Proposal for:

1278 MYRTLE
A COMMUNITY GARDEN

This proposal details plans to transform the vacant lots at 1276 & 1278 Myrtle Avenue into a vibrant community space in Bushwick, Brooklyn.
ABOUT US

**Mission**

Our mission is to engage the residents of Bushwick and northern Bedford-Stuyvesant in the urban farm movement through the creation of an accessible community farm. Our goal is to produce food the community can access for free.

Additionally, this farm will serve as the base for a number of social activities, including a youth employment program, film screenings, community dinners, delivery of fresh foods to elderly, gardening workshops, and other gatherings.

**Vision**

Within the collective, we envision a New York City with thousands of urban farms and individuals producing food. We envision a more resilient urban city, where communities are less susceptible to shocks in the economy or climate. We envision a new generation of youth actively moving away from consuming foods produced through harmful, toxic industrial practices towards valuing non-commoditized local production. We envision community farms and gardens as centers of social and political education and awareness, where all human beings and their experiences are seen as contributing to a greater understanding of our potential.

**About the Lots**

Brooklyn Block 3232, Lots 40 & 42

1276 & 1278 Myrtle Avenue, 11221

2,500 Sq. Ft.

The lots are owned by the Department of Administrative Services and they are currently being negotiated to be transferred to Green Thumb for licensing.

The residents of Bushwick and northern Bedford-Stuyvesant agree that this vacant space can be better utilized as a community garden that houses an array of activities. We believe the space has potential not only for significant food production, but to host gatherings, community dinners, youth programming and more.
1278 Myrtle is not only a garden, it is a collective of individuals dedicated to achieving social justice. The garden will not only function for food production and beautification, it will be an open and inclusive base for a number of educational and empowering social activities.

**BK ROT Compost Collection Youth Employment Program**
The compost collection youth employment program is designed to engage low-income and minority urban youth in the urban farm movement through economic empowerment. Our goal is to improve youth employment through activities that boost health, increase their knowledge of basic agriculture practices, and expose them to democratic workspaces.

**Fresh Produce Delivery to the Elderly**
In certain parts of Bushwick and north Bedford-Stuyvesant, it is difficult to find organic, non-GMO produce. It is even more difficult for elderly residents who have limited mobility. We will offer regular free delivery of fresh produce to interested elderly residents in the area.

**Community Dinners**
Community dinners are a great way to bring residents together. We would like to host a monthly meal where we use food produced from the garden. We believe this can be an opportunity to teach basic life skills to youth and facilitate stronger relationships in the neighborhood.

**Gardening, Composting, Canning Workshops**
A number of us in the collective have experience as gardeners and farmers. We will use the space to host skill shares, where we will provide workshops and classes for anyone who is interested in learning how to manage a garden or garden at home.

**Youth Debt Prevention Clinics**
We work closely with Strike Debt, a debt awareness and education collective that works to help individuals understand their debt. The youth debt prevention clinics aim to provide information to college-bound youth on the consequences of taking on consumer debt through credit cards and student debt through loans. The clinics will be held once a month and we will partner with youth groups.

**Summer Film Series**
The proposed garden space has a large wall that would be great for screening documentaries and films around social and political issues of relevance to the community.
TIMELINE

We have developed a 3 month planning timeline, which depends on our ability to access and begin developing the space. With spring just around the corner, we intend to move quickly in gaining support and gathering materials. The timeline is flexible and subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Goal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 16</td>
<td>Open meeting at 1278 Myrtle Avenue.</td>
<td>Engage more residents.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 18-25</td>
<td>Outreach to businesses, schools and residents.</td>
<td>Get signatures of support for proposal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>Open meeting at 1278 Myrtle Avenue.</td>
<td>Generate more support.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Gather materials for building.</td>
<td>Complete raised beds and greenhouse for garden.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Stock seeds.</td>
<td>Begin sowing seedlings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Planting/Building.</td>
<td>Seedlings transplanted to site.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Launch BK ROT Compost Collection.</td>
<td>Two youths working.</td>
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