

NYBG

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A New Photo Exhibit, *Putting Down Roots: Celebrating 30 Years of Bronx Green-Up*, Commemorates NYBG's Community Gardening Outreach Program

Images of Bronx Community Gardens and Urban Farms by Bronx Documentary Center Student Photographers on Display in NYBG's Ross Gallery November 17, 2018 Through September 29, 2019



Photo by Kayla Beltran

Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical (NYBG) is commemorating the 30th Anniversary of its community gardening outreach program with a photo exhibit, *Putting Down Roots: Celebrating 30 Years of Bronx Green-Up*. The exhibit, which will include 36 photographs from 15 of the gardens and urban farms where Bronx Green-Up works, will be on view in the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery from November 17, 2018 through September 29, 2019.

Bronx Green-Up supports more than 200 local greening groups, schools, and community organizations in their missions to improve their neighborhoods through greening projects. In honor of this anniversary, four teen photographers from the Bronx Documentary Center's Bronx Junior Photo League—18-year-old Tony Baizan-Garcia, 19-year-old Kayla Beltran, 18-year-old Mitchell Harris-Dennis, and 16-year-old Tianna Maldonado—spent the summer

visiting Bronx Green-Up community gardens and urban farms, documenting the activity of these organizations, from planting, weeding, and composting to harvest and celebration. Their dynamic photos will be on view showcasing community-building and activism taking place all across the borough.

“For 30 years Bronx Green-Up has worked together with our community partners to create vibrant gardens in the most unlikely places—rubble-strewn vacant lots, asphalt-covered playgrounds, tiny tracts of land wedged between intersections and train tracks,” said Ursula Chanse, NYBG’s Director of Bronx Green-Up and Community Horticulture. “The early years involved developing strategies to best utilize The New York Botanical Garden’s knowledge and horticulture resources to support the efforts that were taking place at the time—Bronx residents who rolled up their sleeves to bring beauty to their neighborhoods.”

Today Bronx Green-Up provides free horticultural education, training, and technical assistance to the community members who nurture these critical spaces. The photos on display in *Putting Down Roots* will spotlight some of these unique sites that provide fresh fruit and vegetables, green space, respite from city streets, community gathering spaces, educational opportunities, and habitat for urban wildlife.

About the Bronx Documentary Center

The Bronx Documentary Center (BDC) is a nonprofit gallery and educational space in the South Bronx. The BDC’s mission is to share documentary photography, film, and new media with underserved Bronx communities and the cultural community at large. Through exhibitions, screenings, and public programming, the BDC shows the work of internationally renowned and emerging photographers and filmmakers who are dealing with the themes that guide the BDC: justice, education, community-building, and positive social change. The BDC also provides free education programs for middle and high school students as well as a professional education program for historically underrepresented adult Bronx-based photographers. Learn more at www.bronxdoc.org.

About the Bronx Junior Photo League

The Bronx Junior Photo League (BJPL) is a free after-school photography and journalism program serving middle through high school students at the Bronx Documentary Center, a nonprofit gallery and educational space in the South Bronx. The BJPL teaches youth to use documentary practices to explore their communities, families, environments, and social justice issues, while promoting critical thinking skills, visual and news literacy, and writing practice. The BJPL also provides professional mentorships and college counseling.

About Bronx Green-Up

Since 1988 more than 300 gardens have been created with the assistance of NYBG’s Bronx Green-Up, and last year through more than 6,000 hours of community volunteer work, the

program reached nearly 4,000 people. The program is the visible presence of The New York Botanical Garden beyond its gates, inspiring New York City residents to become involved in improving their communities through greening projects.

For more information, visit <http://www.nybg.org/bguexhibit>.

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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.

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