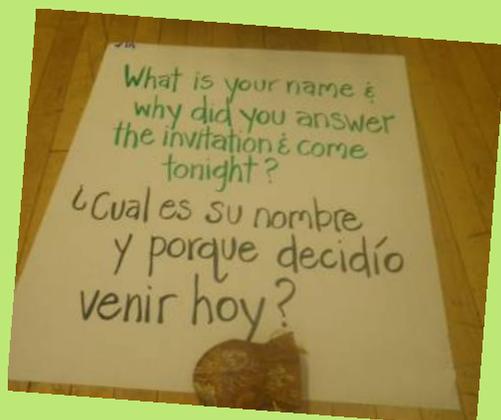


growing food, building community



a harvest of community gatherings

In January, the Gardening Matters' 'core team' co-hosted six community engagement events in six different neighborhoods, gathering information from the nearly 300 youth, elders and elders who participated. This is a 'harvest' of the threads of those conversations



Existing community assets we love



Community based organizations that are paying attention to food, have complimentary goals, provide support & partnership to neighborhood efforts: Spark-y, Hmong Village, Payne/Phalen Compost, Mashkiikii Gitigan, Project Sweetie Pie, Appetite for Change & Breaking Bread Cafe, Little Kitchen, Tree Trust, NE Tool Library, Science Museum, NE Methodist Walipini, Growing Westside, Frogtown Farm, UFGA, HAFA, Cornucopie, Waite House, WEI

Local Businesses that do the same: Eggplant, Mother Earth, the Food Building, Cookie Cart, Coops - eastside, seward & wirth, restaurants that do farm to table, businesses that donate water to community gardens

Educational Institutions: U of M Extension, Soil Testing, Local Nat'l Honor Society Aquaponics programs, Mpls farm to table efforts

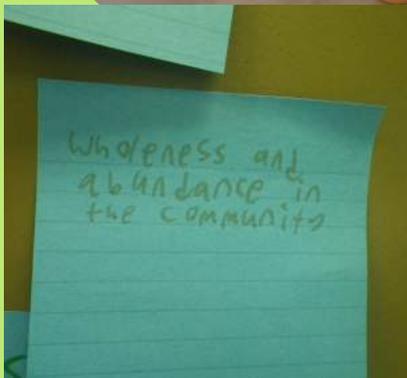
Urban Farms! La Donna Redmond! Farmers Markets! The arts!

Plant & Seed distributions and seed swaps!

Increasing land access: it can still get better
We want land ownership!

Community Gardens and Back/Front Yard Growers:

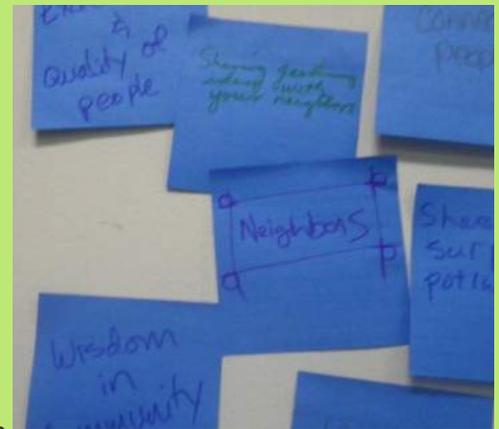
we have many gardens containing diversity in growers, in technology & techniques & cultural knowledge & farming traditions from around the world, in varieties of vegetables & flowers grown.



Gardening brings people together, builds community, & breaks down stereotypes. Creates environment for people to learn together- fluidly connecting around food, sharing conversation, surplus foods, tools, event planning, new ideas, building trust & communication. School associated gardens and youth programs pass on skills & passion for the next generation.

Gardening in community creates:

Spaces where our histories & ancestor's practices can be honored, where culturally specific practices and foods creates a level of sovereignty & cross cultural understanding, where wholeness & abundance are cultivated.



Increasing excitement about being in community this way: growing, cooking, preserving and composting together. Potential & opportunities for collective power, growing, & economic development. Already many are leveraging social media to do this.

There is also an increasing interest in understanding the broader food system coupled with an interest in keeping as much local as possible.



A recognition of the wisdom of the community, the number of skilled people in our midst, of our desire to learn from one another about growing and gardening, about cooking (community kitchens!), and preserving. Learning in the garden! Claiming spaces to do this!

Opportunities to connect & network with Transition Town groups!

Potential for job creation & economic growth!

Our dreams for our community

We want our kids to grow up learning about the food system and how to grow, cook

*a garden with a greenhouse at every school * curriculum to support kids learning in the garden from pre K to 12th - as much as possible as early as possible * including cooking & foraging classes * create after school programs that integrate students & community adults & elders * grants for HS students to do garden projects*

Green & Sustainable Infrastructure

multi-functional home design: aquaponics & greenhouses, solar energy, well insulated

Year round growing opportunities: Greenhouses: community operated, business operated, through Project Sweetie Pie, one at every house and one at every school! Walipinis - more!



Composting & Soil Remediation

Area specific composting - close the circle * bioremediation * tree restoration

Root Cellars!

Aquaponics Park!

Roof top gardening!

Bee keeping!

Winter sowing!

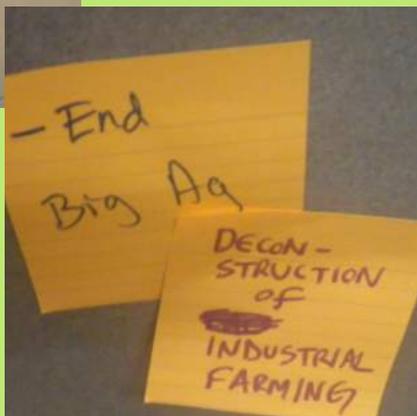
Markets!

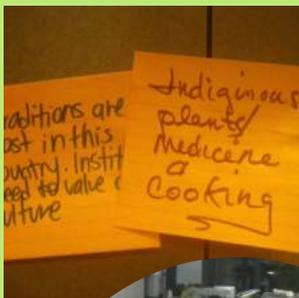
*CSA expansion, promotion & networking
* more food crops * all stores carry local crops * restaurants grow their own * quality pricing for farmers * food trucks & mobile markets * community garden coops *



Creation of Alternative Economies - Reframe the Narrative

*fresh bucks as currency * more worker owned models of business * more bartering to exit the cash economy * no more stores - we produce & barter what we need * mobilizing resource challenged & homeless to garden as a way of life * living wages & increased salaries to buy food and have time to grow our own * growing food as a strategic resistance to capitalism * resources that support gardening are secure and continuous - break the philanthropy industrial complex! * Fund community garden staff * free food! *





Culture: Honor existing traditions & build a new way

* Institutions & organizations must honor & value indigenous cultures & create cultural spaces that honor, educate, & practice traditions * build bridges between urban & rural * build food system awareness * reconnect with the cycles of nature * let go of attention to productivity: more time & less 'work' *

Policy Changes



LAND ACCESS:

* ALL vacant lots are available for growing - tax fee : put in land trust for permanent and exclusive use as garden, orchard, & farm land for community residents * extend land ownership (not just leases) * urban agriculture zoning * minimum % of public land designated for gardening *

* all new city buildings must have green roof * equitable animals/livestock policies across metro * subsidies for special crops grown in city * subsidies for small scale organic produce growing * health codes allow for food processing & sale from home * update public food policies * end big ag/limit the power of corporate *

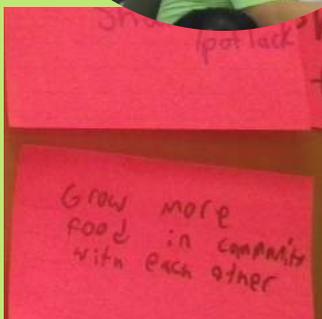
ACCESS - No one goes hungry, access means local food + safe spaces + food knowledge

*pick your own garden/food shelves * community gardens for community families: 'okay to pick' signs * everyone who wants to grow their own food has access to space and supplies - free and/or low cost * connecting people who have space with those who don't and want to grow food * projects for special for special populations (senior gardens & surplus produce for seniors/disabled who can't grow; re-entry from prison; homeless) * social service organizations begin to support local food and growing food efforts - more collaboration *



SPACES

* Community garden spaces on every block * Growing gardens in all city parks * boulevard 'free' gardens * food corridors * food forests * community orchards * edible landscapes * ability to extend seasons with permanent hoop houses * FREE access to community kitchen space * learning gardens * chicken coop co-op * long term access to these green/food spaces * all empty lots become gardens *



Growing and Learning in COMMUNITY

We want massive participation in building multi and inter-generational safety, trust, & connections.

We want networks between and among community & front/back yard gardeners.

We want mentorships between newcomers and veterans.

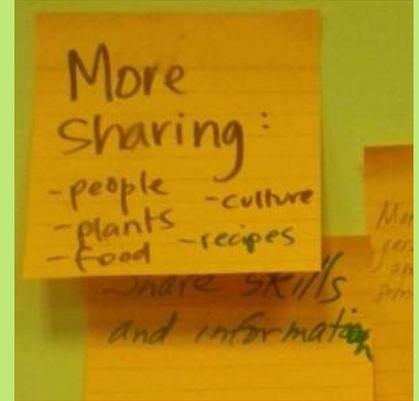
we want to share culture, recipes, seeds, growing knowledge, produce, food, tools, and ideas

We want to be convened to share the above, eat, play, gather, celebrate, potluck & preserve food as a community

We want to learn together about natural ecology, food preservation & storage, seasonal cooking, soil remediation & building, container gardening, cultural & ancestral practices for food preservation, root cellars, foraging, keeping animals, growing techniques, nutrition, & seed

We want to be organized & informed about what's going on and social media is a good space for this to happen.

AND we want this programming to be free or very very low cost.



Our offerings

There are a wide range of expressions of personal offerings and ways we felt inspired to be involved:

* share skills & knowledge around growing, cooking, & preserving food * organize/network/invite/ provide leadership in my own community, in inter-generational & inter-cultural ways, for tools shares, potlucks, & creating space * mentor novice gardeners * space for gatherings * install raised beds * be mentored by an experienced gardener * tear down perceived barriers * distribute food, seeds, & supplies * respond to action alerts and get involved in policy work * create a map that documents our gardens and assets *



THANK YOU!

GRACIAS

UA TSAUG

MAHAD