

## GRASS ROOTS CULTIVATION IN THE EAST VILLAGE

### *A Guide to East Village Green Spaces*

Two members of EVPC and long time residents of the East Village, are writing a guide to East Village Green Spaces. They are Ellen LeCompte, who is on our Board, and Grace Tankersley, who designed our Summer/Winter postcards. The two of them have been at work on the guide for almost two years now. Yes, two years. Jobs and other projects have intervened but this is a labor of love and they have stuck to it.

Grace, a graphic designer, got interested in the project when her friend, Ellen, took her around to see some of the community gardens. The gardens are remarkable even when viewed from the street, but if you actually enter, you are suddenly transported into an entirely new world. The sounds of the street become subsumed by the magic of the garden. Ellen says that for her it's like lying down in the sand and closing her eyes on a crowded ocean beach. The sounds and activity of the people around her are still there, but they become a luxurious back-drop.

The two hope to be able to produce a guide as unique as the gardens themselves, emphasizing the distinctive qualities of each green space through the layout on the page and the content selected from the interviews.

Together, Grace and Ellen have compiled a list of all the East Village parks and community gardens from 14<sup>th</sup> Street to Houston and from The Bowery to the East River, taken many photos of each in all seasons, and interviewed gardeners from a dozen or so of the gardens. Grace has completed a map showing the position of each green space and has begun designing the guide while Ellen edits the interviews. They have come far enough in their project to actually make a tentative deadline for their first draft – early next fall.

If you are interested in contributing to the guide or are just plain curious, drop them a line. Ellen can be reached at emlecompte@aol.com and Grace can be reached at nqgt@earthlink.net. Be sure and put Garden Guide in the subject line. We've listed the gardens included below. Let them know if they've missed any!

11 <sup>th</sup> BC Garden	Grandma & Children
11th Street Community Garden	Community Garden
6BC Botanical Garden	Green Oasis
6th Street and Ave B Garden	Hope Garden
9th Street Community Garden	Jardin Los Amigos
Albert's Garden	KenKeleba House
All Peoples	La Plaza Cultural
Brisas del Caribe	Armando Perez
CAMPOS	Las Siete Potencias
Children's Garden	Le Petit Versailles
Coradan Evaeden	Liz Christy Garden
Creative Little Garden	Lower East Side
De Colores	Ecology Ctr
Dias y Flores	Miracle Garden
Earth People	Orchard Alley
East Side Community	Parque de
HS/Green Space	Tranquilidad
El Jardin del Paraiso	Peach Tree Garden
El Sol Brillante	Sauer Park
El Sol Brillante, Jr.	Sunrise
Fifth Street Slope Garden	The Secret Garden
Club	Tompkins Square
Firemen's Memorial Garden	Generation X
First Street Garden	Vamos Sembrar
Gilbert's Garden	Yu Suen Dragon Garden



Peachtree Garden – East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

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our volunteers and supporters  
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Look for your invitation in  
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You can mail your (tax deductible) check to:

East Village Parks Conservancy  
P.O. Box 138  
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