



Progress Report

Project: Food & Farm Education PS 318 - Thurgood Marshall Academy Harlem Grown

Project Reporting Dates: From : 08/18 To: 08/19

Project Leader: Vanessa Vincent

Summarize Project - The Forix Foundation agreed to support Harlem Grown PS 318 Thurgood Marshall Academy school garden maintenance and lessons. The following goals were agreed upon:

- Grow up to 30lbs of produce at Thurgood Marshall Academy, a 200% increase YOY — **Emma Egan, Educator & Adah Hill, Farm Coordinator**
- Deliver 50 in-garden lessons for grades K-3 throughout the school year; this will be the first year that 3rd grade will receive monthly garden-based education — **Emma Egan, Educator**
- Finish completion of school garden build, including replacing old, dilapidated benches used during class lessons and providing additional protection from neighborhood cats who ruin the garden space — **Adah Hill, Farm Coordinator**

Progress - The grant period began in August 2018, so far Harlem Grown has delivered 42 official curriculum lessons (Sept & October) for Grades K-3 (14 were in-garden, 28 in-classroom), serving 161 children in those lessons. Before the winter weather hit, we harvested 12lb of produce at the garden. Due to cats overtaking the garden space, we had to halt harvesting and will restructure our garden beds for the upcoming grow season. We also had to manage a new unexpected arrival of feral cats in the garden space (likely also due to construction). With new fencing and tidying, we're hoping to deal with the cats successfully.



Our lessons have been so popular that teachers have requested additional lessons outside of our standard curriculum to engage their students. Emma has also helped co-create new lessons to engage 3rd graders, like a new lesson focused on arroz con gandules.

During the winter our Educator, Emma, and Farm Coordinator, Adah, have been working on a new layout and crop plan to maximize the learning and growing space in the school garden. Emma, aligning with the school's focus on **Mindfulness** plans on adding a new bed focused on herbs that promote focus and calmness--like lavender and chamomile.

Emma will also be starting after-school lessons next week, which, once the weather warms up, will also be outdoors. All lessons will move towards the garden-space in late March/early April. We are on track to hit our goals as stated by the grant.

Staffing - Emma Egan, Educator and Adah Hill, Farm Coordinator (School Garden Project)

Budget - Attached

Other Funding - No funding changes

Milestones Current -

Delivered 42 lessons at TMA to grades Pre-K through 3rd.

Harvested 12lbs of Produce

Developed new lesson plans for Grade 3

Added new aeroponic Grow Tower in school Science Lab

Milestones Future -

Piloting new After-School Program. One day per week for additional hands-on nutrition and farming education

Creating new Parent workshops for parents to work alongside students

Harvest additional 40lbs of produce

Reinforce beds to make them cat proof

Additional Mindfulness bed to be added to garden layout

Opinion -

Project is moving along well, after a bit of learning curve with both the garden and the school, both parents, students, and admin are all very excited about the new lesson plans and the plan to remove the feral cats from the school garden.

In-Classroom Beet Salad Lesson 2018



School garden lesson!



Toiling the soil!



This report should be received within 5 days of the end of reporting period.

