



CitySprouts Board announces Susan Diller as new Executive Director

January 24, 2023

Cambridge, Massachusetts

CitySprouts, an education organization providing outdoor science learning in 24 Cambridge and Boston Public School gardens, has announced the hire of a new Executive Director, Susan Diller. Jane Hirschi, CitySprouts' founding Director [will be stepping down](#) at the end of the month after over two decades of service to the public school communities.

For over 22 years, CitySprouts has partnered with the school districts to ensure that access to early science learning and nature is equitable. CitySprouts has grown to engage hundreds of teachers and thousands of students each year with schoolyard gardens that act both as living classrooms and natural spaces for discovery and play. CitySprouts school gardens are an integral part of all 12 Cambridge public elementary schools and 12 schools in Roxbury, Dorchester and Brighton.

CitySprouts' Board Chair Uche Amaechi reflected on this moment for the organization: "The importance of CitySprouts to students, teachers, schools, and families cannot be understated. Indeed, the future of our society is dependent on the success of organizations like CitySprouts that foster our future leaders—leaders in CitySprouts' case that value curiosity, science learning, and nature.

The CitySprouts Board is grateful to Jane for planting the seeds of CitySprouts, nurturing it over the years and growing it into the amazing organization that it is. We thank her for her vision, service, and support, and wish her the best in her next steps. Although no one can fill Jane's shoes, we are excited to build on her legacy with our new Executive Director, Susan Diller. Susan's unique mix of experience, passion and empathy will lead us into a new and exciting chapter in CitySprouts' story."

Susan Diller comes to CitySprouts with deep experience and leadership in education, both as a classroom teacher and school administrator. Most recently, Diller served as Head of School for the Touchstone Community School in Grafton, and Executive Director for Temple Beth Zion in Brookline. She will be stepping into her new role leading CitySprouts at the end of January.



"CitySprouts mission, *To cultivate curiosity and wonder with hands-on science learning through urban gardens*, is one which speaks directly to my beliefs as an educational leader – to instill wonder, experimentation, exploration, perseverance and joy for all learners. I look forward to learning what is essential to CitySprouts, to honoring the achievements of CitySprouts' past 22

years of growth and partnership with the Cambridge and Boston Public Schools, and to fostering a vision for CitySprouts' future."

"I am so pleased to welcome Susan to CitySprouts", Hirschi shared. "The work CitySprouts does with public schools to connect children to nature and engage them in science learning is more important than ever. It has been my great privilege to be part of it for the past 25 years. I am excited to see how CitySprouts grows and evolves with Susan's leadership and look forward to continuing to support CitySprouts in any way I can."

CitySprouts will be celebrating Jane Hirschi's legacy at the organization's annual fundraising event, Dig It! on April 27th, 2023 at the MIT Museum. For more information, visit citysprouts.org or email info@citysprouts.org.

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