

**Topic:**

#ChicagoGrowsFood: Join the movement to creatively grow food at home in small spaces during the pandemic and meet your neighbors in the process

**Categories:**

Gardening with youth, neighborhood advocacy, how-to

**Proposal contact:**

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**Workshop Description:**

Members of Chicago Grows Food will engage community gardeners in a live workshop on creative home growing techniques for a variety of growing spaces (e.g. balconies, windowsill, tabletop, small yard, etc.) to encourage new and veteran gardeners to keep growing in the time of social distancing. In addition to sharing cultivation techniques and tools for small spaces, the workshop will introduce gardeners to our social media campaign encouraging Chicago growers to tag food growing posts on Instagram with #ChicagoGrowsFood to share their stories and connect with neighbors online. The photos are searchable on Instagram by following the hashtag and will also be displayed on our Chicago gardens photo wall at <https://www.chicagogrowsfood.org/garden-instagram-feed/>.

**Workshop leaders:**

This workshop will be group-led by Chicago Grows Food, a collaborative of school garden educators, growers, earth stewards, and academics that formed during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide technical assistance and growing materials for families to produce food at home during this crisis.

Presenters are:

Akilah Martin, AM Root Builders Inc.  
Peter Hoy, Stein Learning Gardens at St. Sabina

Below is a summary of the primary partners and the contributions they make to our collective work:

- **AM Root Builders:** Support connections between soil health, food and people.
- **Big Green:** Connect school communities to growing food and food literacy education.
- **Common Threads:** Offer nutrition and cooking education to Chicago youth and their families.
- **DePaul University:** Connection to youth internship opportunities, and research and evaluation support.
- **Gardeneers:** Maintain school gardens and provide weekly garden-based education.

- **Healthy Schools Campaign:** Support wellness initiatives at schools and develop schoolyards in support of those initiatives.
- **Openlands:** Support urban greenspace development and environmental education.
- **Stein Learning Gardens at St. Sabina:** Educate youth to grow food and provide food access for the St. Sabina and larger Auburn Gresham community.
- **UIC – Chicago Partnership for Health Promotion:** Provide SNAP-ed and garden education to Chicago schools.
- **UIC:** Research and evaluation support.

**A presentation must be free of cultural appropriation and gender or racial bias.**

We agree with this statement and affirm that our presentation is free of both.

**Spanish language presentations are sought by our attendees.**

Through our partners, we serve a large population of Spanish speakers. If selected, we will hire a Spanish language interpreter for our presentation.

**Please select your presentation format:**

Live Presentation

Workshop

**Presentation time:**

There will be three sessions on Saturday, March 20: the first from 10:00 - 11:00am, the second from 11:30am - 12:30pm, and the third from 2:00 – 3:00pm immediately following the break-out sessions. Please indicate which session you would like to present. You may choose one or more sessions:

10:00 - 11:00am  11:30am - 12:30pm  2:00 – 3:00pm