



Building Inclusive Neighborhoods

A Case Study of Urban Municipalities' Community Gardens



Literature Review

Community Gardens:

- Neighbourhood spaces designed, developed, and managed by local residents on vacant land with implications for the food security of a community (Lee, 2012).
- Produce food, act as a space for community members to come together and interact, help growers develop networks, and help to build cultural bridges (Datta, 2019).
- Not exempt from the race- and class-based disparities present in the modern food system.
- However, they can be spaces for cross-cultural collaboration and social inclusion with the support of cities and communities.
- Food systems were built on generations of genocide, slavery, and on racist institutions that have historically dispossessed racialized groups of their culture, land, wealth, and dignity, in gender- and class-specific ways (Slocum, 2006).



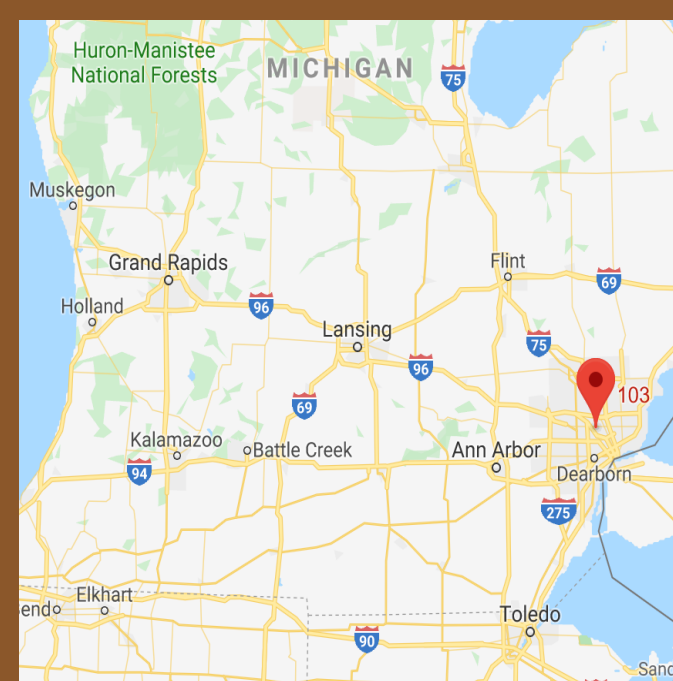
Case Study Analyses

Undoing Racism in the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN):

- Creating community centers and establishing farms in a low economic area.
- Promote food security and food justice.
- Accurately represent the black population in the leadership.

The Choi project - HUA Foundation in Vancouver's Chinatown:

- Build supporting spaces to grow culturally appropriate vegetables and help young Asian diaspora to recognize their diverse identification.
- Advance equity at the intersection of cultural identity, space, and community.



DBCFSN located in Detroit, MI



HUA Foundation in Vancouver, BC

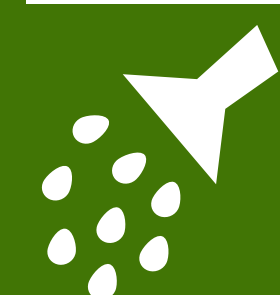


Results

- Successful community gardens tend use a bottom-up approach to facilitate the inclusion of historically marginalized groups in diverse communities.
- DBCFSN saw an imbalance of power and privilege with predominantly white facilitators for their project Undoing Racism.
- HUA Foundation needed more culturally relevant language when addressing local communities, particularly youth.
- Utilization of the racial equity toolkit - a set of questions that guide the development, implementation, and evaluation of programs - provides data in order to address racial inequity on individual, institutional, and structural levels.
- Engaging the local community is key to successful and diverse participation in community gardens. Decisions being made by the entire group rather than positions of power create equity and inclusion for all voices to be heard.



- Community garden initiative under the PHABC launched in 2009.
- Originally created as innovative way to bring together individuals with developmental disabilities and their neighbours.
- Focuses on fostering social inclusion and sense of space and belonging, developing food growing skills, promoting intergenerational knowledge transfer, and supporting food security.
- A voluntary, non-profit, non-government organization that provides leadership to promote health, well-being and social equity.
- Founded in 1953, PHABC consists of close to 500 members.
- Oversees 'Can You Dig It' community garden initiative, which created and supported nearly 40 community gardens, engaging over over 40 partner organizations and 1,700 gardeners.



Project Objectives

- Address the issue of oppression - specifically racism and classism - acting as a barrier to inclusive, welcoming community garden spaces within municipalities in British Columbia.
- Explore the ways community gardens can promote community food security, which occurs when all individuals in a community having access to affordable, safe, culturally appropriate, ecologically responsible and nutritionally adequate food at all times (Hamm and Bellows, 2003).
- Create synergy between community food security and inclusion of social justice that can result in more equitable and just relationships with community gardens, food, and all community members.



Recommendations

- Designing programs following the racial equity toolkit + programming led by people of color or low income community members within the garden.
- Holding training sessions for facilitators and staff at the community garden + the use of culturally inclusive language.
- Having open dialogues on discrimination, encouraging the use of creative information dissemination + introducing cross-cultural activities.