Street Community Garden), and Cindy Worley (Joseph Daniel Wilson Memorial Garden)

City acquisition is a legitimate pathway for transforming "private" land into permanent public resources. Learn about how gardeners have harnessed condemnation, eminent domain, and other strategies to protect community spaces. This workshop will cover working with landlords, lockouts, Uniform Landuse Review Process (ULURP), capital funding, council members, community boards, public hearings, and more, with the Maple Street Community Garden in Prospect Lefferts, Brooklyn, and the Joseph Daniel Wilson Memorial Garden in Central Harlem as case studies.

The Enterprising Garden: What's OK to Sell and How to Do It / Room C198

Kimberly Vallejo (NYS Agriculture & Markets) and Carlos Martinez (NYC Parks GreenThumb)

Community gardeners are innovative growers, talented chefs, knowledgeable about herbal healing practices, and at the forefront of providing fresh, local food to their communities. In this workshop, learn how to leverage some of those skills to generate income for your garden and broader community. We'll discuss scaling up and navigating the NYC Parks concessions process, city and state licensing, food safety concerns, and how to develop markets and farm stands at your garden, all in alignment with GreenThumb guidelines, including what is allowed directly and what requires additional approvals.

Food Justice

Composting as an Act of Liberation / Room 8304

Corinne Coe (Terra Nova Compost, Clay Avenue Community Garden)

Composting reduces waste in landfills and creates a valuable resource. But making compost is also a practical act of liberation, as well as a compassionate and dynamic undertaking toward self-sufficiency and global justice. Join a discussion about how to compost, and how making and using compost are practical strategies toward self-sufficiency, food security, food sovereignty, and social and economic justice.

For Teachers and Garden Educators

Afro-Centric School Garden Lessons / Room C201

Cecile Fandi (PS 262) and Linda Clarke (Little Sun People Daycare)

In this workshop, school gardeners will visit examples of lesson plans for teaching about African crop histories and recipes from throughout the diaspora, as well as social studies lessons about the history of African-American relationships with the land.

Food, Gardens, and Agriculture in Your Classroom / Room 8402

Katie Carpenter (New York Agriculture in the Classroom)

Connect food systems and gardens with your curriculum through hands-on, standards-based lessons and activities. Plant parts, irrigation systems, pollinators, and more will become an integral tool for learning throughout the entire school year.



Multicultural Children's Literature in the Garden / Room 8301

Jamie Levato and Larissa Alvarado (Poughkeepsie Farm Project)

Learn to use multicultural children's literature to enhance your garden-based instruction and teach concepts in social studies, science, and nutrition. Discover great multicultural children's literature and practice developing engaging learning activities that meet the goals of your program or school. Poughkeepsie Farm Project educators will share tips, a book list, and best practices for using literature to center your instruction.

Using Scientific Experimentation to Optimize Growth on a Hydroponics Farm / Room C204

Grace Hu (Teens for Food Justice—Clinton Hydroponics Farm) and Students from World View High School

Students from World View High School will be sharing how they used the scientific method in order to experiment with different growth parameters on an urban hydroponics farm.

Gardening, Composting, and Horticulture

Brassica Pests / Room 5417

Sam Anderson (Cornell Cooperative Extension)

Learn about the insects eating your collards, kale, arugula, and other brassica crops: their life cycle, how to identify them, and what you can do about them.

Building a Simple Rainwater Harvesting System / Room C197

Arif Ullah (Citizens Committee for NYC)

Learn the steps involved in building a basic rain harvesting system, including the importance of water conservation, good surface areas from which to catch rain, and how to put together and maintain your system. Save money, reuse water, and help your garden grow.

Cheap or Free Urban Gardening / Room 9206

Lauren Gill

Brainstorm how to source free and cheap plants and gardening materials locally and online and start your own seedlings. We will discover ways to get free plants by using our own collected seeds, by growing from food scraps, and by exchanging resources within our communities.

Cultivating a Pollinator Garden / Room 6494

Chrissy Word (City Parks Foundation), Ursula Chanse (Bronx Green-Up), and Dina Garcia (New Roots Community Farm)

Learn and understand the importance of native plants and their associate pollinators and how to encourage them both for the success and health of your garden and our city.

Este taller se ofrecerá con traducción al español.

Garden Design with Perennial Edibles / Room C415A

John Paul Learn

Do you want to grow superfoods in your community garden? Gardening with perennial edible plants can be easy with some guidance. Learn about some locally adapted fruits, nuts, and vegetables and how to harvest nutrient dense, delicious crops year after year.

The Hip-Hop Hauler / Room 5382

Dior St. Hillaire (GreenFeen LLC)

GreenFeen OrganiX is a worker-owned cooperative promoting compost and renewable energy. Come learn how we use hip hop and environmental justice to fight for waste equity using NYC community gardens.

Just Soil: A Community Science Partnership for Limiting the Legacy of Lead / Room 9207

Sara Perl Egendorf (CUNY Graduate Center, Brooklyn College - Earth and Environmental Sciences Department), Erycka de Jesus (The NYC Compost Project Hosted by Big Reuse), and Zani Simmons

What is lead (Pb)? How did it get in our soils? What can we do to minimize risks? Come hear the story of this notorious element, and develop your tool kit for staying informed, proactive, and limiting the exposure of lead and other soil contaminants.

Rebuilding Soils: Linking You to the NYC Compost Project / Room C202

Shakara Petteway (NYC Compost Project Hosted by Big Reuse) and Andrew Olesh (NYC Compost Project hosted by Queens Botanical Garden)

Need compost? NYC Compost Projects have it! We rebuild the city's soils by providing the knowledge, skills, and opportunities you need to produce and use compost. Join us to learn how!

Welcoming Wildlife in Your Gardens: Part II - Coexisting with Wildlife / Room 8400

Sunny Corrao and Arturo Romua (NYC Parks Wildlife Unit)

Raccoons in your compost bin? White-tailed deer eating your vegetables? NYC Parks' Wildlife Unit shares information about wild visitors to your garden, best practices to minimize conflict, and discussing our role to coexist.

Making Things from Plants and Herbs

Herbal Soap Making / Room 9204

Sharon Griffin (New Roots Community Farm)

Learn how to make soap from scratch using olive oil, coconut oil, castor oil, and additional natural ingredients, including essential oils and herbs from the garden. Participants will each make one small bar of soap to take home.

Herbs for the Anxious / Room: 9205

Arvolyn Hill (New York Botanical Garden / Robert Clinkscale Community Garden)

Stress and anxiety can cripple our daily lives. However, herbs for centuries have provided a natural way to relieve the body. In this workshop participants will learn about different herbs to take for stress and anxiety, focusing primarily on different adaptogen and nervine herbs such as tulsi, ashwagandha, and lemon balm. Participants will learn how to make their own anxiety relieving tea to take home.



SAVE THE DATE

Make sure to mark your calendars for these fun events happening later this year.

Volunteer Opportunity for Earth Day

Saturday, April 20

Join GreenThumb to help clean up Brooklyn community gardens in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area on **Saturday, April 20**, in celebration of Earth Day on April 22. We need volunteers to rebuild raised beds, organize tool sheds, and clean gardens in preparation for the 2019 planting season. To get involved, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Eddie Glass at Edward.Glass@parks.nyc.gov or Project and Design Coordinator Babbie Dunnington at Babbie.Dunnington@parks.nyc.gov.

Make Music New York

Friday, June 21

Bring music into your garden on Saturday, **June 21**, the longest day of the year, as part of Make Music New York, the annual festival that brings music to public spaces throughout the city!

To have your garden host a performance, please sign up by April 12 at bit.ly/MMNY2019SignUp or visit nyc.gov/parks/greenthumb for more information.

Open Garden Day NYC

Saturday, July 20

We are seeking community gardens across the city to participate in the second annual Open Garden Day NYC by opening their gates to the public from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on **Saturday, July 20** (rain or shine). Your garden group can join by hosting a free activity or event for the public to enjoy. Activities can include arts and crafts, music performances, composting, planting, and food demonstrations! Last year, over 70 gardens participated.

If you would like to participate, please fill out the form at bit.ly/OpenGardenDayNYC2019 by Friday, May 17.

Harvest Fair

Saturday, September 21

Mark your calendars for GreenThumb's 40th Annual Harvest Fair on Saturday, Sept. 21!

Brooklyn Bears Pacific St. Garden
590 Pacific St. between Flatbush Ave. and 4th Ave.

GreenThumb GrowTogether en Español

Estos talleres se ofrecerán con traducción al español.

Talleres Matinales:

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Apoyo Financiero y Político

Hacer que Lluvia: Tres Maneras de Financiar su Proyecto de Jardín Comunitario / Sala 6495

Lindsay Sierra (Partnerships for Parks)

Venga a escuchar a Partnership for Parks, quienes financian proyectos comunitarios en espacios verdes. Obtenga información sobre los recursos financieros que ofrecen y los mejores consejos para garantizar financiación para su proyecto de 2019.

Cultivando el Compromiso de la Comunidad

Gatos Comunitarios en Nuestros Jardines Comunitarios / Sala 8301

Anja Krause (Alianza de la alcaldía de NY-iniciativa para gatos callejeros)

La población de gatos salvajes y callejeros en muchos jardines comunitarios de la ciudad de Nueva York a veces puede afectar el uso y disfrute de nuestros preciosos espacios verdes. Este taller proporcionará una visión general del programa Capturar-Esterilizar-Soltar (Trap-Neuter-Return, TNR) y abordará el tema de cómo reducir la sobrepoblación de gatos en nuestras comunidades.

Historias Vivas: Descubriendo Historias Locales de Mujeres y de la Comunidad Agricultora / Sala 5383

LaTonya Jones y Raul Flores (Departamento de Registros y Servicios de Información de la Ciudad de Nueva York [NYC Department of Records and Information Services])

Descubra formas de capturar y preservar las historias desconocidas de mujeres en los jardines de su comunidad. En este taller, los jardineros aprenderán sobre el trabajo del Departamento de Registros y Servicios de Información de la Ciudad de Nueva York con los jardines comunitarios para documentar y homenajear sus experiencias, sobre cómo entrevistar a alguien, qué preguntas hacer para obtener recuerdos y cómo conservar permanentemente estas importantes historias en los Archivos Municipales.

Prácticas de Agroecología Indígena Sudamericanas / Sala 6496

Katharhy G. (Victor Flores) (Centro de Análisis de Ciencias Ambientales, Brooklyn College)

Este taller nos ayudará a comprender nuestra relación con los agroecosistemas y el entorno inmediato al explorar una práctica de ecología social de 1000 años de antigüedad en las comunidades indígenas andinas del Ecuador.

Talleres Intensivos Durante el Almuerzo: 12:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Proyección de Películas: El Rincón Criollo – Un Homenaje a José “Chema” Soto / Sala 6495

Ivette Rivera y Desseree Soto (Jardín Comunitario El Rincón Criollo)

Casitas son muy importantes para los jardineros comunitarios en la ciudad de Nueva York, particularmente para aquellos en la comunidad puertorriqueña. Este documental de Felipe Garcia analiza el movimiento de las casitas y la música de la Plena en el Bronx con un enfoque en José “Chema” Soto, uno de los jardineros comunitarios fundadores y Plenero en El Rincón Criollo, también conocido como La Casita de Chema. Puede ver esta película en youtu.be/rLZoaqQqJjA. Responderemos preguntas después de la película.

Talleres de Tarde: 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Jardinería, Compostaje, y Horticultura

Cultivar un Jardín Polinizador / Sala 6494

Chrissy Word (City Parks Foundation), Ursula Chanse (Bronx Green-Up), y Dina Garcia (New Roots Community Farm)

Aprenda y entienda la importancia de las plantas nativas, sus polinizadores asociados y sobre cómo cultivarlas tanto para el éxito como para la salud de su jardín y nuestra ciudad.

Para Maestros y Educadores de Jardines

Rastreo de Mariposas en los Jardines Comunitarios de Nueva York / Sala 6494

Katie Grassle (Citizens Committee for NYC), Chrissy Word (City Parks Foundation), Ursula Chanse (Bronx Green-Up), y Dina Garcia (New Roots Community Farm)

Este taller interactivo sobre las mariposas presenta un emocionante proyecto de ciencia ciudadana para adultos y jóvenes. Aprenda sobre estas increíbles criaturas y sobre cómo proporcionar datos a largo plazo para apoyar su conservación.

Dándole la Bienvenida a la Vida Silvestre en su Jardín: Parte I – Invitar a la Vida Silvestre / Sala 8400

Dan Tainow y Jesika Tixi (NYC Parks Urban Park Rangers)

¿Desesperado por los murciélagos, mariposas y abejas? Urban Park Rangers compartirá cómo alentar y tomar en cuenta a las comunidades ecológicas en la planificación de los jardines, y hablará sobre cómo hacer que la vida silvestre beneficiosa visite su jardín.





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From the GreenThumb Archives: Lenny Librizzi, formerly of GrowNYC, teaches a seed saving workshop at a past GreenThumb GrowTogether.

Thanks for being part of the GreenThumb GrowTogether Conference's 35-year history — and continuing to grow with us!

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