CCGA 2023 Event Series:

How Does Your Garden Grow? Tell Us, Show Us!

The Chicago Community Gardening Association is stepping into 2023 with a new vision of how we can gather. We want to build on the experience of our 10th Anniversary event where we celebrated our collective work, reveled in nature, and connected with friends. For 2023, we propose a series of events for community gardeners across the City to learn about and experience community gardening *in our gardens*. The **How Does Your Garden Grow?** event series will occur in the months of April and May, and again in September and October.

What is the How Does Your Garden Grow Event Series?

For most of us, a garden is "just a natural place to be." It's that place where our shared work overcomes our differences. Your garden didn't happen overnight. The journey may have been a long one, with struggles along the way, but there is still so much to learn about gardening: How do we wake up our gardens? How do we put our gardens to bed? Great things, like great gardens, take time. How does your garden create that experience?

CCGA invites all our community gardeners, garden groups and organizations such as block clubs or greening committees across the City to collaborate. Tell us, show us how your garden grows.

Who should participate?

Every garden! Community gardens have people with extraordinary talents and abilities. They may not have their own Wikipedia page, but for your garden, they are what you need. How does your garden or organization provide an opportunity for all gardeners to engage with each other and find joy in gardening? How does your garden connect with nature, or create stewardship? Does your garden motivate people to promote and enact environmental sustainability? Please tell us, show us.

Spring Series: How Do We Wake Up Our Garden?

In early April, when Spring has finally sprung – at least on the calendar – we wake up our gardens. It's time for our winter planning and dreaming to become a reality. You are likely eager to see the soil and do some planting. In April and May, gardens participating in the series, **"How**

Does Your Garden Grow?" may show others that there is plenty to be done in the garden through prep and planning, mulching, weeding, edging, seeding, and creating new beds. Your garden may do additional work removing spent flowers or planting annuals or perennials for additional color and interest to attract pollinators. Please tell us, show us!

Fall Series: How Do We Put Our Garden To Bed?

As Fall approaches, when the weather prompts our final harvest of what has and still flourishes in our gardens, it's time to put our gardens to bed. In September and October, gardeners participating in this series, **"How Does Your Garden Grow?"** may show others that there is still plenty to do in the garden: Remove tired and leggy summer blooming annuals and cleanup, weed, and mulch again. Fall is the time to plant new perennials. Gardeners divide plants like hosta, daylilies, and phlox and replant them or share them with a friend. Please tell us, show us!

What can you plan?

As a series host, there are numerous creative ways for your garden to plan an event or something in combination with other gardens to bring gardeners together across the City in the very garden(s) where you work. To host an event, pick a date and share your ideas with us. Events could include a workshop/panel discussion, food, music or art festivities, an open house, guided or self-guided garden tours, celebration, or something else unique to your community garden! Please tell us, show us by filling out this form.

What CCGA can do!

CCGA will partner with community gardens that host an event. We will actively participate and plan with you, the 2023 Garden Series: **How Does Your Garden Grow?** Based on your proposal, CCGA will offer support that may include:
- A food allowance
- Material support (i.e. a port-a-potty or seating)
- Suggestions for panel or workshop speakers
- Technical and marketing support (flyers, signage, registration, maps)
- Other event-specific support