The Food Oasis Pilot Group / BCOPAAT was formed in February 2011 among 11 residents of Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights to create a garden that would serve as an oasis of fresh, healthy, organic food in a food desert. Through the collaborative, hands-on work on the garden itself, as well as through the weekly food distribution process, the Group aspires to cultivate a sense of sharing and empowerment in the community.

Members of the group have a history of participating in community programs in the fields of youth and education, accountable development, and popular education, to name a few. Members also have experience in project management from working in various industries including music, fashion, web development, and law.

**OVERVIEW**

Food Oasis / BCOPAAT is a highly replicable, small-scale vehicle for food justice and food security in New York City. We have mastered the practice of growing organic produce in our own backyards to feed ourselves and our neighbors - all from donated and recycled seeds. Anyone with access to a backyard or garden can grow their own food, this simple model has the potential to alleviate the shortage of affordable fresh and organic produce in food deserts throughout New York City, while empowering community members in the process.

Food Oasis/BCOPAAT combines the best of two worlds - the community garden and the CSA (community-supported agriculture).

**SURVEYS**

Before even a single crop is harvested from the garden, we will first reach out to our neighbors and get to know them better. We will survey about on their habits, needs and capacities with respect to fresh food.

**DISTRIBUTIONS**

When the harvest is almost ready to yield, we will distribute order forms for food baskets. Each food basket will consist of approximately 10 items (one of each type of produce harvested) and will be priced 75% below supermarket price. Food baskets will be delivered to homes of senior citizens or distributed at a community space (like a church, or even at a table set up on the sidewalk).

**WORKSHOPS**

In order to spread the Food Oasis / BCOPAAT model, we will offer workshops on gardening skills and a variety of food issues throughout the harvest cycle. We hope that these workshops will serve as as a medium for practical education and civic engagement, along with simply increasing contact among neighbors. The workshops will ensure that this practice of gardening and sharing will continue well beyond the first harvest cycle.
Food Oasis/BCOPAAT addresses the problem of food deserts, defined as low-income areas which lack easy access to fresh, affordable food. We plan to serve various demographics through distributing food baskets as follows:

**Tier 1**
Demographic: Age 65+
Cost: Free
Distribution: Delivery, Weekly

**Tier 2**
Demographic: Single individual (unemployed) (must clock 10 hours per week as a volunteer)
Cost: Free (up to 2 distribution cycles)
Distribution: Pick-up, Bi-weekly

**Tier 3**
Demographic: Single individual (employed)
Cost: TBD, 75% discount from local grocery prices
Distribution: Pick-up, Bi-weekly

**Tier 4**
Demographic: Couples without children
Cost: TBD, 75% discount from local organic prices
Distribution: Pick-up, Bi-weekly

**Tier 5**
Couples with children under 21
Cost: TBD, 75% discount from local organic prices
Distribution: Pick-up, Bi-weekly

**Co-op**
Demographic: Workers, sponsors, and residents of Food Oasis

We will measure our success through the feedback we receive from those we serve. In addition to a formal post-harvest cycle survey, we will keep informal lines of communication open to make sure that needs are getting met and that suggestions get incorporated into the project.

Regular workshops, info sessions, and discussion forums will also help ensure that the knowledge gained through Food Oasis be shared and continue. We will also work with community-based groups to make new connections and spread the model.
PROPERTY INFORMATION

890 MYRTLE AVENUE, Brooklyn 11206

Vacant Land Owner:
HOUSING PRESERVATION
Block: 11755  Lot: 40

Property Characteristics:
Lot Area: 2,500 sq ft (25' x 100')
# of Buildings: 0  Year built: 0
# of floors: 0  Building Area: 0 sq ft
Total Units: 0  Residential Units: 0
Primary zoning: R7D  Commercial Overlay: C2-4
Floor Area Ratio: 0

FAR may depend on street widths or other characteristics.
Contact City Planning Dept. for latest information.
Alternate address from NYC Dept of City Planning:
772 MYRTLE AVENUE

Vacant Land Owner:
HOUSING PRESERVATION
Block: 1754 Lot: 16

Property Characteristics:
Lot Area: 2,500 sq ft (25' x 100')
# of Buildings: 0 Year built: 0
# of floors: 0 Building Area: 0 sq ft
Total Units: 0 Residential Units: 0
Primary zoning: R7D Commercial Overlay: C2-4
Floor Area Ratio: 0

FAR may depend on street widths or other characteristics. Contact City Planning Dept. for latest information.
**FOOD OASIS PILOT GROUP & BUILDING COMMUNITIES ONE PLANT AT A TIME (**#BCOPAAT**)**

**APPLICATION**

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<thead>
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<th>Telephone Number:</th>
<th>Other phone where you can be reached:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residence Address:</td>
<td>Apt. #</td>
<td>City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mailing Address (if different)</td>
<td>Apt. #</td>
<td>City</td>
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We must accept your application if, at a minimum, it contains your name, address (if you have one), and signature in this box.

List everyone who lives with you even if they are not applying. List yourself first:

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<tr>
<th>L</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Sex M or F</th>
<th>Is this person applying?</th>
<th>Relationship to you</th>
<th>Relationship to you</th>
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**APPLICANT SIGNATURE**

X

**DATE SIGNED**

**Authorized Representative SIGNATURE**

X

**DATE SIGNED**
This garden is filled with easy-to-grow veggies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>tomato</th>
<th>cucumber</th>
<th>pole beans</th>
<th>pole beans</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>broccoli</td>
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<td>pepper</td>
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<td>beets</td>
<td>cabbage</td>
<td>spinach</td>
<td>parsley</td>
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<tr>
<td>onions</td>
<td>leaf lettuce</td>
<td>carrots</td>
<td>radishes</td>
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**KEY**

- **GREEN BEANS**
- **SWEET PEPPERS**
- **POTATOES**
- **TOMATOES**
- **GARLIC**
- **ONIONS**
- **SQUASH**
- **LETTUCE**
- **SPICES**
- **BROCCOLI**
- **HERBS**

*VEGETABLE LOT LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE*
"A gem right in your backyard, an oasis of fresh, organic, healthy food in a food desert"
Find the location where you plan to put the box.

2. Prepare your wood posts.

3. Cut the side walls. First cut your wood into the dimensions you want.

4. Paint your wood to seal it from water and rot.

Drill the boards into place.

5. Place a barrier cloth. Once the box is set, line the box with 1/2" hardware cloth to keep out pests and varmint. Staple or screw the hardware cloth to the sides.

6. Place weed cloth. Next, place some weed cloth on top of the hardware cloth. Staple that to the sides of the box. This is to keep the weeds from growing from below.

7. Add in your soil. Stand on it to pack it down. Leave about 2 inches from the top. <

8. Have fun watching your garden grow! Make sure to fertilize your soil or rotate which plants you grow in the boxes to keep the soil fresh.
Food Oasis/BCOPAAT
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local sponsors

- Citizens Committee for New York City 77 Water St. Suite 202 NY, NY 10005
- Smart Deli 892 Myrtle Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11206
- Rustik Tavern 471 Dekalb Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11205
- Duane Reade 756 Myrtle Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11206
- Brooklyn Stoops 748 Myrtle Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11206
- New Testament Church Of God 904 Myrtle Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11206
- Our Children Daycare 756 Myrtle Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11206
- Joloff Restaurant 1168 Bedford Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11216

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FOR donations or to volunteer