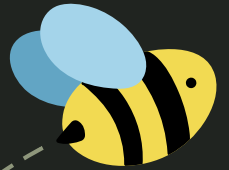


URBAN ROOTS

ANNUAL REPORT



2024



**55 YEARS,
COUNTLESS
STORIES**

Empowering the Future



DEAR FRIENDS,

Urban Roots has been fortunate to have entered its 55th year of operations in 2024. In comparison, roughly 30% of nonprofit organizations cease operations within a decade. What makes us the exception as an organization that has continued to thrive for over five decades? In my opinion, it is our ability and willingness to listen, respond and adapt - putting the work and community above all else. This is highlighted in our youth centered approach where we put youth voice + choice first.



What does it look like when we center youth voice + choice? It entails hiring and nurturing quality staff who put in the work to develop intentional relationships with our young people. When youth feel safe and cared for, they are able to take in information, build skills, and get the most out of their time with Urban Roots. This learning empowers them to make choices that spark real change in their lives and in our community. This entire process doesn't happen overnight, it's something that can take years because we can only move at the speed of trust. We designed our Progressive Program Model by focusing on this approach so that our organization grows with intentionality and remains focused on our youth and the magic they bring to the East Side of Saint Paul.

In the pages of this annual report, you will find the stories of incredible people who have done good work during the lifetime of this organization. All of those stories bring us here, to the challenges we tackled, lessons we learned, and success we shared in 2024. I invite you to join us as we bring all of that history into 2025 to build an even stronger organization where we're empowering youth through nature, healthy food, and community together.

Gratefully,

Hayley Ball

Executive Director

INTRODUCTION

Urban Roots Market Garden
Program Interns, 2004



OUR ROOTS RUN DEEP

This year, we celebrate 55 years of growing healthy communities. Our roots run deep, anchored by the people who've nurtured this organization from its humble beginnings to today's thriving programs. In honor of this milestone, we collected stories of how Urban Roots has impacted lives over the years. From youth interns who have participated in our programming, to community members who have donated their time to lend us a helping hand, to passionate individuals who shaped Urban Roots over the decades, countless stories tell of dedication, growth, and resilience to inspire us all. Enjoy many of these stories in this report and visit our website for more.

55
YEARS



Countless Stories



Find the full stories online at
UrbanRootsMN.org/Testimonials

A BRIEF HISTORY

Urban Roots was incorporated in 1969 as a 501(c)(3) to empower community residents to realize their goals for better health, wellbeing, and economic opportunity. Over the years, we have provided a range of community development services in the Twin Cities, including architecture and urban planning. We have operated our food and environmental programs on the East Side of Saint Paul since 1996, engaging thousands of youth in education, training, and work projects that provide service to the community, develop young leaders, and improve health and the environment.

HEAR FROM OUR PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What has made Urban Roots unique and successful for 55 years?

The ability to grow with the community's needs. Youth have been at the core of the mission since the organization moved to St. Paul's East Side. The internship program was born from the need to engage youth in long-term learning and service, starting with four elementary-school interns who repeatedly took after-school classes. To keep them engaged, we created leadership positions in the classes that developed into garden internships. The gardens grew from one to eight as we explored how to use vacant land, and the internships grew with the expansion, adding restaurant sales, Farmers Market, a Salad Share CSA and a focus on job-skills development.

Cook Fresh was the outgrowth of after-school cooking classes and a deeper exploration of nutrition and food access. The Conservation program sprang from a void created by a temporary shut-down of the City's Conservation Corps. Bruce Vento Sanctuary was in motion, and Urban Roots interns jumped in to help clear and plant the new urban park.

The internship that started with the four elementary students grew each year, exceptional for its focus on bringing together youth from many different backgrounds to learn from each other. As the numbers grew, and many interns returned for multiple years, we developed a tiered program that offered advanced training in leadership skills and career exploration. The alumni program that followed worked to employ alumni in key roles in the organization.



-Patsy Noble

PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT URBAN ROOTS





MISSION

Urban Roots is a Saint Paul organization whose mission is to cultivate and empower youth through nature, healthy food, and community.

VISION

Urban Roots' vision is a world where all communities have unlimited access to nature and healthy food.

Stewardship

We own our responsibility to be caretakers of the resources that we are entrusted with.

Experiential Learning

We are happiest in the field or in the kitchen. Our minds and our hands are always engaged.

Continuous Improvement

We learn from our mistakes. When opportunities for growth arise, we embrace them.

VALUES

Transparency

We cultivate a healthy work environment where staff and youth can be true to themselves and honest with each other.

Collaboration and Inclusion

We achieve more when we work together.

Diversity

We honor different perspectives as our strength.

Social Justice and Equity

We strive for fairness in our communities and the world at large.

Fun

We enjoy what we do and celebrate each other doing it.

SAINT PAUL'S EAST SIDE

We serve the East Side of Saint Paul, parts of which are USDA-designated food deserts. The majority-BIPOC residents experience persistent disparities in education, food security, livable wage jobs, homeownership, and health outcomes. In the East Side neighborhoods of Dayton's Bluff and Payne Phalen, 44-47% of households live within 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and 33-38% of youth live in poverty, compared to Saint Paul overall where 37% of households live within 200% FPL and 27% of youth live in poverty. [1]

[1] MN Compass 2023

CAPITOL REGION WATERSHED DISTRICT'S PARTNERSHIP WITH URBAN ROOTS



The partnership between Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) and Urban Roots is as strong as an old-growth oak tree and as diverse as the habitat of a native prairie. Urban Roots' Conservation Program in particular, has germinated countless seeds of hope and health for our community through habitat restoration and rain garden plantings which foster respect for and a relationship to our natural environment by our young people. CRWD has awarded funding to the Conservation Program since 2010. Conservation Program Director, David Woods, is a certified Water Steward with CRWD, and Urban Roots interns have been awarded Young Watershed Steward Awards twice - first in 2014 and again in 2023 - for their outstanding work. CRWD's mission is to protect, manage and improve our water resources. Urban Roots' mission is to cultivate and empower youth through nature, healthy food, and community. These pair so well with our understanding that children are the future and water is life.

Through many years of partnership, we have witnessed the thoughtful way young people are supported and fostered by connecting them with green spaces in their community. Just as a seed needs nutritious soil, ample sun, and nourishing water, the young people of Saint Paul's East Side need safe spaces, caring mentors, and opportunities to explore their interests as they venture forward in their journeys. The ultimate success story is to see a young person's enthusiasm for community, justice, and the environment carrying through to their adulthood and we have witnessed this through our work together.

—Maricella Xiong and Lindsay Schwantes, Capitol Region Watershed District

Continue reading at UrbanRootsMN.org/Testimonials

We believe that every
young person is

BUZZING WITH POTENTIAL



Urban Roots provides paid internships to youth on the East Side of Saint Paul. Youth interns develop leadership, entrepreneurial, and life skills through our Market Garden, Conservation, and Cook Fresh Programs. Each year, up to nearly 90 youth interns, ages 14-24, participate in our progressive, tiered programming, connecting to one another and the world around them. Learn more about our programs and hear from our staff and youth interns in the following pages.



MARKET GARDEN PROGRAM

Youth in the Market Garden paid internship program participate in small-scale crop production at our urban gardens while exploring food justice, science, food stories, and histories. Interns are given space to discover who they are and who they want to be while cultivating a relationship with food, the land, and our community. The produce we grow is shared with the Cook Fresh program, sold at Mill City Farmers Market, and distributed to community hunger relief efforts on the East Side of Saint Paul.

MARKET GARDEN PAST & PRESENT

The Market Garden program began in 1996 when we worked with Dayton's Bluff Elementary on a community development project to install a garden on the site where a gas explosion occurred. Over the years, our Market Garden program has transformed into a thriving, youth-centered hub of community, learning, and growth. Today, we employ nearly 30 youth interns who not only grow food but also develop leadership and life skills along the way. This year, about half of our harvest was donated to the CLUES food shelf, bringing fresh, healthy produce to our East Side neighbors.

Our Community Mentors Program invites local farmers to grow on our land, share their skills, and connect with youth through hands-on workshops. The Children's Garden has become a beloved gathering space, welcoming weekly storytime sessions in partnership with the Saint Paul Public Library and engaging around 400 children through field trips.

MARKET GARDEN PROGRAM

We've also embraced citizen science, partnering with the University of Minnesota and MSP LTER to bring agricultural research into our work. Our volunteer program has grown tremendously, with 607 volunteers lending their time and energy. This year, we began stewarding two more community gardens—now serving 150 families across four East Side spaces.

Youth leadership is blooming, with advanced interns managing their own garden beds. Meanwhile, the Rivoli Bluff Farm & Restoration Site has evolved from an overgrown snow dump into a flourishing oasis in the city—complete with a hoop house, barn, and mural-covered shipping containers. All of this is possible thanks to the strong partnerships and opportunities that continue to grow alongside us.

JACLYNE'S PERSPECTIVE

Nine years ago three of us sat in a cold office chipping away at plans to run a summer youth program—David from Conservation, along with me and one other staff member from Market Garden. There were no year-round Cook Fresh employees on staff. In the Market Garden program, we ran a one-acre farm, had a 45-member CSA, went to farmers markets every week in the fall, employed about 18 youth interns, and led field trips and a volunteer program with just the two of us. We had two vans to run the program, one with doors that filled with water and sloshed around when it rained. All of our tools were stored in a tiny basement room beneath First Lutheran Church. In my first year we had no walk-behind tractor, just a broad-fork and our own muscles. We worked hard and grew amazing food but our reach into the community didn't extend far beyond our interns.

"It feels like so many far-off dreams that we had nine years ago have come true!"

-Jaclyne Jandro

MARKET GARDEN PROGRAM DIRECTOR



MARKET GARDEN PROGRAM



2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024, the Market Garden program reached new heights serving more youth than ever and deepening our impact across education, community, and food justice. We expanded weekly STEM lessons, welcomed more guest speakers and community mentors, and increased hands-on environmental education. Returning interns took on leadership roles, managing their own plots and stepping into paid Crew Lead positions.

We received funding to strengthen our hunger relief efforts, growing fresh produce for neighbors using the CLUES Canasta food shelf. We also grew more culturally significant crops from community-shared seeds, supported a record number of community gardeners, and sold plants at market.

Youth led the way in farm-based research with local scientists, explored “Seed Stories,” and joined the Metro Food Justice Network Youth Action Team. Farm staff offered paid trainings in CPR, First Aid, Food Safety, and Driver’s Ed. We proudly hired a former intern onto our farm team.

We also grew our staff team to better support youth, this included hiring a former intern full-time. With this support we hosted joyful on-farm events like *Uplift and Unwind in the Garden*. It was a season of growth, learning, and deepened roots in our East Side community.

MARKET GARDEN PROGRAM



THE GARDEN IS GROWING

The Rivoli Bluff Farm and Restoration Site saw new color with a youth-designed mural. A long-term water connection was also installed there in partnership with the City. We expanded our Storytime in the Garden program to include youth from 30K Feet and hosted more youth groups at the Rivoli Site than ever before. Our work was shared far and wide—on the radio, in the news, at The Nature of Cities international conference in Berlin, and by youth presenters at the Midwest Farmers of Color Conference in Iowa.

CHILDREN'S GARDEN PARTNERSHIP

“Vegetables, flowers, butterflies, bees, dirt, and kids. A great combination.”

Jaclyne from Urban Roots and I, Carla from the Arlington Hills Library, have had a lot of fun over the last four years hosting weekly storytimes in the Urban Roots Children's Garden and watching the kids' excited, proud, dirty faces as they learn and grow. First we read books and sing songs, then we get our hands dirty experiencing everything the garden has to offer. From chasing butterflies to examining bugs to learning about bees and honey. From planting seeds to harvesting vegetables to making our own salads and creating homemade pesto. The kids love every part of this learning experience. And a seed has indeed been planted.

-Carla Foley

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIST
ARLINGTON HILLS LIBRARY





CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Conservation youth interns support and improve green spaces around the East Side and participate in the restoration of local parks through removal of displaced plant species, native seed collection, and installation of native plants. We teach hands-on skills through the installation and maintenance of rain and pollinator gardens in public and private spaces. Youth also engage in citizen science projects, such as insect surveys, water sampling, and forest inventories.

CONSERVATION PAST & PRESENT

The Conservation Program began in 2003 to join the community in the early restoration of Waḡaḡ Țipi (formally known as Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary). In the beginning, interns spent most of their summer at Waḡaḡ Țipi helping with rain garden installations. Over the years the program has expanded to help with habitat restoration at several public parks throughout the East Side, installation and maintenance of many rain gardens and pollinator gardens, the creation of a tree giveaway program, and an extensive in-depth curriculum for our interns that explores intersectional environmentalism and gives agency to the youth in the environmental movement.

CONSERVATION PROGRAM

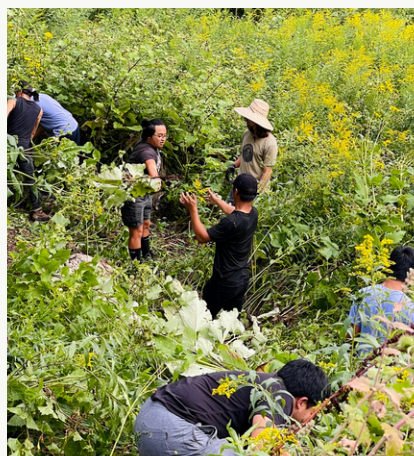
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024, Urban Roots' Conservation Program engaged 35 youth interns—our highest number yet—with 57% returning for another season of impactful work. Together, interns helped restore 83 acres of parkland across Saint Paul, planting 438 trees and enhancing sites like Pig's Eye, Indian Mounds, Swede Hollow, Lake Phalen, Trout Brook, and Willow Reserve. We also distributed 77 trees to residents to support urban canopy growth.



At our Rivoli Bluff Farm & Restoration Site, interns maintained restored hillsides, built mulched trails, and established a new gravel bed nursery that held 600 trees. They helped plant 270 trees and shrubs and began shaping a new plan for the site in collaboration with a local architect, media partners, and youth voices.

Education remained central to our work. Interns explored topics like land re-indigenization, Minnesota wildlife, macroinvertebrates, plant identification, and even a peer-developed fishing curriculum. Our Green Your Mind curriculum deepened connections between conservation and culture.



CONSERVATION PROGRAM

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community engagement flourished! We hosted 494 volunteers and worked with 190 students on service-learning projects. Through outreach and events, we connected with over 2,200 community members—offering Rivoli Bluff Farm and Restoration Site tours, pollinator education, and activities at events like WaterFest, Pollinator Festival, and the Metro Children’s Water Festival. The Conservation Program continues to grow strong roots in both nature and community.



Since 2022, I’ve been working with Urban Roots Conservation interns to collect tree seed. The Nature Conservancy is working on a large-scale reforestation in Minnesota, but we can’t do it without more tree seedlings and more tree seeds... We know that we need to train a new generation of tree seed collectors to be future foresters, habitat restoration managers, and outdoor professionals. **These youth are helping us ensure that tree seed collection maximizes species and genetic diversity of our forests so they are resilient to future changes.**



-Mary Hammes

REFORESTATION STRATEGY MANAGER, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Urban Roots has been such an amazing partner to Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi over the years. They’ve been an integral part in the ongoing restoration at Wakan Tipi as well as providing us with space for our medicine garden, Owozu Maya Akann. This past year Urban Roots staff and youth **helped us plant over 300 plants** and dormant roots to help re-naturalize an old foot trail at Wakan Tipi as well as co-host the annual Seeds and Snowshoes where we spread over 20lbs of native grasses and wildflowers with volunteers. At the medicine garden, our environmental team shared traditional plant knowledge with the youth and worked on removing weeds. **We are looking forward to continuing to partner with such an amazing organization!**



-Gabriele Menomin

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION MANAGER, WAKAN TIPI AWANYANKAPI

CONSERVATION PROGRAM

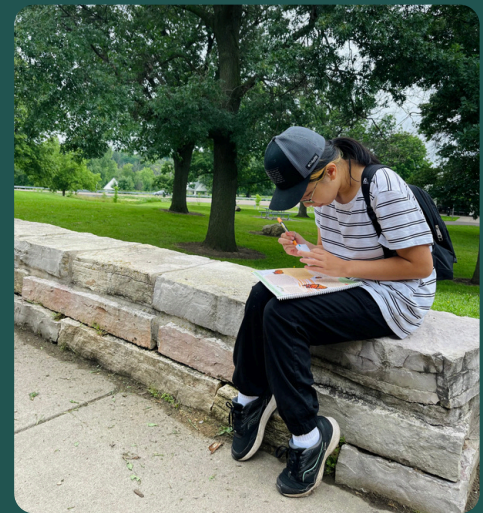
HEAR FROM A CONSERVATION PROGRAM INTERN



I started my internship at Urban Roots in summer 2022 and have worked year-round since then. Coming to work at Urban Roots felt stressful because it's a really social place. Thinking back on my first year, I wish I would've talked more. I started speaking up more in my second year because I felt encouraged by think-pair-share activities and public speaking learning sessions. These are things I wouldn't have chosen to do had I not been in this internship.

Similarly, I also wouldn't have chosen to engage in any restoration work. I've really enjoyed learning how to identify plants. I didn't have an interest in them at the beginning, but being around them, and learning the small, intricate details made me more interested. The ability to identify plants is pretty cool and useful. I also feel that summer education has been impactful because **I didn't know any of this before my internship started but now recognize how important it is for us to be aware of place, history, and issues within the place.** Furthermore, I like that we incorporate art in the Conservation program education because art is a more stable way for me to remember what I've learned.

Another impactful experience I've had at Urban Roots is the friendship and exploration aspects of the Ua Si Ua Ke Nraum Zoov Hmong affinity group. The group explores many locations within, and surrounding Minnesota and I feel like I'm expanding my own map because I haven't really been anywhere else before. Having friends is an experience that is still new to me, but the friendships I've made have **helped me grow as a person.** I used to always keep things to myself because I didn't have anyone to talk to, but now I have people to talk to.



I've always had this built-in fear of being judged, but **being at Urban Roots feels like a weight lifted, freeing – I can be my authentic self here.** I don't feel like I have to look for someone's approval. Presently, as a Harvest Crew, I feel like I'm in a weird transition phase of my life; maybe it's okay to be me. I'm feeling more comfortable being me now than I was three years ago.

-Liam

CURRENT CONSERVATION INTERN



COOK FRESH PROGRAM

The Cook Fresh program explores food and cooking through the interconnected lenses of land, identity, and community. Interns engage with each stage of the food system—growing, preparing, and sharing food—while building essential cooking skills and reflecting on the cultural and social significance of what we eat. First-year interns focus on foundational culinary skills, while returning interns take on mentorship and leadership roles. Through hands-on kitchen work, weekly discussion groups, and fieldwork on Urban Roots farms, the program fosters a deeper understanding of food justice, sustainability, and the power of food to shape community.

COOK FRESH PAST & PRESENT

The Cook Fresh program formed naturally as a way to further connect youth with the produce they were harvesting on Urban Roots farms, growing from a simple goal: use leftover produce to cook together and share nourishing meals. Over the years, it has become a dynamic space where young people gain practical life skills and job readiness—teamwork, time management, communication—while building deeper ties to the land and community. Closely aligned with the Market Garden program, Cook Fresh offers a full seed-to-plate experience that reinforces the value of local food systems and youth leadership in shaping healthier, more resilient communities.

COOK FRESH PROGRAM



2024 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024, the Cook Fresh program engaged 23 youth in a nine-week summer internship that blended culinary education with food justice advocacy. Interns planned and prepared weekly meals, led cooking classes, and preserved hundreds of pounds of produce—contributing to Urban Roots’ food distribution efforts and sharing fresh, homemade samples at M Health Fairview’s Harvest at the Hub celebration. Working alongside more than 10 professional chefs, youth gained hands-on experience in everything from food prep to complex meal planning while preparing weekly community lunches.

Interns stepped into leadership roles through two youth-led cooking classes hosted with Mississippi Market and supported weekly lessons centered around in-season crops from Urban Roots farms. They also helped steward Jessamine Pocket Park, contributing to its maintenance as a community food forest. A new kitchen garden was launched at the Rivoli Bluff Farm and Restoration Site, offering interns experience growing food from seed to harvest while reinforcing sustainable agriculture practices and the importance of local food systems.

COOK FRESH PROGRAM

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The summer also included weekly farm work, 15+ field trips to local partners and cultural hubs, and dedicated time for mindfulness exercises designed to help interns ground themselves in place and purpose. Interns participated in reflective discussion groups on food sovereignty, food as medicine, and the intersection of food, community, and culture—building their awareness and sense of agency. As the program continues to grow, Cook Fresh remains a space where youth can gain confidence, connection, and a clearer understanding of their place in our shared food system.



A PARTNERSHIP ROOTED IN COMMUNITY: MISSISSIPPI MARKET AND URBAN ROOTS

At Mississippi Market, we believe our mission extends beyond providing natural and organic foods—we're committed to being a responsible and engaged member of our community. That's why our partnership with Urban Roots, a local organization empowering youth through sustainable agriculture, culinary arts, and environmental conservation, is so meaningful. **We see Urban Roots staff and youth interns as vital partners in working to increase access to fresh, healthy food and reduce food insecurity on the East Side of St. Paul.** Urban Roots' Cook Fresh interns bring their culinary skills directly to our community. This past year, they taught engaging cooking classes at our store that inspired participants to prepare nutritious and culturally relevant meals centered around community. These classes reflect the power of food to bring people together and create lasting change...**Together, we're fostering a neighborhood where everyone has access to nutritious food and opportunities to grow, learn, and thrive.**



Cook Fresh interns helping to pack Veggie Rx boxes at Mississippi Market, directly addressing food insecurity and ensuring access for families in need.

-Madeline Summers 
COMMUNITY & OUTREACH SPECIALIST
MISSISSIPPI MARKET CO-OP

EXTRACURRICULARS

Additional opportunities for youth interns

FOOD STORIES

Food stories has been an ongoing project since 2021, starting as just a small project to collect recipes and the stories around them from immigrant and Indigenous communities on the East Side of Saint Paul.

This summer Anthony Meng came to continue the project through the Jay and Rose Phillips Scholars Program. Through many laughs and shared stories in the Urban Roots kitchen, Anthony worked with numerous community members and youth interns. He focused on the theme of food stories connected with our loved ones. Through this lens, he found that many people often overlooked how recipes passed down by our loved ones are living archives of culture, tradition, and identity. As the collection of stories grew each season, so did the desire to find a way to share them with a broader audience, leading to the idea of compiling all the stories into a cookbook. The Food Stories Cookbook is expected to be released in early 2026!



SEED STORIES

During our busy summer season, youth interns worked with the Other Media Group to gather a collection of stories centered around one theme - seeds. A seed story is the story of our relationship to seeds, and seeds' relationship to us. Everyone has seed stories, although you might have to dig a little to find yours. Interns conducted eight interviews, created short videos and filmed radio pieces. The stories were then compiled into a zine in collaboration with various artists.

Read a small excerpt from the project below:



Abdi's Story Cardamom



Cardamon's been something that we've been using for a long time. We use cardamom in most of our foods, we use it to cook rice and we use it for tea. You can make it taste sweet or you can also make it taste salty or sour, whatever you like. We also have candy, one of the most popular candy is called Halwa. Cardamon has always been one of the spices that we use it every day on meat and a lot of other things. The tea is my favorite. If I don't sense or smell cardamon in the tea, for some reason, it doesn't hit quite as good.



Find the full zine on our website at
UrbanRootsMN.org/Testimonials

EXTRACURRICULARS

SCIENCE DEEP DIVE

Science Deep Dive is a special program for interns who want to explore and apply scientific research to the work they do at Urban Roots. We offer this opportunity in partnership with researchers at the University of Minnesota and the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area Long Term Ecological Research Program (MSP LTER).

HEAR FROM LINDSEY KEMMERLING, PhD

“I am a researcher with MSP LTER. My research team and Urban Roots have worked together since 2022 to add ecological research opportunities to their youth internship programs and to conduct collaborative ecological research projects.”



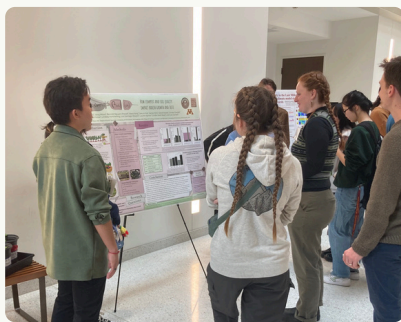
Lindsey Kemmerling, PhD



Radish Experiment

Collaborative research

I lead the Science Deep Dive with Urban Roots; this program partners university researchers with Urban Roots interns to introduce hands-on research experiences, identify pathways to pursue careers in science, and dive deep into the ecology of the Twin Cities. We've measured plastic pollution in ponds in the Twin Cities, tested the growth of radishes across soil and compost types in Urban Roots sites, and scouted for jumping worms (a new displaced species spreading through the Twin Cities) with a worm expert. Some Science Deep Dive interns have presented their research at the University of Minnesota's Earth Student Research Symposium and another intern completed their senior capstone project through the program. **The interns are incredibly engaged, enthusiastic, and intelligent, especially when it comes to insects and worms!**



Presenting Research

What's the most valuable seed that you and Urban Roots have planted, grown, and harvested, in yourself or our community?

Together, we have planted, grown, and harvested seeds of curiosity. Our partnership aims to ask and consider meaningful questions, work to understand them, and do so again.

—Lindsey Kemmerling, PhD 

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER MSP LTER/SNELL-ROOD
LAB, DEPT. ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION, AND BEHAVIOR
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



A YEAR OF URBAN ROOTS



YOUTH OUTCOMES

Over the course of our 2024 summer programming, we increased the percentage of youth interns reporting that they:

June → August



87 Youth interns

12 Alumni staff

15 Full time and seasonal staff

IN THE NEWS

MN STATE PARKS & TRAILS TRAILBLAZER NEWSLETTER

January, 2024

Thia Xiong on txoj hmoov (mandate of life) to care for all, in her own words

MPR NEWS

January 4, 2024

Art Hounds: Revisiting Roots

LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

March 15, 2024

Ear to the ground 334: Youth Movement

SAHAN JOURNAL

April 8, 2024

Passion for fishing leads St. Paul Hmong teen to conservation work

CBS NEWS

April 20, 2024

Urban roots combines Earth Day celebrations with art

STAR TRIBUNE

September 9, 2024

Growing, ginger, jobs and justice



MIDWAY, COMO, FROGTOWN MONITOR

September 11, 2024

Youth in Urban Ag Connect

FROGTOWN FARM

August 28, 2024

Community Roots: Voices of Frogtown Farm

CBS NEWS

September 9, 2024

St. Paul's Urban Roots is helping people grow food and job skills at the same time

PIONEER PRESS

September 27, 2024

St. Paul: Urban Roots sets out to plant more than 100 trees Saturday

FOX 9

September 28, 2024

Volunteers join Urban Roots to plant trees in St. Paul

OUR STAFF



Top Row (Left to Right):

Astrid Berger, [Cook Fresh Program Manager](#); Sam Mockert, [Conservation Outreach Coordinator](#); Chris Weikert, [Admin Crew Lead](#); James Nins, [Market Garden Farm Coordinator](#); Alex Kucich, [Conservation Program Coordinator](#); Marcos Giossi, [Market Garden Farm Manager](#); David Woods, [Conservation Program Director](#); Imogene Silver, [Communications Assistant](#)

Middle Row:

Nana Vang, [Market Garden Crew Lead](#); Zarea Mobley, [Operations Manager](#); Thia Xiong, [Conservation Program Manager](#) (holding Basil, Dog); Sairoong Brunner, [Cook Fresh Program Coordinator](#); Sara Johnson, [Development and Events Manager](#); Hayley Ball, [Executive Director](#); Mikayla Biggers, [Accounting Manager](#)

Bottom (Front) Row:

Moua Yang, [Conservation Crew Lead](#); Skyler Hawkins, [Farm Director](#); Bennett Nguyen Prowell, [Conservation Crew Lead](#); Maiv Puv, [Market Garden Crew Lead](#)

Not Pictured:

Alfredo Alvarado, [Mobile Market Coordinator](#); Paloma Cardoza, [Market Garden Program Manager](#); Jaclyne Jandro, [Market Garden Program Director](#)

OUR BOARD



Leif Masrud, President

Mechanical Engineer

Daniel Yang, Vice President

Communications Specialist, TriNet

Jamie Gehan, Treasurer

Associate Finance Director, United Healthcare

Amy Thomas, Secretary

Chief Operations Officer, Penumbra Theater

Tim Dykstal

Retired Fiscal Compliance Coordinator,
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Angie Becker Kudelka

Deputy Director, Nature Conservancy

Sri Siddabathuni

Senior IT Leader, Health Partners

Zak Buell

Research Associate, Loam Bio

Jessica Anderson

Educator

Jim Jones

Chief Credit Officer, AgriBank

Steven Bonfig

Retired Senior Com. Manager, 3M

Miranda Arellanes

Medical Device Research Writer

CarrieAnn Jones

Strategic Operations Lead | Data
Analytics, AI & Architecture, Xcel Energy



THOUGHTS FROM THE BOARD

What's so special about Urban Roots, though, is that this growth is organic, shaping itself to the needs of the youth that it serves, even as external conditions and internal desires change... The most valuable seeds that Urban Roots has planted, grown, and harvested are community and the sense of belonging that Urban Roots gives its youth.

-Tim Dykstal

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
LONG-TERM SUPPORTER



Urban Roots instilled in me a deep appreciation for the environment, awareness of healthy living and community... I credit Urban Roots with laying the foundation for my ability to bring communities together through food and culture.

-Daniel Yang

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT AND
URBAN ROOTS ALUMNUS

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

| Assets | 2024 | 2023 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Cash | \$164,436 | \$216,331 |
| Investments | \$11,251 | \$11,202 |
| Contributions Receivable | \$722,428 | \$415,632 |
| Prepaid Expenses | \$15,238 | \$12,441 |
| Property and Equipment | \$176,336 | \$178,021 |
| Right of Use Asset | \$177,009 | \$75,572 |
| Total Assets | \$1,266,698 | \$909,199 |

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities

| | | |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| Accounts Payable | \$46,974 | \$11,567 |
| Notes Payable | \$84,145 | \$21,015 |
| Accrued Expenses | \$66,348 | \$61,766 |
| Right of Use Liability | \$92,400 | \$75,572 |
| Total Current Liabilities | \$289,867 | \$169,920 |
| Long Term Liabilities | \$165,464 | \$47,797 |
| Net Assets | \$811,367 | \$691,482 |
| Total Liabilities & Net Assets | \$1,266,698 | \$909,199 |

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Support and Revenue

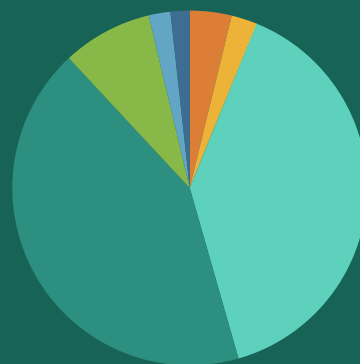
| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Individual Gifts | \$84,586 | \$115,097 |
| Corporate Gifts | \$50,933 | \$40,012 |
| Non-Profit Gifts | \$1,859 | \$41,155 |
| Total Gifts | \$137,378 | \$196,266 |
| Grant Income | \$875,186 | \$994,466 |
| Contracts | \$944,446 | \$411,013 |
| Non-Financial Contributions (In-Kind) | \$182,491 | \$190,887 |
| Contributions and Gifts Total | \$2,139,501 | \$1,792,632 |
| Special Events | \$38,714 | \$22,303 |
| Other Income | \$43,971 | \$24,156 |
| Total Income | \$2,222,186 | \$1,839,090 |

Expenses

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Program | \$1,692,038 | \$1,241,882 |
| Management and General | \$182,162 | \$260,832 |
| Fundraising | \$228,100 | \$72,437 |
| Total Expenses | \$2,102,300 | \$1,575,151 |

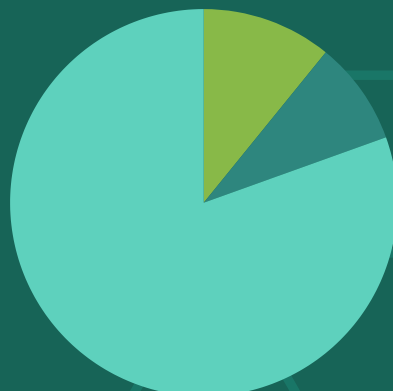
SUPPORT AND REVENUE

- Individual Gifts
- Corporate Gifts
- Non-Profit Gifts
- Grant Income
- Contracts
- Non-financial Contributions
- Other Income
- Special Events



EXPENSES

- Fundraising
- Management and General
- Program





THANK YOU!

We extend heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated volunteers, generous donors, steadfast foundation and corporate supporters, invaluable community partners, vibrant network of community members, supportive youth families, and the individuals who choose to make a positive impact by purchasing from us. Your collective commitment and support fuel our mission, empowering youth and fostering a thriving community.

Thank you for sowing the seeds of success!



*...countless stories tell
of dedication, growth, and
resilience that inspire us all.*



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