

# Peter Rabbit Project

## Selena Awesome Vicarío

### TRANSFORMATION PROPOSITION

#### What are you offering the community?

The Peter Rabbit Project is a movement to provide accessible resources while inspiring joy and wonder. It helps all community members who need access to food and nutritional educational information, resources, activities and inspiring community love. Neighbors donate their unused edible flora, and we facilitate the harvest (or eradication for invasive species), delivery, recipe and nutrition information to the community and utilizing indigenous methods of cultivation and harvest to revitalize the land to maintain a mutualistic relationship between the community, flora, water, and soil; avoiding harsh chemicals and destructive farming techniques.

### PROBLEM

#### Why is this needed?

The Peter Rabbit project is a community mutual aid network bringing a creative approach to community engagement and sustainability through ethnobotanical initiatives that facilitate community self-sufficiency and interconnectedness within the ecosystem. I grew up going on nature/plant ID walks with community elders, with a deep appreciation for the companionship between humanity and nature, and an insatiable sense of gratitude and wonder for our ability to share the Earth. Today I do not see these activities or this sense of wonder regarding learning about food, nutrition or interconnected ecosystems. So I started to what I could to change that; to share what I know, to bring people together, and to provide an accessible and compassionate way to persevere.

### IMPACT FOR NUTRITION EQUITY

#### What's happening with this work in the next 6-12 months?

Through the greater development of the Peter Rabbit Project, community members will have a fully accessible, designated, local mutual aid network to support them with digital sharing capabilities to stay connected with each other. This means more intentional harvesting and planting methods implemented in the community, sharing of resources and reducing food insecurity, reducing food waste, and accessible resources readily available to the community.

By developing dedicated volunteer community teams which harvest, plant, eradicate, prepare, or deliver food to neighbors, publications/resources/activities readily available, and results in a reduction of food waste, reduction of food insecurity, eradication of profoundly invasive species like garlic mustard, mitigation of invasive species like mulberries (prevention of proliferation), Cleaner ground/lake water, and a decrease in community environmental hazards results.

All of the efforts of this project are working towards the long-term goal of a deeply interconnected loving relationship between community members of all species, elimination of food apartheid, educated and conscientious policy changes at the local level, reduction of nutrition related disease and illness, sustainable agricultural developments, edible gardens in every yard/porch (of those who want them), and an Ethnobotanical influence on urban planting and farming.



## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

We believe that everyone has a place in community. We would love your support in building an accessible website and social media presence, an inclusive educational environmental activities throughout the community. If you would like to donate supplies, space, art, talent, contribute in any other way please fill out our interest form: <https://forms.gle/FF7UqB2eakpD8bk78>



## COLLABORATORS

### Who else will work with you to bring this to life?

There are many opportunities for collaboration on the Near West Side. I am currently collaborating with my neighbors in the community to host a series of small, neighborhood Home Outdoor Parties (HOPs): providing a more accessible approach to community relationships, supporting local artists, through plant and nutrition science based activities. Some upcoming 2023 HOPs include: DIY Container Fairy Gardens, Edible foraging /Plant ID walks, Foraged tea making activities, DIY Up-cycled container gardening, DIY tiny terrariums, Plarn (plastic yarn) making and weaving, Mullberry Harvest HOPs, Plant and Seed Swaps, and more. We have collaborated with: Good Earth Farm Stand, Uplift Gardenwalk, Ohio City, Inc., to name a few. The CPR team (Cle Pandemic Response team), Food Not Bombs, Food Strong, Rid-All, The County and Local public libraries, the buy nothing groups, and food banks, the May Dougan Center, LGBT Center of Greater Cleveland, all help to distribute food and food information, and would be excellent collaborators. Connecting neighbors with each other and the local organizations to share resources is the goal. It has been a slow and steady movement of genuine connection. The vision is to get help neighbors develop strong community through mutual aid efforts. I have connected with several disability advocacy groups, Local visual and performance artists, and I would love to collaborate and connect holistically throughout our community at large. (including schools, religions organizations, summer camps and youth programs, the Metroparks, city hall, the Community development corps, block clubs, book clubs, recreation centers, senior centers, farmer's markets, urban farms, etc).



### Selena Awesome Vicario

Selena Awesome Vicario is a Cleveland based, eclectic Queer Boricua life-long multi-medium performance, visual and installation artist, polyglot, plant scientist, community organizer and activist. Her community and artistic work focuses on building sustainable environments and advocating for underserved groups. Selena continues developing the Peter Rabbit Project; a movement to provide accessible resources while inspiring joy and wonder. Through the enchanting nature of connection, community, plant and nutrition education, we uses this highly-adaptable project to empower the community.

### STAY CONNECTED

Instagram: [@PeterRabbitProject\\_Cle](https://www.instagram.com/PeterRabbitProject_Cle)

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