



**Civic Garden Center
2715 Reading Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45206
www.civiggardencenter.org**

Organization history:

The Civic Garden Center (CGC) was officially opened in November of 1942 and from its inception offered classes and solutions to gardening problems for anyone in the Tri-state area who wanted to learn about and promote horticulture. In 1949, Cincinnati philanthropist, Cornelius J. Hauck Sr., presented the CGC with a parcel of his beautiful 'Sooty Acres' estate, upon which was built a home for the horticultural library and demonstration space for classes - a permanent home for the CGC. The eight acres that currently make up the Hauck Botanic Garden were given to the Cincinnati Park Board as a bequest from Mr. Hauck. Today, they work closely with Cincinnati Parks to maintain the unique collection of trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials and spring bulbs, as an educational resource and hands-on learning lab. CGC serves Greater Cincinnati, including northern Kentucky and eastern Indiana

Organization Mission:

The Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati builds community through gardening, education, and environmental stewardship.

Current Programming:

Annually over 1,500 people attend classes at the Civic Garden Center. The Hoffman Library houses over 2,500 volumes and is one of only three horticultural lending libraries in the state. Currently over 40 Neighborhood Gardens are maintained in 23 communities in and around Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, serving over 1,500 gardeners. Every year, summer programming designed to pass on the love of gardening and care for the environment to our next generation involves over 350 children for more than 1,400 contact hours. Last year, over 130 children from some of the more impoverished neighborhoods around the city were part of newly formed Afterschool Garden Clubs. More than 400 children learned the benefits of composting through the Compost Kids school field trips co-sponsored with the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services.

SVP and the Civic Garden Center:

Now in our second year with the Civic Garden Center, SVP partners are enjoying the deepening relationship with this wonderful organization. Year one of the partnership between SVP Cincinnati and the Civic Garden Center (CGC) was exhilarating, productive, eye-opening and fun. The SVP team and CGC staff met in the summer of '08 and got to work very quickly. Upon getting acquainted with the CGC and the Green Learning Station Project, SVP's first recommendation was that the CGC write a business plan as a means for sponsorship presentations and creating a greater impact with potential business investors. To begin that process, the CGC needed to go through strategic planning, as they had been operating from the same plan for about 8 years. The partners guided and participated in the very rewarding strategic planning process. Simultaneously, one of the partners discovered information about another organization planning to complete a very similar project, whose funding was already in place. The timing couldn't have been better – to make the discovery during the strategic planning process and with the support of SVP, the CGC was able to turn what could have been the end of the project into a very exciting opportunity. With a more clearly defined mission and vision, GLS was adjusted to more closely reflect the CGC's mission and the original intent of the project. There clearly

would have been a much different outcome had it not been for the SVP partners. The second half of the first year together has seen the first steps of implementation of the strategic plan:

In addition to work on the GLS, SVP partners helped in many other areas of the operation. Their efforts have done much to strengthen the Civic Garden Center's infrastructure. Some examples of SVP assistance include:

- Provided advice and support as the CGC faced a contract dispute
- Provided advice and support in board development
- Acted as a sounding board for the Executive Director
- Brought a professional business perspective to discussions
- Talked through ideas like a school garden program/garden angels with staff to help formulate concepts for discussions

Year Two holds a great deal of excitement for all of us, as GLS moves beyond the concept stage. SVP partners continue to be involved in seeing the project through to the grand opening. Specifically, in year 2 the CGC will need the continued project management support, fundraising and marketing support, and additional marketing support from the current team of SVP members and BFF's of SVP members.

To visit the Civic Garden Center's website, go to <http://www.civicgardencenter.org/>.