

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

# Community Green Spaces



### HI THERE!

City Blossoms is an organization dedicated to fostering healthy communities by developing creative, kid-driven green spaces. We accomplish our mission through five programs: Early Growers, School Garden Partners, Youth Entrepreneurship Cooperative, Community Green Spaces, and Training & Resource Development. Our Community Green Spaces program is comprised of four neighborhood garden sites located within Washington DC: Girard Children's Garden, Marion St. Intergenerational Garden, City Blossoms Studio Garden, and the Farm at Kelly Miller Youth Garden. These gardens incorporate free and affordable activities, community engagement opportunities, and celebrations to create holistic expressions of the culture and needs of each community

### THE COMMUNITY GREEN SPACES PROGRAM

Through the Community Green Spaces (CGS) program we create communal gardens for youth and adult participants to connect with their environment. Together, we build diverse, nourishing, and sustainable youth-driven spaces that maximize engagement. This three-season program aims to:

- Design and support the creation of culturally-connected and widely manageable community gardens
- Foster togetherness and cooperation by opening our spaces to everyone in the community.

- Support gardeners of all ages through weekly Open Time programming
- Encourage participants to explore and create personal relationships with nature and food-systems through both structured and independent activities and play.

To learn more about CGS programming, field trips, and celebrations, please contact [kendra@cityblossoms.org](mailto:kendra@cityblossoms.org).

### ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM

Open Time Program: City Blossoms staff, fellows, and interns co-lead public, garden-based lessons that incorporate artwork, cooking, and hands-on activities into weekly, 2-hour programming sessions. We provide expressive garden tools, recipes, and tangible items to help build a creative and welcoming environment. From April through October, these co-led garden programs provide seasonal opportunities for discovery:

- Plant observation, discussions, and dissection within the outdoor classroom





Nature play art and stations to explore free expression and build familiarity with the garden

- Weekly hands on garden harvest and plant based recipes

*Garden Workdays:* City Blossoms staff maintain each Community Green Space with the help of dedicated volunteers during Open Time programming or scheduled Workdays. Together, we maintain, plant, and build new installations throughout the garden to provide seasonal maintenance as needed. Ongoing tasks include, weeding, rotating seasonal crops, or light construction with the spaces. Through this program, City Blossoms works with community members to revamp and update a Community Green Space in a way that reflects the established site's culture, objectives and goals, and considers its access to resources.

*Each Green Space Includes:*

- Outdoor classroom or meeting space
- Garden plan and map
- Beds to grow edible plants
- Pollinator-friendly area
- Tool shed
- Signage and art
- Tools for nature-play, art-making, and simple food preparation

*Field Trips and Excursions:* City Blossoms Educators lead small-group garden field trips with participants, ranging from preschool to high school students.



Each CGS offers a hands-on educational experience and introduces youth to project-based nature themes, including:

- Garden Senses
- Pollination and Pollinators
- Composting
- Plant Parts and Life Cycles
- Ecosystems
- Costs and Energy of Food

\*Interested teachers are required to attend field trips with their students\*

*Events and celebrations:* Every month each Community Green Space hosts a community based festivity. These experiences are held during Open Time programming as well as outside of program hours. They are themed and provide numerous family-friendly activities.

- Mighty Greens' Seedling Sale – Girard Children's Community Garden
- *Fall Festival* – The Farm at Kelly Miller
- *Basil Bonanza* – Marion St. Intergenerational Garden
- *Garden Fiesta* – City Blossoms Studio Garden

