

# 20 FIELD NOTES

## 20 Annual Report



2020 was a year of significant loss and trauma for our community. The resiliency of our partners, neighbors, and this land continues to amaze and inspire me each day. This time has strengthened our commitment to keep the Garden open and provide a safe space for healing and solace; a place to find joy and recharge in nature. This year, the Garden proudly worked to support our community through trying times by providing paid internships to high school students, distributing thousands of pounds of nourishing produce, and maintaining these 50 acres as a safe space with room for all to find peace and sanctuary among the birds and blossoms. I am both eager to look ahead and grateful to reflect back on the strength, compassion, and courage I've witnessed from our community this year. I look forward to peaceful strolls in the Garden alongside you all soon.

*Maitreyi Roy*  
Maitreyi Roy  
Executive Director

**HELPING HANDS:** Welcomed 150 volunteers to support the Garden's annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. The event included youth-led discussion and screenings of Dr. King's speeches.

**NEW ANGLERS:** Hosted a beginners fishing program led by Todd Pride, Lead Coach at Mid-Atlantic Youth Anglers and Outdoors Partners.

**ARTS & CULTURE:** Proudly displayed Alina Josan's SIDE WALK gallery show, welcomed the Vibrations concert series curated by DJ Osagie, and hosted the sitewide creative performance Heat Wave.

# WINTER



**SUPPORTING LOCAL FAMILIES:** Partnered with Parks and Recreation Playstreets program to offer free meal distribution.

**GOING VIRTUAL:** Debuted the first ever virtual spring Plant Sale and launched our new online shop, featuring local artists and makers.

**FREE PROGRAMMING:** Offered free remote and socially distanced workshops focused on art, culture, wellness, and healing.

**INVESTING IN SOUTHWEST:** Awarded 7 Yes Fund grants including a semi-annual community fun run and projects supporting youth engagement and community well-being during the pandemic.

# SPRING



# SUMMER

**YOUTH INTERNS:** Hired 39 paid interns for Denkyem River Guardians and Sankofa Community Farm; students received hands-on at-home kits supplemented with virtual workshops, peer discussion, and socially distant outdoor work.

**ON THE RIVER:** Expanded free, safe fishing access with a new sitewide license and the city's first bait vending machine.

**HANDS-ON LEARNING:** With the ECO Foundation, the Garden hosted Royal by Nature free summer camp, welcoming 100 children. Sending lessons home, educators distributed 250 nature-themed art and science lesson kits to local families.

**GROWING GREENER:** The Garden's historian and horticulturalists advanced research in living collections management and regional biodiversity.



**LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:** The Board of Directors approved new mission and vision statements prepared through a collaborate process led by a joint team of staff and Board.

**HONORING OUR HISTORY:** Historian Sharece Blakney continued her groundbreaking research on the Black history of Bartram's Garden and Southwest Philadelphia, presenting her findings to staff, Board, and the Community Leadership Circle and publishing new writings on our website.

**HELLO AGAIN:** Reopened the Welcome Center with a new contactless window to help visitors feel safe and supported.

**FOOD SOVEREIGNTY:** Installed 60 low-cost garden beds through an expanded youth-led home gardening program.

# FALL



**BARTRAM'S GARDEN**

5400 Lindbergh Blvd.  
(215) 729-5281  
bartramsgarden.org



**JOHN BARTRAM  
ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS  
2020**

## OFFICERS

Charles Lomax, President  
Eric W. Swanson, Vice President  
Jillian C. Kirn, Secretary  
Anna Jungclaus, Treasurer

See website for a full list of Board, staff, and Community Leadership Circle.