



Millennium Park Foundation and American Society of Landscape Architects, Illinois Chapter in Partnership with the Communities of Chicago present:

Cultivating Connections: Professional Mentors

Thank you for your interest in Cultivating Connection Mentorship Program. This is a collaboration with Millennium Park Foundation and the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects to engage with engage the landscape architecture, garden design, art, and allied communities to design, advocate, educate, install, and maintain four vignette gardens for Millennium Park and into the community. These gardens will showcase the intersection among urbanism, opportunities for community & neighborhood engagement, and artistic, risk-taking design among emerging and future professionals.

This project will:

- Elevate gardens & landscapes as works of public art (the horticultural arts).
- Use Millennium Park as a first stage to elevate and provide opportunities for mentorship to underrepresented populations within the industry in students that might be interested in pursuing a career in the industry (High School 9-12), landscape architecture & design students (4-year and 2-year colleges), and emerging professionals (0-10 years of experience)
- Provide a multiyear engagement opt-in
- Select four finalists from each category to design the gardens. ALL applicants will have opportunities at various events to become involved in the process
- Promote public garden spaces as a tool for meaningful community engagement & equitable development mechanisms throughout the Chicagoland area as a second stage.
- Promote mutual & shared interests within the landscape architecture/design, horticulture, art, and community engagement sectors.
- Develop horticultural based engagement for the community and neighborhoods.

Project Timeline:

First Stage: (Year 1)

- Mentee Applications Due: February 11, 2022
- [Cultivating Connections Application Link](#)
- Panelist Jury will review and choose 4 finalists from each category: February 25th winners announced
- Design Time: February 28-May 22/June 6
- Construction: May-June 25/26 (all applicant opportunities)
- Celebration in the Gardens in Millennium Park: June 25/26 (all applicant event)
- September: All Applicant Mentor/Networking Event week of 17th
- October 24th: Removal of Gardens (all applicant event)

Second Stage (Year 2)

- Engage community with real project or program with applicants

Mentor Engagement: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Promote the Mentorship Application

- [Cultivating Connections Application Link](#)

Encourage Applications- it might even be you as an Emerging Professional- 0-10 years of experience!

Become a Professional Mentor!

- Become a part of the process by guiding, teaching, and forming young professionals (single events- shorter time commitment (June/Sept TBD))
- Aiding in the design processes and aiding in community program/project developments (February-June- longer time commitment)
- Becoming part of the panel Jury (February - one week)
- Fill out a form today! [Cultivating Connections Mentor Application](#)