



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release
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The New York Botanical Garden to Receive Federal Grant for Edible Academy Program Development and Evaluation

Botanical Garden Will Be Recognized at Capitol Hill Event

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) recently announced nearly \$30,000,000 in grants to museums across the nation. The New York Botanical Garden is receiving \$113,000, one of the 244 awards through the agency's grant programs, for a project to develop and evaluate programming for the Edible Academy, a planned dramatic expansion of the Botanical Garden's edible gardening education programs in the Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden.

IMLS Director Susan Hildreth will present a workshop and ceremony on Capitol Hill on September 18 to recognize the 2013 museum winners and to highlight successful applicants and awards. The event will showcase the many ways museums support learning experiences, serve as community anchors, and are stewards of cultural and scientific heritage through the preservation of their collections.

"IMLS recognizes three valuable roles museums have in their communities: putting the learner at the center, serving as community anchors, and serving as stewards of cultural and scientific collections," said IMLS Director Susan Hildreth. "It is exciting to see the many ways our newly announced grants further these important museum roles. I congratulate the slate of 2013 museum grant recipients for planning projects that advance innovation in museum practice, lifelong learning, and community engagement."

The grant will fund the "Edible Academy Program Development and Evaluation" project, a two-year plan to develop, implement, and evaluate new edible gardening programs and to measure the effectiveness of existing programs. This project will help The New York Botanical Garden expand its gardening initiatives, culminating in the opening of The Edible Academy. The Botanical Garden has been a leader in garden-based education for residents of the New York City metropolitan region since 1917. For more than 25 years, these programs have been offered at the Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden, a one-and-a-half acre working vegetable garden that serves 40,000 people annually. The Family Garden provides children, their teachers, and families with hands-on experiences growing fruits, vegetables, and herbs, and lessons on plants, gardening, and nutrition. Programs also tie into traditional academic curricula, such as science, math, social studies, and literature, illustrating the impact of plants on all areas of human life. The New York Botanical Garden is currently in the process of extending the impact and reach of its gardening programs through the development of a large-scale, indoor/outdoor, year-round edible gardening complex, to be known as The Edible Academy, that will serve as a headquarters for garden-based education in the Bronx and New York City. The Edible Academy will expand the footprint of the Family Garden through additional gardening space, and new classrooms and a greenhouse, and increase its programming from six months per year to year-round. This will double the number of people served by edible gardening programs to approximately 80,000 visitors.

"We are grateful to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for awarding this grant to The New York Botanical Garden," said Gregory Long, the Botanical Garden's Chief Executive Officer and The William C. Steere Sr. President, "It will enable us to complete the programming planned for The Edible Academy and help the Botanical Garden continue to provide families, students, and teachers with the resources to learn about and lead healthful lives."

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Our mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Our grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov and follow IMLS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About The New York Botanical Garden

The New York Botanical Garden has been a vital New York City cultural destination since its founding in 1891. The Garden pursues its mission through its role as a museum of living plant collections arranged in gardens and landscapes across its National Historic Landmark site; through its comprehensive education programs in horticulture and plant science; and through the wide-ranging research programs of the International Plant Science Center. An unforgettable departure from the everyday, The New York Botanical Garden is America's premier urban garden. Its special exhibitions, seasonal programs, and engaging activities inspire visitors of every age and interest. The Botanical Garden is an ever-changing living museum, and a showplace of natural beauty and wonder. For more information, visit nybg.org or call 718.817.8700.

Support for Edible Academy program planning is also provided by Robert F. Gossett, Jr., and Jill and Alan Rappaport.

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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 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.

Media Contact: Nick Leshi at 718.817.8658 or nleshi@nybg.org—**Images available**