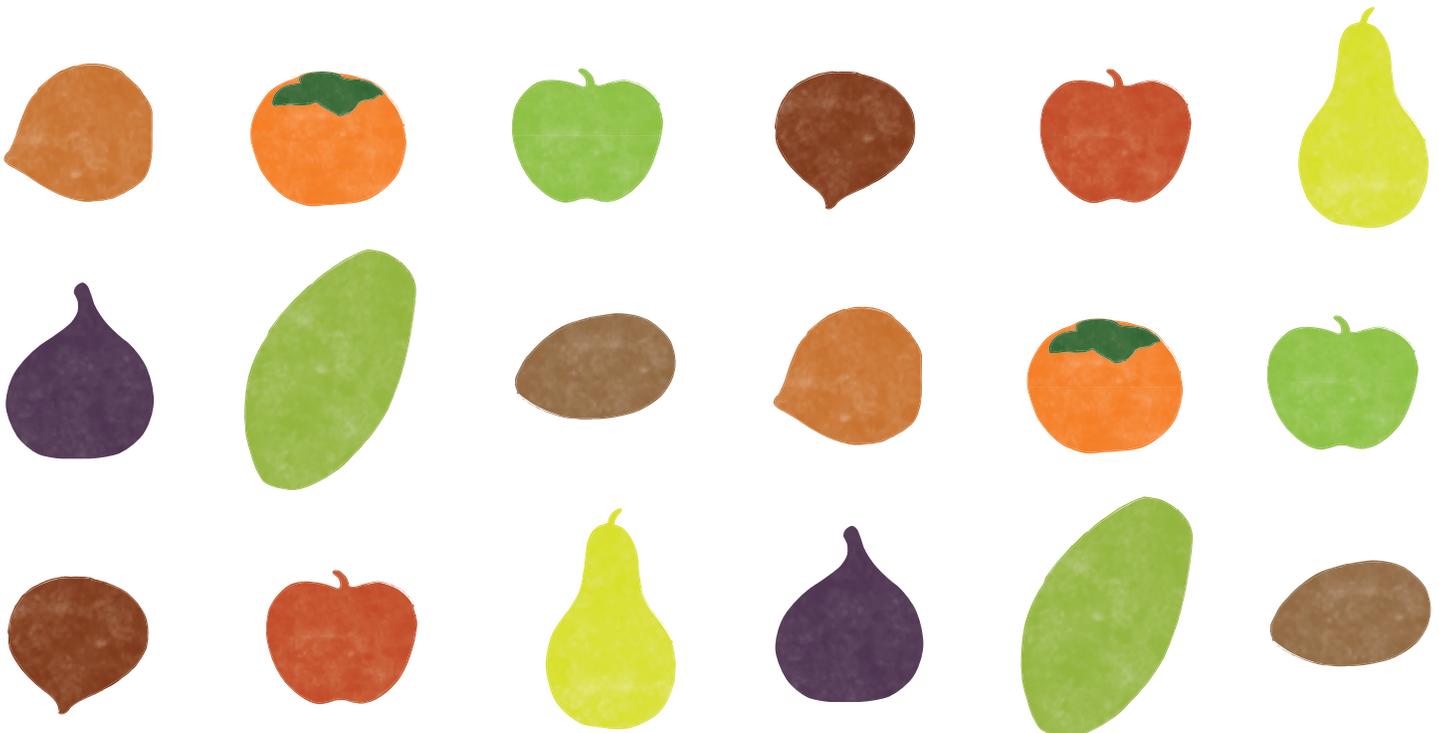


Civic Works



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2014**



The Baltimore Orchard Project

Cultivating orchards, cultivating communities

Our Mission:

The Baltimore Orchard Project strengthens communities through planting and cultivating orchards, teaching citizens to be long-term orchard stewards, and sharing the orchard's harvest among neighbors

Our Vision:

Growing an Edible Baltimore



A message from the Board Chair:

In June 2013 while taking a break from the full time work world, I enrolled in the Baltimore Urban Farming Course at the Maryland Institute College of Art taught by Prof. Hugh Pocock. Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin came to speak to the class about the Baltimore Orchard Project. Her eloquent remarks about fruit trees, their importance throughout history and the critical role they can play in 21st century urban design intrigued me. So much so that a few months later I agreed to help her grow the Baltimore Orchard Project. And grow we have done!

2014 was a banner year for the BOP. In keeping with our vision to grow Baltimore into an edible city, BOP planted or enabled the planting of 354 trees, courtesy of our partnership with TreeBaltimore, harvested 4,783 pounds of fruit of which 2,321 pounds were then donated to various neighbors in need of fresh fruit. The BOP has 32 planting/stewarding partnerships and taught 23 fruit tree enthusiasts about planting and caring for fruit and nut trees in an Academy of the same name. In short, the BOP is working all out to bring more fruit and nut trees to City streets, yards and playgrounds.

We grew our board to include nine devoted members from different backgrounds who are united around their love of nature and fruits trees. Last summer after consulting with our sage advisory board, BOP elected to become a project of Civic Works. This relationship enables BOP to benefit from the resources, support, fellow farm programs and expertise that Civic Works brings to the table.

A huge debt of thanks for all that BOP has accomplished goes to Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin, BOP's founder and muse and to Ben Howard, the BOP program coordinator, who lives and breathes fruit and nut trees. His knowledge and enthusiasm for the BOP mission are infectious. A special thanks to our Repair the World interns Rebecca Mark and Lauren Fine and our Community Arts intern Maria Smilde whose considerable talents enabled the BOP to have a greater social media savvy, community presence and aesthetic character.

Perhaps after reading this annual report you will be inspired to join the BOP effort and help us cultivate orchards so we can cultivate communities.

**-Dawna Cobb, Chair,
Advisory Board**

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PLANTING

The Baltimore Orchard Project continues to provide free fruit trees to residents of Baltimore City, courtesy of TreeBaltimore. In 2014, we planted 354 new trees with 28 different Planting Partners plus several individuals.

Fruit and nut trees planted around Baltimore offer more than aesthetics. They provide communities with access to healthy food, help manage stormwater runoff to keep waterways clean and healthy, improve air quality, increase land values, reduce CO2 emissions into the atmosphere, bring a taste of nature's wildness into the city and create a sense of refuge and belonging.

Of the 354 trees, we planted:

- 65 Apple
- 46 Asian Pear
- 45 Fig
- 43 Peach
- 29 Serviceberry
- 29 Pawpaw
- 20 Apricot
- 14 Asian Persimmon
- 11 European Pear
- 8 Cherry
- 8 Chinese Chestnut
- 7 Filbert
- 7 American Persimmon
- 6 Raspberry
- 4 Hackberry
- 4 Almond
- 3 American Plum
- 2 Mulberry
- 2 Elderberry
- 1 European Plum



354
new trees planted

20
different varieties

28
planting partners



2014 PLANTING PARTNERS

Heckel Farm
Clifton Park Food Forest
Govans Presbyterian Church
Pigtown Garden
New Era Academy
Roots & Branches
St. Vincent de Paul Church
Lots of Art Site
Creative City Charter
City Neighbors High School
Paul's Place
Windsor Hills EMS
Craig Common Garden

Kadampa Meditation Center
A-Maze-N Fruit Garden
Carrie Murray Nature Center
Filbert Street Garden
Kadampa Meditation Center
Lakeland EMS
Living Classrooms
Mt. Washington EMS
Mt. Washington-Aldersgate UMC
Roland Park EMS
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Whitelock Community Farm

We are grateful to TreeBaltimore for their continued support of our efforts to bring fruit-bearing trees to the environs of Baltimore City

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SITES HARVESTED IN 2014

BOP Pear Orchard
 Callaway Apple Project
 Carroll's Hundred
 Cromwell Valley Park
 Hidden Waters
 Holabird Academy
 Jonah House
 Various Residential Locations



900

pounds of compost
 fruit cleaned up



4,783

pounds of edible fruit
 harvested



HARVEST DISTRIBUTION LOCATIONS

Baltimore Free Farm
 Baltimore Rescue Mission
 Beans & Bread
 Franciscan Center
 Manna House
 Marian House
 Our Daily Bread
 Real Food Farm
 Whitelock Community Farm
 Yes Drop-In Center

HARVESTING

The Baltimore Orchard Project harvests mature fruit trees throughout the Baltimore area, turning what would otherwise be waste into abundance and health for those in need. We harvest small orchards, street trees and trees on private property (with permission!). We give away most of the fruit to organizations that serve the poor or homeless, and sell a portion to those who live in food deserts.

FUNKY FRUIT

A growing global population demands finding a way to feed billions more people. Yet agriculture already consumes over 40% of the earth's land. So how will we feed the world without further devastating our environment. The good news is we already know of two ways we can increase the food supply, rebuild the health of our land and feed people healthy food all at the same time: reduce food waste and eat greater varieties of food. The world currently wastes upwards of 40% of all the food we grow. Somewhere from field to fork, food is wasted. Perhaps because it is an odd size, slightly – but insignificantly – marred, or left too long on the shelf or refrigerator.

The BOP is embarking on a Funky Fruit Campaign to encourage Baltimoreans to grow and eat a greater variety of local foods (pawpaws, mulberries, serviceberries, nuts and more) and to eat foods that might look slightly odd but that are still good and healthy. Many of our BOP fruits, which are organically and sustainably grown, may be small, or slightly marred or misshapen. But they are fresh, sweet and amazingly healthy.

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STEWARDSHIP

Planting fruit trees is only the beginning. A small bit of annual care is required to keep the trees happy, healthy and able to bear fruit for decades to come. The BOP works with owners of fruit and nut trees to help them learn how to properly tend to their trees: pruning, mulching, watering and fertilizing. Optional dancing in the orchard at blossom or harvest time can't hurt!



ILLUSTRATED STEWARDSHIP GUIDE

This year, BOP began working on a month-by-month guide for fruit tree care, illustrated and designed to make the task of maintaining community and residential orchards less intimidating. The guide has been released month by month with our newsletter, with a full release coming in the fall of 2015.

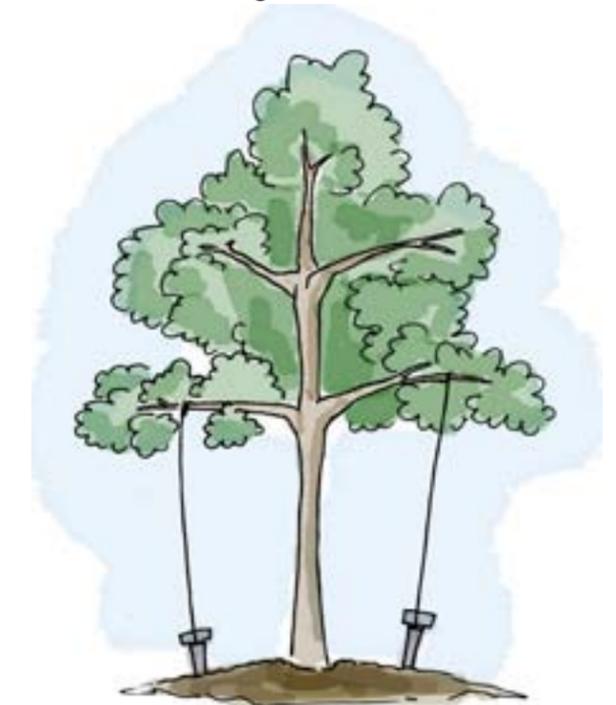
THE NETWORK

You don't have to own fruit trees to participate in the harvest, and you don't have to harvest your trees alone. The Nutwork is a growing network of planters and gleaners as well as fruit tree owners all around the area who share in the stewardship, harvest and joy of fruit trees. The Nutwork connects volunteers with fruit and nut trees in their neighborhood, encouraging local responsibility for the care, the use, and the distribution of its harvest.

For more information and to sign up for The Nutwork, contact volunteer@baltimoreorchard.org.

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

From promoting the planting, preserving and eating of local fruits, to the mulching of fruit trees in Carroll Park to the creation of a food forest in Clifton Park to designing edible landscaping and showing films about sustainable orcharding, the BOP offers a great variety of activities throughout the year. We seek to make all our events participatory, educational, and fun. [Sign up on our Meet Up page](#) to be sure to receive our latest program information.



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MIDDLE SCHOOL ORCHARD CLUB

In the fall of 2014, the BOP began working with Holabird Academy to establish an after-school orchard club for middle school students. The program and curriculum were designed by Caitlin Graff and BOP's MICA Community Arts Collaborate Americorps fellow, Maria Smilde. The orchard club met weekly and engaged students in hands-on learning projects designed to give them new perspectives on their food, their behavior and the environment and the interplay between the three. The model integrated art, science and discovery offering a multi-sensory exploration of a multi-faceted topic. We will be expanding this model in other schools in 2015. Let us know if you want to bring an orchard and an orchard club to your school.



FRUIT AND NUT TREE ACADEMY

In addition to workshops that we offer throughout the year, the BOP offered a five-session introduction to growing and caring for fruit and nut trees in Baltimore. The course was taught by Dr. Karen Maguylo (a PhD in fruit trees) and Eric Kelly, a permaculturist and foraging expert. Twenty-three students took this nine-month course, which introduced them to fruit tree basics and hands-on experience. The desire for and interest in this course is leading us to offer it every year, though in a format that will evolve with our experience and the needs and level of the students.



EDUCATION

The Baltimore Orchard Project is reclaiming and teaching the lost arts of caring for fruit and nut trees in ways uniquely appropriate to Baltimore's urban environment. Borrowing from the best practices of food forests, permaculture, wholistic orcharding, sustainable land management, local experiences and common sense, we are continually learning with and from our partners and students. The field of urban agro-forestry (that is, growing and caring for fruit and nut trees in urban environments) is still evolving, and we are proud to be part of this (r)evolution.

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THE BOP COMMUNITY



BOP's online community continues to grow. In 2014, we had **496** facebook friends, **496** twitter followers, and **367** members on our Meet-Up page. We also made our debut on photo-sharing platform, **instagram!**

Over the course of the year, BOP hosted a number of events open to the community. We called on our volunteers, supporters, friends, and followers to help us plant, prune, harvest and learn with us, and you answered. **We engaged 510 volunteers throughout 2014 at the following events:**

- Almond Cookie Baking Event
- Ashburton Planting
- August Harvests
- BOP Summer Kick Off
- Callaway Apple Pruning
- Callaway Fruit Thinning
- Carroll's Hundred Fruit Thinning
- Carroll's Hundred Mulching
- Carroll's Hundred Pruning
- Carroll's Hundred Staking
- City Neighbors High School Planting
- Civic Works Day of Service
- Clean Up at the Secret Orchard
- Clean Up at Clifton Park Food Forest
- Clifton Park Food Forest Planting
- Creative City Planting
- Cylburn Shade Structure Build
- Cylburn Walk & Workshop
- Druid Hill Park Farmer's Market (attended)
- EcoFest (attended)

- Fruit Tree Give Away
- Hackerman Secret Orchard Planting
- Holabird Fruit Thinning
- Holabird Pruning
- July Harvests
- June Harvests
- Kadampa Planting
- Kadampa Transplanting
- Lakeland EMS Planting
- Mayor's Greening Launch (attended)
- October Harvests
- Open Nursery Event
- Paul's Place Planting
- Redeemer Day School Planting
- Roots & Branches Planting
- Samaritan Women Clean Up
- September Harvests
- TreeBaltimore Bareroot Box Build
- Windsor Hills Planting



1,568
volunteer hours



510
volunteers engaged

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DONORS

Alliance for Community Trees/CSX
 Cardin Family Philanthropic Fund
 Becky Garvey
 Helianthus Fund
 Zanvyl and Isabelle Krieger Fund
 Baltimore Gas and Electric
 Betty Lee and Dudley P. Digges
 Memorial Fund
 Mitzvah Fund
 Dr. Carol Newell
 Carol Ott, Housing Policy Watch
 United Way of Central Maryland
 Kathy Shapiro Foundation
 Matt and Christy Wyskiel
 Warnock Family Foundation
 Stephen Howard
 Gregory Zahn
 Joseph Schamp

EXTENDED COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

TreeBaltimore
 MICA
 Repair the World
 Real Food Farm
 Towson University
 McDonough School of Business, Georgetown
 University
 JHU Museum/Homewood House



Thanks to everyone who gave generously with their time, money, and resources to help make this our most productive year yet!

Presentations

USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum (2/21)
 Ten Hills Garden Club (2/25)
 Baltimore City Resources Fair (2/19)
 Baltimore Broadcasters Coalition (9/24)
 MARC teachers night (10/18)
 Legal Seconds
 JHU Museum Orchard Fest (10/26)

Media/Awards

Baltimore Social Innovation Journal
 WYPR – Baltimore’s Future (05/29)
 Baltimore Sun – Food Forest (11/22)
 Baltimore Sun – Op-Ed Food Waste (11/30)



THE BOP COMMUNITY: JOHNS HOPKINS HOMEWOOD HOUSE

On September 4, 2014, the BOP helped dedicate an orchard beside the historic Homewood Mansion of Johns Hopkins University.

The mansion, a wedding present to Charles Carroll, Jr. by his father (one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence) sits on what was 130 acres of the homestead’s farm land and is now the site of this eminent university.

Over the course of the past year, the Homewood Mansion researched the history

of the Homewood orchard and selected nine trees, as honestly reflective of what would have been planted at the mansion two hundred years ago as possible. The orchard now boasts a seckel pear and eight kinds of apple—Bevan’s Favorite, Esopus Spitzenberg, Gravenstein, Lady, Roxbury Russet, Virginia Winesap, William’s Favorite, and Yellow June.

You can read more about [the restored historic orchard here](#) and visit it on the northeast side of the Homewood mansion.



THE BOP COMMUNITY: REAL FOOD FARM

Eager for all residents of food deserts to have affordable access to healthy fruits, the Baltimore Orchard Project worked with Real Food Farm's (RFF) Mobile Market, a sister Civic Works program, to sell our produce during the summer and fall of 2014 at reduced rates to their clientele. We realized that our initial policy of giving all our produce away, while laudable, nonetheless denied those who purchase their foods from accessing these delicious, local fruits. Together with RFF, we distributed 190 pounds of fruits to various food desert neighborhoods throughout Baltimore. For some customers, it was the fruit - more than the vegetables - that served as a draw to start the conversation about eating healthy, local, delicious fresh produce.



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dawna Cobb, *Chair*
 Kathy Shulman, *Vice Chair*
 Mary Zajac, *Secretary*
 Jessica Gappa
 Chris Herrmann
 Hugh Pocock
 Justine Moreau

STAFF

Ben Howard, *Program Coordinator*
 Lauren Fine, *Volunteer Coordinator*
 Rebecca Mark, *Outreach Coordinator*
 Maria Smilde, *Community Artist*
 Nina Beth Cardin, *Director*



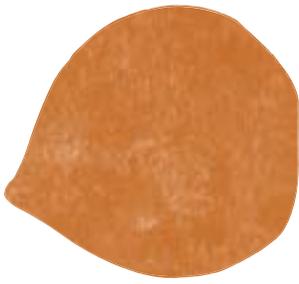
INTERNS

Joanne Tetrault
 Shoshana Nachman
 Yuby Hernandez

ADVISORY BOARD

Gary Ashbeck, *Baltimore City Sprouts*
 Miriam Avins, *Baltimore Green Space*
 Amy Bonitz, *American Communities Trust*
 David Carroll
 Pam Charshee, *Carroll's Hundred, Carroll Park Foundation*
 Abby Cocke, *Baltimore Office of Sustainability*
 Diana Cohen
 Erik Dihle, *Baltimore City Arborist*
 Katie Dix
 Marla Emery, *Research Geographer, USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station*
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 Anne Fleshman, *Baltimore Contained*
 Brent Flickinger, *Baltimore City Planning Department*
 Kristen Humphrey
 Katrina Krause, *Baltimore Ecosystem Study*
 Shelley List
 Earl Millett, *Civic Works*
 Duncan Moore, *Old York Forest Garden*
 Russ Moss, *Baltimore City Forestry Board and Baltimore City Farms*
 Charles Murphy, *TreeBaltimore*
 Margie Roswell
 Jill Wrigley, *Food system activist*





A FINAL WORD:

In some ways, the creation of the BOP was inevitable. It is a response to a cluster of intersecting needs that Baltimore faces today: providing healthy food for the 20% of Baltimore's residents who live in food deserts, improving stormwater management, increasing air quality, increasing carbon-uptake, mitigating the heat-island affect, bringing the rhythms of nature back into our daily experiences, strengthening our green infrastructure (that is, using natural systems to manage nature in cities), beautifying our neighborhoods, and developing ways to a deepen our sense of place and belonging. Fruit trees respond to all these needs.

We at the BOP are proud that we stumbled into this work. We began as food recovery program gleaning fruit from legacy trees and giving it away, and have grown into a planting/harvesting/giving/education/stewardship/outreach/advocacy organization.

We could not do this work without the assistance and support of many individuals and organizations who have been there for us from the beginning. Two deserve a special shout out. Civic Works began as our fiscal sponsor and now has become our parent organization. We are most grateful to them, especially Dana Stein and Earl Millett for their early belief in our mission and their continued invaluable support of our work. We are a stronger organization because of them.

From the very first, TreeBaltimore has helped make us who we are. Though fruit trees occupy a complicated role in urban design and planning, TreeBaltimore has promoted the presence and value of fruit trees both for increasing the urban tree canopy and the health of Baltimore City residents. The free trees they give us so that we may in turn give them away drive much of the work of the BOP.

And as we grow, we realize that we are not alone in discovering the blessings of fruit trees for urban areas. Through our partnership with Dr. Natalia Fath and her Environmental Geography Class at Towson University, we found 80 other U.S. communities with urban orchard projects, most of which have been founded in the last ten years.

A movement has been born, and it is growing. The Baltimore Orchard Project is proud that we helped found the North American Community Orchard Network (which now has 188 members!) to help strengthen and give shape to this movement, along with the help of the Alliance for Community Trees, the Arbor Day Foundation, The Philadelphia Orchard Project, Portland Fruit Tree Project and the Ben Nobleman Park Community Orchard (Toronto, Canada).

Together, we are exploring better ways to grow fruits and food forests in cities; better ways to feed a world of more than 7 billion people; better ways to imagine the relationship between cities and nature, better ways to be the stewards, as well as the beneficiaries, of this magical world called Earth.

Nina Beth Cardin
Founder and Director