Design Intake Form

1. Please write a brief purpose statement for your garden, which will help us both orient towards what matters most to you. Don’t worry about getting the words just right - just help me connect to why this project is important to you.

2. Another way of looking at the purpose of the garden is by orienting towards values (e.g., generosity, integrity, equity, hospitality) you’d like to express through the garden, or needs you have that you’d like the garden to serve (e.g. relaxation, inspiration, food, craft materials, beauty). Will you help me orient towards what you’re seeking by making a list of the values and needs you’re hoping this garden helps you nourish?
3. I want your garden to speak to you - both to feel like your unique style, and also to surprise you sometimes. **Will you collect a few images of spaces that feel to you like how you’d like your garden to feel?** They could be gardens or any other type of space. Feel free to include words or descriptions too. I’ll be looking for themes - do you like clean lines? Bright colors? Lots of contrast? Lots of texture? Soft plants that sway in the wind? What makes you feel at home?

4. In all ecosystems, there are 6 layers, or different types of plants, present. The variety of strategies that they employ to live successful lives helps the ecosystem be more stable and makes sure every bit of soil is held in place and every drop of sunshine is captured. I’ve noticed each person is drawn to particular layers and less inclined towards others. **To help create a design that works both for you and for the overall stability of the design, will you please note plants in each category that speak to you?** Feel free to use photos, descriptions, or whatever is easiest for you. Spend a week keeping track of the plants you see around you that do and don’t excite you.
It’s not your responsibility to come up with a full list, but more some guideposts to help clarify a vision. I’m hoping this will help us both attune to the garden’s highest potential. For example, when you read the word “vine” do you think fondly of the overabundant wisteria that grew at your grandmother’s house, or do you want to cringe because you feel overwhelmed by the thought of things snaking through each other and winding around each other?

Bulbs

Vines

Groundcovers

Perennials

Shrubs
Trees

5. Anything else that you’d like to share about your vision for the garden?

6. What are you hoping to learn through our process together? Any tips for me on how you learn best?

7. How do you imagine your relationship with your garden working after our process is complete? Would you like to be oriented well enough to do maintenance yourself, or do you imagine having help?