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# Education Building Location





# What's in the Education Building?

# Classrooms (4)

QBG currently serves more than 34,000 schoolchildren and still we turn away groups! Additional classrooms are much needed to serve more kids during the week. On weekends and evenings, we look forward to growing and reaching families, teens, seniors, teachers, and adults with new programming and initiatives.

# Teaching Kitchen

City kids learn about plants through food! The new building will include a space to dig into more food-related education including nutrition, healthy cooking, cultural cuisines, team-building and more!

# **Education Solarium**

Most plants love the sun! People love plants! This sunny space will be a place where people and plants can co-exist in all seasons and climes. The Education Solarium will serve as the primary plant-growing location for classroom use.

# **Green Roof**

In keeping with QBG's sustainable ethos, the new building will have an accessible Green Roof for small group gatherings. Green roofs help with cooling and warming!

# MORE ROOM FOR:

Public Programs, Environmental Workshops, Adult Education, Teacher Training

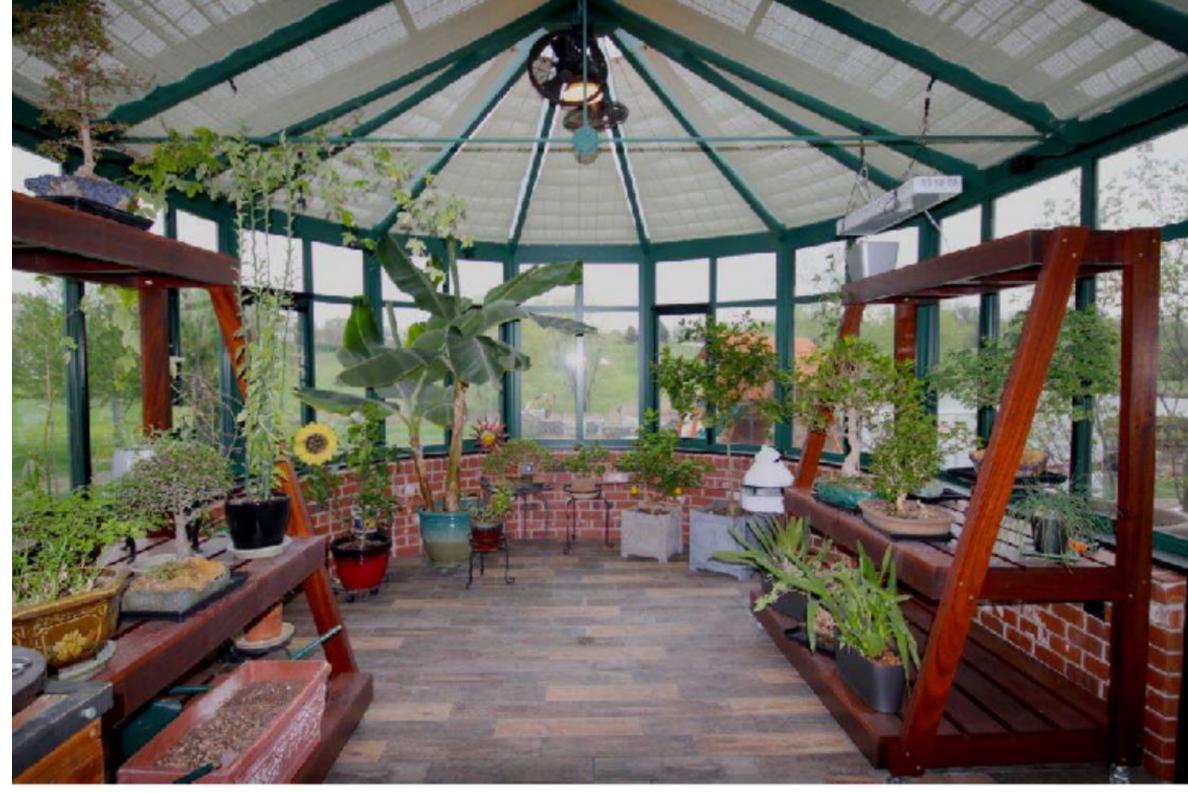
# **SERVING MORE:**

Schoolchildren, Families, Adults, Teachers, Teens, Seniors

# MORE POSSIBILITIES:

New programs in nutrition, cooking, horticulture therapy, green jobs....







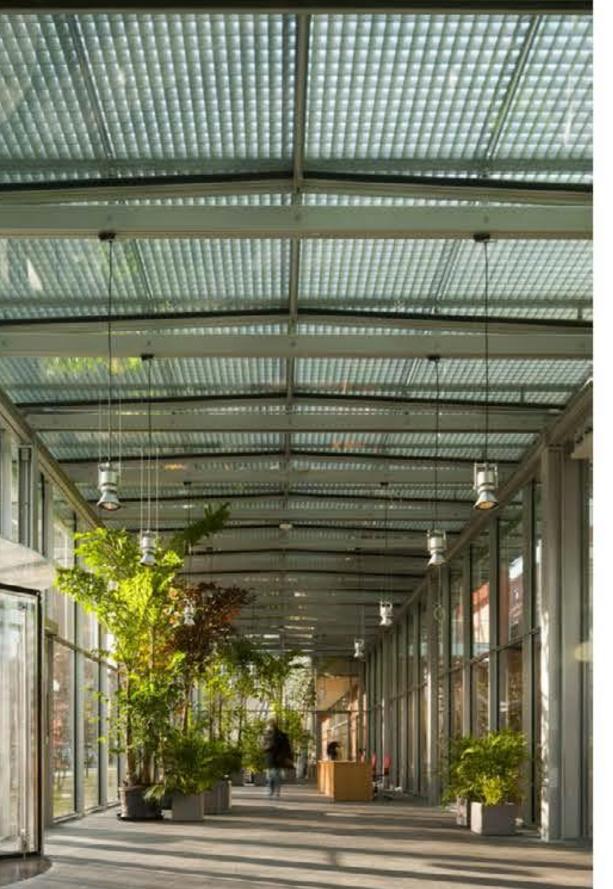
# Inspiration: building as landscape











# Inspiration: sustainable materials





# What's in the Kids Culture Garden?



# Herbs

Everyone loves herbs! Used for cooking, healing, beauty products, dyes, and more....



# Grasses

The grass family includes edible crops like rice, corn, and wheat and useful plants like straw, reeds, and bamboo.



# **Flowers**

Blossoms have deep significance culturally – like peonies in China to lotus in India, rose-of-Sharon in Korea and heliotrope in Greece, passionflower in Mexico and sunflowers in Italy.



# **Green Playscapes**

Interactive structures that integrate play with informal science lessons.



# **Permanent Nature Exhibits**

Vines, trees, and landscape elements designed as living earth sculptures.



# Temporary Nature Art Installations

Rocks, twigs, leaves, and trees used on our green canvas to represent guest artists' expression.



# Interpretive Signage

Presented in multiple languages, signs help visitors navigate the garden and relate to the various plantings in a personal way.



# **Cultural Touchstones**

Structural elements with cultural significance like an Asian-inspired tea house or the *shadoof*—an ancient counterweight system used for irrigation in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. A life-size *shadoof* in the landscape will inspire kids to construct replicas in QBG education programs.





# Inspiration









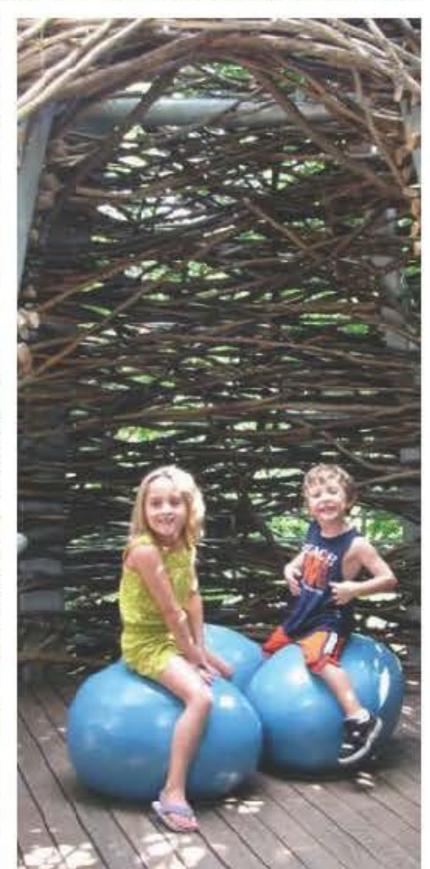


decomposition, and soil creation.











# CREATIVITY MEADOW

# Inspiration

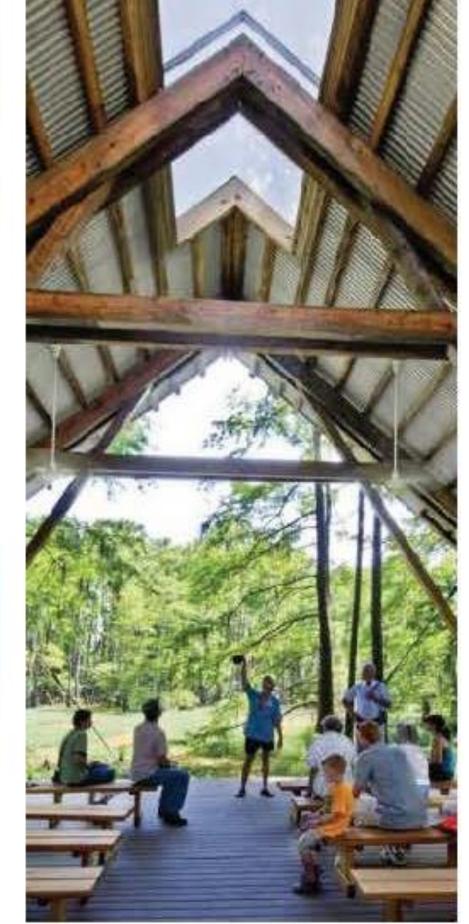




# Inspiration





















12



# Education Center: Education Building & Kids Culture Garden

**Education Building** 

Includes Teaching Kitchen & Education Solarium

Kids Culture Garden

Soft Costs, Equipment, Exhibits, etc.

**Maintenance Endowment** 

**TOTAL COST** 

# Source

City of New York New York State Private Contributions Total Pledged

As of January 2020

# Committed

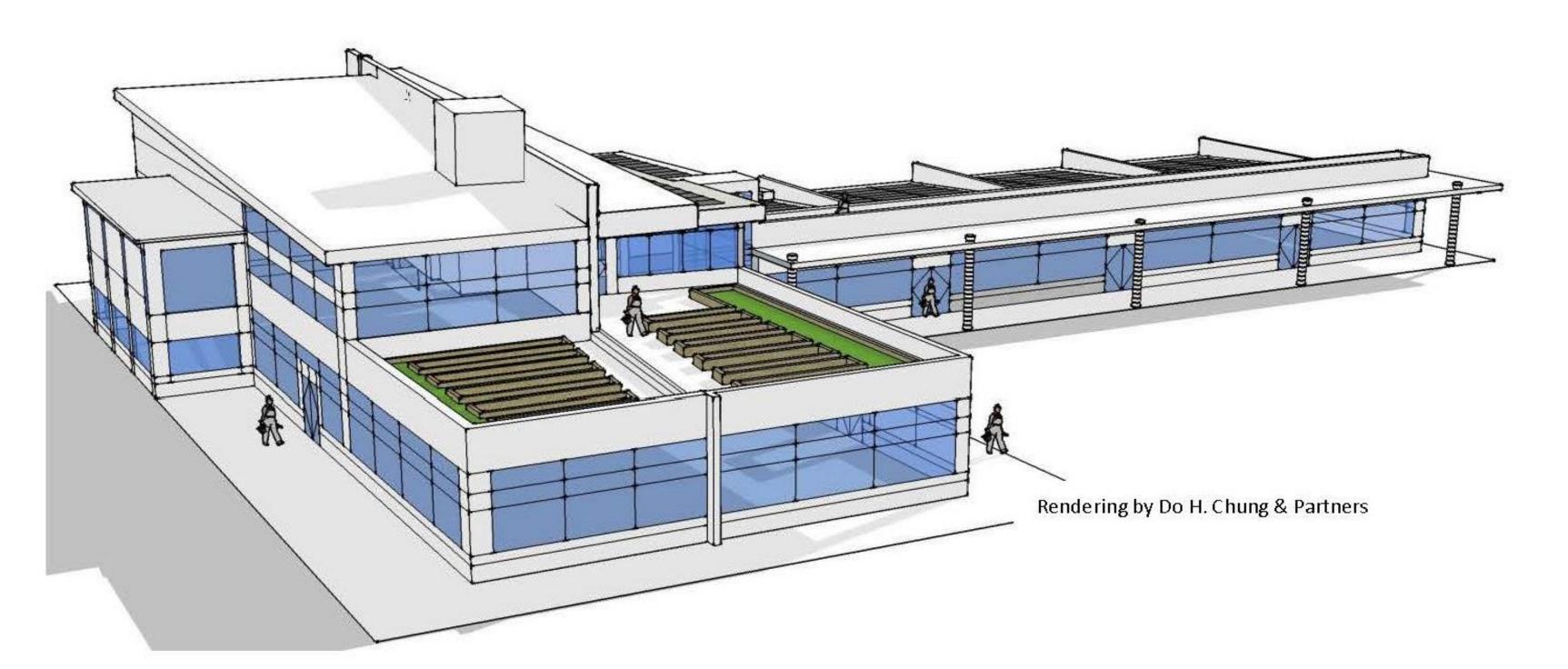
\$26.13 million \$3.125 million \$552,000 \$29,807,000 \$22,600,000

\$10,700,000

\$2,200,000

\$200,000

\$35,700,000





# Education Center: Naming Opportunities

# Location

Donor Wall

Kids Culture Garden Exhibits

Kids Culture Garden Theme Areas

Garden Structures

Pergola, Bench, etc.

Education Building Classroom

4 classrooms available

Teaching Kitchen

Education Solarium

Education Building Plaza

Kids Culture Garden

Education Building

# **Donation\***

\$5,000, \$10,000, and up

\$50,000, \$100,000, and up

\$50,000, \$100,000, and up

Up to \$50,000

\$250,000 each

\$500,000

\$500,000

\$1,000,000

\$2,000,000

\$8,000,000



\*Donation levels have been approved by NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs.



## BKSK ARCHITECTS

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New Education Building for the Queens Botanical Garden

## PDC Conceptual Submission

January 15, 2020

### Project Narrative

The New York City Department of Design and Construction, Department of Cultural Affairs and the Queens Botanical Garden seek to construct a new Education Building to replace and expand the current educational facility. Queens Botanical Garden has experienced a tremendous increase in overall visitor attendance and their educational programs have been a driving force in this success. The new facility will support and allow for expansion of these and other public programs, while encouraging a relationship between the building and the landscape.

## Community and Neighborhood Context

Queens Botanical Garden comprises roughly 39 acres of exterior gardens, walkways, and expansive meadow area serving the most diverse county in the country. It is adjacent to Flushing Meadows Corona Park, although separated from that complex by College Point Boulevard and the Van Wyck Expressway. The Garden divides the residential neighborhoods of Flushing to the north and Queensboro Hill to the south and has entrances at Main Street and Crommelin Street. From the north, the Garden is a 15-minute walk from the Main St Subway Station and LIRR. The immediate neighborhood that QBG serves is designated by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council as a Low-Income Zone.

### Design Intent

The new Education Building is located on the southwest portion of the site, taking advantage of an overgrown and underused hillside. The site is adjacent to the farm, directly opposite the Parking Garden, and is visible from the Main Street entrance. It is in proximity to outdoor spaces well used by the education program. The open meadow across from the site houses a multitude of public programs which currently have limited access to restrooms and information. This location will allow the Education Building to provide needed space for the growing education program while doubling as a resource for all visitors in this underserved portion of the garden.

The new Education Building will serve school groups, families, after school clubs, adults, and seniors. Education is a core value at Queens Botanical Garden. For decades, QBG has offered Environmental Education Workshops designed to teach children, grades Pre-K through high school, about science and ecology. In recent years, more emphasis has been placed on STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math). QBG works with the public-school system to ensure that workshops meet the current, more rigorous NY State standards in these areas and to satisfy Next Generation Science Standards, NYC

Department of Education Scope and Sequence, as well as various local, state, and national standards. These workshops create a learning environment that inspires young minds and prepares teachers to present environmental science issues in dynamic and meaningful ways. Structured as "living laboratories," workshops are experiential, including tours of the Garden's 39 acres of trees, flowers, animals, insects, and green architecture; students participate in hands-on activities, receive worksheets and partake in discussions that together enhance classroom learning and excite students about science and the natural world. Public programming for families, adults, and seniors is a growth area for the Garden and additional indoor space will increase opportunity to offer horticulture, arts, and environmental programs to the community.

The building includes a reception area, 4 classrooms, a teaching solarium, teaching kitchen, offices for compost and education staff, and public restrooms.

The design is intended to continue the Garden's demonstration of environmental stewardship in ways that are tangible to its diverse audience, specifically:

- Exceptional energy efficiency and environmental performance for all design and engineering elements
- Efficient and artful integration of indoor and outdoor program spaces, as well as the harmonious integration of the building into the landscape
- A legible and creative display of QBG's sustainability initiatives and environmental sensitivity.

The building embeds itself in the hill and is covered by two green roofs—one intensive and the other extensive. The green roofs will provide water management, habitat and planting to enhance the garden experience, while allowing the architecture to be secondary to the landscape, and directly connect the visitors to the site itself. A covered terrace invites visitors to the building and offers protected space for public programming adjacent to the farm, teaching kitchen, and public programs. The footprint splays open, bringing southern light into a teaching solarium and access for cross ventilation to the classrooms while forming a protected outdoor classroom, seamlessly integrating indoor and outdoor programming. The classrooms face north providing a strong visual connection to the garden and consistent natural light. Offices for the compost and education staff are located on the second floor, connecting the building to the top of the hill and served by an outdoor staircase leading directly to the farm.

The building and landscape design will connect to the site's history through rainwater and stormwater management, addressing water quality and quantity through bioswales and green roof design. The green roof planting and adjacent landscapes will be selected to promote habitat for species displaced by the construction and tied to the Garden's educational programming.

The Education Building is designed to be in dialog with the Visitor and Administration Building which achieved LEED Platinum in 2008, while laying the groundwork for future projects on the western end of the Garden.

