

Making a Difference

Planting the Seeds Gardening for Good Creating and Growing Network of Gardens in Greenville



On March 19, Greenville Forward's newest program, Gardening for Good kicked-off the 2012 growing season with a celebration at the Warehouse Theatre. "Planting Seeds and Growing Community" was an exciting opportunity to learn more about the state of community gardening in Greenville, meet other gardeners, and plug in to the Gardening for Good network.

Over the past few years, the Greenville community garden movement has gained significant momentum and now boasts almost 50 community gardens in schools, churches, neighborhoods, businesses, and non-profits across the county.

Gardening for Good is a central hub and convening point for community garden activity in Greenville. If you are an active community gardener, novice home gardener, or just interested in growing your own food, come join the movement to transform Greenville through gardening.

The March event featured local foods, community garden resources and more. Gardening for Good facilitated conversations on the current state of community gardens in Greenville and how to work collectively towards an abundant growing season in 2012.

For more details about Gardening for Good, visit ggardeningforgood.com or e-mail Reece Lyerly at reece@ggardeningforgood.com.

"The Gardening for Good network has grown to almost 50 gardens working together to transform Greenville through gardening."

- Reece Lyerly



Reece Lyerly, the director of Gardening for Good, welcomes 130 participants at Planting Seeds and Building Community.

Marking a Difference

Diversity Leaders Initiative Focuses on Historic Landmarks

Greenville has always looked toward the future. Whether working towards Vision 2025 or doing broad-scope economic development planning, Greenville has consistently had its eye on what is ahead. Sometimes it helps to pay tribute to our past to understand who we are -- to identify and share the experiences that our community has had in our ever-changing lifetime.

Recently, Program Director Brock Koonce graduated from Furman's Diversity Leaders Initiative, facilitated by the staff of the Riley Institute at Furman. Each participant sits on a Community Action Project (CAP) work group that designs, and hopefully implements, a program to highlight diversity and inclusion in our community. At the end of each class, all groups are required to present their ideas to the class and alumni. Some projects are complete and some exist as long-term suggestions.

Brock's group is building something for the future, a program called "Marking

a Difference." "Marking a Difference" is an interactive program that shares the diverse history of our community through a website platform and mobile technology. The program is partially funded by the Community Foundation of Greenville.

The program includes QR codes (bar codes that smart phones use to access websites readily), designed specifically for individual locations in the Upstate that have a diversity story to tell. Cultural diversity, racial diversity, religious diversity, socio-economic diversity, and any other form will play a key role in telling the story. By scanning the QR code at a specific location, the user will be taken to a website that will house the story of our diversity legacy.

Brock's class hopes to launch "Marking a Difference" this year after scouting all possible locations, continuing to raise funds for the website and QR code plaques, and building a committee to research additional locations. Stay tuned!