



Denver Urban Gardens 2016 Annual Report

www.dug.org

2016 Programs, Activities, and Accomplishments

In 2016, DUG was able to expand our community garden network to 165 gardens and 14,776 gardeners. We estimate that, overall, our programs were able to grow 2 million pounds of food this year. We serve 50,000 Denver Metro Area residents through our range of programming.

Promoting Community Gardens

In 2016, Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) helped communities establish the following seven community gardens:

- Barnum Orchard
- Bryant Webster K-8 Community Garden
- Fulton Academy “A Taste of Home” Community Garden
- Lamar Station Community Garden
- Louisville Community Garden
- Montview Park Community Garden
- North Lincoln Community Garden

We also expanded three school-based community gardens:

- Morgridge Academy at National Jewish Hospital Community Garden
- Place Bridge Academy Community Garden
- Samuels Elementary Community Garden

With the increase in gardens and the garden expansions, DUG now serves approximately 14,776 gardeners and 29,552 additional beneficiaries, who receive donations of the fresh produce. Our garden network grew approximately 1.2 million pounds (or 634 tons) of food in 2016.

The leaders of each new community garden received a minimum of 40 hours of individualized education and training from DUG staff. We estimate that our staff dedicated approximately 500 hours of expertise to garden leaders this year.

Educating Youth on Gardening and Nutrition



DUG helped 17 schools host Youth Farm Stands (formerly known as Youth Farmers Markets) in 2016. There were a total of 66 market days, during which 281 youth helped sell 10,344 pounds of food through 1,714 sales. Customers at the Youth Farm Stands are typically local neighbors, as well as parents and teachers. This shows an increase in the number of market days and sales, youth involvement, and pounds of food sold.

Our “Helping Kids Get Healthy” youth educator workshop attendance remained fairly steady this year, as we hosted four workshops for 48 educators representing 29 schools. As we mentioned in our last report, we are aware that many educators have limited time for workshops, particularly those that do not offer continued learning credits. We are in the process of re-strategizing this element of our programming, to ensure that school-based community gardens remain a vibrant part of the school community and are considered resources for educators across disciplines.



DUG’s Connecting Generations mentor program served 185 students at 12 schools. Our four mentors volunteered a total of 213 hours. This program will be redesigned under the leadership of our new Director of School Garden Programs, Mikhaela Mullins. Ms. Mullins was hired in July, and until then we did not have the capacity to train and on-board interested volunteers or give them the structure necessary to be successful. We will roll-out our new Connecting Generations program in mid-2017.

Fourteen schools in the DUG network have adopted Garden-to-Cafeteria programming: 10 in Denver Public Schools, two in JeffCo Public Schools, and one in Aurora Public Schools and one Englewood Public Schools. In the 2015-16 school year, we piloted this program at North Middle School for Aurora Public Schools. The program was successful, and we are in discussions with the district about how to best expand to other interested schools.

Evaluation Results from UC-Denver on DUG’s in-classroom education programming (the Healthy Seedlings Program) for the 2015-16 School Year (funded by SNAP-Ed)

Student-focused Objectives	FY16 Actual Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 50% of students will be more knowledgeable about nutrition and gardening. 	56%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 30% of students will increase their positive attitudes about healthy eating and gardening 	79.5%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30% will like eating fruits and vegetables more because of DUG 	85%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30% will like gardening more because of DUG 	74%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 30% of students will increase their nutrition and garden-related self-efficacy 	71%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30% will report they can choose healthier food options because of DUG 	80%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30% will report they can grow a plant because of DUG 	80%

○ 20% of students will have made a recipe at home from the nutrition class	52%
▪ 20% of students will increase their fruit and vegetable consumption	79%

Parent-focused Objectives	FY16 Actual Outcomes
▪ 50% will have received DUG recipes from the classroom	60%
▪ 25% of those who received recipes from DUG will have made at least one DUG recipe	75%
▪ 50% will have received the family nutrition workbook	57%
▪ 25% of those who received a family nutrition workbook will have participated in a DUG home activity	64%
▪ 20% will state that their family grows fruits or vegetables because of DUG.	30%
▪ 20% will state that DUG has changed how their family eats to be healthier	57%
○ 20% will state that their family is eating more fruits and vegetables	48%
○ 20% will state that their family is eating more whole grains	31%

Improving Food Access

At the end of 2015, the City of Denver announced that they would not be able to continue funding DUG’s Free Seeds & Transplants program. Therefore, we rolled out a slightly smaller program in 2016, serving 7,291 individuals through household applications and 175 local organizations. We also went through a strategic planning process for this program, and will roll-out “Grow a Garden: Seeds, Seedlings, and Know-How” at the beginning of 2017. This revised program will focus more on gardening education, reaching the highest need families, and long-term sustainability. We are happy to share materials about this program on request.

In 2015 and 2016, DUG partnered with Groundwork Denver and Denver Food Rescue to create an “app” that makes it convenient for gardeners to donate their excess produce to people in need. Currently piloted in the 80205 zip code, interested gardeners log-in to the app to donate produce; youth employees pick up donations on customized bikes with built-in coolers, and then either deliver to food pantries through our collaborative Produce for Pantries program, or set up local farm stands that accept SNAP benefits. This project has been recognized by Rose Community Foundation’s “Innovate for Good” and Denver Foundation’s “Impact 100.”

Modeling Best Practices at DeLaney Community Farm



DeLaney Community Farm served 743 low-income and refugee individuals in 2016. All participants received a full-share of fresh, organic vegetables in exchange for at least one-hour spent in service at the farm. For 2017, DUG has decided to deepen our partnership with Project Worthmore, a local refugee organization, and transition DeLaney to eventually function as a refugee-led farm.

Organization Leadership

Key Staff

- Michael Buchenau, Executive Director: michael@dug.org, 303-292-9900 x100
- Cheryl Brubaker, Director of Finance and HR: cheryl@dug.org, 303-292-9900 x102
- Rebecca Andruszka, Director of Development and Communications: rebecca@dug.org, 303-292-9900 x106

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Jennifer Stokes

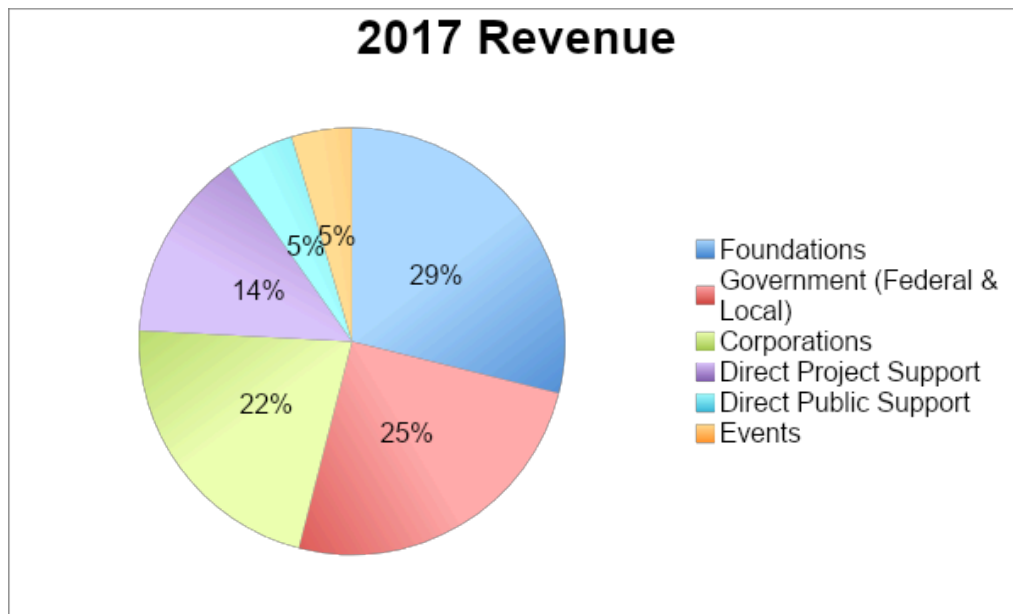
*Principal, Development at Rocky
Mountain Institute/Carbon War Room*

2014-2017
jenniferjstokes@yahoo.com

Administration, Finance, and Fundraising

Fundraising and Funding Sources

Denver Urban Gardens solicits funds from foundations, government agencies, corporations, and individuals. We do so through grant writing, campaign development, personal meetings, and special events--in particular, our annual Plant Sale and Gather 'Round benefit.

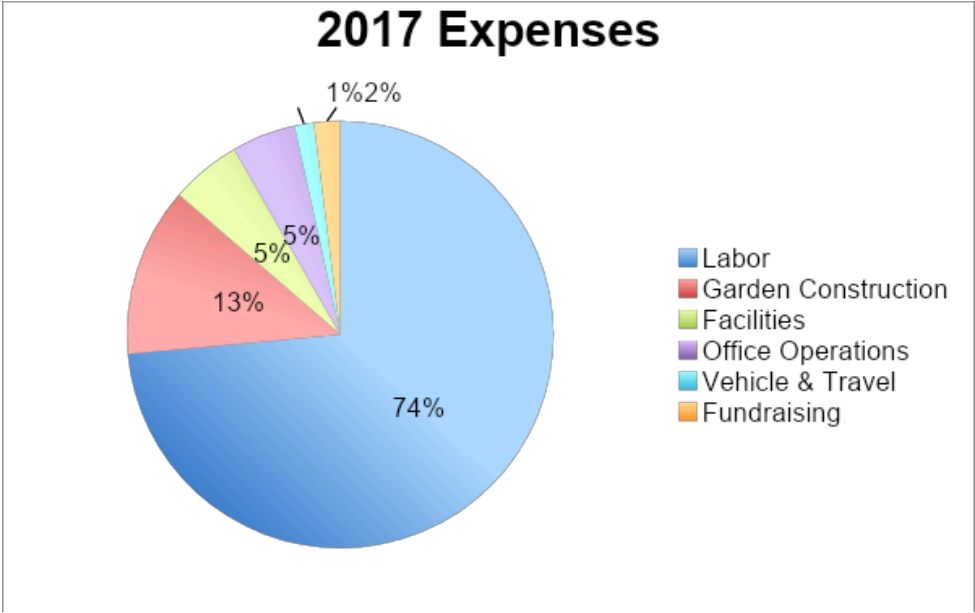


Major Donors from 2017 include:

1772 Foundation	Marcus Foundation
777 Investments	New Belgium
Aetna Foundation	Organix Supply
Anschutz Foundation	Peternell Family Foundation
Aurora Public Schools	Posner Center for International Development
Change Happens Foundation	Scientific and Cultural Facilities District
Colorado Health Foundation	Social Venture Partners
Crown Family Philanthropies	Sprouts Foundation
Denver Foundation	Target
Fulcrum Foundation	TIAA
Gates Family Foundation	United Natural Foods
JR Albert Foundation	Wattis Foundation

Expenses

In 2017, Denver Urban Gardens had an expense budget of \$1,590,922. These expenses included labor, garden construction, facilities, office operations, vehicle and travel, and indirect operations.



Administration and Fundraising Ratio

Per Denver Urban Gardens' 2016 IRS Form 990, our Administration and Fundraising Ratio is 27.44%.