

YEAR 3—Mahindra Urban Agriculture Grant Program

July 27th, 2017

Detroit, MI—

The third season of Mahindra's Urban Agricultural Grant Program culminated on July 27th with music and dancing at Lafayette Greens Garden in downtown Detroit. The Thursday night awards ceremony saw \$100,000 in cash and equipment granted to six distinct non-profit organizations devoted to growing and distributing sustainable produce in Southeast MI. Attending the celebration were the heads



of all six recipient organizations, in addition to Mahindra North American Automotive CEO Rick Haas, MANA's VP of Marketing Rich Ansell, Terry Campbell—a Chief Aide to US Senator Debbie Stabenow, and Alanna Woolley—District Outreach Coordinator for Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence. The event commenced with Haas speaking briefly about each recipient organization before presenting them with checks to fund a variety of dynamic agricultural work:

Grosse Pointe Park's **Full Circle Foundation**—an organization dedicated to helping individuals with autism lead independent, sustainable lives—was awarded \$7,075 to fund a summer intern for their Edible Garden Program. The program provides developmentally-challenged individuals the opportunity to learn farming and gardening skills.

\$20,000 was awarded to support **The Greening of Detroit's** Build-A-Garden program, which empowers Detroit residents to grow and cook their own food.

\$20,000 was awarded to **Keep Growing Detroit** to fund an initiative that will allow EBT Bridge cards to be used for the purchase of locally and sustainably Detroit-grown produce.

The **Micah 6 Community** of Pontiac was awarded \$8,000 to build a 2,000 sq. ft greenhouse that will grow produce for the underserved.

Pingree Farms Foundation of Detroit was awarded a Mahindra tractor and attachments valued at \$26,010 that will be used to help grow sustainable fruits and vegetables for Detroit residents.

Detroit's **Neighbors Building Brightmoor** was granted \$11,000 toward the purchase of a Mahindra tractor and attachments that will help to beautify blighted lots by transforming them into functioning gardens and farms.

2017's Mahindra Urban Agricultural grant ceremony was especially significant because it marked over \$300,000 given by the program since 2015. Over three years these funds have been distributed across nine non-profit organizations, all of whom have demonstrated a commitment to, and capability for, effecting meaningful change in the food system of Southeast MI. In these three years, Mahindra grants have been responsible for providing SE Michigan residents with over 1 million pounds of fresh produce and distributing more than 200,000 seeds and seedlings across 1,600 Detroit gardens. Such an impact warranted celebration, and after Haas finished awarding this year's grants Asamu Johnson and his Associates of the Blues took to the stage at Lafayette Greens Garden to perform.



So it was that Mahindra's 2017 Urban Agriculture Grant Program concluded with great Blues music, dancing, and refreshments in an outdoor garden in downtown Detroit. A fitting end to another great year of growth.