



ACGA



AMERICAN
COMMUNITY
GARDENING
ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2016

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

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3271 MAIN STREET, COLLEGE PARK, GA 30337

OUR WORK

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 Wellness Committee is responsible for the smooth and effective functioning of the ACGA Board and handles AGGA human resources on behalf of the board. ACGA's Board is an all-volunteer board, with a many talents and passions. The board meets in person twice a year and monthly with a board telephone call and committee meetings.

The Greater Atlanta area is an urban agricultural mecca and an epicenter of food justice and sustainable agriculture. ACGA moved to Atlanta in 2014 and it has been a good fit for the organization. ACGA has settled in and integrated the organization into this thriving community.

A new organizational coordinator was hired, Tegan Hurley. The organizational coordinator problem solves and carries out day-to- day work for the organization. Tegan assists members and ensures that they get answers to their questions, makes sure that the office is running smoothly, and much more. Tegan has been a wonderful addition to the organization and we hope that you have the opportunity to work with her.

Additionally, we are 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.

AMERICAN COMMUNITY GARDENING ASSOCIATION

3271 Main Street

College Park, GA 30337

Phone: 1-877-ASK-ACGA

Email: info@communitygarden.org

Web: <https://communitygarden.org/>

OUR WORK



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.

Website:

Sessions: 231,175

Individual users: 181,847

Page views: 617,733

Returning visitors: 21.7% (50,266 visitors)

New Visitors: 78.3% (180,909 visitors)

Facebook: 7820 likes/followers

Twitter: 2,876 followers

OUR WORK

37TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ACGA's 37th Annual Conference was held in Cleveland, Ohio on August 3rd-7th. The 2016 conference theme – Cleveland Growing Strong; Health, Equity & Sustainability – reflects priorities in Cleveland's agriculture community. The resurgence of agricultural activity reflects the passion to grow, market, distribute, process, educate, and share the love for food and community enhancement.

The four-day conference showcased the prominence of locally grown food from the perspective of the growers, marketers, entrepreneurs, youth groups, community leaders, health care professionals, educators and stakeholders using agriculture as a way to strengthen communities. Representative Marcia L.

Fudge of the 11th Congressional District and Paul Clark, Regional President, PNC Bank Northern Ohio, honorary conference co-chairs, welcomed approximately 300 participants. They supported the conference through their interest in food and community, and by leveraging resources needed for a successful event.



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 institutions:

- 🌱 Gardener's Supply
- 🌱 Mrs. Meyers Clean Day
- 🌱 Durable Green Beds
- 🌱 Lotech Products – Compost Crank

And from various conference donors:

- 🌱 Farm Credit Service of Mid-America
- 🌱 Agribank
- 🌱 Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority
- 🌱 St. Clair Superior Development Corporation
- 🌱 NEORS

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!

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is with great pleasure that I say, “Thanks” to our dedicated members, sponsors and lifetime friends. Over the past year your support has helped strengthen the American Community Gardening Association (ACGA) to further its mission which is, “to promote greening across the United States and Canada”. I would like to share with you some reflections from last year including our Annual Conference, Growing Communities Workshops, and our strategic plan.

ACGA’s 37th Annual Conference which was held in Cleveland, OH was spectacular. The planning committee did a wonderful job leveraging resources and uniting communities. They secured outstanding speakers, lovely venues and created a great sense of community. The Gala was superb, scrumptious food, local libation and local musicians –Awesome! Light and laughter filled the air as networking and auction bidders circulated the crowds. It was a pleasant (Gala) evening in the Gardens.

ACGA’s Growing Communities Workshops are a two day intensive training workshop that teaches leaders to lead. The curriculum also teaches our core belief #4 which is, “Every member has something to contribute.” This past year we conducted three workshops. One in Nebraska, Oklahoma and Atlanta. Here is a quote from one of our participants from Tulsa, OK, “this was an amazing value. It really kept me on my toes. It wasn't an easy "give me", I had great connections with people and had to really do some critical thinking. I learned so much.”

At our recent Winter Board meeting we came together as a united team and put together a strategic plan. This strategic plan will help guide us as we continue to empower and impact community gardening and urban farming in the United States and Canada. Most importantly, this plan cannot be implemented without the support of our members, sponsors and friends. We will be reaching out to our stakeholders to help ensure that our mission is inline, that our membership and marketing is strengthen, and that our board of directors are empowered continue leading the charge.

In closing, I’m asking you to “Commit to Growing.” And “Commit to Growing” your community ACGA has been the leading institution in Growing Communities through community gardening and urban farming for over 38 years and we could not have done it without commitment. ACGA remains the premier institution for promoting Community Gardening and Urban Farming and with your commitment, we will continue to Grow.

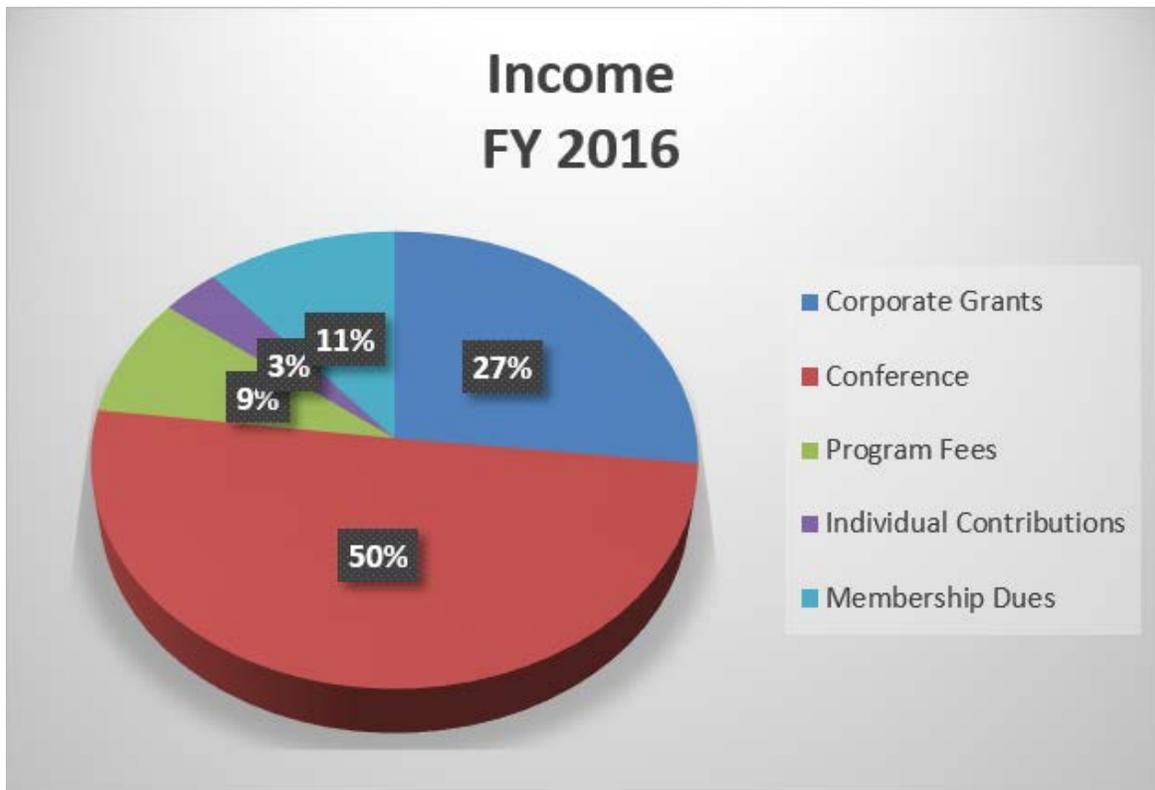
Sincerely,



Charlie Monroe

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FISCAL YEAR 2016 INCOME REPORT

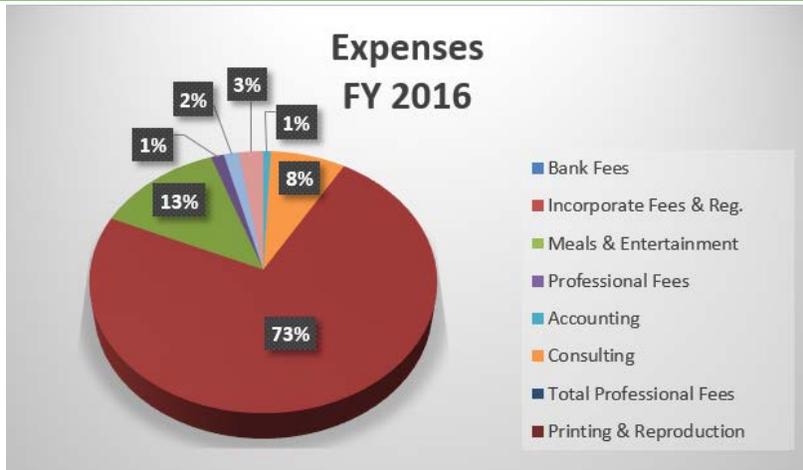


INCOME

CORPORATE GRANTS	52,500.00
CONFERENCE	98,643.50
PROGRAM FEES	16,605.00
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	6,651.07
MEMBERSHIP DUES	21,889.43
TOTAL INCOME	196,289.00

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FISCAL YEAR 2016 EXPENSE REPORT



EXPENSE

BANK FEES	337.33
INCORPORATE FEES & REG.	503.83
MEALS & ENTERTAINMENT	2,756.05
PROFESSIONAL FEES	
<i>ACCOUNTING</i>	500.00
<i>CONSULTING</i>	5,100.00
TOTAL PROFESSIONAL FEES	5,600.00
PRINTING & REPRODUCTION	4,895.89
OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,313.82
POSTAGE & SHIPPING	516.88
DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	718.00
CONTRACT LABOR	1,300.00
SALARY & WAGES	27,931.20
TRAVEL	13,764.85
WEBSITE/EMAIL/STORE HOSTING	4,009.24
INSURANCE	3,352.66
RENT	6,427.00
TELEPHONE	1,041.52
PROGRAMMING	
<i>CONFERENCE</i>	48,680.97
<i>REGRANTING</i>	8,615.00
<i>PROGRAMMING - OTHER</i>	875.00
TOTAL PROGRAMMING	58,170.97
PAYROLL EXPENSES	
<i>PAYROLL CO. FEES</i>	1,008.80
<i>PAYROLL EXPENSES - OTHER</i>	1,664.13
TOTAL PAYROLL EXPENSES	2,672.93
TOTAL EXPENSE	135,312.17

CONTACT INFORMATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charlie Monroe, President
DeKalb County Parks and Recreation Dept.
Lithonia, Georgia

camonroe@dekalbcountyga.gov

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.

Cathy Walker, Vice President
Metro Atlanta Urban Farm
College Park, Georgia

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 GreenThumb
New York City, New York

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

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Brad Hogan

Brad.hogan@communitygarden.org

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.

Jared C. Hudson

Dekalb County Parks and Recreation

Decatur, Georgia

Jared.hudson@communitygarden.org

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.

Bill Maynard

Sacramento Area Community Garden Coalition

Sacramento, California

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.

Demetrice Mills

President, Brooklyn Queens Land Trust

New York, New York

Demetric.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

CONTACT INFORMATION

become successful and environmentally responsible gardeners, while preserving, supporting, managing and enhancing open spaces, greenways and playgrounds, and conserving land for public use.

Lukan Paulus
Executive Director
Growing Healthy Veterans
Grayslake, Illinois

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.

Kim Scott
Cleveland City Planning Commission, City Planner
Cleveland, Ohio

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.

Christopher Sheridan
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Lee Trotman, ACGA Board – Chair Wellness Committee
New York City Housing Authority
New York, New York

Lee.Trotman@communitygarden.org

Lee Trotman started with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) in 2009 as an AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer with NYC Service. Lee was then hired to manage NYCHA's Garden & Greening program, one of the largest 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. Lee is currently the Deputy Director of Programs in the Energy & Sustainability group in the Capital Projects Department at NYCHA.

ACGA STAFF

Tegan Hurley
Organizational Coordinator
College Park, Georgia

Tegan@communitygarden.org

Tegan came to ACGA with over 5 years of nonprofit experience. She brings her passion for food security to the front and center of her work here. When she's not in the office you will catch her outside in her garden or out exploring the city.

Lauren Jefferson
Office Assistant
College Park, Georgia

Info@communitygarden.org

1-877-ASK-ACGA

Lauren brings to ACGA a background in marketing, event planning, and graphic design.

COMPANY INFORMATION

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