



Food and Agriculture Literacy Center at Mykawa Farm

CASE FOR SUPPORT



Our Vision is for The Food and Agriculture Literacy Center at Mykawa Farm to serve as an experiential learning environment that helps Houston ISD students, families and the larger Houston community develop more than a consumer relationship with food. The Food and Agriculture Literacy Center sits on the 6.5-acre site of the historic 100-year-old Mykawa School. Students engage in hands-on learning experiences that allow them to see where vegetables and fruits come from on Mykawa Farm. They also learn about the nutritional benefits of these foods grown and how that food can be prepared into tasty meals!

Our Work to date: Aside from planting food, we also plant **seeds of knowledge, change, and empathy.** In SY 2020/21 we hosted 60 students on field trips; the following year we hosted 100 students. For the 2022-23 school year we anticipate hosting 1,200 students. Students on field trips engage in hands-on learning activities focused on agriculture (horticulture and entomology), nutrition, culinary arts, and environmental science. During the 2021-22 school year, The Food and Agriculture Literacy Center hired 5 students from Worthing High School’s work study program, and we plan to continue this program in subsequent years.



Chef Brittany hosting a hot food demo using a Coleman grill.



Farmer Matt leading an agriculture lecture with students through rows of crops at Mykawa Farm.



Elementary students posing in front of painted shipping container at Mykawa Farm.



High school students transplant seedlings in hoop house at Mykawa Farm.

Our Need: USDA guidelines prohibit childhood nutrition funds from being spent on the capital improvements needed to rehabilitate the Food and Agriculture Literacy Center to serve the needs of Houston ISD students and community members. We need the following:

- Areas that are accessible to all visitors, regardless of physical ability.
- Restrooms designed for students.
- Electricity for lights and cooking equipment.
- Sinks for washing harvested produce.
- A cold holding area for harvested produce.
- A perimeter fence to keep students safe from unwanted visitors of all species.
- A climate-controlled, enclosed space for lessons to continue during severe weather.
- Indoor and outdoor demonstration kitchen areas.



0 42 84 168
SITE PLAN

Our Plan: Structural engineers and architects have determined the exterior walls of the building are structurally sound, and the building can be integrated in the conversion of the building to a classroom space for culinary, nutrition, and horticulture education for students and community members.



Our Costs

The total funding needed for the Food and Agriculture Literacy Center at Mykawa Farm is \$2.09 million. * Funding is needed to support the rehabilitation of the school building.

A breakdown of the funds:

\$ 170,000 - Infrastructure (detention, electricity, fencing, water/sewer)

\$ 820,000 - Development of Driveway, parking, service area, bus drop off, central gathering area

\$1,100,00 - Building renovation and entry garden

*Based on 2021 financial estimates

Why Now? We need your (seed) money to help us cultivate a safe, inspirational place to plant our seeds!

The Food and Agriculture Literacy Center needs this funding to provide infrastructure such as plumbing, electricity, rainwater detention, and fencing, to make the property secure and suitable for field trips, work-study programs and community classes and events. This state-of-the-art culinary kitchen, science lab and office will enable us to better serve students and the larger Houston community.

Call to Action: We invite you to join us in making our Food and Agriculture Literacy Center a destination for students and their families in the Houston region to develop deeper, more intimate relationships with food and become participants in our local food system.



Testimonials

“My students and I had a great time at the Food and Agriculture Literacy Center at Mykawa Farm. We learned a lot from Matt Graham, Harold Whorton, and Berly. Between Matt, Harold, and Berly, we felt as if we were walking into a college agriculture course. They offer a wealth of knowledge! Please continue inviting students to visit. The farm is a truly magical place that brings us peace.” -*Simone Roemhild Teacher at Baker Montessori*