

# UIC Heritage Garden Internship Program

## Summer 2017 SYLLABUS

### 12 weeks Program

Monday, May 15 – Friday, August 11, 2017

(Week off: July 3 - July 7)

### Schedule

Monday-Friday from 9am – 1pm

### Program Supervisor

Rosa M. Cabrera, Latino Cultural Center

[cabrerar@uic.edu](mailto:cabrerar@uic.edu) 312-996-0312 Office

### Program Instructors

Staff from the African-American Cultural Center, Asian American Resource and Cultural Center, Gender and Sexuality Center, Latino Cultural Center, and Women's Leadership and Resource Center.



### Interns and Leaders

**Britany Davis**- *Leader*,

**Onyedikachi Ebiringah**- *Intern*,

**Giovanni Angel Garcia**- *Intern*,

**Nour Ghalyoun**- *Intern*,

**Sarah Hernandez**- *Senior Leader*,

**Tran Huynh**- *Senior Leader*,

**Samar Khrawish**- *Leader*,

**Ana Isabel Ruiz Perez**- *Intern*,

**Alex Smith**- *Intern*,

**Jonathan Villaseñor**- *Leader*,

***How do people see themselves playing a role in creating a sustainable future that benefits both people and nature? What can an urban, public university like the University of Illinois - Chicago do to help people make this connection and build leadership among its students to carry out and sustain such efforts?*** People in cities like Chicago and urban public universities like UIC are directly implicated in regional and campus climate plans. Diverse campus and community groups can work together to reduce a number of environmental stresses and create a more livable and resilient city.

### Internship Description

The UIC Heritage Garden is a hands-on learning project where students work with faculty, staff and community members to connect horticulture with environmental sustainability, cultural diversity and social justice. The project's student leaders and interns oversee the planting of eight satellite gardens on the east side of campus. Paid internships are funded by the UIC Sustainability Fee. The seven Centers for

Cultural Understanding and Social Change<sup>1</sup> collaborate in this project with program infrastructure provided by the Latino Cultural Center.

**The goal of the internship program is to provide interns with engaged learning activities that can help them explore sustainability from a cultural and environmental lens.**

**During the Summer 2017 we will accomplish this goal** through educational and professional capacity-building activities including:

- **Intellectual Framework Discussion**- Interns will participate in an orientation discussion about the project intellectual framework rooted on cultural diversity and environmental and climate justice.
- **Hands on Horticulture** – Interns will engage in daily garden work in the satellite sites.
- **Field Days**- Interns will participate in facilitated site tours of community gardens and environmental resources.
- **Field Museum Engagement** - Interns will participate – once a week for eight weeks - in various cultural and environmental activities led by Field Museum scientists.
- **Special Projects**- Interns will complete the following projects:
  - Develop garden tours and marketing strategies (weeks 1-4);
  - Create garden signs (weeks 5-8); and
  - Develop one educational tool for native plants in the garden (weeks 9-12).

**Note:** Additional tasks might be assigned if needed.

### **Interns Responsibilities**

**Assignments:** Interns must complete all program assignments as indicated in the schedule.

**Mutual Respect:** Interns must respect their own and their fellow interns' investment in the program by refraining from distracting behaviors during program activities including arriving late, leaving early, and using cell phones.

### **Internship Stipend and Attendance:**

- Interns will receive a stipend based on the summer program weekly hours (20 hrs per wk x 12 wks). They will receive additional compensation for Sat. June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Payments will be made every two weeks throughout the duration of the internship. The week off is non-paid.
- Interns will be responsible to fill out time sheets.
- Interns will also need to sign in and out in the "sign in" binder at the LCC office.
- Interns are expected to attend all sessions on time and stay for the entire duration of their sessions.

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change: African-American Cultural Center; Arab American Cultural Center; Asian American Resource and Cultural Center; Disability Resource Center; Gender and Sexuality Center; Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center; and Women's Leadership and Resource Center.

- **Interns who are consistently absent and or late (more than three times per month) will be removed from the internship.** Absences due to illness or family emergencies will be considered with proper notice to the program supervisor.
- **There will be no make-up time for missing sessions.** This will be reconsidered if the absence was due to an illness or a family emergency and proper notice given. However, interns will not be able to make up more than 8 hours during the entire internship regardless of the reasons for being absent.
- In case of an emergency, interns should text a message to one of the leaders by 9am.

**The program supervisor reserves the right to terminate interns that do not comply with the above responsibilities. If this occurs, stipend payment will end concurrently.**

**Working Spaces Protocol:** Interns are responsible to maintain their working spaces clean and organized at all times. This includes the LCC office desks, gardening tools and kitchen closets, gallery, lobby, and any other spaces that they use in the cultural centers.

### **Program Intellectual Framework**

Between 2009-2011, CCUSC directors Cabrera and Baptista conducted participatory action research commissioned by the City of Chicago under the auspices of The Field Museum's Department of Environment, Culture and Conservation to identify effective strategies for engaging members of Chicago's diverse communities in the Chicago Climate Action Plan (CCAP) and the Climate Action Plan for Nature (CAPN).

The following are five key takeaway points from the research:

- 1- While the majority of residents are aware of and care about global climate change, many do not connect it to their everyday lives in Chicago.
- 2- The cultural and social backgrounds of residents play large roles in shaping their attitudes and beliefs about climate change, nature, and the environment.
- 3- Most residents already engage in a range of green practices in their daily lives, from the mainstream to the creative and community-specific.
- 4- Climate action programs will likely be most successful if they are designed and implemented with networks of trusted community organizations and leaders, build on cultural values, and identity and scale up existing positive behaviors.
- 5- Most communities are interested in adopting climate action programs that provide recognizable, community-level co-benefits, including but also beyond cost savings.

The research identified a number of important community concerns that could serve as springboard for developing strategies for community involvement in climate action such as economic development/jobs, immigration, health/food, neighborhood beautification, public space, housing, youth development, transportation, nature/environment, crime and safety, and heritage (ethnic, cultural, community, linguistics, etc).<sup>2</sup> Gardening and urban agriculture in Chicago have been deployed to address community concerns and help minimize the impact of climate change.

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<sup>2</sup> The Field Museum, ECCo, 2011.

## UIC Heritage Garden Summer 2017 Projects

9am – 11am will be dedicated to gardening

11am – 11:30 lunch

11:30am – 1pm will be dedicated to complete three special projects – See below  
See Summer Schedule for details and additional activities.

### First Session – Weeks 1-4 (May 15- June 9) LCC

- Tours Development and Marketing
  - Develop/revise tour scripts for general UICHG, Monarch Site, and Social Pollinators
  - Train all interns to give the tours
  - Develop marketing strategies and update website with this information
  - Offer 2 tryout tours for CCUSC staff during this period
- Field Museum project
  - Interns will be working at The Field Museum (all Wednesdays). Rosa or Lena will go to FM with interns.

### Second Session – Weeks 5-8 (June 12 – July 14 with week of July 3 off) GSC and WLRC

- Garden Signs and Stories
  - Collect stories from new interns
  - Create plant signs based on list (SH & TH will make list)
  - Develop & create at least one story sign per satellite
    - The stories should cover a variety of topics, cultures, and plants
- Field Museum project
  - Interns will be working at The Field Museum (all Wednesdays). Rosa (and possibly staff from GSC and WLRC) will go to FM with interns.

### Third Session – Weeks 9-12 (July 17 – August 11) AARCC and AACC

- Native Plants – *Shikaakwa* Site
  - Review current research with new interns
  - Develop and complete one creative educational tool based on the research (examples: Zine, Scrapbook, or Newsletter)
  - Add this information to website
- Two or three field trips

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## POTENTIAL FIELD TRIPS

- *Sacredkeepers garden*
- *Benton House*
- *Altgeld Gardens*
- *Semillas de Justicia garden*
- Burnham wildlife corridor with the Chicago Park District
- Sweet water foundation – aquaponics site
- Chicago botanic garden