

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release
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The New York Botanical Garden Participates in Annual Planting of the White House Kitchen Garden

Students from the Botanical Garden's Edible Academy Program Travel to Washington, D.C. to Celebrate the Anniversary of First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move!* Initiative



Nare Kande, NYBG; Michelle Obama; and Marley Santos, Boulder, CO in the White House Kitchen Garden.

The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) got down in the dirt and planted radish seeds, pac choi, and other vegetables at First Lady Michelle Obama's annual planting of the White House Kitchen Garden on Wednesday, April 15. Toby Adams, "Gregory Long Director of the Edible Academy at NYBG," was accompanied by two students in its Children's Gardening Program and their parents. At the planting, First Lady Michelle Obama celebrated the fifth anniversary of *Let's Move!*, her national initiative to get children moving and eating healthy food. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a longtime federal funder of the Botanical Garden's programs, including the Edible Academy, had selected NYBG to represent the entire *Let's Move! Museums & Gardens* program, which currently involves 672 institutions in all 50 states.

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The two New York City children who traveled to Washington, D.C. for the planting are Nare Kande, a fourth grader from Harlem, and Sarala Beepat, a sixth grader from the Bronx. Kande, who attends PS 84 and has been taking classes in the Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden for one year, completing the gardening sessions in all three seasons of 2014 (spring, summer, fall). Beepat, who attends MS 54 Booker T. Washington Middle School, has been active at the Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden for nine years, since 2006.



Sarala Beepat, Toby Adams, and Nare Kande in front of the White House.

“It was an unforgettable day for both Nare and Sarala, their parents, and us! Nare and Sarala helped the First Lady plant radish seeds, as well as spinach, kohlrabi, pac choi, and broccoli in the White House Garden. Nare taught the First Lady how to carefully sprinkle the radish seeds in a row and was sure to water them in thoughtfully,” said Adams. “It was fantastic that the Edible Academy was part of this event, thanks to IMLS and, of course, the First Lady.”



Nare Kande bonded with the First Lady, discussing her gardening gloves and complimenting her shoes.

The Children’s Gardening Program at The New York Botanical Garden is a hands-on program offered in spring, summer, and fall, allowing children ages 3-12 to plant, tend, and harvest fresh vegetables, and providing lessons on gardening topics from apples to worms. The classes take place in the beautiful natural setting of the Garden’s Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden. The Family Garden site and programming are at the heart of the Edible Academy and the future site of a new state-of-the-art facility that will serve as the hub for edible education at NYBG.

About The Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 35,000 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 *Let’s Move!* Museums & Gardens

Let’s Move! is a national initiative to get kids moving and eating healthy food. It aims to support healthy children and families.

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Through *Let's Move! Museums & Gardens*, museums, zoos, botanical gardens, and science and nature centers can join the call to action. With their impressive reach and great potential for impact, museums and gardens can launch community efforts to create a healthier generation using interactive exhibits, outdoor spaces, and programs that encourage families to eat healthy foods and increase physical activity.

Let's Move! Museums & Gardens is led by the Institute of Museum and Library Services in partnership with the American Alliance of Museums, the Association of Children's Museums, the American Public Gardens Association, the American Association for State and Local History, the Association of African American Museums, the Association of Art Museum Directors, the Association of Nature Center Administrators, the Association of Science-Technology Centers, and the Association of Zoos & Aquariums.

About The New York Botanical Garden

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.

As a National Historic Landmark, this 250-acre site's verdant landscape supports over one million living plants in extensive collections. Each year 900,000 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. More than 300,000 people annually—among them Bronx families, school children, and teachers—learn about plant science, ecology, and healthful eating through NYBG's hands-on, curriculum-based programming. Nearly 90,000 of those visitors 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 18 countries. Learn more: nybg.org

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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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