

UIC Urban Heritage Garden Internship Program

Summer 2015 SYLLABUS

12 weeks Program

Monday, May 18 – Friday, August 14

(Week off: June 30-July 3)

Schedule

Monday-Friday

9am – 1pm

Program Supervisor

Rosa Cabrera, Latino Cultural Center (LCC)

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312-996-0312

Program Instructors

Lori Baptista, African-American Cultural Center

Rosa Cabrera, LCC

Megan Carney, Gender and Sexuality Center



Heritage Garden Student Group Summer 2015 Cohort

Leaders:

Phoenix Chen

Yaritza Guillen

Sarah Hernandez

Ian Torres

Student Interns:

Rinn Bobek

James Esparza

Tran Hyunh

Maria Lagowski

Maurice Mayes

Jocelyn Munguia Chavez

Arianna Roldan

Alonzo Zamarron

Jessica Qian Zhang (Documentation)

How do people see themselves playing a role in creating a sustainable future that benefits both people and nature? What can an urban, public university like the University of Illinois - Chicago do to help people make this connection and build leadership among its students to carry out and sustain such efforts? People in cities like Chicago and urban public universities like UIC are directly implicated in regional and campus climate plans. Diverse campus and community groups can work together to reduce a number of environmental stresses and create a more livable and resilient city.

Internship Background and Description

The UIC Heritage Garden is a hands-on learning project where students work with faculty, staff and community members to connect horticulture with environmental sustainability, cultural diversity and social justice. The project's student leaders and interns oversee the planting of seven satellite gardens on the east side of campus. Paid internships are funded by the UIC Green Fee. The six [Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change](#) collaborate in this project with program infrastructure provided by the Latino Cultural Center.

Internship Stipend

Student interns and leaders will receive a stipend based on the amount of hours that they have committed to the summer program (20 hrs a week X 12 weeks). Payments will be made every two weeks throughout the duration of the internship. The week off is non-paid.

The goal of the internship program is to establish a sustainable educational model with activities that can help mobilize other students on campus around environmental and cultural sustainability issues.

During the Summer 2015 we will accomplish this goal through educational and professional capacity-building activities including:

- **Intellectual Framework Discussion**- Student interns and leaders will participate in an orientation discussion about the project intellectual framework rooted on environmental and cultural diversity.
- **Hands on Horticulture and Demonstrations**- Student interns and leaders will partake in demonstrations displaying best garden practices and will engage in daily garden work in the garden satellite sites.
- **Field Days**- Student interns and leaders will participate in facilitated site tours of community gardens and environmental resources.
- **Readings and Discussions**- Student interns and leaders will participate in reading discussions (once a week) related to environmental and cultural sustainability issues.
- **Research**- Student interns and leaders will collect 2 family recipes for the HG website. These are due by June 26, 2015. In addition, interns will collect 2 stories from families, friends, and members of their community about practices that are friendly to the environment. These are due by July 31, 2015.
- **HG Toolkit Project**- Student interns and leaders will develop a toolkit with educational materials about the Heritage Garden (suitcase idea with materials).
- **Documentation and Dissemination**- Student interns and leaders will document and disseminate program activities and progress through a variety of methods and tools including video, website, social media, program files archive, etc.

In addition, Student interns will be assigned different tasks that they will need to complete.

Student Leaders and Intern Responsibilities

Mutual Respect: Student leaders and interns must respect their own and their fellow interns' investment in the program by refraining from distracting behaviors during program activities including arriving late, leaving early, and using cell phones.

Attendance: Student leaders and interns are expected to attend all sessions on time and stay for the four hours. A leader will note daily attendance. Since this is a paid internship everyone will be expected to make up any missing days or tardiness due to sickness or an emergency- within a week. To report an absence or tardiness, leaders and interns should text a message to the assigned leaders (TBD).

Readings and Discussions: Student leaders and interns must complete all readings before the session in which these will be discussed.

Assignments: Student leaders and interns must complete all program assignments as indicated in the schedule.

Working Spaces Protocol: Student leaders and interns are responsible to maintain their working spaces clean and organized at all times. This includes the LCC office desks, gardening tools and kitchen closets, gallery, lobby, and any other spaces that they use in other centers.

Program instructors/supervisors reserve the right to terminate interns that do not comply with the above responsibilities. If this occurs, stipend payment will end concurrently.

Program Intellectual Framework

Between 2009-2011, Cabrera and Baptista conducted participatory action research commissioned by the City of Chicago under the auspices of The Field Museum's Department of Environment, Culture and Conservation to identify effective strategies for engaging members of Chicago's diverse communities in the Chicago Climate Action Plan (CCAP) and the Climate Action Plan for Nature (CAPN).

The following are five key takeaway points from the research:

- 1- While the majority of residents are aware of and care about global climate change, many do not connect it to their everyday lives in Chicago.
- 2- The cultural and social backgrounds of residents play large roles in shaping their attitudes and beliefs about climate change, nature, and the environment.
- 3- Most residents already engage in a range of green practices in their daily lives, from the mainstream to the creative and community-specific.
- 4- Climate action programs will likely be most successful if they are designed and implemented with networks of trusted community organizations and leaders, build on cultural values, and identity and scale up existing positive behaviors.
- 5- Most communities are interested in adopting climate action programs that provide recognizable, community-level co-benefits, including but also beyond cost savings.

The research identified a number of important community concerns that could serve as springboard for developing strategies for community involvement in climate action such as economic development/jobs, immigration, health/food, neighborhood beautification, public space, housing, youth development, transportation, nature/environment, crime and safety, and heritage (ethnic, cultural, community, linguistics, etc).¹ Gardening and urban agriculture in Chicago have been deployed to address community concerns and help minimize the impact of climate change.

¹ The Field Museum, ECCo, 2011.

<http://fieldmuseum.org/explore/department/ecco/engaging-chicago-communities-climate-action>