

SUSTAIN

the Australian food network



COMMUNITY
GARDENS
AUSTRALIA

**Call for
presenters**

Edible towns, cities and suburbs, edible gardens, and growing on Country

4th Urban Agriculture Forum by Sustain and
Community Gardens Australia National Gathering 2023

17th – 19th November 2023

Call for Presenters

Submissions open: Wednesday 21st June 2023

Submissions close: Tuesday 15th August 2023

Registration deadline for presenters: Thursday 31st August 2023

The 4th National Urban Agriculture Forum (UAF), to be held from 17-19 November 2023 in conjunction with Community Gardens Australia's National Gathering, explores the theme of nourishing cities.

We are proud to hold the UAF for the first time on the lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. In hosting at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence in Redfern (Sydney), we are reminded that Australian cities and towns have always been, and always will be, Country.

Redfern's rich legacy as a centre of Aboriginal intellectual culture, political leadership and activism provides a fertile ground for exploring how urban agriculture can honour Country and support Indigenous self-determination. How can urban agriculture create more nourishing cities and towns and foster more socially and ecologically just urban environments? The Urban Agriculture Forum is an opportunity for policy makers, practitioners and innovators to explore these questions, while networking and exchanging knowledge about leading practice in the urban agriculture sector.

2023 will also see the third National Urban Agriculture Month happening across November (1st to 30th inclusive). The month-long celebration will feature garden tours, events and workshops highlighting the movement in Australia.

Join us as we explore the growing urban agriculture movement in Australia and beyond, and the positive changes it is creating for community health, wellbeing and sense of belonging.

Proposal Guidelines

We invite submissions (300 words max) with a focus that will be of interest and relevance to researchers, urban farmers, community gardeners, food security advocates, and policy makers at every level.

Themes may include, but are not limited to:

- Connecting to and on Country
- Indigenous models for urban agriculture
- Policies and governance models
- Climate change
- Biophilia and mental health
- Ecological health and biodiversity
- Soil health and water conservation
- Food security and food justice
- Education and learning
- Urban planning for edible environments
- Social movements
- Waste and circular food economies
- Green infrastructure
- Peri-urban agriculture and the urban-rural interface
- Social inclusion and connection

Please submit your submission of no more than 300 words for a 15-minute presentation via email to uaf@sustainaustralia.org by 15th August 2023.

All presenters must register to attend the event by 31st August 2023, and purchase a ticket according to the appropriate ticketing tier.

Limited sponsored speaking positions (with fees waived) are available for Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and other First Nations people, and will be considered for those involved with community and/or not-for-profit endeavours. We encourage interested speakers who are eligible for these sponsored positions to submit their speaker topic and a summary, and we will be in touch to discuss the details if you are selected.

Keynote speakers and presenters:

- **Rabekah Siebert** is City of Dallas' Comprehensive Urban Agriculture Plan Manager, working collaboratively to build a resilient food system in the Dallas region. She is committed to regenerative agriculture models that serve the triple bottom line: people, planet, and profitable livelihood. Rabekah will share how the City of Dallas is leading the way in becoming more sustainable through urban agriculture.
- **Brenden Moore** is a highly valued First Nations member of Sydney's Royal Botanic Garden's Community Greening team, which comprises of environmental and cultural horticulturalists and educators that support schools, communities, and social housing entities in creating garden spaces across NSW.
- **Linda Lipsius**, CEO of Denver Urban Gardeners (DUG) in Colorado is a self-described "evangelist for using business as a force for good" working to amplify the role that community gardens and food forests can play in the infrastructure of thriving cities. Started in 1978, DUG is one of the country's largest independent community garden organizations with 192 gardens and 6 food forests in metro Denver.

About Sustain: The Australian Food Network:

Sustain is a “think and do” network working towards the transition to a healthy, socially just, sustainable food system. We give communities, governments and organisations the knowledge and tools they need to create a food system that nourishes people and the life systems on which we all depend. We design and run urban farms and other community food projects that foster healing and belonging and that demonstrate in the here and now that, yes, a better future is within our grasp.

About Community Gardens Australia:

Community Gardens Australia (CGA) is a not-for-profit, volunteer-run organisation that exists to support, provide resources to, network and advocate for community gardening activities. Established in 1996, CGA maintains a network of representatives around the country to drive our mission of improving the health and wellbeing of Australians through community gardening activities. We currently have over 700 gardens listed in our online directory and we envision a future of connected, nourishing, accessible and resilient community gardens for all Australians.

About our steering committee:

The Urban Agriculture Forum is proudly organised by a steering committee of leading urban gardening and farming organisations. The Steering Committee will include, in addition to Sustain and CGA, representatives of the City of Sydney and Royal Botanic Gardens Community Greening.

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