



## Flavors of Fall Update



We have decided to cancel our October 2<sup>nd</sup> Flavors of Fall. While disappointed that we won't be able to host you at the Farm this fall, we'll be holding our annual auction virtually and invite you to take part! We've got some fun items, including tickets, unique art, food and wine, and a special package from Great Kids Farm. You can find the [auction preview here](#) or use this QR code.

The auction will be live from Noon on September 15<sup>th</sup> through 5pm on Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>! Join us as we raise funds to support the farm-to-school programming for Baltimore City Public School students here at Great Kids Farm!

Thanks so much for your interest in and support of Friends of Great Kids Farm and the programming we fund!

Visit us online!

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## Programming Update

*By Laura Genello,  
Farm to School Specialist*

Baltimore City Public Schools welcomed students back into classrooms on August 30th for the



academic year, and we have been busy filling the farm calendar with fall farm-to-school events.

This year we're expanding our program offerings to provide farm-to-school experiences for students both on the farm and in their classrooms (through [in-person lessons, ag-tivity kits, or virtual programming](#)). We're excited to host students for our [first in-person field trips](#) starting in mid-September.

Teachers of grades K through 5 can bring their students to Great Kids Farm for one of five curriculum-aligned learning journeys on topics including plants, animals, healthy eating, trails & stream, and a kindergarten experience. Older students in grades 6 through 8 can participate in one of our summits, request an "Ag-tivity" kit for their classroom, or join us for a virtual FaceTime the Farmer session. We'll also bring the farm to the school to offer an in-person program on animals, plants, or cooking for any age group.

Our high school student interns finished out their final week of summer work recently by completing new raised beds that will serve as school garden demonstration beds on the farm. In the process, they learned how to measure twice (or three times!), how to use a miter saw, and even how to get a little creative with bed shapes.

In our fields, watermelons and peppers are ripening, and we're harvesting produce to be used during tastings for field trips and in-school visits. Meanwhile the greenhouse is filled with trays of pollinator plants and fall greens that will be distributed to school gardens.

We're looking forward to the arrival of the first bus of students in just a few short weeks!



## Farmer's Notes

*By James Koval, Farm Manager*

Despite the never-ending heat, the interns accomplished an assortment of tasks and projects on the farm this summer. There were two major ones that we completed just before the kids had to return to school. The first was running an underground water line from the spigot on the greenhouse out to the



tunnels and the barn. Since we do not have working plumbing in the barn, we must drag hoses out to fill poultry waterers and buckets. Then, when it is time to mow, we need to roll them back up. As you could imagine, this gets old fast. After a couple days of digging, we now have a valve at each tunnel head and a faucet by the barn. So much more convenient!

We also worked on replacing the old and collapsing raised beds. We cleared the space, added fresh wood chips to all the pathways, and then got to work on construction. All the interns got to use the miter saw for cutting and their drills for assembly. We had a wonderful assembly line going. Once we got all the rectangular beds built and in place, we got a little fancy and started building some hexagon shaped beds. These were a fun design to learn how to figure out different angles for both cutting and drilling. You can bid on one of these garden bed sets in the

[Friends' virtual auction](#) beginning September 15th!

I had such an awesome summer with our high school interns. We got so much completed, and I think they learned a couple things along the way too. I am going to miss having them around every day.



## Board Member Spotlights



### TIANA COLL

Senior Portfolio Analyst at [NeighborWorks Capital](#)

**Why do you support the farm?** I've seen firsthand how interested children are in nature: plants, bugs, animals, etc. They're full of curiosity and excitement that creates the perfect opportunity to also connect those experiences to healthy food choices and the joy and peace of connecting to the environment. I hope to do what I can to support the incredible Farm staff as they continue to create and deliver learning opportunities for Baltimore City Public School students.

**What is something you are passionate about?** I am passionate about all things in the animal world and love to learn and study behavior of our furry, feathered, or insect friends.

### CYRUS GREEN

Business Continuity Manager at

T. Rowe Price

**Why do you support the farm?** I joined the board 2 years ago before my son was a rising 2<sup>nd</sup> grader. I loved that the farm wanted to provide every Baltimore City 2<sup>nd</sup> grader a chance to learn sustainable farming and eating. This is so important to start these habits early in your lifetime.

**How else are you involved in the community?** I am also the president of the board of the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy. The mission of the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy is to educate and mobilize people and resources to preserve and restore the lands and waterways of the Gunpowder watershed.

**More about Cyrus:** I enjoy kayaking, hiking, and I am a life long learner.



## Resource Corner for Parents & Teachers

### PROGRAM & RESOURCES FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

All the Farm's offerings have been updated for the new school year! You can check them out [HERE](#).

*For more information about educational resources, please reach out to our farm to school specialists at [farms@bcps.k12.md.us](mailto:farms@bcps.k12.md.us) or visit our [website](#) for the most up-to-date information. And be sure to follow us on social media!*

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