

IN BLOOM

A PUBLICATION FROM BOTANICA & WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS

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WATERFRONT
BOTANICAL
GARDENS



OUR VISION

To create a botanical garden and conservatory of extraordinary beauty that engages, enlightens and inspires people about plants and nature.

waterfrontgardens.org

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COVER PHOTO

The Louisville Ballet performs at The Prelude. Photo by John Nation.

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I'm thrilled to share news with you about the latest milestone we've achieved in our effort to build the Waterfront Botanical Gardens where Frankfort Avenue meets River Road.

We've recently agreed on a purchase price for the 23-acre property: \$1.00. The price was formalized when Botanica and Metro Louisville both signed our Option to Purchase agreement, which spells out the details of the future transaction. Signing this agreement is one of the major milestones our organization must achieve on our path to purchase the property.

By agreeing to sell us the property for \$1.00, Metro Government is making a major leadership gift to the garden project. This asset is a significant investment by Metro in the economic revitalization of the area. It gives us strong footing to launch our upcoming capital campaign, when we will raise the funds required for construction.

We've accomplished so much together! Every milestone we achieve has been made possible through the generous support of people like you! I hope you will continue to support Botanica and the garden project as we head in to these next exciting stages!



Happy gardening,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian".

Brian Voelker
President, Board of Directors

P.S. To see more about our plans for the future garden, become a member or make a donation, visit our web site at waterfrontgardens.org.

AN EVENING IN THE GARDEN

A FUNDRAISER WITH FRIENDS

Photos by John Nation

On May 31, Botanica supporters gathered on the future garden site for our spring fundraiser, The Prelude. Guests enjoyed lush garden installations by local landscapers, and performances by Ben Sollee and members of the Louisville Ballet. Through the generous support of many individuals in the community, we were able to raise over \$225,000 toward the building of the future Waterfront Botanical Gardens!



CLOCKWISE

- **BEN SOLLEE** performed original music.
- Supporters **LAURA LEE BROWN, STEVE WILSON, AND JULIE GRAY.**
- **BOB HILL** Board Member gets ready for the live auction.
- A glimpse of the farm-to-table hors d'oeuvres by **CHAD WELCH** of Atria Senior Living Hospitality and **BOBBY BENJAMIN** of Butchertown Grocery.
- Supporters **STEVEN BASS** and **SUE GRAFTON.**
- Event committee hosts **WOO SPEED MCNAUGHTON** and **STEVE HUMPHREY** shared their passion for the garden project.



COVERED IN CLIMBING VINES

BY BOB HILL



An architectural trellis is situated along the gardens' central spine, connecting the Visitor Center to the Tree Allée and Beargrass Creek Overlook in the garden's Master Plan. The trellis will feature unique climbing plants, and provide a shady place for visitors to rest.

PLANTED TRELLIS

Being able to walk through a circle of color will be one of the many benefits waiting for the visitors at the Waterfront Botanical Garden thanks to a design creating a tall, rounded, architectural trellis along the garden's central spine.

Not only will the walk connect visitors to the visitor's center and the Beargrass Creek overlook, it will provide shade, a sense of intimacy and some ideas for trying the same thing at home, or at least planting the same vines up against a wall or trellis.



TO VIEW THE COMPLETE
MASTER PLAN, VISIT
[WATERFRONTGARDENS.ORG](https://waterfrontgardens.org)

A LIST OF POSSIBILITIES



CLEMATIS

Clematis come in dozens of cultivars with enough variety to provide color – and in some cases fragrance – for several months in spring to fall. Experts at the Missouri Botanical Gardens – which has about the same climate as Louisville – suggest clematis ‘Henryi,’ with its bright white flowers and pinkish centers and ‘Nelly Moser,’ a very popular cultivar with pink and purple flowers. My favorite would be ‘Jackmanii,’ an old fashioned favorite with vigorous purple-blue flowers that bloom a long time. The other benefit of clematis is that the seed pods that remain after the bloom are often as handsome as the flowers.



HONEYSUCKLE

Honeysuckle, with reason, often comes with a warning of being aggressive to invasive, but that’s not always the case, especially with careful pruning. The various trumpet cultivars offer a wide variety of colors, and more important, fragrance, and are very easy to grow. The most fragrant vine would be the *Lonicera fragrantissima* which also produces creamy-white flowers in spring, a perfect match for visitors. Another fragrant cultivar is the Gold Flame *Lonicera x heckrottii*, which will slow down anybody’s stroll.



CLIMBING HYDRANGEA

There are two possibilities here that would work in and on a walk-through trellis. One is the *hydrangea petiolaris* which offers a heavier vine with white flowers and dark green foliage that will turn red in the fall. A second is the climbing hydrangea, the multi-syllable *Schizophragma hydrangeoides*, which has a lighter, more airy vine with very fragrant flowers that will last for six weeks in May and June. There is also a pink cultivar of this climber which will only add to the experience.



ANNUAL VINES

Many of the most interesting vines come in annual varieties, most notably the multi-colored morning glory, bright red cardinal vine, the orange nasturtium, the yellow, black-eyed Susan vine and the always fun purple hyacinth bean. They will provide climbing bursts of color for months, and can always be changed out from year-to-year to add variety to the garden walk.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FOOD LITERACY PROJECT

This past June, Botanica partnered with the Food Literacy Project's Youth Community Agriculture Program to engage 6-12 teens (16-19 years) in propelling Botanica's vision. This program is supported by a grant from Metro Louisville.

Students were hired through a partnership with KentuckianaWorks and will earn wages to grow and cook vegetables on Oxmoor Farm, distribute their harvest in underserved neighborhoods, and engage as agents of change within their food system and community.

Food Literacy Project program leaders arranged a Field Study at the Waterfront Botanical Gardens site during the 7 week program. The Field Study was focused on medicinal and beneficial weeds that can be found on the WBG site; botanist Pat Haragan and horticulturist Sarah Owens lead this portion of the program. During this hands-on field study, students learned about Botanica's mission

and vision, they toured the site, participated in a guided tour of the site identifying weeds, and completed a service learning project: identification and documentation of beneficial weeds on the site.

After their day of experiential learning at the WBG site, students were poised to be ambassadors for the new Botanical garden project, sharing information with other youth and their families. In addition to the weed documentation project, they will utilize their experience at the site and at the Food Literacy Project location to discuss ideas for an edible garden bed which is included in the Waterfront Botanical Garden's Master Plan.

In addition to helping students make healthy personal choices and learn more about where food comes from, participation in this program promoted engagement with the local community and increase the teens' knowledge of plants and the natural world.



Program instructors (left to right) **Kitty Nowak**, Director of Programs, Food Literacy Project; **Sarah Owens**, Horticulturist; and **Pat Haragan**, Botanist. Photos courtesy of Valerie J. Smith.



SPOTLIGHT

KASEY MAIER

Kasey Maier joined Botanica in June 2013 as a part time consultant. As of Jan. 1, 2015, she is now our full time Director of Program Development. After 25 years in banking and finance handling marketing and client service, Kasey migrated over to the non-profit world. She spent 3 1/2 years helping to build Kentucky School of Art, and then moved to new start-up projects.

Kasey's focus includes marketing, fundraising, board development, volunteers, and events. She works with the Board and multiple committees to help support the growth of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. While Kasey does have a green thumb, her true passion is to build this organization and develop the garden - a must-have economic development, educational,



sustainable, cultural facility near the urban core of Louisville. Kasey is a Louisville native with two grown children.

If you would like to meet with Kasey hear more about the progress of the project, please contact her at kmaier505@gmail.com.



**“ The location is perfect.
Everyone can get there easily.
It looks like something the
city thought of because it makes
so much sense: close to the
bridges, the river and downtown.**

SISSY NASH

Community Philanthropist and Gardener

PLANNED GIVING

A Commitment to the Future

Have you considered including the garden in your estate plans? While there are several approaches, one of the simplest is to make a bequest by including a gift to the Waterfront Botanical Gardens in your will. If you have any questions about planned giving, please contact **Kasey Maier** at kmaier505@gmail.com or (502) 276-5404.

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

**Become a Member | Volunteer
or Make a Donation**

www.waterfrontgardens.org



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**“Once you have a
garden, you have
community.”**

The Rev. Al Shands

**A special thanks to all
of our volunteers.**

**WATERFRONT
BOTANICAL
GARDENS**

