

# Project Narrative – anc1D 2008 Small Grants



**Title:** In 15 words or less, give a title that describes the project's main beneficial result.

Bringing the Benefits of Urban Gardening to ANC1D

**Narrative:** 500 words or less, all on this page. Label paragraphs - A: Group. B: Project. C: Benefits. D: Leverage.

## A. Group

*Planting Pleasant* is a new grass-roots organization that is forming to educate the residents of ANC1D about how to make our yards, window boxes, and other spaces environmentally friendly, full of local indigenous plants, and also socially and economically fruitful. This recently formed group will recruit other Mt. Pleasant residents who see the value in the principles of *Planting Pleasant*. A workshop series will be *Planting Pleasant*'s central method of educating residents.

## B. Project

We intend to have no less than four events per year that will inform residents about the practical implementation of urban agriculture and permaculture<sup>1</sup> techniques. Examples include presentations on how to make a rain barrel, finding and planting indigenous plants, composting, and container gardening. These projects will contribute to making the lifestyles of residents in Mount Pleasant more sustainable.

Special emphasis will be given to applying the theories and techniques of permaculture and green growing to the unique situations of the residents of ANC1D. The workshops will specifically address the issues involved in applying these techniques in apartment buildings, rental units, and partial shade areas.

All residents will be invited to a bi-annual meeting where *Planting Pleasant* will decide on the focus of the upcoming workshops. Then a committee will be charged with finding a qualified authority to lead a workshop in Mount Pleasant about the chosen topic. The workshop will be held in the neighborhood, advertised widely, and free and open to all. Priority will be given to ANC1D residents if conflicts arise.

Grant money will be used to print flyers that advertise the first event and to pay for a highly qualified workshop organizer that is an expert in their field.

## C. Benefits

The workshop series will provide valuable information to residents which will enable them to make informed choices that affect the local environment. In addition, through water conservation, a reduction in food miles, and other changes in the use of spaces in ANC1D, *Planting Pleasant* will have an impact stretching beyond the boundaries of our community.

By providing ANC1D residents with the skills they need to plant vegetables in their yards and container gardens, they'll reduce grocery bills and their carbon footprints while improving local food security. By giving community members the tools they need to collect rainwater and eliminate lawn fertilizers, they'll help to improve the quality of the Anacostia and Potomac rivers by reducing stormwater runoff and limiting the sewer overflows that empty into these burdened local water supplies. In addition, participants will learn to enjoy the recreational and health benefits of working with the soil.

## D. Leverage

With the inaugural workshop taking place in the early spring of 2009, *Planting Pleasant* will demonstrate the importance of our group to the community and other funding sources. The publicity for the first workshop will also serve to raise awareness of the organization to future volunteers and members of the community who can help *Planting Pleasant* grow and sustain its mission. The first workshop will be the seed germinated that grows into a healthy and self-sustaining organization.

<sup>1</sup> Permaculture is a design system for creating sustainable human environments and food production systems.