Our Mission:

To preserve Elizabeth Street Garden as a unique public green, open space and New York City Park.
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Dear Neighbors and Friends,

In June 2013, I joined with neighborhood volunteers to preserve Elizabeth Street Garden as a New York City Park. By year-end 2014, we had “grown” a volunteer base of more than 400 people ranging in age from 18 to 80-plus and an email list of more than 3,200 subscribers. Additionally, Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden established itself as a nonprofit corporation, opened the Garden to the public year-round and programmed more than 150 free, public events.

Why do local residents and workers flock to Elizabeth Street Garden? Not only does the Garden provide a beautiful sanctuary — an oasis — in our densely packed, parks-starved neighborhood, but it also provides the only green, open space in Little Italy and SoHo. The NYC Parks Department identifies the broader NoHo neighborhood, which includes Elizabeth Street Garden, as “underserved” by open space – the only neighborhood in downtown Manhattan with this designation.

Elizabeth Street Garden is the only local green, open space where we can literally put our hands in the dirt. Children learn that vegetables come from the earth, not the local bodega, and that worms, ladybugs and nematodes serve as natural protectors. Through our organic gardening and education programs, in 2014 neighborhood children and elementary students from nearby P.S. 1 experienced the joys of urban gardening, from planting seeds to eating the harvest. My 7-year-old son now regularly snacks on chives!

Most importantly, in an era of digital connectivity, the Garden has become a place where neighbors can meet the old-fashioned way while volunteering, gardening or attending our many events. Elizabeth Street Garden has become the soul of our neighborhood.

In recognition of the need for more open space and demonstrated strong local support, in 2014 Manhattan Community Board 2 passed a resolution supporting the permanent preservation of the Garden, in its entirety, as a New York City Park.

But Elizabeth Street Garden is not yet saved!

Currently, the Garden has no protections. The City can recognize its importance and transfer the land to the Parks Department.

What can you do? We encourage you to volunteer. But more importantly, visit often to enjoy the Garden and our programs with your friends, family and neighbors.

With gratitude,

Jeannine Kiely
President
LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

There is something about gardens that excites both passion and perspective in everyone’s heart. The attraction may be explained in the Western world as recalling the lost promise of Eden or in the Eastern as a foretaste of Paradise. Much has been written of gardens as places of sanctuary, reflection and discovery, but words poetic and wise don’t do justice to the experience.

Here in Little Italy, where the only visible patch of green for two centuries has been a cemetery, we now see the wonder in city kids’ eyes as they encounter green grass, flowers, stone warriors and goddesses, birds, bugs, and often butterflies. On benches fancifully carved in another world, we now find weary neighbors from Lafayette or Kenmare sitting with a book or seniors from Mott taking in the sun. On some afternoons, tai chi is silently practiced beneath the branches under the tutelage of the Chinatown Y.

Elizabeth Street Garden has grown out of Allan Reiver’s vision, which began more than 20 years ago, of how a blighted, rubble-strewn lot could be something more. Today many neighborhood volunteers work collaboratively to keep the Garden open, special and changing. Volunteers have welcomed thousands of neighbors and visitors and contributed both their time and money.

The hope is that the City will seize the opportunity to create a real park, but nothing is certain. Special places sometimes die in our City, because to keep them going falls outside standard practices or succumbs to the cynicism of conventional wisdom. Happily, New York City is getting used to public-private partnerships where the benefits and burdens of commerce reciprocate enough to help maintain places like Bryant Park, the High Line and even Central Park. Elizabeth Street Garden embodies the same model as these celebrated partnerships, but at a neighborhood scale.

It is terrible to think how easy it would be to cut down the trees, pack up the moss-covered sculptures and urns, and tear up the flowers and grass, leaving only the City’s original gift to the neighborhood — a chain link fence. With your help, we won’t let this happen.

The volunteers and trustees of the Garden are grateful to Manhattan Community Board 2 and those elected officials who have encouraged us. Now in the buoyant spirit of spring, we are hopeful that other concerned officials, obliged, of course, to consider many necessities, may come by and sit for a while. No one needs to say anything. As gardens have for centuries, Elizabeth Street Garden speaks for itself.

Yours sincerely,

Kent Barwick
Chairman
In our dense, tightly packed neighborhood, Elizabeth Street Garden, located between two quiet residential streets, is the only calm green space and provides local residents, workers and visitors with easy, day-to-day access to unpaved park space.

**WHY WE NEED OPEN SPACE**

Little Italy and SoHo have only 3 square feet of open space per resident, and all of this parkland is paved. This translates into a neighborhood open space ratio of 0.07 acre of parkland per 1,000 residents, as compared with New York City’s planning goal of 2.5 acres (109 square feet per person). Furthermore, Little Italy and SoHo are part of the only downtown Manhattan neighborhood that the New York City Parks Department identifies as “underserved” by open space in its City Environmental Quality Review Technical Manual.

The broader neighborhood of Community Board 2 also lacks adequate open space. CB 2 has only 0.58 acre of parkland per 1,000 residents (25 square feet per person), one of the lowest ratios of public open space in the City. Moreover, the majority of CB 2’s open space is in Washington Square Park, nearly a mile from the Garden, and Hudson River Park, 1.2 miles away.
Did you know that Little Italy and SoHo have only 3 square feet of open space per resident, about the same area as a seat on the NYC subway?

Elizabeth Street Garden is the only green oasis in the neighborhood for all to enjoy.
“When I learned that the Garden is open, I didn’t walk, I ran to volunteer because my neighbors’ and my need for quiet green space is so desperate. Elizabeth Street Garden is a testament to the power of nature, art and community effort.”

Jennifer Romine
Garden Volunteer

On January 23, 2014, Manhattan Community Board 2 voted overwhelmingly in favor of a strong resolution in support of preserving Elizabeth Street Garden permanently as a New York City Park.

Therefore it is resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan:

1. Supports the permanent preservation of the Elizabeth Street Garden in its entirety as a public open, green space and urges the City to transfer jurisdiction over this lot to the Parks Department;

2. Supports the efforts of the Elizabeth Street Garden volunteers to form an independent non-profit group dedicated to improving the garden, guaranteeing open public access, and providing programming, community events, and opportunities for volunteers;

3. Commits to an ongoing strategic and activist effort alongside our elected officials and government agencies to expand and preserve affordable housing in the district.

Source: Letter from CB 2 to NYC Commissioners Kavanaugh and Visnauskas, January 27, 2014.
JANUARY 23, 2014: FULL BOARD MEETING
The Elizabeth Street Garden site has had a rich history as a public school, gathering place and playground before it was reimagined as a garden and opened once again to the public by volunteers. Beginning with its schoolyard use in 1903, the site has been a publicly owned open space for more than 100 years.

HISTORY AS A PUBLIC SCHOOL
The Garden sits on a portion of the former site of P.S. 106, later renamed P.S. 21 and originally designed in 1903 with public outdoor space that functioned as a neighborhood social and civic center and space for children to plant seeds and play. P.S. 21 was one of the first public schools to offer free lunch beginning in 1909 and provided much needed recreation space for the local community.

GARDEN GROWS ON BLIGHTED LOT
The school was torn down in the 1970s. In 1981, Little Italy Restoration Association built 152 affordable apartments on the south side of the school lot, and as part of the project, the north side was intended exclusively for the purposes of recreational use. Transformation of the north side from a derelict lot into a garden began in 1991 when Elizabeth Street Gallery leased the site from New York City.

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY CENTER
Since 2013, Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden has opened the Garden to the public year-round, reimagining the space as a 21st century community center, where residents garden, gather and enjoy green space in our otherwise concrete neighborhood.
“Volunteering and going to the Garden definitely awakens a sense of community that I never had in the neighborhood in my 20 years living here. It is beautiful and peaceful, too.”

Katalin Balog
Garden Volunteer
In June 2013, neighbors and local businesses came together to preserve Elizabeth Street Garden permanently as a unique public green, open space and New York City Park. Since then, Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden has grown a volunteer base of more than 400 people and a mailing list of more than 3,200 subscribers, established a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, opened the Garden to the public year-round and offered more than 150 free, public events. Our 2014 programs focused on gardening and education, arts and cultural events, and wellness activities. The season culminated in our Second Annual Harvest Festival, bookended by Summer and Winter Solstice Celebrations. Volunteers also participated with other organizations in numerous communitywide events.

“The Garden is a gem of a space that brings together all the beauty, culture and warmth of the Little Italy community. Spending time in the Garden and meeting lifelong residents, recent transplants and tourists alike are always weekend highlights. The programming and events bring such a unique feeling of community and enjoyment to living in New York!”

Janice Woo
Garden Volunteer
“I love the Garden because we can play here. We get to plant things and come back and see them grow. I like to look at the bugs too.”

“I like to look at the statues, and I like to look around to see if there is any treasure. I like to plant vegetables and flowers too. We love to compost and watch worms too.”

Luna and Nova Craemer
Garden Volunteers
In 2014, Elizabeth Street Garden volunteers received their first Neighborhood Grant from Citizens Committee for New York City to launch Bees, Butterflies & Worms — a season-long initiative to educate both children and adults about eco-gardening, habitat creation, urban wildlife and sustainable stewardship.

GARDENING & EDUCATION

GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS
Throughout the season, Garden volunteers hosted 12 hands-on community gardening workshops on spring cleanup, planting and garden care, lawn restoration, daffodil bulb planting, and fall cleanup. They restored soils, cultivated more than 4,000 square feet of garden beds, and planted more than 5,000 herbs, shrubs, flowering perennials and 6,000 square feet of lawn.

YOUTH EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS
In addition to weekly gardening opportunities, Bees, Butterflies & Worms provided a series of hands-on workshops developed primarily for children:

- Soil Food Web Workshop and Worm Release
- Children’s Composting Workshop
- Cool Bugs! Ladybug and Lacewing Release Workshop
- Children’s Flowers and Pollinators Workshop

In support of their Common Cents Penny Harvest project, elementary school students from neighborhood P.S. 1 visited the Garden twice in 2014 — for a spring planting workshop and a fall harvest and seed collection workshop.
“Working in Elizabeth Street Garden helps expose our Penny Harvest students to hands-on beautification experiences that bring them in touch with nature. They see seeds and bulbs that they planted bloom because of their efforts. The students are bringing beauty to the neighborhood near their school, and they feel good about that. This volunteer involvement is interesting and energizing and gives the students an opportunity to give back and be involved in the community.”

Eleanor Christian and Harriet Savitz
Penny Harvest Teacher Coaches, P.S. 1, Manhattan
“The Garden is part of the fabric of my family’s life. We go there to play and relax, plant and observe nature, and see and make friends in our community. Every time I bike by with my 2-year-old son, he shouts, ‘My garden, my garden,’ and then raises his palm in memory of the ladybug he held there last spring that flew off from his hand into the Garden.”

Naima Freitas
Garden Volunteer
Summer Educational Workshops
“I enjoy volunteering in the Garden because it’s a beautiful space. And it feels good that I can always learn something interesting when I volunteer.”

Yue Guan
Garden Volunteer

ARTS & CULTURE

The 2014 season opened with a three-week-long Spring Art Exhibition, engaging more than 50 artists, writers, readers, musicians, dancers and filmmakers.

Additional events included weekly sketching with Spring Studio, live music, movie nights, dance performances, poetry readings, children’s book readings and weekly children’s storytime.
“I cherish this truly enchanted place. I feel inspired by the community effort and rejuvenated after even just a couple hours in the green, and have gotten to meet the most interesting people, who also happen to be my neighbors. Since volunteering in the Garden, I’m no longer eager to move to Brooklyn!”

Laura H.
Garden Volunteer
“The Garden is such a unique, magical space, unlike any I’ve encountered in the City. It’s been such a pleasure for me to volunteer and give others opportunity to enjoy it as much as I do. Being here for a few hours every week, I see how many people appreciate its beauty and peacefulness. It would be tragic to lose this rare green space that is special to so many people. I’m really grateful to be part of the effort to save it.”

Natalie Bergh
Garden Volunteer
WELLNESS

Wellness activities, designed to help our community stay active and healthy, included weekly tai chi with the Chinatown YMCA, meridian tapping, vinyasa yoga and lunchtime moving meditation. The Mindful Mingle event in August complemented these weekly activities and engaged participants in a discussion on ways to integrate yoga principles in their daily lives.

“Elizabeth Street Garden is a special place. In a city where people don’t even know their neighbor, the Garden is a place where neighbors come together, whether meeting friends for coffee or escaping our cramped apartments for a peaceful green space. The Garden has something for everyone and is a constant in the community.”

Erum Hasnain
Garden Volunteer
Wellness Programming
“Volunteering in the Garden is one of my favorite things to do because it grounds me and provides a true connection to the community in a natural, welcoming environment.”

Lindsee Silverstein
Garden Volunteer
The 2014 season culminated in our Second Annual Harvest Festival held on October 25 and attended by more than 2,000 neighbors and friends. Our community not only enjoyed a day of fun activities for all ages, live music, and lite bites and refreshments donated by

neighborhood businesses but also contributed to a food drive to benefit our neighbor The Bowery Mission.

We thank Assemblymember Deborah J. Glick and Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer for attending and supporting our Harvest Festival.
“I adore my Little Italy neighborhood, but the noise, construction, concrete and crowds can become overwhelming. Volunteering at the Garden gives me the chance to take a breather from the chaos in a beautiful, serene, refreshing space. But the coolest thing about volunteering is that the Garden offers a sense of community in our huge city. I have met so many amazing people whose paths I would never have crossed otherwise.”

Kristin Shea
Garden Volunteer
“The culture around the Garden, built up within the local community through volunteerism, brings people together, creating deep connections and friendships transcending the usual ‘What can you do for me?’ dynamic. I love that volunteering in the Garden gives me a chance to make a difference in my quality of life, and in the lives of members of my local community.”

Christopher D. Hannan
Garden Volunteer
Elizabeth Street Garden volunteers participated with other community organizations in public events such as Lower East Side History Month, LUNGS — Loisaida United Neighborhood Gardens Harvest Arts Festival, Make Music New York, The Municipal Art Society’s Jane’s Walk NYC, New Yorkers for Parks Daffodil Project and NYC Climate Convergence.

COMMUNITYWIDE PROGRAMS

Participating through LUNGS, Garden volunteers hosted 11 high school interns from the NYC Summer Youth Employment Program. In addition to gardening, the students shared their thoughts in a focus group on how teens might use the Garden and learned about the benefits that local bats provide from NYC Urban Park Rangers.
“The Garden is a place where we all can discuss the future of our neighborhood and organize to have our voices heard. It’s a place for us to meet, and it’s a place we all agree we’d like to keep. As a resident and shopkeeper in the neighborhood for 10 years, I’m no stranger to the locals. Volunteering at the Garden has given me the opportunity to work with my neighbors on the common goal of saving the Garden. Our common goal has strengthened our community.”

Petrea Davis
Garden Volunteer
Did you know that the Garden is open to the public year-round entirely by neighborhood volunteers?

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden is operated entirely by neighborhood volunteers. Collectively, our volunteers have dedicated thousands of hours to the Garden, including opening the Garden to the public year-round — more than 40 hours a week during warm-weather months, leading and implementing Garden improvements, and programming free, public events.

Dave Abelson
Michelle Aboodi
Melissa Adames
Jennifer Adler
Matthew Aidekman
Osmund Allebery
Merrilyn Anthony
Elizabeth Anto
Malinda Appel
Peter Armstrong
Waldemar Aspman
Demi Asvestas
Steven Attema
Annabel Aucoin
Alia Avidan
Kristi Avram
Kirill Babikov
Katalin Balog
Katherina Balram
David Barberis
Alejandra Barciela
Allison Barker
Jim Barry
Laine Barton
Cynthia Basinet
Alex Baxter
Griffin Bealle
Ashley Bell
Stephanie Bell
Sofia Benitez
John Benscoter
Natalie Bergh
Mallory Bergman
Tobi Bergman
Filmon Berhane
Shahar Berman
Nicolas Bernardine
Antonio Biagi
Elisabeth Bierschenik
Eli Bingham
Francesca Biryukov
Laura Biscotto
Jeff Blake
Ryan Bloomquist
Sharon Blythe
Aaiza Bokhari
Emily Boland
Stephanie Bonadio
Jean D. Bonnet
Aaron Booher
Robert Boro
Sarah Bowman
Mack Bradley
Eileen Braun
Dave Bredesen
Fred Brehm
Chelsea Brigante
Yvonne Brooks
Casey Brown
Isaac Brune
Huy Bui
Karen Bummele
E.A. Burlingame
Katie Byrd
Jane Patricia Calderon
Ana Calvo
Scott Campbell
Garry Cardenas
Julianna Casale
Henry Casey
Liana Castillo
Jay Cavanaugh
Christian Cedras
Isabel Chan
Aditi Chandri
Cynthia Chapin
Janice Chia
Katherina Christ
Marco Ciocca
Brandon Clark
“The Garden is a passion for me. I see the wonder in my children as they grab a fig off a tree, or peek under a leaf to find snap peas growing. I am in awe, as my daughter sits on a bench chatting with a Garden regular who has lived on Elizabeth Street for years. Our neighborhood needs this Garden desperately, and saving it is worth my most precious commodity ... time.”

Emily Hellstrom
Volunteer Leader
“There are two parts I love about volunteering in the Garden. One is being in the serene peaceful space, listening to the birds and wind chimes. I also love the friendships I’ve formed. After living in the neighborhood for 10 years, I finally have found a place to get to know people who live right next door. The Garden creates a community that I think other neighborhoods lack.”

Susan Waldman
Volunteer Leader
“The Garden is a respite from the intensity of the City ... where the stillness of the statues exists with the energy of the trees and flowers, and all that they attract. I enjoy participating in sharing this magical space.”

Patricia Squillari
Garden Volunteer
“It is a beautiful getaway and common ground for all those in the community. As a small business in the area, we understand how important being a part of our local community is, and supporting Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden enriches the lives of all those in the neighborhood. WE LOVE THE GARDEN!”

Lidia Etemadi
Garden Volunteer

“In a city and a neighborhood woefully short on green space, Elizabeth Street Garden is a tiny green gem giving relief to neighbors and passersby alike. Season by season it lifts the spirits of those who enter or just wander by. It’s a rare thing, precious and with a value impossible to calculate.”

Peter H. Kostmayer
CEO, Citizens Committee for New York City
“Volunteering in the Garden is like going to the gas station for your soul. It fills you up with beauty, tranquility and wonder. It is the hidden treasure that always inspires me to make my life as magical as this garden is.”

Poppy King
Garden Volunteer
Ella Weston
Louise Weston
Nigel Weston
Cayle White
Jessica Wolff
Janice Woo
Cindy L. Wu
and Warren Freyer
Debra Zimmerman

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS

**Nonprofits**
Chinatown YMCA
Dwell Church
GrowNYC
Lower Manhattan Neighbors’ Organization
Make Music New York
NYC Urban Park Rangers
New Yorkers for Parks
The Village Alliance

**Local Schools**
Little Peep Prep
The Montessori in SoHo

**Neighborhood Businesses**
P.S. 1 Common Cents
Penny Harvest

**P.S. 1 Common Cents**

**IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS**

**Neighborhood Businesses**
16 Handles
A.B. Biagi
Black Seed
Cafe Habana
Di Palo’s Fine Foods
Happy Paws
HMWhite
John Fluevog Shoes
Lipstick Queen
Little Cupcake Bakeshop
Little Rascal
Lombardi’s Pizza
Lovely Day
Lululemon SoHo
McCann Worldgroup,
Michelle Kiely
McNally Jackson Books
Met Foods
Mix Mobile
The New York Shaving Co.
The Nolitan New York

**Exhibiting and Performing Artists**
Wayne Adams
Giorgio Agamben (as Cooper Francis)
William Anastasi
Roland Andrijaukas
Ariane Anthony
and Jeffrey Bauer
Robert Barry
Ashley Galvani Bell
Susan Bernofsky
Lisa Blas
Andrew Bolotowsky
Anne Boyer
Dove Bradshaw
Rashad Brown

Joshua Frost
Mian Fan
Yue Guan
Suzanne Monto
Serra Sabuncuoglu
Shiman Shan
Hui Tian
Wenji Zou

**Peasants**
Pomodoro Pizza
Prince Street Pizza
PUBLIC
Rubirosa Ristorante
Sakara Life
Siggy’s Good Food
Spring Studio and founder
Minerva Durham
Stanton Street Yoga
Sullivan & Cromwell
Sweetgreen
Tacombi
Taim
Toby’s Public House
Twisted Trunk Yoga
Valley
Whole Foods Market
Yoga at the Bhakti Center
Yoga Means Business

**Programming Contributors**
Terri Cude
Laurie Fabiano
Naima Freitas

**Public**

**Penny Harvest**

**IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS**

**Public**

**PROGRAMMING CONTRIBUTORS**

**IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS**
“I love being in the Garden and would make any excuses to do so. Volunteering is one of those good excuses. When I do it, I usually ask my friends to come by for a chat, invite a dog owner to chill out, remind neighbors that they can have a lunch on the bench or the grass. And more than anything, I just want them to experience the feeling of being there. It’s SO magical. You can feel the soil and life. You feel like a human again!”

Kazusa Jibiki
Garden Volunteer and Local Business Owner

SPECIAL THANKS

We thank **Lower Manhattan Neighbors’ Organization** for having served as fiscal sponsor. LMNO(P) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in 1992 with the mission to improve and expand open space in Lower Manhattan. Its efforts resulted in the creation of Mercer Playground.

We are ever grateful to **Sullivan & Cromwell** for acting as pro bono counsel in connection with the startup needs of Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden.

Elizabeth Street Gallery

Elizabeth Street Garden sits on New York City-owned land, a portion of the former site of P.S. 21 that was demolished in the 1970s. The lot lay blighted until 1991 when Allan Reiver leased it from the City as a place to store and sell architectural artifacts and statuary. Allan created a beautiful garden to display his fine objects and, at the same time, preserved a through-block slice of open space in a densely built residential neighborhood of former manufacturing and tenement buildings. In 2005, he located his home and Elizabeth Street Gallery in a former firehouse building adjacent to the garden.

Concerned with the lack of open space in the Little Italy and SoHo neighborhoods, in June 2013 residents and local businesses came together with the goals of increasing public access to the garden and preserving the space permanently as public parkland. Allan supported the neighborhood movement, and Elizabeth Street Garden opened immediately to the public with volunteer staffing.

Elizabeth Street Gallery continues to lease the site from New York City and uses it commercially, allowing extensive public access while making annual rental payments to the City of $48,000 and funding all water, electricity, and other utilities and lawn maintenance. Sale of Gallery items and four private event rentals in 2014 generated income for the Gallery, and the architectural artifacts and statuary the Gallery displays contribute to the Garden’s unique character.

Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden, formed in 2014 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, organizes and provides free, public gardening, educational and recreational activities and events, funded through a combination of direct contributions, grants, and donated goods and services.
2014 BY THE NUMBERS

THE GARDEN IS OPEN
- 12 months a year
- 5 days, 40 hours a week, Wednesdays through Sundays during warm-weather months
- 400-strong volunteer community
- 100-plus visitors an hour on weekends, thousands annually

THE GARDEN IS PUBLIC
- 3,200-plus subscriber email list
- 2,000 neighbors attended Second Annual Harvest Festival
- 150-plus free, public events a year
- 12 workshops for Bees, Butterflies & Worms community gardening and education initiative
- 4 weekly wellness classes: tai chi with the Chinatown YMCA, meridian tapping, vinyasa yoga and moving meditation
- 2 hours a week of drawing with Spring Studio
- 60 arts and cultural events, including live music, movie nights, poetry readings, dance performances and children’s storytimes and crafts
- 4 seasonal events: Spring Art Exhibition, Summer and Winter Solstice Celebrations, and Fall Harvest Festival
- 50-plus artists, writers, readers, musicians, dancers and filmmakers participated in Spring Art Exhibition
- 8 media features and reviews, from local newspapers to The New York Times and including a 30-minute segment on SinoVision’s “New York Lounge”

THE GARDEN IS GREEN
- 0.46 acre (20,000 sq. ft.) of public green, open space
- 5,000 herbs, native and fruiting plants, flowering perennials, shrubs, and trees planted
- 20 cubic yards of organic soil and mulch added to planting beds by Garden volunteers
- 6,000 sq. ft. of Elizabeth Street lawn restored
- 400 sq. ft. of Mott Street lawn decompacted and sod donated by The Village Alliance laid by 16 Handles Community Volunteers and Garden Volunteers
- 500 worms, 6,000 ladybugs and 30 million beneficial nematodes released by children into Garden beds
- 2,500 daffodils donated by New Yorkers for Parks planted
- 40,000 bees rescued by New York City Beekeepers Association

OUR NEED FOR OPEN SPACE
- 23% vs. 3%: Little Italy and SoHo comprise 23% of Manhattan Community Board 2’s population but only 3% of its open space
- 0.07 vs. 2.50 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents: In Little Italy and SoHo, as compared with the NYC planning goal; 0.58 acre, in CB 2
- 3 vs. 109 sq. ft. of open space per resident: In Little Italy and SoHo, as compared with the NYC planning goal
- 1.2 and 0.9 mile: Distances from the Garden to Hudson River Park and Washington Square Park, respectively, which account for the majority of open space in CB 2
- 0.25 mile: Recommended distance to parks of less than one acre by New Yorkers for Parks, National Recreation and Parks Association, and LEED for Neighborhood Development
- Zero: Number of public parks in CB 2 with green grass east of Hudson River Park and south of Washington Square Park
- 100%: Paved parkland in Little Italy and SoHo
## 2014 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### Revenues
- Contributions .......................................................... $5,102
- Fundraising Events (net) .......................................... $13,652
- Grants ................................................................. $3,000

$21,754

### Expenses
- Programs ............................................................. $8,006
- Gardening & Environmental Education .................. $7,542
- Arts, Culture & Wellness ....................................... $464
- Fundraising .......................................................... $199
- Administration ..................................................... $1,156
- Organizational Startup Costs ................................. $555
- Other Operating Expenses .................................... $601

Fund Balance .......................................................... $12,393

$21,754
Currently, the Garden has no protections as an official New York City Park, garden or open space. The City can recognize its importance and protect it by transferring the land to the Parks Department. What can you do?

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

**SUPPORT US**
Donate at elizabethstreetgarden.org or mail a check made out to Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden Inc. to 235 Elizabeth St., Ste. 23, New York, NY 10012.

Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions made for its charitable purposes are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. A copy of the latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden, 235 Elizabeth St., Ste. 23, New York, NY 10012 or the NYS Attorney General’s Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, Third Floor, New York, NY 10271.

**PARTICIPATE**
Visit the Garden and join our mailing list at elizabethstreetgarden.org to learn about free, public programming.

**VOLUNTEER**
Volunteer ONE hour a month to keep the Garden open for all to enjoy!
Email volunteer@elizabethstreetgarden.org.

**CONNECT**
Facebook.com/ElizabethStreetGarden
Twitter.com/ElizabethStGrdn
Instagram.com/ElizabethStGrdn
“I started volunteering a year ago, and every weekend I look forward to spending a couple of hours in the Garden, especially during the morning. I’ve never been a morning person, but coming to this place is more than enough motivation — all the happy faces I see enjoying the space, the conversations I get to strike with people wandering in and all the new friends I’ve made. Coming from a background in architecture, I understand if a physical space can help accomplish all that, it’s a success, and it is worth caring for and sharing with others.”

Kirill Babikov
Garden Volunteer
“We come to the Garden to help nature so there is fresh oxygen. I like to get my hands messy too!”
Ryan Zhang, Class 3-2, P.S. 1

“I want to help plants grow into beautiful flowers. This makes me feel happy because the flowers look so beautiful. I love flowers because they make me think I am beautiful too. Flowers are precious to me.”
Chelsea Moran, Class 3-1, P.S. 1

“It teaches me how the Garden is very important because the plants make oxygen for us to breathe. There are not many places like this in the City. It makes your troubles go away because the air is fresh and clean, and this makes me feel relaxed.”
Miki Lin, Class 4-1, P.S. 1

“When we plant bulbs and plants, we could eat them and look at them. You can get healthy, and what you planted looks good too.”
Jimmy Liu, Class 3-2, P.S. 1

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