

THE STATE OF GARDENING IN THE WIDER AURORA COMMUNITY

Research Project



GARDEN ELEMENTS



Professors McClusky, Meyers, & Olson



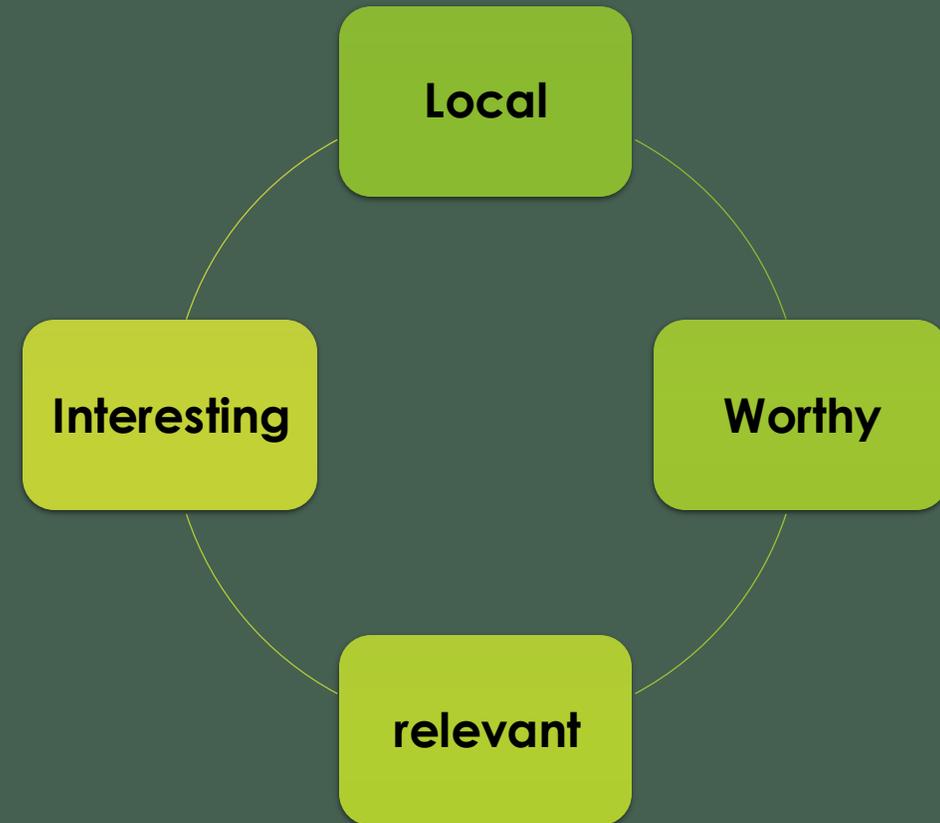
Marion Brown, Director of the
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Research Purpose: why
conduct this study?



The Project

- FOR THE STUDENTS
- FOR THE FACULTY (AND STUDENTS)
- FOR THE FACULTY
- FOR THE STUDENTS
- FOR THE GARDENERS

• FOR EVERYONE



BIG GENERAL QUESTIONS

Resilience, Revitalization, Regeneration

Methods

- Summary presentation of the second of two seasons of summer research on gardening in the Finger Lakes region of New York. The research teams included faculty supervisors and student researchers who conducted semi-structured interviews of local gardeners. These gardeners were videorecorded within their gardens and landscaped yards.



My Research Perspective: The Wider Framework for the Local Context

- Beyond a detailed understanding of gardens in the region ...
- the research has made it possible to analyze the video-recordings for narratives of cultural and personal
 - resistance,
 - resilience, and
 - regeneration.

Global Change, Instability, and Necessary Adaptation

- “The stability that characterized our specie’s thriving over the last ten thousand years is rapidly eroding”
- John Hartigan Jr., *Movable Gardens: Itineraries and Sanctuaries of Memory*, Virginia D. Nazarea & Terese V. Gagnon, eds., Tucson, University of Arizona Press, 2021, page xi.





Past Regeneration

- “All we created was made possible through the relationships our species maintained with seeds, relations that, in turn, were predicated on the climatic stability of the Holocene.”
- John Hartigan Jr., *Movable Gardens: Itineraries and Sanctuaries of Memory*, Virginia D. Nazarea & Terese V. Gagnon, eds., Tucson, University of Arizona Press, 2021, page xi.

Resilience

- Planting a seed is a humble act, yet the implications of planting extend into the histories of cultural, social, and ecological change and deep into the social and political makeup of larger structures of power.
 - The archaeology of seeds and planting
-
- John Hartigan Jr., *Movable Gardens: Itineraries and Sanctuaries of Memory*, Virginia D. Nazarea & Terese V. Gagnon, eds., Tucson, University of Arizona Press, 2021, page xi.

Regeneration?

- “The Anthropocene we speak of today has many sources and channels, but the most fundamental register of its significance comes down to whether or how the vegetative forms that maintain our lives will continue to flourish”

- John Hartigan Jr., *Movable Gardens: Itineraries and Sanctuaries of Memory*, Virginia D. Nazarea & Terese V. Gagnon, eds., Tucson, University of Arizona Press, 2021, page xi.

- How will our future gardens grow?

Resilience and

- “...home gardeners are doing far more than ‘growing tomatoes,’ they are fertilizing the soil with thoughts and values for future movements to come”
- “They are growing food to strengthen relationships with each other and the land, they are sharing food to restore their bodies and communities, and
- Gabriel R. Valle, *Gardening at the Margins: Convivial Labor, Community, and Resistance*, University of Arizona Press, 2022, page 35)

Resistance?

- "...they are generating new knowledge and propagating ancient ways of knowing to find escapes from the biopolitics of industrial capitalism."
- Perspectives of the global from the local view
- Gabriel R. Valle, *Gardening at the Margins: Convivial Labor, Community, and Resistance*, University of Arizona Press, 2022.