

NYBG/125

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The New York Botanical Garden Receives \$350,000 in 100Kin10's Early Childhood STEM Learning Challenge

The New York Botanical Garden among 10 Grant Recipients Sharing \$2.4 Million in Funding to Spur Active Learning in Pre-K to Third Grade Education

Bronx, NY—[100Kin10](#), the national network training and retaining 100,000 excellent K-12 STEM teachers by 2021, announced over \$2.4 million in funding to the 10 recipients of their [Early Childhood STEM Learning Challenge](#) grants, including \$350,000 to The New York Botanical Garden. The Early Childhood STEM Learning Challenge encouraged all 280+ members of the 100Kin10 network to devise “moonshot” ideas that answer a crucial question to improve STEM education: How should we support teachers to create [active STEM learning](#) environments for young students across the country?

The project at NYBG will develop a mobile application to help teachers and parents promote outdoor science learning with young children. Through the use of a smartphone, this mobile website will act like a virtual “science backpack,” allowing users to explore, find, collect, and share images/videos of nature, and encourage active outdoor science investigations.

“The Garden is committed to providing quality science education resources to students of all ages,” said James Boyer, Ph.D., the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Vice President for Children’s Education at The New York Botanical Garden. “This grant will allow us to explore the use of mobile applications to promote active science learning of plants and nature through outdoor explorations.”

The [Early Childhood STEM Learning Challenge](#) is part of 100Kin10’s commitment to encourage the use of design thinking and applying solutions from outside fields to solve complex problems in STEM education. In addition to financial support to ‘beta test’ NYBG’s project, this grant enables the Botanical Garden to engage in an ongoing learning community using the latest research in improvement sciences and receive support from researchers and field experts led by the 100Kin10 Research and Innovation Team.

“To better prepare all students to solve the world’s most pressing problems, we need to help teachers deliver STEM content in active ways that support their students’ creative use of this knowledge. Increasing active learning—which engages students in thinking, questioning, and problem solving grounded in real-world problems—for our youngest learners is a key part of improving STEM education and building a robust and diverse pipeline of STEM talent for the future,” said 100Kin10 Executive Director [Talia Milgrom-Elcott](#). “By inviting our network members to tackle the challenge of expanding early childhood active STEM learning through user-centered design and experimentation, we’ve seen tremendous solutions emerge. It will be exciting to watch the range of solutions evolve and unfold.”

To learn more about NYBG's education program, please contact James Boyer, 718.817.8177, jboyer@nybg.org

About NYBG

The New York Botanical Garden is an iconic living museum and, since its founding in 1891, has served as an oasis in this busy metropolis. A National Historic Landmark, this 250-acre site's verdant landscape supports over one million living plants in extensive collections. Each year more than one million visitors enjoy the Garden not only for its remarkable diversity of tropical, temperate, and desert flora, but also for programming that ranges from renowned exhibitions in the Haupt Conservatory to festivals on Daffodil Hill. The Garden is also a major educational institution, teaching more than 300,000 people annually—among them schoolchildren, teachers, and Bronx families—about plant science, ecology, and healthful eating through its hands-on, curriculum-based programming. Nearly 90,000 of those served by the Garden's education programs are children from underserved neighboring communities, while more than 3,000 are teachers from New York City's public school system participating in professional development programs that train them to teach science courses at all grade levels. NYBG operates one of the world's largest plant research and conservation programs, with nearly 200 staff members—including 80 Ph.D. scientists—working in the Garden's state-of-the-art molecular labs as well as in the field, where they lead programs in 49 countries. Visit the Garden's Web site, nybg.org, for more information.

About 100Kin10

100Kin10 is 280+ member network formed in response to the moonshot call to put 100,000 new, excellent STEM teachers in America's classrooms by 2021. Though their pioneering networked impact approach, 100Kin10 encourages multi-sector collaboration and provides the vision and resources to help nonprofits, foundations, academic institutions and businesses meet their ambitious commitments to educate the next generation of innovators and problem solvers. More information is available at www.100kin10.org. To schedule an interview with Talia Milgrom-Elcott or to learn more about 100Kin10, please contact Fiona Druge at Fiona.Druge@berlinrosen.com or 646.755.6126.

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad, bus, or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the All-Garden Pass, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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