



# Impact Report 2024

[www.foodliteracyproject.org](http://www.foodliteracyproject.org)



Dear friends,

As I reflect on the past year, I am deeply grateful for the many ways you help grow and sustain the mission of the Food Literacy Project. Because of your commitment, 2024 was a season of meaningful growth - branching into new partnerships, particularly in Southwest Louisville, while continuing to nurture long-standing relationships across west and south end neighborhoods. We introduced new leadership roles within the YCAP crew, creating opportunities for youth to step into greater responsibility and continued personal growth.

Thanks to your generosity, we employed 35% more young leaders through YCAP than in 2023, and 58% more youth participated in Field-to-Fork Clubs. These numbers are more than statistics - they represent hundreds of young people digging into the roots of their food and harnessing their power to cultivate change.

This season of growth has brought us closer to realizing a long-held dream: establishing our Forever Home. The momentum you helped build in 2024 has prepared the Food Literacy Project to plant deep, lasting roots that will sustain a more vibrant and resilient future. You embraced this vision and are essential to its becoming reality – thank you.

Together, we are cultivating a healthy and equitable community where people and places thrive.

With gratitude,  
**Alix “Arugula”**  
**Executive Director**



# Gather for the Garden

A Night of  
Growth & Giving!



Nearly 200 supporters came together at West Sixth NuLu for our second annual Gather for the Garden on a rainy February evening. Launched in 2023, the event grew so much in its second year that we needed to move to a larger venue in 2025! Thanks to the inspiring voices of board member Kurt "Dirt" Mason, YCAP crew members T'Von "Tiller" and Mark "Mycelium," YCAP alum and board member Maggie "Mushroom," and emcee Annie "Appleseed," along with a generous match-challenge donor, the event raised nearly \$24,000 in one night to support the young leaders at the heart of our mission.

A heartfelt thank-you to our sponsors, volunteers, event committee, board, and community for making the night a success!



## Thank you, Board!

We could not do our work without the talent, time, and creative abilities generously shared by our 2024 board of directors:

- Kurt Mason, President
- Sam Overbee, Treasurer
- Annabel Anderson, Secretary
- Bob Dixon
- Craig Oeswein
- Ginger Wallace
- Jeff Dailey
- LeTicia Marshall
- Maggie Epperson
- Martha Geier
- Michelle Elisburg
- Mindy Arndt
- Nikki Boyd



# Youth Community Agriculture Program

In early 2024, the Youth Community Agriculture Program (YCAP) found a new home on a former mint farm on Paradise Lane in Pleasure Ridge Park. Through YCAP, young people ages 16–21 take active roles in advancing food justice, health, and equity in Louisville. They deepen their relationship with fresh food and the land while engaging in meaningful work that brings resources into their lives and their communities. At the new farm site, youth grew and distributed a record amount of fresh food, created and shared recipes, hosted community meals, and built intergenerational connections. They also helped lead Field-to-Fork experiences, conducted community-based research, and collaborated with fellow urban growers and youth leaders working toward a more just and sustainable food system.







- 28 young people employed in 2024
- Peer Mentor YCAP positions created to expand opportunities for responsibility and leadership skills development for returning crew members
- 3025 lbs. of produce harvested (54% increase from 2023)
- 2nd annual Healing Week planned and implemented by crew members featuring farm, food, and holistic wellness activities.
- Crew members participated as panelists at the 2<sup>nd</sup> People's Summit on Food Systems & Urban Agriculture and at the Louisville Sustainability Council's Hungry for Change Summit.
- 86% of crew members are confident in their ability to set and achieve personal goals
- 83% agree that they have the power to make a difference in their communities
- 70% of YCAPers are very comfortable in their public speaking abilities and 50% gained confidence in public speaking



“I stepped out of my comfort zone for 7 weeks despite my dislike of the heat and bugs. I learned how to plant, grow and distribute food.”

-Gabby “Gardener”  
Summer 2024 YCAP Crew Member



# 2024 Winter YCAP

The 2024 Winter YCAP Crew's YPAR Project answered the question: "How can we support and encourage community members to grow their own food?"

View the full project here



“Ultimately, we wanted to dig into this question because of how much we value food and education. We’ve seen how beneficial food and education has been for our crew and other youth we’ve worked with which helped us come up with a goal to identify the community’s needs and meet the people in the community where they are, and that became our motivation.”

## Pre-Order our first ever community cookbook!

We are thrilled to share an exciting new initiative that combines our love for youth, healthy food, community, and sustainability: our very first cookbook!

This special project is in partnership with Women Who Wine for a Cause (The Food Literacy Project was the WWWFC’s 2024 nonprofit partner of the year) and aims to raise support and awareness for our work while giving back to our community with farm-to-table recipes, shared memories, and heartfelt stories.



# 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 Food Literacy Project farm and pantry items donated by longtime supporter Rainbow Blossom Natural Foods Market. Participants and their families consistently share that the club changes how they eat and what they cook at home.

With the move to Pleasure Ridge Park in 2024, F2F programs expanded programming to new schools and community partners and continued to engage participants throughout the community, reaching 58% more children and their families than in 2023.

It made me feel good because I get to cook and see my friends and I feel joy!

-F2F Club Participant





- 237 students engaged across 11 F2F clubs and experiences
- Partnered with 5 elementary schools, and provided F2F experiences outside of the traditional school setting with Play Cousins Collective, Ridgewood Baptist Church, the YMCA, and Backside Learning Center
- Participated in the Fund for the Arts Cultural Pass program, hosting many families at the farm for hands-on learning activities
- 92% of F2F participants reported regularly requesting fruits and veggies at home after club participation
- 92% feel they have "pretty good" or "excellent" leadership skills after participating in the club



# Community Engagement and Partnerships

The Food Literacy Project expanded collaborations with other nonprofits, community organizations, local farmers, and food justice leaders in 2024. Young people played a central role in strengthening these connections through activities such as:

- Participating in a work-party model, where youth visited urban farms—including BearFruit & Grow, Changó Gardens, and Sacred Earth Community Garden— laboring alongside local farmers to promote shared learning and community care.
- Hosting the 2nd People's Summit on Food Systems and Urban Agriculture tour, where youth leaders amplified their voices to advance social, racial, and environmental justice.
- Collaborating with the Food in Neighborhoods Community Coalition, where young people shared their insights and priorities to help shape FoodVision 2030 (the strategic plan guiding the newly formed Greater Louisville Food Policy Council).
- YCAP crew members helped lead Cultural Pass events, Community Days, and Field-to-Fork activities —building relationships and sparking conversations about food, farming, and community.







- 177 volunteers contributed 852 hours to support programming and farm tasks
- YCAP crew planned and implemented the 2nd Annual Healing Week event, engaging neighbors and community members in holistic wellness activities, community building, and F2F concepts
- Distributed over 3,000 lbs. of produce to neighbors and community partners such as Change Today, Change Tomorrow, Neighborhood House & community area ministries, including 250 lbs. of produce sold at the Shively Farmers' and Artisans' Market





2024 at a glance

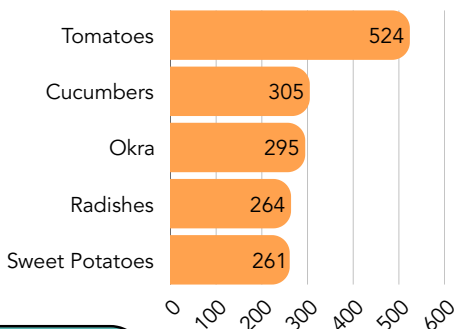
# 2024

Amount of produce  
grown and harvested:

3,025 pounds



Top 5 produce varieties  
grown in pounds:



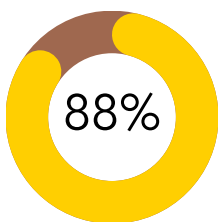
Number of  
YCAP  
crew

28

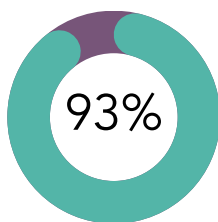
Number of F2F  
Club  
participants

237

1,156 Seeds and Starts Shared



of YCAP participants are  
highly confident in  
cooking a healthy recipe  
using vegetables



of F2F students regularly  
help out in the kitchen at  
home



of YCAP participants are  
highly confident that  
they can work with a  
team to accomplish  
goals



99/100 Field-to-Fork Club participants feel confident  
preparing a nourishing snack or meal using vegetables,  
compared to 40% prior to their participation in the club