



**Celebrating Our Community on Dr. King Day of Service 2024
Community Garden at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Academy
Sausalito Marin City School District**

MLK GARDEN WORKDAY WAS A BIG SUCCESS!

A big thank you to everyone who came to help our MLK Garden at the Nevada Campus thrive, as we prepared beds of fruits and vegetables to grow, refurbished the chicken coop, repurposed wood to make new beds, and more!

Rise Up! 94965 supports our garden program and we appreciate you, community!

A special thank you to **Sausalito Beautiful** for supporting MLK since you are our inspiration ❤️.
A shout out to **Mill Valley Edna Maguire Elementary School and Garden** who participated in this event!

A Message from Our Garden Coordinator, Michelle Bryant

The Three Gardens at MLK Academy Nevada Street Campus are brought to life with squeals, giggles and laughter as the students from backgrounds as diverse as the flora and fauna of the beautiful hilltop campus explore and discover the gardens on their weekly visits. We are re-imagining the physical structure of hardscapes and plantings into an **Urban School Farm** while meeting school curricular requirements. We want to create a high yield farm capable of producing enough specified produce to supply both campuses with fruits and vegetables to offset the high cost of providing fresh organic produce for breakfast and lunch.

An **Urban School Farm** is an educational as well as cultural repository to dispense historical information, peak student curiosity and fuel economic entrepreneurship. "Use what you've got" is our motto - as exemplified by upcycling and reusing existing materials and supplies to weave into art, music and science projects into the garden.

Our Wish List for spring and summer harvests of fruits and vegetables that the children will participate in every aspect of from layout and garden planning to menu and recipe planning.

1. Garden Sheds (rodent proof)
2. Greenhouses: 2
3. Motorized cart
4. Poly-tunnels (4-8' x 20')
5. Irrigation supplies
6. Shelving for plant starts
7. Outdoor vegetable washing station
8. Field cooler
9. Garden soil.

We are super excited and grateful about the partnership with Michelle Bryant. We have received positive feedback from students regarding the gardening classes, and they express their desire to engage in this activity more frequently during the school day. I've seen firsthand the delicious food that comes out of our gardens. I have been fortunate to try the fresh tomatoes, freshly made watermelon jam and delicious strawberry cakes. We are grateful for Michelle's dedication and passion for our students, and we are very fortunate to have her in our community.

LaResha Huffman, Superintendent, Sausalito Marin City School District

The Rise Up! 94965 Foundation is proud to support Garden Education at Dr. MLK Jr. Academy. The school Garden Program amplifies the core curriculum in so many ways, enabling our students to reach their full potential. We have a culturally mixed student-body population, 66% are from low-income families. By helping our kids in our community we can reach out to their families too. With garden education, we teach the farm-to-fork process, which encourages their families to grow their own produce and cook healthy meals. Our dream is that this grass roots approach will lead to healthier lifestyles, reduced illness and a healthier community.

Our school gardens have become a sanctuary for kids who need a change of pace, a place to rejuvenate and feel centered. As we expand our gardens into urban farms, we will gain more food sovereignty in our school and Marin City by off-setting food costs and contributing to weekly food distribution for community families. As we work towards these ambitious goals, we continue to seek funding to safeguard the future of this important program. We raise money to staff our garden coordinator position as well as for expansion of an outdoor food preparation and storage space. Your support is greatly appreciated; help keep our Garden Program intact by donating here: www.riseup94965.org. Our kids deserve it!

**Claudine Alameda
RiseUp! 94965 Foundation President**

I had the privilege of volunteering at the Garden Workday at MLK Academy. I had a wonderful time seeing the school and helping out in the 'Chicken Garden.' Michelle Bryant made a tasty soup which we thoroughly enjoyed. It was lovely to see how many people of all ages had shown up to give back to the community and make the school a better place. Teamwork is always meaningful to me, as working together towards a common goal that helps others is very rewarding. I want to thank MLK Academy for hosting such an incredible event, and for welcoming us in with warm arms, warm soup, and garden shears.

**Abena Reisewitz-Oteng
Stone Soup Leadership Institute**

*We invite all the community to join us and support our students in this incredible enrichment like the Garden Program at MLK at **94965 Goes Big!** on **February 2nd** at the **Sausalito Center for the Arts**. We have 180 coming so far and we are looking forward to more joining us, so please come and join the festivities in support of all the children at Dr. MLK Jr. Academy! So much food, music, auction, dancing, and FUN! Please consider making a donation or sponsoring a community member to join in on this special celebration!*

**Natasha LaBelle, M.D.
RiseUp! 94965 Member and mother of 2.**

Thank You to Our Awesome Sponsors for their support for our inaugural Gala "94965 Goes Big!"

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- Sausalito Women's Club

For more details, tickets and sponsor opportunities: info@riseup94965foundation.org

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