



**CULTIVATE**  
CHARLOTTESVILLE

City Schoolyard Garden  
Urban Agriculture Collective  
Food Justice Network

NEWSLETTER | VOLUME THREE | ISSUE NINE | OCTOBER 2022 | FARM TO SCHOOL AND SO MUCH MORE

October was a **BIG** month! There was farm to school. Community Climate Collaborative (C3) honored Cultivate with an award. The UAC team harvested sweet **SO MANY** potatoes. CSG presented at a state conference. We welcomed three new people to our staff. Check out the program updates below for all of the details.



Team members harvest SUPER-SIZED sweet potatoes from the plot on 6th Street

### Are you an employee of the Commonwealth of Virginia?

Did you know that you can donate to  
**Cultivate Charlottesville (CVC# 200174)** through payroll deduction  
through the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign?

#### FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

1. Visit [www.cvcgives.org](http://www.cvcgives.org)
2. Click on EPLEDGE (EMPLOYEES)
3. Have your employee ID and Cultivate Charlottesville **CVC# 200174**
4. Fill out the EPLEDGE form **before December 19** to donate to Cultivate Charlottesville!

**Thank you for your donation!**

**CULTIVATE**  
CHARLOTTESVILLE

## CITY SCHOOLYARD GARDEN

## FARM-TO-SCHOOL WEEK

presented by:



### October is for Farm to School

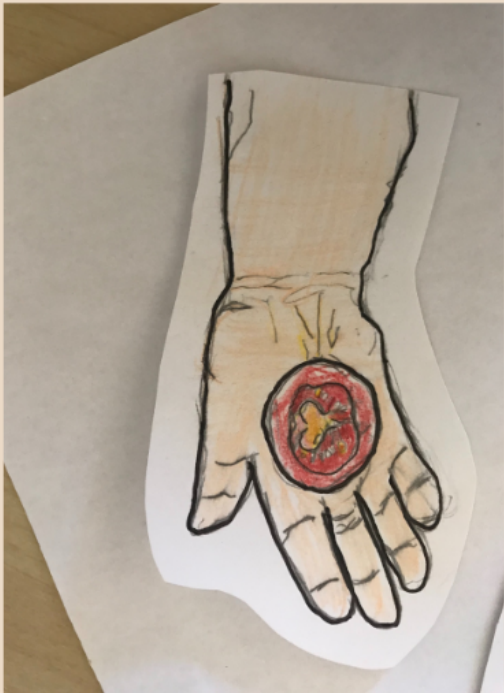
Although Virginia's Farm to School Week (F2S) is recognized during the first full week of October, the national observance is designated for the whole month. Even though that time has come and gone, October was full of awesome engagements and events for Cultivate and the City Schoolyard Garden program! From chicken visits to taste tests to garden tours—it has been full of excitement and positive new experiences.



In true farm-to-table fashion we held taste tests for all of the CCS Public Elementary schools. The tastings consisted of apples and cherry tomatoes (which was the October Harvest of the Month snack), which were sourced locally! Students were asked to compare and contrast the differences between Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, and McIntosh apple and afterwards they shared their observations with one another. When asked, most students said that they preferred the sweeter varieties over the Granny Smith apples.

Yes, the children really enjoyed the taste tests. But the true highlights were the chicken visits! Hailing from the town-renowned chicken coop at Charlottesville High School, chickens traveled all across the city to visit all of the elementary schools. The students learned fun chicken facts and some of them even witnessed eggs being laid! When we asked the children if they liked the chicken visits they said that they had an "egg-cellent" time!

CONTINUE READING



Clockwise from top left: photos 1, 2, and 3 from Harvest of the Month volunteer Raven of October's fresh fruit taste: cherry tomatoes; student artwork

Email [volunteer@cultivatecharlottesville.org](mailto:volunteer@cultivatecharlottesville.org) to help with next month's Harvest of the Month on Thursday, December 1.

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## URBAN AGRICULTURE COLLECTIVE

### UAC in the Community

It's been a productive growing season, both in staff capacity and food for Urban Agriculture Collective (UAC). UAC tipped the scales and produced into the tens of thousands of pounds of food grown right here in Charlottesville, with an excess of twelve hundred pounds of sweet potatoes for Thanksgiving meal donations alone.



Our 3 area farm plots are getting ready to sleep for the winter, but we are already planning new and exciting growth for next season.

This month we had the honor of hosting the Farm to School Conference in our gardens including our production garden at CATEC. We shared with educators, and support staff from across the state of Virginia about our projects, programming, and the impact they have on our community. We were able to highlight the deep relationships we have nurtured with the local school systems, and their benefits to the youth in our community.



Joanna and Michael harvesting; UAC bounty; Richard and Nic at the UAC Community Celebration; Nic and one of the youngest UAC team members at the West Street farm plot

If you are interested in working with Urban Agriculture Collective as a volunteer, or would like to provide in-kind material support please contact [amyrose@cultivatecharlottesville.org](mailto:amyrose@cultivatecharlottesville.org) or [volunteer@cultivatecharlottesville.org](mailto:volunteer@cultivatecharlottesville.org).

## FOOD JUSTICE NETWORK

### How are Food Equity and Climate Action Related?

Food Justice is Climate Justice. For the past several months, Food Justice Network has been teaming up with Community Climate Collaborative (C3) to bring more awareness to the impact of climate change on the Charlottesville community as it relates to food. As the City finalizes the Climate Action Plan, we recognized this would as a great opportunity to vocalize our support of C3 and highlight the intersection of food justice and climate justice. The goal of this letter is to amplify existing recommendations within the Climate Action Plan along with providing additional suggestions in areas that have yet to be addressed.

Key strategies we are advocating to see included in the Plan are:

- A robust Urban Agriculture Management Plan
- A clear system in place that addresses food waste from institutions
- Transportation routes with a concrete focus on low-wealth neighborhoods
- Green space paired with affordable housing planning that prioritizes anti-displacement of residents

CONTINUE READING





Aleen, Quentia, and Jeanette engage with attendees at the C3 5th anniversary party and accept the Climate Justice Advocate Award from our partners

For more information or to join Food Justice Network full team meetings, email [quentia@cultivatecharlottesville.org](mailto:quentia@cultivatecharlottesville.org)

## Welcome to Food Justice Network, Christopher!



**What is one fun thing about you?**  
I am a former athlete. In the eighth grade, I played on a men's football team for Eisenhower Middle School as one of the starting wide receivers. That year we went 8-0, we were undefeated. We had a great time bonding as teammates and showcasing our athleticism that year! It was a lot of fun!

**If you had to pick, which fruit or vegetable would you be and why?**  
I would be a plum. My fourth great grandfather's name is Plum Sims. He was born in Virginia. Knowing this about him makes me moving to Charlottesville even more worth the effort and the work I am doing for Cultivate Charlottesville!

**What is your background?**  
At least since 2004 I have been training as a social justice, racial justice, and environmental justice advocate and activist. However, it was the Autobiography of Malcolm X as told to Alex Haley that changed my life dramatically when it came to understanding the Black experience in the United States. All of the training, the reading, and workshops I have attended led me to this work and the mission I am on as a human rights activist. Also, growing up on the west side of Rockford, IL as a Black man definitely prepared me for a role such as this one, and working for an organization such as Cultivate Charlottesville. Also, being a poet, spoken word artist, and a hip-hop MC who writes very conscious material has helped me inform and educate the masses. Regarding gardens and food systems, one thing I will share is that when I was very young, a Black church on the west side of Rockford, IL had a free garden where food was available for Black families. Their care and concern by providing families like mine this free food has inspired me to work for the well-being of others and focus on nutritional matters with a racial equity and humanitarian sense.

## Welcome to Food Justice Network, Onawa!



**What is one fun thing about you?**  
I once made a group of French people cry with my gumbo. They thought it was off-the-charts spicy, but, by South Louisiana standards, it was extremely mild. Now I warn people about the spice level of any Cajun/Creole food that I make

**What is your background?**  
I am originally from South Louisiana, and I've lived in the Shenandoah Valley for the past 4 years. I am a Francophile (French nerd) and love to tell people weird etymological / literary things about the French language. I am Indigenous (United Houma Nation) and am learning my re-created tribal language thanks to my cousins in the Houma Language Project. Growing up, my dad had a garden, and some of my fondest childhood memories are of getting my hands dirty in that garden. As an Indigenous person, food justice and food sovereignty are deeply important to me, as is preserving Indigenous foodways and traditions for future generations.

**If you had to pick, which fruit or vegetable would you be and why?**  
Either apples or squash. Apples, because it wasn't until I moved to the Shenandoah Valley that I understood how good apples could be, and I think this illustrates the importance of local food systems. Squash, because it's a traditionally important food to many Indigenous communities, and it's such a versatile food.

**In your opinion, what makes a healthy and just food system?**  
To me, a healthy and just food system requires equity. This country was founded on stolen land with stolen knowledge and stolen bodies, and access to fresh food is still not equitably distributed. So a healthy & just food system requires dismantling those unjust systems.



# Welcome to City Schoolyard Garden Emma!



## If you had to pick, which fruit or vegetable would you be and why?

I am a fig because I like to grow in many places around town and my unassuming exterior will surprise you with vibrant depths.

## What is your background?

I grew up eating cucumbers in my neighbor's garden in the City of Richmond and picking beans that grew within reach of the swingset. As a child, food grew in shared, welcoming spaces and I aspire to maintain these spaces for Charlottesville students.

## In your opinion, what makes a healthy and just food system?

A healthy and just food system is collaborative, supporting the specific needs of each person to enjoy regular nutritious meals.

## What inspires you most about the work of Cultivate Charlottesville?

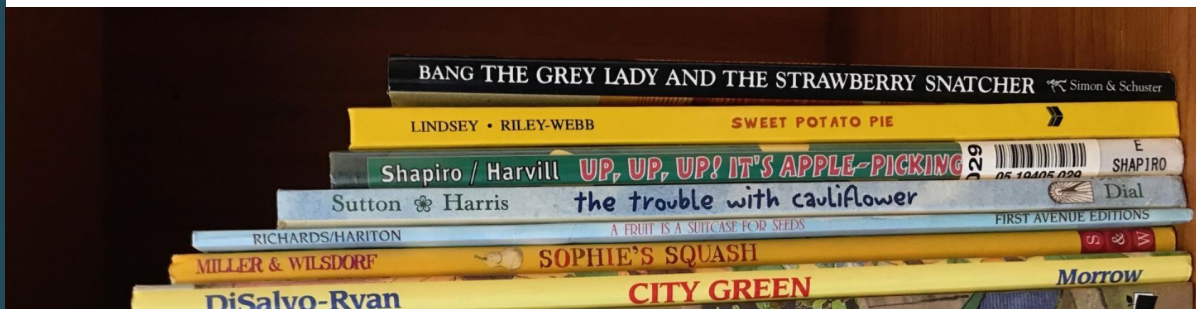
Cultivate Charlottesville commits to community wellbeing, which requires ongoing listening, learning and compassion from each of us. Cultivate Charlottesville is not only an organization; it is a practice.

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## TAKE ACTION

Together we can move Charlottesville from a foodie city to a food-E(quity) place for ALL residents!

## CULTIVATE SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB



These are some of the things we are reading, watching and listening to:

[For Local Food Systems To Thrive, Farm Tax Breaks Must Be Harder To Get](#), Sarah Taber, New City

[The Next Chance to Improve School Meal Access Is Coming Up Soon](#), Lisa Held, Civil Eats

[3000-Year-Old Solutions to Modern Problems](#), Lyla June, TEDx Talk

## CULTIVATE IN THE NEWS

COMMUNITY IMPACT

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

*Sentara Cares*

about supporting partners and initiatives that address locally identified needs and promote lasting and measurable change.

Aleen Carey

Outreach and Resource Program Director  
Cultivate Charlottesville



is to make our food system in Charlottesville healthy and equitable.

Sentara Cares: [Helping Charlottesville become a Food Equitable Community](#)



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR MONTHLY DONORS WHO HELP US SUSTAIN OUR MISSION WORK ALL YEAR LONG

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If you are interested in becoming a monthly donor, email [aleen@cultivatecharlottesville.org](mailto:aleen@cultivatecharlottesville.org)

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At Cultivate Charlottesville we believe that working together to grow gardens, share food and power, and advocate for just systems cultivates a healthy community for all.



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