



ACGA



AMERICAN  
COMMUNITY  
GARDENING  
ASSOCIATION

**Fiscal Year 2017:**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**THE MISSION OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY GARDENING ASSOCIATION IS TO BUILD COMMUNITY BY INCREASING & ENHANCING COMMUNITY GARDENING & GREENING ACROSS NORTH AMERICA.**



# 2017 ACGA Annual Report Table of Contents

<b>Our Work</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Wellness</i>	4
<i>Membership</i>	5
<i>Advocacy &amp; Policy</i>	5
<i>Social Media</i>	5
<i>38th Annual Conference</i>	6
<i>Development</i>	6
<b>Letter from the President</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Financial Report</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>Board of Directors</i>	9
<i>ACGA Staff</i>	
<i>Company Information</i>	

ACGA



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# OUR WORK

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The American Community Gardening Association (ACGA) brings people, education and resources together to create community within a variety of gardening environments. Since 1979, ACGA has been a leading resource for starting, maintaining, and growing community garden programs throughout the United States and Canada.

The organization now has over 1,000 individual and 252 active organizational members representing the full range of community gardens, from community-based to giving gardens to urban farms. The member organizations represent over 2100 gardens across the country.

We are able to provide education to our members in the form of localized training workshops, online resources, distance webinars, and yearly conferences; also available is an invaluable communication platform that allows members to:

- Promote the formation and expansion of regional community gardening networks.
- Provide grants and other resources to member gardens.
- Develop resources in support of community gardening and community greening projects.
- Encourage research on the impact of community gardening, urban agriculture and greening.
- Conduct Educational training programs and events.
- Provide an online resource and network for all people interested in community gardening.
- Support community driven urban agriculture and food security projects..



## **WELLNESS**

The Governance Committee is responsible for the smooth and effective functioning of the ACGA Board. The Governance Committee handles AGGA's human resources and internal policy development on behalf of the board. ACGA's Board is an all-volunteer board, with many talents and passions. The board meets in person twice a year and conducts monthly board teleconference calls to ensure the mission of the organization is carried out. In addition to the monthly board teleconference calls, each committee meets monthly.

Highlights for the governance committee in 2017 include updating the organizational operations manual, developing the board member attendance policy, and managing a staffing search for the organization. ACGA moved to Atlanta in 2014, and it has been a good fit for the organization. The Greater Atlanta area is an urban agricultural mecca and an epicenter of food justice and sustainable agriculture. ACGA has settled in and integrated the organization into this thriving community.

Additionally, ACGA is always interested in anyone who has a passion for community Gardens who would like to become a member of our board. We have a diverse board from throughout the US who are involved in numerous aspects of government, gardening and horticultural healing. Please contact the home office if you are interested in applying to become a member of our board.

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## **AMERICAN COMMUNITY GARDENING ASSOCIATION**

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# OUR WORK

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

ACGA members are the driving force behind ACGA. With the US & Canada divided into 8 different regions, we are able to address the needs of our members as well as present a national perspective. Our members come from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds encompassing forty nine states and two provinces in the US and Canada.



## **ADVOCACY AND POLICY**

ACGA works to influence public policy to encourage governments (local, state, federal) to increase support and resources for urban agriculture, which includes all forms of community gardening. Policy, utilities and land-use issues are top priorities. Trends tend to focus on land-use pressures or threats around community gardens not seen as a priority of use.

Other issues include access to land and local capacity for help and resources. In past surveys, many spoke to how ACGA could help advocate community gardens and the benefits of community gardening; educating & developing legislation to protect and develop gardens; supplying resources/grants to seed gardens; developing and sharing best practices and tips sheets.

Additionally we research previous national community gardening legislation in preparation to find support legislatively for development of possible funding and land-use support. We appreciate all of the continued support of our members and other gardening groups when initiating surveys in order to gain better insight into how we can be of benefit to the gardening community as a whole.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Much like a community garden, our marketing efforts have been flourishing due to lots of attention from our members. Facebook: 7,922/ 7,758 likes/followers and Twitter: 2,890 followers



# OUR WORK

## 38th Annual Conference

The 2017 annual educational conference was held at Capitol Community College, Hartford, CT. The college is located in the historic art nouveau building which once was the G Fox Company. Mark Winne, the founder of the Hartford Food system, the nation's first food system, was the encouraging keynote speaker. Sara Bronin told us how to change zoning ordinances to encourage community gardening as she did revolutionizing Hartford.

Wonderful day long tours visited Colchester, a town with an new agricultural commission; New Haven's Common Ground High School, NH farms and Land Trust, and of course Knox of Hartford, CT, Springfield, Nuestras Raices in Holyoke and Worcester, MA.

## Development

ACGA would not be able to help so many people in North America if it were not for our partners and donors! It is because of our partners and donors that we are able to engage neighbors and families, and teach all that they can grow their own food, build community, and

empower neighborhoods across North America. We are grateful for each and every donation; and sincerely appreciate the support we received from the following sponsors:

Havard Pilgrim Healthcare Foundation  
Valley Community Foundation  
Farm Credit East  
Vermont Community Garden Network  
City Steam Brewery  
Yolo Snacks  
The Hartford News  
Hartford Prints!  
CT Community Gardening Association  
High Mowing Organic Seeds  
Knox  
Capital Community College  
Trustees 125  
Corona  
Kitchen at Billings Forge  
Gardener's Supply Company

Together we are empowering communities to grow their own food, and revitalizing neighborhoods. The development committee is always looking for partnerships and funding to move ACGA's mission forward. Thank you for helping us Grow!







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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Charlie Monroe is a Georgia native and U.S. Veteran; he attended the University of Georgia where he earned a B.S. in Biology and Masters in Agriculture Leadership. He is a Certified Arborist.

Gratitude is not a name, it's a noun – so show it. The Oxford Dictionary defines gratitude as, “The quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness”. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all of our members including: Individual, Supporting, Organizational, Umbrella and Lifetime members alike. Our members are from communities in every U.S. State including Canada. Their financial support allows ACGA to serve budding members and non-members alike seeking resources and help to start and sustain a Community Garden and Urban Farms.

Our Board of Directors have also show tremendous support. They are located in various states stretching from Georgia, New York, Indiana, Connecticut, Illinois and California and they have provided thousands of volunteer hours to help ensure the continued success of ACGA. Our 2017 Winter Board meeting in Phoenix, AZ was successful and fun as we put together our strategic plan. I'm so looking forward to working it through. Their willingness to work tireless hours for ACGA is a testament to their character – True to the Community Board Members.

To our wonderful Sponsors and volunteers your outreach and community focused investments have allowed ACGA to reach and impact thousands of individuals World-Wide. Whether at our recent Conference in Hartford, CT, our Growing Communities Workshop in Georgia, educational links from our web sites, or telephone calls into the home office, your support allows ACGA to help educate and serve the World.

In closing I would like to share ACGA's core belief #4, “Each community member has something to contribute.” Invite all to contribute and be sure to say, “Thank You”. I am a firm believer that the efforts of many are enhanced when they are embraced and acknowledged by their recipients. So, on behalf of ACGA I humbly say, Thank You for helping us help others and I ask that you continue to be the Sunshine to our Community Gardens and Urban Farms.

Charlie A. Monroe I

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie A. Monroe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Finance 2017

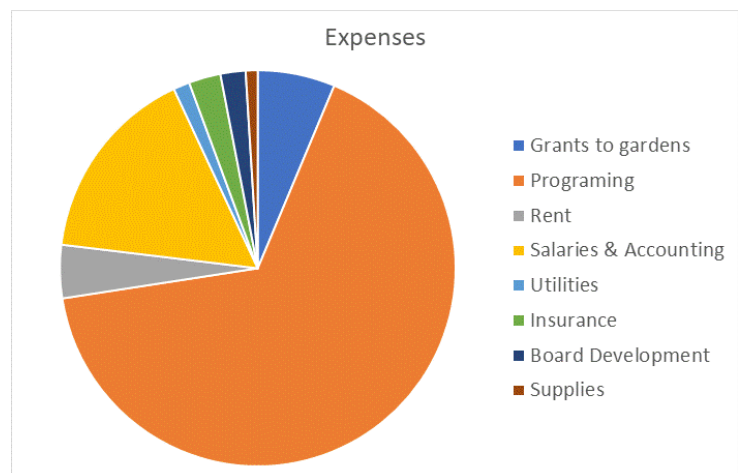
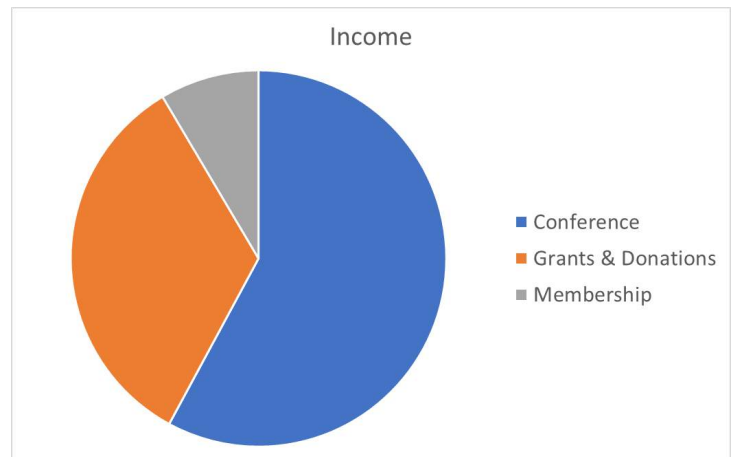
2017 continued to be a solvent year for the American Community Gardening Association. Our Conference in Harford was a successful event. Our membership continues to be a strong source of support, although this year we combined the revenue from membership associated with the conference, with conference revenue so the revenue for membership does not track with previous year's reporting.

We were pleased to be able to provide nearly \$9,000.00 in funding to community gardens throughout the US.

We continue to strive to keep our administrative costs down although our office staff is always there to answer question and advise community gardeners throughout the US and Canada.

Our all-volunteer Board have contributed hundreds of hours to the American Community Gardening Association and its mission.

We thank our sponsors: The Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation, Gardener's Supply Company, Buzz and Bloom Honey, Corona Tool. Our gardeners have been enriched by your contributions.



### INCOME

Conference	\$ 88,839.00	
Grants & Donations	\$ 51,500.00	
Membership	\$ 13,104.00	\$ 153,443.00

### EXPENSES

Grants to Gardens	\$ (8,720.00)	
Programming	\$ (91,398.00)	
Administration		
Rent	\$ (6,000.00)	
Utilities	\$ (1,840.00)	
Salaries & Accounting	\$ (22,244.00)	
Insurance	\$ (3,594.00)	
Board Development	\$ (2,840.00)	
Supplies	\$ (1,344.00)	
		\$ (137,980.00)
		<b>\$ 15,463.00</b>



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## **Charlie Monroe, President**

Cobb Parks

Cobb County, GA

[Charlie.Monroe@CobbCounty.org](mailto:Charlie.Monroe@CobbCounty.org)

Charlie Monroe is a native of South Georgia and U.S. Veteran. He attended the University of Georgia where he earned a B.S. in Biology and Masters in Agriculture Leadership. He retired from the University of Georgia where he worked as an Extension Agent in DeKalb County (Metro-Atlanta). For over 20 years Charlie developed youth and adult programming and outreach with a focus on agriculture, community development and environmental sciences. Charlie is also a Master Gardener, Certified Arborist and life-time lover of 4-H. The official, "Nature Geek".

## **Cathy Walker, Vice President**

Metro Atlanta Urban Farm

College Park, Georgia

[cpfarmcathy@aol.com](mailto:cpfarmcathy@aol.com)

Cathy Walker is currently serving as Director of Programming at Metro Atlanta Urban Farm. She also served as a Garden Specialist for The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension/ Atlanta Urban Gardening Program (AUGP) for 17 years; offering gardening instruction and support to some two hundred gardens located at public housing complexes, shelters, schools, churches and elder care facilities in metro Atlanta.



## **Bill LoSasso, Secretary**

NYC Parks Green-thumb New York City, New York

[william.losasso@communitygarden.org](mailto:william.losasso@communitygarden.org)

Bill grew up in Youngstown, Ohio, and moved to New York City while completing his master's degree in urban planning. He has been active in the NYC community gardening movement, and served several terms as Executive Director of La Plaza Cultural Community Garden, an iconic garden founded in Manhattan's Lower East Side in the 1970s. Bill currently serves as Director of NYC Parks GreenThumb, the largest community gardening program in the country, where he oversees support to over 1,200 community and school gardens, ranging from quaint relaxation spots to teaching gardens to large urban farms. Bill joined the ACGA board in 2017, where he serves as Secretary.





**Cordalie Benoit, Treasurer**

CT Community Gardening Association

New Haven, Connecticut

[Cordalie.Benoit@aya.yale.edu](mailto:Cordalie.Benoit@aya.yale.edu)

Cordalie Benoit holds a Masters in Environmental Management and is a UConn Extension active certified Master Gardener. She is an attorney with decades of experience with nonprofits, including the Connecticut Community Gardening Association. She is a member of the William Street Community Garden which is sponsored by The New Haven Land Trust.

**Executive Director, Growing Healthy Veterans**

Grayslake, Illinois

[lukan@growinghealthyveterans.org](mailto:lukan@growinghealthyveterans.org)

Lukan holds certificates in both Sustainable Agriculture & Horticulture Therapy. He co-founded the group Growing Healthy Veterans (GHV) that works with veterans to help them find careers in agriculture. Through their work in both community gardens and an indoor farm site, GHV is able to strengthen local food production in the Lake County Illinois region. This year GHV is working with patients at the VA PTS program doing various horticulture therapy activities.

**LUKAN  
PAULUS**

**BILL  
MAYNARD**

**Past President**

Sacramento Area Community Garden Coalition

Cell: (916) 508-6025

Email: [wmaynard@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:wmaynard@cityofsacramento.org)

Bill Maynard has worked on community garden and school garden projects in the Sacramento area for over 20 years. His work has included technical support, design and layout, construction, construction management and inspection, and garden management. He is a UCCE Master Gardener & the City of Sacramento Department of Parks and Recreation Community Garden Program Coordinator, Founder of the Sacramento Area Community Garden Coalition, Board Member of the Sacramento Hunger Coalition. He was also appointed to the State of California Board of Education School Garden Advisory Committee, and was involved with the design and planting of Maria Shriver's WE Garden at the State Capitol.



**Joyce Moore, Co-Founder/Programs Manager of Urban Patch**  
(317) 513-8744  
[joyce@urbanpatch.org](mailto:joyce@urbanpatch.org)

Joyce is an entrepreneur and state licensed real estate broker who owns her own real estate and property management company. She is a member of the board of the Indy Food Council, The American Community Garden Association, a life member of both the Indiana University Alumni Association and NCNW (National Council of Negro Women), and a member of the NAACP. She works with various community education outreach programs and loves to work with youth and young adults on career fulfillment and financial wealth development. Mrs. Moore is a graduate of Indiana University's Kelly School of Business with a BS specializing in Business Administration, a graduate of REAL (MIBOR Real Estate Academy of Leadership) and of the University of Philadelphia's SAS Graduate Programming Course. She is an advocate for entrepreneurship and self-sustainability.

### **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

[Christopher.sheridan@communitygarden.org](mailto:Christopher.sheridan@communitygarden.org)

Chris is a member of the Morris Arboretum Community Garden, and an active volunteer with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, assisting with the teaching of school gardening and community gardening classes in the Philadelphia area. In addition to these activities, Chris is the Chair of the Villanovans for Sustainability alumni group, and a board member for the Villanova Center for Agricultural Research and Education. He is also an enthusiastic student, pursuing certificate programs in landscape design, and ornamental horticulture at Longwood Gardens. Professionally, Chris is transitioning from a career in public interest law, fundraising, and non-profit management to a consulting practice which focuses on the design and development of educational gardens for all ages and abilities.

**CHRISTOPHER  
SHERIDAN**



**Lee Trotman, ACGA Board - Chair Wellness Committee**

Jonathan Rose Companies New York, New York

[Lee.Trotman@communitygarden.org](mailto:Lee.Trotman@communitygarden.org)

Lee Trotman started with the Jonathan Rose Companies in January 2018 as Assistant Project Manager. Jonathan Rose Companies is a sustainability and transit focused affordable housing developer with buildings across the United State. Before beginning at Jonathan Rose Companies, Lee served at the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) from 2009 to 2017 in several sustainability-focused roles. Lee started as an AmeriCorps VISTA then managed NYCHA's Garden & Greening program, one of the most extensive public gardening programs in North America. Lee then served as the Assistant Director of the Gardening & Sustainability Unit where he managed resident-driven sustainability initiatives and ended his tenure as a Program Manager in the Energy & Sustainability group in the Capital Projects Department at NYCHA. Lee holds a BA in History from Southwest Minnesota State University and a Masters Degree in Sustainability Management from Columbia University.





**KIM  
SCOTT**

**Cleveland City Planning Commission, City Planner**

Cleveland, Ohio

[KScott@city.cleveland.oh.us](mailto:KScott@city.cleveland.oh.us)

Kim has assisted in the development of zoning codes that regulate agricultural activity. She sits on the Cleveland-Cuyahoga Food Policy Coalition and is co-founder of the Salaam Community Garden 131. She offers diverse experiences related to education, healthy food & nutrition, and sustainable growing practices. Ms. Scott holds a Master of Public Administration, a BA in Urban Studies and a GIS Certificate from Cleveland State University. She received Housing Development Finance Professional certification from the National Development Council, is a certified instructor of Roots of Success, and is a member of the Bionutrient Food Association.

**Chair of Operations, Brooklyn Queens Land Trust**

(718) 789-9566

[Demetrice.Mills@bqlt.org](mailto:Demetrice.Mills@bqlt.org)

Demetrice Mills is a retired Business Systems Analyst from JP Morgan Chase. Since his retirement, Demetrice has served for the past three years as the President of the Brooklyn Queens Land Trust Board of Directors. The goal of BQLT is to educate and inspire people to become successful and environmentally responsible gardeners, while preserving, supporting, managing and enhancing open spaces, greenways and playgrounds, and conserving land for public use.



**DEMETRICE  
MILLS**



**SANDRA  
ZUNIGA**

**Assistant Deputy Director of Operations, San Francisco Department of Public Works**

(415) 695-2114

[Sandra.zuniga@sfdpw.org](mailto:Sandra.zuniga@sfdpw.org)

Sandra was born and raised in the Bay Area, earned her Bachelor Degree from Sacramento State University, and Masters Degree in Public Administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco, California. Sandra works as Assistant Deputy Director for Operations at the Department of Public Works.

# JARED HUDSON

## **Jared C. Hudson**

Director of Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Affairs, DeKalb County  
(404) 687-3517  
[jchudson@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:jchudson@dekalbcountyga.gov)

Recreation Center Director for DeKalb County Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs. Jared manages the day-to-day operations of a recreation facility. Additionally, he is responsible for researching, planning, and implementing programs and cultural activities. As a leader for over 12 years, he has used creative skills that influence people to make wise choices, improving their quality of life. Prior to recreation management, he spent over fifteen years as a player, coach, and trainer in American football organizations. Direct involvement in community garden programs is another example of improving life quality for the patrons that frequent the intergenerational recreation center.

## **Nicole Kitchens**

Small Business Owner, Flora, MS  
(662) 889-8472  
[growforthgarden@gmail.com](mailto:growforthgarden@gmail.com)

Nicole is a small-business owner specializing in horticulture therapy, healthcare garden design, and small-scale heirloom cut-flower production. She is also a full-time student finishing her B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies, with minors in both Psychology and Plant/Soil Science. She graduated from college with a degree in this May. She has a background in natural resources management with 23 years of combined experience in forest fire resources management and conservation.

# NICOLE KITCHENS

# BRAD HOGAN

## **Brad Hogan**

Executive Director of Grow Peninsula  
(650) 245-3135  
[hoganjbrad@gmail.com](mailto:hoganjbrad@gmail.com)

In his professional work, Brad builds, plans, and produces demand generation programs for IT startups and large corporations. This includes corporate events, field marketing, and online programs that drive engagement while accelerating the sales cycle for global sales organizations. He provides strategic leadership, build processes, and creative planning while being a hands-on manager executing day-to-day tactics, resources, and budgets. Personally, he is an avid supporter of the local farmer via longtime commitment to CSA's, farmers markets, and active involvement in his first year as a board member of American Community Garden Association.

## ACGA STAFF

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**KRISTI  
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# COMPANY INFORMATION

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