URBAN FOOD SHARING

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See: website http://sharecity.ie/ twitter: @ShareCityIre
WHAT IS FOOD SHARING?

“Humans share food unlike any other organism”

“[food sharing] reflects ... the origins of human hyper-sociality...”

“...research on food sharing has focused on food transfers ... in small-scale societies”

“the patterning and complexity of food sharing among humans is truly unique ...”

“Co-operation with social norms and free riding are key features of sharing”

Source: Kaplan and Gurven, 2001
cultivate

1. Literal
   a. Prepare to grow food - PREPARE
   b. Grow food - GROW

2. Figurative
   a. Improve, encourage or foster by labour: CARE
   b. Seek acquaintance, make friends with: CONNECT
   c. Acquire or develop a quality or skill: LEARN
GOALS
Do urban food sharing initiatives seek to cultivate new urban food landscapes?
1a. PREPARING TO CULTIVATE: ACCESS+

“3000 Acres is a service that makes it easier for more people to grow more food in more places. We do this by finding land suitable for growing food and mapping it onto an interactive web platform, where community members can find land, and find other people to grow food with.”

“596 Acres builds tools to help neighbors see vacant lots as opportunities and create needed green spaces that become focal points for community organizing and civic engagement ... We activate imaginations, initiate campaigns to legally get the keys to previously inaccessible vacant lots, and ultimately unlock more than just the gates. Through collaborative organizing residents become active stewards of urban land”
“... a moveable urban food growing garden in the middle of the King's Cross development site. Amongst the rise of glass and steel buildings, it is an urban oasis in which herbs, chillies, apples, sweet potatoes and cabbages grow out of skips and planters made out of scaffold boards and other reclaimed materials.”

“... the whole kind of food-growing meant that, you know, there’s lots of opportunities for people to get involved and work together and get their hands in the soil and understand the seasons and share food together ... there was a hunger from people, from local communities, to take back their land and start growing food. And there’s something really powerful about growing food.”

“... it’s become a mutual dependency. You know, people coming here after a day’s work are so different after gardening, being part of the cycle again. So for mental health alone it’s worth an awful lot.”
"... All of this helps to nurture a close-knit and collaborative community, which cares about its environment - and about the planet as a whole ... I work with a group of ten volunteers that are coming regularly, helping maintain the garden. They give away about a thousand hours a year of work to maintain the garden."

There’s a mysterious and undeniable discovery of our own soul when we start to become more connected to our food ... Working with plants is therapeutic and rewarding.

People pay attention to other people. They also pay attention to animals and plants. They behave in such a way that they do no harm to anyone. That's what we want in the Himmelbeet. That all face each other with respect ... Everyone works together at Himmelbeet. Working together is easier than on your own. Therefore, offer your help if someone needs help. You can accept help or friendly say "no". " [transl.]
2b. CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS

SKIP GARDEN & KITCHEN

“... when I do Twilight Gardening ... I set them a task and then I turn around and walk away and then I give them like sort of thirty seconds and suddenly they start talking and I know that I’ve won again. You know, they’ll make friends, they’ll start talking, they won’t feel lonely. You know they’ll feel part of something again. And that’s important, especially in London ... This [I, we, planet] approach provides space for people to increase awareness of self, to connect to each other and to connect to the natural world ...

“... one can learn a lot more from each other by meeting regularly in the garden and by the joint engagement with pleasant things ... And actually one can enter into a different relationship than if you just pass by at each other on the street.” [transl.]

“And there is a strong connection to different groups in the social space. The Weddingwandler is a very important cooperation partner, Food Assembly another one ... There were also joint activities with Cooking for Peace or with Fixpunkt.” [transl.]
2c. CULTIVATING LEARNING

“... the development of the concept of **environmental and social intelligence**, by providing experiential, non-formal **education for sustainable development** for all ages ... Organisation Earth **promotes knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a better future** ..., by methods that motivate and empower the learners to change their behaviour and to take action...”

“To **expand our visitors’ capacity** so that in their **everyday activities** they can identify and adopt attitudes and practices that ameliorate the planet’s future, while contributing to collective prosperity and a better quality of life”

**SKIP GARDEN & KITCHEN**

“ So it’s **not just a garden**, it’s an **outdoor classroom** and you use growing to teach kids about maths, geography, history. You know, it’s a very **powerful tool** that works extremely well with children that might not be really great inside the classroom”

“There are many books on gardening, but not one in easy language. The aim of the project is to **write a book about gardening with an inclusive group** that can be read by all. The project enables a **group process that gives space to friendship and exchange, but also to disagreement and conflict** ... The participants find solutions themselves and exchange ideas about needs and barriers.” [transl.]
The future of the Himmelbeet - what happened so far & last stand

22.06.2018 13:13 Meryem Korun

The common garden Himmelbeet is now in the sixth season on the area Ruheplatzstraße / corner Schulstraße. Our current license agreement with the District Office for this area ends on October 31, 2018 - in just over four months. In this article, we try to present the events of the last three years and our efforts to create a new area for the Himmelbeet.

Already in 2015, during our third gardening season, we learned about building plans by the sponsor Amandla edufootball eV on the area Ruheplatzstraße / Ecke Schulstraße. In the meantime, there are more than 300 beds, the stone oven and the low-waste-cafe of our community garden. The garden has become a neighborhood meeting point and location for a variety of offers for the neighborhood. Now Amandla edufootball eV plans to create a "safe hub" on the area, while at the same time the district is aiming to build a public gymnasium on the adjoining property (at Ruheplatzstraße in the direction of the adult education center).
As of June 2018, 596 Acres is not providing advocacy support in New York City. Our tools remain online but no staff is able to assist with crafting campaigns. Community land access advocacy continues to be done by New Yorkers - we are so glad to have contributed to shaping a movement.

CHAMPIONING RESIDENT STEWARDSHIP OF LAND TO BUILD JUST AND EQUITABLE CITIES
CONCLUSION:
CREATING CONDITIONS FOR CHANGE

THIS LOT IS OWNED BY HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (HPD), A NY AGENCY. THEY AREN'T DOING ANYTHING WITH IT RIGHT NOW. IT'S VERY LIKELY THAT THEY WOULD LET YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBORS DO SOMETHING NICE HERE — START A FARM OR A GARDEN.

YOU CAN CALL HPD DIRECTLY TO ASK ABOUT THIS LOT: (212) 863-8667. YOU CAN ALSO CALL GRENTHUMB TO FIND OUT ABOUT NYC COMMUNITY GARDENS: (212) 788-8070. THIS IS BROOKLYN BLOCK 1468, LOT 58.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP ALONG THE WAY IF YOU NEED IT.

THIS IS PUBLIC LAND. 0.596 ACRES.
Thank you

This presentation draws on research from SHARECITY, a collaborative project involving a multidisciplinary team and the participation of many food sharing initiatives internationally.

All outputs from the project are available online:
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