



grow
TOGETHER

2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

Southside Community Land Trust provides access to land, education and other resources so people in Rhode Island can grow food in environmentally sustainable ways and create community food systems where locally produced, affordable and healthy food is available to all.

New home, SAME MISSION

Many of us look back at the pandemic and remember feeling like we were treading water or of time standing still. While SCLT's work was certainly affected by Covid, we managed to get a tremendous amount done. In the past two years, we've hired talented new staff, many from the South Side, to support our growing operational capacity. This past July, with generous support from friends, we completed our GROW! Capital Campaign and moved into our new headquarters at 404 Broad Street. In August, we celebrated SCLT's first four decades at a welcoming family event at the Peace & Plenty Community Garden.

The opening of our Farm-to-Market Center at 404 Broad Street now enables SCLT to aggregate and distribute more locally grown, healthy food than ever before. In 2022, 23 farmers in our network sold their crops through the FMC to nine institutional buyers seeking nutritious, fresh produce for their food-insecure clients, including patients, families with children and seniors.

From the ground up, our staff have been building the infrastructure for a food system that empowers local communities, not out-of-state corporations. The puzzle pieces are coming together for the equitable and sustainable food system we all deserve.

With your help, we're getting closer every day.

Warmest wishes



Rochelle Lee
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Margaret DeVos
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SCLT

OUR RANGE

- **SCLT COMMUNITY GARDENS**
 Land we own and/or manage
- **PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY GARDEN NETWORK SITES**
 Gardens we support with agricultural resources and/or services
- **SCLT-OWNED AND/OR MANAGED FARMS**
- **FARMERS MARKETS**
- NEW & NOTABLE**
- ★ **THE GOOD EARTH**
- ★ **SCLT'S NEW HEADQUARTERS**
 Construction completed in summer 2022



Breaking NEW GROUND

At The Good Earth Farm, which SCLT purchased in 2021, staff have reclaimed abandoned farmland, increasing the growing area by 20% and installed new produce wash-and-pack facilities. In spring, 2022, immigrant and refugee farmers were mentored to operate a farmer co-op, selling plant starts and compost at the property.

Conservation plans for 2023 and beyond at GEF include irrigation and drainage improvements, habitat restoration and forest health practices, plus construction of access roads and a forest trail.



Now Open!

THE HEALTHY FOOD HUB AT 404 BROAD STREET

SCLT staff moved into our new home in Trinity Square in July, taking up the top floor of our 12,000 sq. ft. building. (The timing, with pandemic restrictions loosening, meant new and existing staff could work in the same place for the first time.) On the ground floor, the Farm-to-Market Center (FMC) began offering farmers ample space to bring their crops to be processed and distributed to SCLT's wholesale customers, including VeggieRx.

The final phase of construction at 404 Broad Street is building out the three retail spaces also on the ground floor. This will take place in early 2023. Tenants include an African market, a fast-casual neighborhood restaurant and a home-style eatery with counter service. All will source their ingredients through the FMC.

404 Broad Street represents both the culmination of four decades of SCLT's relationship-building and investments in urban agriculture, and its continuing drive to make healthy, culturally appealing and affordable food available to all Rhode Islanders.





Four decades of FOOD SYSTEM CHANGE IN RI

SCLT's story begins in 1981 with building the Somerset Community Garden—the city's first—in South Providence. At right are programmatic milestones highlighting our work to improve the local food system ever since.

TEACHING PEOPLE HOW TO GROW AND INCLUDE HEALTHY FOOD IN THEIR DIETS

1986: SCLT builds City Farm in Providence to demonstrate how to grow high-yield crops in small spaces without harmful chemicals. Staff welcome neighborhood children with free afterschool and summer activities. Another early program teaches incarcerated women how to garden.

Over the years SCLT builds gardens at schools and community centers, including the Harry Kizirian Elementary School, St. Michaels Church and Higher Ground International.

1992: the first Rare & Unusual Plant Sale is held to support home and community gardeners, introducing uncommon seed varieties that promote biodiversity.

2009: City Farm hires its first farm apprentice. Six years later, apprenticeships are offered at partner farms around the state.

2016: SCLT offers high school youth year-round jobs in Providence, and in Pawtucket at Galego Community Farm the next year.

2019: SCLT builds the Somerset Hayward Youth Enterprise Farm to promote food production, nutrition and entrepreneurship about food systems change.

2021: SCLT pilots the Pee Wee Growers program for children 5-11, using art to teach children about African American heritage, contributions and connections to the land.



INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF LAND USED TO GROW FOOD IN RI

2001: SCLT staff begin growing food crops on a 50-acre state-owned parcel in Western Cranston, signing a long-term lease in 2002. The property, Urban Edge Farm, incubates several successful farms, and now hosts 16 farm businesses, owned primarily by immigrant, refugee and women farmers.

2016: SCLT expands into Pawtucket with the Galego Community Farm

2018: SCLT expands into Central Falls in with the Garfield Park Community Garden (SCLT's 22nd!).

2021: SCLT buys the Good Earth Farm, in Hope, enabling several small-scale farmers to move onto larger plots and expand their operations.

MAKING IT EASIER TO BUY AND SELL LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE

1991: SCLT helps launch the Downcity Farmers Market Cooperative in Providence. In 2008, the co-op settles in Lippitt Park, becoming the Hope Street Farmers Market.

2002: SCLT founds the Broad Street Farmers Market, staffed mostly by Hmong farmers selling culturally familiar produce unavailable elsewhere in the state.

2004: a group of urban farmers, led by City Farm, Scratch Farm and Red Planet Farm, launch the Little City Co-op, selling hyper-local produce to restaurants and food businesses.

2014: SCLT co-founds the Sankofa World Market, expanding the supply of affordable and culturally diverse fresh produce in the West End.

2017: staff begin aggregating farmers' crops, selling them to wholesale buyers.

2019: SCLT pilots VeggieRx, a produce prescription program. In 2022, the program supplies nutritious food to three healthcare partners.

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ADVOCATING FOR LAND USE POLICIES THAT STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES

2004: SCLT initiates the Urban Agriculture Policy Task Force, to recommend changes to Providence's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinances to encourage urban agriculture.

2009: SCLT begins organizing people and partners across the state to create the Rhode Island Food Policy Council.

2011: SCLT lobbies for and wins an ordinance allowing Providence residents to raise backyard chickens and another to make it a right to grow food on land anywhere in the City.

2012: SCLT helps establish Providence's Lots of Hope Program which revitalized abandoned urban properties for use as community gardens.

2021: SCLT partners with the Conservation Law Foundation and the Healthy Neighborhoods Equity Fund, a coalition of healthcare and philanthropic funders seeking to improve both community well-being and environmental health, to obtain outstanding financing to build the Healthy Food Hub at 404 Broad Street.

LOOKING AHEAD, SCLT WILL
CONTINUE TO BUILD LOCAL
RESILIENCE AND HEALTH EQUITY
WITH A FOOD SYSTEM THAT
CONTINUALLY REINVESTS IN
COMMUNITY ASSETS, LEADERS
AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

2021 FINANCIALS

INCOME

Contributions	\$1,353,711
Government	\$800,527
Earned Income	\$319,414
Total Income	\$2,473,652

EXPENSE

Programs	\$1,177,001
Administration	\$384,335
Development	\$182,687
Total Expenses	\$1,744,023

NET INCOME \$729,629

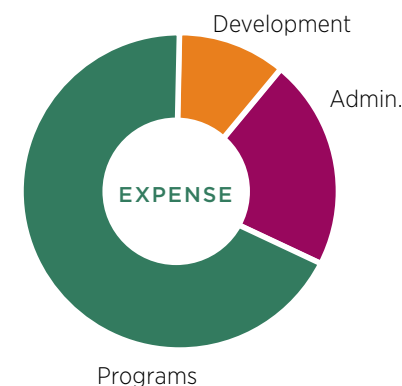
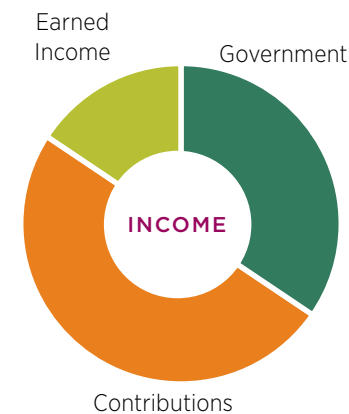
TOTAL ASSETS \$5,191,353

Current Assets	\$983,313
Fixed Assets	\$3,897,986
Investments and Other Assets	\$310,054

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS \$5,191,353

Liabilities	\$534,848
Net Assets	\$4,656,505

*Audited



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Our Community

BY THE NUMBERS

370+

PEOPLE grew food in **22**
COMMUNITY GARDENS

85%

OF SCLT GARDENERS live
below the poverty line

34

LANGUAGES spoken in
our gardens in 2021

122

NAMES on the waitlist for
garden & farm plots

30

FARM BUSINESSES grew on
SCLT's **70+ ACRES OF**
RURAL FARMLAND

2,000

GARDENERS bought **14,000**
VEGETABLE & HERB PLANTS
at the 2022 Rare & Unusual
Plant Sale

5,000

VEGETABLE PLANTS donated
to food pantries and to Hope's
Harvest in 2022

12

TONS of compost produced each
year at City Farm

32

YEARS OF PRODUCE SALES
at Hope Street Farmers Market,
18 at Parade Street Farmers
Market and **14** at Broad Street
Farmers Market

55

COMMUNITY-BASED
ORGANIZATIONS partnered
with SCLT in 2021 & 2022

Responding to Rising FOOD INSECURITY

> **9**

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE AGENCIES bought
produce from **23** FARMERS IN OUR NETWORK

> **2,800**

VEGETABLE SHARES distributed in 2022 through
the VeggieRx produce prescription program

> **500**

POUNDS OF PRODUCE DONATED to the
RI Community Food Bank in each 2021 & 2022





Our Programs: *Build a Better Local Food System* **FROM THE GROUND UP**

FARMLAND ACCESS

SCLT added a land access manager in early 2021, who spent much of the past year developing and implementing whole farm conservation plans for our 20-acre Good Earth Farm (GEF) and the 50-acre Urban Edge Farm (UEF). The plans are intended to build ecological health and climate resiliency, while improving overall crop production at the properties.

During the past two years, several parcels changed hands at UEF, which SCLT manages under a long-term lease with the state. The changes allowed existing farmers to expand their plots and new farmers to begin growing and benefiting from the shared resources and equipment on-site.

Infrastructure improvements at both UEF and GEF enabled 25 farm businesses to improve efficiencies and increase production.

FARM SERVICES

SCLT's farmer support staff has more than doubled in capacity and expertise since 2020. We are now able to work with more new farmers and landowners in the Greater Providence area and to help farmers grow their businesses. Staff have been busy providing technical assistance and resources, and facilitating connections between farmers and wholesale buyers. In 2021, for instance, SCLT staff connected three UEF farmers with two emergency food providers that have continued to buy large amounts of produce from them in 2022.

The addition of new farmer support staff means they can work in a way they hadn't before, to provide significantly more hands-on and wrap-around technical assistance. This includes:

- Helping refugee and immigrant farmers overcome language and technological barriers to apply for grants and contracts to help finance their businesses.
- Helping farmers comply with new Good Organic Practices/GAP produce safety rules.
- Connecting farmers with new healthcare resources that support the unique mental health challenges of farmwork.





PRODUCE AGGREGATION

In 2022, the opening of our Farm-to-Market Center at 404 Broad Street and hiring of two dedicated aggregation staff dramatically increased SCLT's ability to collect, process and distribute fresh produce. Fruits and vegetables grown by 23 farmers in our network sold for nearly \$100,000 this year, doubling 2021 sales.

Wholesale customers included:

- Food on the Move
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (a new federally funded program)
- Partnership for Providence Parks
- Renaissance Church
- John Hope Settlement House
- Community Action Partnership of Providence

SCLT's VeggieRx Program provided bi-weekly shares of nutritious produce through three medical partners in 2022: Care New England, Clinica Esperanza and RI Hospital.

Throughout the 2022 growing season, SCLT supplied local produce to an estimated 1,200 people (or 300 households). Along with this, roughly 850 people participated in seven produce giveaway events, including the Black August Farmers Market held in partnership with the City of Providence, African American Ambassadors Group and Neighborhood Health Plan.

YOUTH EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

After pandemic safety measures limited in-person activities and participation rates, SCLT resumed year-round programs for Black, Hispanic/Latinx, Asian and Indigenous children and youth in 2022. Interest from families rebounded. Staff led spring, summer and fall sessions at SCLT's Somerset Hayward Youth Enterprise Farm in Providence and the Galego Community Farm in Pawtucket. Once again, there are waitlists for attendance.

SCLT operates three tiers of programming for young people:

- Pee Wee Growers was piloted in 2021 to use art to engage children aged 5 to 11 in basic gardening and nutrition concepts, as well as to celebrate African American traditions and achievements.
- Part-time jobs for high school youth develop workforce skills related to urban farming, nutrition and cooking, environmental advocacy and resilience.
- Young adult Food Systems Interns increase core competencies in sustainable agriculture, land management and nutrition education, while assisting SCLT staff to deliver programming.

We believe that what makes these programs successful are the quality of our staff, the responsiveness of their design and the safe, welcoming environment we offer young people.





Thank You to our 2021 donors

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

Southside Community Land Trust is deeply grateful to hundreds of contributors who generously support our work each year. The following is a list of individuals, businesses, foundations and government agencies that contributed \$250 or more to SCLT in 2021.

500,000+

Anonymous

100,000-\$499,999

Champlin Foundation
US Dept. of Health & Human Services
Office of Refugee Resettlement
USDA National Institute of Food & Agriculture
Ralph & Barbara Papitto Private Family Fund
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\$25,000-\$99,999

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Apple Pickers Foundation
Bank of America
City of Providence
Governor's Workforce Board (RSFY)
Isenberg Family Fund
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RI Foundation
State of Rhode Island
Strategic Help Initiative
United Way of Rhode Island

\$10,000-\$24,999

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RI Public Health Foundation
St. Martin De Porres Senior Center
Stephanie Avila
Terry Carragher

\$250 - \$499

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