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### CITYSPROUTS WELCOMES SUSAN DILLER AS OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In February 2023 after 22 years of dedication and visionary leadership, CitySprouts founder Jane Hirschi stepped down, and we welcomed long-time educator and school leader Susan Diller as our new Executive Director. We are thrilled to have Susan lead us into this next chapter of CitySprouts' education programming and have just launched a strategic planning process to guide our vision for the next 5 years.

“Each weekday, CitySprouts Garden Educators are in their schools, planning lessons, pulling weeds, harvesting food, connecting with classroom teachers, and most importantly, creating an environment of curiosity and wonder for hundreds of Cambridge and Boston school children. Across our 24 gardens, students are excited to see what's growing, to dig down into the dirt and to look up at what is towering above their heads. They, as well as their teachers, their principals, and their school administrators are magically transported when they step from the “indoors” and enter their garden classroom. There, right in their playground or school courtyard, is a living laboratory that offers authentic and hands-on lessons in biology, sustainability, nutrition, environmentalism, horticulture and even entomology. And what's more, there are underlying lessons in social responsibility, patience, gratitude, and even an awareness of the many, many, shades of green.

CitySprouts plants seeds of curiosity, of wonder, of impact, of ownership, of responsibility, and of gratitude. These seeds are profound and are essential to the growth of our children and the vibrancy of our shared community.”

– Susan Diller, Executive Director

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The CitySprouts mission is to cultivate curiosity and wonder with hands-on science learning through urban school gardens. For more than twenty years, CitySprouts has partnered closely with public elementary schools in Cambridge and Boston to engage children in deep and authentic science through the natural world.

# EARLY START IN SCIENCE, CITYSPROUTS' IN-SCHOOL ELEMENTARY PROGRAM

CitySprouts' in-school program, Early Start in Science, now in 24 Boston and Cambridge public schools, carves out time in the school day for children to experience science in their own schoolyard garden classroom. We partner closely with teachers and district leaders to develop garden-based curriculum that aligns with state science/engineering standards and practices and builds on the schools' science programming. CitySprouts educators create experiences that spark interest in science and build a lifelong connection to the natural world. In addition, meaningful, accessible science exploration is a natural container for children's social emotional learning.

**24 School Garden Classrooms    185 Partner Teachers    2,398 Lessons in the Garden**

*“Our garden time strongly coincides with what we do in the classroom. The scholars look forward to the connections we make each week! Gardener Hazel is so patient, knowledgeable and such a beautiful addition to our MLK family!”*

– partner teacher,  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr School, Cambridge



## Boston Public School partners

Baldwin Early Learning Pilot Academy	Orchard Gardens Pilot School
David Ellis Elementary School	P. A. Shaw Elementary School
Haynes Early Education Center	Rafael Hernández K-8 School
Henderson K-12 Inclusion School (Upper & Lower)	Russell Elementary School
Higginson-Lewis School	Samuel Mason Elementary School
Nathan Hale Elementary School	

## Cambridge Public School partners

Amigos K-8 School	Kennedy Longfellow Elementary School
Cambridgeport Elementary School	King Open Elementary School
Dr. M. L. King Elementary School	Maria Baldwin Elementary School
Fletcher Maynard Academy	Morse Elementary School
Graham & Parks Elementary School	Peabody Elementary School
Haggerty Elementary School	Tobin Montessori School

# YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAM, CITYSPROUTS AFTER SCHOOL AND SUMMER ENRICHMENT

The Young Leaders Program is a tuition-free, Out of School Time program for young and emerging teens (11-14 year olds). The 5-week summer program and weekly after school clubs foster critical and compassionate thinkers by connecting youth to the natural world, to their peers, and to the environmental systems in their local communities. The Young Leaders Program teaches relevant life skills – such as how to grow and sustain plants – and sparks the joy of discovery and the power of scientific thinking.

**40 Youth in the Summer Program**  
**5 Garden Recipes for Summer Fridays**

**24 Field Trips Around the Community**  
**7 “Science of Gardening” Classes**

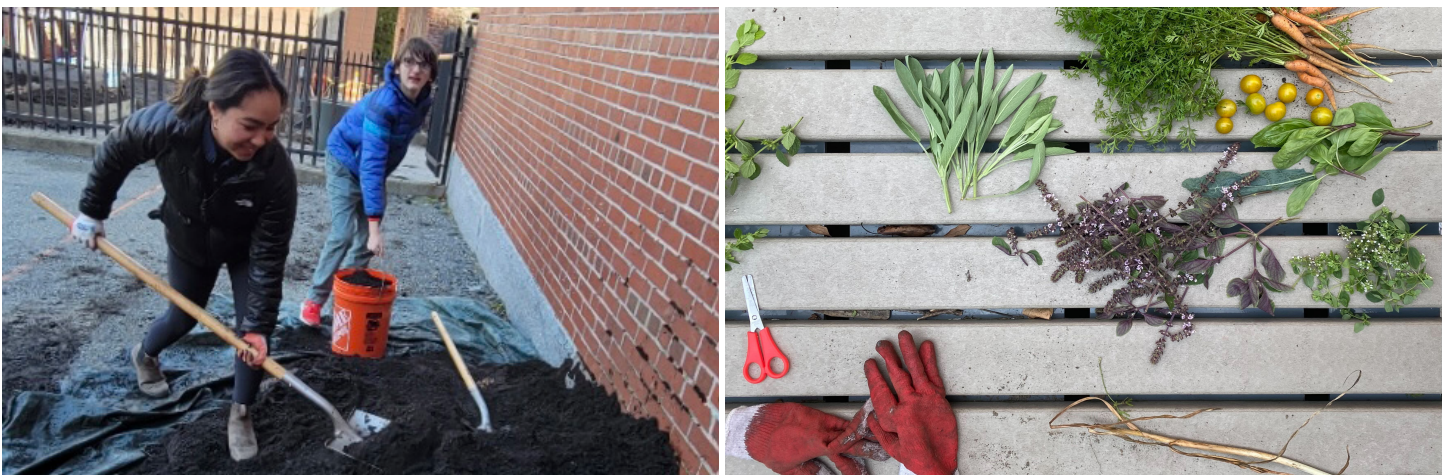


## VOLUNTEERS

CitySprouts gardens are a vibrant part of our Boston and Cambridge communities, and many of them are cared for by dedicated volunteers who ensure that the gardens thrive throughout the summer. CitySprouts invites individuals and groups to join us in cultivating school garden classrooms where children discover, explore and learn. In addition to caring for gardens, volunteers assist with events and in our office. In 2023, CitySprouts volunteers contributed over 230 hours in support of our mission, making more of our resources available to programs for children, families and teachers.

**48 Volunteers and 230 Hours**  
**Caring for Summer Gardens**

**1776 Seedlings Planted Across 24 Schools**  
**60 Varieties of Plants Growing in Schools**

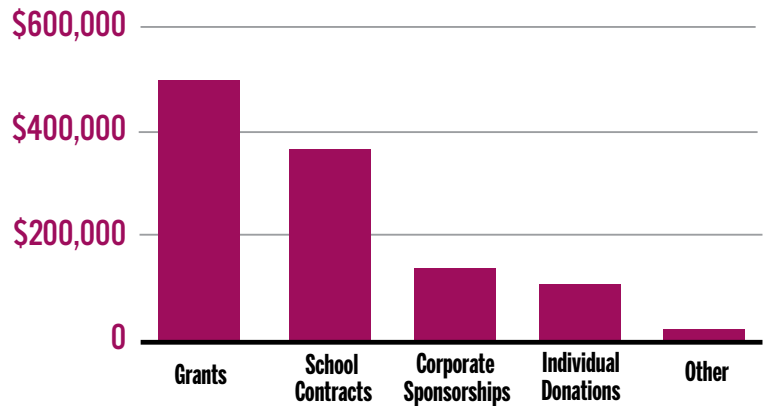
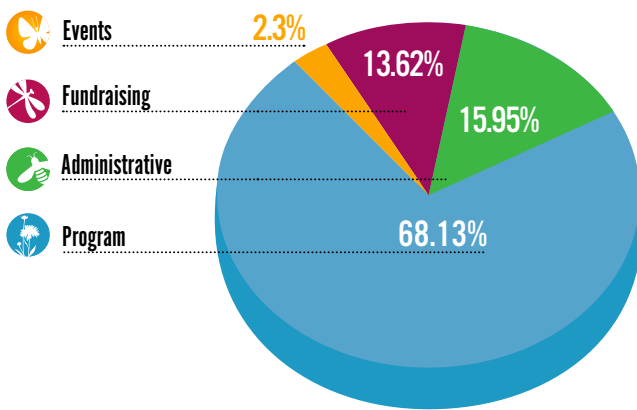


# CITYSPROUTS' FINANCIALS

September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023

Total Expense \$1,047,148

Total Revenue \$1,125,302



\*For a full audited report, please contact Jessica at [jparsons@citysprouts.org](mailto:jparsons@citysprouts.org).



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Our community of supporters keeps CitySprouts growing and thriving, and we are grateful for your commitment to our mission. We welcome you to visit a school garden in 2024!

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