

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 Garden | 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