



Participatory Design Festival

Have you been thinking about re-designing your garden space? Do you want to improve your garden to better serve you and the community? What if you just want to embark on a fun group project at your garden? If so, you might want to know about the Participatory Design Festival.

Participatory Design Festival (PD) is a program of Open Road, an organization founded in 1990 to promote community, independence and self respect through programs with and for youth. PD is a process that builds better places, things or programs through stronger relationships, built by people working together, to design for their own needs and the needs of the community. Open Road has partnered with schools, greening programs and community gardens to develop and execute successful design projects through its PD program.

One of PD's many successful design projects include the composting program they helped to develop at I.S. 318. Nando Rodriguez, a staff consultant who started off as an intern 8 years ago, co-lead the workshop with I.S. 318 teachers, students and volunteers including Roy Arezzo and GreenThumb's very own Danny Burgos! Nando worked together with the teachers and students to 1. organize; 2. fact find; 3. generate design ideas; 4. create a design; and 5. build the new design, the five steps of the PD process. They created a design team, planned the budget and timeline, trained students and teachers about composting, developed hotbox design ideas, presented them to the school and community, and finally, built the design. As a team working together, with students and teachers having an equal voice, they were able to build a composting project from conception to completion that serves the needs of all involved in the project. I.S. 318 achieved their goal and are able to operate a composting program independently and successfully and reduce their garbage by composting all their cafeteria waste year round. In fact, the composting project helped reduce the amount of garbage sent to landfills from I.S. 318 by 11%!

One of Open Road's current participatory design

projects is with Granite St. Garden in East New York, Brooklyn. Granite St. Garden wants to create new garden areas, recruit new members, and devise a new decision making process. Open Road began working with Granite St. Garden in the summer of 2001 to make this a reality. To start, a design team was created, composed of 20 current garden members and new people they wanted to recruit (neighborhood kids, teens, adults). Garden members and recruits worked together to devise a new decision making process. The majority vote was for a more democratic process so that future decisions could be made that everyone feels a part of. The design team studied the current garden, measured all the important areas of the garden and made a scale model of the garden. Garden recruits toured the garden to learn more about it. A large public meeting was held where the model, which has moving pieces to accommodate for new ideas and changes, was presented to members and suggestions and corrections were made. Continuing with the fact finding, the design team then surveyed and interviewed people in the neighborhood for their input on the new design ideas.

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Kids, teenagers and adults discuss ideas at a Participatory Design Festival held at LES Park.

P&P Grant Update

PLANT & PEOPLE GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

GreenThumb is changing the application process and program to better serve your garden's needs. Our P&P Grant program is designed to assist and strengthen your garden group with resources beyond the basic garden supplies that GreenThumb has traditionally offered. The application form has also been redesigned and simplified, making it much easier to fill out. To be eligible for the grant program, you must be a fully registered GreenThumb garden and attend a mandatory Grant Orientation Workshop. Keep in mind that GreenThumb school-led gardens have additional registration requirements and that land trust sites are not eligible for all materials and services offered by this grant.



WHAT IS A P&P GRANT?

The P&P Grant is composed of two parts. Part 1 is a series of questions about the history and background of your garden; Part 2 is a project list of services and supplies provided by GreenThumb from which your group may choose. The grant application will be available at GreenThumb's Grant Orientation Workshops. Although items and services not on the project list may be possible for your garden, they may take more time to process and may require your assistance in facilitating the necessary purchasing process. General garden tools, garden-bed lumber, soil and compost deliveries are not considered a grant. GreenThumb will continue to provide these non-grant related materials through the Outreach Coordinators.

HOW DOES MY GROUP APPLY FOR A GRANT?

GreenThumb is now processing our P&P Grants on a quarterly basis: January 1 - March 31st, April 1st - June 30th, July 1st - September 30th, October 1st - December 31st. If you would like to apply for a grant that will be delivered in the 2nd quarter, April 1 - June 30, you should attend one of the January workshops to get your application in order to have it completed by February 28th. The next three application due dates for the quarterly P&P Grant are May 31st, August 31st and November 30th. Grant workshops will also be offered on March 16th, at the GreenThumb GrowTogether, the first full

week of May, the first full week of August and the first full week of November.

In order to be considered for a grant, your group must: (1) be fully registered and have your open hours sign posted, (2) attend a Grant Orientation Workshop, (3) submit a completed application to GreenThumb. Applications are ONLY available at Grant Orientation Workshops so you must attend a workshop in order to pick up an application. Remember, the material and technical assistance provided by the grants is to assist your garden's needs, as a group. We encourage all garden members to come to these workshops so that all members of a garden group are aware of the new process. Grant Writing Clinics will be offered directly following the Grant Orientation Workshop, to give extra help to anyone who wants it. The next series of workshops will be held on the week of February 4th. Look in your mail for details on time and locations of workshops. If you have any questions or comments about the P&P Grant, contact emma@greenthumbnyc.org.

PARTICIPATORY DESIGN FESTIVAL

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To finish, Granite St. Garden will come up with a design based on the information gathered, develop a budget and-timeline and finally, build the new design.

The Participatory Design Festival was developed to raise awareness of the design process and its value. Open Road encourages people of all ages and job categories to attend the PD Festival: students and teachers, greening groups, youth groups, gardeners, volunteers and the public. Open Road's seeks to inspire and promote the use of the participatory design process and provide training for those who are interested through an intensive 5 part program, presented at the PD Festival. This training will help a group design or re-design gardens or parks, ponds, active play areas, outdoor classrooms, or anything the group desires.

The festival is led by Open Road staff of all ages. There is no hierarchy in the process - everyone gets an equal voice. Open Road has a multicultural staff of 4 full-time consultants and 18 volunteers and can offer training in Spanish, Bangladeshi, Arabic, Cantonese, and Mandarin.

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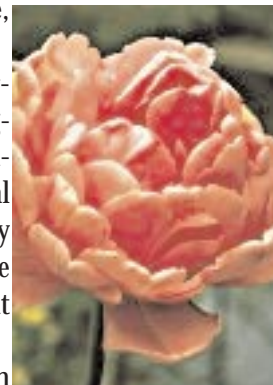
Did you know...

The carnation, January flower of the month was first cultivated in the Mediterranean 2,000 years ago . Some scholars believe the name carnation is derived from “coronation” or “corone”, because it was a flower used for adornment during Greek ceremonies. Others believe carnation stems from the Greek word “incarnacyon”, defined as the incarnation of God in the flesh, or the Greek word “carnis”, which means flesh, the original color of the carnation.

Other colors were not developed until the early 16th century including deep red, white, purple, yellow and striped hybrids. Today, there are over a hundred varieties of carnations!

The many different colored carnations symbolize a spectrum of emotions. Light red carnations represent admiration, while dark red denote deep love and affection. White carnations signify pure love and good luck and striped symbolize the sadness of unrequited love. Green carnations, of course, are for St. Patrick's Day. The pink carnation has the most interesting historical symbolism. According to Christian myth, carnations first appeared on earth when the Virgin Mary shed tears of heartache at the sight of Jesus carrying the cross. Carnations blossomed where the Virgin Mary's tears fell, and so came to be the embodiment of a mother's undying love. What flower do you think was chosen for Mother's Day when it was first celebrated in 1907?

Mother's Day isn't too far away. Now is the time to start planning for those carnations in your garden. Carnations add brilliant color to a garden. The red perennial carnation even attracts hummingbirds to your garden! Carnations also make great cut flowers. In fact, carnations are one of the longest lasting cut flowers. When cut just as the flower opens, carnations can last up to three weeks in a vase. Moreover, carnation petals are edible with a clover like flavor! (See below for a simple carnation recipe.) Be careful not to eat the greenery as some carnation leaves are poisonous when ingested. So let's start planting those carnation seeds. Carnations grow best in full sun and well-drained soil.



The PD Festival is held on the first Saturday of every month at LES Park, a one acre garden, park and playground located at 11th Street between 1st Ave. and Ave. A, in Manhattan. LES Park emerged from the team efforts of kids, adults and teenagers through Participatory Design, in 1990. Coming Spring 2002, PD festivals will be held in Harlem, the Bronx, and Brooklyn, co-hosted by GreenThumb and school-led community gardens. The next PD festival will be held on Saturday, February 2, at LES Park. No pre-registration is necessary. If you would like to learn more about Open Road, contact them at OpenRoadNY@aol.com.



Garden members of all ages negotiate over new garden designs at Granite St Garden.

GREENTHUMB GROWTOGETHER MARCH 16, 2002

Theme Contest Winner:

Congratulations to Carolyn McCrory of Dias y Flores Garden, the winner of the 2002 GreenThumb GrowTogether Theme Contest! The winning theme is “GreenThumb Gardens - Rooting for Harmony”. Carolyn will receive a Martha Stewart garden chair for her winning entry!

T-Shirt Contest:

Now that the theme has been decided, it is now time for the GreenThumb GrowTogether T-Shirt Contest. Get those thinking caps on and drawing boards out! Look in the mail for further details about the T-Shirt Contest.

Registration:

Registration will be mailed the beginning of February.