



**American  
Public Gardens  
Association**



**UNITED STATES  
BOTANIC GARDEN**

### [Plants and Climate Change Education \(PLACCE\)](#)

**A Peer Learning Group for Botanic Garden and Arboretum Education Professionals**

### **Program Information and Criteria for Participation**

#### **General Information**

- Applications are due no later than 11:59pm ET/8:59pm PT August 30, 2024 using the [online application form available here](#).
  - [A preview of the application questions is available here](#).
  - With your application materials, you will be asked to complete a [provided budget template](#) detailing proposed uses of funds. Overhead expenses may not exceed 10%.
- Selected applicants will be notified by September 30, 2024.
- Funds (\$50,000.00 total per participant) are expected to be disbursed to participants in two installments:
  - At the beginning of the PLACCE program (early October 2024)
  - At the beginning of the participant's piloting phase for plant-centered climate change educational programs, activities, or interpretation (May 2025)
- Participants agree to be actively involved in PLACCE activities specified below over a two-year timeframe, from October 2024 - September 2026.
- Final reporting will be due by September 30, 2026.

**Priority will be given to applicants demonstrating strong potential to achieve all of the following objectives:**

1. Design, pilot, and evaluate unique plant-centered climate change education programs, activities and/or interpretation for public audiences
2. Advance professional knowledge and skills in the public gardens education community, focusing on plant-based climate change education and climate-relevant plant science
3. Provide models for other gardens and arboreta interested in plant-relevant climate change education

#### **Applicant Criteria**

- Applicants must be U.S.-based botanic gardens and arboreta seeking to engage public audiences in plant-centered climate change learning through educational programs, activities, or interpretation.
- The recipient institution must be a U.S.-based botanic garden or arboretum and a recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit tax-exempt organization or part of a state or local government. A tax-exempt letter is required for nonprofits and an IRS W-9 for all recipients is required.

- Programs, activities, or interpretation must engage the public in learning about climate change through the lens of plants. Topic areas and tools may include, but are not limited to:
  - phenology and climate change;
  - urban climate change mitigation and adaptation with plants;
  - climate change gardens;
  - plant physiology, or plant responses in a changing climate
  - floristics, or native ranges of plants
  - plant-related ecosystem services in a changing climate;
  - food, agriculture and climate change; and
  - climate-conscious plant consumption (e.g., plant-based food, textiles, materials) and/or climate-conscious plant waste reduction (e.g., food waste)
- Applicants may propose using funds to support new or existing programs, activities, or interpretation. Applicants seeking to use funds to support existing programs, activities, or interpretation must describe plans for improvement or expansion during participation in the PLACCE Peer Learning Group.
- Programs, activities, or interpretation cannot entail lobbying or policy advocacy of any kind.
- If your organization has previously participated in PLACCE, you are not eligible to apply.
- Selected applicants must commit to:
  - Participating in all meetings with the peer learning group from October 2024 to September 2026, including an in-person gathering in Washington, D.C. January 8-10th, 2025 and an in-person final presentation in summer 2026 (date and location TBD).
  - Designing and piloting plant-centered climate change programs, activities, or interpretation during the Spring/Summer 2025 - Spring/Summer 2026 timeframe
  - Developing and implementing an evaluation plan to examine learning outcomes for your pilot programs, activities, or interpretation;
  - Tracking general program information (number of participants, audiences engaged, number and types of engagements) for reporting
  - Sharing information about their program experience and outcomes of their work as described below in Phase 4 of the program timeline.

Questions regarding the program and eligibility may be directed to Bailee Neese at [bneese@publicgardens.org](mailto:bneese@publicgardens.org)

## Anticipated Program Timeline

Date	Activity
July 31, 2024 – August 30, 2024	Call for applicants
September 30, 2024	Applicants selected and notified
October 2024 – January 2025	<p>Program Phase 1: Foundations. Participants meet monthly to build community with fellow peer learning group members and engage with experts in climate change education, communication, and science.</p> <p>Anticipated meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Three (3) 90-minute virtual meetings (monthly in October, November, and December 2024). First virtual meeting on <b>Thurs. Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-5:00 EST.</b></li> <li>- One <b>in-person gathering in Washington, D.C.</b> at the U.S. Botanic Garden. <b>Weds. January 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.</b></li> </ul>
February 2025 – April 2025	<p>Program Phase 2: Planning and Peer Conversations. Participants meet monthly to discuss plans for their respective programs, activities, or interpretation, and exchange feedback with peers. Periodic engagement with experts in climate change education, communication, and science.</p> <p>Anticipated meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Three (3) 90-minute virtual meetings (monthly in February, March, and April 2025).</li> </ul>
May 2025 – May 2026	<p>Program Phase 3: Piloting and Reflection. Participants pilot their respective programs, activities, or interpretation, reconvening with the group every other month to discuss progress, challenges, and successes. Periodic engagement with experts in climate change education, communication, and science.</p> <p>Anticipated meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Six (6) 90-minute virtual meetings, scheduled every other month between May 2025 and May 2026.</li> </ul>

<p>June 2026-September 2026</p>	<p>Program Phase 4: Sharing. Participants will share outcomes of their work through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Completion of an end-of-program reporting tool provided by the USBG</li> <li>● Participation in a 30-minute reflection conversation with the USBG and the Association</li> <li>● Submission of program products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Written and/or graphical products from educational programs, activities, or interpretation that can be publicly shared</li> <li>○ Written evaluation report of your pilot program, activity, or interpretation;</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Submission of communications materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Short video overview (3 minutes) of the climate change education model piloted</li> <li>○ Photos of the program, activity, or interpretation in action</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Participation in up to two national-level presentations describing models piloted, their results, and lessons learned</li> </ul> <p>Anticipated meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One (1) 90-minute virtual meeting.</li> <li>- One (1) 30-minute conversation with USBG and the Association</li> <li>- One (1) in-person presentation (location and date TBD)</li> <li>- One (1) 90-minute virtual presentation.</li> </ul>
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### Reporting and Presentation Requirements

- Participants will be responsible for evaluating and sharing learning outcomes associated with programs, activities, or interpretation.
- Participants will be responsible for tracking general program information (number of participants, audiences engaged, number and types of engagements) for reporting on a provided tracking tool.
- Participants will be prepared to publicly share written and/or graphical products from PLACCE educational programs, activities, or interpretation upon request
- Participants will create and submit a short video overview (3 minutes) of the climate change education model they piloted
- Participants will submit photographs of program activities, and marketing materials or other outreach communications from programs. Participants will agree to allow the USBG and the Association to communicate about their programs, and to use provided photographs for their own communications.
- PLACCE Peer Learning Group participants will publicly present their work in up to two national-level presentations

- Participants will provide feedback on the PLACCE program to the USBG and the Association via a 30-minute one-on-one meeting.

**Criteria Required for Program Fulfillment:**

1. All publicity about the PLACCE Peer Learning Group including press releases, websites/webpages, and social media postings related to included work shall acknowledge the USBG and the Association. Publicity items about the PLACCE Peer Learning Group (e.g., press releases, websites/webpages) should be created in collaboration with and approved by the USBG and the Association. The recipient institution may not engage in advertising practices that feature the United States Botanic Garden in a manner which conveys, or is reasonably calculated to convey, a false impression of sponsorship, approval or endorsement of any product or service by the United States Government, or any Department, Agency or instrumentality thereof.
2. All products and work resulting from the PLACCE Peer Learning Group, including but not limited to, published material, websites/webpages, social media postings, and presentations shall acknowledge the USBG and the Association. This should be according to each institution's style guidelines and with express consultation and permission of each party
3. The recipient institution agrees to indemnify, save and hold harmless, and defend the United States Government and/or the American Public Gardens Association (the Association) against all fines, claims, damages, losses, judgments, and expenses arising out of, or from, any act or omission of the recipient institution (cooperator), its officers, employees, or (members, participants, agents, representatives, agents as appropriate) arising out of or in any way connected to activities authorized pursuant to the PLACCE Peer Learning Group. This obligation shall survive the termination of agreements associated with the PLACCE Peer Learning Group.
4. The recipient institution must have and maintain suitable insurance coverage or be self-insured for all activities related to the PLACCE Peer Learning Group.
5. The recipient institution must be a U.S.-based botanic garden or arboretum and a recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit tax-exempt organization or part of a state or local government. A tax-exempt letter is required for nonprofits and an IRS W-9 for all recipients is required.
6. The recipient institution shall cooperate with the Association and/or the USBG in the investigation and defense of any claims that may be filed with the USBG arising out of the activities of the institution receiving the funds, its agents, and employees.