

**Buncombe County FY2019 Strategic Partnership Grants
Application Summary Sheet**

Project	School Garden Project
Organization	Bountiful Cities

Amount Requested	\$20,400	Strategic Priority or Sustainability Goal	Healthy Living
New or Renewal Request	New	Area Served	Districts 1, 2 and 3

Organization Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mission of Bountiful Cities is to be the urban agriculture resource of Asheville. Its work supports low wealth communities of color, women, and youth. Since 2003, the organization has supported the development, maintenance, or overall success of nearly 40 local community gardens, run 13 series of community placed, youth-based agricultural education programs, transformed over 150 private yards into urban agriculture spaces, developed and implemented the 36 member-garden Community Garden Network, and incubated several local food and agriculture-based businesses run by people of color.
Key Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> School and FEAST educators meet with Grass to Greens (G2G) crew members to create their garden plans, developing outdoor classroom spaces G2G designs, installs (at Asheville Middle), and maintains school gardens at each of the seven sites throughout the year, making plant and materials purchases, and coordinating with educators continuously for feedback and preferences. G2G coordinates with educators to organize community garden workdays at each of the sites monthly or as needed to build community involvement and decrease reliance on paid labor hours. All school garden sites become part of Bountiful Cities' Community Garden Network, accessing free supports such as the Tool Library, Seed Library, Network Listserv, monthly Meetups and Newsletters, etc. FEAST tracks student achievement at their program sites, and gathers outcomes from school educators at other sites.
People Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three are part of Asheville City Schools, two are part of the Buncombe County Schools, and two are charter schools. Will serve 2,380 elementary and middle school students. 83% of all students who attend these 7 schools. Average 45% children who qualify for free and reduced lunch.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outputs: # of gardens successfully installed and/or maintained throughout, # of students who participate in educational opportunities, # of community workdays held at those garden locations, # of community members who participate in those workdays Outcomes: # of FEAST students who show, improvements in their cooking and gardening skills, # of students report increased their test scores in science and/or math over the course of their participation in garden-based educational curriculum.

Budget			
Amount Funded FY2018	n/a	Increase Request	n/a
Administrative Budget	11% (from 2016 IRS Form 990)	Total Organization Budget	\$412,941 (projected FY2019)
Other Funding Sources: Grants, City of Asheville, Buncombe County, Private and Business Donations, Events, Professional Services Revenue, Fiscal Agent & Collaborative Funding			

Strengths
Strong implementation plan
SMART Outcomes (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and, time-bound)
Diverse/Balanced funding sources

School Garden Project

FY2019 Strategic Partnership Grants

Bountiful Cities

Ms Darcel Eddins
PO Box 898
Asheville, CA 28802

darcel@bountifulcities.org
O: 828-257-4000
M: 828-257-4000

Ms Darcel Eddins

PO box 898
Asheville, NC 28802

darcel@bountifulcities.org
O: 828-257-4000
M: 828-257-4000
F: 000-000-0000

Application Form

Question Group

Project Name*

Name of Project.

School Garden Project

Amount Requested*

\$20,400.00

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Area Served*

Which areas of the County will be served by this project? Which Commissioner District(s) will be served?

A Buncombe County Commissioner district map is available at [THIS LINK](#).

This project will serve the following seven public Elementary and Middle Schools: Hall Fletcher, Vance, Francine Delaney (public charter), Evergreen (public charter), Estes, Asheville Middle, and A.C. Reynolds. These schools are located in Commissioner Districts 1, 2, and 3.

Organization Description*

Tell us about your organization. What is your mission? Highlight two or three key facts and accomplishments that best define your organization.

The Mission of Bountiful Cities is to be the urban agriculture resource of Asheville. Our work supports low wealth communities of color, women, and youth. Since 2003 we have supported the development, maintenance, or overall success of nearly 40 local community gardens, have run 13 series of community-placed, youth-based agricultural education programs, have transformed over 150 private yards into urban agriculture spaces, have developed and implemented the 36 member-garden Community Garden Network, and have incubated several local food and agriculture-based businesses run by people of color. We have also co-founded and continue to provide ongoing leadership to systems change initiatives such as the Asheville Buncombe Food Policy Council, the Urban Agriculture Alliance, and the WNC Grassroots Equity Alliance. Additionally, in 2017 we merged with FEAST, a nonprofit that provides in-school gardening and cooking education to over 1,200 elementary and middle school students per year.

Strategic Priority*

Which of the following priorities best reflects the primary goal of your project?

Buncombe County Commissioners are dedicated to strengthening the quality of life for everyone by setting new fiscally, socially and environmentally responsible goals that will guide decisions and improve our community for future generations. The Board has committed to strategic priorities as a guide to shape partnerships and investments of resources to insure a healthy, safe, well-educated, thriving and sustainable community.

Details about the Strategic Priorities are available at [THIS LINK](#).

Other Sustainability Goal

Strategic Priority - Other Sustainability Goal

If you selected "Other Sustainability Goal" from the list of Strategic Priorities, please list it here.

Details about the Sustainability Goals are available at [THIS LINK](#).

Community: Healthy Living and Quality Education

Shared Vision*

What critical community problem or challenge are you hoping to improve through this project?

School Gardening has long been proven to significantly increase students' academic performance, especially in the areas of science, developing a love of learning, and improving social skills. This produces higher test scores and can lead to improved graduation rates. School Gardening also increases students' fruit and vegetable consumption, nutrition knowledge, and healthy snack choices. This base of knowledge and preferences often continues into adulthood, producing healthier adults who are more likely to garden and to meet national guidelines for fruit and vegetable intake.

The challenge is that school gardens require more maintenance and support than what educators are able to provide. This decreases gardens' impact on students' academic and health outcomes. This project will provide garden installation (where necessary) and ongoing maintenance to seven school gardens located throughout Asheville and Buncombe County, and will support gardening education at all of those sites.

Key Steps*

How will the project work? What are specific activities and milestones that your project entails?

1. School and FEAST educators at each of the seven sites meet with Grass to Greens (G2G) crew members to create their garden plans, developing outdoor classroom spaces that are functional, beautiful, and productive.
2. G2G designs, installs (at Asheville Middle), and maintains school gardens at each of the seven sites throughout the year, making plant and materials purchases, and coordinating with educators continuously for feedback and preferences.
3. G2G coordinates with educators to organize community garden workdays at each of the sites monthly or as needed to build community involvement and decrease reliance on paid labor hours.
4. All seven school garden sites become part of Bountiful Cities' Community Garden Network, accessing free supports such as the Tool Library, Seed Library, Network Listserv, monthly Meetups and Newsletters, etc.
5. FEAST tracks student achievement at their program sites, and gathers achievement outcomes from school educators at other sites.

People Served*

Who are the members of our community this project will serve? How many people will be served? Include demographics, including age, area median income, race, neighborhood and/or school.

Three of the seven public schools involved in this project are located inside the Asheville City limits and are part of Asheville City Schools, two are in the County and are part of the Buncombe County Schools, and two are charter schools. This project will serve 2,380 elementary and middle school students who currently participate in gardening activities at six of the school sites, and over 500 Asheville Middle School students who are projected to participate once their school garden is installed. This represents 83% of all students who attend these seven schools. Across these schools, the student bodies average 45% children who qualify for free and reduced lunch, including approximately 1,260 of the students in the gardening programs at these schools.

In addition to the numerous students served by this project the gardens' improved functioning and community involvement will positively impact countless residents of the surrounding neighborhoods of each garden.

Partners*

Which other organizations are you working with to reach your goals? What other local organizations provide similar services or serve similar beneficiaries, and how do you work together?

FEAST, which recently merged with Bountiful Cities, is working closely with the YMCA and In Real Life after-school programs at Asheville Middle and A.C. Reynolds, and the classroom educators and personnel at Vance, Hall Fletcher, and Francine Delaney to deliver weekly Common Core Curriculum aligned gardening and cooking education programming. Additionally, FEAST helps lead cooking/garden-based summer camp programming at the Evergreen school site, and is in talks with Estes to develop/support cooking/gardening education programming at that location.

FEAST partners with Roots Foundation, Americorps, and Mother Earth Produce to support programming. This project began initially with a partnership between Grass to Greens and FEAST, which resulted in the total transformation of three school gardens and a significant impact on educators' ability to successfully utilize the gardens as effective teaching spaces. This project is a continuation and expansion of that successful partnership.

Personnel*

Who is responsible for the project? Briefly describe project leaders and the role each will play in the project. How do these leaders reflect the population or community that you serve?

Kate Justen: Bountiful Cities' Youth Education Director: manages and supports all FEAST school-based programming and staff. Kate co-founded FEAST, and produces strong academic results yearly with weekly cooking and gardening classes for all students of three elementary schools in Asheville, and successful after-school programming at two middle schools.

Katie Gelin, Alex Bergdahl, and Michael Bartholme: Grass to Greens Crew: coordinate and conduct all planning, design, installation, and maintenance of school gardens with FEAST programming and approximately 50 private customers. All crew have their Permaculture Design Certification and many years experience in horticulture and agriculture.

Isa Whitaker: Community Garden Network Coordinator: organizes and facilitates all network-related resources and activities for the 36 member gardens of the Community Garden Network. Isa is a Green Opportunities Training Program graduate, and has a certification in Herbal Medicine.

Success*

How will you measure results? What will success look like? How will you document the impact of your project? Include whether there is a model that serves as basis for project design.

We will measure outputs by the number of gardens successfully installed and/or maintained throughout the next school year, the number of students who participate in educational opportunities in each of those gardens, and the number of community workdays held at those garden locations, including the number of community members who participate in those workdays.

We will measure quantitative outcomes by the number/percentage of FEAST students who show improvements in their cooking and gardening skills each year, as well as the number/percentage of students reported to have increased their test scores in science and/or math over the course of their participation in garden-based educational curriculum. We will measure qualitative outcomes by the number/percentage of classroom educators who report a significant improvement in their school garden's quality, functionality, and production.

Success would look like at least an 85% rating in each of the areas identified above.

Funding*

What is your plan for finding the balance of the project budget? What is your funding timeline and what are your other sources of support?

In addition to this SPF grant, we have applied to Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation to fund a significant portion of the garden materials, supplies, equipment, and signs for the gardens (funding decision in April/May), and have received funding or funding commitments from the Mission Community Investment Fund and school PTO's to support a portion of the personnel costs of this program. We will be applying again to Mission this summer to continue and even increase that funding, and will be soliciting additional school PTO contributions and individual and business donations to make up the rest of the balance. Beyond that, if extra funds are needed we anticipate that our Social Enterprise, Grass to Greens, may produce a modest revenue stream this year from private clients in order to help offset additional project expenses.

Sustainability*

How will this project be maintained? Please describe funding sources and how you plan to sustain the project in future years.

This project involves three of Bountiful Cities' programs: FEAST, Grass to Greens, and the Community Garden Network. While the full budgets of each of those programs are not included in this project budget each of those programs is generating more sustainable funding sources to cover program expenses. For example, the Community Garden Network is now contracting with the City of Asheville's Office of Sustainability to manage their Asheville Edibles program, offsetting the need for grant funding. Grass to Greens and FEAST are in initial talks to secure contracts with the City of Asheville and Asheville City and Buncombe County School districts to provide garden maintenance and education. Similarly, we have built a relationship with WellCare to contract for these same services if they are successful in their North Carolina Managed Care bid. Finally, over time Grass to Greens' increasing private revenue stream will further offset programmatic and overhead expenses.

ATTACHMENTS**Project Budget***

Download the budget form at [THIS LINK](#).

Complete the budget form for this project and the overall organization.

Save it to your computer, then upload it.

School Gardens BC strategic-partnership-grants-FY2019-budget-template (1).xlsx

Financial Statements*

Upload a copy of the most recently completed financial statements.

All financial statements must be audited, reviewed or compiled by a certified public accountant and include a full balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement.

If your organization does not have financial statements, briefly state the reason.

Bountiful Cities 2016 Final Compilation Report.pdf

We do have reviewed and compiled financials, which are attached. However, our fiscal year runs alongside the calendar year. Therefore our 2017 fiscal year financial compilation and 990 have not yet been completed, as our fiscal year just ended at the end of December.

IRS Form 990*

Upload a copy of the 990 nonprofit tax reporting form that you most recently completed.

If your organization does not have a 990, briefly state the reason.

BCP 2016 Form 990 Final e-filed 2017-08-14.pdf

We do have reviewed and compiled financials, which are attached. However, our fiscal year runs alongside the calendar year. Therefore our 2017 fiscal year financial compilation and 990 have not yet been completed, as our fiscal year just ended at the end of December.

Board of Directors List*

Upload a current list of your organization's Board of Directors.

If your organization does not have a board of directors, briefly state the reason.

BC BOD 2018.pdf

Authorized Signatory

By typing in below the name of the authorized signatory and date of submittal, you acknowledge that your governing body has authorized this application, that it is true and current to your knowledge. As a condition of any grant awarded, this organization will provide all information in the manner described in the contract to be executed between the organization and Buncombe County or its designee, including program and financial reporting.

Name & Date

Darcel Eddins 02/08/18