



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Native Plant Trust Announces Native Plants and The Future of Public Spaces Symposium, Examining the Factors Driving Change in Public Landscapes, Role of Native Plants, Online April 9

March 12, 2021

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(Framingham, MA) Native Plant Trust, the nation's first plant conservation organization and the only one solely focused on New England's native plants, announces a virtual symposium on the relationship between native plants and the future of public spaces. The event will take place online Friday, April 9, 2021 from 1-4 PM. To register, visit [www.NativePlantTrust.org](http://www.NativePlantTrust.org).

The virtual symposium will feature distinguished experts in the fields of landscape architecture, city planning, urban ecology, and community horticulture, and will explore a range of perspectives on the future of public green spaces. The event will include a keynote address by Anita Berrizbeitia, Professor and Chair of Landscape Architecture at Harvard University, as well as an interactive workshop and a panel discussion, highlighting a variety of approaches to landscape planning, design, and management.

"The year 2020 brought greater awareness of the importance of inclusive public green spaces, and of the social, health, and environmental factors that shape and impact those green spaces. This symposium will examine some of the driving factors that are changing the design and use of shared landscapes, and the potential roles native plants can have in these conversations," notes Courtney Allen, Native Plant Trust's Director of Public Programs, who organized the symposium.

Speakers include:

Anita Berrizbeitia, Professor and Chair of Landscape Architecture at Harvard University, will present the keynote on understanding and expanding the scholarship about public landscapes. Berrizbeitia's research focuses on design theories of modern and contemporary landscape architecture and the productive aspects of landscapes, as well as on Latin American cities and landscapes. She has authored and contributed to numerous books on the conceptualization of

public space and is the recipient of the Rome Prize Fellowship in Landscape Architecture, the J.B. Jackson Book Prize, and the Merit Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Karyn Williams, Director of Programs at Design Trust for Public Space, will lead a workshop on stakeholder engagement in the landscape design process. Williams recently launched the Design Trust's Neighborhood Commons project and is leading the development of a new body of work related to health equity and the built environment. Previous to her work at Design Trust, Williams was the Assistant Director of Planning and Programs at GreenThumb, a division of NYC Parks.

Marielle Anzelone, creator of NYC Wildflower Week and PopUP Forest: Times Square, is a botanist and urban ecologist. Anzelone has devoted her career to saving nature in cities by connecting people to it. She has also advocated for citywide policies and taught in public schools to address environmental justice, equity, and access.

Carolina Lukac, Garden Education Manager, Vermont Community Garden Network, empowers individuals to cultivate productive, edible landscapes to provide for themselves and for their communities. Lukac's projects in Vermont are informed by her previous work in community horticulture in her native Mexico City, where she co-founded the city's first urban agriculture training center.

Veronica Tyson-Strait, landscape architect, garden designer, horticulturist, educator, and fine artist, was born in the Caribbean and is currently based in New York City. Tyson-Strait worked for several years as a horticulturist for NYC public parks and now owns her own horticulture and garden design business. Her designs focus on plant-human interactions, native ecologies, and landscapes that inspire cultural engagement and provide sanctuary and sustenance.

For more information and to register for the symposium, please visit [www.NativePlantTrust.org](http://www.NativePlantTrust.org).

This program is eligible for professional continuing education credit through the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, the Northeast Organic Farming Association, and others. Please refer to the symposium registration page for further information on credits.

## ABOUT NATIVE PLANT TRUST

Native Plant Trust is the nation's first plant conservation organization and the only one solely focused on New England's native plants. We save native plants in the wild, grow them for gardens and restorations, and educate others on their value and use. We are based at Garden in the Woods, a renowned native plant botanic garden that attracts visitors from all over the world. From this flagship property in Framingham, Massachusetts, 25 staff and many of our 1,500 trained volunteers work throughout New England each year to monitor and protect rare and endangered plants, collect and preserve seeds to ensure biological diversity, detect and control invasive species, conduct research, and offer a range of educational programs. Native

Plant Trust also operates a nursery at Nasami Farm in western Massachusetts and manages six sanctuaries in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont that are open to the public. Native Plant Trust is among the first organizations worldwide to receive Advanced Conservation Practitioner accreditation by London-based Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), which included an endorsement by an International Advisory Council representing six continents. Please visit [www.NativePlantTrust.org](http://www.NativePlantTrust.org).

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