



**GROW
GREATER
ENGLEWOOD**

YEAR IN REVIEW 2021

GROW GREATER ENGLEWOOD

Since 2020, so much has happened with Grow Greater Englewood and with our neighbors, city, and country. It's almost like we have been reconfigured and in fact, we have. We have lost so many in the last couple of years, and that impact is real and still being felt. But with the losses, there have also been gains.

2021 was such a pivotal year for my growth as a servant and builder – and I am really focusing on what contribution I can bring to our community moving forward. The effort and the work that is needed to Build, Connect and Protect our people is no singular effort – it never was and it never will be.

Working via a mycelium of organizations, families, and groups, Grow Greater Englewood has been able to expand to provide more support and to respond to the needs of the community. We have added some brilliant minds and practitioners to our staff, helping us create an even stronger vision and narrative to the organization.

We will continue to find ways to improve the wealth of our community, which is ultimately, our health. Specifically the health of our environment and access to more locally-produced foods.

What does it mean when we design, build, and create beautiful Black spaces? That is our focus – to connect more Black folks back to the land. Englewood and West Englewood are legacy Black communities with a vibrant network of committed residents and families. There are some exciting and many overdue improvements that are being led by those grounded in the legacy of Englewood and Black Chicago.

Here is a look back and a Spring forward!

L. Anton Seals, Lead Steward

**BUILD
CONNECT
PROTECT**

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ENGLEWOOD VILLAGE FARMS (EVF)

EVF is growing a local food system that further builds Black and Brown farms, producers, and a range of food-related businesses across the 59th Street corridor.

2021 highlights include:

- Created EVF branding
- Completed 58th and Ada and 59th and May farm sites
- Activated and implemented soft programming of the Englewood Community Garden
- Developed partnership with GGE and Urban Growers Collective for the 58th and Halsted Community Learning Garden
- Developed agreement of shared space for 58th and Ada between Your Bountiful Harvest and Sistas in the Village farms




**ENGLEWOOD
VILLAGE
FARMS**



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BACKYARD GARDENS (BYG)

BYG works to create more community sustained green spaces that provide Englewood residents access to organic produce, medicinal herbs and flowers, and nurture the development of a worker-owned garden installation and landscaping business.

2021 highlights include:

- Engaged 32 Englewood residents to build and maintain self-sufficient backyard gardens
- Acquired materials and tools to support the development of self-sustaining infrastructure
- Completed pilot youth internship program to create a pipeline that connects young people to environmentally conscious training and community-based opportunities
- Began the formation of Earthseed to provide skilled services by Black and Brown land stewards who have consolidated experiences, knowledge and resources to build a collective capacity to offer landscaping and beautification for the land, people, pollinators and ecosystem





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ENGLEWOOD NATURE TRAIL (ENT)

ENT is transforming a vacated rail corridor into a naturalized space for residents to enjoy and use to connect deeper with nature. The Trail will also serve as a connector between Englewood's growing network of urban farms and gardens to strengthen local food access, health and wellness, and employment within the neighborhood.

2021 highlights include:

- Partnered with The Smith Group for trail consulting on designs, budgets, and implementation
- Formed BrainTrust group of community partners and stakeholders to develop community engagement strategies
- Continued conversations with COC Department of Planning and Development to formalize a community partnership scope and secure funding
- Hosted community bird walk event in partnership with Environmentalists of Color and Chicago Audubon
- Hosted two community foraging and plant identification walks with Brown People Foundation

ENGLEWOOD NATURE TRAIL



ALL POWER TO ALL PEOPLE PRESENTED BY KINDRED ARTS

ALL POWER TO ALL PEOPLE





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ENGLEWOOD VILLAGE MARKET (EVM)


The EVM provides a weekly summer market space to connect residents to fresh locally-grown produce, food and drinks, accessories, DJs, bands, and resources to create community camaraderie and exposure for local Black-owned businesses. All of these activities are rooted in Black culinary and land traditions that are at the core of the community and highlight the dynamism of Englewood's culture.


2021 highlights Include:

- Engaged an average of 150 visits per market, with an influx of new visitors in late August into September
- Created space for approximately 10 Chicago-based businesses per week
- Connected residents with community resources including COVID prevention and testing information, masks, hand sanitizer and school supplies
- Curated live performances by local DJs, bands, dance troupes, and seasonal children's activities and games



 Russet Potatoes
2 for \$1.00

 Sweet Potato
2 for \$1.00

 New Leaf
Celery
2 for \$2.00

 Yellow
2 for \$1.00



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ENGLEWOOD VILLAGE PLAZA (EVP)

As the main entry point to the Englewood Nature Trail and Englewood Village Market, the Plaza is being developed as an activity hub for the community. Its dynamic design provides a unique opportunity for community-driven tactical urbanism and place keeping. The plaza serves as an innovation space for other vacant lots to advance cultural and environmental sustainability, highlighting and reflecting the rich contribution of Black culture to Chicago.

2021 highlights Include:

- Completed site remediation
- Received Right of Entry from COC Department of Planning and Development
- Housed All Power To All People art installation by Hank Willis Thomas and facilitated community programming around the piece
- Completed Phase 1 of the Chicago Architecture Biennial in partnership with Atelier Bow Wow, Made in Englewood, and PAC Leaders, creating a demonstration garden and a community gathering plaza
- Continued and expanded the Englewood Village Market





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ENGLEWOOD COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (ECLT)

ECLT works to remove land from the speculative market and put it into the hands of the community to ensure permanent affordability and use in urban farms, open space, commercial spaces, and other community assets.

2021 highlights Include:

- Commenced build-out and launch of the ECLT
- Began building ECLT advisory committee, who will then become ECLT's first board members
- Commenced work around 3 priority community engagement/advocacy opportunities: 1) CLT 101 education and capacity building; 2) tax assessments, tax sales, and tax delinquency emergency relief fund; and 3) public safety efforts, including beautification and place keeping



MADE IN Englewood



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ENGLEWOOD FOOD SOVEREIGNTY NETWORK (EFSN)

EFSN is building a network of collective of partners committed to creating a local sovereign food system for Black and Brown people. This network connects local Black and Brown South Side and Greater Englewood restaurants using ingredients sourced from local Black and Brown farmers with a hyper-local delivery model to supply healthy food and meals to Englewood area residents.

2021 Highlights Include:

- Initiated the development of Eat pHresh Chi app, laying the groundwork for a virtual hub that supports a hyper-local fresh food economy
- Resourced local produce from growers to use in meals prepared for the community
- Engaged three small Englewood food service businesses in producing 600 meals distributed to the Greater Englewood community
- Recruited two "Block Stewards" – members of the Greater Englewood community that help bridge the gap between community services and resources and the most vulnerable in the community

PHENTHRESH

