

## 2019 Impacts and Accomplishments

### Maynard Jackson High school

In February 2019 we cleared the land at MJHS rooftop garden which consists of approximately 1 acre of land and began the installation of our signature mandala garden. This required many supplies and materials and abundance of labor, some volunteers and some paid.

The mandala garden is a multipurpose design much in the spirit of a labyrinth. An ancient symbol that relates to wholeness. It combines the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path. Labyrinths have long been used as meditation, whose purpose is to serve **social and emotional learning**. We have weekly Agro-Ecology classes where work is done both in the classroom and in the garden. We have hydroponics, which serves the science aspect. The outcome provides seedlings to be transplanted for Maynard Jackson High School Garden and Dunbar Elementary garden where students practice science. Our students have attended several field trips:

- The interns were hosted to a production of The Lion King
- Ms. Isaac provided a farm to table dinner at her home and provided a cooking class utilizing the produce grown in the garden.
- **A day at Serenbe**

Serenbe is a model community, some elements of its design are obvious while others are subtle and even unseen. Serenbe land planning and preserves over 70% of land as green space with respect of the agricultural history of Chattahoochee Hill country. Serenbe conserves energy by facilitating Geothermal, Solar, and Net Zero homes. The Serenbe community values nature, children, and elders. The students were able to participate in both the agricultural farming as well as a visit to the animal farm and the hiking trails.



## Dunbar Elementary School

Dunbar elementary school's mandala garden has matured in two years time to become a very fruitful and productive garden. The garden has a sophisticated irrigation system that is operated by the rain water harvesting system, collecting rain from the rooftop and is powered by a solar pump which provides fresh rain water. Rainwater has been proven to be an asset to nurturing the soil. The Dunbar students have become engaged as community service activists. The majority of the produce reaped from the garden is donated to the Mechanicsville Columbia Senior Center. In December 2019, the Dunbar students planted above ground garden beds at the senior center which they will maintain along with their own garden. The plan is that once these greens are mature and reaped, the seniors in collaboration with the project will come to the school and provide a cooking class for the children utilizing their produce. **Each One Teach One.**

- The Dunbar students have a very active and successful drum school where they are provided drum classes and African history. The children have had many occasions to perform for special events and have become quite skilled drummers.
- The Dunbar students have also attended a field trip to Serenbe much like the MJHS students experience.
- The Maynard Jackson intern program has also provided mentorship for the elementary students as well as assisting in the maintenance of their school garden. Over the summer months, the MJHS interns maintained, watered, and weeded the garden.



The one love learning foundation has developed partnerships with the following organizations:

- **Communities Farmers Market**

envision a future in which Atlanta will be home to a diverse, interconnected food system that promoted healthy food, sustainable ecosystems, and a living wage working conditions. CFM is a leader in this system, leveraging the power of community by providing resources, educational programs, and sustainable modes of food distribution for farmers, producers, chefs, and consumers.

**CFM has appointed chefs to attend classroom instruction and cooking classes at MJHS. These are monthly classes where recipes are developed using produce from our rooftop garden**

- **ZEIST Foundation**

OLLF and other nonprofit partners will be invited for a “Jackson Cluster Student-Led Farmers Market” at the Edgewood Marta Station greenspace in spring/summer 2020 featuring produce from the traditional Jackson cluster schools. This will be a student run operation to be considered in 2021. OLLF has been invited to participate in this collective market enterprise because they want a (cluster scale operation) that can unite as many students, teachers, families, and non-profit partners.

- **Georgia Forestry Association**

The forestry and the agriculture industry is a foundation for our future creating 147,000 jobs. The forestry service has agreed to visit our classroom to discuss careers in forestry and wildlife. The forestry service has committed to donate teaching tools such as vision goggles to our elementary classroom.

- **Maynard Jackson High School Intern Program**

The single most successful program developed in 2019 was our intern program. The selection process was one that was intended to provide jobs for a select diverse group of children. We had 2 young black men, 1 Hispanic female, 1 mixed-race female, and 1 special-needs child. These students worked approximately 15-20 hour weeks supervised by Ms. Stephens or a volunteer from the OLLF staff. In addition to being provided a salary of \$10 an hour, they learned not only permaculture and biodiversity, but they learned to work together under this common cause and became the best friends.

