

## Homegrown

Get the dirt on the new garden show for small city spaces **By Ruth Welte**



**CITY 'SCAPES** Urban gardeners no longer have to be green with envy.

lower crime rates and higher home values. “We’re redefining what Chicago can stand for,” he added.

The garden mayhem takes place in two gigantic, connected tents that cover 125,000 square feet—larger than two football fields. Organizers estimate that it’ll take about two hours to see it all.

Instead of elaborate boxwood-hedge mazes or expansive vistas fit for an English manor, the show will feature plant-

ing options for porches, roofs, front stoops, traditional 25-by-25-foot city lots and even parkways (the mini “plot” between the sidewalk and the curb). The focus is on small plots, but the plantings will be far from understated. “We are probably going to have over 100 trees in there,” Foxgrover says.

In the more than 40 separate display gardens, designed pro bono by area landscape-design

**“Many garden shows have things that you could never do yourself.”**

firms, the pros will compete for cash prizes. Best in show takes home \$25,000. Even more valuable for the landscapers, though, is the chance to get their businesses’ names and wares in front of a plant-hungry public. Because the displays are being judged on both their use of the restricted plot size and creativity, however, showgoers should be able to glean plenty of clever, small-space solutions to use at home.

Frank Kane, president of Kane Brothers Water Features of Burr Ridge, is one of the presenters encouraging people to think outside the gardening box. Folks restricted to the space of a back porch can have a water garden, Kane says, “even if it’s just in a whiskey barrel or a decorative vase with some smaller aquatic plants. You could even put a few goldfish in there.” Of course, there will be examples of bigger water projects, from fountains to waterfalls, for those with more space—and cash—with which to work.

Like facades on the set of a Western film, scrims covered with full-scale photographs of Chicago houses and apartment buildings will be set up behind the 25-by-25-foot plots. Visitors will be able to view “front gardens” and then walk along gangways to get to the “backyard.”

There will be 29 vendors selling everything from trowels to wine, along with gardening books and live plants ready for your yard. Target has signed on as the top corporate banana and will display two large featured gardens, one of them a re-creation of the retailer’s bull’s-eye logo made from more than 35,000 red and white petunias. Not coincidentally, Target is introducing a new line of garden furniture at the show.

Dozens of educational demonstrations will also be offered, including presentations from Bill Aldrich, editor of *Chicagoland Gardening*. Big-name local chefs will also take the stage, overseen by Oprah Winfrey’s chef, Art Smith, in a well-appointed “outdoor kitchen.”

It’s part of an overall movement—on a personal and a city level—to think green. According

to Foxgrover, the show is the perfect way to combine the urban-gardening trend with the city’s focus on flower power: “We’re going to be able to educate people on what they can do in their own spaces, and further the knowledge of the beautification and environmental initiatives that the city has.”

**Garden in a City sprouts in Grant Park from Saturday 13 to May 21. See listings for details.**

## Listings

### IF YOU WANT TO BE LISTED

Submit information by mail, e-mail (aroundtown@timeoutchicago.com) or fax (312-924-9350) to **Martina Sheehan**. Include details of event, dates, times, address of venue with cross streets, nearest El station and bus routes, telephone number and admission price, if any. **Deadline is 6pm Monday, two weeks before publication date.** Incomplete submissions will not be included, and listings information will not be accepted over the phone. Listings are free but, as space is limited, inclusion is not guaranteed.

★=Recommended or notable

KIDS=Kid-friendly

### Thursday 11

#### City Picks

##### Chenny Troupe Animal Assisted Therapy Healing Hearts

*Kaleidoscope, 800 W Superior St at Halsted St (773-404-6467). El: Brown to Chicago. Bus: 8 Halsted, 66 Chicago. 6pm, \$100.* Pets can help those battling both mental- and physical-health problems. Support animal-assisted rehabilitation therapy at the Chenny Troupe’s 15th-anniversary celebration by snacking on the buffet, having a few drinks and doing a little bidding.

##### Creative Living in the City: “The Future of Navy Pier: Keeping the Pier Public and Accessible”

**FREE** *Chicago Cultural Center, Claudia Cassidy Theater, 77 E Randolph St at Michigan Ave (312-744-6630). El: Red, Blue to Washington; Orange, Green, Brown, Purple (rush hrs) to Randolph. Bus: 3, X3, 4 (24 hrs), X4, 10, 14, 26, 60 (24 hrs), 143, 146. 12:15pm.* The Chicagoland Bicycle Federation and Friends of the Parks present a panel that will discuss the ten-year plan of Navy Pier. The agenda includes the emphasis on tourists, the addition of large parking lots, bike-friendly features and the preservation of open lake views and other issues.

##### Foods, Fotos, Fondant

**FREE** *Perfect Event, 3050 N Lincoln Ave between Greenview and Southport Aves (773-244-9333). El: Brown to Paulina. Bus: 9 (24 hrs), 11, 77. 6pm.* Preparing a wedding? Book your three F’s. Food: Weddings by Blue Plate catering will show off hors d’oeuvres. Fotos (okay—give us that one): Rosalind Van Tuyl of Rosalind Weddings presents tips for perfect wedding photography. Fondant: Cake Girls top it off with a showing of cake. Reservations are required.

##### “Neither Enemies Nor Friends: Latinos, Blacks, Afro-Latinos”

**FREE** *Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum, 1852 W 19th St between Wolcott Ave and Wood St (312-738-1503, ext 165). El: Blue to 18th. Bus: 9 Ashland (24 hrs), 50 Damen. 6pm.* Authors Suzanne Oboler and Anani Dzidzienyo wrote about blackness in Latin America in *Neither Enemies Nor Friends*, a collection of essays. Here, the editors will discuss their book in conjunction with the MFACM’s exhibition, “The African Presence in Mexico.”

##### “Poland and the United States: Building on the Transatlantic Partnership”

*Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel Chicago,*

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