



SPACES OF OPPORTUNITY (SOO)
A PROJECT OF CULTIVATE SOUTH PHOENIX (CUSP)
WWW.CULTIVATEPHX.COM

Spaces of Opportunity Farm Incubator Information

The acceptance by CUSP and an incubator farmer to enter into a working agreement at Spaces of Opportunity inaugurates the beginning of a very close relationship that connect the project's goals and the needs/interests of an emerging market gardener. **Please read attached descriptions of CUSP, SOO, and guidelines on pages 6-7.** The "Farmer Manual" will be the primary working document that defines the roles and responsibilities of the incubator farmer, the mentor farmer(s), and Spaces staff under the direction of CUSP. Highlights of the incubator farmer/Spaces relationship include:

The terms "market gardener" and "incubator farmer" are used interchangeably and are meant to distinguish the project's goals from (1) large scale farming and (2) individual entrepreneurial enterprises. "Market" implies the intent to raise, harvest, and sell crops in an economically sustainable manner and "gardener" suggests a relationship with the soil, crops, and environment that works with the natural forces for sustainable life on our planet. The "incubator farmer" is both a learner & teacher in a co-op of growers working together toward common goals.

The "mentor farmer" or mentor farmer organization will be responsible for teaching/guiding the gardening practices at Spaces and for developing her/his/their own plot for production and as a hands-on reference for each incubator farmer. This relationship will include support in business and crop planning, overall gardening practices, and procedures for harvest and market preparation. Although the mentor role is one of teaching/guidance, it is expected that much learning will flow between all participants.

Each incubator farmer/market gardener will be encouraged to develop her/his own markets **and** will be expected to support the cooperative, community food-hub markets managed by CUSP. The incubator gardener will benefit from produce grown for the co-op through (a) direct payment by CUSP at market prices and/or, (b) stipends designed to support the investment of the gardener's time & resources and/or (c) direct sales opportunities at the Spaces Farmers Market, and (d) the benefit of the infrastructure, soil building, and water available. Details of the agreements, benefits, and expectations will be included in the Spaces of Opportunity Farmer Manual.

Each incubator farmer will be expected to follow the food safety and organically grown protocols of the project and to secure the required insurance. It is anticipated that a co-op of growers will be formed specifically to acquire group liability insurance.

PROCEED TO PAGE 2 FOR APPLICATION

If you have questions, please contact John Wann at 602-509-6042 or info@orchardlearningcenter.org

Spaces of Opportunity Farm Incubator Application

Applicant Contact Information			
Full Name:			
	<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>M.I.</i>
Address:			
	<i>Street Address</i>		<i>Apartment/Unit #</i>
	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>ZIP Code</i>
Home Phone:		Cell:	
Email:			

Applicant Demographic Information			
Age:		Gender:	
			Annual Household Income:
Race/ethnicity (circle all that apply):	Y	N	Hispanic or Latino:
	Y	N	American Indian or Alaskan Native:
	Y	N	Asian:
	Y	N	Black or African American:
	Y	N	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander:
	Y	N	White:
	Y	N	Other:
Have you operated a farm or ranch before?	Y	N	If yes, for how many years?
If yes, what were your direct or indirect gross farm sales for the past 2 years?			
Are you a Veteran of the US Armed Forces?	Y	N	

Farm Information

1. Please briefly summarize your proposed agricultural operation.
2. How many hours per week are you willing to commit to your farming endeavor?

3. What is your agricultural background? i.e. growing up in a gardening family, working on a farm

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4. If accepted as a S.O.O. Incubator Farmer, where do you see your farm business in 3-5 years?

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5. How much land are you requesting (between 1/4 to 1 acre)? Explain how you intend to use the space.

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6. Please describe your experience using farm tools and machinery.

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7. What farm equipment, infrastructure, or services will you need to be successful?

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8. What necessary tools, equipment, or infrastructure do you already own or plan to provide for yourself?

9. What kind of training and support do you hope to get from the S.O.O. Incubator Farm?

10. Please list any additional applicable skills that you have.

11. Have you reviewed the Spaces of Opportunity guidelines? (see attached) Can you work within these guidelines?

12. Do you have any questions or concerns at this time?

13. How did you hear about Spaces of Opportunity (SOO), a project of Cultivate South Phoenix (CUSP)?

14. Please provide three references:

Name	Title / Relationship to Applicant	Phone/Email

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I certify that the above information is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and true:

Applicant Signature:		Date:	
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Please email or mail your application form and resume to:

John Wann
Farming Coordinator
Orchard Community Learning Center
911 W. Baseline Rd Phoenix, AZ 85041
(602) 509-6042
info@orchardlearningcenter.com

Application packets are submitted to John Wann/Orchard Community Learning Center. After an initial committee review of the application, the applicant will be contacted by CUSP for an in-person interview. The final acceptance and invitation to the Incubator Farmer to participate will be made by the CUSP Steering Committee and based on (1) the applicant's qualifications *including* CUSP preferential criteria, (2) space available and, (3) Spaces' staff capacity to manage a new farmer(s).



Vision

Our vision is a thriving and vibrant South Phoenix community with measurable improvements in eight dimensions of wellness: intellectual, social, physical, environmental, occupational, emotional, financial, and spiritual.

Mission

Our mission is to promote the wellness of families and children in south Phoenix by supporting and leveraging the efforts of a broad range of organizations with a shared vision of improving the natural, built, and social environments.

Goals:

Goal One: All families in south phoenix have affordable access to healthy foods, active living and the healthy roots of their cultures.

Goal Two: Community members across all generations are invested in the educational success and wellness of south Phoenix youth from cradle to career.

Spaces of Opportunity

Cultivating South Phoenix (CUSP) began developing the framework for a farming and food hub project in 2014. Staggering health disparities affect the south Phoenix community in many ways; access to healthy food, supportive educational programs, and access to affordable health care. Non-profits created to address the problems also struggle with financial stability. Food Hubs, which center around a sound business model will help sustain the non-profits focused on providing the south Phoenix community with fresh fruits and vegetables and the healthy roots of their cultures.

Environmental/social conditions or systems impacted

By making fresh and healthy food more generally available to local residents, SOO will impact social conditions such as unhealthy dietary habits and also impact the overall food system in south Phoenix with the potential to be replicated in other areas of the Valley. Residents will have access to a greater variety of fresh foods in a greater number of venues.

There are seven basic requirements for farmers at the Spaces of Opportunity (SOO) Farm Incubator Project. The agreements for Mentor & Incubator Farmers at SOO are aligned to Project Principles. CUSP will give preference to applicants who demonstrate alignment to these principles and who live and/or work in the geographic target area of the project. *CUSP will also give preference to applicants who fit USDA definitions of "Limited Resource",*

“Beginning Farmer” , “Socially Disadvantaged Farmer”. (http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/BFRP_Definition.aspx and http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/SDFP_Definition.aspx). Additional criteria follow on page 6.

Upon acceptance to the project, incubator and mentor farmers will be expected to work with CUSP partners to uphold the following principles of operations:

- ✓ Commit to “organic” or “natural” standards of farming.
- ✓ Provide people in paid (employee) positions a just wage - specifically farm workers- Fifteen dollars an hour will be the starting point.
- ✓ Agree to sell between 10%-50% of her/his harvest to the SOO food hub for sale/ distribution in the target community/communities. The produce purchased by the SOO food hub will be compensated at market prices and the percentage expected to be sold to the Spaces of Opportunity will be determined by CUSP on an annual basis.
- ✓ Complete a simple written business plan, including a crop plan and agree to revise/expand the initial business/crop plan by the end of year one. SOO will provide technical assistance through this process.
- ✓ Attend one monthly meeting or workshop. The agendas will be created collaboratively by farmers and SOO staff to meet the needs of the farmers and the SOO project goals. Workshops will include specific training needs and business plan development.
- ✓ Take on leadership of one or more management tasks to keep the incubator running.
- ✓ Show proof of liability insurance of \$1 million of coverage.

Incubator and mentor farmers will acknowledge and agree to support the following SOO principles applicable to all aspects of the project:

- Create a justice-based economic system, including community-based civic engagement, in the work that is done.
- Honor a 360° respect when participating in SOO, for the land, people, and principles. This includes respect for community paths and garden spaces.
- SOO intends that the space is physically accessible (including to people with disabilities), safe, and secure.
- Operate in a manner that manifests health equity and economic equity.
- SOO will be a civic engagement innovation incubator.
- Commit to increasingly efficient use of water and the collective agreements regarding water use and management of crop watering.
- SOO will encourage and value visual and performance artistic expression. Farmers agree to work with and support those engaged in other aspects of the Spaces initiative.

