

WATERFRONT
BOTANICAL
GARDENS



Cover photo courtesy of Valerie J. Smith

waterfrontgardens.org

2017 Annual Report



“The care of the Earth is our most ancient, most worthy, and, after all, most pleasing responsibility.

To cherish what remains of it
and to foster its renewal
is our only hope.

- WENDELL BERRY

LETTER FROM
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



“
*Five years ago,
I started working on
this project because
I believe in its vision*

I grew up in Louisville. The Kentucky state border was the limit of my family’s traveling. Our summers were spent at Kentucky Lake boating, hiking, and fishing. I played in the waters of Beargrass Creek at Big Rock, explored the wooded pathways, and inspected the spring flowers and crawdads. We chased frogs in the creek in our backyard and carved our names in the moss on the rocks. Day lilies grew beside the creek, and one year I picked them for my mother, not knowing they would have closed up by the time I returned to the house.

It was a wonderful childhood spent outdoors. And yet I never got to experience the flora native to other regions of the country and the world at large. As an adult, I’ve traveled to many cities and visited their local botanical gardens, enjoying both the native species and their collections from around the globe.

Five years ago, I started working on this project because I believe in its vision: **“to create a botanical garden and conservatory of extraordinary beauty that engages, enlightens, and inspires,”** for Louisville, KY. As a child raised here, I missed such an opportunity. It is time now for that to change.

Many people held a vision for a botanical garden in Louisville long before I came along. My staff, board, and I are picking up where they left off. We are working with our partners to build the Waterfront Botanical Gardens for Louisville, for Kentucky, and for the region.

We cannot do this alone. This is a community effort between volunteers, donors, and like-minded organizations. I thank our partners for the successes we’ve experienced so far. I thank you and the future generations who will continue to “plant the seeds” to build this 23-acre, world-class botanical garden.

Kasey
Kasey Maier
Executive Director



I love plants because I learned about them as a child. My grandfather taught me about them in his garden. He grew just about anything you could think to grow—from carrots and onions, to apples and cherries, rhubarb, and gooseberries. My father knows the Latin name for every plant he comes across and taught me the difference between the two hundred year-old *Quercus virginia* that grew in our front yard and the *Quercus laevis* in our neighbor’s yard. My eyes were opened to the importance of environmental stewardship when I joined the Environmental Science Club, led by my third grade teacher, Mrs. Litzkow. It was there that I learned about endangered species, conservation of natural resources, and the importance of recycling.



In the summer of 2010, I joined the Botanica board because of my love and appreciation of nature. I wanted to see our city flourish and grow. I believed a botanical garden and conservatory was a major missing piece. At the time, I mainly wanted a botanical garden for me—but now, I want it for our future generations. **There are children across this region that need the same exposure to nature that I had.** They need hands-on opportunities to learn how plants grow and why environmental stewardship is so important. They deserve to see

a palm tree, banyan tree, Norway maple, and a serviceberry for themselves.

I’m now serving as board President, and I’m thrilled to see construction underway on the Graeser Family Education Center. I am able to use knowledge from my day job in construction management to help lead our organization through key decisions about the design of the site and buildings. This construction effort is a huge milestone for our organization and a harbinger of the great things to come. **It is the first of many steps into a bright future,** not just for our organization and our city, but for future families who will pass through our gates for decades to come.

Dominic
Dominic Gratto
President, Board of Directors



STAFF



Kasey Maier
Executive Director



Elizabeth Chandler
Development Manager



Allison Whitehouse
Program & Development
Coordinator



Edie Wooton
Finance & Operations
Manager

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Brian Voelker, Pharmacy at Humana
Bill Wade, BMW CCA Foundation

HISTORY

The Story Behind the Site

The proposed site for the Waterfront Botanical Gardens lies within the boundaries of one of Louisville’s oldest city areas, known as “The Point.” This area has seen dramatic changes over the years, beginning in the antebellum period, when Fulton Street was lined with summer homes of prosperous French families from New Orleans.

Over time, The Point evolved as a working class neighborhood with a mixture of small factories and mills, frame cottages, and small brick homes. After disastrous flooding in the late 1800s, and again in 1937, the area was condemned and became the Ohio Street Dump. The dump was used for building debris from flood-damaged homes.

In 1973, the dump closed. An eight-year closing plan was initiated that was designed to meet public health requirements and stringent EPA rules for filling and stabilizing the site.

ABOUT BOTANICA

The Waterfront Botanical Gardens was started by Botanica Inc., an umbrella organization for the local gardening community that was started in 1993 to help enlighten, entertain, and educate the community about the botanical world.

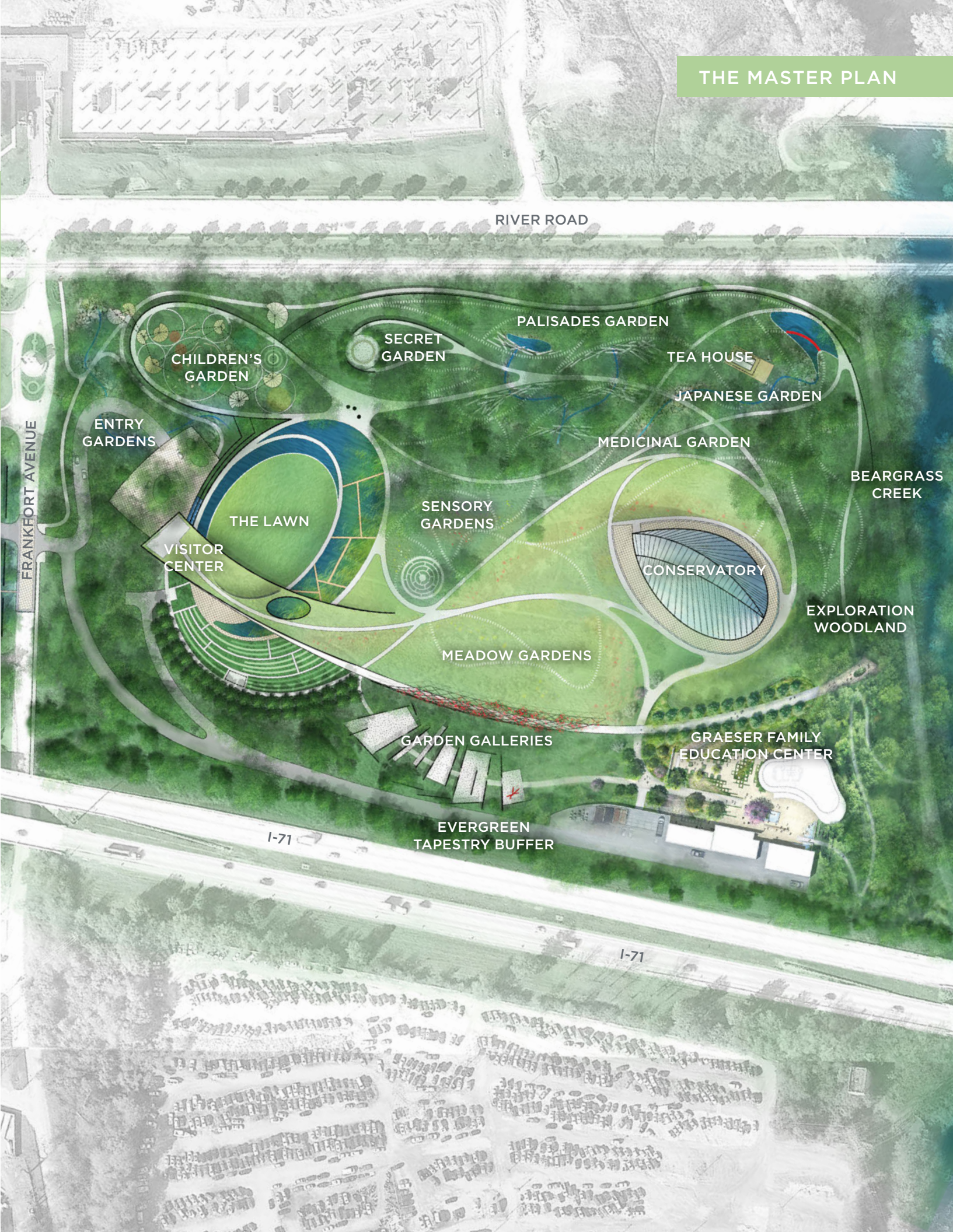


Architect, Matthew Kuhl (left) and Landscape Architect, Zan Stewart (right) join donors for the groundbreaking event.

In 2009, Botanica selected the 23-acre site as the location for Waterfront Botanical Gardens. After an extensive title search, we signed an agreement with Metro Louisville to formally commit to the property. A full environmental assessment was completed in 2013.

In 2014, Botanica and the Perkins+Will team created the conceptual design of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. The team studied the site in detail, worked to understand how our site relates to adjacent neighborhoods, and met with Botanica members and community stakeholders to understand what they hoped the gardens will be—all to ensure the best possible Master Plan.

THE MASTER PLAN



The Heigold Façade



Groundbreaking with students from Portland Elementary

Students in the Garden

As we await the opening of the gardens, we continue to work with students of all ages to inspire the development of our future scientists, horticulturists, botanists, and educators.

There is a lot of work to do and students from across Louisville have already made an impact. A group from Male High School is studying invasive species on the site. Children from Portland Elementary participated in the Groundbreaking planting ceremony. And, students from Lincoln Elementary planted their own gardens in front of their school with help from the Waterfront Botanical Gardens Education Committee.



Planting Day at Lincoln Elementary

125
Students
Visited in
2017

“

If we don't teach our kids how to take care of this planet, then shame on us. And that's what a botanical garden will do.

– Dorothy (Dot) Gardner Wade
(1927–2015)



Male High School students conducting plant research



The Graeser Family Education Center

The Graeser Family Education Center will be the hub of environmental education and events.

Starting in late 2019, we will fill the center with students during the day, and adult classes and events during evenings and weekends. In addition, the building will provide us rental income to help sustain operations.

The Graeser Family Education Center includes a large, flexible space that can host 250 guests for a range of activities. It will support hands-on, educational programs for school children along with workshops and speakers for adults. It will welcome guests for events such as our annual meeting, fundraisers, and flower shows hosted by local garden clubs.

The Education Center is situated on the southeast corner of the site adjacent to Beargrass Creek. Our educational programming will focus on the importance of clean water, soil, and air for plants and animals alike. The Beargrass Creek pathway will give students access to the flora and fauna along Beargrass Creek.

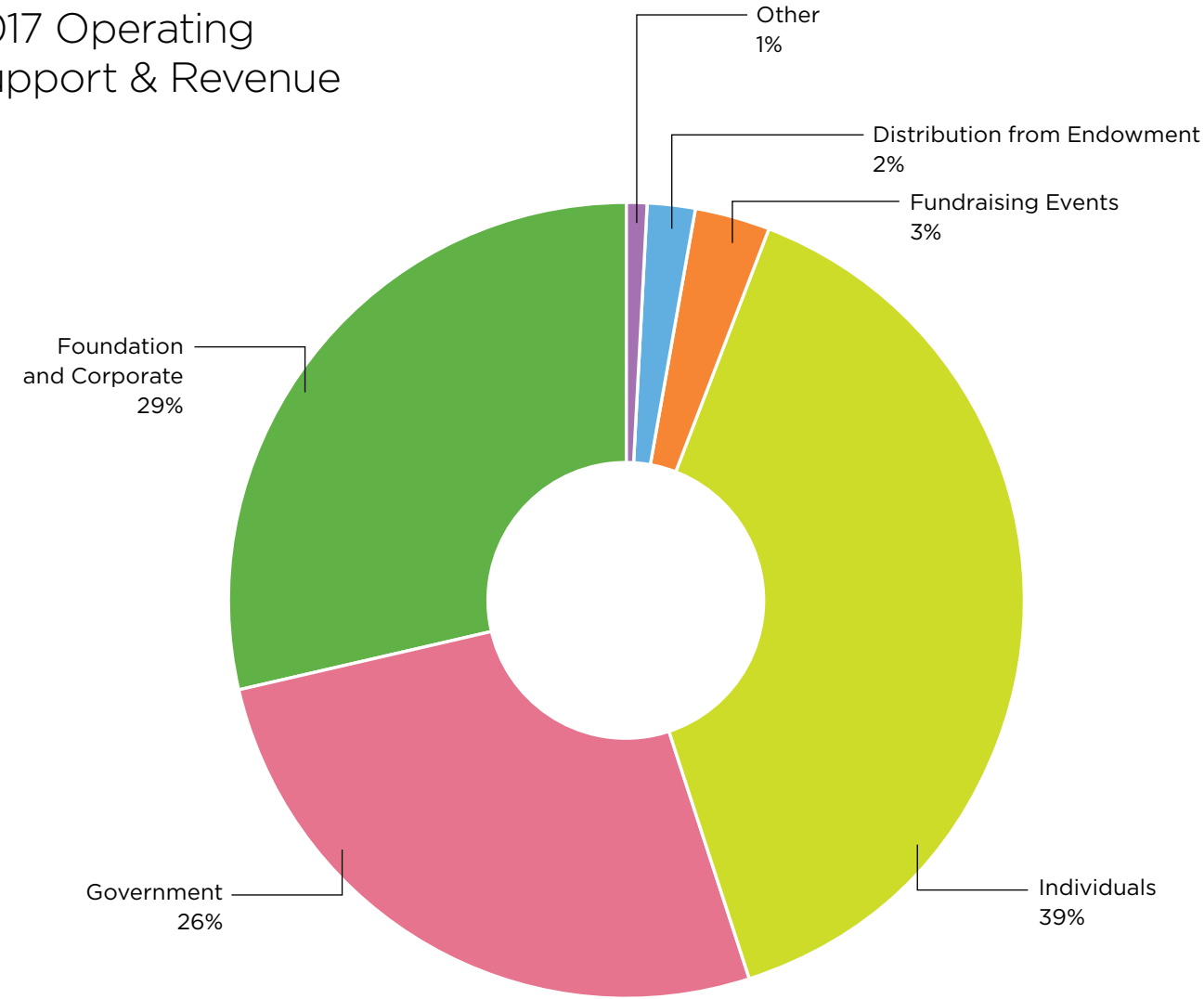
SPECIAL THANKS

Building made possible by the generous support of the Graeser Family and the donors in the Education 100.

Entry garden made possible by the generous support of George Duthie, in memory of his wife, Mary Lee Duthie.

Building interior made possible by the generous support of the Sam Shine Foundation.

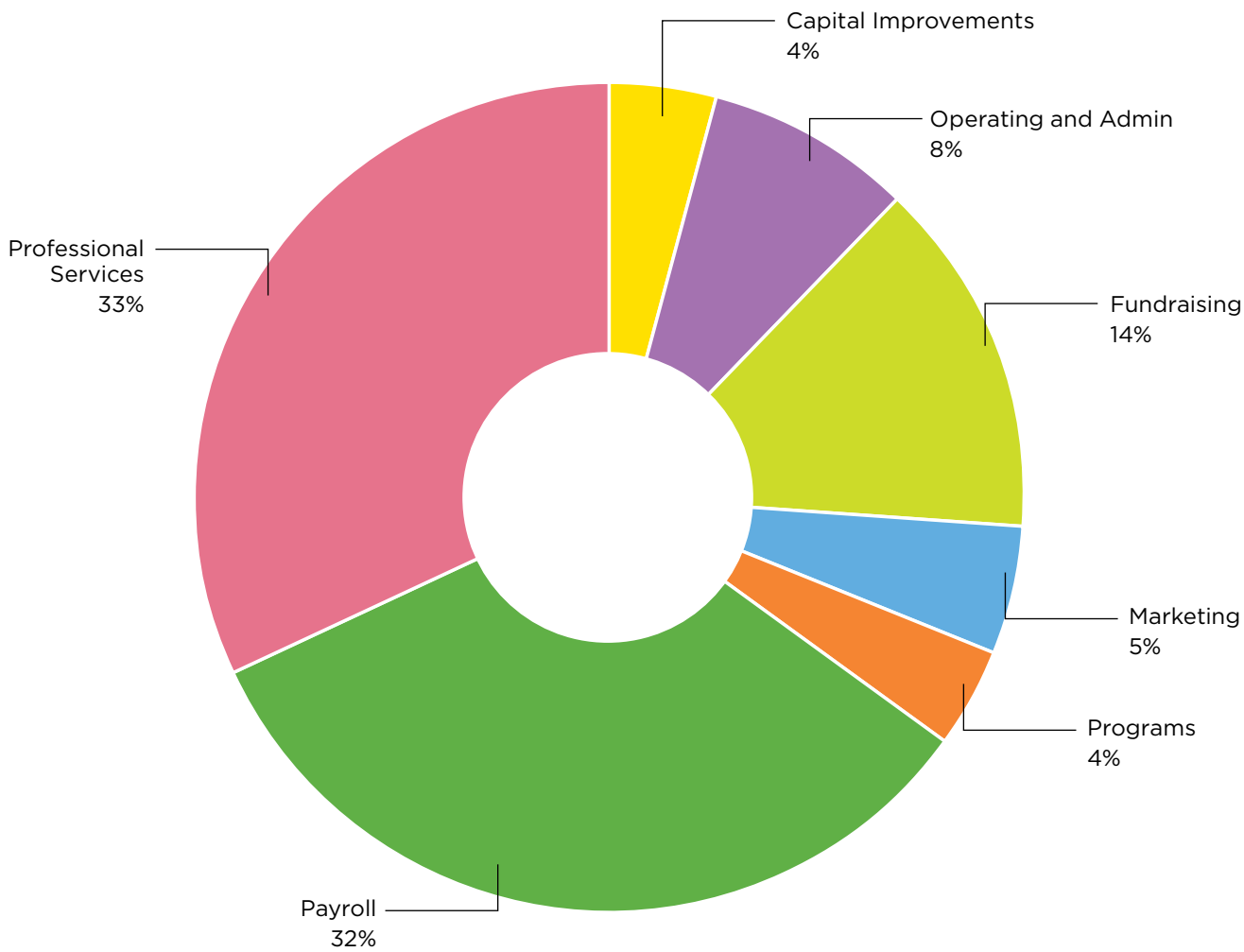
2017 Operating Support & Revenue



| REVENUE | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Distribution from Endowment | \$72,086 |
| Individuals | \$1,477,335 |
| Fundraising Events | \$102,000 |
| Foundation & Corporate | \$1,112,372 |
| Government | \$979,999 |
| Other: Memberships, Programs & Events | \$41,458 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$3,785,250 |

| EXPENSES | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Payroll | \$198,967 |
| Professional Services | \$209,705 |
| Programs | \$21,875 |
| Marketing | \$34,078 |
| Fundraising | \$88,418 |
| Operating and Admin | \$52,372 |
| Capital Improvements | \$22,242 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$627,657 |

2017 Operating Expenses



| ASSETS | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Current Assets | |
| Total Cash | \$3,005,934 |
| Total Pledges Receivable | \$1,841,789 |
| Total Other Current Assets | \$3,942 |
| Total Current Assets | \$4,851,665 |
| Fixed Assets | |
| Construction in Progress | \$620,561 |
| Land | \$940,000 |
| Total Fixed Assets | \$1,560,561 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$6,412,226 |

| LIABILITY & NET ASSETS | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Current Liabilities | |
| Accounts Payable | \$216,795 |
| Other | \$1,992 |
| Total Liabilities | \$218,786 |
| Net Assets | \$6,193,439 |
| Total Net Assets | \$6,193,439 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | \$6,412,226 |

2017 Events

We welcomed 750 people to our various programs and events in 2017. Once the gardens are complete, guests will visit for a myriad of reasons: to see a performance; to enjoy a farm-to-table meal; to learn about small-space gardening; to hear a speaker on clean water, and more.



“
The gardens are sure to inspire, inform,
and encourage people to appreciate
green and growing spaces, all in a
spectacular setting.
– Tavia Cathcart Brown



25
Events
in 2017





Booth at Crescent Hill 4th of July Festival

Volunteer Involvement

Volunteers are an important part of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens' workforce. From site clearing to planting in the Founders' Garden, from event management to hosting an information booth, volunteers are crucial to our success.

As we move forward, our volunteer team will be our most important asset in terms of staff and expertise in garden planting and maintenance. We will need volunteers to work in the gardens and to support our staff on a daily basis. Our volunteers will make the gardens a beautiful success! Their time, knowledge, and energy will be a cherished gift to the gardens appreciated by our community and visitors to our city.

212
Active
Volunteers



Mary Ayers and Amanda Schmitt
2017 Dot Wade Volunteer of the Year Award winners



Chelsea Powell
2017 Cultivator Volunteer of the Year Award winner



Volunteers help clear invasive plants from the site



The Cultivators is a group of young earth-lovers who support the creation of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens project through fun events, community service, and serving as ambassadors of the project to the community.

The Cultivators sponsor several events throughout the year, including Sips & Seeds and the Homebrew Fair, to engage young professionals in their shared mission to support the gardens, and develop our future supporters, volunteers, board members, and staff.



Cultivators at Royal's on First Friday Gallery Hop

THANKS TO OUR 2017 CULTIVATORS LEADERSHIP TEAM

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Greg Ellis | Chelsea Powell |
| Gabriella Gaona | Chelsea Powers |
| Michael Garton | Tonya Record |
| Ali Greenwell | Josh Shuck |
| John Haley | Chad Tolbert |
| Brandon Harwood | Jessica Usher |
| Todd Hudgens | Jasmine Williams |
| Joe Mandlehr | Olivia Zoeller |



We welcomed
307
new members

Over
1000
event
attendees

Doubled last
year's total with
1,447
Individual
Contributions
in 2017

\$980k
Total received
from grants

3,895
Facebook
followers

We have
a bi-annual
newsletter called
In Bloom with
6,883
recipients

Committee
Members

Education

Tim Baker
Tavia Cathcart Brown
Grace Clements
Jennifer Chrestman
Alan Goldstein
Darleen Horton
Monica Leslie
Jessie Newhouse
Brenda Stokes
Carolyn Waters
Ruth Ann Whitehouse
Mike Whitehouse
Liz Mortenson-Winlock

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Steve Sullivan

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Greg Braun
Gordon Brown
John Crockett
Emil Graeser
Richard Johnson
Katherine Johnson
James Kelly
Rhys Lam
Caroline Lussy
Joyce Meyer
Whayne Porter
Craig Scherman
John Shaw-Woo
Valerie Smith
Rudy Spencer

Horticulture

Tim Baker
Tavia Cathcart Brown
Allen Bush
Pat Carey
Kevin Duffy
Win Dunwell
Pat Haragan
Bob Hill
Delin Lai

Kurt Mason
Cindi Sullivan

Membership

Jessica Brooke Musselwhite
Amanda Shull

Prelude Fundraiser

Kate Bringardner
Nancy Bush
Lynn Kunau
Woo Speed McNaughton
Townes Richardson
Valerie Smith

Programs

Nancy Bush
Townes Richardson
Lynn Kunau
Mary Beth O'Bryan

Site and Design

Tim Baker
Greg Buccola
Dominic Gratto
Bill Wade

reGeneration Fair

Mark Gaff
Caroline Lussy
Courtney McKinney
Valerie Smith

Volunteer

Mary Ayers
Joyce Clark
Gary Dodson
Claudia Foulkes
Ned Price
Nancy Reynolds
Amanda Schmitt

Volunteers

Ann Adams
Jan Adams
Sam Adams
Mary Alexander
Danielle Armenta
Tony Bacala
Mary Ellen Baker
Daniel Barber
Jordan Bean
Kristen Becht
Chris Bidwell
Janice Blythe

Karen Bohannon
Kathy Booker
Debbie Borens
Paul Bridwell
Mary Ann Buckner
Tiffany Burton
Johanna Campbell
Kate Cannon
Ellen Carrithers
Beverly Chester-Burton
David Cowley
Joshua Crooks
Jason Cross
Linda Crouch
Madison Culler
Rebecca Dixon
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Bryan Haendiges
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John Haley
David Hall
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Toni Hattier
Beth Hensley
Anita Higdon
Claire Hilbrecht
A. Leslie Hill
Jeanne Hines
Todd Hudgens
Shannon Kaelin
Timothy Kestler
Debby King-Nold
Sharon Klosterman
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Nick Kreevich
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Kara Lewis
Karen Lewis
Ed Lloyd
Diane Lloyd
Lynn Luking
Kathryn Luksysz
Mitzi Lutes
Cody Mann
Sarah Mann
Tara Midkiff
Katherine Moberly
Patricia Mohon
Mira Nelson
Donna Nistler
Chris Noel
Darlisa Padgett
Dale Padgett
Sarah Pierce
Allison Pullen
Olivia Pullen
Tonya Record
David Rummier
Ben Schmitt
Anthony Schneider
Rick Schneider
Brenda Scott
Anthony Seitz
Betsy Settles
Susan Sheckler
Amanda Shull
Amanda Sloan
Carolyn Snow
Joan Solley
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Linda Thompson
Devin Thulier
Brenda Thurston
Ariel Tillmon
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Judy Weintraub
Marianne Wheat
Karman Wheeler
Katlyn Whelan
Erika Williams
Juliette Willis
Vanessa Winnecke
Leslie Witten
Olivia Zoeller

THANK YOU, 2017 DONORS!

\$100,000+

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\$150 to \$249

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Deborah Ziemer

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Caudill Seed
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Mabel Smith
Dorothy Wade

We make every effort to ensure
that our donor and volunteer list
is accurate and up-to-date.

If you see an error, please contact:
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info@waterfrontgardens.org