





# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



# **CITY SPROUTS**

## **SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES THROUGH GARDENING SINCE 1995**

### **OUR GOALS**

-  To increase availability of fresh, locally grown produce in our community
-  To educate the community about gardening, sustainability and healthy lifestyle choices
-  To provide employment opportunities for under served youth
-  To build community through gardening

# **CITY SPROUTS**

## **2018: A YEAR IN REVIEW**

The changing of the seasons always reminds me of the cycle of life so visible in a garden. Each season brings its own joys and challenges. Throughout 2018, City Sprouts has experienced many new and exciting opportunities.

- Anna Brun, Education Manager and Aaron French, Urban Farm Manager joined the staff, adding additional skills and expertise.
- City Sprouts South, at 19th and N in south Omaha, continues to grow with new gardeners, programs and interns
- Our wonderful Board members are talented, engaged and supportive.
- Programming has expanded in all areas including education, the summer internship and gardening opportunities.
- The new and improved Truck Farm is ready to bring exciting programs to the community.

This programming is available because of the support of many committed individuals and organizations. City Sprouts is grateful for your continued interest and gifts of time, talent and treasure. Please plan to visit the gardens and enjoy the fruits of our labors!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT,**  
Roxanne Draper, Executive Director

# CITY SPROUTS 2019 BOARD

Support from our board helps to grow our capacity and reach a greater Omaha community.



## BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):

**David Arrell** Welcome to Fatherhood

**Jose Labrador** HDR Engineering

**Dan Walsh** Creighton University

**Cassie Goulet** CHI Health

**Patricia Seivert** University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Kristie Willis** Community Volunteer

**Kirby Simmering** Nebraska Cancer Coalition

**LeAnne Kaiser** Seim Johnson LLP

**Roxanne Draper (Executive Director)** City Sprouts

**Octavia Butler** Omaha Public Schools

## FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):

**Brittani Tanhueco (Secretary)** Avenue Scholars Foundation

**Seana Fairchild (President)** Union Pacific Railroad

**Cassandra Zywiec (Vice President)** Mission Maven Marketing

**Jack Round (Treasurer)** AKSARBEN Foundation

## NOT PICTURED:

**Sara Going** First National Bank

**Kimber Harrold** Scott Center

**Shagun Somasegaran** Blue Cross Blue Shield

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# CITY SPROUTS STAFF

**Aaron French**

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City Sprouts South Manager, [gardensouth@omahasprouts.org](mailto:gardensouth@omahasprouts.org)

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**Roxanne Williams Draper**

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Community Engagement Coordinator, [garden@omahasprouts.org](mailto:garden@omahasprouts.org)

# NEW IN 2018



## SOUTH ART INSTALLATION

With community input, local artist Michael Giron created and installed an art installation on the South garden storage container for all to enjoy!

## COB OVEN

Construction on our new earthen oven was completed by natural builder Jim Schalles. We use it to teach culinary baking skills and fire it up for monthly pizza parties for neighbors and gardeners.



## SOLAR PANELS

City Sprouts held the first annual Solar Festival, in celebration of the summer solstice. There, Nebraskans for Solar installed two solar panels, generously donated by the Hempel family in honor of their son's first birthday.

## SOUTH EDUCATION CENTER

A temporary education center was secured one block south of City Sprouts South Community Garden, providing a place to teach classes, give respite to the interns, and preserve the garden's bounty.





# GROWING FOOD

City Sprouts focuses on producing fresh, healthy food for our communities. Neighborhood families grow their own food in our North and South community gardens. Our interns grow food at our Decatur Urban Farm and at our City Sprouts South Free Farm. Our staff and volunteers grow food in our U-Pick plots at the North Education Center. Our indoor aquaponics unit produces veggies and tilapia all year round!

## HONEYBEES

Our bees produced honey and beeswax, pollinated plants, and were used in educational demonstrations throughout the year.



## LAYING HENS

Our urban flock produced more than 1200 eggs and were taken to schools and groups to teach about chicken keeping and connection to local protein.

## URBAN FARM

Nearly 1600 pounds of produce were grown by our interns and farm managers on the Decatur Urban Farm and at South's Free Farm.



## COMMUNITY GARDENS

City Sprouts' community gardens in North and South Omaha provided space for neighbors to grow more than 700 pounds of fresh produce.

# LEARNING IN THE GARDEN

We offer a variety of educational opportunities on-site and around the city for folks of all ages, from Little Sprouts to young adults and life-long gardeners. We hosted a group of high school students exploring different career paths for 4 weeks, and attended many community events to share our mission.

## LITTLE SPROUTS

Our weekly summer program taught about 25 young children to grow and prepare their own fresh, healthy food and explore nature!



## GROWING GARDENERS

This workshop series offered in partnership with The Big Garden taught urban gardening and farming skills to over 600 community members.

## GARDEN TO TABLE

Nearly 800 middle schoolers got their hands dirty at our afterschool and summer school program, presented in collaboration with The Big Garden.



## TRUCK FARM

City Sprouts was able to purchase a new vehicle to deliver our Truck Farm educational programming for schools, groups, and special events all the year long.

# CREATING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Our summer urban farming internship provides employment to underserved youth, ages 16-20. Interns learn skills related to urban farming, culinary arts, financial literacy, education, nutrition, and community and team building.

## INTERNSHIP

Our 2018 Urban Farming Interns learned agriculture, horticulture, culinary arts, and life skills, working all summer long at the Decatur Urban Farm and City Sprouts South!



## FARM STAND

Our interns sold fresh and preserved goods from the Urban Farm to community members every Saturday morning.

## FIELD EXPERIENCES

The interns had the opportunity to visit other sites around the city, learning many ways to do urban agriculture.



## AQUAPONICS

Interns learned to service the City Sprouts Aquaponics Unit, which has continued to produce fresh vegetables like greens, herbs, and peas year round. Plus, our second generation of tilapia is growing quite large!





# SUSTAINING COMMUNITY THROUGH

City Sprouts aims to sustain communities through gardening. At N Street in South Omaha, we have expanded our operations. City Sprouts engages with our neighbors throughout each season.



## VOLUNTEERS

City Sprouts relies on dedicated volunteers to accomplish our mission. Special thanks to all who donated their time to help us sustain communities through gardening! More than 475 volunteers donated their time in 2018!

## COMMUNITEA + COFFEE

Folks of all ages joined us for family fun gatherings each Saturday during the winter months!



## FERMENTATION FESTIVAL

The first annual Fermentation Festival, featuring presentations, informational tables, and samples of fermented food and drinks, attracted nearly 150 community members.



## CHI CLINIC GARDEN

Our staff and interns built and installed five 4x8 foot beds at the CHI Health Clinic at 24th and Cuming Streets with assistance from the clinic's staff. These garden beds will help patients access fresh, healthy produce.





# OUGH GARDENING

dening. With our new City Sprouts South site at 1815  
operations to serve an additional Omaha community.  
t the year, thanks to family-friendly activities offered

## LITTLE FREE LIBRARY & PANTRY

The Little Free Library and  
Pantry opened in 2017,  
and in 2018 hundreds of  
neighbors and passersby  
have borrowed and  
contributed books and  
pantry items to the  
project already! Extra  
fruits and vegetables from  
our urban farm and U-Pick  
beds were a huge hit!



## FLOWER SCULPTURE

A sculpture by local artist  
Les Bruning was installed  
in the North community  
garden, based on the  
design of Lexa Lynn  
Douglas, a young Omaha  
woman who passed away  
in 2016. The sculpture was  
donated by her surviving  
family.

## HALLOWEEN VILLAGE

One of our most popular  
events brought over  
40 families together  
at City Sprouts South,  
encouraging healthy  
habits like exercise!



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

City Sprouts thrives because of its strong relationships with other community organizations. Through these collaborations, we are able to reach a broader audience and have an increased impact. While each organization represents a different mission statement, we share a vision of a more resilient community.



# SUPPORTERS

The following individuals, foundations and organizations have shown continued support of City Sprouts, making our programming possible. See a complete list of 2018 donors at [omahasprouts.org/supporters](http://omahasprouts.org/supporters) We also thank all of the community members who have made donations and volunteered their time!

<i>Amis Family Foundation</i>	<i>Robbins Family Foundation</i>
<i>City of Omaha Mayor's Grant</i>	<i>Sherwood Foundation</i>
<i>Immanuel Vision Foundation</i>	<i>Union Pacific</i>
<i>Kiewit Foundation</i>	<i>United Way of the Midlands</i>
<i>Minier Family Foundation</i>	<i>Weitz Family Foundation</i>
<i>Omaha Community Foundation</i>	<i>Whole Foods Market</i>
<i>Omaha Gives!</i>	<i>William &amp; Ruth Scott Family Foundation</i>
<i>Richard Brooke Foundation</i>	

# DONATE TO HELP US GROW

City Sprouts is a 501(c)3. All donations are tax deductible. Donations may be made on our website at [www.omahasprouts.org](http://www.omahasprouts.org) or mailed to:

**City Sprouts P.O. Box 31593 | Omaha, NE 68131**  
[www.OmahaSprouts.org](http://www.OmahaSprouts.org) | 402-504-1910

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