

Title of Proposed project:

(DCCA's First Locally Sourced Micro Farm and Cyber Café) People appreciate plants and just like victory gardens, the Micro Farm will be a true show-stopper, a great introduction to the DCCA and a gateway of green leading into imPerfect City!

Narrative of proposed project:

DCCA's First Locally Sourced Micro Farm and Cyber Café (DEFILOSOMIFACY for short) has the primary goal of establishing a fully functioning Farm within the walls of the DCCA and coupling that with the latest in cyber technology. Through simple and cost effective means of construction and management a new type of farming will be developed that exists between the size of the average backyard urban garden and the timeless tradition of indoor container gardening. Using the latest in cyber social communication, the farm will attract new participants to come experience life on a true Micro Farm through social networking and the web.

Name of the primary facilitator:

Chris Golas

Number of people involved in the project, their names and individual roles:

Chris Golas – Project fabricator, Lead Gardener and Plant and Food specialist, Coffee Roaster

Maiza Hixson – 1st Lieutenant Gardener

Participants – Any and all visitors are encouraged to sign up and manage the Micro farm for a time slot and/or be a barista or Chef at the Cyber Café on a flexible schedule. Responsibilities may include but are not limited to: Baking (barring we receive permission from the catering company to make pizza and bread to give to all visitors of the DCCA), preparing salads, giving tours of the garden, watering, weeding, plant massage, plant therapy, compost control, chicken comforting, wildlife calling, chicken feeding, and foraging duties.

Guest Lectures - There will be a few lectures and/or workshops lead by guest speakers with experience in some or all of the following topics: sustainable agriculture, urban gardening, compost making, chicken handling and foraging.

Call for compost – imPerfect citywide blasts will be sent out to encourage all people visiting the DCCA to take food waste that would be proper compost and instead of throwing it out, bring to the DCCA to contribute to their brand new composting area. All compost collected this year will be used toward the sustainable and continuing effort of the farm in 2014.

Availability of primary facilitator between 2-9-13 and 6-16-13:

Available primarily weekends for the duration of the project and special event week nights as well as a farmers market day to be determined.

Preferred days/dates/time/duration of project :

Feb 8th, 2013 – June 16th, 2013

Local activities on the farm are to be scheduled one week in advance during DCCA hours. The farm will require more hands to help as the season develops and it will allow for more people to contribute in different ways.

A date when we can BBQ outside the DCCA –June 8, 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

This is a:

Workshop

Activity

Experience

Consumes Physical Space? Where?

There will be a need for (2) 8' L x 3' D x 24" H Planter boxes to be staged in the front entrance window areas. They will have casters and be completely mobile so they can move outside when the weather is appropriate. In addition to this there will be some form of décor to help re-define the farm and cyber café.

The use of some random wall/floor space elsewhere in the DCCA for a cyber confessional room that can be curtained off.

An area for a compost bin to exist (outside)

Additional space on the front or rear lawn for a small 5'L x 2'W x 2' H mobile chicken coup that will be rotated around the lawn to ensure it (the lawn) remains fertilized and not worn

Necessary Material and supplies: (Costs to come)

2x10's

rubber roofing membrane

small buckets

organic fair trade fertilizer and mychorizal bacteria

seeds

seed starter trays

soil – compost (donated)

compost bin- (donated)

chicken coup (donated)

sunlight (free)

The proposal is intended to be interactive through several different means.

1. Visitors to the DCCA can take interest in what is happening in the lobby through visual and physical experience (i.e. plants growing and cooking related activities in the cyber café)
2. Visitors can sign up to come back to the DCCA and fill a shift at the garden where there will be many different chores and tasks to be completed each week. This creates a commitment from visitors to come back and connects them with what they grow and other DCCA events.
Participants who work at the farm can treat themselves to the endless supply of micro greens that will be produced.
Every visitor who has become part of the Farm family will be rewarded through an evening of bbq and fooding outside the DCCA where we will use ingredients produced at the DCCA, acquired or donated through true sustainable methods (i.e. local farms within 20 miles of the DCCA)
3. Visitors can eliminate waste from the waste stream at their home and turn it into valuable growing material through the DCCA compost station.
4. A small pop up kitchen for using the garden items may present itself.
5. I will host several guest lectures and conduct workshops with volunteers, in order to educate urbanites about the following topics: sustainable agriculture, urban gardening, compost making, chicken handling and foraging.
6. Visitors who are less inclined to be involved with the physical aspects of the garden can talk to the plants through a crafted confessional room and just as the old adage about whispering to your plants to make them grow goes, so it too can happen at the Micro Farm.
7. A Twitter feed and Facebook page will be used to socially connect the DCCA and Micro Farm to the city and beyond.

The location of the space near the windows is the most convenient for the plants as they need sunlight, it is also going to be a refreshing burst of color and flora at the DCCA to attract visitors to enter inside and see what is going on. The chickens and composting activities outside will encourage viewers to breathe fresh air, enjoy not just the inside of the museum but also the exterior architecture, plant life and cityscape around them. The idea being a full breathe of what a farm is both from the inside and behind the looking glass.

Art takes many forms through nature and the objects nature has the power to create. The Gardens at Versailles, one of Andy Goldsworthy's works, a flower that Van Gogh paints. All of these things we have a connection to when we see it in a photograph in a book or in a museum on a wall. If we can recall consciously that we have the power to create and shape the world through what we grow (growing the roses so they can be trimmed, growing the trees to shed the leaves, and growing the flower to be put into a vase), and apply ourselves to plant the seeds, literally, for our future then we become the greatest proponent of art and culture and also their preservationists. If growing plants is not Art or Art history then we shouldn't be here.

In almost all utopian environments or communities, the farm or garden is a key element that helps to sustain life for the residents. Agriculture is a key role in any self-sustaining community, such as the one the imperfect city is creating at the DCCA. Without the efforts of many the yield would be less than its potential. If every person helps watch the garden in smaller shifts then everyone commits the minimum amount of effort to yield the maximum amount of product in the end. In the case of the DCCA's First Microfarm... this will become evident over the few months through photo documentation and how much food is grown and weighed and counted out.

To create a fully functioning farm in the real world is usually more than just a one-person effort. The same is true for a café. In line with this idea, the MicroFarm and Cyber Café will be best aided by volunteer staff who will be involved in every step of the Farm and Café's success or failure. Everyone is involved in the tending of living things and are also ensuring that they also don't go to waste. This naturally places the participant in the shoes of the artist as much as they appear to be the assistant from any other perspective.

Everything proposed within this document in terms of construction and execution is a reasonable assessment of my ability to complete the activities. I have allowed for some flexibility in terms of volunteers and hours needed. Based on the overall square footage of earth we will have inside the DCCA the items grown will be manageable by one person for no more than 2 days a week, which is more than achievable based on my schedule alone. The advantage to having volunteers will be to yield and manage some plants more than others and harvest things that are ready so they don't go to waste. The most important thing to note about this project is that the project is a success the moment that it is approved for us to start growing. At the bare minimum of effort we stand to make the DCCA fulfill what many institutions can only do through building codes and architectural certification, to truly go green and become part of a sustainable future.