

UAWG Meeting Notes - December 2025

Location: Crown Community Garden

Participants:

Name	Garden/Farm	Neighborhood
Imani Miller	Imbue Farms	Algiers
Earline Osborne	Home garden	East
Pamela Broom	FARMacia Wellness Hub	7th Ward
Ben Collongues	Imagination Farm	St. Roch/Gentilly
Kim Curtis	Crown Community Garden	East
Jeanette Bell	Fleur D'Eden	Central City
Michael Richard II	Recirculating Farms	Central City
Jackie Baham	Robertson Royal Farmland	East
Keely Lewis	Institute of Utopian Hospitality	Central City
Jenna Vagts-Galindo	Imagination Farm	St. Roch/Gentilly
Maddiy Garn	VEGGI Farmers' Coop	East

Welcome

- Crown Community Garden in New Orleans East - it has been around for 11 years!
- Last Urban Agriculture Working Group meeting of the year
- Celebrating our wins!

Celebrating 2025 Urban Agriculture Wins:

- The Urban Agriculture Liaison position getting in motion!
- More growers getting Agricultural Water Meters and accounts resolved
- Water Access Guide (<https://nola.gov/wateraccess>)
- Veggi Farmers' Cooperative getting connected with SWBNO to get removed water hyacinth delivered to farm to use as mulch (doesn't regenerate on land!)
- March: Urban Agriculture Working Group launching
- October: Cover Crop Ordinance passed!
- August: 'Regenerative Garden In Progress' yard signs printed and distributed
- August and October: Trainings with Code Enforcement to ensure cover crop ordinance implementation
- October: On Farm Water Access Event with Sprout and SWBNO
- June: Animal Husbandry Working Group

- Funding for the city's first Urban Agriculture & Food Plan!
- Imagination Farm was able to buy an adjacent piece of land and expand by about one third!
- National Black Food & Justice Alliance to host annual convening in New Orleans in 2026. FARMacia Wellness Hub will host a dinner!
- Fleur D'Eden finally received the [Use Value Assessment](#) and a property tax reduction (after 22 years) for agricultural use!
 - Links: [Assessor's Website](#), [Application for Use Value Assessment](#)
- Imbue Farms was able to purchase land (5 acres) in Algiers this year! They received a USDA farm loan to purchase and develop it.
- Imagination Farm got chickens!
- VEGGI Farmers' Cooperative
 - Built a cold storage unit behind their office last week (near the farm). Will get electricity in early 2026 so that they can have cold storage nearby.
 - Collaborated with Footprint Project this year to get solar panels installed on the farm with ability to install refrigerators, a dehydrator for value-added products, and have off grid electricity.

Suggestions and Goals for 2026:

- **Proposed meeting structure**
 - Organize into neighborhood groups (Central City, East, Lower 9, etc...)
 - Have (at least) one representative from each neighborhood group at the quarterly UAWG meetings
 - They report back to their neighborhoods to ensure everyone is kept up to date and can participate in some way
- **Formalizing the UAWG**
 - Our goal is to become an official Advisory Committee to the Council in 2026 (either by Executive Order from the Mayor or City Council Ordinance)
 - This will offer some more legitimacy and protection to this work moving forward
- **Goals and Ideas**
 - Develop a land access program to make land affordable to growers for farms and gardens.
 - Increase community composting and work towards a citywide mulching effort
 - Push for city to plant more edible trees
 - Network of community gardens and farms with alternating (fun!) volunteer days and cookouts - to lend labor to gardens in different neighbors
 - Compile list of grants and resources available for farms and gardens
 - Urban Agriculture Ordinance! Getting the city to promote urban agriculture by updating the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) and City Code