

Chicago Community Gardeners Association Resources Committee 2017 Annual Report

First, thank you to all the donors who gave plant material and garden supplies that made many of our distributions possible. They include:

- Nick Michaud** and **Westover Gardens**: thousands of seedlings, as well as seeds, shrubs, seed potatoes, garlic, and garden supplies. Nick also was the speaker at our Seed Starting Workshop.
- The Contained Garden**: both extra plant material and seasonal plant material changed out during the growing season. Also beautiful containers donated by their clients.
- Lowes**: sold us pots, plants and tools at a significant discount.
- Scott Byron and Co.**: solicited plant material from area businesses and sorted and delivered it to us—a flatbed and trailer full.
- Elite Growers**: thousands of perennial plants donated and delivered
- Purple Cow**: seed starting mix for our Seed Starting Workshop
- Whole Foods**: blueberry bushes and apple trees
- Garden Shed**: 200+ perennials
- UIC Greenhouse**: vegetable starts and native perennials, grown by Matthew Frazel
- Andrew** and **Mike**: scoured garage and estate sales for used tools, which they donated to us.
- Muddy Boots**: ornamental plant material
- Anonymous Chicago residential gardeners: hundreds of perennials
- Chicago community gardeners, who let us come dig and divide hostas and collect canna tubers.

Second, thank you to the members of the Resources Committee, who grew 7000+ vegetable and ornamental seedlings at the Center for Green Technology and Austin High School greenhouses. They also dug up and repotted hundreds of plants from local gardens, collected plant material and soil from the Chicago Garden Show, and scavenged for containers and tools from alleys and yard sales.

Because of the above, the Resources Committee was able to hold the following events in 2017:

-**seven major plant distributions**, including the March Seed Starting Workshop (91 gardeners, 50 kits); First Spring Distribution in April (88 community gardens, 1700 plants); May Plant Distribution (103 community gardens, 1200 tomato plants, 2000 ornamentals and other vegetable starts); July Perennial Distribution (84 community gardens, 3000 plants); August Perennial Distribution (65 community gardens, 3000 plants), September Perennial Distribution (96 community gardens, truckloads of plants); October Bulb Distribution (70 community gardens, 5600 bulbs);

-**eight “mini distributions”** (last-minute events to distributed plant materials unexpectedly made available), with over 100 community gardens participating in total;

-**two Plant Sales** for material received from the Contained Garden, Westover Farms, and anonymous donors, including a September tropical plant sale and the December Holiday Plant Sale.

The Resources Committee also grew the plants for and created 25 centerpieces, which it contributed to the 2017 Annual CCGA Conference, and obtained and distributed 100 door prizes for this event.

Resources Committee revenue in 2017 of \$4463 came from the registration fees at distribution events, plant sales, and sale of ironwork and of containers from Lowes. 2017 expenses of \$4289 included soil, bulbs for the bulb distribution, seeds and related supplies for the Seed Starting Workshop, supplies for greenhouse repairs, tools from Lowes, seed shipping fees, and material for the Holiday Plant Sale. We began 2017 with a surplus of \$1407 and ended with \$1581.

The Resources Committee thanks all the volunteers who helped in this year's events and activities, as well as the community gardens who participated in them. As always, our committee's mission is to obtain and distribute useful garden materials to community gardens. We try to ensure that every dollar we receive is spent on those materials. Thank you for your support!

Patricia Jackson Hart

Chair

Chicago Community Gardeners Association Resources Committee