

# Maurice Small, Strategist

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Blog: <http://mauricesmall.tumblr.com/>

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

*Founder, Chief Organic Officer*

**Spencer's Boy**, Raleigh, North Carolina. 2009-Present

Education -

- The Spencer's Boy blog provides information and ideas for consideration in the context of the local food movement throughout the rust belt with implications for national thinking and/or policy.
- Youth education and training includes: nutrition, local food systems, and health and cooking instruction for students in local schools and community-based organizations.

Communication and community building -

- Spencer's Boy supports community strength and invests in community knowledge around issues of food access, food equity, nutrition, education, agriculture, and entrepreneurship.
- Spencer's Boy provides a forum where ideas are voiced and shared, and compelling options and potential/proven solutions are presented.

Consulting -

- Spencer's Boy provides consulting services that translate ideas and vision into ACTION.
- More than 20 years of proven wisdom in the arenas of urban farming, entrepreneurship, food access, community health and well-being, prisoner re-entry, youth development, farmer training and development, community organizing.

*Independent Consultant*

**UDI Farm, City of Durham**, Durham, North Carolina. 2014-2015

- Advise the City of Durham on the creation of 5-acre aquaponic urban farm including design consultation for plants, trees, land use/landscaping, greenhouses, compost, soils, mulches, social media and web presence, logo, water catchment, community engagement and best practices for overall farm management. Coordinating with site contractors for grading and electrical work. Monitor construction and provide updates. Assist with farm budget development. Provide weekly analysis of farm and aquaponics design, farm maneuverability, planting and construction. Provide coordination of and communication regarding farm operations.

*Independent Consultant*

Wilmington, North Carolina. 2014-2015

- Work with independent investors in Wilmington, NC to create 30 community-based grow beds; to create 3 community food systems in underserved communities; and to create links between various Wilmington non-profits around urban youth, job creation, food access, and crime prevention.

*Independent Consultant*

Raleigh, North Carolina. 2014-2015

- North Carolina Fair Share CDC – provide youth programming, create community food systems in underserved communities, and establish links between various Raleigh non-profits around urban youth, job creation, food access, and crime prevention.
- YMCA of the Triangle - provide hands-on youth programs that focus on youth entrepreneurship through urban agriculture resulting in the first ever YMCA urban youth learning garden including organic farming methods and aquaponics.

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- Boys and Girls Club of the Triangle - provide hands-on youth education that focuses on youth entrepreneurship through urban agriculture resulting in the first Boys and Girls Club Aeroponics growing program.
- Garner Road Community Center – establish vibrant urban garden spaces, create food systems in underserved communities, and train youth leaders in food-based entrepreneurship and food access.

*Urban Strategist, Food Access Cultivator, Urban Ag Educator*

**Interfaith Food Shuttle**, Raleigh, North Carolina. 2012-2014

- Create/direct community food justice awareness programs in seven counties in Raleigh/Durham area.
- Collaborate with area community partners and local urban youth to develop healthy soil systems coupled with livestock: worms, bees, goats, chickens and fish.
- Share natural local resources with schools, libraries, hospitals, restaurants, faith organizations, and state, county and city governments.
- Utilize grass roots research to champion urban and rural food policy congruence.
- Advocate passionately for worms, compost, youth, soil, healthy food and equity in access to healthy and affordable food for all.

*Director of Urban Agriculture*

**Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation**, Youngstown, OH. 2010-2011

- Facilitated the design, implementation and build of 11+ acres of urban food system, reclaiming vacant lots, and repurposing old housing stock.
- Trained 5 urban youth and 200+ community members to develop local, sustainable garden sites and to contribute to the health of Youngstown’s neighborhoods and food system.
- Designed/implemented programming focused on neighborhood food development in a weak market city.
- Other responsibilities include: strategic planning, urban youth program creation, community organizing, training of staff in urban and rural farm relations, public relations strategy development, healthy soil cultivation, farmer outreach, urban policy development related to the city’s larger vision, physical planning and planting, and contributing to the comprehensive agricultural and entrepreneurial planning/training for the Youngstown area.

*Director of Education*

**Goodness Grows**, North Lima, Ohio. 2008-2011

- Directed the development and use of 30+ acres for food production including vermiculture, composting methods, organic farming techniques, and the creation of a local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program.
- Developed/instructed agricultural/entrepreneurial training including 6-week Market Garden training.
- Provided community outreach and coordination among community members and stakeholders in Mahoning and Trumbull Counties, including Youngstown and Warren, Ohio.

*Consultant, Urban Agriculture and Health Initiatives*

**Lorain County Urban League**, Elyria, OH. April 2008 – July, 2010

- Worked with 15-100 youth (middle/high school aged youth) to train them on garden creation at the Lorain County Metroparks.
- Trained youth in the areas of composting, straw bale gardens, soil creation, local food access and food systems development. Explored entrepreneurial applications for urban gardening practice.
- Provided guidance for the “Save Our Sons” program in the areas of exercise, cooking healthy foods (including four cooking demonstrations and tasting opportunities for participants), home garden creation, and food access via local farm visits and discussions with local farms.

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*Co-Founder and Coordinator*

**City Fresh**, Northeastern Ohio. 2004-2009

*City Fresh supported community food systems through the creation of Fresh Stops (locations where urban residents pick up weekly produce), provision of nutrition education, creation of urban gardens, cultivation of farm-to-business connections, and the establishment of the youth programs.*

- Coordinated all farmer/City Fresh relationships with farmer coaching and support, volunteer training, quality control oversight, and market gardener training.
- Created and taught market gardener training program and trained more than 50 market gardeners in urban, organic gardening techniques and strategies.
- Provided logistical oversight and driving for all pick-ups and deliveries of food for City Fresh throughout the growing/selling season.
- Effectively created (as part of City Fresh Leadership) a national model that connected local farmers with urban neighborhoods that represented diverse economic and cultural communities.

*Manager of the Learning Garden*

**Cleveland Botanical Gardens**, Cleveland, Ohio. 2000-2004

- Hired and supervised 160 paid interns, coordinated 100s of volunteers, supervised 50 at-risk youth, and hosting thousands of visitors while working on the three-acre farm.
- Selected by Slow Food Ohio to represent urban farmers and urban school systems at the inaugural Terra Madre event in Italy, held in October 2004.

*Special Education Development Director, Title I, 3rd-5th grade*

**Cleveland School District**, Cleveland, Ohio. 1996-2000

*Urban Farmer*

**Gardens**, Northern Ohio, 1988-Present

- Created over 500 gardens and hundreds of compost systems around the rust belt.
- Created gardens for the Cleveland Clinic Health Systems and Hispanic Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program [HUMADOP]

**EDUCATION**

**“People’s University”** 1964-Present

Figure out what I want to know, and check out a book from the library.

**Permaculture Design Certification Course**, Oberlin, Ohio, 2008

Completed a three-week intensive course in the principles of permaculture, a design approach that mimics natural patterns to create abundant, low-maintenance perennial gardens and a more “permanent agriculture.”

**AWARDS**

**Organic Pioneer Award Recipient, The Rodale Institute** September, 2011

Recognized by The Rodale Institute, Kutztown, PA, for pioneering work using organic farming methods to transform blighted urban areas across the Midwest region of the United States.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Nemeth, George, Ricchiuto, Jack and Small, Maurice. “Instructions from The Cook: Recipes for New Conversations.” Designing Life Books, Cleveland, OH. 2008.

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## PRESENTATIONS

### *Keynote Speaker*

- “**Grey to Green Festival**” Youngstown, OH. September 2010
- “**Everybody Eats!**” **From the Ground Up: First Annual Louisville Food Summit.** Metro United Way. Louisville, KY. Spring 2009
- “**Making Brooklyn Bloom,**” “Youth, Soil, Food: Imagine...” Spring 2009 Conference. Brooklyn Botanical Gardens

### *Speaker/Panel Member/Presenter*

- “**SGN: Community Wealth Building Roundtable**”, Durham, NC. April, 2015
- “**Creative Mornings: Freedom**”, Raleigh, NC. May, 2014
- “**Building Stronger Communities: Housing and Health Equity**”, City of Durham, NC. October, 2013
- “**Sustainable Food and Farming Conference: From Gangs to Gardens – Making Real Food with Dollars and Sense**”, Laurelville, PA. March, 2013
- “**Cleveland Teacher’s Union Panel Discussion: Farm to School: Relationship Building and Community Building**”, Cleveland, OH. May, 2011
- “**Midwest Sustainable Cities Symposium**”, DePaul University, Chicago, IL May, 2011
- “**Sowing Seeds Here and Now! A Chesapeake Urban Farming Summit**”, Baltimore MD. June, 2010
- “**DC’s Field to Fork Network, Friday Food Access Panel**”, Washington, DC. April, 2010.
- Beyond Pesticides: “Greening Our Community: 28th Annual National Pesticide Forum.”** Case Western Reserve University. Cleveland, OH. April, 2010