

August 11, 2014

**Design Advisory Committee Application
for
Arthur Ashe Oak Park Edible Schoolyard Gardens**

The Arthur Ashe Oak Park Edible Schoolyard Gardens plans to improve the existing gardens and orchard on ½ acre of Oak Park with a series of community-oriented edible garden spaces, including a greenhouse, expanded annual vegetable and flower production beds, expanded orchard area, and an open-air pavilion.

This project will further develop the existing garden and recreational uses of this space that have been shared between the school and the public since 2012. In 2013, Arthur Ashe/ FirstLine Schools and Oak Park/ NORD entered a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) anticipating the vision for this space. This CEA is currently being modified to more specifically assign responsibilities for maintenance and insurance to Arthur Ashe/FirstLine Schools based on the proposed structures. The document will ensure this development is cared for as well as any other part of our school grounds.

Unique among other community and school gardens, these gardens will also benefit from the physical, financial, and programmatic resources of Edible Schoolyard New Orleans, one of the nation's most extensive and sophisticated school garden networks.

Founded in 2006, Edible Schoolyard New Orleans (ESYNOLA) changes the way children eat, learn, and live at five FirstLine public charter schools in New Orleans. Our mission is to improve the long-term well being of our students, families, and school community, by integrating hands-on organic gardening and seasonal cooking into the school curriculum, culture, and cafeteria programs.

ESYNOLA involves students and the school community in growing, harvesting, preparing and enjoying food together as a means of awakening their senses, cultivating an environment that promotes a sense of pride and responsibility for our land and natural resources, and developing a love of fresh, seasonal foods. ESYNOLA is a signature program of FirstLine Schools, a network of five public, open-enrollment charter schools in New Orleans.

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A Signature Program of FirstLine Schools

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