



CELEBRATING THE DIVERSITY OF GROWING

American Community Gardening Association

#ACGAHTOWN2023

A Message from the ACGA President



Houston is also known for having walls of art and graffiti that showcase its diverse nature and vibrant culture.

Welcome to Houston, Texas (H-Town) The host city of the American Community Gardening Association 45th Conference

I would like to thank the Local Host Committee, Our Sponsors and ACGA Board or Director for putting together this greening movement conference.

ACGA Board of Directors and I would like to extend a warm welcome to the conference attendees, presenters, vendors, community gardeners, farmers, educators, leaders, and volunteers that have made this conference a reality.

Texas is known for its connection to space exploration, diverse food scene, sports teams, energy industry, museums, and cultural institutions. These things have put Houston on the map as a vibrant and dynamic city that has something to offer for everyone.

Houston is also known for having walls of art and graffiti that showcase its diverse nature and vibrant culture. Houston even has a park that is dedicated just for graffiti. The Houston graffiti park is a must-stop for any visitor to this city. The park is filled with beautifully painted walls of different themes and colors.

While in the city, take time to explore this great city.

Cathy Walker
President



Board of Directors

Meghan Martin, NJ | Sara Loftus, WV | Cordalie Benoit, CT | Kay Bell, TX | Deidre Schuetz, OR | Kim Perry, TX
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JPMaestre, TX | Marilu Lopez Fretts, NY | Bill Maynard, CA | Carlos Martinez, NY | Vicki Garrett, OH

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Janna Roberson
Executive Director of
Urban Harvest
Houston

The American Community Gardening Association warmly welcomes Janna Roberson as our 2023 keynote speaker. Janna serves as Executive Director of Urban Harvest Inc., a nearly 30-year-old nonprofit that coordinates a network of over 190 community gardens within a 100-mile radius of Houston. The organization's role has expanded to include building food security, equitable access and resiliency throughout the region. Their dedicated staff and volunteers offer thousands of Houstonians access to fresh, healthy, and locally sourced food through adult gardening classes, youth gardening education, weekly farmers' market, traveling mobile farmers markets, and volunteer service opportunities.

Janna attributes Urban Harvest's success to "clear and simple values, focused on a mission to cultivate thriving communities."

"We create community across all our many program areas. Urban Harvest educates and connects people to local food; those who grow it, raise it, catch it and cook it. We are proud to support such an amazing array of gardeners, teachers, farmers, ranchers and food artisans."

Janna sees herself as a strategic thinker who understands the importance of collaboration and positive relationships. Effective collaboration and local partnerships have been the keys to Urban Harvest's growth and success under her watch.

SPONSORS

A special thank you to our sponsors for helping us make this conference possible.



WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

SESSION	ROOM 231	ROOM 171	ROOM 201	ROOM 169	ROOM 167	ROOM 205
	Horticulture	Community Engagement	Social Justice & Health	Innovative Program	CG Management	Youth programs or engagement
SESSION 1 Thursday, September 28 10:15am - 11:30am	Multiplying Your Edible Gardening Space on A Minimal Budget	Diamonds in the Soil: Watering and Retaining Culture	Gardens that Heal	Urban Permaculture: Cultivating Connections	From Vision to Reality: Fostering Sustainability and Unification through Community Gardening	Kids on the Farm: Creating Conditions Conducive to Life
LUNCH TIME 11:45 AM						
SESSION 2 Thursday, September 28 1:00pm - 2:15pm	Soil Microbiome and the Gut Microbiome: A Highway to Optimum Health	Rebuilding Affrilachia - using the arts, environment & social enterprise	How AmpleHarvest.org adapted to the unique conditions in Native American Reservations	Community Gardens in Public Housing: Green Thumb and NYCHA's Partnership	Designing Urban Harvest (1987-2008)	Rooted in the Digital Age: Sustaining Youth Gardening Programs Online
SESSION 3 Thursday, September 28 2:30pm - 3:45pm	Clay Pot Irrigation for the garden	Cultivating Unity: Growing Together, Diverse and Strong	Food Policies that Support Local Urban Ag & Food Systems	Creating an Oasis in A Food Desert	Gardening in Community: An "Organic" Way to Address Food Insecurity	Composting Engagement at Community Gardens
SESSION 4 Friday, September 29 9:00am - 10:15am	Let's Get Cooking with Compost	Equipment Sharing Coop Serving Urban Farmers in Low Food Access Areas	Why not What: Creating Impact Through Storytelling	Build a Johnson-Su Bioreactor to Create Fungal-prominent Compost	Rooted in Differences: Nurturing Diversity in Garden Spaces	Kool Kids Grow™
SESSION 5 Friday, September 29 10:30am - 11:45am	Let's Get Cooking with Compost.	Celebrating the diversity of growing (food)	Optimizing Gardens With and For Twelve Aspects of Well-Being	Engaging the Community: Creative Place making with Permaculture, Food Forests, Sustainability & the Arts	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Resources for Community and School Gardens	How Can We Use Policy to Protect Our Kids Health?
LUNCHTIME 12:00 NOON / ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING						
SESSION 6 Friday, September 29 2:00pm 90 minutes	10 Farmer Hacks To Make You Garden Like A Boss	Container Gardening with Afghan Evacuees	Places of Healing and Hope: DUG's Therapeutic Garden Initiative	The Urban Garden Project: Uniting, Uplifting and Activating the Community Garden Movement Across the US (DUG)	Faith-Based Community Gardens and Resources for Religious Congregations	

#ACGAHTown2023

WORKSHOPS

SESSION 1: 10:15am – 11:30am

LOCATION: ROOM 231



Multiplying Your Edible Gardening Space on A Minimal Budget

Joyce Moore

How to take initial small steps at becoming more self-sufficient, living a life that is more in harmony with nature and to provide the tools and resources to get them started, growing and thriving.

LOCATION: ROOM 171



Diamonds in the Soil: Watering and Retaining Culture

Ariane Williams

Teaching others how to create diverse community gardens through the implementation of culture based activities To teach communities how to unite through culture gardening to combat divisiveness in under-served communities.

LOCATION: ROOM 201



Gardens that Heal

Rosario Hernandez & Ramona Holliday

By sharing our stories we have the desire for others to understand that grief is real. The way we are navigating into a happier place is through gardening.

SESSION 2: 1:00pm – 2:15pm

LOCATION: 231



Soil Microbiome and the Gut Microbiome: A Highway to Optimum Health

Ginny Spain Thomas

What defines what a healthy diverse soil is? There is a relationship between the soil, plant and human microbiome. The human microbiome affects the risk of developing certain chronic diseases.

LOCATION: ROOM 169



Urban Permaculture: Cultivating Connections

Carol Burton

Permaculture seeks design solutions based on ecological patterns. This workshop highlights urban Permaculture principles & applies them to community gardening. Permaculture can help restore nature & strengthen food security.

LOCATION: ROOM 167



From Vision to Reality: Fostering Sustainability and Unification through Community Gardening

Sally B. Fowler (co-presenter Ann Clarke)

Participants will learn strategies for establishing a community garden through local volunteer participation that creates space for growing food and growing relationships across diverse populations.

LOCATION: ROOM 204

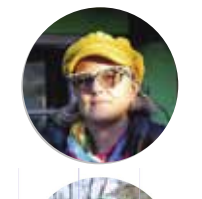


Kids on the Farm: Creating Conditions Conducive to Life

Cath Conlon (co presenter- Megan Parks)

Walk away with inspiration Ideas for engaging urban kids in farm settings. Learn how students gain appreciation of soil as a living kaleidoscope of life. Sparking kids' joy in nature, even in contexts with many limitations (indoors, no tools, etc)

LOCATION: ROOM 171



Rebuilding Afrilachia

Safi Martin (Co-presenting DeWayne Barton)

Using the arts, environment & social enterprise. Understand the History of the history Burton Street neighborhood in West Asheville, NC. Discuss strategies for fundraising, community/youth engagement, garden maintenance/ beautification, community development, creative reuse, and earned sustainable revenue.



WORKSHOPS

SESSION 2: 1:00pm – 2:15pm (con't)

LOCATION: ROOM 201



How AmpleHarvest.org adapted to the unique conditions in Native American Reservation

Gary Oppenheimer

Learn how uncovered information on the extent of gardening in these communities and how it factored in cultural considerations as well as technology enhancements to solve the problem. The key takeaway will be that one size doesn't always fit all, but a focused effort looking beyond the obvious can ameliorate that.

LOCATION: ROOM 169



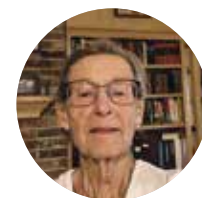
Community Gardens in Public Housing: GreenThumb and NYCHA's Partnership

Carlos Martinez (co-presenters Lillian Reyes and Luis Pasuizaca)

Best practices for community engagement strategies through the support of two large government entities. We will share how government agencies can work together with community groups and public housing residents to direct resources for the creation and maintenance of public green space.

SESSION 3: 2:30pm – 3:45pm

LOCATION: ROOM 231



Clay Pot Irrigation for the Garden

Jean A. Fefer Ph.D.

The porosity of clay as a means of delivering water directly to the root zone of plants in the garden. It includes the manufacture of the pots from available materials, a description of placement in the soil, data and comparison of water usage with other forms of irrigation.

LOCATION: ROOM 167



Designing Urban Harvest (1987-2008)

Bob Randall

Applies twenty-one years of experience building an organization that serves large numbers of people of every heritage, age, identity, wealth, and education. Share some ideas about permaculture and anthropological strategies.

LOCATION: ROOM 204



Rooted in the Digital Age: Sustaining Youth Gardening Programs Online

Sarah Pounders

Introduce participants to ways The Kids Garden Community can support their work through resources and network opportunities. - Gather feedback from participants to discover ways The Kids Garden Community can better support and inspire community gardeners.

LOCATION: ROOM 171



Cultivating Unity: Growing Together, Diverse and Strong

James R. Gardner

In our community garden in Greensboro, North Carolina, we embrace our community's diversity – backgrounds, perspectives, and cultures. Crop diversity also improves our garden's sustainability and productivity. We explore how diversity can strengthen both the community and the garden.

WORKSHOPS

SESSION 3: 2:30pm – 3:45pm (con't)

LOCATION: ROOM 201



Food Policies that Support Local Urban Ag & Food Systems

Rob Bennaton

This workshop seeks to increase awareness of helpful food systems and land access policies worth replicating in diverse and mixed income communities, starting with food access, and the roles of community gardens and urban farms.

LOCATION: ROOM 169



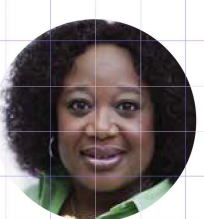
Creating an Oasis in A Food Desert

Chris Battle

The workshop will invite attendees into a reflective and conversational workshop around local food justice and how to make space to include people on the margins to bring food justice to their community.

SESSION 4: 9:00am – 10:15am

LOCATION: ROOM 231



Let's Get Cooking With Compost

Janice Brown

Are you looking to make your soil and plants healthier? Compost is your answer. In this session you will learn the steps to build an active compost pile. If you've been hesitant to start composting, this session will give you all you need to get started..

LOCATION: ROOM 167



Gardening in Community: An "Organic" Way to Address Food Insecurity

Emma Layman

(co-presenter-Natalie Mayanja)
Spark creativity in the audience by providing an example of how government agencies and community members can come together to address gaps in local food systems Includes details about a unique project designed specifically to increase the availability of local, fresh produce.



LOCATION: ROOM 204



Composting Engagement at Community Gardens

Flannery Pearson Clark

Discuss different composting systems used in school systems and community gardens.

LOCATION: ROOM 171



Equipment Sharing Coop Serving Urban Farmers in Low Food Access Areas

Billy Lawton

Identify key strategies and project design, alignment of resources and activities, strategic partners and their roles that will lead to the development of a successful Equipment Sharing Cooperative.

WORKSHOPS

SESSION 4: 9:00am – 10:15am (con't)

LOCATION: ROOM 201



Why not What: Creating Impact Through Storytelling

Sarah Sikich

Will help participants identify their "why" and their "what". Showing them how to utilize their "why" to create an impactful story. Review recommended tools to share your story and measure effectiveness, and transfer this skill to their organization or garden's storytelling to show impact.

LOCATION: ROOM 169



Build a Johnson-Su Bioreactor to Create Fungal-prominent Compost

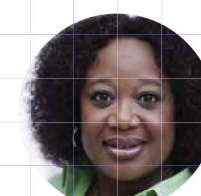
Matt Batchelder

(co-presenter- Charlie Comstock)

Using fungal-prominent compost learn how it is improving the efficiency of how we produce food locally is essential to increasing our ability to overcome future food shortages in feeding our communities.

SESSION 5: 10:30am – 11:45am

LOCATION: ROOM 231

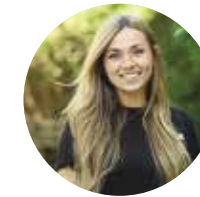


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LOCATION: ROOM 167



Rooted in Differences: Nurturing Diversity in Garden Spaces

Meghan Martin

We'll inspire participants with the story of Duke Farms Community Garden. Attendees will learn about creating a network of garden leaders, embracing diverse abilities, and fostering inclusive garden spaces, encouraging them to leverage diversity for stronger, harmonious community gardens.

LOCATION: ROOM 204



How Can We Use Policy to Protect Our Kid's Health?

Etan Mabourakh

Gain a clear understanding of the significant policy mechanisms impacting children's health, and will learn practical strategies for grassroots political advocacy. This includes dissecting influential legislation, and employing methods such as petitioning, constituent meetings, peer-to-peer organizing, and media blitzing to effect policy change.

LOCATION: ROOM 171



Celebrating the diversity of growing (food)

Don Boekelheide

To empower participants to employ tested soil and water conservation and planting strategies to maximize ecological diversity in community food gardens; and to create a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences. These will be hands-on practical techniques people can use in their gardens, rather than theory.

WORKSHOPS

SESSION 5: (con't) 10:30am – 11:45am

LOCATION: ROOM 201



Optimizing Gardens With and For Twelve Aspects of Well-Being
Deidre Schuetz; Kenneth Powell-Wilson
Highlight examples of how these twelve aspects of well-being can be woven into community garden settings and aligned with local cultures and ecologies to optimize health.

LOCATION: ROOM 169



Creative Placemaking with Permaculture, Food Forests, Sustainability & the Arts
Laura Carisa Gardea
Where there are many food deserts, and we can become ecologically displaced; food forests become a remedy for the health and resilience of communities biologically and culturally.

LOCATION: ROOM 167



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Resources for Community and School Gardens
Brandi Keller
Provide resources, curriculum ideas, and contacts to community garden teams and promote land grant university systems in their state.

LOCATION: ROOM 204



Kool Kids Grow™
Kendall Rae Johnson (Co-presenters Ursula Johnson)
Teaching youth the aGROWKulture way from a youth perspective, supported by loving adults. Lead by the youngest certified farmer Kendall Rae Johnson.

SESSION 6: 2:00pm- 3:30pm

LOCATION: 231



10 Farmer Hacks To Make You Garden Like A Boss
tenisio seanima
To leave gardeners with 10 new skills that will ensure their gardens are more sustainable financially and productively.

LOCATION: ROOM 171



Container Gardening with Afghan Evacuees
Stevie Riley
Anyone can garden anywhere! Learn about opportunities to engage New U.S. Americans living in apartments to grow great food!

LOCATION: 201



Places of Healing and Hope: DUG's Therapeutic Garden Initiative
Lara Wirtz Fahnestock
How do we make sure our gardens are welcoming and accessible with activities and opportunities for everyone?

LOCATION: ROOM 169



The Urban Garden Project: Uniting, Uplifting and Activating the Community Garden Movement Across the US (DUG)
Linda Appel Lipsius, Carlos Martinez, Sarah Sikich, & Ben Helphand
Introduce DUG's new Therapeutic Garden Initiative and share take away steps for others to create their own therapeutic space.

LOCATION: 167



Faith-Based Community Gardens and Resources for Religious Congregations
James Cavendish and Will Schanbacher
The presentation encourages attendees to recognize and appreciate the value of diversity in fostering a stronger, more inclusive, and thriving community.



GARDEN TOURS

ALL TOURS Load at 8:00am. Lunch will be enjoyed at the last stop of each tour.



TOUR 1: A World of Gardens

Tour Lead Betty Baer

8:45 am Alief Community Garden

9:45 am Shamba Ya Amani

11:15 am Westbury/Plant it Forward

See this range of plants and gardeners like no other. From the 85 bed Alief Community Garden, said to be the most diverse of Houston. To Shamba Ya Amani, (Farm of Peace), run by Congolese women and focusing on cut flowers. Ending at Westbury Gardens, a large allotment garden of reclaimed city land, which includes Plant It Forward, a farm run by resettled refugees.

TOUR 2: Local Food, Global Beauty, Access for All

Tour Lead David Morris

9:00 am Urban Harvest Farmers Market

10:15 am Hermann Park / Japanese Garden

11:30 am Rice University

Starting with a trip to Urban Harvest's local-producers-only farmers' market, this tour continues to Hermann Park's beautiful Japanese Garden, and concludes with the Freidman Holistic Garden at Rice University, designed so people of all ages and abilities can enjoy gardening.



TOUR3: Teach Someone to Plant a Seed...

Tour Lead Terry Garner

9:00 am Gregory Lincoln Education Center

10:00 am Palm Center

11:15 am Alabama Gardens

See for yourself at the garden program of Gregory Lincoln Educational Center, where elementary aged students grow and prepare food, learn about compost, and even have their own rain garden! Next stop is Palm Center's Farmers' Market and outdoor kitchen and garden education space at a revitalized urban mall transformed into a park and community asset. To top off the tour, you'll visit Alabama Community Garden, the oldest in Houston and still growing strong in historic Third Ward on land owned by Texas Southern University.

TOUR 4: Urban Sanctuaries

Tour Lead Janice Brown

9:15 am Kolter Elementary School

10:30 am Urban Harvest Farmers Market

11:30 am Houston Arboretum

This tour begins at Kolter Elementary, where a beloved school garden was renovated after damage from Hurricane Harvey, creating an outdoor learning space that now boasts a native prairie, a pond, and an orchard. Afterward, the tour will visit Urban Harvest's Farmers Market which features produce from local farmers and prepared foods. We will finish with a tour and lunch at the Houston Arboretum, an urban nature sanctuary set inside a 1,500 acre park.



#ACGAHTown2023

ACGA'S 2023 HOUSTON CONFERENCE
HOST TEAM MEMBERS



KAY BELL
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Global Revive*



KIM PERRY
*Director of Education
Urban Harvest*



SCOTT HOWARD
*Owner/Operator of the
Montrose Urban Food Farm*



TERRY GARNER
*Member of Urban Harvest
Community Gardens
Committee*



BETTY BEAR
*Crafty Community
Gardener &
Tours Committee Lead*



JANICE BROWN
*Owner of Garden
Education Service*



DAVID MORRIS
*Member of Urban Harvest
Community Gardens
Committee*

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