



To: Commissioner Ted Terry
District 6
DeKalb County Government

From: Dr. Elizabeth Falconi
Interim Executive Director
Fruitful Community Foundation
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August 26th, 2024

Dear Commissioner Terry,

The Fruitful Community Foundation has been working with the offices of District 6 and beyond for the last three years to train two dozen landscapers and landscape professionals, educate thirty GreenHive youth leaders, and engage hundreds of DeKalb County residents on the importance of building sustainable, productive urban landscapes as a model for climate resilience. Our accomplishments include the passing of the Fruitful Library Resolution, the creation of fun and intuitive campaigns to educate constituents on the potential future of our public lands (e.g. “Grow Don’t Mow”), and building a relationship with Jane Goodall Institute which brought Dr. Jane Goodall herself to the seat of DeKalb County to plant trees at our very own Legacy Park. Our Green Library Tours in the Spring of 2024 energized and engaged hundreds of DeKalb County residents of all generations by spending time together in these beautiful and abundant landscapes.

Throughout this work, we have encountered numerous institutional obstacles to the fulfillment of our vision to create regenerative urban landscapes. These challenges include 1) the continued use of fossil fuel-intensive equipment, 2) the continued use of herbicides, and 3) the continued use of “scorched earth” approaches that create erosion and soil degradation. Collectively, these practices destroy the landscapes we were charged with transforming. Thus, we have determined a critical need for continuing

community education and workforce development programming to catalyze the necessary changes to our stewardship of public lands.

Scope of Work: Building Climate Resilience Hubs

Our goal for the fall of 2024 and the spring of 2025 is to partner with the Office of District 6 throughout the Library Transition Plan to continue our workforce development and community education through our GreenHive Leadership Program and Our Green Library Tours. In the next 8-10 months we plan to organize four events led by graduates of our GreenHive Leadership program to engage 100-200 Dekalb County youth and families through seasonal events during the fall and spring seasons at Chamblee and Clarkston libraries. These events will showcase the mature productive urban landscapes at those branches at different times in the growing cycle. We plan to work directly with branch managers and librarians at both locations to build toolkits that can be used for ongoing programming and events in the future. Our Foundation would like to work with the Office of District 6 to create messaging and public outreach efforts to ensure the success of these events and to use them to further the education of the broader Dekalb County community.

- 1) Educational workshops with GreenHivers and Librarians
 - a) What have we done? Overview of landscapes installed, major issues with ongoing maintenance of spaces.
 - b) What will happen? Targeted education and community engagement to bring stakeholders up to speed on what is needed to maintain this productive urban landscape long term.
 - c) Input requested: what resources will help you utilize these spaces as community hubs
- 2) Workforce development for GreenHivers: create an immersive, hands-on learning opportunity for all participants
 - a) Teach using the Grower's Toolkit
 - i) to have them interact with DeKalb County vendors that are responsible for maintaining the spaces
 - ii) Have them teach these new skills to patrons and library staff
- 3) Signage and QR Codes: explaining climate resilience hubs and linking to web-based content providing more in-depth environmental education linked to features of the landscape

- 4) Fall planting/Clean-up Events: Preparation of all planting areas with soil amendments and additional mulching, tree and bush planting
- 5) Early spring planting: planting of tender perennials, pollinator habitat, herbs, and grasses, guided sessions on planting in groups that are very clear to maintenance crews, labeling
- 6) Springtime/Earth Day Interactive Celebratory Events: Community garden party, inviting other commissioners to celebrate an environmental win for Dekalb in the creation of a new climate resilient hub, GreenHiver presentations
- 7) Creation of Librarian Resource Guides: Laminated pages with plant images and descriptions for all seasons, overview of climate resilient hubs, edibles, habitat for pollinators, birds
- 8) Bi-monthly garden checks in the growing season: GreenHivers will visit gardens to do light weeding and check in to see what is blooming, and fruiting, on-site check-ins with landscapers, fruit and flower drop-offs at Libraries

Deliverables:

Throughout the program, our research team will provide

- 1) Educational workshops with youth leaders and librarians
- 2) Community engagement events for youth & families
- 3) Resource guides for librarians
- 4) Quarterly impact reports
- 5) Social media kit to spread the word about project

Budget:

- Training & Continuing Education \$5000
- Programs & Staff \$7500
- Supplies & Materials \$7500

Total Funds Requested: \$20,000

Fruitful Libraries-GreenHive Youth Program will have four youth staff working over the course of the next 8-10 months. Their time allocation would be:

2 visits to Clarkston library to run training workshops with branch librarians x 2 hours each = 4 hours

2 visits to Chamblee library to run training workshops with branch librarians x 2 hours each = 4 hours

2 Community Engagement events for youth and families at Clarkston x 4 hours each = 8 hours

2 Community Engagement events for youth and families at Chamblee x 4 hours each = 8 hours

2 Sessions with work crews at Clarkston library x 1 hour each = 2 hours

2 Sessions with work crews at Chamblee library x 1 hour each = 2 hours

1 Fall cleanup and soil amendment work day at Clarkston = 4 hours

1 Fall cleanup and soil amendment work day at Chamblee = 4 hours

1 Spring planting work day at Clarkston = 4 hours

1 Spring planting work day at Chamblee = 4 hours

Bi-monthly garden check up visits (September - June) 20 visits x 1 hour each = 40 hours