

Open Letter to Chicago Community Gardeners Association

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From Anastas Vavra
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To CCGA
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Hey gardeners and garden workers here in Chicago in Englewood,

Hope your day is going Ok! I am seeking reasonable backing or support for food security, workshop space in Englewood.

I've already personally committed to building a food security garden at my lot 1046 W 61st St in Englewood near the farmer's market and I want to take it to the next level. I've personally put together owning the lot, a shipping container shell, fenced in the area and a few gardening tools. I've begun collecting and upcycling building materials with a large bicycle trailer, and have worked through a few diagrams for water for the plants currently there though I'm unsure how to continue on an organizational level. Eventually I want to build a home there for me to be near what I'm working on. There is also audio recording tools there for access for the community when operational. Right now I've run out of funds and resources to move forward with and haven't found funding yet.

I am seeking a route forward and I don't know how to get funding or who to speak with. I went to The Hatchery for the Open Space and Land Use meeting 05.24 and ended up speaking with Mary Fran Riley who guided me to Cordia Pugh who she was working in my area. Mary let me know it was in a different building that particular day and sent me on some leads for Englewood though none of the leads lead to anything in our area. Earlier I also went to the vinyl event and farmers market in Englewood on 05.17 and spoke with Grow Greater Englewood and put my name on the list though I'm not sure there'll be positions available for me in their upcoming gardening cohort.

I'm not sure what direction to go and I'm seeking to speak with somebody who could direct me to ways forward for this project that'd yield a bunch of awesome happenings for the neighborhood. It would be a waste to not work on this!

Is there anyone who could guide me to some way forward that makes sense?

Wellwishes,
Anastas