Serving the community since 1994

2018 Annual Report

Planting Seeds. Empowering Youth.

www.communitygrows.org
Our Mission
To cultivate healthy youth through growing gardens in low-income, diverse communities.
A Message from the Director

“It’s Salad Day!” shouted a 3rd grader, jumping up and down on the edge of a bed of arugula. “Thank you to the volunteers who came out to help us... thank you to all of us who made the salad... and thank you to whoever invented salad in the first place!” she said.

2018 was a great year. For CommunityGrows and for salad. In 2018, we strengthened the connection between our environmental and nutrition education classes through a special Salad Day for each classroom at Rosa Parks Elementary School. The students started their class by planting ingredients which they harvested, prepared and ate together, culminating in a celebration on their last day in the garden. In turn, we officially combined our garden and cooking programs into the Seed to Mouth Garden and Nutrition Education Program to cement our commitment to teaching a strong curriculum that combines gardening, environmentalism, health and wellness, and justice.

In addition, in 2018 we doubled our engagement in community events, officially joined the Western Addition Health and Wellness Coalition, and we ended the year with a financial surplus which will allow us to strategically, and sustainably, grow in 2019.

I'm very excited for what this next year will bring. We're working to expand our in-school education classes through exciting new partnerships and to raise our BEETS stipend rates to minimum wage!

And we couldn't do any of this vital work without you, the community, the parents, neighbors, supporters... and most of all the amazing, funny, smart, resilient, creative kids that inspire and teach us every day. And a special thank you to whoever invented salad.

In gratitude and community,

Kelly ErnstFriedman
Executive Director
CommunityGrows
84 Recipes Learned

429 Garden & Cooking Classes

1,042 Youth Served
OUR IMPACT

Our Mission: To cultivate healthy youth through growing gardens in low-income, diverse neighborhoods.

In the last year, we improved our financial sustainability, began strengthening the connection between our garden and nutrition programs, and increased our after-school partnerships, helping over 1,300 children experience the joy of planting, watching something grow, harvesting and eating their own food, and practicing job and life skills. Through our free programs, kids and youth reconnected with the earth; learned about the environment and nature while building STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) skills; and cultivated and ate the nutritious food necessary to lead the healthy, active lives they deserve. For our BEETS (Band of Environmentally Educated and Employable Teens), they took this one step further by increasing the amount of green space in the Buchanan Mall by planting gardens along the five block stretch in the Western Addition, and teaching the community how to grow and prepare healthy meals.

Click on the icons above to learn more about our approach!
The majority of teachers said their students showed significant increase in environmental knowledge.

Elementary-aged kids who took our classes said they increased their interest in and consumption of nutritious food.

Our teens learned the importance of making nutritious food choices for their bodies and communities and why self care, such as fresh air and meditation, helps you reach your goals.
Looking Forward

In 2019, we want to strategically expand capacity to provide in-school garden and nutrition programming. Last year we had four schools reach out about bringing programming to their students. For each additional $20,000 we raise, we will be able to place a half-time garden educator at one additional school, reaching 250-500 additional youth per year.

Financial Snapshot

Building A Reserve

In order to ensure that youth in our programs continue to receive high quality, garden-based environmental and nutrition education in years where we face funding challenges, we created a short- and long-term strategy that combined reducing expenses and increasing fundraising in order to create a more sustainable budget. We reached out to key funders and partners and were able to build a 3-month reserve without sacrificing program quality or number of youth we serve.

2018 Key Financial Points

- We are a small but mighty organization! With our budget of ~$270k we provided programming to 2 schools, 15 non-profits and community-based organizations, ultimately serving over 1,300 youth.
- In 2018 our focus was on delivering high-quality programs and rebuilding the organization’s reserves after a challenging 2017 and in preparation for a strong future. We were fortunate to end 2018 with a significant surplus that allowed us to meet both of those goals.
- Thanks to a multi-year grant from the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, our government revenue stream increased five-fold. In 2019 we will continue to work to diversify other areas of revenue including individual donations, corporate giving and expanding our foundation grants.

Revenue and Expenses
"I enjoyed watching the kids explore the outdoor garden classroom with wonder and excitement. Whether it was learning to germinate seeds in a Ziploc bag, picking and eating cherry tomatoes, or digging for worms in the dirt, there was never a dull moment. My favorite memory of the class was the day that the kids participated in a scavenger hunt around the garden to find items that could be described using a certain word, such as “smooth” or “fuzzy”. The kids loved searching for these new items, and the hunt helped them really become familiar with the garden."

- Haley, K-5 garden class volunteer.
THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!!

We'd like to give a special thank you to Cissy Geballe and the Eucalyptus Foundation, Mrs. Phyllis K. Friedman, and the Rosa Parks PTA for their continuing support and partnership.

Aaron Fisher
Aaron G
Abigail Blodgett
Adrienne & Mike Friedman
Alamo Drafthouse
Alexa M Francoz
Ashby Lumber
Asian Art Museum
Ami Patel
Athleta
Anna Pon
Annie Sommerville & Zach
Stewart
Arif Husain
Ashley Wells
Atha Fong
Austin But
Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds
Barbara Fujimoto
Ben & Tracy Cooke
Bi Rite Grocery
Black Sands
Braden Wilhelm
Brendan Kim
Broadmoor Landscape Supply
Calvin Landrum
Canyon Market
Carol Koffel
Casey Johnson
Catheline Leung
Helen Lindberg
Cheryl Michler
Christina Mathis
Christine Pielenz
Chris Killmar
Clif Bar Family Foundation
Corey Raynor
Craig Davini and Ashley McCumber
D. Michael Wisdom
Dahlia Kamesar
DJ
Darleen Bercovich
Dea Palumbo
Department of Children, Youth and Their Families
Derek Redfern
Dilraj
Daniel Davis
Donna Koehler
Peaceful Sea Sangha
Edward and Maxine Sattizahn
Eliska and Randy Meyers
Elizabeth Holm
Elliot Damashek
Elyse
Emily Broas
Episcopal Impact Fund
Eric & Nanny Almquist
Erica Steger
Esther Weaver
Falguni Bhatt
Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco
Flora Grubb
Frances L. Neagley
Franza Giffen
GGS Foundation
Gina Fridley
Google Devices
Gloria Heininger
Gus's Market
Haley Stutts
Hannah Bates
Heidemarie Howell
JHenry Tsai
Hideyuki Fujii
HMNTY
Ian McClellan
Jamie W
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Jason Vuong Do
Jayson Noland
Jeanie and Stephen Low
Jessica Jauw
Jess Trieber
Jessie Chamberlin
Joanna Spoth
Jocelyn and Brian Herndon
Joey Babbitt
Jonathan Dille
Jon W
Joseph Walsh
Josh and Kelley Myerberg
Joshua Lykes
Judith Cohen/Malcolm Gissen
Kaiser Permanente
Karen Witmer-Gow
Karolina Pazdrazdis
Katherine Hanes
Keith Fink
Keith B. Wiley
Kelly Brown
Kevin Lowry
Kevin Lee
Kimball Foundation
Lara Kiefer
Lauren E Clark
Lucas Martin
THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!!

Lucy Melling
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Lynne Juarez
Lynn Engel
4505 Burgers & BBQ
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Margaret Holland
Maricel Guinto
Marlin Bottex
Christina Lehnherr & Marsha
Angus
Mary Hanson
Massage Envy
Matt Borja
Matthias Chiquet
Megan Lynn
Megan Terraforde
Melissa Daniels
Meredith
Michael Brookshire
Michael Gavino
Michael Hay
Milo Rodriguez
Molly
Morgan Holland
Mr. and Mrs. Sean Noonan
Jaromy Schmidt
Nancy Heininger
Nan C Mcguire
Neelima K Marupudi
Neha Kapur
Nest
Niantic Charitable Trust
Nick Bell
Nicole Simoneaux
NOPA
Nora Brereton
Oshyan Greene
Pamela Jackson
Patricia Ludwig
Paul Bradford Onorato
Paul Olsen
Pete Chung
Pier 39
Pisei Whitney Ping
Planet Granite
Priscilla Graham
Rachel Penney
Ray Hanson
Rebecca Hellerman
Reed Mayfield
Rena Vilt
Renee Patey
Robert Bogolub
Ryan Clark
Sam Sabo
Sam Sizemore
Samuel Sperling
San Francisco Arts
Commission
San Francisco Department
of Public Health
San Francisco Public
Utilities Commission
San Francisco Symphony
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Sara J Hundt
Sasha Dobrolioubov
Sara Normington
Scott Berg
Shani Wangenheim
Sherry Suisman
Sloat Garden Center
Sports Basement Bryant St.
Stephanie Ting
Steven Allen & Angelique Farrow
Stuart Michler
Stu Fram
Supriya Challa
Susan Hurrell
Tessa Borelli
The Andiron Seaside Inn
Thomas Fenwick
Thomas Mello
Tim Lynch
Todd Saunders
Tracy and Ben Cooke
Trader Joe’s
Tricia Somboonsiri
UHaul
Urban Putt
Valerie Harris
Valerie and Michael Penney
Victor Poon
WaterPulse
Whole Kids Foundation
William Johnson
William Newsom
Wine Access
Wine Kitchen
Yaodi
YogaWorks
Youth Outside
Zach Ring
24 Hour Fitness
THANK YOU!

2018 ADVISORY BOARD

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PROGRAM PARTNERS

- African American Arts and Culture Complex
- Booker T. Washington Community Service Center
- Buchanan YMCA
- Camping at the Presidio
- Cobb Elementary School ExCEL Program
- Faces SF
- Good Samaritan Family Resource Center / Vision Academy
- Green Gulch Farm & San Francisco Zen Center
- Green Streets
- Hayes Valley Art Works
- Hayward Rec Connect
- Japanese Community Youth Council
- John Muir Elementary School
- Magic Zone
- Mo’ MAGIC
- Prince Hall Learning Center
- Rosa Parks Elementary School
- San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department
- Up On Top
- Village Project
- Western Addition Beacon Center
- Willie Mays Boys & Girls Club at Hunters Point
- Youth Art Exchange