



2022-2023

ANNUAL REPORT

DRAFT

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OUR MISSION

The Hort improves human life through horticulture

- We create green spaces in all neighborhoods as a vital part of social infrastructure.
- We train people for jobs that grow and sustain green communities.
- We develop fresh approaches to improve New Yorkers' health, well-being, and environment through horticulture.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

As city residents, we spend much of our day-to-day “in-between” as we walk to and fro in our busy daily lives. The in-between in our rapidly urbanizing world is a vital component of healthy human life as well as a vibrant ecosystem and climate. This is where The Hort comes in.

The Hort is a unique organization with a long history. Today, we are committed to greening the in-between and improving the daily lives of all New Yorkers. Seven days a week, our 130+ staff members work in all five boroughs to install planters, beautify tree pits, maintain Open Streets, and influence local officials on how to reimagine what public space means in a post-pandemic world.

And, through our renowned therapeutic horticulture programs, we also bring plants to people with limited access to green spaces. We use horticulture as a tool to enhance the social-emotional well-being of public school children, seniors, and people living in supportive housing. Our programs are proven to help people heal.

Having joined the organization as a Trustee in 2014, I have had the privilege of seeing first-hand the impact our work makes on New York City. No other nonprofit is as instrumental in making the city greener. Our Annual Report demonstrates and celebrates the impact of our programs. I hope you enjoy learning about our work. I hope you become as excited as I am to see their progress in the coming years.

None of this success is possible without our friends, donors, program participants, Board Members, and the entire Hort community. Please know how much we appreciate your support!



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, flowing 'J' followed by several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Jared Goss
Chairman



This year our educational programs increased the horticultural literacy among children, youth, teachers, and parents. We deepened the appreciation for horticulture among the general public, community leaders, planners, healthcare providers, and supportive housing providers.



We served 1,700 students in 36 schools in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Staten Island, and the Bronx. Together, we beautified their schools, improved their nutritional literacy, and deepened their relationship with nature. Our youngest students explored how to care for seeds and planted peas to take home. Our middle schoolers cooked plant-based variations on popular cultural dishes. Our high school students dug into green infrastructure and created garden plots.


More than 200 middle school students applied for a spot in our new “City Farmer” Spring Holiday Camp held at the Greenhouse Education Center (GEC).

The program is conducted in partnership with the Department of Education STEM Matters.

80 high school students living or going to school in Harlem worked in our expanded Harlem Farm Apprentice program. The Apprentices completed seasonal plantings and harvesting, crafted nutrient-rich, plant-forward recipes, and deepened their knowledge of botany.

We launched three new high school programs on rooftop spaces:

1. Students built a productive herb garden on the roof of Manhattan High School (P35);
2. Students designed a new garden on the roof of the High School Environmental Sciences;
3. Students revitalized a defunct garden on top of the Brooklyn Frontiers.



"The garden and the program have exceeded our expectations. It has brought our academically and emotionally challenged students together in a very beautiful way. All their differences melted away when they gardened together. "

-Aja Woodson, Unit Leader, Manhattan High School



PUBLIC PROGRAMS


In Fiscal Year 2023, we grew our public program team to support more public programming in public spaces and at the Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park Greenhouse and Education Center (GEC).

On Earth Day, we hosted 14 programs at the GEC, Open Streets, and Public Plazas. Community members participated in activities such as seed starting and lavender sachet making. We distributed more than 3,000 plants to New Yorkers at our plant giveaways.

At the GEC, we offered our well-loved gardening, cooking, and healing programs, adding new flavors and cuisines to meet the evolving needs and interests of our local communities. On Tuesdays, we gathered in the kitchen for a Sauté, Sizzle, Savor class led by visiting chefs who prepared healthy and culturally diverse recipes and new cooking techniques. Tuesdays ended with our well-attended Cookbook Club.

On Wednesdays, we gathered to celebrate the healing power of plants in our workshop, Recipes and Rituals for Community Wellness. On Thursdays, we committed ourselves to art practice, starting with a class on Botanical Arts and ending the night exploring the artistic connection to food production with Art and AgriCulture class. On Saturdays, we expanded our Family Gardening season to be year-round with the new Family Farmacy program. Families brought the garden into the kitchen and explored the medicinal value of plants. We also offered an unstructured Seeding Our Stories program in a new reading nook in the Greenhouse stocked with fun and self-guided activities. Every other Sunday, we offered specialty garden workshops and garden work time.





"I've learned so much here. Each time I come to a class thinking I know what to do or that I already know the information and learn a new of doing something. Every person teaches in their own style and we all learn from each other."

-Angella Trulloch, Teacher for Sauté Sizzle Savor class and active program participant



The Denny Farrell Greenhouse and Education Center is the collective backyard of Harlem that welcomes everyone with an early curiosity to the deepest passion for gardening. Anyone from the community can enjoy public programs and classes for free.



At the Greenhouse Education Center, public programming unfurled in exciting ways. The GEC offered regular weekly workshops exploring the connection of food and art, healing in culturally responsive and plant-centered ways, and community building through cooking garden crops. We even hosted cookbook clubs.

The GEC became a YouthWrap Worksite. YouthWrap is a program in partnership with the Department of Probation that engages teens and young adults ages 14 to 26 in meaningful, service-oriented work on Saturdays.

The GEC also supported organization-wide training, including weekly hort therapy training and training for the public space/horticulture fellowship program.



EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

1,700 students served in school-based programs

1,600 students attended field trips at the Greenhouse Education Center

2,470 community members attended workshops, classes, and events at the Greenhouse Education Center

9 garden beds were planted, tended, and harvested with ~50 different kinds of crops



THERAPEUTIC HORTICULTURE

Our longstanding program on Rikers launched two additional groups. Workshops in managed care facilities experienced enormous growth with 14 new partner sites added in the last year.




We reinforced the social-emotional learning focus in our school-based programs. We deepened our scientific workshops with activities designed to improve physical, social, emotional, and cognitive wellness. Overall, our educators and DOE teachers reported increased socialization, improved mood, and greater concentration during the program period.

This year, we focused on identifying our emotions and responses to what “roots us.” We explored traits that attract and repel others (like leaves and flowers do with insects), and how plants can improve our ability to communicate and interact with each other positively.

Therapeutic Horticulture guided the Greenhouse Education Center’s programs. In partnership with the Department of Probation, we provided young people involved in the criminal justice system with an internship program that integrated job readiness with therapeutic horticulture.

We integrated the best practices of therapeutic horticulture into our intergenerational community programs. At least five days a week, we offered free drop-in programs that support people dealing with the isolation and trauma of COVID, as well as other life challenges and transitions. These programs provided a safe and inclusive space guided by a community approach.



*"Every day I benefit from
and apply what I have
learned with The Hort. My
journey as Horticultural
Therapist started there,
and in a true cycle of
sharing, I now pass on the
skills I learned with you
to a growing community.
Thank you very much!"*

Maggie R, hort therapy program facilitator



THERAPEUTIC HORTICULTURE BY THE NUMBERS

50 managed care facilities received programming

30 ready to use curriculum sessions

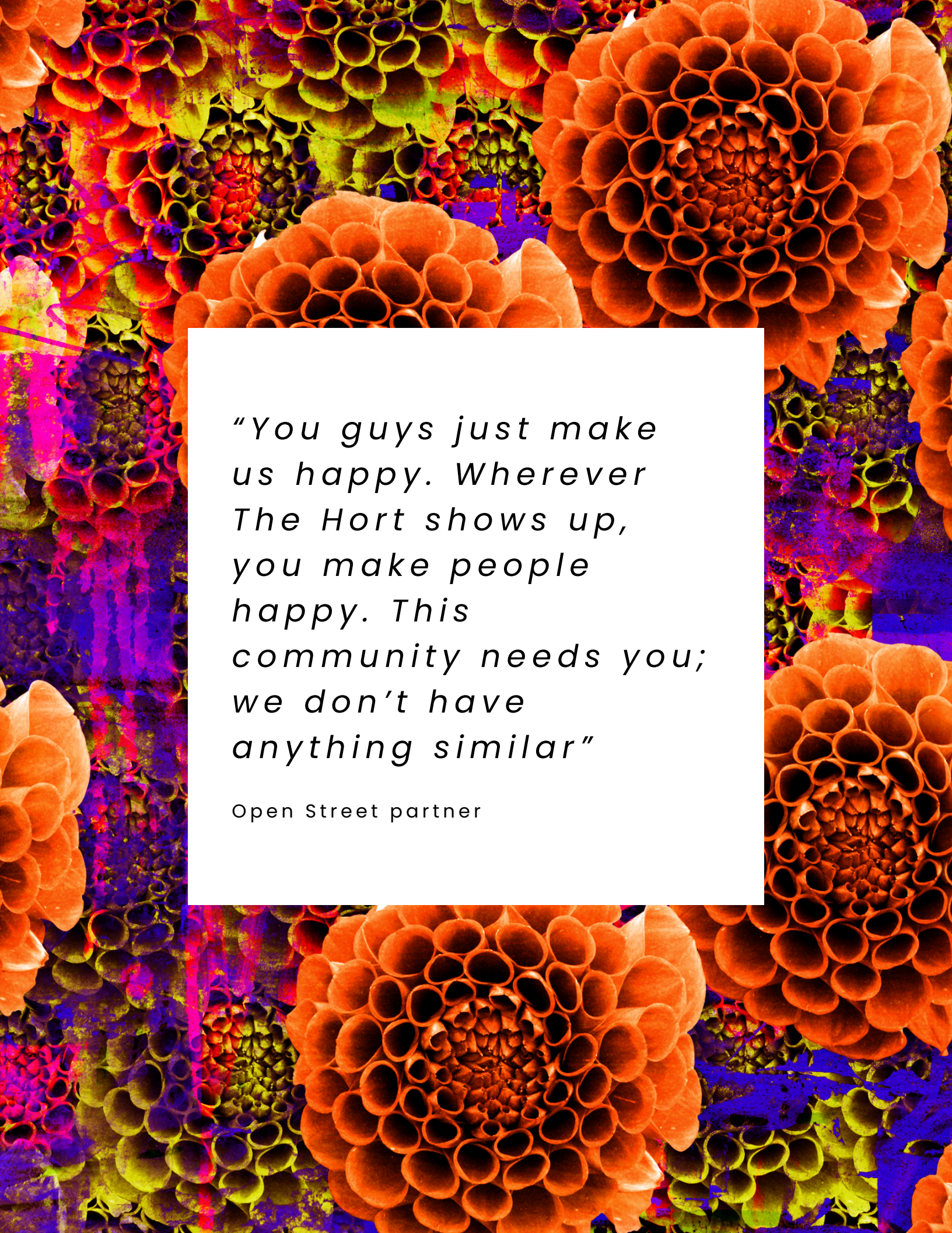
1,116 hours of programming delivered at Rikers Island

2 presentations at Horticultural Therapy conferences



CURRICULUM

We launched the Hort Curriculum Project in 2023 with 30 ready-to-use sessions accessible through our new website. Teachers, social workers, and other practitioners can easily access and use our free materials. We will publish and promote a second and third batch of sessions in 2024.



*"You guys just make
us happy. Wherever
The Hort shows up,
you make people
happy. This
community needs you;
we don't have
anything similar"*

Open Street partner



HORTICULTURE





PUBLICSPACE

In FY23, we staffed and operated Open Streets year-round and provided support at 28 plazas. In total, we expanded our work to 70+ Open Streets and Plazas




Our team consisted of four Program and Operations Managers, five Assistant Managers, forty Community Coordinators and Leads, and twenty-one Trainees from our new HortNYC program. Thanks to the work of this team, we have increased access to clean and green open spaces. New Yorkers can spend time safely outdoors and enjoy the beauty of their local neighborhoods and city.

In partnership with the Department of Small Business Services, we expanded our public space work.

In partnership with the Department of Transportation, We transformed six city blocks of open streets into a plaza at 34th Ave in Jackson Heights, Queens; this is our largest open street project. We converted one block of our Underhill Open Street in Brooklyn into a year-round plaza.

Lastly, our public program team hosted 50 programs at Open Streets Business Improvements Districts and Public Plazas. We gave away more than 5,000 free plants to introduce New Yorkers to the joy of living with plants.



*You know it's a fact.
A proven science.
That our life is
improved with
plants and natural
beauty.*

Ernesto, Bronx resident



URBAN GREENING

FY23 was a year of expansion into new areas. The Horticulture Team now has added several watering trucks to our fleet and our crews now water more than 30 sites throughout the city.

With the addition of watering trucks, we have the ability to provide more cost-efficient watering services necessary to maintain public spaces without easy access to water such as Business Improvement Districts and Open Streets. The trucks serve as additional eyes and ears on plant health at our sites allowing us to respond to heat and drought conditions more effectively.

We expanded our landscape design and installation work with new contracts such as the design and installation of a rooftop therapeutic garden on a Bronx supportive housing building. We redesigned and installed a front garden for a co-op residential building on Central Park West.

We increased our capacity to plant street trees through additional training for our crews. We are actively promoting the improvement of Open Streets and Public Plazas with improved tree pits and new healthy trees.

Finally, we continued to test plant selections that will ensure we offer the most sustainable, functional, and beautiful planters on harsh city streetscapes, Department of Transportation Plazas, and Open Streets. This year, we have compared the viability of perennials instead of annuals for planters to decrease seasonal change-outs, decreasing costs without impacting function or beauty.





HORTNYC launched in October 2022 with an inaugural cohort of 9 trainees. The program expanded in April 2023 to include an additional 12 trainees. The 6 and 12-month program provides trainees with hands-on work experience with our public space department and bi-monthly horticulture training. The full-time paid program infuses therapeutic horticulture and core skills training to provide participants with the tools they will need for a full-time career.

A close-up photograph of several flowers, primarily in shades of pink and magenta, with some blue and green foliage visible in the background. The flowers have many thin, pointed petals radiating from a central point.

HORTICULTURE BY THE NUMBERS

70 open streets, plazas, and bike boulevards supported

125 Managed 125+ city blocks of Open Streets

200,000 Maintain 200,000 square feet of public plaza space

5,000 plants distributed at public programs

60,000 annuals and perennials planted in public plazas and open streets

40,000 bulbs planted at garden sites in all five boroughs



FINANCIALS

Unaudited Financials

FY2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023)

Revenue	
Earned Income	
Horticulture	\$ 7,877,877
Education	\$ 275,487
Therapeutic Horticulture	\$ 739,833
Other	\$ 103,858
Contributions	
Government	\$ 1,587,057
Foundations	\$ 279,500
Individual Contributions	\$ 320,953
Corporations	\$ 32,500
Total Revenue	\$ 11,217,065
Expenses	
Programs	\$ 9,417,326.91
Fundraising & General	\$ 1,279,640.00
Total Expenses	\$ 10,696,966.91
<i>Net Income</i>	<i>\$ 520,098</i>



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