Botanic Gardens Building Bridges Between Generations,

Communities, and Careers Asimina Vergou (convener)



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'Change inhibitors' and 'forces for change' towards botanic gardens having a greater social role and responsibility

Change inhibitors Workforce with limited diversity Collections focused / inward looking Lack of capacity & skills Historical context Diffidence / limited motivation Lack of evidence of impact on users Distant from wider policy context Politics of climate change Management Hierarchy Distant from priorities of governing bodies Limited Funding **SOCIAL ROLE & RESPONSIBILITY** BGCI Public funding and accountability Professionals' passion

Forces for change

Society's detachment from plants

Policy - social inclusion, well-being, community cohesion

Climate change as a broader concern Involvement in wider networks

Social justice, equality, rights as a global concern

Towards a New Social Purpose



Redefining the role of botanic gardens



Growing the Social Role













Partnerships in the community













Bristol

Gardens

Evaluation Report Executive Summary





Models of community engagement

Hidden Voices a collaborative approach

 Initial discussion (at the community venue) – introduce the project and build interest

2.Discovery / orientation visits (sessions 1 / 2) – groups get to know Westonbirt and try out different activities.

Discussions with each group to plan the remaining visits

3.Activity sessions – (sessions 3 / 4) – delivering agreed activities. Mixture of walks and hands on creative crafts

4.Creative project (sessions 5 / 6) – A creative legacy element where participants contributed to Westonbirt e.g. through

photos, recipes, trail

5.Celebration - for the groups to meet each other and project





 Initial contact with communities directly or through third parties to announce the project and build interest

2.Training of the groups at BZG or on-site when appropriate 3.Initial visit to sites to deliver growing equipment

4.On-going communication with the groups through e-mails, phone calls, facebook to monitor their progress and support 5.Regular site visits to partners on request, and to collect plants for display in BZG

6.Celebration for the community groups to meet and for BZG to thank all participants and staff involved and promote the project

7.Groups deliver seeds collected throughout the process to grow the next year.

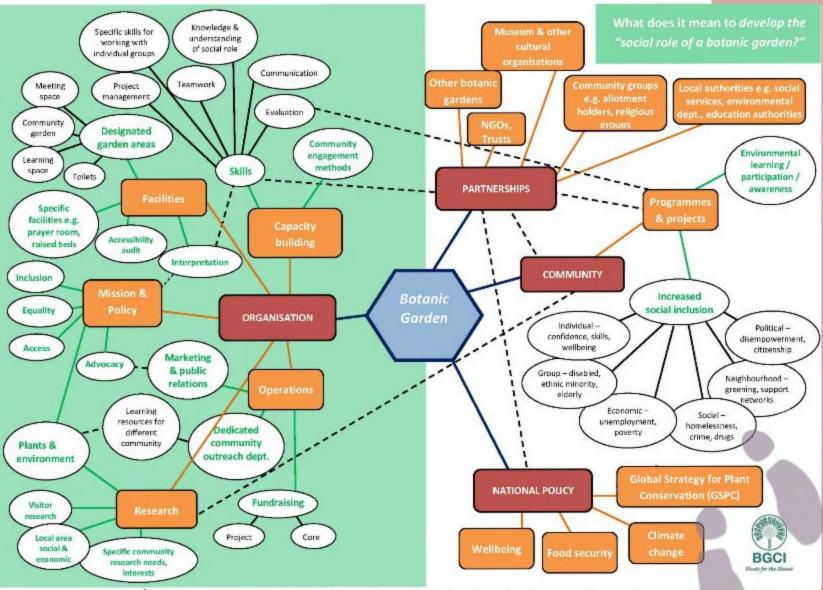
8.Contact is maintained informally to those groups who have expressed a desire to be involved next year

A Manual



for Gardens





Growing a gardens' social role means botanic gardens developing their commitment to working with their local and global communities on common issues of social and environmental importance, for the enduring benefit of those communities, the gardens themselves, and towards a sustainable future for our planet.

www.bgci.org/education/communities_in_nature



Growing along with the Botanic Garden

GARBENS Urban Food initiatives





Citi Enterpreneurs: encouraging farm-based nurseries









"Oman Botanic Garden - Bridging Generation's Gap"





The Hub for Social-Environmental Activism"The Jerusalem Botanical Gardens



"The tropical greenhouse of MUSE: an opportunity for social inclusion"



