

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



Introduction

After Brooklyn Donates' 2020 successes in supporting local small businesses through the hardest days of the pandemic, we were eager to update our mission to continue supporting small businesses through the challenges of the 21st century. In 2021, we broadened our scope to meet the desires of many small businesses to become more sustainable, and began working towards developing a restaurant composting program.

Mission and Vision

Brooklyn Donates is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization in Brooklyn, New York, focused on sustainable community development. We aim to provide resources and assistance to small businesses in transitioning to more sustainable and resilient business models.

- Sustainability: the intersection of environmental, social, and economic factors in shaping a more equitable and green future
- Resilience: creating and fortifying communities to withstand systemic harms and the inevitable effects of climate change

Our focus is on combating community deterioration by investing in projects that facilitate local food sovereignty, as well as furthering the success of small businesses that are vital to their community. We are working on developing a community garden and restaurant composting program in central Brooklyn,



History

We began as a grassroots effort to collect donations to fund small business relief. By June 2020, we raised over \$50,000 and were able to begin accepting grant applications from local businesses, and freelance artists and musicians. Our first grant recipient was Flatbush's Sip unWine, a small Caribbean restaurant known for its extensive community involvement. In addition to distributing grants, we also worked with small business owners to increase their community presence.

ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1.

We proudly distributed \$4900 in grants including 4 grants of \$1000 each to back-of-house (BOH) employees. The BOH employees were nominated by friends, family members, and employers for their hard work during the pandemic.

2.

Brooklyn Donates tied for 2nd place in Geico's Regional Philanthropic Community Engagement Competition. We were nominated by employees in the New York region to receive a grant from Geico for our work in sustainable community development.

3.

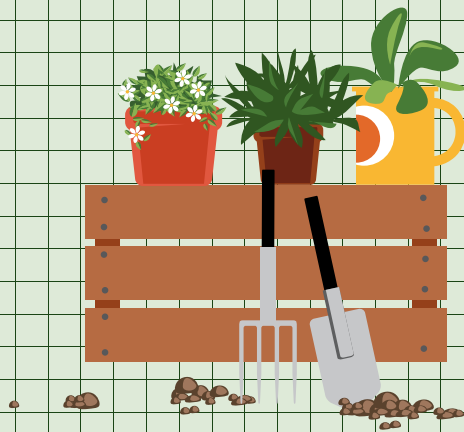
Brooklyn Donates co-founders participated in the Your Big Year Cultural Exchange Challenge and had the opportunity to connect with youths interested in sustainability and starting their own non-profits.

4.

We raised \$5385 between the 2 fundraisers we hosted in 2021 – one for back-of-house employees and one to begin a composting program for local restaurants to reduce their food waste that goes to landfill.



MOVING FORWARD



Goal 1:

Over the course of the next year, we plan to start a pilot restaurant composting program in central Brooklyn. We aim to collect and process food scraps from at least 3 local businesses to help them reduce their food waste. If possible, we would love to pair this program with the development of a community garden for people to enjoy.



Goal 2:

One of our goals is to develop a community solar campaign in partnership with local businesses in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



Goal 3:

We would also love to further increase restaurants' energy efficiency through a LED light bulb campaign. LED light bulbs produce less heat and are between 85% and 18% more energy efficient than conventional and CFL bulbs.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

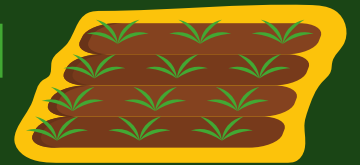


Monetary donations

Currently, we are collecting monetary donations to use towards a land purchase/composting and gardening equipment.

Land donations or leads on unstepped city land

If you or someone you know owns land in New York City and would like to receive a tax credit for a land donation, please contact us. We also appreciate any leads on unstepped city-owned land.



Connections to local community gardens that may desire partnering with us

To kickstart our restaurant composting program, we are seeking out local community gardens that may be interested in partnering with us.



[If you are interested in volunteering or would like to help in other ways, please reach out to us at support@brooklyndonates.org.](mailto:support@brooklyndonates.org)