

A large crowd of people, including adults and children, is walking through a garden. In the background, there are trees and brick buildings. The text "FRIENDS OF ELIZABETH STREET GARDEN" is overlaid in white capital letters.

FRIENDS OF ELIZABETH STREET GARDEN

ANNUAL REPORT
2014

FRIENDS OF ELIZABETH STREET GARDEN

FOUNDING DIRECTORS

Kent Barwick, Chairman

Aaron Booher

Renee Green

Jeannine Kiely

Dan Rafalin

Tobi Bergman, Manhattan Community Board 2 Chair, Ex Officio

OFFICERS

Jeannine Kiely, President

Aaron Booher, Secretary

John Benscoter, Treasurer

Our Mission:

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

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ELIZABETH STREET GARDEN

Elizabeth Street, between Prince & Spring Streets, New York City



FRIENDS OF ELIZABETH STREET GARDEN

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Jeannine Kiely'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Jeannine' being larger and more prominent than the last name 'Kiely'.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kent Barwick".

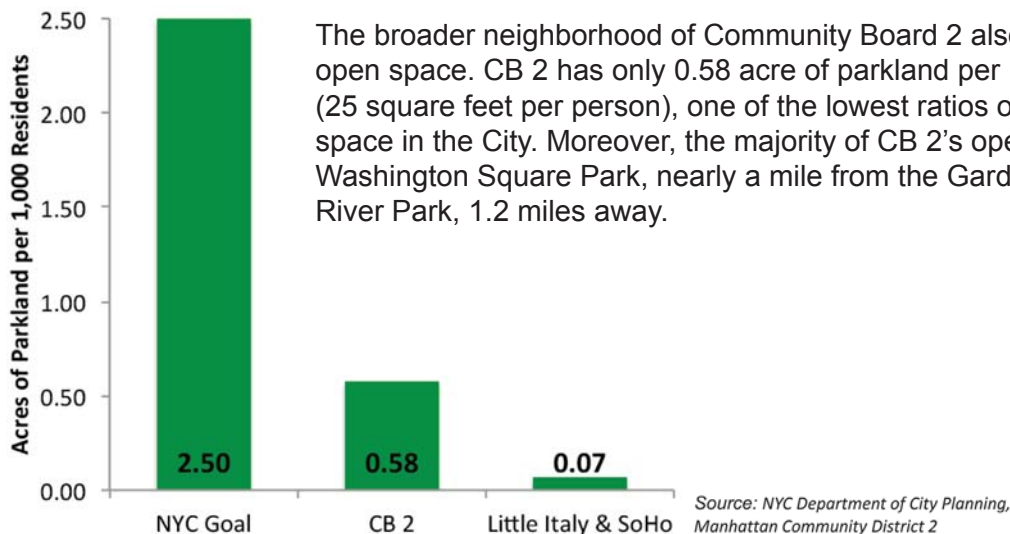
Kent Barwick
Chairman

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.

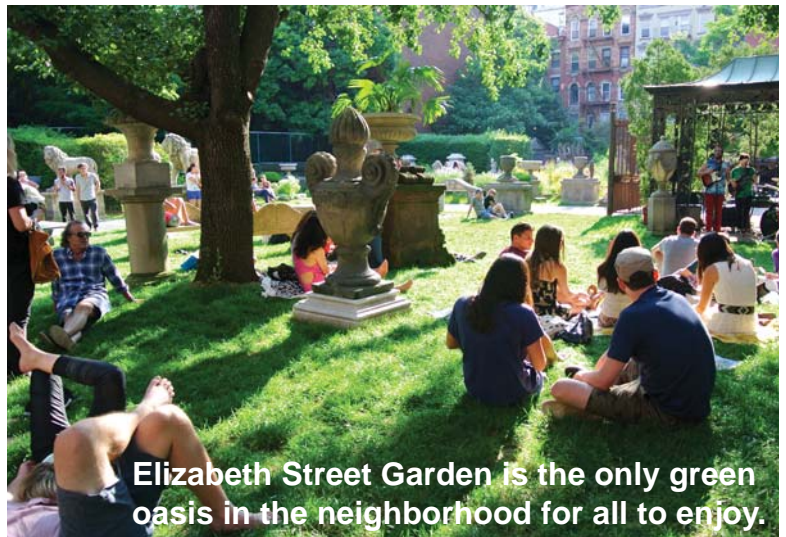
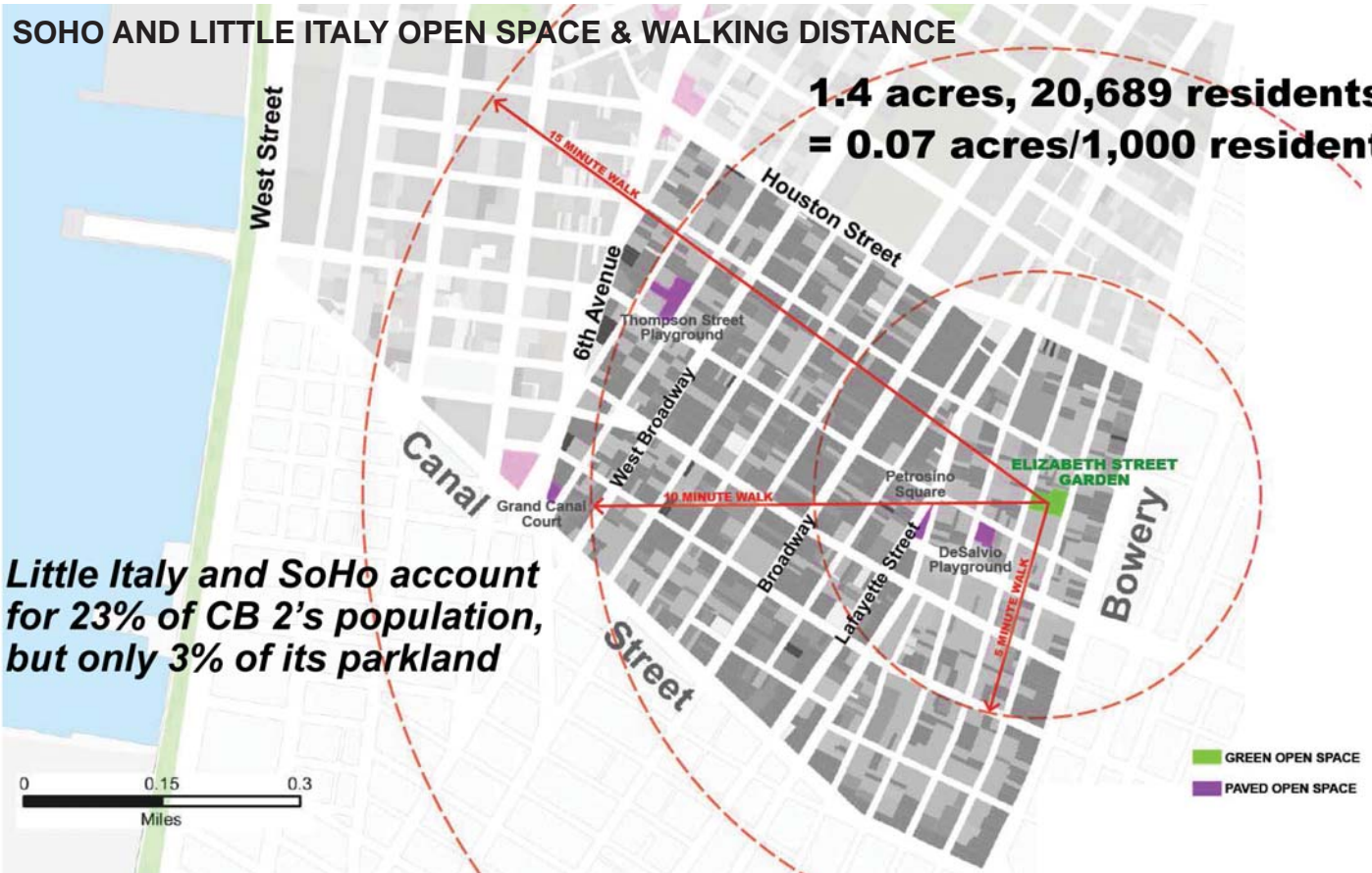


Did you know that Little Italy and SoHo have only 3 square feet of open space per resident, about the same area as a seat on the NYC subway?

SOHO AND LITTLE ITALY OPEN SPACE & WALKING DISTANCE

**1.4 acres, 20,689 residents
= 0.07 acres/1,000 residents**

***Little Italy and SoHo account
for 23% of CB 2's population,
but only 3% of its parkland***



**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

COMMUNITY BOARD SUPPORT

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 programing, 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



SAVE OUR

OPEN SPACE IN LITTLE ITALY

ELIZABETH
STREET
GARDEN

elizabethstreetgarden.org
[#elizabethstreetgarden](https://twitter.com/elizabethstreetgarden)



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.

COMMUNITY CENTER HISTORY

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.

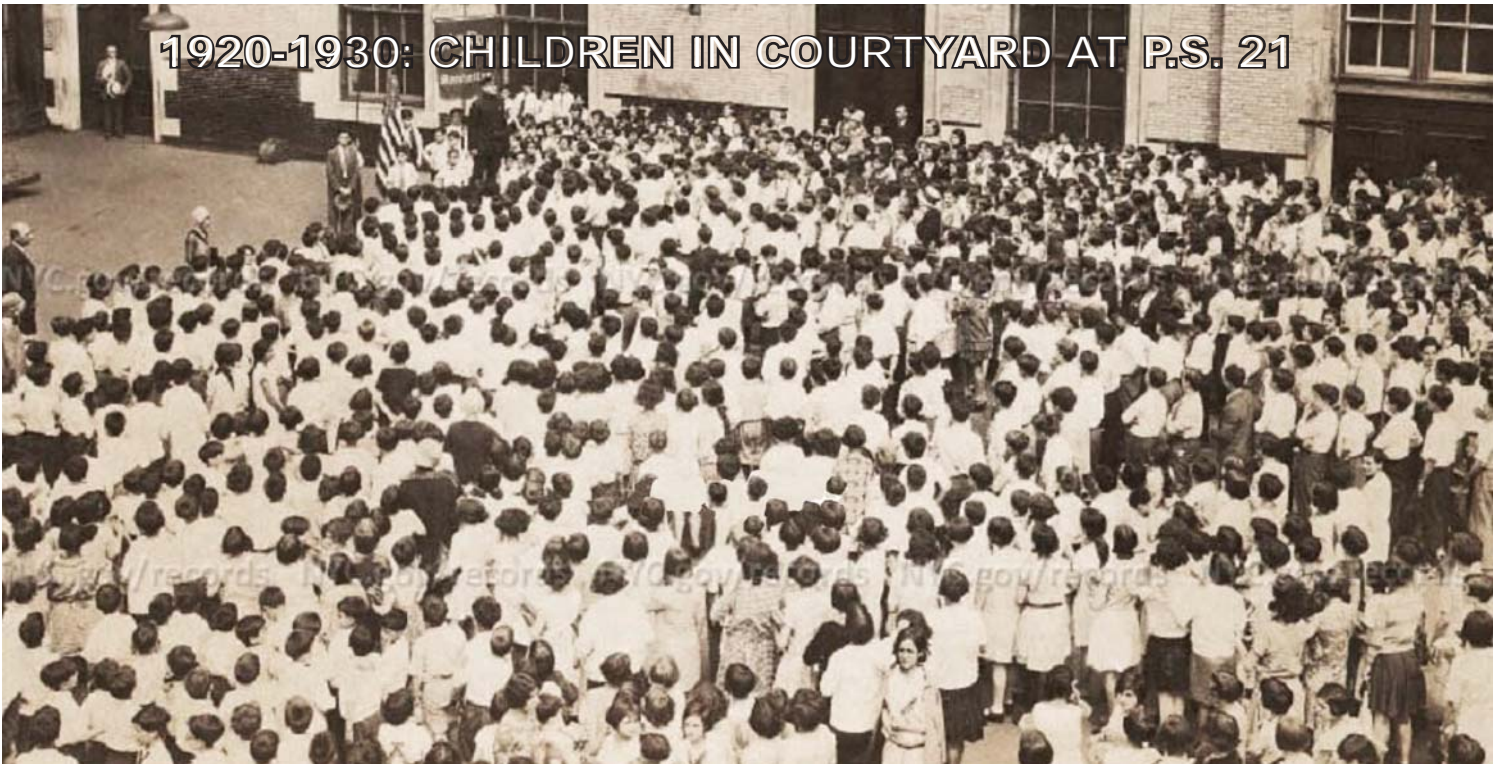
21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY CENTER

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





"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

OUR PROGRAMS

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.





"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







“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

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.





“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

HARVEST FESTIVAL

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	Kirill Babikov	Mallory Bergman	Jean D. Bonnet	Jane Patricia Calderon
Michelle Aboodi	Katalin Balog	Tobi Bergman	Aaron Booher	Ana Calvo
Melissa Adames	Katherina Balram	Filmon Berhane	Robert Boro	Scott Campbell
Jennifer Adler	David Barberis	Shahar Berman	Sarah Bowman	Garry Cardenas
Matthew Aidekman	Alejandra Barciela	Nicolas Bernardine	Mack Bradley	Julianna Casale
Osmund Allebery	Allison Barker	Antonio Biagi	Eileen Braun	Henry Casey
Merrilyn Anthony	Jim Barry	Elisabeth Bierschenik	Dave Bredesen	Liana Castillo
Elizabeth Anto	Laine Barton	Eli Bingham	Fred Brehm	Jay Cavanaugh
Malinda Appel	Cynthia Basinet	Francesca Biryukov	Chelsea Brigante	Christian Cedras
Peter Armstrong	Alex Baxter	Laura Biscotto	Yvonne Brooks	Isabel Chan
Waldemar Aspmann	Griffin Bealle	Jeff Blake	Casey Brown	Aditi Chandri
Demi Asvestas	Ashley Bell	Ryan Bloomquist	Isaac Brune	Cynthia Chapin
Steven Attema	Stephanie Bell	Sharon Blythe	Huy Bui	Janice Chia
Annabel Aucoin	Sofia Benitez	Aaiza Bokhari	Karen Bummele	Katherina Christ
Alia Avidan	John Benschoter	Emily Boland	E.A. Burlingame	Marco Ciocca
Kristi Avram	Natalie Bergh	Stephanie Bonadio	Katie Byrd	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



Victoria Clark	Kristin Dempsy	Laurie Fabiano	Sofia Garay	Namgyal Gurung
Kayla Clements	Kim Depole	Dave Fan	Chauncey Gardiner	Jaime Gutierrez
Gigi Clozeau	Dawn DeSantis	Mian Fan	Katie Garratt	Leslee Hackenson
Luci Codella	Bhav Dhanak	Rene Fan	Julia Gerard	Amy Haddad
LuAnne Codelo	Victor Di Leo	Peter Faroni	Mike Ginsburg	Elena Haliczar
Uli Beutter Cohen	Sebastian Diaz	Zoe Fedeles	Maria Giorgio	Alison Hall
Adele Colantono	Andrea Dibben	Daniel Ferfuson	Francia Giraldo	John Hammanz
Connor Cole	Alexandra DiBenedetto	Carly Fink	Kristin Glass	Sarah Han
Lisa Conigliaro	Nilesh Doctor	Alexandra Finnegan	Pablo Gnecco	Christopher D. Hannan
Luna Craemer	Patrick Drake	Jane Fisher	Rhett Godfrey	Greta Hartenstein
Nova Craemer	Danielle Drori	Laura Fong	Lisa Gold	Erum Hasnain
Terri Cude	Douglas Dunn	Erik Font	Ryan Goldberg	Emilie Hawtin
Nathan Dam	Hannah Jane Dunn	J.D. Forte	James Goldcrown	Jessica Haynor
Kelly Dash	Andres Duque	Teddy Foster	Michelle Golden	Christina Hedrick
Sumitra Daswani	Liv Durham	Leticia Freeney	Jennifer Gong	Allison Heim
Pete Davies	Minerva Durham	Naima Freitas	Elizabeth Gonzalez	Stephanie Heintzeler
Petrea Davis	Raquel Dutra	Josh Frost	Maggie Gordon	Emily Hellstrom
Ana De Portela	Jack Dylan	Cristina Gabriele	Patrice Green	Manuel Hemming
Hortense DeCastro	Sam Eisenberg	Maya Galbis	Renee Green	Jaime Heravi
Richard DeCesar	Robert Englebright	Claudia Galindo	C. Greg	Laura H.
Daniel del Gaizo	Lidia Etemadi	Bertha Gallardo	Tessa Grundon	Helen Hollyman



"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

Adrian Hopkins	Shika Kimura	Andy Manoff	Paris Morgan	Natalia Quintero
Townsend Horvath	Anita King	Adam Marca	Edwin Morris	Natalie Raben
Kayden Horwitz	Hannah King	Anthony Marchese	Kathleen Morris	Mila Radulovik
Kristina Hou	Natasha King	Megan Marchsihi	Orianna Morrison	Rich Rama
Crystal Hu	Poppy King	Harriett Marino	Kisha Murdaugh	Rajika Ramalingam
Linda Hu	Erin Ko	Jasper Marino	William Murphy	Marie Raubicheck
Kristin Huggins	Zuzanna Kozlowska	John Marino	Mike Namer	Bruce Rayvid
Elisabeth Hughes	Axel Kramer	Lyall Marino	Andrea Navino	Jacquelin Reed
Harper Hunt	Wendy Lai	Brittany Marom	Rosemary Newhardt	Jessica Reed
Melanie Ide	Kristen Lalka	Autumn Martin	Dana Ng	Zoe Reich
Lora Ingram	Rosario Lardiere	Joanie Martinez	Theresa Nguyen	Joseph Reiver
Perry Ironhill	Brie Larson	Vanessa Martinez	Victoria Nidweski	Juan Felipe Rendon
Graham Isaacs	Joanna Lau	Rob Mastrianni	Joan Nitek	Amanda Riha
Rachel Iseman	Olivia Lawther	Scott Matarese	Liz Norris	Erica Riha
Nathalie Jabbour	Vittoria Le Donne	Kim Matolova	Miranda Norris	Ana Rita
Amy Jackson	Jem Leah	Danielle Mayer	Todd Obolsky	Samantha Rivera
Raji Jagadeesan	Annie Lee	Jack Mayer	Deysj Ordonez	Maria Rizo-Vergara
Bert James	Eric Lee	Katie McArver	Laura Ornella	Alex Robbins
Caroline Jameson	Eunice Lee	Marshall McDonald	Felix Ortiz	Desi Rodriguez
Andrew Jannetti	Erin Lemkey	Dougal McKinley	Frank Osborn	Marina Romashko
David Jensen	Carol Leo	Colin McMillan	Ephraim Owairu	Jennifer Romine
Jamie Jensen	Elisabeth Lepine	Jameson McMillan	Art Owens	Diane Rosariz
Kazusa Jibiki	Beverly Leung	Jeffrey McMillan	Anne Palmer	Gene Rose
Anna Jones	Maria Leung	Ladd McQuade	Vicki Papadeas	Tope Rude
Genevieve Jones	Jen Lewis	Eric Menclora	Banks Pappas	David Rueger
Leigh Jones	Solina Lewis	Philip Mershon	Marie Patterson	Serra Sabuncuoglu
Jean Josse	Jason Li	Nicole Meyers	Jill Penrose	Scott Saiget
Danielle Josue	Mac Li	Dan Milas	Lexi Peters	Armen Salbashian
Kim Kalesti	Ai Hua Lin	Josh Milthorpe	Stephen Peyser	Anjali Salooja
Dan Karmel	Ashley Lin	Ashley Mims	Molly Phelps	Aaron Samuel
Shane Kasuga	Vincent Lo	Matthew Misbin	Baladine Pierce	Alicia Santana
Jennifer Keane	Zaimee Lucca	Shon Mogharabi	Carol Pierce	Felix Sargent
Jasmine Kharbanda	Carol Lynch	Abi Mohan	Eustale Pilgrim	Andrew Sarubbi
George Khouri	Gwen MacNamara	Jennifer Mok	Lindsey Piscitell	Rachel Schneider
Jeannine Kiely	Jelena Madunic	Elisa Monte	Virginia Pittaluga	Catherine Louise
Michelle Kiely	W. Magness	Suzanne Monto	Anthony Prince	Schubert
Kiwon Kim	Sarah Malachowsky	Consuelo Moralshvili	Beth Pupicell	Joseph Schufle



"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



Paggy Schwaitz	Allison Stubblebine	Mariella Tzakis	Nina Werman	Idil Yozici
June Schweichler	Brandi Su	Maya Ungar	Ben Wescoe	Zhiling Zhai
Sue Seemani	Laura Supnik	Arax Van Buren	Ella Weston	Matthew Zimmerman
MM Serra	Terri Suraci	J. Van Etten	Megan Whiteside	Orace Zimmerman
Sue Seto	Andrea Swan	Julian Vera	Charlie Wiggins	Wenji Zou
Nebraas Shahzad	Tatiana Sy	Raquel Vieth	Kim Williams	
Jonathan Shair	Emily Sykes	Icel Villarba	Morgan Williams	16 Handles
Shiman Shan	David Taylor	Luis Violante	Naomi Williams	Community Volunteers
Niranjana Shankar	Dary Thach	Laurent Visser	Susan Wittenberg	
Kristin Shea	Gill Thompson	Ray Voide	August Wojtkiewicz	P.S. 1 Penny Harvest
Lindsee Silverstein	Jan Thompson	Jill Volat	Janice Woo	Students
Vijay Singh	Alexandra Torres	Chloe Waddington	Henri Wuilloud	
Chuck Smith	Michael Torres	Susan Waldman	Kim Wurster	
Jeremy Smith	Bruce Torrey	Steph Wallman	Matt Yang	
Greg Solarz	Alexander Tovborg	Helen Walper	Larre Lap Yee	
Nicolas Son	Caroline Tran	Alexo Wandael	Tal Yellin	
Patricia Squillari	Stephanie Tricola	Cristine Wang	Justin Yi	
Cara Stefanacci	Suthasinee Tripanya	Nicole Watson	Jo Yohay	
Amy Stringwell	Amy Trombat	Toni Watson	Judy Young	
Ellie Strube	Elisabeth Tverrli	Bree Weber	Kristin Young	



"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

OUR SUPPORTERS

"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



Grant Funder

Citizens Committee for
New York City

Individual and Business Donors

Malinda Appel
Kristi Avram
Katalin Balog
Kent Barwick
Roger J. Baxter and
Daphne Baxter
Rick Bell
John Benscoter
Tobi Bergman
Katherine Bernstein
Antonio Biagi
William M. Boland
Aaron Booher
Monica Botkier

Marie Carney
Jeffrey Chabrowe
Seong Chun
and Nick Winter
Ellen Cornfield
and Arnold Margolin
Terri Cude
Peter Davies
Petrea Davis
Coral Dawson
Victor Dileo
Laura Dunphy
and Michael Erlinger
Lisa Friend
Robin Goldberg
Courtney Goldsmith
Renee Green
David Gruber
Duke Guillaume and
Heidi Gutman

Erum Hasnain
Anne P.M. Hearn
Emily Hellstrom
and John Marino
Laura Hoffmann
Meaghan Horton
Kayden Horwitz
Amy Jane Jackson
Kazusa Jibiki
Chiara Jovanovic
Gregory Kadel
Byron Kaplan
Jeannine Kiely
and Jeff McMillan
Poppy King
Amy Korpus
Amy Lakusiewicz
Larre Lap Yee
Georgina Leaf
Eunice Lee

Ann Levy
Ashley Lin
Barry Loewer
Michael Lora
Caroline Maher
Richard Matarese
Catherine McCabeq
and Gary Spindler
Julie A. McConnell
Daniel Miller
Donna M. Milrod
and Peter Feeney
Abirami Mohan
Daniel and
Brooke Neidich
New York Adorned
Rosemary Newhardt
The Nolitan Hotel
Anne Palmer
Fabrice Penot

Dan Rafalin
Jonathan C. Raleigh
Bruce Rayvid
and Karyn Margolis
Allan Reiver
Bo Riccobono
Rachel Schneider
and Ben Marks
Charles Schueler
Eric Shen
Lindsee Silverstein
Angela Stefatos
Amy Stroud
Beth Swofford
Margaret Tansey
Lora Tenenbaum
Judson Traphagen
Natalia Valencia
Valley
Karen Watson



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

P.S. 1 Common Cents
 Penny Harvest

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

Peasant
 Pomodoro Pizza
 Prince Street Pizza
 PUBLIC
 Rubirosa Ristorante
 Sakara Life
 Siggys 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

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

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

"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

Jane Carver	J Pasila
Emmy Cathedral	Janet Passehl
Micah Chervin	Michele Quan
Greg Colson	Raha Raissnia
Caroline Copeland	Tamara Riewe
and Friends	Elke Rindfleisch
Cornfield Dance	Robert Walser Society of
Siobhan Davies	Western Massachusetts
and David Hinton	Andrea Robbins and
Mina Pam Dick	Max Becher
Peter Downsborough	Michelle Rosenberg
Satoru Eguchi	Dave Ross
Joy Episalla	Martin Roth
David Fenn	Antonio Rovaldi
Alec Finlay	Lauren Ruff & Friends
Aileen Frankel	Ben Russell
Molly Gallagher and Friends	Ethan Ryman
Kylie Gilchrist	Serra Sabuncuoglu
Laura Gragtmans	Kazumi Sakurai
Jason Harrod	Damion Searls
Elana Herzog	Martin Seck
Hess Is More	Carol Szymanski
Lanny Jordan Jackson	Shaeera Tariq and
Corinne Jones	Justin Dean Thomas with
Just Another Folk Singer	Brandon Collins
Kim Kalesti	Alexandra Tatarsky
Alison Knowles	Rachel Devorah Trapp
Eric Leva	Elizabeth Tubergen
Ruth Liberman	Masha Tupitsyn
Tim Maul	Merrill Wagner
Panagiotis Mavridis	Dana Ward
Paul McMahon	Carrie Yamaoka
Sebastian Mekas	
Jeremy Millar	
Kazuko Miyamoto	
Linda Montano	
Dalius Naujokaitis	
Jill O'Bryan	

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
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	\$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
<hr/>	
	\$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](https://www.facebook.com/ElizabethStreetGarden)
[Twitter.com/ElizabethStGrdn](https://twitter.com/ElizabethStGrdn)
[Instagram.com/ElizabethStGrdn](https://www.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

elizabethstreetgarden.org