



# CCGA 5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 25, 2017  
Breakthrough FamilyPlex  
Chicago, Illinois

» Chicago Community Gardeners Association

# CCGA

# WELCOME!

## **Welcome to the 5th Annual Conference of the Chicago Community Gardeners Association!**

Garfield Park has created an urban farm, community parkways, container gardens, and many on-the-ground greening projects. It is still home to more community gardens than we could name, and it is home to our 5th Annual Conference.

We're gathering this year at the Breakthrough FamilyPlex, a new LEED certified facility that opened its doors shortly after a celebratory ribbon cutting in January 2015. With its wood and gleaming steel exterior and multicolored glass windows inspired in part by African American Art, it's no surprise that it has just been honored by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Chicago at the 23rd Annual Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards. Arloa Sutter, founder of Breakthrough, describes this multi-use complex as a "community hub"; it offers a variety of amenities like meeting spaces, activities for adults, access to technology, and health and fitness options for the neighborhood of Garfield Park. It is one of three facilities operated by Breakthrough Urban Ministries in Garfield Park, a community of partnerships. Partnerships are, in the broadest sense, connections between and among people and groups to share interests and create visions for the future.

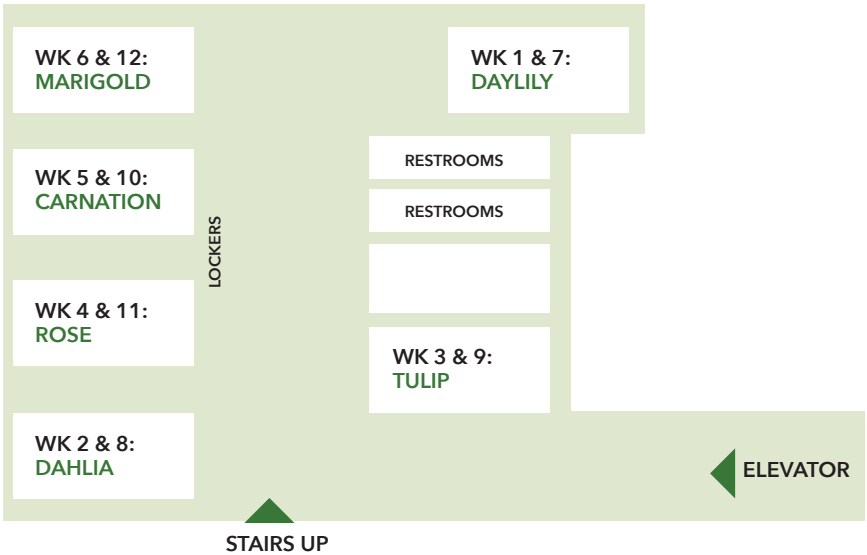
This year CCGA chose a theme "Gardeners Grow Communities" which signals our intention to keep growing and using the power of community. We invite our guests to enjoy our workshops in the brightly painted classrooms, linger at the Bridge Cafe tables to network with other gardeners, and please do actively participate in our panel by bringing your questions to our four panelists.

We're honored to have you join us today and thank you for your role in growing our Chicago gardening community!

# SCHEDULE

9:00am-10:00am	<b>Welcome, Continental Breakfast, Networking</b> <i>Atrium and Bouquet Main Hall</i>
10:00am-11:00am	<b>Workshops Session 1</b> <i>2nd Floor Classrooms</i>
11:15am-12:15pm	<b>Workshops Session 2</b> <i>2nd Floor Classrooms</i>
12:15pm-1:05pm	<b>Lunch, Exhibitors &amp; Vendors, Networking</b> <i>Atrium and Bouquet Main Hall</i>
1:15	<b>Panel Discussion</b> <i>Bouquet Main Hall</i>
2:00	<b>Conference Wrap-Up</b> <i>Bouquet Main Hall</i>

## 2nd Floor Classrooms



# WORKSHOPS

## SESSION 1

10:00AM-11:00AM

### **WK1 - DIY Season Extension for the Community Garden**

#### *Daylily Room*

Zach Grant, a local foods and small farms educator with University of Illinois Extension will explore the concepts and techniques of using season extension cultural methods and structures to prolong your growing season.

### **WK2 - Get Your Green On! Tips for Growing Natural, Vibrant Gardens**

#### *Dahlia Room*

Ryan Anderson and Ruth Kerzee, of Midwest Pesticide Action Center will equip gardeners with action-oriented resources for maintaining resilient and vibrant vegetation without synthetic pesticides and fertilizers. In an hour, they will immerse participants in three informal, interactive games that cover critical aspects of a systemic and effective garden.

### **WK3 - Community Gardens as Multi-Issue Community Organizing Hubs**

#### *Tulip Room*

Viviana Moreno and Fermin Meza, of Semillas de Justicia Community Garden will encourage community garden coordinators, master gardeners, and volunteers to expand the use of their gardens so that community members can organize around several issues at the local neighborhood level. The presentation will offer examples of how community gardens can become "outdoor" community centers during the gardening season.

### **WK4 - Basic Vegetable Gardening**

#### *Rose Room*

Nancy Kreith, a Cook County Extension Horticulture Educator will focus on learning the basics for soil preparation, direct seeding, transplanting and harvesting vegetables at the proper time, along with after planting care.

### **WK5 - The Growing Classroom**

#### *Carnation Room*

Kimberly George, of Chicago Youth Centers, will join with her youth garden members to share with us the benefits and multiple purposes of youth gardens from a kid's point of view.

## **WK6 - Compost Magic**

*Marigold Room*

Breanne Heath, of Peterson Garden Project will show you how to transform your compost pile (or worm bin) from a sad pile of dead plants to one of the most valuable amendments for your garden.

## **SESSION 2**

**11:15AM-12:15PM**

## **WK7 - DIY Season Extension for the Community Garden**

*Daylily Room*

See Session 1 description.

## **WK8 - Get Your Green On! Tips for Growing Natural, Vibrant Gardens**

*Dahlia Room*

See Session 1 description.

## **WK9 - Community Gardens as Multi-Issue Community Organizing Hubs**

*Tulip Room*

See Session 1 description.

## **WK10 - The Growing Classroom**

*Carnation Room*

See Session 1 description.

## **WK11 - How to Plan Your Raised Vegetable Bed**

*Rose Room*

Mattie Wilson, with the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance will focus on plant spacing in a limited area using early season space, utilizing vertical space to avoid overcrowding, and succession planting of quick maturing plants.

## **WK12 - Compost Magic**

*Marigold Room*

See Session 1 description.

# PANEL DISCUSSION

What exactly do we mean when we say “Gardeners Grow Communities”? Is there anything tangible, even measurable, about such communities? Why do some gardens engage differently in communities? Panelists will tackle these questions plus those from the audience.

## Panel Moderator

**Juan Pablo Herrera** is Assistant City Director at DOOR Network, in East Garfield Park where he guides, leads, and directs young volunteers and provides service opportunities for them in Chicago and in our very own CCGA community gardens throughout the spring and summer. He is a former Media Coordinator at La Casa Del Carpintero / The Carpenter’s House, and he has worked at Humboldt Park Social Services. He loves music, especially live music concerts.

## Panelists

**Kimberly George** is Out of School Time (OST) Manager with Chicago Youth Centers (CYC). During her 25+ year career with CYC and YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Kimberly has focused her energy working with youth in North Lawndale. Her approach is mission driven and based on the needs of the community she serves. “The Nature Team” is a lively group of 5-9 year-old youth participants at CYC who participate in “The Growing Classroom” Program, whose mission is to provide outdoor education and create a peaceful environment with new opportunities for family and community engagement. The Sunshine Youth Garden at the CYC, Growing Classroom and “Nature Team” have been recognized by The National Youth Gardening Association, Muhammad Ali Peace Center, Martin Richard Bridge Builder Foundation, and GenerationOn – A Points of Light Foundation. In 2016, Nature Team members received the President’s Environmental Youth Award in Washington, D.C.

**Nancy Kreith** aims to serve youth and adults of Cook County by bringing expertise and encouragement to those interested in using plants to benefit their lives. She expands her horticulture knowledge by educating and providing leadership for volunteers in the Master Gardener (MG) certification program and oversees their volunteer projects in the county’s south and

southwest suburbs. Together with the help of MG volunteers thousands of county residents benefit from Extension programming. Nancy is a long-time resident of Chicago. As a student at the south side's Chicago High School of Agricultural Sciences her appreciation of plants blossomed when she served as an intern with U of I Extension. Nancy went on to University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign to receive her Bachelor of Landscape Architecture and her Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Science. During her graduate program, Nancy completed her individual research project on elements of sustainable school gardens and their potential as teaching tools.

**Viviana Moreno** is the Community Resiliency Organizer at the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO). She was born and raised in Venezuela and has been living in Chicago for the last six years organizing with several youth and community based organizations. Viviana serves as the Brownfield Redevelopment Campaign Organizer for LVEJO as well as the coordinator for the Semillas de Justicia Community Garden. Ever since she started working at the Semillas de Justicia Community Garden, Viviana has become increasingly passionate about different food growth processes, food systems, herbalism, and botany. She's an alumni of the Black and Latino Farmer's Immersion Program at Soul Fire Farm in Grafton, NY and holds a Season Extension Certificate from Windy City Harvest Apprenticeship Program.

**Fermin Meza** has been with the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO) since early 2008. Fermin started as a volunteer in the campaign helping to build and organize around home and community gardens and a graduate of the PUDDJ Leadership Program. He is a Master Gardener. As one of the founding members of "Comite Primavera", Fermin helped create a community board to plan, carry out, and fundraise for the Urban Agriculture Campaign. Voted in as President in 2009, Fermin oversaw the negotiation with Amor de Dios Church to use their property for a community garden, and worked with campaign leaders and volunteers to plan out, build, and maintain the Amor de Dios Garden. His experience with farming and livestock in rural Mexico has helped him in both outreaching to former farmers in the community and in maintaining the gardens.

# PRESENTERS

**Ryan Anderson** manages MPAC's Midwest Grows Green initiative that educates homeowners, park/school districts, and businesses about best landscaping practices to reduce synthetic lawn pesticide and fertilizer use. A past National Academies of Sciences Fellow, he holds a Master of Sustainability Solutions from ASU. Ryan has a passion for communicating complex scientific issues to the public.

**Kimberly George** - See page 6.

**Zachary Grant**, Local Foods and Small Farms Educator, University of Illinois Extension. Zack holds a B.S. in Agribusiness/Horticulture from Illinois State University and a M.S in Horticulture from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. From 2008-2015 he was the manager and director of the Sustainable Student Farm at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, a working small farm laboratory located on the fruit research farm at UIUC. Its mission is to grow year-round, high-quality produce for the dining halls and university community. In addition, the SSF conducts research in intensive small scale farming techniques, season extension techniques, and outreach to the larger growing community. In 2015 he became the Local Food Systems and Small Farms Educator for Cook County, focusing on urban food production systems programming for a diverse group of stakeholders.

**Breanne Heath** is an ASHS certified horticulturist and has been teaching people to grow their own food for ten years. She designed and installed one of Chicago's first edible semi-intensive green roof gardens, and is the owner-operator of a certified organic pick-your-own farm in the city, The Pie Patch. When not at The PiePatch, Breanne works at Peterson Garden Project where she manages adult garden education classes, seed saving and demonstration gardens, the Grow2Give pantry donation program, Edible Treasures garden at The Field Museum, and contributes timely growing information for the blog, We Can Grow It.



**Ruth Kerzee** has been on MPAC's staff since 2005. Ms. Kerzee has been responsible for Midwest Pesticide Action Center's promotion of Integrated Pest Management in schools, childcare facilities, and housing. Ms. Kerzee, also, manages all executive duties such as generating evaluative programs and strategizing on the growth and development of the organization. She has a Master's of Science degree in Public Health from the University of Illinois Chicago, more than 15 years experience working on occupational and environmental health issues, and is a licensed pest control technician.

**Nancy Kreith** - See page 6.

**Fermin Meza** - See page 7.

**Viviana Moreno** - See page 7.

**Mattie Wilson** is the Sustainability and Adult Programs Manager at the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance. Mattie has taken the organization's mission to heart about connecting people to nature through education. Her experience includes teaching adult classes on building worm bins and composting, creating and leading volunteer trainings, in addition to presenting for groups and at events. Presentations include composting for the Chicago Conservation Corps and large-scale events including the Good Food Festival, American Community Garden Association Conference, and the Midwest Museum Association Annual Conference.

## EXHIBITORS

Visit the **CCGA Resources** tables to the front of the Bouquet Main Hall to the left to claim your door prize and find out what's in store for this season.

Share your thoughts with the **CCGA Membership** team at the tables to the front of the Bouquet Main Hall on the right. Help us envision the future of the CCGA!

Stop by the **Community Literature** table in the Atrium to share or pick up information from other community gardens and organizations who support the work and goals of sustainable community gardening.

Explore the **CCGA Seed Table** in the Bouquet Main Hall!

# VENDORS

## **Advocates for Urban Agriculture**

AUA is a coalition of individuals, organizations and businesses working to support and expand sustainable agriculture in the Chicago area, from home- and community-based growing to market gardens and small farms. AUA pursues its mission through resource sharing, advocacy, and outreach working groups. Contact: [info@auachicago.org](mailto:info@auachicago.org), [auachicago.org](http://auachicago.org). Connect on social media: FB: /auachicago, Twitter & Instagram: @auachicago.

## **Chicago Park District**

Find out about CPD programs and opportunities for new community garden groups to get started through the Community Gardens in the Parks Program. Visit [chicagoparkdistrict.com/facilities/community-gardens](http://chicagoparkdistrict.com/facilities/community-gardens).

## **Aisha Lampert - Simeon Career Academy, CPS**

Join Aisha Lampert, a Simeon student, who will demonstrate how to construct garden benches from wood pallets. Aisha's been working with wood since 2015, and learned her carpentry skills from her teacher Isiah Rowsey. She's been making park furniture for the last year, following her experience with the Sweet Water Foundation. Contact Aisha at [aishalampert@gmail.com](mailto:aishalampert@gmail.com).

## **Lead Abatement Resource Center - LARC**

LARC's mission is to collect, evaluate, invent, implement, advocate and research effective solutions to lead hazards in the environment and provide educational resources through cooperative partnerships with community organizations, government agencies and private sector business. Contact Brian LoVetere at [blovetere@larcusa.org](mailto:blovetere@larcusa.org) or (708) 745-1599.

## **NeighborSpace**

NeighborSpace is the only nonprofit urban land trust in Chicago that preserves and sustains gardens on behalf of dedicated community groups. They support community gardens - through property ownership, insurance, water, stewardship, education, tool lending, project planning, fundraising support, troubleshooting, and more - so that community groups can focus on gardening and on their community-building vision, generating food, beauty, play, health, and safety for their neighborhoods. Visit [neighbor-space.org](http://neighbor-space.org).

## **Openlands**

Openlands protects the natural and open spaces of northeastern Illinois and the surrounding region to ensure cleaner air and water, protect natural habitats and wildlife, and help balance and enrich our lives. Visit [openlands.org](http://openlands.org).

### **Rebuilding Exchange**

See a cold frame garden bed and other DIY garden projects using reclaimed materials and pick up some information about Rebuilding Exchange's educational programs and their price list for reclaimed materials. Find out more at [rebuildingexchange.org](http://rebuildingexchange.org).

### **Quercus Consulting**

Quercus Consulting is collecting stories from community gardeners to document the best practices of what keeps these unique urban assets thriving year after year. Please connect with Grace at the conference to share your tips, tricks, and lessons learned or post-conference via [Grace.rink@quercusconsult.com](mailto:Grace.rink@quercusconsult.com) or (312) 622-6265.

### **Search, Inc.**

Artwork and objects created by adult artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including paintings, garden markers, candles, and other items. Visit [search-inc.org](http://search-inc.org).

### **UIC Heritage Garden**

Check out the UIC Heritage Garden seed library along with their extensive plant research, growing guides, storytelling guides, and charts. They will have seed packets to give away (and/or trade) that have been saved over the years from the garden and other gardens around the city. In addition, pick up some materials relevant to monarch conservation. Find out more at [heritagegarden.uic.edu](http://heritagegarden.uic.edu).

### **UIC**

Find out more about a current research project entitled, *Cultivating Wellbeing: the social, ecological and health effects of community gardens in Chicago*. Contact Molly Doane at [mdoane@uic.edu](mailto:mdoane@uic.edu).

### **West Cook Wild Ones**

West Cook Wild Ones is all about planting natives to help bring pollinators into your garden. The organization assists churches and schools that want to add native gardens on their land. Contact Sharon Storbeck at (708) 717-9015.

### **ZUMBA**

Shalise Pugh-Smith is a licensed Zumba and Pilates instructor. She holds group classes in outdoor spaces in parks and garden settings. Her instruction is customized to the groups ranging from children, women, and seniors to moms and newborns. For more info, email [edwpugh@gmail.com](mailto:edwpugh@gmail.com).

## STAY CONNECTED!

Follow us on Facebook @ ChicagoCommunityGardenersAssociation and sign up for the monthly newsletter at [chicagocommunitygardens.org](http://chicagocommunitygardens.org)

## JOIN US!

**Spring Annuals Distribution**

Saturday, April 8 @ 10:00 am

Center for Green Technology, 445 N. Sacramento

Coming in May - Vegetable & Summer Flower Seedling Distribution

## THANK YOU!

The Chicago Community Gardeners Association would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous help and donations.

Without you, this conference would not have been possible.

### **Breakthrough Family Plex**

for providing an inspiring place for us to gather, for the delicious food, assistance, and all of your support in the planning of our conference.

Thank you to our sponsors:

**Christy Webber Landscapes**

**Garfield Park Community Council & Garden Network**

**The Mac Arthur Foundation**

**NeighborSpace**

**Openlands**

Thank you for your generosity, **anonymous donors**.

We'd like to express our sincerest gratitude to this year's **presenters** and **panelists** for inspiring us into action and sharing your knowledge!

So many folks donated Door Prizes and plant materials for the centerpieces, that we hope we have listed all of them here:

**John Herman, Greencorps, Chicago Botanic Garden, Gardens Alive!, Select Seeds, Westover Farms, and the Members of the Resources Committee.**

To the **CCGA working committees**:

Communications, Education, Finance, Members, Resources, and the 2017 Conference Planning Committee. To everyone who gave their time and talents to work together to make this conference a success, thank you!

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