

WINTER NEWSLETTER

LOOKING BACK AT 2021
 THANK YOU, FRIENDS & FAMILY
 WHAT'S NEXT?
 UPCOMING PROJECTS

LOOKING BACK AT 2021

Oh my, look how we've grown!

Organizations are just like individuals...we often start the year off believing we will grasp life by the horns (this time, for real) which will lead to dramatic advances toward our goals. As we're repeatedly reminded by our team, family, and friends: The universe often has other plans.

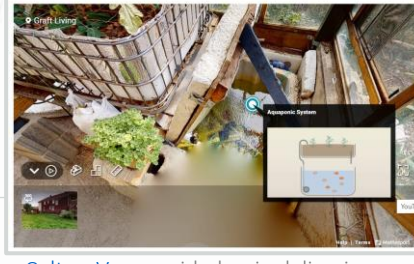
Instead of rigidly clinging to timelines and the final-form of our work, we choose to stand firmly on top of our values while focusing our energy to heighten our senses, nurture our team, and Strengthen our Connections such that we may respond to the ever-changing landscape of challenges and opportunity.

At Graft Living, we believe **this is the essence of "growing organically"**.

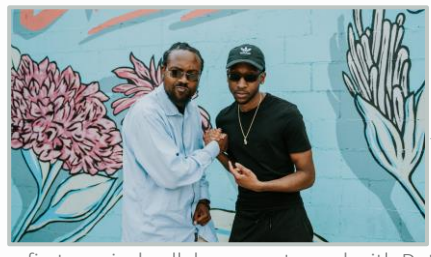
What did this look like?



We picked up 2 new consulting jobs: designing the greenhouse for [Lifelab Kids](#) (new partnership) and helping catalyze the new SW Food Cultivators program with [UNI](#) (a strong ongoing partner)



[CultureVerse](#) guided us in delivering one of our coolest projects of the year: a [VR Greenhouse](#) experience loaded with educational videos.



In our first musical collab, we partnered with Detroit hip-hop mentors to create an original & uplifting 3-part song alongside students of the craft ([sample of 1/3 of ballad](#)). Shoutout to the community effort securing the [Poetry Foundation](#) grant funding!



The ongoing construction of Unity House also prioritizes growing Detroit's work force. We partnered with and employed training orgs for [welding](#) and [electrical work](#).

We employed & paid [our first summer intern](#), a resident from the community we serve, who worked on high-tech agriculture projects. Thanks to Nvidia for the hardware grant!

[Our Food Forest](#) made tremendous strides, with 14 new plant species this year (and dozens of new plantings). Thanks to all volunteers & folks at [TeamGMcares](#).



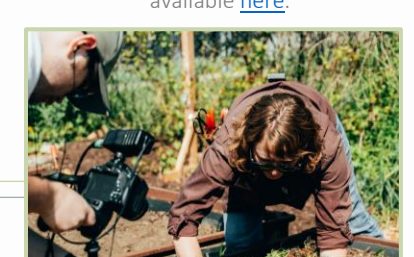
It was an honor to work with [Michigan Science Center](#) this year. In the first of many collaborations, we led a [workshop](#) in the Summer Camp "Planet Earth, You Rock!"



We love art, especially when we partner with locals. These hand-printed, custom-designed maps were so fun to develop and are still available [here](#).



This was our second year partnering with UNI to deliver STEAM + Environmentalism courses. We engaged with an incredible 71 students ranging from 4 yo to 18 yo, teaching a subset of 14 topics.



Alongside the brilliant team at Garden Juju Collective, we launched and completed the ["Ecological Gardener"](#) video series.

Farewell to our [old shed](#)! We donated the carefully disassembled wood to our [new friends](#) at [Sit-on-it Detroit](#), who use salvaged wood and create much-needed bus benches.



Our greenhouse Project Leader stays innovating, by designing and building this Solar Hot Water heater module to enable aquaponic operation during winter.



After we uncovered a late setback violation with the first design, the team at [D'Anna Associates](#) drastically redesigned Unity House. They are keeping us right on-track to meet one of most strict Green Building Standards, [IFLI's Core](#).

Here are some 2021 numbers & figures:

PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMS

- 26 New Partners; 10 Continued Partners
- 95 Students engaged our STEAM + Environmentalism program (20 last year)
- Expanded our offerings w/
 - 4 New Classes
 - 4 Art-based Deliverables
 - 4 Green Consultation/Installation services

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Over 800 service hours from our team and volunteers
- 55% dollars spent went back to the Immediate Neighborhood & Detroit Businesses

FUNDING

- Introduced Paid Services, raising just over \$13k this first year
- Raised ~\$10k through fundraisers and small grants
- Raised just over \$25k for Unity House via crowdfunding

THANK YOU, FRIENDS & FAMILY

This work is so much fun with you all in our corner.

Volunteers:

- Aaron B. Adam
- Amos M. + Family
- Anna B.
- Ashur I.
- Ben W.
- Brenna C
- Brian
- Bridget O.
- Byron O.
- Carol L.
- Carson C.
- Christina P.
- Christina R.
- Clarence
- Danielle D.
- Danny and Dan
- Dawn C.
- Eli D.
- Elicenda
- Elliot
- Em
- Fatimah L.
- Garrett K.
- Genaida
- Harikrishna S.
- Ivan A.
- Jackson T.
- Javier
- Jay S.
- Jim from Davey Tree
- Jose

Karen R.

- Kavel
- Kayla S.
- Kelly P.
- Leo
- Lucian
- Maheen B.
- Mari
- Mariah B.
- Mykah
- Onofre P.
- Richard S.
- Rita A.
- Samantha P.
- Samreen B.
- Terrance K.
- Tho D.
- Thuy C.
- Xuemin H.
- Yvonne E.
- Zeke B.

Donors:

- Allison H.
- Betty D.
- C. Ferguson
- Debra H.
- Delphia
- Diane C.
- Fred M.
- James B.
- Jay K.

Jodee R.

- Josie K.
- JT & TT
- Mark
- Max G.
- Michaela S.
- Paula C.
- Rakesh S.
- RM
- Sarah B.
- Shinoh & Karen K.
- Sophia K.
- Sun k.
- Sursten and SY K.
- Torsten W.
- Whelan's

Return Partners:

- D'Anna Associates
- Garden Juju Collective
- Honigman LLP
- ILFI
- James Steele
- Michigan Community Resources
- Team GM Cares
- Urban Neighborhood Initiatives
- Welding Concepts Training
- Zeke Barrera Photography

New Partnerships:

- ADAM CDC

CultureVerse

- Detroit Ready-Mix
- Fantelope
- Granting of Detroit ioby
- IROCKMUSIC
- Jackson Touchberry Videos
- Jerry Parker Productions
- Lifelab Kids
- Local 58
- Michigan Science Center
- Mindscape LLC
- More Space Containers LLC
- Nvidia
- Ocelot Print Shop
- Poetry Foundation
- RC111 Studios
- SDEV
- Sit-on-it Detroit
- Streamline Electric
- Sunbelt rentals
- Team Equipment
- The Congregation
- WC Dispute Resolution Center

In loving memory of Don Martin.
 You are a continuous inspiration of "relentless compassion".

WHAT'S NEXT?

Looking ahead to 2022, here are our strategic focal points. These are designed to help us maintain a balance between Quality Work and Growth.



#1

Strengthen our Core team and increase Community leadership/representation



#2

Refine our educational offering, incorporating SEL and a robust virtual experience



#3

Finish Unity House strong! & ensure all projects complete with quality



#4

Go after larger grant funding with the help of Mindscapes LLC



#5

Expand our network and impact of our work to more Detroit Neighborhoods

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