

UIC Urban Heritage Garden Internship Program

Summer 2016 SYLLABUS

12 weeks Program

Monday, May 16 – Friday, August 12

(Week off: July 4 - July 8)

Schedule

Monday-Friday

9am – 1pm

Program Supervisor

Rosa Cabrera, Latino Cultural Center (LCC)

cabrerar@uic.edu 312-996-0312 Office

Program Instructors

Lori Baptista, African-American Cultural Center

Rosa Cabrera, Latino Cultural Center

Megan Carney, Gender and Sexuality Center

Mark Martell, Asian American Resource Cultural Center



Interns

Ainna Flaminia

Britany Davis

Catalina Restrepo

Ian Torres- *Leader*

Jonathan Villaseñor

Rozmina Lakada

Samar Khrawish

Sarah Hernandez- *Leader*

Tran Hyunh- *Leader*

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 eight satellite gardens on the east side of campus. Paid internships are funded by the UIC Sustainability Fee. The six [Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change](#) collaborate in this project with program infrastructure provided by the Latino Cultural Center.

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 2016 we will accomplish this goal through educational and professional capacity-building activities including:

- **Intellectual Framework Discussion-** Interns will participate in an orientation discussion about the project intellectual framework rooted on cultural diversity and environmental and climate justice.
- **Hands on Horticulture** – Interns will engage in daily garden work in the satellite sites.
- **Field Days-** Interns will participate in facilitated site tours of community gardens and environmental resources.
- **Research-** Interns will conduct research through interviews and story collecting activities on the topic of herbal remedies and cultural notions of wellbeing. Part of this research project will be conducted at The Field Museum.
- **Garden Tours-** Interns will conduct garden tours.
- Planning Public Programs-** Interns will develop a plan for fall and spring public programs under the CCUSC around the topic of their research.
- **Documentation and Dissemination-** Interns will document and disseminate program activities and progress through a variety of methods and tools including website, social media, etc.

Note: Additional tasks might be assigned if needed.

Interns Responsibilities

Assignments: Interns must complete all program assignments as indicated in the schedule.

Mutual Respect: 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.

Internship Stipend and Attendance:

- Interns will receive a stipend based on the amount of weekly 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.
- Interns will be responsible to fill out time sheets.
- Interns will also need to sign in and out in the "sign in" binder at the LCC office.
- Interns are expected to attend all sessions on time and stay for the entire duration of their sessions.
- **Interns who are consistently absent and or late (more than three times per month) will be removed from the internship.** Absences due to illness or family emergencies will be considered with proper notice to the program supervisor.

- **There will be no make up time for missing sessions.** This will be reconsidered if the absence was due to an illness or a family emergency and proper notice given. However, interns will not be able to make up more than 12 hours during the entire internship regardless of the reasons for being absent.
- In case of an emergency, interns should text a message to one of the leader interns by 9am.

The program supervisor reserves the right to terminate interns that do not comply with the above responsibilities. If this occurs, stipend payment will end concurrently.

Working Spaces Protocol: 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 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>