



Impact Report 2023

www.foodliteracyproject.org



As I reflect on 2023, our value of abundance stands out as one that especially guided us. Despite continued challenges innate to our tenant status, our team persevered – sparking a love of fresh food and community, elevating youth voices within and beyond our organization, and sharing bountiful harvests with neighbors. At the same time, we made significant strides toward the bright future we know is ahead for the Food Literacy Project and for our community.

I am grateful for the ways Carol and our Board of Directors embraced abundance as they invited me into the Executive Director role, positioning the Food Literacy Project to grow toward our Forever Home, an effort that will root this work in community for years to come. I want to particularly thank Nikki “Nutrition” Boyd for her service as Board Chair over the last 2 years. Nikki is a dedicated leader, a fearless advocate for this work, and a valued thought partner. We are excited to welcome Kurt “Dirt” Mason as our Board Chair in 2024. As we prepare to plant our long term roots, Kurt has already been cultivating partnerships and guiding us toward the beautiful land in southwest Louisville where we intend to stay.

And thanks to you – our supporters, partners, neighbors, and friends – for giving abundantly of your time and resources as we strive together toward a vision for a healthy and equitable community where people and places thrive.

In gratitude,
Alix “Arugula”
Executive Director

(pictured with
2024 Board Chair
Kurt “Dirt” Mason)



Gather for the Garden

This new fundraising event was the place to be on a February night!



Over 100 Food Literacy Project supporters gathered at West Sixth NuLu for Gather for the Garden. This new fundraising event featured food from Mayan Cafe, music by Ryan Anderson, a raffle, and exciting news about the search for the Food Literacy Project's Forever Home. We heard from board member Kurt "Dirt" Mason, YCAP crew member Sterling "Strawberry," and raised more than \$10,000 in one evening with the help of emcee Annie "Appleseed" encouraging our generous guests to support the young leaders at the heart of the Food Literacy Project's mission.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, volunteers, event committee, board members, and supporters who made the night successful and meaningful for the Food Literacy Project community!



Thank you, Board!

We could not do our work without the talent, time, and creative abilities generously shared by our 2023 board of directors:

- Nikki Boyd, President
- Craig Oeswein, Treasurer
- Kurt Mason
- Martha Geier
- Annabel Anderson, Secretary
- Bob Dixon
- Michelle Elisburg
- Maggie Epperson
- Michael George
- Mindy Arndt
- LeTicia Marshall
- Luckett Davidson
- Sam Overbee

YCAP

Youth Community Agriculture Program

Through YCAP, young people (ages 16-21) take active roles in advancing food justice, health, and equity while deepening their connection to fresh foods and the land, engaging in meaningful work, and earning much-needed income. Youth worked at the Shawnee People's Garden growing food, creating and sharing recipes, hosting and breaking bread with community members, helping to lead and implement after school clubs for elementary students, conducting a research project, and connecting with other urban farmers, community leaders and youth engaged in similar work.





- 20 young people employed in 2023
- 10 raised beds built and installed at community centers and home gardens
- 1,959 lbs of produce grown at the Shawnee People's Garden
- 9 partner urban farms and 4 partner nonprofits supported by crew members during the 2023 season with farming and programming assistance
- Healing Week and People's Summit on Food Systems & Urban Agriculture panel events planned and implemented by crew members

"I've been really lost before this space [the Shawnee People's Garden]...I didn't have a passion or goal in life.

I got here, and I don't feel lost anymore."

-T'Von "Tiller"

YCAP Crew Member



Field-to-Fork Clubs

F2F

Field-to-Fork (F2F) programs guide PreK-5th graders through a journey of learning by discovery, as they gain gardening and cooking experience and receive weekly produce shares grown at the Shawnee People's Garden and pantry items donated by community partners such as Rainbow Blossom Natural Foods Market. Participants and their families increase the amount and variety of produce consumed and learn how to grow food. 2023 was a year of great growth for F2F, as we partnered with the YMCA and Play Cousins Collective to offer engaging experiences for pre-K aged youth.

"I'm going home and making this recipe RIGHT NOW!"
"This recipe is 1000 out of 10!"
-F2F Club Feedback



- 150 students engaged across 9 clubs
- Partnered with Jacob Elementary School, Hazelwood Elementary School, Play Cousins Collective, the YMCA of Greater Louisville, and Backside Learning Center
- F2F Club members joined YCAP crew members at the People's Summit on Food Systems & Urban Agriculture
- Provided F2F experiences outside of the traditional school setting for Play Cousins Collective and Backside Learning Center



Community Engagement and Partnerships

The Food Literacy Project expanded its partnerships with other nonprofits and local, state, and federal government in 2023. We are proud to build and deepen community connections through:

- a work-party model of visiting other urban farms and laboring alongside local farmers to help with various projects
- hosting guest speakers who are active in community change initiatives that push for social, racial, and environmental justice
- connecting with neighbors of the farm and other community members at events throughout the year
- fostering a network of young people who are engaged in work that benefits their communities





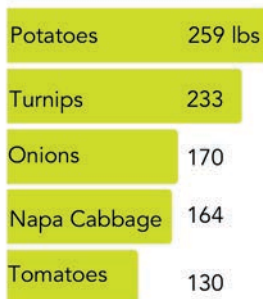
- Worked with the University of Louisville on the Social Justice Youth Development program; 9 staff members (91%) completed the course focused on addressing root causes of social inequities & engaging youth as agents of change
- YCAP crew envisioned and executed their dream of Healing Week at the Shawnee People's Garden, engaging over 100 community members in physical, mental, and emotional health activities
- Met neighbors and sold over 250 lbs of produce at the Shively Farmers' and Artisans' Market
- Donated over 800 lbs of produce to neighbors and community partners such as Change Today, Change Tomorrow & Neighborhood House



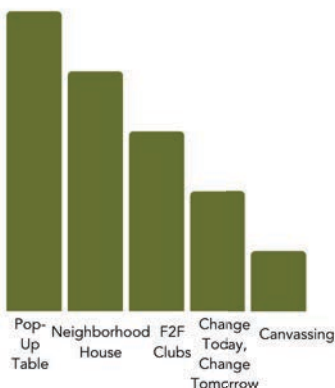
2023

2023 At A Glance

Top 5 produce varieties grown...



...and the places they were most often shared.



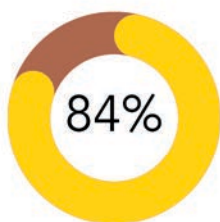
Lifecycle of Produce



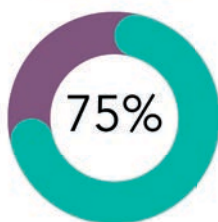
10 Community Garden Beds Installed



1,275 Seeds and Starts Shared



of YCAP participants feel they have the power to make a difference in the community



of YCAP participants report increased participation in activities to address community issues



of YCAP participants ate vegetables that they harvested



86% of Field-to-Fork Club participants report knowing how to make a healthy meal using fresh vegetables

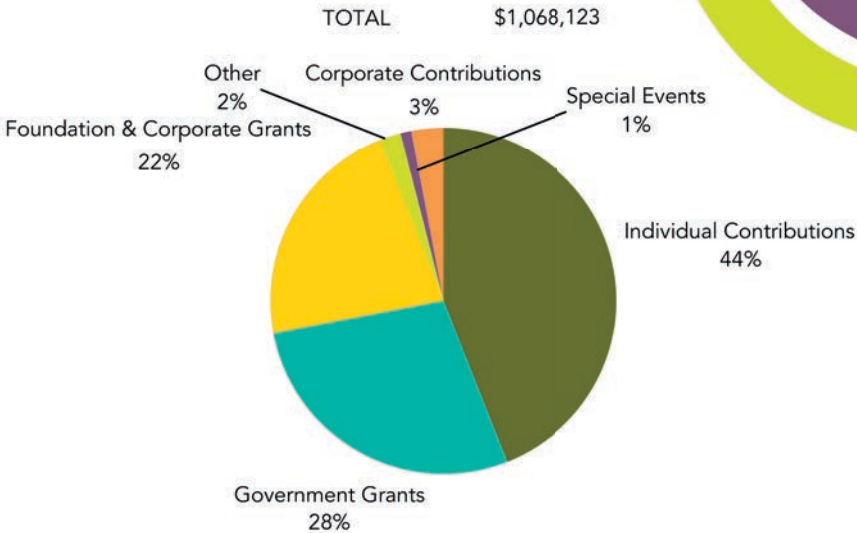
Scan Here!

Check out the YCAP panel at
the People's Summit on Food
Systems & Urban Agriculture



Income

• Individual Contributions	\$475,906
• Government Grants	\$299,512
• Foundation & Corporate Grants	\$239,779
• Corporate Contributions	\$27,342
• Other	\$16,403
• Special Events	\$9,181



Expenses

• YCAP	\$542,377
• Field-to-Fork Clubs	\$100,118
• Fundraising	\$84,538
• Community Outreach & Food Access	\$62,293
• Administration	\$22,196

TOTAL \$811,522

