

# UIC Heritage Garden Internship Program

## Summer 2018 SYLLABUS

11/12 weeks Summer Program

Monday, May 21 – Friday, August 17 (Leaders)

Tuesday, May 29 – Friday, August 17 (Interns)

Week off: July 2 - July 6

### Schedule

Monday-Friday

LEADERS: 9am – 2pm

INTERNS: 10am – 2pm

### Program Supervisor

Rosa M. Cabrera, PhD

Director, 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.



### Leaders and Interns

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

**Jonathan Villaseñor**- *Senior Leader,*

**Samar Khrawish**- *Senior Leader,*

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

**Nour Ghalyoun**- *Leader,*

**Alex Smith**- *Leader,*

**Kayla Toulabi**- *Intern,*

**Abigail Olsen**- *Intern,*

**Mechiya Jamison**- *Intern,*

**Zuleyma Morales**- *Intern,*

**Umair Naseem**- *Intern,*

**Edith Mendez**- *Photography and Media Intern,*

***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 (CCUSC)<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 2018 we will accomplish this goal** through educational and professional capacity-building activities including:

- **Intellectual Framework Discussion**- Interns will participate in an orientation discussion during the first week 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.
- **CCUSC Curriculum**- Interns will work with the CCUSC (see last page of syllabus for schedule) on center specific educational activities to explore:
  - The relationship between nature and the human experience through the lens of diet, culture, and community relations incorporating various local African American resources that are working on environmental and cultural sustainability issues. Led by the African-American Cultural Center (AACC).
  - Asian American environmental/climate justice from a local (Chicago/U.S.A.) to a global perspective to see the impact of climate change in these communities and what they are doing to create sustainable practices. Led by the Asian American Resource and Cultural Center (AARCC).
  - The ways in which queer people, tribes, and communities have used spirituality as a way to connect to nature and live authentically through the lens of multiple identities, including *Two-Spirit and Radical Faeries*. Led by the Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC).
  - Natural healing and art practices in Latinx and indigenous communities used to strengthen cultural identity, heal trauma, and foster *just and sustainable* living. Led by the Latino Cultural Center (LCC).
  - Feminist critique of environmental justice as a lens to gain and deepen knowledge of women of color's contributions to community gardens and sustainable living in Chicago and beyond. Led by the Women's Leadership and Resource Center (WLRC).

---

<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 Cultural Center; Gender and Sexuality Center; Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center; and Women's Leadership and Resource Center.

- **Field Museum Engagement**- Interns will participate (once a week on Wednesdays) in various cultural and environmental activities led by Field Museum scientists.

- **Field Days**- Interns will participate in facilitated site tours of community gardens and environmental resources.

**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 11 wks). 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 are expected to attend all sessions on time and stay for the entire duration of their sessions.
- **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 by 10am to the leader they are working with that week.

**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 as 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.

---

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

## Summer 2018 UIC Heritage Garden Schedule

	Week 1: May 21-25 (For Leaders only)					Week 2: May 29 – June 1 (New cohort starts)				
9am-10am Leaders only	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
10am-12 noon Gardening						Holiday				
Noon-12:30 Lunch										
12:30 -2pm At LCC										

	Week 3: June 4 - 8					Week 4: June 11 - 15				
9am-10am Leaders only	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
10am-12 noon Gardening			At Field Museum 10am- 2pm					At Field Museum 10am- 2pm		
Noon-12:30 Lunch										
12:30 -2pm At AARCC										

	Week 5: June 18 - 22					Week 6: June 25 - 29				
9am-10am Leaders only	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
10am-12 noon Gardening			At Field Museum 10am- 2pm					At Field Museum 10am- 2pm		
Noon-12:30 Lunch										
12:30 -2pm At WLRC										

### Week OFF July 2 – 6

	Week 7: July 9 - 13					Week 8: July 16 - 20				
9am-10am Leaders only	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
10am-12 noon Gardening			At Field Museum 10am- 2pm					At Field Museum 10am- 2pm		
Noon-12:30 Lunch										
12:30 -2pm At AACC										

	Week 9: July 23 - 27					Week 10: July 30 – August 3				
9am-10am Leaders only	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
10am-12 noon Gardening			At Field Museum 10am- 2pm					At Field Museum 10am- 2pm		
Noon-12:30 Lunch										
12:30 -2pm At GSC										

	Week 11: August 6 - 10					Week 12: August 13 - 17				
9am-10am Leaders only	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
10am-12 noon Gardening			At Field Museum 10am- 2pm							
Noon-12:30 Lunch										
12:30 -2pm At LCC										