


Community Market Days Begin

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The UAC team has officially kicked off the 2022 Market Season, and are excited to announce expanded market dates throughout Charlottesville. Community members can access fresh, local produce at no cost through October at our sites in the Westhaven, Friendship Court, Riverside, Midway Manor, and South 1st St. neighborhoods. Our team has expanded into the CATEC facility, and West Street gardens with support from UVA Morven Farm, Piedmont Master Gardeners, CATEC students, local volunteer groups, and community members.

 This month we received incredibly generous donations from Crickhollow Farm, Bella Grove Home & Garden, Magnolia Collective, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange, and Wood Preservers. The support of local businesses is vital to our work alongside community members. Our collaboration has also included the Piedmont Master Gardeners, who provide technical assistance, as well as hands on support at our beautiful CATEC Garden. In the coming month this garden will see a shade & rain catchment pavilion installed by Ericka Williams-Rodriguez. Ericka is the Founder of both Serenity Community for Peace & Justice, a non-profit BIPOC agrarian community, and Las Palmas Land Trust.

This month local Black farmer Michael Carter Jr. came to our 6th Street plot. Michael is an 11th generation farmer from Carter Farms in Unionville (a Virginia Century Farm) and the founder of Agriculture. Mr. Carter served as an organic farming advisor in Ghana for 5 years before returning to Virginia to work on his family farm and teach for the extension, and VSU.

If you recognize the name Ira Wallace, it's because Ira is a local farming legend. You may have heard of her in connection Acorn Community, Ujamaa Cooperative Farming Alliance, or Southern Exposure Seed Exchange. She is a published author many times over and one of the most accomplished agriculturalists focusing on seed saving in the country. (Be sure to click on the first title in our CULTIVATE SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB section bellow to read more about seed saving.) Ira graciously made herself available to the 6th Street neighborhood to talk about the ins and outs of basic seed saving in an approachable and empowering way.

We also had an excellent turn out of neighborhood youth for our transplanting class thanks to PHAR. It was a true joy to see so many little ones with their hands in the dirt learning about planting, vegetables, soil, and sprouts.