



**ADVOCATES for  
URBAN AGRICULTURE**

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# Our Mission

*To empower urban growers to foster thriving communities through sustainable agriculture & equitable food systems*



AUA achieves this mission by:

- Educating urban agriculture practitioners
- Endorsing best practices for growing operations
- Connecting growers, consumers, & resources through an active network
- Advocating for urban agriculture policy at all levels





# Our Vision

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# Our Community as a Coalition



## AUA's Milestones

- 2002: 2nd Illinois Food Security Summit is held & AUA is born
- Initial goals include:
  - Set up a listserv
  - Hold quarterly meetings
  - Conduct a survey of people and organizations working in urban ag in Chicago.
  - Develop a calendar of events
- 2003: 3<sup>rd</sup> Illinois Food Security Summit is held & AUA is presented; Representative from Chicago DPD makes presentation to AUA regarding City support of AUA.



## AUA's Milestones

- 2004: Plan for Sustainable Urban Agriculture in Chicago is presented and approved by AUA members
- 2006: AUA's Resource Guide is published
- 2007: Chicago Eat Local Live Healthy plan approved by Chicago Plan Commission
- 2009: AUA Steering Committee restructured – volunteer steering committee of 12-15 members who commit to 2 year terms – and undergoes strategic planning process



## AUA's Milestones

- 2011: AUA receives first major gift; finds a fiscal agent; hires its first P/T staff member
- 2014: AUA receives major funding for additional capacity; hires a second P/T staff person
- 2016: AUA receives 501c3 status & hires Development Consultant
- 2017: AUA hires first full-time Executive Director & undergoes strategic planning process
- 2018: Three full-time staff members with benefits; 11 board of directors; Associate Board formed

# AUA's Budget

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- ~\$250,000 annual budget
  - 74% from private grants
  - 13% from fundraising (events + individual contributions)
  - 13% from earned revenue
- Three full-time staff with health insurance + office space
  - Executive Director
  - Communications Manager
  - Training Programs Manager





- 2011 Urban Agriculture Ordinance
- 2015 Compost Ordinance Amendments
- 2016 USDA awards City of Chicago \$1 million
- 2017 City hires its 1<sup>st</sup> Urban Ag Project Manager
- 2017 Good Food Purchasing Policy
- 2018 Urban Ag Areas bill in State Legislature

## Urban Ag Policy in Chicago



Recent Urban Ag  
Trends

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# How AUA supports

- Resource Sharing
- Community building
- Educational Events
- Technical Assistance
- Advocacy



# Resource Sharing

- Largest Network of Urban Agriculture Practitioners & Enthusiasts in region
- Active Listserv of 2,300+ members
- #1 source for urban ag-related jobs & training opportunities
- Promote & facilitate funding/financing opportunities





## Find a Growing Space Near You

Search by location. Choose one location option.

Address ▾

Enter an address or intersection

1 mile ▾

Community Area ▾

Ward ▾

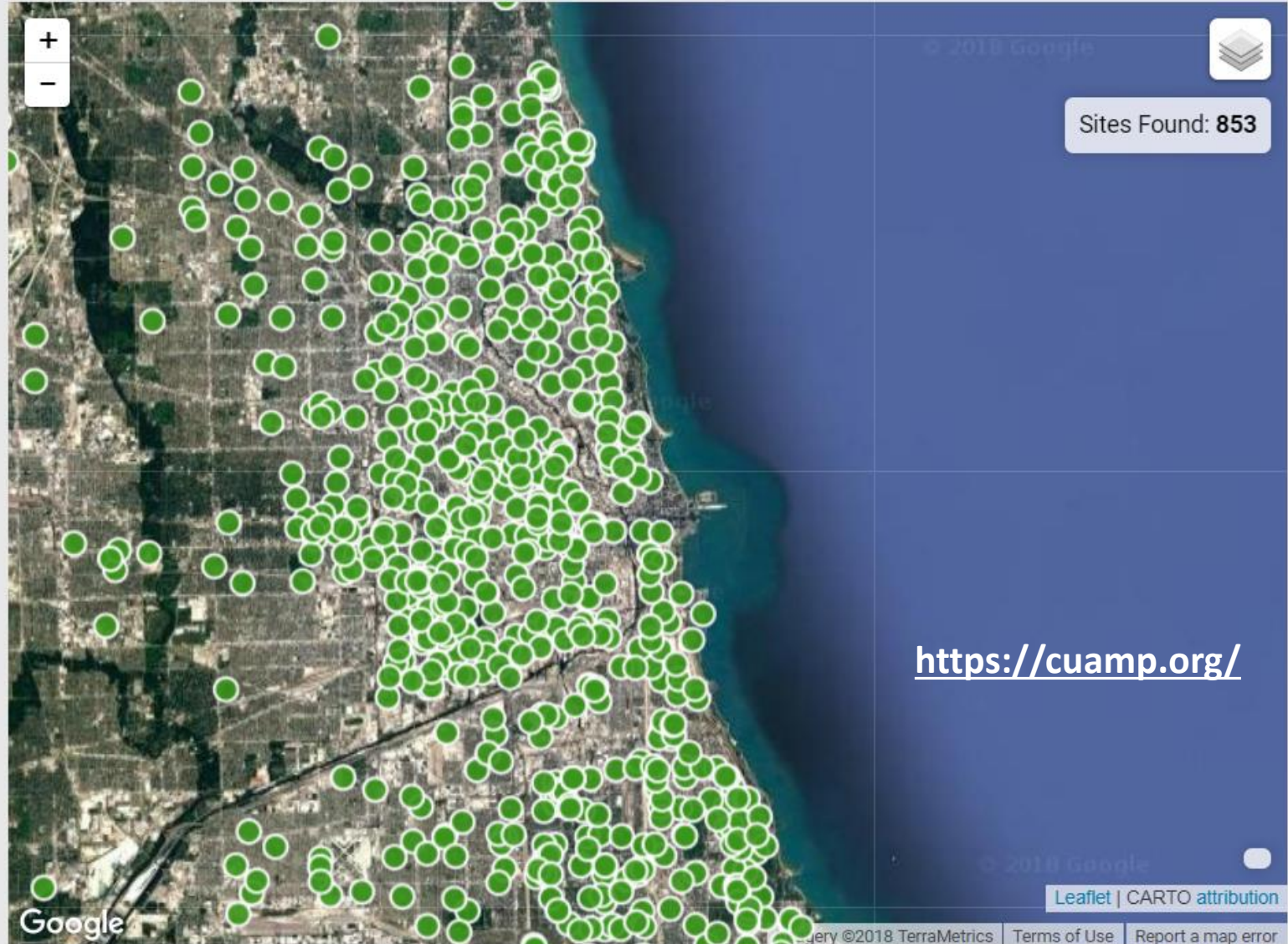
Cook County District ▾

Know the garden name? Enter it here.

Enter a garden name or keyword

Refine and filter your search results.

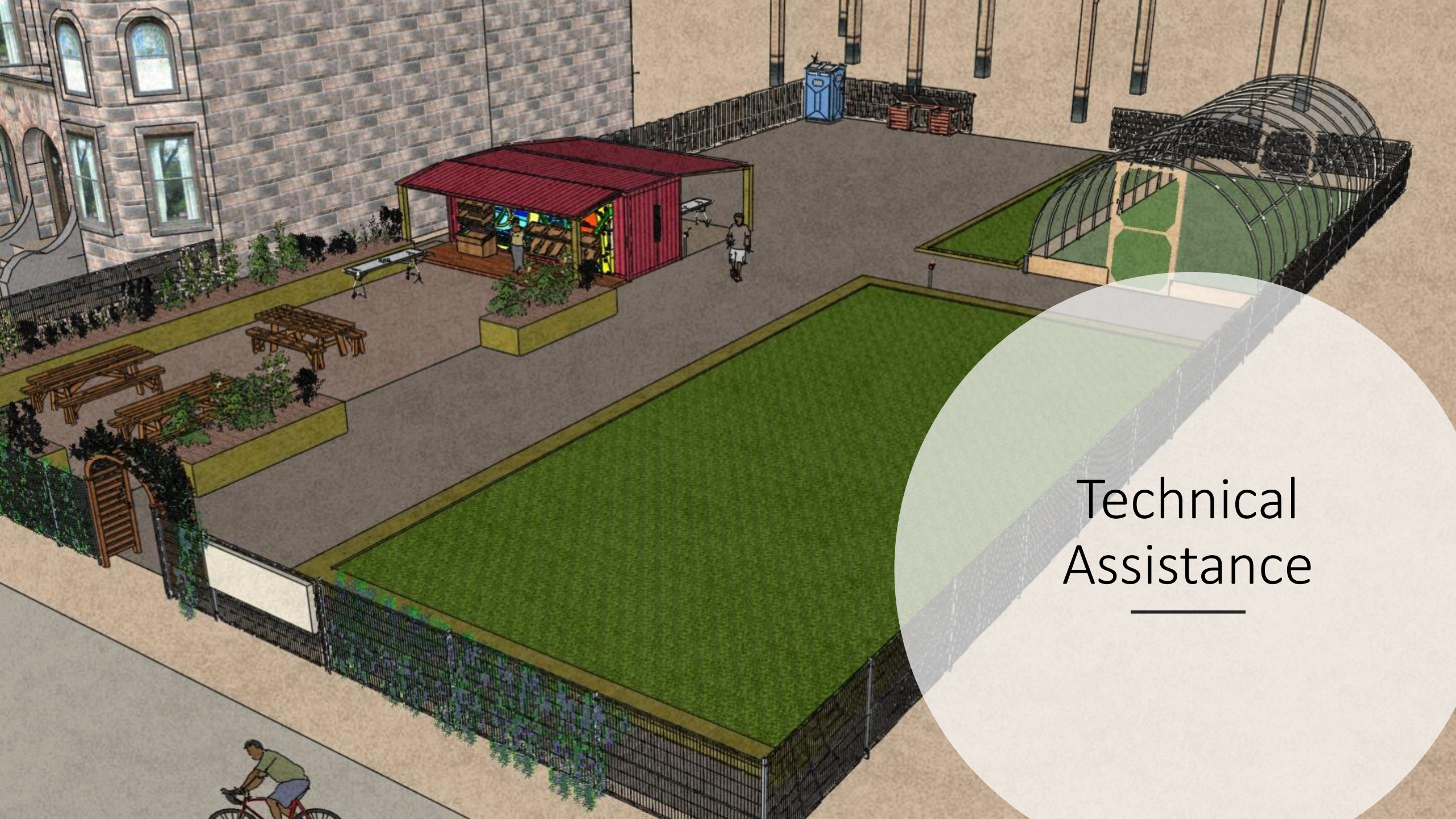
Advanced Search



# Events

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Technical  
Assistance

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# Advocacy

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Photo Credit: *Mark Busch*

# Ward Ambassador Program

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# Next Steps for AUA

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- Best Practices program + voluntary certificate for urban farms
- Update & translate Urban Ag Resource Guide
- New brand identity + website
- Business/organizational membership fees
- Develop a small business center for urban farms
- Granting/financing options for farms
- Applying a racial equity lens to our work





AUA Wants You!

Become a (free!) AUA member

Join the AUA listserv

Contact: [info@auachicago.org](mailto:info@auachicago.org)

Website: [www.auachicago.org](http://www.auachicago.org)