



2022 Season Report



A PROJECT OF RED HOOK INITIATIVE
**RED HOOK
FARMS**



Red Hook Farms, a project of Red Hook Initiative, works to increase access to healthy, affordable produce, while nurturing the next generation of BIPOC green leaders. We operate two urban farms, and our programs include a teen farm apprenticeship, weekly farm stands, a CSA, Fresh Food Box, and a school workshop program.

2022 felt like a year to reground ourselves in farming and community, after a tenuous two years of ongoing pandemic amidst the baseline of structural inequities ever present in Red Hook. We opened the gates to numerous collaborations and welcomed hundreds of school children back on the farms. We shared resources with fellow farmers across the city while piloting a space to encourage community farmers at home. Our youth, as always, took the lead in growing, in building, in connecting. Our power tools were in constant use as were our collaboration muscles.

As a whole, Red Hook Farms offers a space for community members to breathe fresh air and access healthy produce in a meaningful and joyful way. We take our role as land stewards with weight and honor, paying respect to the Lenape stewards who came before as well as present now.

12,605 pounds of produce harvested across two farms

Donated 1,100 pounds of produce

25 Youth Farmers and 1,141 volunteers

8,905 pounds of organic material collected and composted



Fresh Food Access

With one farm under construction, and new staff at the helm across both sites, we were proud to supply two farm stands and a CSA in 2022. We even offered produce over the winter through a Fresh Food Box program, with produce purchased from GrowNYC. As such, not a month passed where we weren't bringing fresh vegetables to our Red Hook community members.

- Our CSA and farm stands ran from June through November
- 135 households participated in our CSA
- 2,580 community members came to our farm stands
- 423 Fresh Food Boxes were distributed to 150 participants over a 6 month period

"We love the farm! ...It was the highlight of every week. I really don't realize how much the farm helps me eat more veggies every day until the CSA is over for the season. The farm is the best!"

- 2022 CSA Member

8,534 lbs of produce distributed to nearly 1000 residents at our Wolcott Farm distribution

95% were NYCHA residents

Presented 97 mini cooking demonstrations

Distributed \$2,500 worth of Healthbucks for use at farm stands and farmers markets



Growing a Local Movement

Red Hook Farms stewards two sites in the neighborhood, transforming once vacant land into vibrant and green community spaces.



THE FARMS PRIORITIZE:



Youth Empowerment

Employ and train Youth Farmers from Red Hook

Community Engagement

Provide opportunities for residents to learn about healthy food and hold space with the natural world

Fresh Food Access

Grow and distribute 15,000+ pounds of produce



Rebuilding the Future

In 2022, we began our complete rebuild of the raised beds at the NYCHA Red Hook Houses farm (commonly referred to as the Wolcott Farm). As the raised beds have now surpassed their 10+ year lifespan, we have been methodically replacing them with smaller and more numerous beds to improve accessibility, organization, and maintenance. The new farm design came about through a series of collaborative community visioning meetings in late 2021, led by our partners at the Blackspace Collective, and included youth, staff, volunteers, and residents. Our youth farmers have been leading groups of volunteers and peers in the builds and feel such pride and ownership of the farm! This community mainstay is getting a much needed lift up thanks to our donors, participants, and residents.

The Wolcott farm, located in the heart of the Red Hook West Houses, is tended to not only by staff, but also by the residents themselves through a budding Garden Club. We're excited by the new vegetables the resident farmers have been planting alongside our usual mainstays, introducing us to crops such as yu choy and other Asian greens and herbs.

Despite the farm being under construction, we still offered a weekly farm stand for residents who got a bag of produce sourced from both farms as well as purchased produce. This year, we added cooking demos - translated into Spanish and Chinese - alongside the produce distributions. In addition to a fresh taste of the seasonal recipe, visitors received Healthbucks to redeem at our Saturday farm stand at the Columbia farm for even more produce!



Youth Empowerment

Youth Farmers Apprenticeship Program

23 participants took part in our Youth Farmers Apprenticeship Program. In the program, they not only learn agricultural skills, but how to empower themselves, to be leaders, and cultivate job and career skills. This summer, the youth focused on culinary arts; environmental education - leading groups of middle schoolers twice a week in farm activities; a product lab that tested our farm-ingredient creations; and the media moguls, who played with social media to document and celebrate our work.

**8,662 collective
hours worked**

Over \$120,000 earned





Farm Based Learning

After a year of virtual tours, we were able to welcome back school groups in person to the farms! We led students from our local Red Hook schools on exploration tours which included searching for signs of the season and farm tastings, before engaging in age-appropriate farm tasks. Every visit ended with some time with our feathered ambassadors - the farm chickens - whose multicolored plumage and eggs inspire conversations about life cycles, nutrition, evolution, supply chains, and more! Our mini farmers were accompanied by teachers and caregivers, many of whom shared stories of growing food “back home” in their countries of origin or down South, sharing their children’s joy in connecting with deep foodways and the land.

“My kindergarteners loved our visit to the farm! They were asking me when we can make another trip to go back. They told their parents all about it. I had parents emailing me and telling me how much they enjoyed feeding the chickens, learning about bees and planting plants.”

- PS 15 teacher

645 school visitors

40 school visits on site



Community Engagement

Harvest Fest

This year marked the return of Harvest Fest! This fall tradition at Red Hook Farms was put on hold for two years due to Covid. We brought it back with over 700 people attending! Red Hook Art Project, Red Hook Play Group, PioneerWorks, and City Growers supported with activities as well as every RHI team came through to offer activities and support. From applesauce making to screen printing to plant potting to face painting - it was great to see family, friends, and community members celebrating community and the harvest season at the Columbia farm.



Volunteers

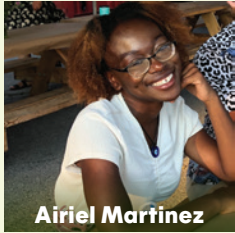
Volunteers are one of the pillars of the farm. They gift us their time, energy, labor, and without a doubt, the good vibes that help keep the work joyful, hopeful, possible. They make us laugh, bring us treats, and haul countless wheelbarrows full of weeds, mulch, and compost all over the farms.

Over 1,700 volunteers helped make this season happen. We are grateful for our individual and corporate volunteers whose belief in ending food apartheid, bringing a greener future to the world, and the importance of community helped to keep Red Hook Farms going.

1,775 volunteers
worked 3,408 hours



Meet the 2022 Farm Team



Ariel Martinez



Alex Isidoro*



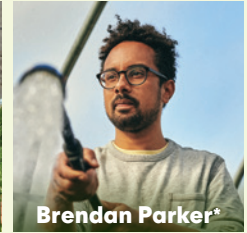
Amalia Jaimes-Lukes*



Angel Zuñiga



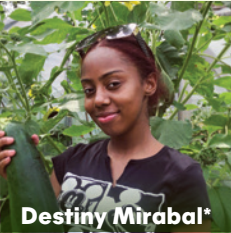
Avonnie Chatman



Brendan Parker*



Christen Steward



Destiny Mirabal*



Gael Juarez Gil



Jase Torres



Jawad Almansouri



Johnathan Perez



Joshua Colón*



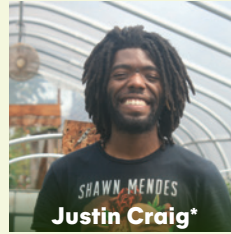
Joshua Valle



Jules Sullivan



Julia Pienkowska*



Justin Craig*



Kelly Clemente



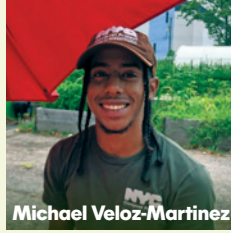
Koron Smiley*



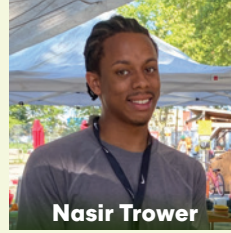
Lavon McClellan



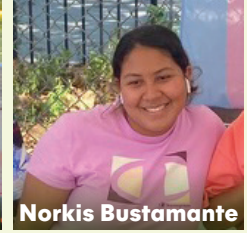
Melany Salcedo



Michael Veloz-Martinez



Nasir Trower



Norkis Bustamante



Qa'deer Oden



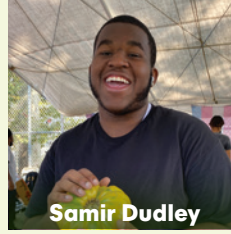
Ruben Cardoso



Saara Nafici*



Samantha Davis*



Samir Dudley



Soranny Duran Garcia



Timothy John



William Hilaire



William Henderson*



Xiaochun Sun*

"So grateful for the connection to community & fresh food!"

- 2022 CSA member

And last but not least, Giselle Martinez, Malik Young and Olivia Thomas. *Adult staff

Collaborations & Media

At the heart of what we do is collaboration. Working together is vital to creating opportunities and learning about the vast world around us. Thanks to our collaborations this year, we were able to showcase the work Red Hook Farms does, as well as the dedication of our community members.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Participated in a field trial to collect data on cabbage whitefly mitigation strategies for brassicas.

Pioneerworks / F.I.G. / 1 to 1 Foods

Provided produce for the free Red Hook Community Lunch series held in the summer at Coffey Park.

Big Reuse

Partnered to reopen the Columbia farm site for community compost collection, processing, and finished compost giveaways (after a Covid and city budget cut related hiatus).

Photoville

Invited youth photographers from the Red Hook Justice Center to exhibit their work through two huge 30 foot banners hanging on the chain link fence at the Columbia farm.

Farm School NYC

Partnered to build - with youth and farm school students - a second caterpillar tunnel at the Columbia farm, as well as offer educational workshops on high tunnel construction and maintenance.



NY Restoration Project

Hosted a community tree giveaway as well as a massive mushroom project where we facilitated the inoculation of logs with shiitake spores and distributed those logs to dozens of community gardens and farms across the city.

Sixpoint Brewing and Science Friday

Red Hook Farms grew and harvested aromatics like rosemary, tarragon, and mugwort that were used in a small-batch custom brew of an old-timey beer called a gruit, which they launched as a limited run named "A Field Story." Recorded a radio piece featuring Brendan and Saara, which aired nationally, documenting the journey.



Scan code with your smartphone camera to see the Science Friday feature



We are grateful for the generosity of institutional and individual supporters.

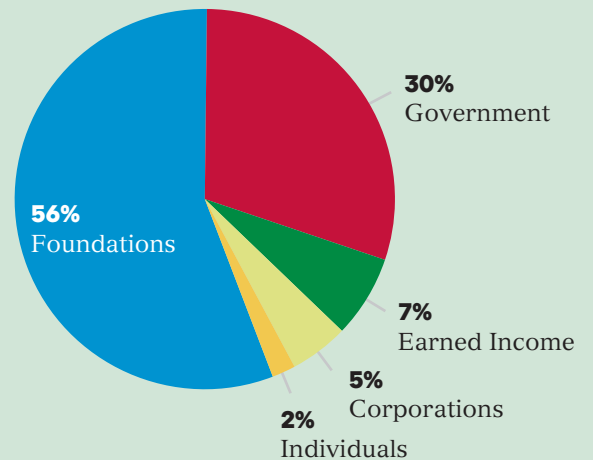
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RHI relies on general operating support from countless donors who believe in our mission. For a complete list of institutional supporters, visit rhicenter.org.

2022 Income



Total expenses: \$652,433





767 Hicks Street
Brooklyn, NY 11231

Our Mission

At Red Hook Initiative (RHI) we believe that social change to overcome systemic inequities begins with empowered youth. In partnership with community adults, we nurture young people in Red Hook to be inspired, resilient and healthy, and to envision themselves as co-creators of their lives, community and society.

Together with Red Hook Farms, RHI impacts the lives of over 6,500 residents of Red Hook each year through an interconnected model of youth development, community building and local hiring.

Red Hook Farms Team

Alex Isidoro

Farm Assistant

Amalia Jaimes-Lukes

Education Co-Coordinator

Brendan Parker

Senior Farm Manager

Destiny Mirabal

Farm/Distribution Assistant

Joshua Colón

Education Co-Coordinator

Julia Pienkowska

Summer Lund Fellow

Justin Craig

Wolcott Farm Coordinator

Koron Smiley

Columbia Farm Coordinator

Michael Veloz-Martinez

Farm Intern

Qa'deer Oden

Farm Intern

Saara Nafici

Director of Red Hook Farms

Samantha Davis

Community Chef (fall)

William Henderson

Community Chef (summer)

Xiaochun Sun

Garden Club / Outreach Worker

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Executive Director Morgan Monaco

CREATING CHANGE FROM WITHIN

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Contributing Photographers

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Amalia Jaimes-Lukes
Saara Nafici