CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Social and ecological infrastructure for recidivism reduction
Kroon Hall, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
New Haven, Connecticut

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020

12-5pm: presenters and attendees arrive to New Haven

6pm-8pm: opening reception for presenters

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020

8-8:30am: registration, coffee & connecting

8:30-9am: welcoming remarks

9-10:30am: plenary panel
Theory and practice of social-ecological infrastructure for recidivism reduction

10:45am-12:15pm: concurrent sessions
1. Insight Garden Program: Where Life Grows from the Inside-Out (Beth Waitkus, Arnold Trevino, Ray Harts)
2. Correctional Conservation Collaborative: Reducing recidivism while increasing Pennsylvania’s capacity to meet its environmental goals (Shea Zwerver, Greggory Clegg)
3. An Unlikely Partnership: Balancing Security with Therapeutic Landscape Benefits in a Correctional Setting (Julie Stevens, Patti Lund)
4. Ecological Conservation and Environmental Education (Kelli Bush)

12:15 -1:15pm: lunch

1:15-3:15pm: concurrent sessions
5. Workshop on Implementing Empowering Environmental Education in Prison and Jail Settings (Raquel Pinderhughes)
6. Workshop on Creating Responsive Therapeutic Places to Improve Wellbeing (Amy Wagenfeld, Daniel Winterbottom, and Naomi Sachs)
7. Designing local food programs in jails & prisons (Abrah Dresdale)
8. Gardening in Carceral Settings across the U.S. (Rima Green, Sharon Everhardt, Daniela Jauk, Stephen Carmody, Andria Blackwood, Brenda Gill, Mirabai Collins)

Co-convened by Boston College and the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies
Supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation
3:15-3:45pm: break

3:45-5:15pm: concurrent sessions
9. Urban wood project: Baltimore (Morgan Grove, Jeff Carroll, Gene Wilson, Sarah Hines)
10. Prison Garden Pedagogy (Renée Portanova, Erika Rumbley)
11. Designing Equitable Evaluations for the Carceral Setting Using Whole Measures (Angela Roell)
12. Greening Behind the “Wall”: Reflections of an Interdisciplinary Built Environments Studio Class (Daniel Winterbottom, Amy Wagenfeld, Lori Coppenrath, Shannon Payton)

5:15-6:30: plenary panel
Prisons, ecology, and community engagement

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020

8:30-9am: registration, coffee & connecting

9-10:30am: plenary panel
Sustainability in Prisons Project: Developing Transformative Partnerships for People, Research, and Ecosystems (Kelli Bush, Steve Sinclair, Carolina Landa)

10:30am-12pm: thematic research & practice sessions
13. Agriculture, food and economic justice
   o Prison Agriculture in the United States: A Preliminary Investigation of an Uneven Practice (Joshua Sbicca, Carrie Chennault)
   o Reimagining Food Justice: From Farms to Prisons (Kanav Kathuria & Antoin Quarles)
   o Prison Gardens, Food Justice, and Prison Abolition: The Possibilities and Limitations (Evan Hazelett)
14. Varieties of people-plant interactions in prisons and jails
   o Horticultural Therapy on Rikers Island (Becca Amos, Melanie Reed)
   o Selecting Plants for Prison and Jail Gardens (Tony Hall)
   o Aquaponics in Corrections (Michael McLeon)
15. Education, life and work skills through the environment
   o Good Karma: An Educator Reflects on 7 Years of Gardening at the Country’s Largest Temporary Juvenile Detention Center (Jen Cullerton Johnson)
   o Life Skills in a Prison Garden - Biophilia for Reentry (Hans Hageman)
   o Transition from Prison to Work in the Washington State Department of Transportation Environmental Field (Tony Bush)
16. Incarceration and families
   - Play Free, play-based education and exploration for children with an incarcerated mom (Payton Friess)
   - Re-Connection Through the Garden, Healing Inside the Walls (Daniel Winterbottom)

12-1pm: lunch

1-2:30pm: concurrent sessions
17. The Green Team: Transitional employment and vocational training (Nick Guntli, Fabricio Suxo, Paulene Hosein)
18. Envisioning a World Without Prisons: the application of an abolitionist, land-based framework to recidivism reduction (Douglass DeCandia, Abrah Dresdale, Jalal Sabur, Jocelyn Apiececco)
19. Prison Food & Recidivism Reduction (Leslie Soble, Terah Lawyer, Jordyn Lexton, Mark McBrine)
20. Leveraging Data-Driven Strategies to Advance Values of Restorative Justice and High-Performance Building Design (Shannon Payton, Lori Coppenrath)

2:30-4pm: concurrent sessions
21. Strengthening Protective Factors through the Design and Use of Therapeutic Landscapes in Prisons (Julie Stevens, Amy Wagenfeld, Barb Toews)
22. Gardening Inside and Out: Reflections on Connecting with our Social and Ecological Environments (Stacy Burnett, Manny Gonzalez, Alex Hall, Floyd Jarvis, William Jett, Jocelyn Apicecco)
23. Security to Sustainability (Ryan Fries, Rebekah Mende)

4-4:30pm: break

4:30-6pm: concurrent sessions
25. Creating Meaningful Production, Marketable Training, and an Infectious Moral Boost, All on a DOC Budget (Mark McBrine)
26. Restoration Not Incarceration: Lessons Learned from an Ecological Rehabilitation Program for the Formerly Incarcerated (Christine Norton, Jarid Manos, Calvin Glenn)
27. The Nature of Resilience and Recovery in the Prison Landscape (James Jiler)
SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020

8:30-9am: coffee & connecting

9-10am: plenary panel
Strategies to advance research and practice

10-11:30am: workshops on future directions and needs in the field

11:30am-12:30pm: closing session

12:30-1:30pm: lunch

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020

6-8pm EST: conference call
For participants who want to work on next steps and sustaining collaborations

FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

8pm EST: deadline for submission
For participants interested in publishing something related to their presentation, a one-page summary of your chapter/article for publication is due
FRIDAY, MARCH 13

- PLENARY PANEL: Theory and practice of social-ecological infrastructure for recidivism reduction

1. Insight Garden Program: Where Life Grows from the Inside-Out (Beth Waitkus, Arnold Trevino, Ray Harts)

Insight Garden Program (IGP) works at the intersections of criminal and environmental justice. We offer an innovative 48-week environmental literacy and food sciences curriculum combined with gardening - with a mission to reconnect incarcerated people to self, community and the natural world. Our “inner” and “outer” gardening approach transforms lives, ends ongoing cycles of incarceration, and creates connected communities. We also provide reentry bridging services to people returning home who leave our program empowered to become community leaders and environmental stewards because they deeply understand the interconnectedness of the systems in which we live. On a larger scale, IGP also works side-by-side with our participants and graduates to advocate for a shift in the criminal justice system from punishment to healing and a more restorative approach to change.

This presentation includes Beth Waitkus, Founder and Director of IGP; Arnold Trevino, a current IGP Co-Facilitator; and Ray Harts, an IGP graduate and Executive Director of Healthy Hearts Institute. Beth will provide a short powerpoint presentation on IGP’s innovative work inside 14 prisons nationally, serving men, women and youth. Beth will focus on the environmental literacy, permaculture gardening and food justice aspects of the program that support personal growth, community connections, and systems change. Arnold Trevino, who was once incarcerated at Avenal State Prison (ASP) in California, returns to that prison weekly to co-facilitate IGP’s curriculum. He will share the impact of IGPs peer-to-peer support model and the profound impact that formerly incarcerated people like himself can have on those still living inside. As a graduate of IGP’s flagship program at San Quentin State Prison, Ray will discuss how IGP influenced his founding of Healthy Hearts Institute -- focusing on health and wellness in food deserts where Ray grew up--and the impact that food equity initiatives and environmental stewardship can have on the health and wellness of those most directly impacted by environmental injustices.

Beth Waitkus is Founding Director of Insight Garden Program. As part of her deep commitment to systems change at the intersection of environmental, social and criminal justice, Beth founded Insight Garden Program (IGP) in 2002. Over the past five years,
as Executive Director, Beth has overseen program expansion to ten additional California prisons, as well as two youth facilities in Indiana, and an adult male prison in Ohio. IGP plans for continued national program replication. IGP’s trauma-informed and assets-based yearlong program serves over 1,600 men, women and youth annually and is committed to providing reentry bridging services to its participants.

Arnold Trevino is Co-Facilitator of Insight Garden Program at Avenal State Prison (ASP). As an IGP Co-Facilitator at ASP, Arnold deeply values the opportunity that IGP provides for people to grow from the inside-out. Having spent half of his life in prison, his own transformation enabled him to become a proactive and productive member of society. With IGP, he is able to continue his journey as he shares his life story and the endless possibilities of change with those inside of prison. He recently earned his Master’s Degree in Social Work at Fresno State University.

Ray Harts is Founder of Healthy Hearts Institute. After serving 8 ½ years in prison Ray was released from San Quentin State Prison and founded Healthy Hearts Institute (HHI), designed to empower individual and community transformation through health and wellness. HHI focuses on four key health factors: Stress Management (mindfulness, meditation, eco-therapy); Nutrition (nutritional values, cooking demonstrations, food access); Fitness (gardening, aerobics); and Environmental Sustainability (organic growing, zero waste, climate change). His goal is to provide low-income families the resources, tools and education necessary to live healthy, socially connected and environmentally responsible lifestyles with the eventual goal of providing participants with job training and opportunities in green industries.

2. Correctional Conservation Collaborative: An effort aimed at reducing recidivism while increasing Pennsylvania’s capacity to meet its environmental goals (Shea Zwerver, Greggory Clegg)

The tree care and forestry industries are currently experiencing a need for workers. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics there will be 30,000 job openings over the next 5 years in the tree care industry alone. There is concern from the industry that there are not enough workers to meet this demand. Similarly, across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, there is a demand for workers to carry out riparian forest buffer maintenance. In response to federal water quality mandates, Pennsylvania has established the goal to plant 86,000+ new acres of riparian forest buffers by 2025 to help mitigate runoff pollution into the Chesapeake Bay. Non-profits and government agencies who are looking for contractors to plant and maintain riparian forest buffers are noticing a limited number of companies conducting such work.

In response to these demands, the Correctional Conservation Collaborative (CCC) was born. The CCC, orchestrated by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), partners with PA Department of Corrections, the Alliance for the
Chesapeake Bay, Penn State Cooperative Extension, among many other partners to bring educational and vocational training to inmates nearing release at PA State Correctional Institutions (SCI). Piloted in 2017 as solely an arboriculture vocational training, the CCC has since grown to include programming and workshops on plant propagation, biochar, chainsaw safety, timber harvesting, and riparian forest buffers. The CCC aims to provide employable skills to inmates nearing release, create a workforce pipeline for the conservation and natural resources fields, diversify and elevate the tree care profession, empower individuals to enter environmental careers, and reduce recidivism by way of getting reentrants into good-paying jobs. Join this session to learn about this effort from its conception to lessons learned and hear from CCC program graduates who are now working in the industry.

Shea Zwerver grew up on a small farm in southwestern Pennsylvania where her love for nature was nurtured. She attended Smith College in Northampton, MA where she sought to interweave her interests in people and nature and majored in Psychology with a minor in Landscape Studies. After college she interned at Morris Arboretum at the University of Pennsylvania where she simultaneously pursued a master's in environmental studies. Today, Shea continues to connect people and nature in creative ways as seen through her creation of the Correctional Conservation Collaboration. Shea has previously held positions with The Nature Conservancy, Pennsylvania Horticulture Society, and Penn Institute for Urban Research.

Gregory Vinson Clegg, grew up in Lancaster, PA with his brother and sister. From a young age Clegg was exposed to outdoor and tree work through his father’s landscaping business. Clegg loved going to work with his father. He hated school and did not do very well due to a learning disability. He also didn’t like authority. As a result, things began to go downhill, he began to get into the streets and hang out with the wrong people. This led to his first juvenile placement for three months. Upon release he continued with the same behavior which led to another juvenile placement where he spent 9 months then went through the cycle yet again. Running the streets day and night selling drugs which Clegg realizes today was only poisoning his community and youth. At 22 years old he was charged with the aggravated assault with a firearm and was sentenced to a 14 year sentence. In the first 5 years of his sentence he lost both his mother and father. During his time in prison he made a conscious decision to change his life and realized it started with his way of thinking. He worked hard on himself and in the last 4 years of his sentence he spent it at the Forestry Camps at SCI-Rockview. There he learned a lot of things which rekindled the passion he once had for tree work and landscaping. The one thing he worried about all those years in prison was getting out and providing for his daughter's. Upon the first week of his release he got in the tree care industry and has been working as a tree climber since. As a free man and law-abiding citizen Clegg is working hard to provide for his family and is happy. Two years later, he is beating the odds of recidivating.
3. An Unlikely Partnership: Balancing Security with Therapeutic Landscape Benefits in a Correctional Setting (Julie Stevens, Patti Lund)

Leah, an incarcerated woman, was instrumental in building the Healing Garden outside the mental health units. Prior to joining the landscape crew, she was frequently in trouble for fighting with other women. Now when trouble loomed, Leah chose to focus her energy in the garden stating, “the old me would have gotten into a fight, but I love the gardens, they make me calm and I want to stay on the crew so I’m not going to make a bad decision.”

Leah’s decision to avoid confrontation by gardening suggests that the prison gardens positively impact the women who work to create and maintain them. Research demonstrates that contact with nature provides people with therapeutic benefits and improved physical, emotional, social, and behavioral health. For those who are incarcerated, this improved health may contribute to reduced recidivism.

One barrier to creating nature spaces and gardens in prisons is the perception, primarily from correctional staff, that security cannot be maintained when altering the physical environment. The presenters, a landscape architect/university professor and prison warden, balanced such concerns with a desire to create healing landscapes through an authentic partnership grounded in a real-world collaborative design-build process. In this session, we explore the concerns and ways to balance prison security while creating therapeutic prison landscapes and question whether ensuring safety requires perpetuating institutional-like spaces, void of direct connections with nature. We argue that the benefits of therapeutic landscapes in prisons outweigh potential risks and that prison-based therapeutic landscapes can adhere to evidence-based therapeutic landscape principles, while simultaneously addressing institutional security concerns.

Julie Stevens is an Associate Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at Iowa State University, where she has developed an innovative student design-build service-learning program. Beginning in 2011, Stevens has established a multi-year partnership with the Iowa Department of Corrections to create therapeutic environments for prisons, including gardens for prison staff and incarcerated individuals. The team of Iowa State students, prison staff and incarcerated individuals at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women (ICIW) received the Award of Excellence in Community Service from the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) in 2015 for the ICIW outdoor classrooms and a decompression deck and the 2018 ASLA Award of Excellence in Community Service for the Children’s Garden, a visiting garden for incarcerated women and their visitors. Stevens is a contributor to Design as Democracy: Techniques for Collective Creativity, Island Press

Patti Lund (Wachtendorf) retired as the first female Warden from the Iowa State Penitentiary (ISP) after 38 years in the correctional field. Her experience includes 20
years working with females and 18 years with maximum-security males. She was instrumental, as the Warden, in programming, planning and construction of the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women (ICIW), a state of the art women’s facility that opened in 2013. The Iowa Department of Corrections partnered with the Iowa State University (ISU) to develop and build non-traditional prison landscaping at ICIW and ISP. Her experience with both males and females includes restrictive housing, gender responsivity, promoting and supporting culture change and leadership development. She traveled to Kosovo as part of an Iowa team in March 2018 to present on “Rehabilitating and Reintegration for Extremists”. She earned her BS in Law Enforcement Administration/Public Administration in 1988 and her Masters in Law Enforcement Administration in 1993 from Western Illinois University.

4. Ecological Conservation and Environmental Education (Kelli Bush)

The Sustainability in Prisons Project (SPP) is a partnership co-founded by The Evergreen State College and the WA Dept. of Corrections. A wide variety of additional partners contribute vital expertise, experience, time, and other resources to offer diverse science and sustainability programs in prisons. SPP programs aim to benefit everyone involved, with incarcerated people at the center of this effort. To maximize benefits to incarcerated partners, every program’s primary goal is education. Among SPP’s most collaborative and widely recognized work are ecological conservation internships and environmental education programs. Workshop participants will learn about programs involving declining, threatened, and endangered species and increasing capacity for science and sustainability education. The following three models will be discussed:

- Ecological conservation internships: work with organisms such as butterflies, native prairie plants, and western pond turtles
- Peer-led education courses: courses on topics including composting and gardening
- Community expert-supported education: volunteer support of beekeeping certification and science and sustainability workshops

These models represent effective strategies for leveraging partner resources, increasing education opportunities, and broadening engagement in environmental and social justice movements. In addition to the education and training benefits received by incarcerated people, information will be shared on the significant contributions to species and habitat recovery efforts and expansion of science and sustainability education. Workshop participants will learn about the successes and challenges of these program models and will have the opportunity to share their input and interests.

Kelli Bush co-directs the Sustainability in Prisons Project (SPP), a partnership founded by The Evergreen State College (Evergreen) and Washington State Department of Corrections (WA Corrections) to empower sustainable change by bringing nature, science, and environmental education into prisons. Kelli oversees all Evergreen-led programs, primarily SPP’s conservation and environmental education initiatives. She
works with co-director Stephen Sinclair, also Secretary for WA Corrections, to lead more than 180 SPP sustainability and nature programs statewide and disseminate the model internationally. At Evergreen, Kelli provides leadership for a team of twelve staff who coordinate programs, providing direct service and facilitating learning exchanges in the prisons. Prior to joining SPP in 2010, she gained over 15 years of horticulture and restoration ecology experience and earned a B.A. in Agriculture Ecology from The Evergreen State College.

5. Workshop on implementing Empowering Environmental Education in Prison and Jail Settings (Raquel Pinderhughes)

This workshop will focus on how to implement empowering environmental education programs in prison and jail settings. Building on what we can learn from an environmental literacy and work readiness program called “Roots of Success”, that is taught by prisoners who are trained, certified and paid to teach the class and used in hundreds of prisons, jails and reentry programs throughout the U.S., the workshop will address the following policy, procedural, and practice oriented questions related to environmental education and work-readiness programming in prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities:

- What does it mean to offer an “empowering” environmental education program in a prison, jail, juvenile facility?
- How do you design an “empowering” education program for these settings?
- How do you design it to meet the unique needs of each person?
- How do you design it to meet the needs and requirements of prison administrators?
- How can you design it to promote and support behaviors that reduce violence and lower recidivism rates?
- How can you design it to promote and support behaviors that reduce water, waste, and energy use in prisons/jails?
- How might it be taught and by whom?
- What requirements does the program need to meet to be meaningful and useful to incarcerated individuals?
- How can you get the program funded?
- How can you bring it to scale to meet the needs of incarcerated individuals in prisons and jails across the country?
- What are the meaningful differences related to offering programs in prisons and jails?
- How can you measure impact?

The workshop will provide conference participants with an opportunity to discuss issues related to implementation, practice and impact.
Raquel Rivera Pinderhughes is a teacher, scholar, activist whose work focuses on improving quality of life for people living in cities, particularly those from low-income communities. She has created and directed empowering education programs in prisons and jails for 30+ years. The environmental literacy and work readiness program she created - called “Roots of Success” - is offered in hundreds of prisons, jails, and reentry programs throughout the U.S. The course strengthens academic and professional skills, helps individuals understand complex environmental injustices, problems, and solutions, prepares them for 125 jobs/careers in environmental fields and, inspires them to be activists who can improve conditions in their communities. The course is taught by prisoners who are trained, certified, and paid to teach the course. To date, 28,000 students have graduated from the program. She is professor of Urban Studies and Planning at San Francisco State.

6. Workshop on Creating Responsive Therapeutic Nature Places to Improve Wellbeing in Correctional Facilities and Beyond (Amy Wagenfeld, Daniel Winterbottom, and Naomi Sachs)

Interest in and research on nature/people relationships and the role of green spaces, including “therapeutic gardens” and “healing gardens,” in reducing stress and supporting health has expanded over the last decade, with a strong focus on healthcare settings. More recent research and design has focused on community and alternative settings such as correctional facilities. Increasing evidence finds that humans are genetically programed with an affinity for nature. This concept is known as biophilia, the empathic and sympathetic attachment with non-human living things. In accordance with biophilia, connecting with nature is necessary for optimal human function. Outdoor places of calm, respite, rehabilitation, education, and wonderment are critical to human wellbeing and development, especially in places of high stress, trauma, or discomfort. One important way to connect with nature is in specially designed gardens targeted to address unique conditions that affect the users, such as those found in correctional facilities. What then, is a “therapeutic/healing garden?” Isn’t every garden a healing garden, every landscape a therapeutic landscape? Are special plants, furniture, objects, or a huge plot of land necessary to have a healing garden? How does one design a garden to meet the needs of people who are incarcerated? These questions and more will be addressed in this workshop.

Participants will also learn about ways to transform an outdoor space into a healing environment that supports and nurtures physical, emotional, and even spiritual well-being, as well as rehabilitation, stress reduction, and re-focusing. We will explore the research and translate it into practical ideas for how to achieve physical and emotional therapeutic benefits from a healing and therapeutic garden and how they can be implemented at a range of scales and spaces and non-traditional places such as correctional institutions, psychiatric hospitals, and juvenile detention facilities.
reflective portion of the workshop will also invite attendees to brainstorm on ways to create innovative, inclusive, and welcoming outdoor spaces that improve individual and community health and well-being for marginalized populations with whom they work.

Amy Wagenfeld, PhD, OTR/L, SCEM, FAOTA is Lecturer in the Boston University Occupational Therapy Program and Principal of design +cOnsulTation. She is a fellow of the American Association of Occupational Therapy. She expands her role as an occupational therapist into the world of landscape architecture. Her work focuses on collaborative design, programming, and research of outdoor environments that support physical and emotional rehabilitation and learning in community and healthcare settings. Amy presents and publishes widely on topics relating to collaboration with designers and access to nature. Amy has served on the design team for three American Society of Landscape Architecture award winning therapeutic gardens, is recipient of a silver medal from the International Association of Universal Design, a Center for Health Design award, and two New York state design awards. She is co-author, with Daniel Winterbottom, of the award-winning book, Therapeutic Gardens: Design for Healing Spaces published by Timber Press.

Landscape architect Daniel Winterbottom, RLA, FASLA is a University of Washington Professor of Landscape Architecture. In 1995 he developed a design/build program, where he and his students work with communities to design and build projects that address social and ecological challenges and provide therapeutic environments for those struggling with traumatic experiences, incarceration, PTSD and other mental health issues. Mr. Winterbottom developed and incorporates participatory design processes in these service-learning projects to create responsive design solutions for communities in need. His book Healing Gardens, co-authored with Amy Wagenfeld was released in 2015. His awards include the Council of Educators of Landscape Architecture Outstanding Educator award, 2007, the University of Washington 2006 S. Sterling Munro Public Service Teaching Award, ASLA Honor Award for Community Service 2007, ALSA Honor Awards for Community Service 2018, 2017, 2016, 2013, 2011 and 2007, the EDRA/Places Great Places Book Award, 2016, EDRA/Places Great Place Design Awards 2010 and 2019 and was inducted as a Fellow in ASLA in 2011.

Naomi A. Sachs, PhD, AIA, ASLA, EDAC is an Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture at the University of Maryland. She is Founding Director of the Therapeutic Landscapes Network and Co-editor of the peer-reviewed Health Environments Research and Design (HERD) Journal. Naomi earned a PhD in Architecture at Texas A&M University and a Master of Landscape Architecture from UC Berkeley. She has published and presented nationally and internationally on the positive role of nature in human health and well-being. Among other publications, Naomi is co-author with Clare Cooper Marcus of the book Therapeutic Landscapes: An Evidence-based Approach to Designing Healing Gardens and Restorative Outdoor Spaces.
7. Designing Local Food Programs in Jails & Prisons (Abrah Dresdale)

Are you wondering how to integrate food production, increased nutrition, vocational training, college credit, and therapeutic opportunities inside correctional facilities? This session explores the design of the Jail-to-Farm-to-College an Employment Program at the Franklin County House of Corrections in Greenfield, Massachusetts. This whole systems case study serves as a model that can be adapted to respond to the goals, opportunities, and constraints of other correctional facilities and their strategic community partners.

Through the lens of social permaculture design, we will explore the following approaches within correctional facilities that can lead to reduced recidivism: food production programs; farm/food systems college courses; family programs with local food; food produced on-site incorporated into meals served; procurement of affordable, local food; partnerships with local farms and food businesses for post-release internship and employment opportunities. Session participants will have time to articulate goals for their own community, and then apply social permaculture frameworks to identify resources, constraints, and concrete next steps for creating or expanding local food programs within carceral settings.

Abrah Dresdale, M.A., is an educator, curriculum designer, and a consultant in the fields of social permaculture, food systems, and prison food justice. She is on faculty in the Sustainable Food and Farming program at University of Massachusetts-Amherst and Omega Institute. She was founding Faculty and Program Coordinator of the Farm and Food Systems program at Greenfield Community College. She brought components of the program into the Franklin County House of Corrections—where she is now the Jail-to-Farm-to-College & Employment Program Coordinator. As a core organizer of the emergent Northeast Prison Food Justice movement, she has curated conference tracks on the subject at Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA), Farm-to-Institution New England (FINE), and Northeast Prison Garden Educators Collaborative. Abrah is author of Regenerative Design for Change Makers: A Social Permaculture Guidebook and the Director of Regenerate Change. www.abrahdresdale.com; www.regeneratechange.com

8. Gardening in Carceral Settings across the U.S. (Rima Green, Sharon Everhardt, Daniela Jauk, Stephen Carmody, Andria Blackwood, Brenda Gill, Mirabai Collins)

This panel of three teams will present on garden projects in three different states – Oregon, Alabama, Ohio– representing diverse carceral contexts and institutions. Our presenters have recently formed an alliance around gardening in prisons and will utilize this space to deepen our mutual understanding of differences and commonalities in
institutional and state settings, as we attempt to bring garden-centered social and ecological justice to various carceral environments. Through Growing Gardens’ Lettuce Grow program, Rima Green and Mirabai Collins facilitate 16 prison garden programs in the state of Oregon since 2010. For the last ten years Lettuce Grow has tracked recidivism among their participants (4%), worked with various educational formats and curricula, and shared from their ample experiences working in multiple prison facilities and with diverse populations. Sharon Everhardt, Stephen Carmody and Brenda Gill are developing a prison garden program in a large maximum-security prison for women in Alabama. They have received USDA funding to implement this garden and will also address how they evaluate their program with applied sociological methods. Daniela Jauk and Andria Blackwood have partnered to initiate and facilitate a garden in a community corrections facility for women in Ohio. The panel will focus on specific challenges of carceral gardening with transitional populations and discuss the strategic planning processes they facilitated within the organization.

Andria Blackwood, Ph.D., is a research specialist for Oriana House, Inc. in Akron, Ohio. She holds a Master’s degree in Sociology with a concentration in social inequalities and institutional racism and a Doctoral degree in Geography centered on urban studies and the racial distribution of wealth, health, and wellbeing. She is currently the manager of a community corrections facility garden. She has been an active community garden member for over fourteen years and an avid teacher and promoter of techniques in gardening for small spaces with limited resources.

Stephen B. Carmody, Ph.D., Stephen B. Carmody, Ph.D., is an anthropological archeologist. He currently serves as Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Troy University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in Anthropology with a specialization in archaeology and paleoethnobotany. His research focuses the origins of agriculture, the origins of structural inequality, agricultural sustainability, and food justice. These themes are the focus of several recent publications including “Agricultural Innovation and Dispersal in Eastern North America,” “The Context and Consequences of Sexual Harassment in Southeastern Archaeology,” and “From the Past … A More Sustainable Future?” Stephen serves and an executive board member for the Tennessee Council of Professional Archaeologists, and served on the Society for American Archaeology’s Committee for Native American Relations as well as the Southeastern Archaeological Conference Sexual Harassment Committee. He currently conducts archaeological research excavations in North America and in Italy.

Mirabai Collins is a program coordinator for the Lettuce Grow program at Growing Gardens, in Portland, Oregon. She holds an undergraduate degree in English with an emphasis in linguistics, and is concerned with African American poetics as relates to expressive constructs within oppressive and undermining frameworks. Attendant to this work is the exploration of un/natural environments and their creative possibilities, which
brings her back to the land and, as a member of the Black Food Sovereignty Coalition, the fight for food-systems justice. In 2004, Mirabai Collins’ brother was sentenced to between 27 years and a life term in prison: an event which continues to inform and instruct her efforts, both personally and professionally, every day.

Brenda I. Gill, Ph.D., is a mixed-method prepared family sociologist and professor at Alabama State University (ASU) in the Department of Criminal Justice and Social Sciences. Her scholarship includes her service on the editorial Board of The University of Guyana Press, and Past President and current Executive Board Member of the Alabama Mississippi Sociological Association (AMSA). She has been the Relationship Expert for the Alabama Prison Reentry program for the past 8 years. She received a Ph.D. in Family Sociology with a minor in Education from Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, 2009. Her research focus is mostly international and generally examines topics related to families along with intersections of gender, age, race, religion, Socio-Economic status, and other variables. Her research interests include multiculturalism, diversity, family, media, violence, and other issues. Some of her more recent work includes an edited book with Sabella Abidde, Africans and the Exiled Life: Migration, Culture, and Globalization. Lanham, Maryland, Lexington Books and a report for the Government of Guyana: "Adolescent Health and Well-Being: Implications for Prevention and Intervention."

Rima Green is the Director of the Lettuce Grow program at Growing Gardens. A Native American, Rima has experienced foster care and incarceration, as both a juvenile and adult. After a 30-year career in the high-tech industry, Rima returned to her love of gardening and working with individuals who, like she, are caught up in the correctional system. Rima holds two degrees in Computer Science.

Daniela Jauk, PhD, is an Assistant Professor for of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of Akron, Ohio. She received a Master’s degree in Sociology from the University of Graz, in her home country of Austria. She completed her doctoral work in Sociology as a Fulbright student at the University of Akron/OH, specializing in Qualitative Research Methodologies and Sociology of Deviance and Gender Studies. She worked as an applied sociologist in for Oriana House Inc. from 2018-19, gaining in-depth experience with corrections research, mixed-methods research projects, and grant writing. This is where she initiated a pilot project for women and several grant applications to introduce and assess the potential of horticulture for health and wellbeing in carceral settings. She continues to expand this research in collaboration with national research partners.

Sharon Lindhorst Everhardt, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Troy University. She received her Ph.D. from Wayne State University in Sociology with a specialization in Race, Class, and Gender. Her main research interests include the study of race, class, and gender, especially low-income populations of women and Clinical Sociology. Currently, her major projects concern poverty, food insecurity, social
isolation, and community gardens in low-income areas of Alabama and amongst marginalized populations as evidenced by recent publications, Can Gardening Help Address Food Insecurity and Social Isolation Among Older Adults? A Pilot Study in Rural Alabama in Activities, Adaptation & Aging and School Gardens: Unpacking the Potential to Reduce Food Insecurity Among Alabama’s Children in Research in Political Sociology.

9. Urban wood project: Baltimore (Morgan Grove, Jeff Carroll, Gene Wilson, Sarah Hines)

The Urban Wood Project: Baltimore is a project that links 3Rs: reclaiming materials, reclaiming lives, reclaiming communities. The project combines social enterprise activities with the deconstruction of vacant homes (deconstruct) and urban wood operations (freshcut) to produce human centered design. In this case, human centered design addresses both the production and products of urban wood. There are several key components to this project. Keeping urban wood out of landfills. Urban wood constitutes 17% of all municipal waste, with nearly as much urban wood going into landfills as is harvested from US National Forests per year. This issue can be addressed while tackling historic and current systems of institutionalized racism. In Baltimore’s most highly segregated neighborhoods, the rate of recidivism is 48% and building vacancy can be as high as 45%. These are also areas of concentrated crime and poverty. The need for US-based industries using sustainably produced US materials. Room & Board is a nationally recognized retail business, bringing beautifully crafted furniture and interior accessories to locations throughout the US. Ultimately, this project combines and builds social and ecological infrastructure from non-profit, government, and private sectors that addresses sustainability, equity, and resilience for cities throughout the United States.

In this panel, we will discuss the different components of this prototype, how they synergistically connect, and the prospects for local implementation at a national scale.

Morgan Grove is a social scientist and Team Leader for the USDA Forest Service’s Baltimore Urban Field Station and is a lecturer at Yale University. He joined the USDA Forest Service in 1996 and has been a Co-Principal Investigator in the Baltimore Ecosystem Study (BES) since its beginning in 1997. Morgan has a B.A. from Yale College with a dual degree in Architecture and Environmental Studies, a M.F.S. in Community Forestry from Yale University and a Ph.D. in Social Ecology from Yale University.

Jeff Carroll is a vice president at Humanim, a workforce development nonprofit creating opportunity for individuals with barriers to employment. Specifically, he is the creator of Details Deconstruction a Social Enterprise of Humanim and oversees it and its sister enterprise Brick and Board. These enterprises are designed to employ individuals with
social barriers to employment. Jeff lives in Baltimore with his wife Heather and holds an MBA from Johns Hopkins Carey Business School.

Gene Wilson is Director of Merchandising & Vendor Management at Room & Board, a national retailer of modern home furnishings. He joined Room & Board in 1998 and has been actively involved in sourcing, product design, merchandising and business development throughout his career. Room & Board is a founding member of the Sustainable Furnishings Council working to bring change both to the home furnishings industry as well as its own business operations. Gene lives in Minnesota and holds a BBA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in marketing and finance with an MBA from the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management in marketing and operations.

Sarah Hines serves as a coordinator and project manager among the network of Urban Field Stations within the USDA Forest Service, working to advance research themes and projects related to urban wood, stewardship, and more across locations. Sarah has spent her career in the Forest Service linking scientists and scientific information with communities and decision makers at local and regional scales to inform stewardship of everything from our National Forests to the local parks and forests in our communities. She received an A.B. in biological anthropology from Harvard, and M.S. and M.B.A. degrees from the University of Michigan.

10. Prison Garden Pedagogy (Renee Portanova, Erika Rumbley)

Pedagogy is often described as the act of teaching. The pedagogy adopted by educators shapes their actions, judgments, and other teaching strategies by taking into consideration theories of learning, understandings of students and their needs, and the backgrounds and interests of individual students. Erika and Renee will present, define and explore various pedagogy and how they apply to adults in a prison garden setting: ecological literacy, emancipatory education, participatory education and trauma-informed education.

Renée Portanova is a horticulturist and environmental educator. She holds degrees in Psychology, Conservation Biology and Environmental Education from Manhattan College, Columbia University and Lesley University, respectively. Renee received her Organic Land Care Professional accreditation through the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) and UMASS Green School Landscaping Management certification in 2010. Renée’s teaching experience includes a breadth of horticultural topics, to various communities. Her pedagogical approach is both political and scientific, emphasizing the importance of horticulture in our society and personal lives. She brings proficiency, through extensive field work, and her passion for teaching/learning to every "classroom" setting. Renee’s field experience includes best practices in land management in the following settings: specialty cut flower farm, fine gardening,
orcharding and ecological restoration. Co-founding and directing The New Garden Society is an ideal synthesis of her passion, education and expertise. Originally from Long Island, NY, Renée currently resides in Roxbury, MA.

Erika Rumbley is a grower specializing in greenhouse production, organic land care and cut flowers. Erika leads TNGS’ Development and Program Evaluation work, and gardens alongside students in a prison yard south of Boston on Monday afternoons. Beyond TNGS, Erika serves as the Assistant Director of Horticulture at The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Erika is a graduate of Vassar College, with an Honors BA in Environmental Studies and is the recipient of numerous fellowships including the Helen Dwight Reid Fellowship for service on The Crow Indian Reservation. Since her first farm apprenticeship in 2005, Erika has grown cut flowers, fruit and vegetables on farms in New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. She honed her skills as a grower as the Greenhouse Manager at Langwater Farm from 2014-2017. In a parallel vein, Erika has served a range of land-based non-profits as a facilitator and adult educator, including Southside Community Land Trust, Boston Natural Areas Network and The Trustees of Reservations.

11. Designing Equitable Evaluations for the Carceral Setting Using Whole Measures (Angela Roell)

In this session participants will participate in an active discussion about crafting equitable evaluation tools for food systems programming in the carceral setting. We will use the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office (FCSO) as a case study to examine how an initial evaluation was implemented, the successes/challenges of evaluating carceral programs equitably, and how to expand on initial evaluation to build equitable evaluation into program offerings. Participants will then engage in an active brainstorming session modeled after the “World Cafe”. In the active brainstorming session participants will:

- Share knowledge and tools for gathering evaluation data to improve their programs;
- Brainstorm ways to collect qualitative and quantitative data to improve their programming;
- Problem solve some of the challenges of crafting equitable evaluation for the carceral setting;
- Design an evaluation tool for implementation.

Angela Roell (they/them) runs They Keep Bees an apiary project based in Great Falls, MA and South Florida. They consult with organizations as Angela Roell, Consulting. They help organizations assess, respond to and shift culture using collaborative principles taken from the honey bee hive.
12. Greening Behind the “Wall”: Reflections of an Interdisciplinary Built Environments Studio Class (Daniel Winterbottom, Amy Wagenfeld, Lori Coppenrath, Shannon Payton)

Recently, the presenters co-taught an interdisciplinary studio course on contemporary issues of restorative and environmental justice. Our team included practicing architects, professors of criminal justice, landscape architecture, and occupational therapy. Why did we choose this topic? The United States currently incarcerates more than two million men and women; more than any other nation in the world, many of whom struggle with poor mental health, substance abuse, and limited job prospects upon release. Research suggests that access to natural environments improves health. Well-designed and well-built correctional landscapes have the potential to positively influence the lives of incarcerated individuals as well as correctional staff; improve offender reentry outcomes; and reduce stress and fatigue amongst staff. Designing environments that enhance the health, safety, and welfare of those who live and work within correctional facilities must be a priority for improving the outcomes of incarceration. Based on this approach, the outdoor space at the Washington Corrections Center for Women was re-envisioned as a therapeutic campus with spaces designed for women in each of the three security levels.

We strongly believe that this cannot happen, however, without the active and committed involvement of an interdisciplinary team of professionals, including landscape architects, social scientists, and therapists, in academia and practice. Our teaching model enabled students to work in small groups to fully understand the importance of creating restorative outdoor environments that allow offenders and staff to use them in ways that are personally meaningful and purposeful and to create concept designs for these much-needed therapeutic outdoor spaces at correctional institutions. Students toured the facility, interviewed, and presented their results to offenders and to senior staff and the superintendent. In this workshop we discuss and share examples of the unique interdisciplinary course pedagogy that melded academia with practice and what worked well and the challenges we experienced.

Landscape architect Daniel Winterbottom, RLA, FASLA is a University of Washington Professor of Landscape Architecture. In 1995 he developed a design/build program, where he and his students work with communities to design and build projects that address social and ecological challenges and provide therapeutic environments for those struggling with traumatic experiences, incarceration, PTSD and other mental health issues. Mr. Winterbottom developed and incorporates participatory design processes in these service-learning projects to create responsive design solutions for communities in need. His book Healing Gardens, co-authored with Amy Wagenfeld was released in 2015. His awards include the Council of Educators of Landscape Architecture Outstanding Educator award, 2007, the University of Washington 2006 S. Sterling Munro Public Service Teaching Award, ASLA Honor Award for Community...

Amy Wagenfeld, PhD, OTR/L, SCem, FAOTA is Lecturer in the Boston University Occupational Therapy Program and Principal of design +cOnsuiTation. She is a fellow of the American Association of Occupational Therapy. She expands her role as an occupational therapist into the world of landscape architecture. Her work focuses on collaborative design, programming, and research of outdoor environments that support physical and emotional rehabilitation and learning in community and healthcare settings. Amy presents and publishes widely on topics relating to collaboration with designers and access to nature. Amy has served on the design team for three American Society of Landscape Architecture award winning therapeutic gardens, is recipient of a silver medal from the International Association of Universal Design, a Center for Health Design award, and two New York state design awards. She is co-author, with Daniel Winterbottom, of the award-winning book, Therapeutic Gardens: Design for Healing Spaces published by Timber Press.

Lori Coppenrath, PhD, LEED, is a Justice+Civic planning expert at DLR Group responsible for programming and planning public safety centers, courts, police and sheriff stations, dispatch centers, prisons, jails and facilities support spaces. Lori works with stakeholders early in the design process to define needs and specific operational functions. Her process explores these individually, first to make sure that all user needs are being met, and then holistically to understand working relationships, interdependencies, and opportunities to increase operational and staff effectiveness. Lori's planning and ongoing collaboration with project designers ensures that the program goals remain intact through construction.

Shannon Payton, AIA is a design leader with over ten years’ experience serving communities through the design of education facilities, with a recent focus on restorative justice and behavioral health projects at DLR Group. Shannon’s passion for cultivating learning environments is also leveraged in the design of workplace and civic projects that emphasizes user connection to nature, and data-driven design to support health and wellness outcomes. With a degree in architecture from the University of Oregon, and Master’s Degree in Landscape Urbanism from the University of Copenhagen, Shannon’s drive for design excellence has sparked a love of problem solving on both micro and macro scales. Her passion for the built and natural environment is fueled by her desire to serve her community through the design of socially vibrant, thoughtfully place-sensitive, timeless solutions that reflect the unique values of each client.

• PLENARY PANEL: Prisons, ecology, and community engagement

Co-convened by Boston College and the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies
Supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation
**SATURDAY, MARCH 14**

- **PLENARY PANEL: Sustainability in prisons project: developing transformative partnerships for people and ecosystems (Kelli Bush, Steve Sinclair, Carolina Landa)**

The Sustainability in Prisons Project (SPP) empowers sustainable change by bringing nature, science and environmental education into prisons. The first SPP programs were developed within a single prison, with dual emphases of reducing resource use and developing a model for ecological conservation programs. Reduced resource use through sustainable operations has become standard practice in Washington prisons. At the same time, ecological conservation and education programs have improved and expanded significantly, broadening positive impacts and catalyzing culture change. SPP currently includes 200 partner and ally organizations contributing to more than 200 programs in all 12 Washington State prisons.

To respond to a world with increasing environmental and social challenges, SPP believes it is imperative to invest in collaborations that increase access to environmental education and empower underserved populations. SPP partnerships and projects promote education and conserve biodiversity, improving both human well-being and ecosystem health. Co-founded and co-directed by The Evergreen State College and Washington Department of Corrections, we bring together incarcerated individuals, scientists, corrections staff, students, and other partners with the aim to provide benefits to everyone involved and reduce recidivism. Our partnerships are challenging, rewarding, and central to our success.

Presenters will include leadership from The Evergreen State College and Washington State Department of Corrections and an SPP Advisory Panel member and formerly incarcerated participant. Together they will describe the SPP model and programs, discuss partnership challenges and successes, highlight efforts to work across differences, and share some of what they have learned about program impacts.

*Kelli Bush co-directs the Sustainability in Prisons Project (SPP), a partnership founded by The Evergreen State College (Evergreen) and Washington State Department of Corrections (WA Corrections) to empower sustainable change by bringing nature, science, and environmental education into prisons. Kelli oversees all Evergreen-led programs, primarily SPP’s conservation and environmental education initiatives. She works with co-director Stephen Sinclair, also Secretary for WA Corrections, to lead more than 180 SPP sustainability and nature programs statewide and disseminate the model internationally. At Evergreen, Kelli provides leadership for a team of twelve staff who coordinate programs, providing direct service and facilitating learning exchanges in the prisons. Prior to joining SPP in 2010, she gained over 15 years of horticulture and restoration ecology experience and earned a B.A. in Agriculture Ecology from The Evergreen State College.*
Stephen Sinclair serves as Secretary of the Washington State Department of Corrections. He was appointed by Governor Inslee on April 25, 2017. Sinclair created the Sustainable Practices Lab, which employs incarcerated individuals in jobs that provide meaningful vocational skills while reducing idleness and gives back to the community. The lab is a national model of innovation that reduces recidivism. Sinclair has a Master of Public Administration from the University of Washington. He is Co-Director of the Sustainability in Prisons Project. Sinclair is dedicated to improving public safety by positively changing lives and to making advances to not only Washington State Corrections, but contributing to nationwide change.

Carolina Landa has seven years’ experience in direct advocacy work, focusing on incarcerated/formerly incarcerated individuals, special needs communities, and immigration. Carolina's passion for these issues stems from her personal lived experiences, and she believes that people with lived experiences have the power to impact the most change by using testimonies to carry the message. Carolina is the Statewide Reentry Council Coordinator in Washington State and she serves on the Advisory Panel for Sustainability in Prisons Project. She graduated with her Bachelor of Arts degree from The Evergreen State College with a focus on Policy and Social Justice in 2019 and she is currently pursuing her Masters of Public Administration, also at The Evergreen State College.

13. Agriculture, food and economic justice

- **Prison Agriculture in the United States: A Preliminary Investigation of an Uneven Practice** ( Joshua Sbicca, Carrie Chennault)

Our penal system is rife with socioecological entanglements of punishment and rehabilitation. In the United States (US) there are nearly 2.3 million people behind bars in nearly 5,000 prisons and jails and 1,800 juvenile correctional facilities. Given the resources that come with housing, feeding, and controlling this many people and places, the state has repeatedly devised strategies to maintain and expand its prison population. Agricultural activities in prisons are particularly illustrative. As a practice that emerged in the post-Emancipation South as a neo-plantation economy and tool for social control by connecting Black Codes to the convict leasing system, agriculture in prisons is rooted in systems of oppression. But the justification for agricultural activities has morphed over time to not only discipline racialized and classed prisoners but also “rehabilitate” them and create “sustainable” prisons. This paper presents preliminary results from a nationwide study of federal and state prisons. To date, we have identified approximately 600 federal and state prisons that have agricultural programs and initiatives, a high concentration of which are in the Southern US. These include everything from traditional row crop farms, gardens, and landscaping to greenhouses, dairy and apiary operations, and hatcheries. The purpose for such programs includes...
education, vocational training, work detail, therapy, charitable activities, and revenue generation. Given this diversity within a structurally exploitative institution, what are some of the contradictions and tensions between the punitive realities of prison life and the supposed reformative potential of agriculture?

Joshua Sbicca is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Colorado State University. His research focuses on the sociological drivers and outcomes of contentious food politics, focusing on how social inequalities intersect with the food system and how social movements use food to resist and alter power relations.

Carrie Chennault is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Colorado State University. Carrie’s research examines the political ecologies of changing U.S. agrifood practices and food justice activism, with topics including alternative and emergency food networks, grassroots movements, racial equity, and the role of land grant universities.

Reimagining Food Justice: From Farms to Prisons (Kanav Kathuria, Antoin Quarles)

In Baltimore, the relationship between individuals living in neighborhoods designated as food deserts and neighborhood-based levels of incarceration is closely linked. Communities have long recognized this relationship and have turned, in part, to urban farms as a means to build and nurture an alternative solidarity economy in the face of food apartheid. Reimagining Food Justice: From Farms to Prisons explores the relationship between carceral capitalism, food justice, and prison abolition through the work of the Farm to Prison Project, an initiative to change food conditions in prisons to humanize individuals affected by the criminal justice system.

For currently incarcerated individuals, food serves as a multifaceted tool to break emotional, physical, and mental wellbeing. As incarcerated individuals have been negated from the American consciousness, food service providers effectively use the criminal justice system to boost profits by heavily cutting on costs and quality. By serving local, wholesome, and nutritious foods in correctional facilities, we not only reclaim the role of food in prison as an avenue for humanization, we can provide alternatives to the food service corporations profiting off of prisons and the prison-industrial complex.

This presentation will provide a historical overview of hyper-segregation and food apartheid in Baltimore, a summary of the public health crisis regarding food in prisons, and how creating a link between urban farms and correctional facilities can serve a dual function of strengthening a solidarity economy on the outside and helping pave a pathway for conditions for liberation on the inside. In addition, the presentation will
provide a summary of our pilot project at a Maryland correctional institution, including goals, challenges, lessons learned, and next steps.

Kanav Kathuria’s work lies in the intersection of prison abolition, public health, and food justice. He understands that true liberation comes from eliminating the use of imprisonment as a solution to society’s problems, and by centering the abolitionist vision to create lasting alternatives to punishment and incarceration. His research and interests fall under the frameworks of abolitionist theory and racial capitalism with a focus on the predatory carceral state. Kanav is an Open Society Institute Baltimore Community Fellow and the founder the Farm to Prison Project, a Baltimore-based organization that changes food conditions in correctional facilities with a focus on increasing the quality and quantity of fresh foods available. His prior experiences include spearheading the restructuring of the Baltimore City Foundation, where he worked to build capacity and rebuild the Foundation into an accountable and equitable intermediary. In addition, Kanav helped overhaul the Foundation’s grantmaking programs to center equitable and participatory practices.

Antoin Quarles El was born in Baltimore and raised in the Park Heights neighborhood. He was adopted shortly after birth, and felt the absence of the parents, especially his father, throughout his young life. In 2014, Antoin founded HOPE Baltimore - Helping Oppressed People Excel. Led by those with experience overcoming the challenges of returning to society after incarceration, HOPE empowers men and women to make this transition successfully and permanently. HOPE helps connect those integrating back into society with practical matters, such as resources for job and GED training; managing case-worker and other appointments; and developing new coping skills, accountability, life laws, and strong relationships to help deal with the stresses of life outside, as well as deeper hurt and trauma.

- **Prison Gardens, Food Justice, and Prison Abolition: The Possibilities and Limitations (Evan Hazelett)**

The U.S. carceral system is a racialized institution that feeds on the criminalization of the poor and communities of color and generates the highest rates of incarceration in the world. In an otherwise violent and securitized carceral environment, prison gardens can offer an opportunity for therapeutic activity, skill-building, socializing, and fresh food, as well as connections to community and employment on the outside, often through food justice organizations. Prison gardens are also situated at the focal point of two opposing forces. On the one hand, there is the mainstream institutional force—“prison sustainability”—geared toward prison reform in the context of prison expansion. This force has begun to adopt the language of city sustainability planning, wrapping prison gardens under the umbrella of prison “sustainability” and “greening” projects, a move that has already been shown to depoliticize and undermine gardening in disinvested urban communities of color. On the other hand, there is the prison abolition
movement—the “unsustainability of prisons”—which seeks the long-term abolition of our current system of mass criminalization and incarceration, and the reimagining of what “justice” means and how we produce it, while supporting those currently caged. Where do prison gardens situate between “prison sustainability,” prison abolition, and (restorative) food justice? What role do they play in helping incarcerated people survive incarceration? Do they have a qualitative impact on the reentry process for formerly incarcerated people? What are their possibilities and limitations? How can we conceptualize and theorize this process?

Evan is a second year Master in Urban Planning student at the Harvard Graduate School of Design where he studies the spatial and racial politics of food and farming. He is writing his master’s thesis on the effectiveness of prison gardens in facilitating successful outcomes in employment and social reintegration for formerly incarcerated people. Upon graduation, he will entering a PhD in human geography to continue his studies.

14. Varieties of people-plant interactions in prisons and jails

- Horticultural Therapy on Rikers Island (Becca Amos, Melanie Reed)

The Horticultural Society of New York’s GreenHouse Program, in partnership with the NYC Department of Corrections and the NYC Department of Education, operates six gardens on Rikers Island. The program gardens provide impactful educational and therapeutic environments and green vocational training, in preparation for reentry, thus producing lower rates of recidivism. The therapeutic gardens created by the GreenHouse program serve as “commons,” which Cindy Milstein, defines as “spaces that we create to sustain, to use, share, and find comfort in, but also spaces that are ours to self-determine.” By encouraging engagement with carefully selected plants and building these unique containers alongside participants, instructors facilitate individual and collective healing from trauma and grief, an unspoken necessity based on the ripple effect of loss brought on by incarceration. Within these forgiving, non-judgmental spaces, there is room to be vulnerable, to shed expectations, categorization and stereotypes and to simply grow in a positive setting. Plants serve as the vehicle for reimagining societal limitations and for complicating the narrative that surrounds those who are incarcerated by adding aspects to individuals far beyond the deeds they are charged with, thus allowing to see a more complete human being. This unfolds through individual experience and interaction with plants that speak to students - chocolate mint leaves, black cat petunia blooms, patches of lamb’s ear, and pink berkeley tie dye tomatoes- each season, new favorites. The transformative experiences with plants in the GreenHouse gardens had by participants and communicated by instructors beyond the walls, are undeniably invaluably humanizing for all. How do we, as gardeners, educators, and organizers utilize our resources together, implement our findings, and replicate the beauty we cultivate behind the walls outside?
Becca is a small-town Virginian from Blue Ridge country living in Brooklyn, New York. She is an NYBG Certified Horticultural Therapist with a BA in Women and Gender Studies from Virginia Commonwealth University. Becca is a senior instructor with the Horticultural Society’s GreenHouse Program on Rikers Island, where she’s instructed primarily incarcerated youth and young adult men. Prior to her work with HSNY, Becca explored a scrappy array of florist, greenhouse, nursery, landscaping, and farming jobs.

Melanie Reed is a senior instructor with the Horticultural Society of New York’s therapeutic horticulture program on Rikers Island. Melanie grew up in Rockaway Beach, Queens, and earned a BS in environmental science and sustainability from Cornell University. Prior to her work with HSNY, Melanie was a manager at Edgemere Farm in Queens, NY.

- Selecting plants for prison and jail gardens (Tony Hall)

In hopes of preventing others from making the same mistakes, this presentation will share prevention advice around plants that don’t match up with the unique needs of gardens in jails or prisons. In this 20-minute session the presenter will share an overview of why certain plants that are acceptable in most organic gardens can create problems for gardeners teaching inside of jails and prisons. The session will go over alternatives to the problematic plants and participants will leave with a list of the ‘most successful plants for prison and jail gardens.’

Tony Hall is the Garden Educator at the Franklin County Jail, and lives in Franklin County MA, where class offerings include organic farming, accessible nutrition, herbalism, and small business start-up. Tony holds a degree in Sustainable Food Systems Education from UMASS Amherst, and three permaculture design certificates. He has recently given workshops at the Northeast Organic Farming Association, and Farm-to-Institution New England, conferences, and also facilitates workshops on mycology in Western Massachusetts.

- Aquaponics in Corrections (Michael McLeon)

The presentation is about the Herbs Behind Bars program (https://www.herbsbehindbars.org) as well as the development of aquaponics with a small challenge we call “One salad a week”. This project is working towards three simple goals:
1. Feed people – provide good food to offenders and staff that is healthy and clean.
2. Save Money – producing our own food reduces the cost of the prisons to the taxpayers, not only with food costs but with medical costs as well.
3. Change Lives – provide job skills and training for new tech that gives offenders jobs in horticulture as well as job skills they can use upon release, as well as, a source for therapy.

We started an urban farming project to meet the challenge we created for ourselves and it began to expand rapidly. We started our program to prove that a hydroponic and aquaponic production system can be run, not only inside the walls of prison but to show that it can run in one of the buildings as well as provide enough produce to offset the cost of the development of the system. Windham School District has now created an urban farming program as well as the Aquaponics Association as formally agreed to assist prisons in wanting to use this tech within their agencies.

Michael (Mac) McLeon is a vocational instructor currently assigned to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice’s Michael Unit in Anderson County, Texas. Mac is part of a team that developed a method of growing crops and herbs within the prison system using aquaponics and hydroponics to provide fresh food for offenders, food banks, homeless shelters, and children’s homes. Even though offenders are incarcerated, through the program they can make a positive difference. Mac is a former field sergeant in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice’s Michael Unit in Anderson County, Texas, will speak about a correctional gardening program he helped develop. Mac teaches offenders coming from urban areas a new skill that can fuel a growing industry while saving taxpayers money. He is the first correctional officer to serve as a member of the American Correctional Association’s Sustainability Committee.

15. Education, life and work skills through the environment

- Good Karma: An Educator Reflects on 7 Years of Gardening at the Country’s Largest Temporary Juvenile Detention Center (Jen Cullerton Johnson)

I will present my experiences from the past seven years as a Chicago Public Schools teacher/gardener who helped create, design, and manage the collaborative community called Karma Garden, where pre-adjudicated residents/Chicago Public School students’ plant, tend and harvest from late May until October. First, participants will learn how the Karma Garden radically changed the landscape of our school-detention center community and the steps we took to arrive at our design success. Secondly, as a group we will examine the impact of how student gardeners connected to self, peers, guards, and gardeners/teachers though the healing aspects/horticulture therapy of gardening. Examples of social and emotional learning and STEAM activities will be given so that other secured facilities working with youth can use them. Finally, I will discuss the larger vision of the Karma Garden as it moved from an after school activity into academic
credit bearing class and offer ideas for curriculum and practice for schools that work within secured facilities.

Jen Cullerton Johnson is a Chicago Public Schools high school teacher. For the past 10 years, she has taught at Nancy B. Jefferson high school, which serves temporarily detained youth. Jen is one of the creators of the Karma Garden, a collaborative community garden that serves temporarily detained incarcerated youth in Cook County. Educated at University of New Orleans (MFA), Loyola University of Chicago (MEd) and Indiana University (BA), Jen writes children’s books and is the author of the Coretta Scott award-winning picture book Seeds of Change.

- **Life Skills in a Prison Garden - Biophilia for Reentry (Hans Hageman)**

How do you bring life skills to incarcerated teens through work in a vegetable garden? I'm a father and an educator. I've been working with teens since 1992. I wouldn't have called myself a "gardener" until a year ago. Yet, my belief in the power of Nature to teach and heal overcame my Impostor's Syndrome." I started a vegetable gardening and life skills program in March of 2019 at Goshen Secure Center ("GSC"). GSC is a maximum-security facility in upstate New York for teens convicted in adult court of violent crimes. I'm not a mental health professional or a master gardener. Still, I have lessons to share that I've learned in my youth development career. As an experiential educator, I've learned things that might benefit others who want to give teens the best opportunity for successful reentry. The garden is a magical place to help incarcerated teens deal with the fear of failure and the desire for mastery. I will present strategies to help incarcerated youth give back, become self-sufficient, learn marketable skills like permaculture, and provide value to any community they choose to join. Young people can gain inner discipline through a developed set of values. I'll share my lessons learned that led me to take an asset-based view of young people regardless of their circumstances, even in the face of approach-avoidance conflict. Controlling and managing surface behavior may sometimes be necessary for an institution. Still, the seemingly organized environment created by control will not carry over upon the youth's reentry to their community. Freedom and safety will only result from self-discipline and a demand for responsibility instead of obedience. A garden and the right adults can bring these lessons home.

Hans Hageman has degrees from Princeton University and Columbia University School of Law. His law practice included work as a prosecutor, chief counsel to a U.S. Senate subcommittee, and as a defense attorney. He shifted his mission when he created The East Harlem School at Exodus House. His work there was honored with an Essence Magazine award and The Robin Hood Foundation Heroes Award, among others. Hans is currently the executive director for Hudson Valley Seed – a program that provides experiential, garden-based curriculum and instruction to schools in New York’s Hudson
Valley. He has also created a pilot program in gardening and life skills at Goshen Secure Center, a maximum-security facility for teens convicted in adult court of violent crimes. Hans also worked as a consultant to the Baltimore Police Department where he created programs in leadership and communication skills.

- Transition from Prison to Work in the Washington State Department of Transportation Environmental Field (Tony Bush)

Over the past two years, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Washington Department of Corrections (WA Corrections), and the Sustainability in Prisons Project (SPP) have developed an innovative partnership to identify education and training opportunities supporting post-release employment for formerly incarcerated people. This partnership is aligned with Washington State Governor’s Executive Order 16-05: Building Safe and Strong Communities through Successful Reentry; WSDOT workforce development and equity and inclusion goals; and the missions of both WA Corrections and SPP. The new collaboration aims to build models that may be replicated by other divisions within WSDOT, other agencies throughout Washington State and the nation.

This partnership provides multiple benefits including fewer barriers to employment for previously incarcerated people, an investment in underrepresented communities to help build a diverse workforce, reduced recidivism, and increased community safety through stable employment. Education and training are cornerstones of this effort. We identified the need to provide education for incarcerated individuals and WSDOT staff regarding the agency’s dedication to second chance employment. Through workshops we are helping incarcerated people learn about environmental careers at WSDOT, how to navigate the state application process, and ways to market the experience and skills they gained during incarceration. We find it equally important to provide education for WSDOT hiring managers and staff to help address potential bias toward this community. Conference participants will learn about this partnership and will have the opportunity to share ideas and experiences developing education and environmental employment pathways.

Tony Bush is the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Wetland Program Manager. He has worked in the Environmental Services offices for 16 years and been in a hiring role for 13 years. Part of his program’s work is to deliver a Wetland Ecology Internship each summer for over 16 student interns. Inclusion and Workforce Development are two areas that Tony is passionate about and he strives to remove barriers and create diverse and unified teams to complete environmental compliance work with WSDOT.
16. Incarceration and families

- Play Free, play-based education and exploration for children with an incarcerated mom (Payton Friess)

More than 1.7 million children have a parent in state or federal prison (Glaze & Maruschak, 2008). Having an incarcerated family member or an absent caregiver have been identified as adverse childhood experiences (ACE) that later increase children’s risk for violence, alcohol or drug abuse and poor health (CDC-Kaiser, 2008). Through no fault of their own, children with a parent who is incarcerated is serving a sentence right along with their parents.

Many of these children affected by incarceration do not have access to high quality, hands on STEAM based play nor do they have the opportunity to experience that kind of bonding with their parent who is incarcerated. “Play-based experiences develop skills that serve as a foundation for life-long learning including critical thinking, communication and problem-solving referred to as 21st century skills.” (Spiegelman, 2017) Programs to promote healthy bonding between children and their caregiver who is incarcerated make a difference in the lives of children, strengthening the attachment that makes children more resilient. It also makes a difference for mothers who are incarcerated through increasing their confidence and experience in parenting, which supports successful reintegration and reduces the recidivism rate.

Play Free from the Kansas Children’s Discovery Center in partnership with the Topeka Correctional Facility is a play-based STEAM education and exploration program for children with an incarcerated mother (or grandmother). The program invites children to come to the museum for a full day of fun with their moms, encouraging educational play and family bonding. Participants play, participate in science programs, make art, explore our 4.5 acres of certified “Nature Explore” Outdoor Classroom and share 2 meals together. Play Free allows these children to gather outside the prison walls for a day of normalcy in a challenging time.

**Payton Friess** received her degree in Public Administration from the University of Kansas. Upon graduation she served as an AmeriCorp member in Minnesota for the Conservation Corps, then moved to Oregon where she worked in human services at an alternative to prison program and at a domestic violence and sexual assault shelter. She currently resides in her hometown of Topeka, Kansas where she works as the Director of Community Engagement for an interactive children’s museum. In her role at the museum, she works to ensure access to safe and high quality play for every family, including families that are affected by incarceration. Payton is also a Prison Yoga Project Facilitator and brings yoga to youth at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex. Payton is a global traveler, trauma informed yoga facilitator, gardening and herbalism enthusiast and dedicated advocate for children.
Re-Connection Through the Garden, Healing Inside the Walls (Daniel Winterbottom)

Surrounded by farms and woods, Bedford Hills Correctional facility on the inside is defined by concrete walls, razor wire, and watch towers. For the 850 residents access to and engagement with nature, is only visual. With trees removed, open spaces are reduced to grass and concrete. Initiated in 1991, The Children's Center reunites children with their mothers, re-establishing bonds damaged through incarceration. Mothers once again become participating parents and each year 100 children reconnect physically, emotionally and psychologically with their parent. As former director Bobbie Blanchard reflected “Some people feel that mothers shouldn’t be allowed to see their children when they’re in prison, we believe it can be a healing place.” Research on the Children’s Center is sparse, but one study conducted at Bedford Hills, found that the 3-year recidivism rate for all women released from prison was 26 percent, compared with 13 percent for nursery program participants, who live with their babies inside the facility.

Evidence is growing that nature interactions can reduce blood pressure, stress, increase attention and well-being. In 2009 students and faculty designed and installed a garden to support bonding between mother and child and to explore their relationships, play and heal. A therapeutic garden can be described as being therapeutic when it has been designed to meet the needs of an individual or group. In the garden bench swings provide gentle rocking movements calm, sensorial interactions with plants to relieve anxiety, play to expand physical interactions and collaboration and shaded seating nooks to facilitate phycological and emotional connection. The verdant garden is a nurturing sanctuary within the harsh prison environment for both mother and child. The process of proposing, designing and implementing this project will be discussed and the presenter will reflect on unique challenges presented when designing for and working within a prison.

Landscape architect Daniel Winterbottom, RLA, FASLA is a University of Washington Professor of Landscape Architecture. In 1995 he developed a design/build program, where he and his students work with communities to design and build projects that address social and ecological challenges and provide therapeutic environments for those struggling with traumatic experiences, incarceration, PTSD and other mental health issues. Mr. Winterbottom developed and incorporates participatory design processes in these service-learning projects to create responsive design solutions for communities in need. His book Healing Gardens, co-authored with Amy Wagenfeld was released in 2015. His awards include the Council of Educators of Landscape Architecture Outstanding Educator award, 2007, the University of Washington 2006 S. Sterling Munro Public Service Teaching Award, ASLA Honor Award for Community Service 2007, ALSA Honor Awards for Community Service 2018, 2017, 2016, 2013, 2011 and 2007, the EDRA/Places Great Places Book Award, 2016, EDRA/Places Great Place Design Awards2010 and 2019 and was inducted as a Fellow in ASLA in 2011.
17. The Green Team: Transitional employment and vocational training (Nick Guntli, Fabricio Suxo, Paulene Hosein)

The GreenTeam, a program of The Horticultural Society of New York, provides short and long-term transitional employment and vocational training to youth at-risk, young adults, and formerly incarcerated individuals, including those experiencing homelessness. The team works year-round on projects for low-income communities and public entities around the city to provide plant care, landscape design, and garden maintenance. As participants learn to plant, trim, mulch, weed, they transform neglected parts of the city, and develop valuable life skills: responsibility, time management, and workplace professionalism. During this presentation, our panel will discuss current and past strategies of the GreenTeam. We will explain how the GreenTeam has evolved from a program that recruits participants directly to one that relies on partnerships with other non-profits for staffing. Following the panel, the room will break into smaller group discussions, with a panel member leading each group, that utilize the experiences of workshop attendees to facilitate a conversation about why certain strategies work, and how to best facilitate vocational training that includes a reentry population. The Director of GreenTeam, along with two former participants that were hired on as full-time staff by The Hort, will explain the development of the GreenTeam, including how it connects to the GreenHouse program at Rikers, the partner organizations that we work with, and the challenges that face an organization that holds the dual goals of facilitating a workforce development program and working to create green spaces throughout New York City.

Nick Guntli has been working to shape the GreenTeam for six and half years. As Director, he has seen the GreenTeam grow from a staff of one reaching 5-6 participants to a staff of fourteen serving up to 40 participants a season.

Fabricio Suxo started as a participant in the GreenTeam before being hired as a seasonal gardener, and promoted to a field supervisor. Fabricio has been a vital part of The Hort for three years, and has helped to shape the training of participants by drawing on his own experience as a participant of the GreenTeam.

Paulene Hosein started as a participant in the GreenTeam before being hired as a seasonal gardener, and promoted to a field supervisor. She has brought a positive attitude and a hard work ethic help the GreenTeam achieve its goals. She draws from her own experience to help train current participants looking to make it to the next step in their lives.

18. Envisioning a World Without Prisons: the application of an abolitionist, land-based framework to recidivism reduction (Douglass DeCandia, Abrah Dresdale, Jalal Sabur, Jocelyn Apicello)
“What is, so to speak, the object of abolition? Not so much the abolition of prisons but the abolition of a society that could have prisons, that could have slavery, that could have the wage, and therefore not abolition as the elimination of anything but abolition as the founding of a new society” (Fred Moten and Stefano Harney, *The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning and Black Study*).

The settler-colonial project of America is and always has been based on land. From the dislocation and attempted genocide of indigenous peoples to chattel slavery and the modern day prison system, the capitalist classes of this country have sought the continuous removal of people from land in order to build and maintain control over the means of self-reliance and create a subservient working class. Without land, we the people lose ability and access to feed, heal and house ourselves, forcing many into poverty - and in this country a positive correlation exists between poverty and incarceration.

To reduce recidivism we must address the conditions of, and systems that create, poverty - and thus, the limitations that people face to accessing land and the means of self-reliance. A change in how we relate to land, to ourselves and to each other is required if we are to heal the past and ongoing harms of colonialism upon human and ecological communities. As we work to abolish the system of racial capitalism that creates prisons and poverty, we must at the same time collectively envision and build a world that is alternative to it; a world where we all have determination over the means of our survival and self reliance.

The future is hotly contested - the elite "architects" of Empire are refining and promoting their plan - what is ours? How can we employ regenerative design and abolitionist thinking to shape what a post-carceral system of accountability and justice looks like? Join us in a generative discussion that will explore these questions and, in doing so, support the becoming of a new society.

*Douglass DeCandia, or digs, has been building gardens and grown food and medicine with folx who are experiencing incarceration throughout Westchester County, NY - in Sing Sing Prison, Taconic Prison, Westchester County Jail and Woodfield Juvenile Detention. At the core of digs' work is the healing, reparation and transformation of our relationships, as human beings, with ourselves, with each other and with the earth.*

*Abrah Dresdale, M.A., is a bold and visionary educator, curriculum designer, and a consultant in the fields of prison food justice and social permaculture. She is on faculty in the Sustainable Food and Farming program at University of Massachusetts-Amherst and Omega Institute. She was founding Faculty and Program Coordinator of the Farm and Food Systems program at Greenfield Community College. She brought components of the program into the Franklin County House of Corrections—where she is now the Jail-to-Farm-to-College & Employment Program Coordinator and Food*
Jocelyn Apicello has been teaching public health courses with the Bard Prison Initiative since 2012 and currently is the Faculty Advisor for BPI's Urban Farming & Sustainability program. She oversees gardening activities at several correctional facilities, incorporating academic and hands-on learning in the areas of regenerative agriculture, climate justice and land stewardship. Partnering with her husband, Jocelyn also owns Longhaul Farm, a micro-farm in the Hudson Valley with a 50-member CSA and the Ecological Citizen's Project, a non-profit that organizes change campaigns to create a more just, healthy, democratic and sustainable way-of-life. In her most recent project at the ECP, she seeks to create regenerative communities by combining urban farming, a community land trust model, community-owned renewable energy installations and employee-owned business. Jocelyn earned her DrPH at Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health, writing about gentrification in New York City and its influence on the habitats of New Yorkers.

19. Prison Food & Recidivism Reduction (Leslie Soble, Terah Lawyer, Jordyn Lexton, Mark McBrine)

Food is an integral part of the human experience. It not only nourishes our bodies, but also expresses identity, communicates values, and connects us to the places and landscapes we inhabit. Nowhere is the power and impact of food better illustrated than in prison, where meals range from bland and unappealing to those that contain spoiled
meat labeled “not for human consumption.” A lack of healthy options often leads to chronic dietary-related diseases, mental health issues, and a decrease in overall well-being. Food becomes another form of punishment - one whose effects last long after the sentence is over.

Impact Justice’s Food in Prison Project has spent the last year exploring how the quality, quantity, and experience of food in prison affect physical health, mental well-being, and human dignity, as well as how food can be used as a tool for supporting reentry and reducing recidivism. We have engaged with currently and formerly incarcerated people, corrections leadership and staff, and a variety of experts and advocates in different fields to learn about the state of prison food in the United States and investigate its impacts on individuals, communities, and the larger social fabric.

This panel will bring multiple voices - including formerly incarcerated people and corrections staff - into dialogue to address this critical issue that lies at the intersection of the movements for environmental, economic, racial, and food justice. We will explore the ways that food systems within prisons, from procurement to meals to garden and culinary programs, can support our shared goals of public safety and ecological sustainability.

As a national nonprofit innovation and research center, Impact Justice’s mission is to foster a more humane, responsive, and restorative system of justice by preventing systems involvement, eliminating cruel and inhumane conditions of confinement, and reducing barriers to reentry so that all people can live productive and fulfilling lives.

Leslie Soile joined Impact Justice in 2018 as the Food in Prison Project Research Fellow. An educator and ethnographer, Leslie is the founder and artistic director of Story Soup, a project that creates contexts for dialogue across cultural and generational borders through food and narrative. Her academic research focuses on food as a cultural text, aesthetic domain, and site of performance. Leslie serves as a teaching artist with various DC-based arts programs and has over a decade of experience designing and facilitating cultural competency workshops to explore identity, systems of oppression, and intercultural/intergenerational communication. Leslie holds a BA in Gender Studies from Brown University, where her course of study focused on grassroots movements for social change. She received her MA in Cultural Sustainability, with a focus on the intersection of foodways, narrative theory, and social practice art, from Goucher College.

Terah Lawyer is the Program Manager for Impact Justice’s Homecoming Project, where her lived experiences as a formerly incarcerated women who spent 15 years in prison continue to inform her work today. She has been an advocate for incarcerated people for more than a decade as a peer health educator, a certified drug and alcohol counselor, and a youth diversion specialist. Terah is a past chair of the Beyond
Incarceration Panel with the Central California Women’s Facility, a former intern at American Friends Service Committee’s Healing Justice Project, and a Next Generation Fellow at the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. She serves as a spokeswoman for the Drop the Life Without the Possibility of Parole campaign and volunteers with the California Coalition for Women’s Prisoners. Terah is a musician, graphic designer, and public speaker. She holds undergraduate degrees in business management and social & behavioral science.

Jordyn Lexton’s six-word bio is: Not Cut Out For The Sidelines. Jordyn is the Founder and CEO of Drive Change, a social enterprise that uses the food truck/hospitality industry to hire, teach, and empower formerly incarcerated youth. Prior to launching Drive Change in 2014, Jordyn spent three years teaching English on Riker’s Island and witnessing the traumatic effects of adult jail on youth. Jordyn entered the re-entry field to work at organizations including CASES and the Center for Employment Opportunities, as well as for Governor Cuomo’s Work for Success program. Jordyn also spent seven months working as a manager on the Kimchi Taco Truck to learn the food truck business. Jordyn holds a BA in English Literature from Wesleyan University and an MA in Education from Pace University. Jordyn is a 2015 Echoing Green Fellow.

Mark McBrine is the Food Service Manager at Mountain View Correctional Facility in Charleston, Maine. At MVCF, he oversees two kitchens and dining facilities, as well as 7.5 acres of intensive vegetable production and a seven-acre orchard, featuring 21 varieties of apples, as well as other fruit. The food grown onsite is incorporated into the facility menu, sold to other facilities, and donated to local food cupboards and pantries. Mark also started a bakery program, where five inmate apprentices bake 100% of all bread and bakery products used in 1,500 meals a day. He has helped initiate food waste composting and intensive vegetable production throughout the Maine DOC. In January 2020, Mark began a statewide training for all agricultural staff in the Maine DOC titled, "The Art of Intensive Vegetable Production." Mark and his wife own a diversified organic farm where they have raised pasture-based livestock, fruit, and vegetables for over 20 years.

20. Leveraging Data-Driven Strategies to Advance Values of Restorative Justice and High-Performance Building Design (Shannon Payton, Lori Coppenrath)

Using a data-driven design framework to benchmark and quantify building performance is critical to architectural practice in the pursuit of sustainable, energy neutral and resilient communities. Through a unique process of values-based client visioning, it is possible to apply the same rigorous, data-driven methodology to support holistic health and wellness outcomes for staff and users in restorative justice facilities. Because many high-performance building design metrics align directly with user wellness goals, setting measurable targets for either project priority is beneficial for both.
This session will explore ways to engage varied clients in a workshop process that uncovers cultural, mission-driven, and site-specific values for each project. Leveraging this early project visioning strategy, see how a data-driven design practice has shaped restorative justice projects from early programming through construction and post occupancy studies. Using the Green Hill School Wellness and Recreation Center project in Washington State as a case study, we will demonstrate the mutually beneficial process of prioritizing positive impacts to human health together with sustainable design strategies such as landscape and playfield design, daylighting, access to views and nature, indoor air quality and passive ventilation, and stormwater management. Learn how to use a system that combines psychological theories with project performance to positively impact user health while lowering energy consumption and creating sustainable sites.

Lori Coppenrath is a Justice+Civic planning expert at DLR Group responsible for programming and planning public safety centers, courts, police and sheriff stations, dispatch centers, prisons, jails and facilities support spaces. Lori works with stakeholders early in the design process to define needs and specific operational functions. Her process explores these individually, first to make sure that all user needs are being met, and then holistically to understand working relationships, interdependencies, and opportunities to increase operational and staff effectiveness. Lori's planning and ongoing collaboration with project designers ensures that the program goals remain intact through construction.

Shannon Payton is a design leader with over ten years’ experience serving communities through the design of education facilities, with a recent focus on restorative justice and behavioral health projects at DLR Group. Shannon’s passion for cultivating learning environments is also leveraged in the design of workplace and civic projects that emphasizes user connection to nature, and data-driven design to support health and wellness outcomes. With a degree in architecture from the University of Oregon, and Master's Degree in Landscape Urbanism from the University of Copenhagen, Shannon’s drive for design excellence has sparked a love of problem solving on both micro and macro scales. Her passion for the built and natural environment is fueled by her desire to serve her community through the design of socially vibrant, thoughtfully place-sensitive, timeless solutions that reflect the unique values of each client.

21. Strengthening protective factors through the design and use of therapeutic landscapes in prisons (Julie Stevens, Amy Wagenfeld, Barb Toews)

Envision a prison landscape with a yard that features an Aspen trail, prairie gardens, and open-air meeting spaces, perfect for small and large gatherings. And, a healing garden specially designed for women in the mental health units. And, a visiting room garden where incarcerated mothers and their children play together. And, production
gardens growing throughout the campus. This is the natural landscape at an Iowa prison. What is more exciting is that this landscape was designed and built by incarcerated women, in collaboration with a university-based landscape architect and her students.

Research is clear that passive and active interaction with nature improves physical, mental/emotional, social, and behavioral health. A small subset of this literature demonstrates that such outcomes hold true for incarcerated individuals who participate in gardening, horticultural, and environmental sustainability programs and interact with simulated natural environments. Research conducted at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women finds that interaction with the landscape, without the use of formal programs, leads to similar positive outcomes.

There is reason to believe that passive and active engagement with natural landscapes may contribute to reduced recidivism. This presentation presents the empirical findings from three prison-based studies and situates them within the risk and protective factors associated with recidivism. The presentation also introduces the ways in which engaging incarcerated women in the design process has the potential to minimize risk and enhance protective factors as a means to support overall health and contribute to relationship re/building with family, staff, and other incarcerated women.

Julie Stevens is an Associate Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at Iowa State University, where she has developed an innovative student design-build service-learning program. Beginning in 2011, Stevens has established a multi-year partnership with the Iowa Department of Corrections to create therapeutic environments for prisons, including gardens for prison staff and incarcerated individuals. The team of Iowa State students, prison staff and incarcerated individuals at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women (ICIW) received the Award of Excellence in Community Service from the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) in 2015 for the ICIW outdoor classrooms and a decompression deck and the 2018 ASLA Award of Excellence in Community Service for the Children’s Garden, a visiting garden for incarcerated women and their visitors. Stevens is a contributor to Design as Democracy: Techniques for Collective Creativity, Island Press

Amy Wagenfeld, PhD, OTR/L, SCEM, FAOTA is Lecturer in the Boston University Occupational Therapy Program and Principal of design +cOnsulTation. She is a fellow of the American Association of Occupational Therapy. She expands her role as an occupational therapist into the world of landscape architecture. Her work focuses on collaborative design, programming, and research of outdoor environments that support physical and emotional rehabilitation and learning in community and healthcare settings. Amy presents and publishes widely on topics relating to collaboration with designers and access to nature. Amy has served on the design team for three American Society of Landscape Architecture award winning therapeutic gardens, is recipient of a silver
medal from the International Association of Universal Design, a Center for Health Design award, and two New York state design awards. She is co-author, with Daniel Winterbottom, of the award-winning book, Therapeutic Gardens: Design for Healing Spaces published by Timber Press.

Dr. Barb Toews is Assistant Professor in criminal justice at University of Washington Tacoma. Her research focuses on the relationships among criminal/restorative justice, architecture and environmental design, and psycho-social-behavioral-judicial outcomes for victims, offenders, and justice professionals. She has taught restorative justice and design courses inside correctional facilities and co-founded Designing Justice+Designing Spaces (DJ+DS), an initiative that engages incarcerated individuals in the design of justice spaces that promote accountability and victim and offender healing. Barb has numerous publications related to restorative justice, including its relationship to design.

22. Gardening Inside and Out: Reflections on connecting with our social and ecological environments (Stacy Burnett, Manny Gonzalez, Alex Hall, Floyd Jarvis, William Jett, Jocelyn Apicello)

In a system and a society where people are denied opportunities to interact with land and nature and have access to spaces of social interaction and ecological engagement, how do we resist? In the Bard Prison Initiative’s Urban Farming & Sustainability program, we are attempting to create these opportunities by integrating college credits with agricultural and food/social/climate justice training, building links from prison gardens to land-based careers or stewardship opportunities after release, and empowering our alumni to become changemakers in the communities they return to through fellowships and internships.

Using a public health prevention framework, this panel will explore how justice-involved individuals interact with the land, built and natural environments through gardening, food production or food justice/apartheid/sovereignty work. This panel will be moderated by a BPI Faculty Advisor and our panelists will all be alumni of BPI programs. Panelists will be asked to reflect on (1) the nature of the relationship between the environments they came from and the social fabric of their communities; (2) how participation in gardening or agriculture programming with BPI or otherwise while incarcerated changed their relationship with their peers and the built/natural environments; and (3) how their current work in the fields of public health, advocacy and social justice is improving the social and ecological infrastructure of their neighborhoods and the health of their communities.

Stacy Burnett is an alumna of Bard Prison Initiative and participated in the BPI garden program at Taconic. She is currently a participant in the Hour Children Working Women Program, where she helps people on work release (men and women) find jobs by
working on soft skills, personal presentation, and mock interviews. She is continuing her education at Hunter College. She is active in her community, and has recently sent requests to NYC's participatory budget program for more tree planting and urban garden space in District 22 in Astoria where she lives. With Hour Children, she is helping to register people to vote - focusing on the historically disenfranchised. She continues to garden, too, keeping a flower garden in her bedroom.

Manny Gonzalez is an AA alum of Bard Prison Initiative and was actively engaged in the BPI gardening program at Woodbourne Correctional Facility. Now living in Newburgh, Manny is actively involved with his community. He has volunteered with several urban farming and food justice organizations and currently manages a farmers market run by the Orange County Government. He works at Independent Living in Newburgh, and has started gardens in backyards and plots of several organizations throughout the city. He is committed to working on food and social justice issues.

Alex Hall currently co-owns a strength gym in Long Island City called JDI Barbell. He also works with the Bard Prison Initiative as a Housing Associate, connecting alumni returning home with transitional and permanent housing. He earned his BA with BPI and was involved with the gardening program in Fishkill Correctional Facility from 2017-2018, which opened his mind to the benefits of urban farming and the connectedness of life from the soil up.

Floyd Jarvis is a former Bard Prison Initiative Public Health Fellow. His work is entitled "Keeping black Markets Black: A Stratification Economic, Public Health, and Reparative Justice Model for Cannabis Equity in the City of New York." Floyd is currently the Paerdegat Basin Ecology Park Docent, working closely with Natural Areas Conservancy, a non-profit and the New York City Parks Dept. Stewardship Team under the division of Forestry, Horticulture and Natural Resources. Floyd is also the Executive Director of Canarsie Neighborhood Alliance. Through this venture he founded the Canarsie Neighborhood Community Garden and is developing a program to employ 100 Canarsie youth in green jobs.

Jocelyn Apicello has been teaching public health courses with the Bard Prison Initiative since 2012 and currently is the Faculty Advisor for BPI's Urban Farming & Sustainability program. She oversees gardening activities at several correctional facilities, incorporating academic and hands-on learning in the areas of regenerative agriculture, climate justice and land stewardship. Partnering with her husband, Jocelyn also owns Longhaul Farm, a micro-farm in the Hudson Valley with a 50-member CSA and the Ecological Citizen's Project, a non-profit that organizes change campaigns to create a more just, healthy, democratic and sustainable way-of-life. In her most recent project at the ECP, she seeks to create regenerative communities by combining urban farming, a community land trust model, community-owned renewable energy installations and employee-owned business. Jocelyn earned her DrPH at Columbia’s Mailman School of
Public Health, writing about gentrification in New York City and its influence on the habitats of New Yorkers.

William Jett is a compost/textile driver for GrowNYC, a nonprofit environmental organization. He has worked for GrowNYC for 8 years. Starting out as a volunteer, William was then hired as a Compost Coordinator to collect food scraps at farmers markets for composting. He has also worked as a Greenmarket manager at GrowNYC. As a compost/textile driver, William delivers food scraps collection equipment to different locations around New York City for compost coordinators and also loads collected food scraps to bring to the compost processing facilities in the city. William was released on parole in January 2011 after 26 years in prison. While incarcerated, he attended and then graduated Bard College’s Bard Prison Initiative program in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He has since graduated from NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service with a Master of Urban Planning degree in 2016.

23. Bars without Barriers Prison Outreach: STEM education, prisoners, and their families (Heather Kleiner, David Boone, Ebony Mitchell, Dianne Clark)

"Bars without Barriers: Turning Prisoners into STEM Role Models for their Children" was designed in 2015 when Sci-Port discovered that incarcerated families were un-served by the science center/museum. The first year was supported by a local grant (Beaird Family Foundation) which leveraged federal funding by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for 3 more years. Through Bars without Barriers, Sci-Port teaches STEM communication strategies and activities to soon-to-be-released offenders in the Work Re-entry program at the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office. Program basics: 1) Six weekly themed lessons (What is Science, Science in/at... house, yard, supermarket, city, work), each of which includes specific skills and activities. 2) Between lessons, supervised, whole-group family visits allow Offenders to practice the skills they've learned and engage in the activities learned the previous week. Non-incarcerated caregivers receive a 3-month membership to Sci-Port upon their first visit. 3) Offenders completing the program receive a certificate along with a one-year membership to Sci-Port. Weekly themes, activities, and skills: hands-on activities are chosen and lessons designed according to three primary objectives: childhood development; informal science education; and facilitation, inquiry and engagement. We choose activities that are easy to replicate at home and require only inexpensive, readily-available materials. Our goal is to inspire curiosity, rather than to convey specific content knowledge. Learning can happen anywhere and with anything. We serve an average of 264, 246, and 110 Offenders, children, and non-incarcerated caregivers per year, respectively. The program has generated substantial local media coverage and community goodwill. Ages of children: age 0-1, 8%; age 2-5, 34%; age 6-7, 18%; age 8-12, 37%; age 13+, 2%. Up to 70% of Offenders in the program complete 6 sessions out of 12. Caddo Correctional Center (CCC) staff are present at each visit and also engage and interact.
Heather Kleiner earned a Ph.D. in Pharmacology & Toxicology from the University of Texas at Austin and conducted post-doctoral training at UTMD Anderson Cancer Center. She spent 10 years as a faculty member at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport where she achieved tenure by excelling in research, teaching, and service where she published 31 articles and mentored 60 students in her lab. Dr. Kleiner began a new career at Sci-Port Discovery Center in 2014 and developed new programs to serve groups underrepresented in STEM. She is the Founding Chair of the North Louisiana STEM Alliance (part of STEM Learning Ecosystems) and co-founder of “Bars without Barriers” Prison Outreach. She is the Sponsored Programs Manager at Sci-Port and has written/managed over 30 grants in that capacity.

David Boone is the Director of the Caddo Correctional Center’s (CCC) Work Re-Entry Facility and has been with the Caddo Parish Sheriff’s Office for over twenty years. Director Boone has nineteen years of experience in supervising the Parenting Program at CCC. He also trained foster parents in parenting skills for OCS for eight years. David was tasked with developing the reentry program prior to implementing it in July 2009. He has a BA in Criminal Justice from the University of Louisiana Monroe, and a MA in Counseling from LA Tech University. David is also a Licensed Addictions Counselor, and Louisiana POST certified law enforcement officer. Director Boone is a founding partner for the “Bars without Barriers” Prison Outreach program.

Ebony Mitchell is currently the Sci-Port Outreach Assistant for the “Bars without Barriers” Prison Outreach program. Before that, she served for a year as an Americorps VISTA member for the North Louisiana STEM Alliance with the philosophy that “STEM education is a pathway out of poverty.” She holds an Associates’ degree in Computer Science and Mathematics. Ms. Mitchell is passionate about social justice, diversity, equity and inclusion and has founded a non-profit (the O.L.L.I.E. Initiative) to provide STEM services to the underserved. Ms. Mitchell is active in the Community and has worked diligently with Dr. Kleiner to build capacity of the North Louisiana STEM Alliance.

Dianne Clark is the Executive Director of Sci-Port Discovery Center, and former Chief Workforce Development Officer/Campus Dean of Northwest Louisiana Technical College. She also served as Interim Director for two years where she oversaw 8 training sites, 150+ employees, 7000 students across a 9-parish service area and budget oversight > $10 million. She participated regularly in Senate and House meetings at the Louisiana State Capitol. Ms. Clark holds an MBA from LSU-Shreveport and serves on numerous non-profit Boards, business and civic committees. Ms. Clark joined Sci-Port Discovery Center upon its re-opening and re-structuring in 2018, where she has worked tirelessly to reinvigorate the Center, attract diverse visitors, serve the Community, and bring in new and exciting exhibits and programs. She is in full support of the “Bars without Barriers” Prison Outreach program and is eager to see it move into the dissemination phase.
24. Creating Meaningful Production, Marketable Training, and an Infectious Moral Boost, All on a DOC Budget (Mark McBrine)

After a brief introduction, I will seek to inspire attendees to set bold goals, identify personal, and/or facility opportunities, and show how we can develop new and innovative skills amongst staff and inmates, through an extensive and fast paced 40 minute Power Point Presentation featuring all aspects of the production and training used to achieve success in both, Agriculture, and Food Services in the Maine DOC. The presentation covers topics like "how to get started without much support?", "What if we don't have much for space?", "How do we make meaningful use of the harvest?", What kind of training is available?" "How can we develop new, and stronger relationships among individuals and organizations to collectively benefit all parties across our region?" The presentation will show the methods and strategies we have used to produce 150,000 lbs. of fruit and produce last year, provide all their bread and bakery products in house, including bread, rolls, hamburger buns, hotdog buns, sub rolls, English muffins, pita pockets, Etc. How our kitchen has been able to average over 30% local food purchases while consistently coming in $100,000 - $150,000 under budget the past 3 years.

How this program has greatly benefitted inmate moral and virtually done away with legitimate food based grievances. One of the most meaningful benefits this marketable training has produced is the income provided to the inmate apprentices. The inmates chance of success is tremendously increased if they have a substantive savings account upon release. Upon completion of the presentation, attendees will have received a work sheet asking them to list 3 obstacles to a successful program, and then ask for 3 ideas that would help you overcome these obstacles, based on what they have seen, or come up with on their own. Attendees will be able to ask questions while the worksheets are being filled out. The last 10 minutes will be used to give people a chance to share their obstacles and ways to overcome them.

Mark McBrine is the Foods To Table Food Service Manager at Mountain View Correctional Facility in Charleston, Maine. At MVCF, he oversees 2 kitchens and dining facilities, as well as, 7.5 acres of intensive vegetable production and a 7 acre orchard, featuring 21 varieties of apples, as well as other fruit. The food grown by the inmates is incorporated into the facility menu, sold to other facilities, and donated to local food cupboards and pantries. Mark also started a bakery program, where five inmate apprentices bake 100% of all bread and bakery products used to feed 1,500 meals a day. He has helped initiate food waste composting and intensive vegetable production throughout the Maine DOC. In January 2020, Mark began a statewide training for all agricultural staff in the Maine DOC titled, "The Art of Intensive Vegetable Production". Mark and his wife own a diversified organic farm where they have raised pasture based livestock, fruit, and vegetables for 20+ years.
25. Security to Sustainability (Ryan Fries, Rebekah Mende)

In 2016, Maine State Prison initiated a Master Gardening Volunteer program at a maximum-security correctional facility, this has certified 30 inmates as Master Gardeners. We have successfully expanded a limited greenhouse operation to over 2.5 acres of vegetable production, which is consumed onsite and shared with food pantries. Additional sustainability programming includes five working bee hives, food waste composting and collaborative research projects on production methods with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. The success of this programming has depended on strategic partnerships with the Cooperative Extension and State agencies to support experiential educational opportunities, as well as local donations to augment production.

In this workshop, we will first explore the challenges and successes of our work in an interactive presentation. We will facilitate a round table discussion considering: how to support other state DOCs to replicate and integrate this successful model using evidence-based practices. For the community to benefit from sustainability programming inside correctional facilities, the largest hurdle to overcome is correctional staff’s perception of “security and risk”. Without staff support, the cornerstone of successful correctional programming, there would be no links to explore. We will also explore ways to forge and strengthen interagency and private partnerships, which create pathways for civilians to incorporate expertise into positive DOC staffing opportunities. This workshop will facilitate the recording and distribution of key group takeaways to support the success of similar programming while connecting participants to enable further collaboration and resource sharing.

Ryan Fries and Rebekah Mende collaboratively direct sustainability programming at the Maine State Prison. MSP is the state’s only maximum-security prison and also a flagship model for the state’s DOC programming. The goal for 2019 has been set at 20,000 lbs. of food with 10% of harvests going to local food banks. As of this proposal writing the facility has recorded over 17,000 lbs. of food.

Ryan Fries, a Captain at Maine State Prison, has 25 years of experience in the correctional setting and has witnessed firsthand the benefit of giving educational opportunities to prisoners to better prepare themselves for release. He was initially tasked with creating the garden program under the direction of then Warden, now Commissioner, Randall Liberty. With his understanding of facility security and rapport with inmates Fries was able to grow 13,000 pounds of food at the facility in 2018.

That same year Rebekah Mende (Vocational Trades Instructor) was hired and entrusted to continue the success of the programming. Mende has a MS in Food Systems & Society, a background in prison food reform and 5 years of experience in the private sector working with non-profits and Lettuce Grow in Portland, OR.
26. Restoration Not Incarceration: Lessons Learned from an Ecological Rehabilitation Program for the Formerly Incarcerated (Christine Norton, Jarid Manos, Calvin Glenn)

This panel will present empirical data and anecdotal findings from an exploratory, qualitative research study that examined the impact of Great Plains Restoration Council's (GPRC) environmentally based pilot program Restoration Not Incarceration (RNI), which targeted the restoration of Houston (TX) prairies, bayous, wetlands, and Gulf Coast shore, in conjunction with rehabilitation and recidivism reduction of young adults with a history of involvement in the criminal justice system. The program was based on an interdisciplinary framework that combined ecopsychology and social work to promote ecological health through a structured curriculum, psychosocial group work, and ecological restoration work in nature. Preliminary findings showed that RNI helped young adults reintegrate into society by achieving new insight and was associated with improved life outcomes. This panel will also discuss important challenges faced by participants. Implications for ecopsychology and social work practice will be discussed, as well as areas for future research in criminology.

Christine Lynn Norton, PhD, LCSW, is an Associate Professor of Social Work at Texas State University. She received her Ph.D in Social Work from Loyola University Chicago. She has a Master of Arts in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago, and a Master of Science in Experiential Education from Minnesota State University-Mankato. She has taught as adjunct faculty at The University of Denver, Prescott College, and Naropa University. Her areas of practice and research interest and expertise are in innovative, experiential interventions in child and adolescent mental health; outdoor behavioral healthcare; experiential education and adventure therapy; positive youth development; foster care support in higher education; and international social work.

Jarid Manos, an American writer and activist, is the author of Ghetto Plainsman, which is currently being made into a movie, and the upcoming short story collection Dive by the Wreck. Jarid Manos is also Founder of Great Plains Restoration Council, based in Fort Worth, Texas. Focusing on prairies and waters, GPRC created the nature-based work therapy model of Ecological Health where people take care of their own health through taking care of the Earth, and applies it through its Restoration Not Incarceration™, Plains Youth InterACTION™, and Your Health Outdoors™ programming. GPRC’s on-the-ground restoration projects have taken place in Texas, New Mexico, and South Dakota. Great Plains Restoration Council is now helping others adopt and adapt Restoration Not Incarceration™ to their local ecosystems and human needs. JaridManos.com GPRC.org

Calvin Glenn is one of the original participants of the Restoration Not Incarceration™ program developed by Great Plains Restoration Council. Formerly homeless, he has
targeted heavy invasive species infestation on the Coastal Prairie of Houston, helped
construct reintroduction sites for Gunnison’s prairie dogs in the Galisteo Basin of New
Mexico, and cut down woody overgrowth for the new Fort Worth Prairie Park that will
protect a living remnant of one of the rarest ecosystems in North America. Calvin prides
himself on his always growing knowledge of land and sea animals, and is now studying
to become a computer programmer. GPRC.org

27. The Nature of Resilience and Recovery in the Prison Landscape (James
Jiler)

Humans have been hardwired to a relationship with plants for the past 50,000 years in a
process of co-evolvement. It is really the past two generations where that connection
has been radically disrupted to a point where humans and the nature they depend on is
now threatened with a dramatic change impacting the balance of life, for all plants and
organisms, including humans. But what happens, when the circuitry is reconnected –
when humans once again experience nature on an intimate level; one that holds out the
promise of emotional and/or physical survival? For the past 25-years I have worked in
institutional settings such as prisons, residential drug rehabilitative facilities and safe
houses for women escaping from domestic violence and sex trafficking, building
gardens and teaching individuals how to interact with nature as they undergo recovery
or rehabilitation from destructive or emotionally damaged lives. Based on the thousand
or so individuals I have worked with over the years I can say on a qualitative basis, that
close to 90 percent had experienced positive change through working outside in the
gardens. And that over-time there were levels of self-discovery and awareness that
went beyond recovery, but life transformation that came to illustrate how resilient
humans are in the face of deep trauma. The capacity of nature to engage the human
senses – smell, touch, sight, taste, and hearing – in a life-affirming way contradicts the
immediate sensory of the institutional setting. But this impact is not one-way; it does not
take place without transforming the landscape that individuals are both confined to and
engaged with. Prison landscapes are designed to deter escape and maintain detection.
It is land in distress. While humans are denied humanity, the landscape is denied
nature. The magic happens when both interact in a series of meaningful activities with
the goal of restoration – restoring the human spirit and restoring the integrity of nature.
This presentation explores those interactions as a pathway to social and environmental
recovery and how far we can take it to real social and environmental change.

James Jiler is the Founder and former Executive-Director of Urban GreenWorks, a
Miami-based non-profit organization, which provides environmental programs and green
job training to incarcerated men and women, youth remanded by court to drug rehab
and at-risk high-school youth in low-income neighborhoods. He is also the former
director of The Horticultural Society of New York’s GreenHouse Program, a jail-to-street
horticulture program at New York City’s jail complex on Rikers Island. James is author
of the book "Doing Time in the Garden" (New Village Press, 2006), which details the
GreenHouse approach to rehabilitation and explores the role of gardening in jails and prisons around the country. James holds a Masters of Forestry from Yale University (1994) and is currently an Adjunct Professor at Florida International University teaching Global Environmental Studies at inner-city schools for dual enrollment students. He continues to design gardens in at-risk institutions around Florida.


The state of food apartheid in corrections is central to social justice, environmental, and economic considerations. The six New England states are home to approximately 105 correctional facilities which feed more than 33,000 people daily. Almost all of these New England facilities are public entities, governed by state and federal policy, and administered by public agencies at the county, state or federal level.

Farm to Institution New England (FINE) is a six state regional network focused on mobilizing the power of institutions to transform our food system. Historically we have worked in the K-12, college and health care sectors, but we are now exploring what productive roles we can play with prisons, jails, and other correctional facilities. As a regional network organization, we convene stakeholders, conduct research, and catalyze collaborative projects which address key barriers in the institutional local food supply chain while advancing policies and programs.

In this interactive working session, we will create a container for dialogue and listening, preceded by a brief presentation from FINE on farm to institution food policy at correctional facilities. In a roundtable format, we will ask session participants to share their experiences and ideas regarding:
1. In what ways do current laws, regulations, and procedures related to food in corrections support healthy, just, productive living and working conditions for incarcerated citizens?
2. What are the needs for new policies or changes to existing policies that would promote a healthy, just, and productive food system in corrections?
3. What efforts are taking place in the region and nationally to create policy change related to prison food? What can FINE do as a regional network to support those efforts?

Brittany Florio is the part-time program associate at Farm to Institution New England. In this role, Britt coordinates program development, outreach, and communications to catalyze change in the dynamic farm to institution movement. She has been working in the food system since 2010. Prior to her work at FINE, Britt co-owned a regenerative herb and vegetable farm business in the Hudson Valley, New York. After leaving the farm life, she worked at UMass Amherst as the Sustainability Coordinator for UMass Dining and as an adjunct faculty member, teaching Sustainability Science. Britt holds a
Bachelor’s degree in Agriculture and Natural Resources from the University of Connecticut and a Master’s degree in Sustainability Science with a concentration in Sustainable Food Systems and Agriculture from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. In her free time, Britt loves fermenting foods, kayaking, foraging, and making wild flower bouquets.

Abrah Dresdale, M.A., is a bold and visionary educator, curriculum designer, and a consultant in the fields of prison food justice and social permaculture. She is on faculty in the Sustainable Food and Farming program at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and Omega Institute. She was founding Faculty and Program Coordinator of the Farm and Food Systems program at Greenfield Community College. She brought components of the program into the Franklin County House of Corrections—where she is now the Jail-to-Farm-to-College & Employment Program Coordinator and Food Systems Faculty. As a core organizer of the emergent Northeast Prison Food Justice movement, she has curated conference tracks on the subject at Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA), Farm-to-Institution New England (FINE), and Northeast Prison Garden Educators Collaborative. Abrah is author of Regenerative Design for Change Makers: A Social Permaculture Guidebook and the Director of Regenerate Change. She lives in vibrant Western Massachusetts with her beloved husband. More at www.abrahdresdale.com; www.regeneratechange.com
SUNDAY, MARCH 15

PLENARY: Advancing research and practice

Workshop on future directions and needs for the field
Participants will breakout in groups with guided reflection and discussion on (1) their own evolving practice, (2) learnings, impressions and insights from the conference, and (3) key needs and considerations for future research and practice. Notes from these workshops will be transcribed after the conference and sent to all participants. A report based on these workshops will also be submitted to the National Science Foundation to identify future needs for funding and research.