

## I. Introduction

Community gardens have been popularly regarded as a solution to many social issues. However, while community gardens effectively address some issues, they fail in other regards; community gardens may be powerful tools in addressing social issues in ways that are currently underutilized. It is, thus, imperative to have a realistic view of the capabilities of urban community gardens. In doing so, community organizers and local politicians may allocate resources and distribute funding more effectively in community gardens, resulting in more effective and sustainable efforts in urban development strategies.

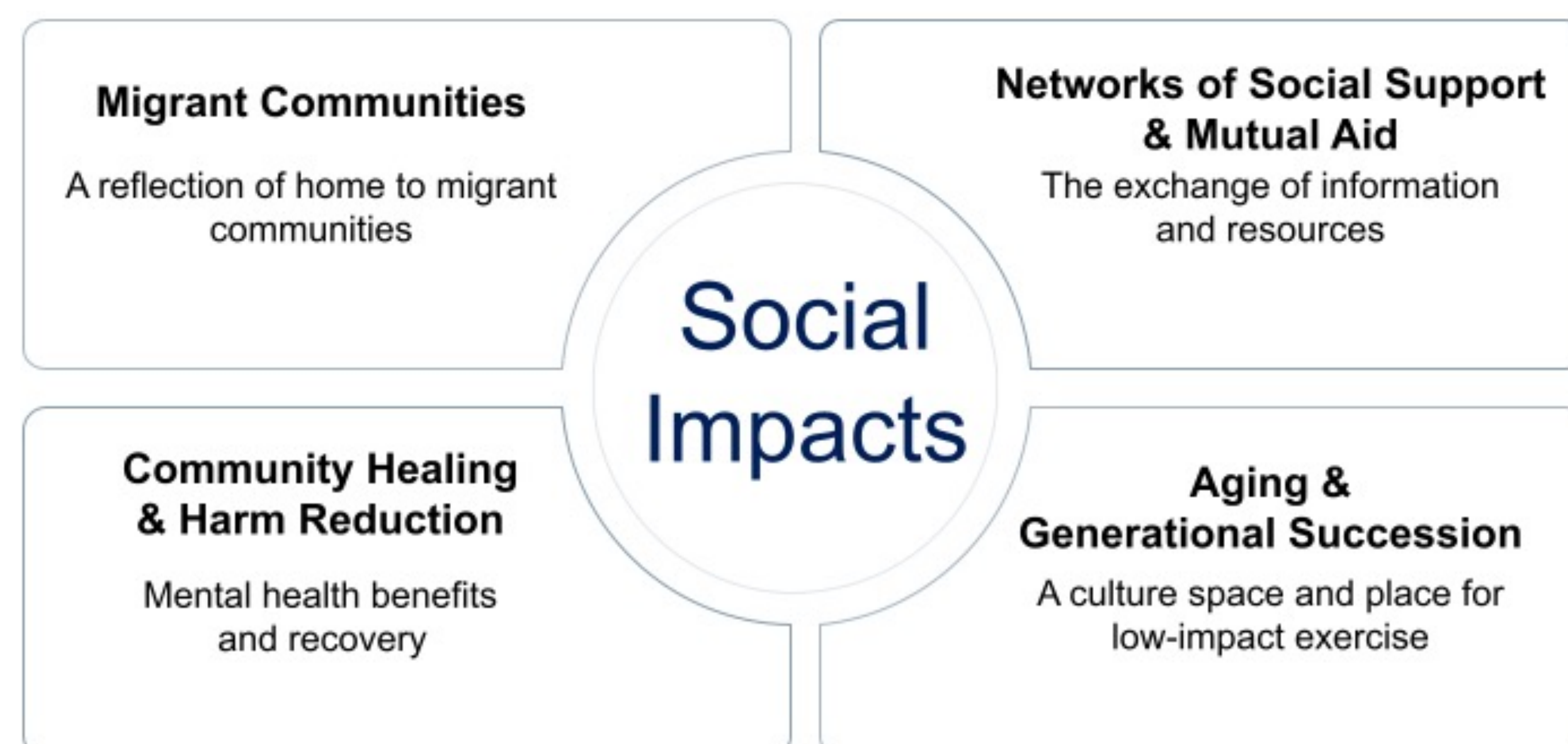
### Nairn and Vitiello's Past Research

- Observations of community gardens in Philadelphia, PA; Camden, NJ; and Trenton, NJ
- 3 Part Procedure: 1) Site Surveys, 2) Weighing of Harvests, and 3) On-site Interviews
- Past methods, analysis, and conclusion inform the ways in which our study is currently conducted

### Research Question

- What are the social impacts of urban gardens in Philadelphia, PA and Camden, NJ?

## II. Social Impacts



## III. Research Design

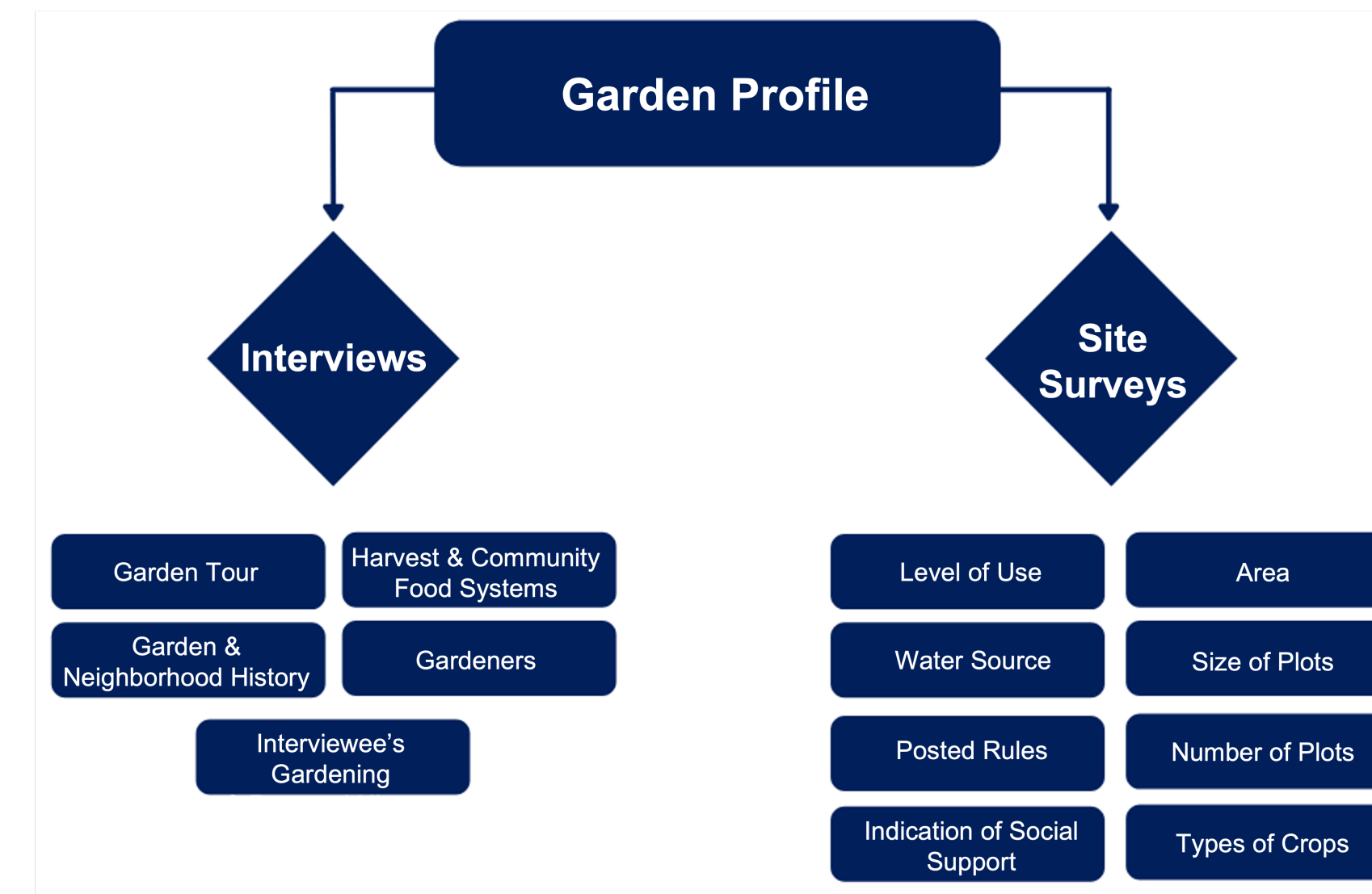
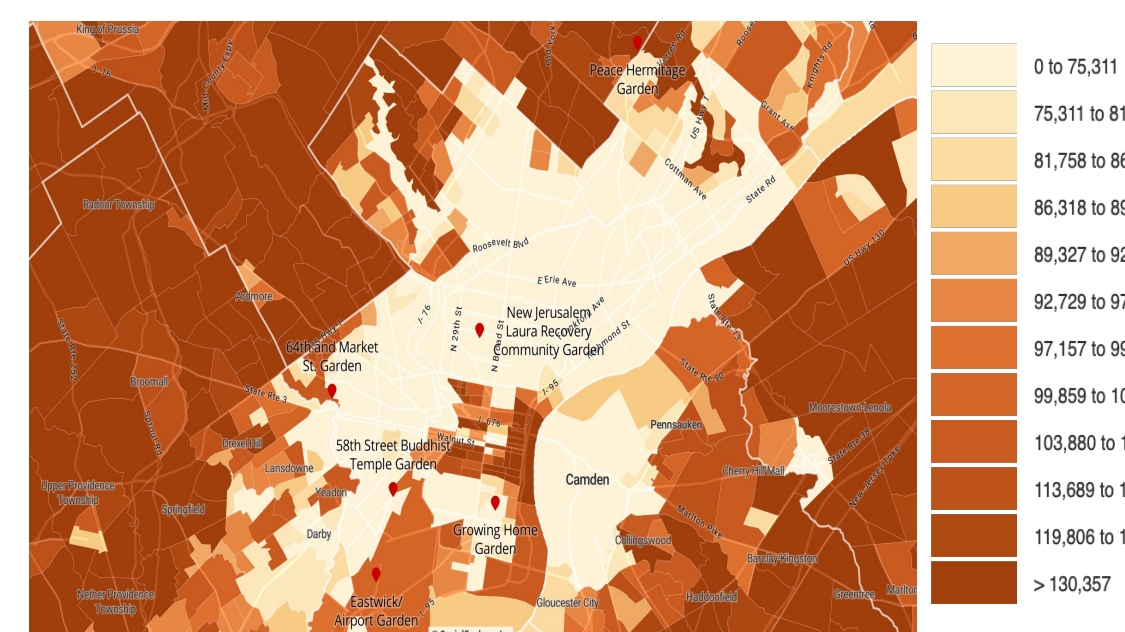
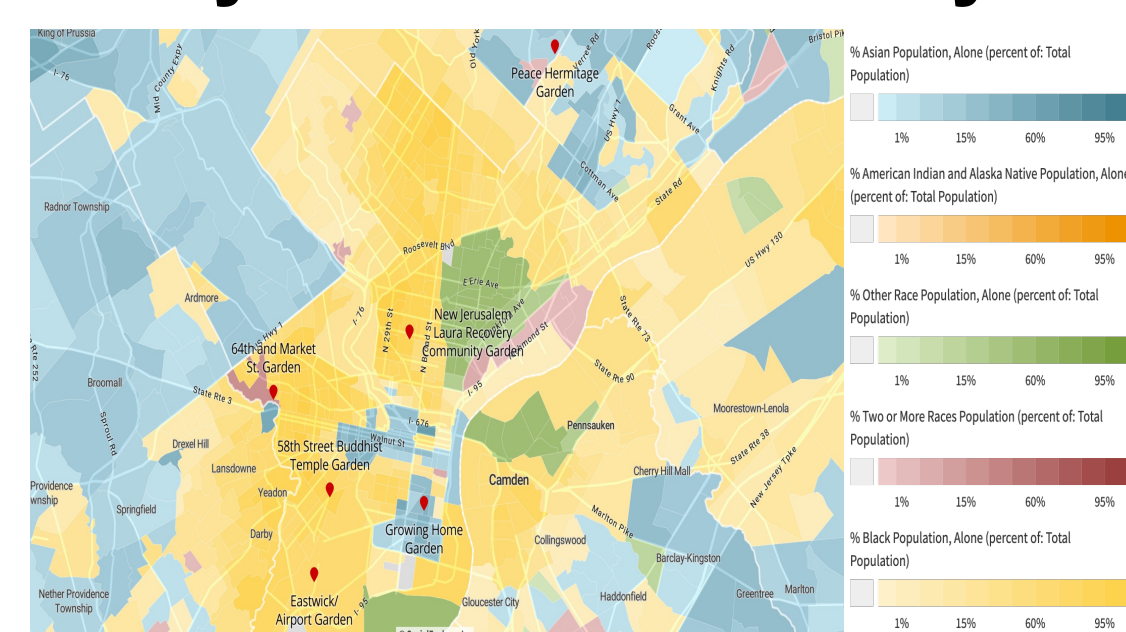
### Location Choice: Philadelphia, PA & Camden, NJ

Six Gardens of Interest: 1) 64<sup>th</sup> & Market Garden, 2) Eastwick/Airport Garden, 3) Growing Home Garden, 4) Peace Hermitage, 5) 58<sup>th</sup> Street Buddhist temple garden, and 6) New Jerusalem Laura Recovery Community Garden

- Research interest in migrant communities of low-socioeconomic wealth; these communities are present in both cities' gardens

### Density of Households by Race

### Household Income



## IV. An Analysis of 2014/2015 Interviews

### 64<sup>th</sup> & Market Garden: A 2014 Interview with Ms. Park

Ms. Park immigrated from the slums of Seoul, South Korea to Philadelphia 30 years prior to her interview. Once in Philadelphia, Ms. Park worked in a sewing factory; though she did not work in Korea, her living conditions were better upon arrival to the U.S.

**Cultural Preservation**  
"If someone goes to Korea they get seeds and sell them to the rest of the gardeners. We can use those seeds for 3-4 years. We also get seeds from Blue Farm in New Jersey, which has Korean seeds... we are planting cabbage now for next Spring to make kimchi."

**A Space for Older Individuals**  
"Most people who garden here live at the 40<sup>th</sup> and Market senior housing center. But they don't socialize there - they socialize here at the garden instead."

**Funding & Relationship with the City**  
"I don't need anything except for water."

**Issues of Generational Succession**  
"I also supply vegetables for my children, but they aren't interested in the garden. My granddaughter graduated from Washington State University, and she studied agriculture. Now she works at a 'planting school' and... teaches people how to farm, but she doesn't come to help out her grandma."



Vitiello, Domenic, photographer. "BPSOS, Viet Lead garden/farm." Photograph. Camden, NJ. 2000. From presentation, *Social and Community Impacts of Urban Agriculture*. (Accessed May 5, 2022).



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### Boat People SOS Garden: A 2015 Interview with Mr. Nam

Mr. Nam immigrated to the United States in 1989, after serving in the Vietnam army. In the United States, he worked as a technician contractor for a pretzel factory before retiring. Mr. Nam is one of the original members of the garden and is charged with ensuring the safety of the garden from his home across the street.

**A Space for Cultural Practice**  
Friends and relatives purchase seeds in Vietnam and send them to the US.

**A Social Network**  
The gardeners named three events/activities that are held in the garden: 1. Farm stand... 2. Appreciation meal 3. Youth hold events on the garden during holidays

**A Source for Low Impact Exercise**  
Mr. Nam said he recently retired and... has hurt his joint and arms in work, but working on the garden helped his joints

**Intergenerational & Interracial Interactions**  
During the tour, [Interviewer Nancy explains] "the youth and gardeners have managed to build a good relationship... most of their problems stemmed from the language barriers between gardeners and the youth (Hispanics and African Americans)."

### HIAS Garden: 2015 Interviews with Bhutanese Immigrants

Mr. Hemlal, Mr. Rai, Ms. Pradhan, and Ms. Sharma are part of the group of Bhutanese immigrants that arrived in the United States from the same village in Bhutan and garden at HIAS garden. While most of the interviewees came to Philadelphia in 2010, Ms. Pradhan reports arriving as late as 2012. Mr. Hemlal and Mr. Rai come from farming backgrounds in Bhutan, whereas Ms. Pradhan and Ms. Sharma learned in Philadelphia.

**Feelings of Accomplishment**  
"The most satisfying moment of gardening [is] when you pluck out the vegetables out of the soil."  
- Ms. Pradhan and Ms. Sharma

**Feelings of Accomplishment Pt. 2**  
He likes the quality of his products. He mentioned that the garden is very dense and he unexpectedly harvests very high quality products, which make him happy and fulfilled.  
- Mr. Hemlal

**Some Lack a Sense of Ownership Over the Space**  
"There are some ceremonies held on the property... On those days the gardeners are not allowed to be on the garden."  
- Ms. Pradhan and Ms. Sharma

**A Social Network**  
"they have had 2-3 picnic events where they had a big crowd joining them in the garden... the landlord invited his family members and his kitchen staff. The gardeners also brought their family members."  
- Mr. Rai

## V. Implications for Data Collection

### 64<sup>th</sup> and Market Garden

- Issues of water shortage, generational succession, and language differences should be particularly noted since they will have existed as barriers within the garden for up to eight years.
- Interview notes leave the social dynamic between the older Korean community and other ethnic groups largely unexplained: can gardens develop into a space not only to perform cultural agrarian practices but also to share in cross-cultural educational opportunities?

### Boat People SOS Garden

- Demonstrate how organizational support and collaboration may help facilitate social benefits, such as education, mental and physical health, cross-generational interaction, and cross-racial interaction

### HIAS Garden

- Is the social impact of a garden dampened when the garden is in its initial stages of growth or within the context of heavy oversight?

## VI. Key References

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