



The C.U.R.B. (The Collaborative Urban Resilience Banquet)

Candace Thompson

https://www.instagram.com/the_c_u_r_b/

The Collaborative Urban Resilience Banquet is an interdisciplinary art and activism project that seeks to reconnect urbanites to our fragile (and oft displaced) food web in the face of oncoming climate crisis. Through citizen science, community events, and multi-species storytelling, artist Candace Thompson documents her process learning about/with/from the feral (edible) weedy beings who survive and thrive amidst humanity's hot mess. She shares this research via an instagram handle @the_c_u_r_b and at a series of community meals foraged almost entirely from the city streets. Let's look to the non-human world as resilience role models, ingesting their wisdom to become better global citizens. Perhaps there's still time to eat one another away from the brink of extinction

At Cycle X, Thompson will serve as resident 'weed eater'. She is eager to collaborate with the other residents and collect the undervalued (but equally useful) species most other farmers will want pulled from their fields such as Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), Lambsquarter (*Chenopodium album*), Amaranth (*Amaranthus* spp.), Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Plantain (*Plantago* spp) and more. In his way, she will divert 'weeds' and 'invasives' from the compost and/or waste stream, wildcrafting them into food, medicine, and handmade goods for her art practice through a permacultural approach to land stewardship.

As the Forager in Residence with the Urban Soil Institute, Thompson is studying DIY soil remediation techniques, and would be interested in testing the heavy metal content of Cycle X's orchard using USI's XRF machine. If tests prove the soil contains lead, arsenic, or other POP's (as a result of the widespread use of 20th century pesticides), Thompson will collaborate with fellow resident and mycologist Craig Trester to implement a Korean Natural Farming/IMO pilot project there.

She will also try her hand at agroforestry techniques on/with/in Cycle X's orchard lands through the introduction of native food species sourced from Stuy Cove Park's native food forest seed saving program. With any luck, this one-timemonoculture could transform into a multi-story food forest of Persimmons (*Diospyros virginiana*), Pawpaws (*Asimina triloba*), Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*), Eastern Black Nightshade (*Solanum ptychanthum*) and more.

Bio

Candace Thompson is a (human) performer and interdisciplinary media maker fascinated with the feedback loops generated by place, culture, identity, climate, economics, and daily interaction. She makes video, audio, web projects, and ritualistic installations— both IRL and online— that examine and challenge the truths we purportedly hold to be self-evident. Perhaps they aren't so self-evident after all. Her current projects focus on healing and agency in the face of opaque profit systems. She is interested in human relationship(s) with the (un)natural world vis a vis local food webs; phone addiction and its relationship to the corporate surveillance state; and rituals of healing that locate and repair both personal and intergenerational somatic trauma. Recent residencies and funding institutions include More Art, Residency Unlimited, Oak Spring Garden Foundation, the Urban Soil Institute and Swale House.