Art Gardens to Create Sacred Earth Connections

Education for Sustainability
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Presented by
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http://sustainlex.org
Our Mother, our home.. Gaia

Sacred Planet

Precious Gift

Garden of Eden
Turtle Island-North America
Sustainable Communities Network

Founded in 2005 non-profit-community based

- Network of people…local, state, national, intl
- Body of ideas….social change…
- Practice of community building/organizing

Create awareness and practice of sustainable living

- Believe that sustainability movement encompasses all other social movements
- Local food system is foundation of sustainable community
- Community gardening is essential to local foods system, citizenship, eco-literacy
- Community garden is where children learn citizenship, good eating habits, where food comes from how to work together, sacred Earth Connections, systems thinking
Sustainlex.org

- National...GFJI, Growing Power, ACGA, Southern SAWG, SARE, World/US Social Forum, Cuba, YES! Magazine, Slow Food USA, TERRA MADRE, Heifer Intl

- Local...Climate Action Plan Team, Bluegrass Partnership for A Green Community...chair...Food Sustainability Task Group...county wide vision, policy, Farm to Fork
Local work

- School gardens….30+…KY School Garden Network
- Community gardens…
- Houses of worship…Gardens of Eatin’
- Chrysalis House, youth in Drug Court, Domestic Violence shelters, gardens in city parks
- Catholic Action Center…homeless…. Gods Garden, Gods Worms, Bluegrass Eco-village
Some time during this century the Earth system will pass a threshold beyond which it is committed to irreversible and mostly adverse change. Once we pass this threshold set by the level of carbon dioxide in the air of somewhere between 400 and 500 parts per million, nothing the nations of the world do will alter the outcome. We are in a sense like passengers on a small pleasure boat sailing quietly down the River towards the Niagara Falls, not knowing that the engines are about to fail.

James Lovelock
A human being is part of a whole, called by us the universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings, as something separated from the rest—a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest us. **Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.**

Albert Einstein
Earth Community

Sacred connections—we are all interconnected

• Human people
• Air people
• Water people
• Rock people
• Plant people
• Animal people

All our relations

Spiritual Teaching and Quantum Thinking
We are all stardust exploded out 14 billion years ago and now condensed in human form...thus we are all divine lights searching for creative expressions....we are all artists....we are here to pro-create and to be creative...Children understand this.
“We do not seek to imitate nature, but rather to find the principles she uses.”

-Buckminster Fuller
The Great Unraveling

- Financial Meltdown
- Global warming / Climate change
- Environmental degradation
- Peak Oil
- Water depletion
- Increased poverty / inequity
- Increased population
- Unsustainable food systems

Leading to Global TSUNAMI
What we call **Art** is the essence of our humanity

- **Sunshine**…bathed in color…

- The Challenges of Climate Change will require of us very creative solutions….innovative initiatives…out of box thinking….

- Quantum thinking….Fractals….string vibrations…

- Art is about vibrations….

- Color vibration…..sound vibration…..movement/dance vibration…..visual symbols vibration…..
Community/School gardens

Benefits of Community Gardens:

- Improves the quality of life for people in the garden
- Provides a catalyst for neighborhood and community development
- Stimulates Social Interaction
- Encourages Self-Reliance
- Beautifies Neighborhoods
- Produces Nutritious Food
- Reduces Family Food Budgets
- Conserves Resources
- Creates opportunity for recreation, exercise, therapy, and education
- Reduces Crime
- Preserves Green Space
- Creates income opportunities and economic development
- Reduces city heat from streets and parking lots
- Provides opportunities for intergenerational and cross-cultural connections
- Develops citizenship
- Sacred Earth Connections
Youth GreenCorps
Formed 2007...Growing the future together...Engaging youth in the building of sustainable communities
What is the Youth GreenCorps?

- The Youth GreenCorps is a community initiative that engages youth in local environmental, horticultural and artistic hands-on projects.
- The Youth GreenCorps will provide youth opportunities to be of service to their communities. Youth from all ages will do hands-on work to:
  - support existing urban gardens and create new urban gardens
  - plant trees, create natural habitats and rain gardens
  - build birdhouses, compost bins and raised beds
  - create art installations from recycled objects and create public murals
  - develop community green map designs
  - perform exterior home repair for community elders
  - cleanup parks, water systems and neighborhoods
  - distribute compact fluorescent "spiral" bulbs
  - and other work to beautify or green-ify the community.
Design Charette for Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden
Building bird houses, bird feeders, garbage cans, containers
Garbage cans?????
Rain Barrels
Wood sculpture
Strawbale Bench
Wood and metal sculpture
Nelson Ave Art Garden
From bike art to.....Pedal power smoothie maker
Strawbale construction..Turtle Island.....sacred Earth...N. America
Chrysalis House
What is a local or community-based food system?

Production, processing and consumption tied to a geographic region.

Food policies that promote local food production, processing and consumption.

Widespread access to adequate, affordable and nutritious foods.

Stable base of local, family-owned farms that use sustainable farming practices.

Food and agriculture related businesses that create jobs within the community.

Local processing, direct marketing, and local consumption.
Latitude Arts for adults with disabilities
Gardening is good for the soul.
Planet Earth
COMMUNITY GARDENS
GROW TOGETHER

BLUEGRASS AND GREENGARDENS

COMMUNITY GROW BABY
Westend Community Empowerment Program
JUNTOS PODEMOS  WINBURN  TOGETHER WECAN
CHRYSSALIS HOUSE

Community Garden
Children learn Scared Earth Connection
“The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason to hope.”

-Teihard de Chardin