Dear Friends of NY Sun Works:

2019 and 2020 have been years of growth and adaptation, resilience and creativity, both for NY Sun Works and for the community of educators and students we serve. Their dedication and enthusiasm - every day and ever more so as the Covid pandemic unfolded - have inspired all of us at NY Sun Works.

It’s been an honor to be able to provide teachers and students with the resources for learning sustainability science throughout this unprecedented time. From our Home Hydroponic Kits to our remote curriculum and Let’s Investigate videos to distributing hundreds of pounds of produce grown in our labs to students and their families, the NY Sun Works team shifted and adapted to make sure we could continue to support our schools communities. I’m very proud of every member of our team.

Even as we’ve created new initiatives in response to the pandemic, we’ve continued to grow our signature NY Sun Works program. In 2019, we expanded from 86 to 129 partner schools, revamped our K-5th curriculum to align with new science education standards, and piloted our community engagement Harvest program. In 2020, we were on track to expand to another 40 schools when the world experienced a seismic shift. Although all construction was paused - and for a period of time funding was doubtful as well - we’re pleased to share that all schools have received the green light for their labs to be installed in 2021. We also expect important developments in 2021, including bringing science and sustainability education to many more students and launching a high school CEA certification program.

The Covid pandemic has underscored the critical need for our youth – and our policymakers – to understand and value science. We believe that our hands-on science and sustainability program will help to prepare today’s students so that they become farmers with technical skills to sustainably feed our growing urban population, the environmental innovators, or the doctors and scientists finding the vaccines and cures in the future.

Thank you for your continued support and for being part of the NY Sun Works community.

Manuela Zamora  
Executive Director, NY Sun Works

COVID-19 brought a host of challenges to New York Public Schools in 2020. The NY Sun Works team adapted to meet those challenges and to accomplish school goals.
INNOVATING IN A TIME OF CRISIS

“Love the work that you do!!! And so do our kids. Thank you for making this year special.”
— Elizabeth Culkin, Principal

When public schools shut down in March 2020, teachers and students alike faced formidable challenges — teachers in rapidly adapting their curricula to the new distance learning paradigm and students in contending with the loss of crucial classroom time and the stability of their school routines.

NY Sun Works pivoted early to respond to these challenges. From hydroponic STEM Kits to remote curricula and teacher training, our new initiatives have supported students and teachers in a critical moment of need and will continue beyond the pandemic to provide creative new approaches to hands-on STEM & sustainability education!

“Since the Pandemic I have had to teach remotely like every other teacher around the world. While many teachers have scrambled to put together lessons, I have had a very easy and very successful time... I feel like I couldn’t have done this so seamlessly without [NY Sun Works].”
— Jodi Kalb, PS 279

REMOTE CURRICULUM

NY Sun Works partner teachers did incredible work to quickly move students to remote learning following the sudden schools closure in March 2020. To support our teachers in adjusting to this new reality and to continue the interdisciplinary and collaborative science education that takes place in the hydroponic classroom, our Education Team moved swiftly to create new, remote learning resources. Funded with the generous support of the Clarence and Anne Dillon Dunwalke Trust, our team created an extensive remote-ready curriculum, complete with weekly science lessons, teacher guides, Google slides, and nearly 50 Let’s Investigate Science videos for students to use from home. Please turn to page 17 for more.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR TEACHERS

Teacher professional development is an essential part of our education program, helping teachers remain current on key concepts in sustainability science — an emerging and rapidly changing field — and creating a supportive community in which teachers can build knowledge and skills. In 2020, we took our sessions online to make sure NYC teachers didn’t have to miss out on these crucial learning opportunities. Moving forward post-pandemic, we’ll offer our professional learning programs in a hybrid in-person/remote format, creating a more flexible and inclusive program that enables us to reach teachers who live farther away. Please turn to page 15 for more.
HYDROPONIC STEM KITS: A SHORT-TERM RESPONSE WITH LONG-TERM POTENTIAL

NY Sun Works launched our Home Hydroponic STEM Kit initiative in September 2020 in response to educators’ concerns about students falling behind during remote learning and the difficulty of sourcing low-cost educational resources. With our team’s expertise in hydroponic systems design & curriculum development, we knew we could create a compact solution that would minimize disruptions to education during COVID and continue the hands-on approach to science by which students learn best.

The kits we created generated tremendous enthusiasm from students, teachers, and parents alike. Between September and March 2021, when the program wrapped up, our team assembled and delivered 12,500 kits to students across 79 schools, far exceeding our initial expectation of 2,000 orders!

The uniformly positive response to the kits and strong demand from our school partners for next school year demonstrate the kits’ long-term viability as a learning tool, whether in hybrid, in-person, or full remote learning. This initiative is here to stay — as a compact, efficient, and easy-to-use resource for hands-on science & sustainability education!

For more on the STEM Kit program, please turn to page 17.

“When I get a hydroponics kit and become a farmer scientist I will be feeling excited because it’s been so long since I’ve done science. I think I will learn a lot about plants and what they need to grow.”

— Student
RESPONDING TO FOOD INSECURITY:
RUNNING THE GHCS AS FULL INDOOR FARMS

The COVID pandemic dramatically increased food insecurity in the city, with an estimated 1 in 4 New Yorkers — nearly double the pre-COVID number — needing food support. Making use of our extensive farming know-how and ready access to school-based hydroponic systems, we’re honored to join the fight against hunger and food insecurity. Since June 2020, we’ve operated one of our largest GHCs, at PS 333 in Manhattan, as a full indoor farm, donating hundreds of pounds of fresh green to local community groups. More than half of our labs throughout the city are also being run as indoor farms, growing fresh vegetables for students’ families, staff members, and local community organizations to support neighbors in need.

We want to extend our particular thanks to Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, whose generous support through her MCAP program enabled us to run our PS 333 greenhouse as a full indoor farm. Six additional schools in Manhattan are also operating as farms with MCAP funding to support their students, families, and school staff. Across the East River in Brooklyn, numerous schools are harvesting fresh herbs and leafy greens to share with school staff, students and their families, and local food pantries.

“I think it’s amazing that the lab can provide food for families. The PTA is already coming up with bags of groceries. The fact that a program like NY Sun Works can step in and not only teach kids about hydroponics but also provide food for families in need is priceless.”

— a teacher
NY Sun Works is a non-profit organization that builds innovative science labs in urban schools. Through our Greenhouse Project Initiative we use hydroponic farming technology to educate students and teachers about the science of sustainability.

MISSION
NY Sun Works is a non-profit organization that builds innovative science labs in urban schools. Through our Greenhouse Project Initiative we use hydroponic farming technology to educate students and teachers about the science of sustainability.

VISION
We envision a generation of environmental innovators, empowered to create solutions to global resource challenges.
BUILD, TEACH, CONNECT

141 GREENHOUSE CLASSROOMS BUILT

494 SYSTEMS INSTALLED

598 TEACHERS TRAINED

GREENHOUSE CLASSROOMS BUILT BY YEAR

- Previously completed
- New labs built
- On hold

- 2010: 11
- 2011: 16
- 2012: 25
- 2013: 45
- 2014: 16
- 2015: 86
- 2016: 129
- 2017: 12
- 2018: 36
- 2019: 129
- 2020: 36
Every year, NY Sun Works offers our 45-hour ASPDP (After School Professional Development Program) course, “Energy, Water and Waste: Integrating Themes of Sustainability Into Your Classroom”. The course is approved for teacher continuing education credits by the NYC Department of Education (DOE) and focuses on incorporating sustainability content into the K-12th grade classroom. In 2019, we held the course in-person in one of our hydroponic Greenhouse Classrooms, so that teachers could see hydroponic systems in action. In 2020, we translated the program to a virtual setting and we were able to welcome 47 teachers over three sessions.

The 2019 November Professional Development Workshop introduced our 6-8 grade Greenhouse Classroom teachers to the newly launched “GHC Connect” lessons. First year and returning Greenhouse Classroom teachers worked in small groups to brainstorm ways to implement the new lessons, discussed and worked through potential challenges they might face when trying out these lessons for the first time, and drew strong and clear connections to student activities and learning already taking place in their hydroponic classrooms.

In addition to the introductory workshop that takes place every June for new partner teachers, the Education Team offered a virtual professional learning workshop for partner teachers in November. In the Fall of 2020, as the DOE’s transition to full-remote learning loomed and eventually touched down, NY Sun Works took the November Professional Learning workshop to a virtual platform. Partner teachers gathered across four boroughs to share, explore and discuss “The Power of Observation.” Teachers explored together the potential of cultivating joy, focusing on observation and its particular uses in the complicated remote learning landscape. We shared virtual tools to record data and present findings, as well as re-discovered the natural curiosity that is found in growing plants through the hydroponic process using our Home Hydroponic STEM Kits. Teachers brainstormed ideas and shared best practices, while exploring the new curricular offerings (including NEW lessons focused on the process of germination!) and virtual tools found in the NY Sun Works Learning Center. We particularly enjoyed talking through the challenges of our not-so-simple task of fostering confidence in our Farmer Scientist students in a remote setting.
NY Sun Works released the GHC Connects curriculum for grades 6-8. The NY Sun Works Discovering Sustainability Science curriculum offers two distinct avenues for student learning: the GHC Connect and our Sustainability Extensions. The GHC Connect units are designed in lesson sets, typically trios, and augment the science units of study as they reinforce the standards being taught within that unit.

NY Sun Works partner teachers did incredible work to quickly move students to remote learning following the sudden schools closure in March 2020. To support our teachers in adjusting to this new reality and to continue the science and sustainability education that takes place in the hydroponic classroom, NY Sun Works developed and launched the Home Hydroponic Kits. These STEM Kits enable students, with teacher guidance, to grow, study, and run investigations with plants from home or in the classroom. The kits are designed to engage students with topics they would otherwise be learning about in their Greenhouse Classrooms and create opportunities to practice observation and data collection skills. In addition to the kits, the Education Team developed an accompanying curriculum comprised of 3 Units:

- **Unit 1**, designed to be implemented before kit use, ensured that teachers would have lessons to pull from while they waited for their kits to be delivered. These lessons establish scientific content, build scientific observation skills/methodology, and lay a foundation of sustainability science and urban agriculture.

- **Unit 2** is taught using the Kits and is designed to optimize experiential learning opportunities by using hands-on observations about the kit, and the plants that students’ grow, to bolster science content and drive sustainability concepts.

- **Unit 3** is designed to be investigation-based. Students use the remaining Kit materials in setting up their own investigations.

The Hydroponic Games: A Hydroponic Design Challenge and The Aquaponic Games: An Aquaponic Design Challenge engage students in engineering design challenges to design and build functioning hydroponic or aquaponic systems. Students use the iterative design process to revise their system designs and provide constructive feedback to each other throughout these modules. Students also have the opportunity to apply what they have learned about water chemistry and how hydroponic systems work to ensure their systems function and support the growth and development of multiple crops.
Our Harvest Program events are an exciting part of the school year, giving students a chance to show their families what they’re learning in the hydroponic classrooms and share the delicious, healthy produce they’ve worked so hard to grow.

The program began in 2019, with the goals of:

- **Connecting the learning** that takes place in the classroom with students’ families by encouraging conversations at home about the relationship between food and sustainability;

- **Expanding students’ technical skills** in operating hydroponic systems and promoting equitable access to the produce grown in the GHC, while also reinforcing the importance of the harvest process as part of the Discovering Sustainability Science curriculum;

- **Sharing the harvests and the science learning** taking place in the classrooms with the larger school community, including teachers, administrators, custodial, and security staff, to support healthy eating and increase awareness about the role of hydroponics in urban farming.

From student-run farm stands to cooking demos with chefs to school fairs, 2019 offered many wonderful opportunities for students to demonstrate their hard work.

In early 2020, before COVID brought a pause to all in-person activities, we were fortunate to be able to execute several outreach events, including a Ribbon Cutting at PS 85 in Queens, STEAM fair at PS 14 in Queens, and a fundraiser & video project with PS 81 Thaddeus Stevens, Artist Hugo McCloody, and Polaroid.

We’re excited to resume the program as soon as possible and will be introducing new initiatives, including monthly distribution of fresh produce to students and their families and the design of discussion cards and other take-home activities to encourage students and their families to talk at home about healthy eating and sustainability.
YOUTH CONFERENCE:
DISCOVERING SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

On Monday, May 20, 2019, 72 students from 16 NYC public schools presented their research on Sustainability Science to a sold-out auditorium of 750 students and teachers during the 8th annual NY Sun Works Youth Conference.

Hosted by actress Stephanie Hsu, students were joined by CEO of the New York Power Authority Gil C. Quiniones, and Founding + CEO of Re-nuble Tinia Pina who spoke about their work in the field of science. There was a special performance by Kenji Williams of the NASA-powered earth-from-space show Bella Gaia.

Sponsored by Broadway Stages, Cofra Foundation, ConEdison, New York Power Authority and TD Bank, the NY Sun Works Youth Conference offers a platform to 5th to 12th grade students to share their classroom work and research, but most importantly it represents an opportunity to discover Sustainability Science as we reflect on the connections between human behavior, the use of technology, and our impact on the environment. It is an event that empowers students to follow the path of innovation as we look for solutions to the environmental challenges of our time. The conference, hosted by Actress Stephanie Hsu featured students from 16 NY Sun Works partner schools from Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and New Jersey.

“I learned about all of the jobs involving how we work with plant life including growing plants in space that are edible. WOW! And I saw that we have so much science that we have not learned yet.”

— Fifth Grade Student
On May 18th, 2020, students from public schools around NYC came together virtually to share their research and celebrate their scientific accomplishments at NY Sun Works’ 9th Annual Discovering Sustainability Science Youth Conference. The Conference, typically hosted at Symphony Space to accommodate the large audience, pivoted to an online format this year due to COVID-19.

The 25 student speakers, who ranged from 5th to 12th grade, presented on an array of science and sustainability topics, including designing at-home hydroponic systems, the environmental hazards of microplastics, and the role of the Doomsday Vault in seed preservation.

Students examined the impact of environmental factors like temperature changes, flooding, and music on plant growth and how plants could be used in environmental and medical applications, such as for bioremediation of Brooklyn’s Gowanus Canal and the use of Mimosa pudica as a spinal cord stimulator. The students were joined remotely by special guests Dr. Gioia Massa, a plant space scientist at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center; Jenn Frymark, plant biologist and Chief Greenhouse Officer at Gotham Greens; and Phil Vos and Kyle Jeremiah, biogas experts at Energy Vision.

— Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President
IMPACT AND ASSESSMENT

NY Sun Works measures its progress internally using a set of 16 key performance indicators, which include metrics such as the number of hours spent training and mentoring partner school teachers, school participation in the annual youth conference, students attending Greenhouse Project hydroponics labs on a regular basis, how much and how often teachers use the curriculum.

NY Sun Works has partnered with Knology, a social science research organization, to develop evaluation instruments using both quantitative and qualitative strategies to help us understand the impact of the NY Sun Works curriculum, as well as how the Greenhouse Classroom program and physical space may support students’ education outcomes. These ongoing evaluation activities will measure students’ interest in science and sustainability topics, mastery of science concepts and knowledge, and environmental consciousness.

An independent quantitative assessment of the NY Sun Works program indicates that it may not only meet core science requirements, but also integrates climate change and sustainability education in a way that improves students’ understanding of science as a whole. As many states have adopted the Next Generation Science Standards as core curriculum and may be looking to integrate climate change and sustainability content into their courses, the NY Sun Works program could serve as an ideal model that meets their needs.

The NY Sun Works Curriculum and Science Achievement Report concludes that students who receive the NY Sun Works curriculum are more likely to score higher on the 4th grade science achievement test than students who do not receive the NY Sun Works curriculum.
NY Sun Works serves a diverse population of students across the five boroughs of New York. We strive to make our program accessible to all types of learners, from special needs to accelerated students, including English Language Learners and recent immigrants.

NY Sun Works is incredibly fortunate to have passionate and engaging interns and volunteers working with us on all aspects of our programming. Some assist with maintaining our science laboratories and supporting our partner school teachers, while others work behind the scenes, helping with graphic design for our curriculum and event materials. Our volunteer responsibilities include:

- basic hydroponic systems operation (pH + EC monitoring, plant pest management on hydroponic systems)
- basic aquaponics operation (water quality tracking, system cleaning, fish health assessment and feeding)
- growing space upkeep (sweeping, cleaning and sterilizing equipment, picking up spills and water leak puddles)
- teacher assistance (working with young students to help seed, harvest, and perform their greenhouse tasks—helping support the teacher in whichever way is needed).

**Select 2019-2020 Interns & Volunteers**

- Rodrigo Sanchez de Lozada
- Ebba Nordgren
- Ana Sanchez de Lozada
- La-Rissa Espinoza
- Maria Korolkova
- John Feighner
- Tara Pagano Taub
- Nick Wendell
- Megan Rogers
- Elisa Barón
- Fiona Carswell

*The percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (FRL) under the National School Lunch Program provides a proxy measure for the concentration of low income students within a school. This means they are children from families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty level. Source: Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Inside Schools, insideschools.org*
Dear Friends of NY Sun Works,

2020 marked two milestones for NY Sun Works: 10 years since the opening of our first greenhouse classroom, at the Manhattan School for Children, and partnerships with 10% of all NYC schools - the largest school system in the country. I'm proud of how the organization has grown in reputation and reach over the years, now bringing cutting-edge science & sustainability education to nearly 50,000 students a year across NYC and metropolitan NJ.

Also with 2020 came the Covid pandemic and its many ramifications. As schools closed and students faced the loss of crucial classroom time, NY Sun Works adapted with ingenuity and creativity to minimize science learning loss and support the communities we serve. From creating a comprehensive remote curriculum to assembling and delivering 12,500 Home Hydroponic STEM Kits, to distributing the produce grown in the labs to students and the local community, the agility of their response is a testament to the strength, professionalism, and dedication of the NY Sun Works team.

NY Sun Works ended 2020 in a solid financial position despite the year’s extensive challenges. Though Service to School revenues were down significantly due to the pandemic, support from the city’s elected officials, the Paycheck Protection Program, and an increase in grant revenue enabled us to finish the year with an overall increase in net assets, greater than budgeted and better than the prior year.

Moving forward, NY Sun Works will continue to grow its capacity at all levels. We look forward to welcoming additional members to our Board of Directors who will complement the expertise and experience of our current board members.

As we begin this new decade, the need for higher-quality science and sustainability education has only been magnified by the scope of the health and environmental challenges we are now contending with. NY Sun Works will continue to meet this need, helping to prepare today’s students to be the scientists, innovators, and decision-makers of tomorrow.

Thank you for your support.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Ted Caplow
Chairman of the Board
FINANCIALS

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<th>Revenue</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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Net 408,328*  23,004  287,326

2018 and 2019 (Audited Numbers)
2020 (Draft from auditors)

*In 2018, the net income includes $100,000 restricted for special projects
**Starting in 2020 fundraising expenses include a percentage of salaries (100% of Senior Development manager, 30% Executive Director, 30% Associate Director of Education and Assessment, 50% Graphic Designer, 5% of occupancy costs)
2019-2020 DONORS LIST

$100,000+
New York Power Authority
US Department of Agriculture

$75,000+
Allen Family Foundation
Bregal Investments/COFRA Foundation
Clarence and Anne Dillon Dunwalke Trust

$50,000+
Spindrift Family Foundation

$25,000+
Karin Bain and John Kukral Foundation
ConEdison

$10,000+
Broadway Stages

$5,000+
Goldman Sachs and Co. Matching Gift Program
Joshua Desai

$2,500+
A+ STEM Carts
Jeff and Nancy Bergman
Sarah Horowitz and David Venarde
Carine Joannou
Sidsel and Sam Robards
Ximena and Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada
Laurel Skarbinski
TD Bank

$1,000+
Scott Adams and Samantha Garbers-Adams
Ted Caplow
Ian Ginsberg
BeeBee Horowitz
Pedro Sanchez de Lozada
Monica Machado
Anne Montana
Laura Sametz
Target Circle Giving Program
Jodi Walker and Jeff Crisan
Whole Kids Foundation
Wirth-Myers Family Fund

$500+
Kory Apton
Manuela Arna and Luis Paz-Galindo
Marisa Brasar
Sandra Buzali
Hannah Cavallo
Helena and Elliot Choy
Rhoda Farber
Beverly Israel
Annabelle Marica
Johanna Markson and Scott Freeman
Daina Nadler
Megan and Sebastian Nordgren
James Pagano and Gina Florescu
Jennifer Prescott and Brian D’Arcy James
Charlene Reid
Barry Rothstein
Cynthia Russo
Valeska Stupak
Margaret Sullivan
Cynthia Vance-Abrams
Rose and Scott Young

$250+
Justin Avellar
Elisa B Baron Rodriguez
Isabelle Choy
Patricia Del Cioppio
Eric Farber
Sharon Griffith
Chris Haun
Stephanie Hsu
Karene Katz and Drew Schaefer
Jason and Suzanne Lindbergh
Susan Madden
Nathalie Manzano-Smith
Sarah Nehme
Erica Phillips
Catherine Quiroz
Paola Rivero
Ignacio Sanchez de Lozada and Manuela Zamora
Megan Sullivan
TD Bank Employee Giving Program
Susan Tenner
Ani Udovicki

$100+
Elizabeth Abbott
Jorge Aseff and Fabiola Salek Aseff
Melissa Ash
Mauricio Balcazar and Alexandra Sanchez de Lozada
Carla Bogart
Cara Brasor
Molly Braverman
Barbara Carswell
Monica Christensen
Melissa Clark
Elizabeth Couch
Caplan Family Foundation
Joel R Freedman
Karen and Paul Freitas
Danielle Gould

$25+
Steven Ahlf
Jordan Berger
Leslie Bogart
Jabari Brisport
Bonnie P Chipala
Oakley and Louisa Coburn
Dina R. D’Alessandro
Alaina DiSalvo Fagan
Doria Fan
Cara Gizzi
Bridget Hazan
Unsoo Kim
Jennine Meyer
Hunter Moreland
Moses Ojeda
Mauricio Rincon
Anna Rittenburg
Dennis Scurletis
Zoe Scurletis
Deborah Shapira
Sourav Sinha
Jason Tam
Janelia Tse
Michelle Tseng
Ramie Waxman
Jane Wells
Abigail and Lewis Wendell
Amy Wong

$250+
Jane Wells

$250+
Eduard Mazzi

$250+
Sandra McKean
$25+ CONTINUED

Cecily Morales
Lynda Petito
Erin Phillips
Jesse Podell
Ashley Rafalow
Stefanie Reponen
Jennifer Ryder
Rosalyn T Scheidlinger
Justin Schwarz
Chester Van Wert
Atheline Wagner
Laura Woods

IN-KIND DONORS

Audible
Beetle Juice on Broadway
Brooklyn Botanical Garden
C.O. Bigelow
Carte Blance Wine
Chefs For Impact
Clinton Street Baking Co
Elite Island Resorts
Equinox
Eric and Sandra Ripert
Goldfaden MD
Hudson Restaurant in Nyack
Jamis Bikes
Janet Dailey
Jeffrey Kallenberg
Jenny Green Jeans
John Robshaw
Laura Calhoun Massage
LettuceGrow
Mario Carbone
Melissa Clark
MSNBC
Peter Mensch
Print Restaurant
Sandra Bark
Tribeca Film Festival
Zadig & Voltaire
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF WHO MOVED ON IN 2019-2020

Jonathan Betancourt
Alexandra Pisano
Jennifer Prescott
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Nick Strelov
Amber Carlin-Mishkin

“A Huge Thank You to Sidsel!”

“I am humbled by Sidsel’s enormous contributions to the development of NY Sun Works and to the schools we serve, taking this project from the Science Barge classroom in 2008 to over 130 science lab classrooms by 2020. New York Sun Works’ active presence today in NYC public and private schools is a testament to the hard work, durable focus, and spirit of intense cooperation that Sidsel and Manuela have created together.”

— Dr. Ted Caplow, founder of NY Sun Works and current Chair of the Board

In 2020, Sidsel Robards moved out of daily operations and into a strategic role with the Board of Directors. Since 2008, Sidsel has been at the heart of New York Sun Works’ campaign to build greenhouse science classrooms in New York City public schools. As a co-founder of the Greenhouse Project and Director of Development & Events from 2010 to 2019, Sidsel worked with education authorities, teachers, and administrators to secure the multitude of individual school partnerships that have proven critical to the organization’s mission. She also established many successful public-private partnerships, including with the DOE’s School Construction Authority and local elected officials, that resulted in lasting collaborations and secured crucial capital allocations for the greenhouse classrooms.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ted Caplow: Founder and Chair
Rebecca Edwardson: Treasurer
Sidsel Robards
Joshua Desai
Marisa Brasor
Laura Sametz: Secretary

MEET THE TEAM

Manuela Zamora: Executive Director
Megan Nordgren: Director of Program Development
Margarita Rosas: Director of Finance & Operations
Dave Hazan: Director of CEA Operations
Hannah Jaris: Director of Education Programs
Nathaniel Coburn: Associate Director of Human Resources, Education, and Development
Elana Mass: Senior Development Manager
Eva Chertow: Executive Assistant
Elaine Blanck: Curriculum Specialist/Teacher Trainer
Nicole Grossberg: School Community Events Coordinator
Melissa Arias: Purchasing Officer
Fiona Carswell: Digital Design
Asaph Charles: Finance Assistant
Caroline McKean: Senior Hydroponic Classroom Operations Specialist
Barry Rothstein: Senior Hydroponic Classroom Operations Specialist
Wyatt Boone: Senior Hydroponic Classroom Operations Specialist
Kristen Rodriguez-Salas: Senior Hydroponic Classroom Operations Specialist
Ariel Duran: Senior Hydroponic Classroom Operations Specialist
John Feighner: Senior Hydroponic Classroom Operations Specialist
Karolina Sawicka: Junior Hydroponic Classroom Operations Specialist
Jasmin Wilson: Junior Hydroponic Classroom Operations Specialist
Amanda Low: Junior Hydroponic Classroom Operations Specialist
Shakira Provasoli: ASPDP Teacher Training Instructor

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF WHO MOVED ON IN 2019-2020

Jonathan Betancourt
Alexandra Pisano
Jennifer Prescott
Eamon Callahan
Nick Strelov
Amber Carlin-Mishkin

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Hannah Jaris: Director of Education Programs
Nathaniel Coburn: Associate Director of Human Resources, Education, and Development
Elana Mass: Senior Development Manager
Eva Chertow: Executive Assistant
Elaine Blanck: Curriculum Specialist/Teacher Trainer
Nicole Grossberg: School Community Events Coordinator
Melissa Arias: Purchasing Officer
Fiona Carswell: Digital Design
Asaph Charles: Finance Assistant
Caroline McKean: Senior Hydroponic Classroom Operations Specialist
Barry Rothstein: Senior Hydroponic Classroom Operations Specialist
Wyatt Boone: Senior Hydroponic Classroom Operations Specialist
Kristen Rodriguez-Salas: Senior Hydroponic Classroom Operations Specialist
Ariel Duran: Senior Hydroponic Classroom Operations Specialist
John Feighner: Senior Hydroponic Classroom Operations Specialist
Karolina Sawicka: Junior Hydroponic Classroom Operations Specialist
Jasmin Wilson: Junior Hydroponic Classroom Operations Specialist
Amanda Low: Junior Hydroponic Classroom Operations Specialist
Shakira Provasoli: ASPDP Teacher Training Instructor

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF WHO MOVED ON IN 2019-2020

Jonathan Betancourt
Alexandra Pisano
Jennifer Prescott
Eamon Callahan
Nick Strelov
Amber Carlin-Mishkin

“I am humbled by Sidsel’s enormous contributions to the development of NY Sun Works and to the schools we serve, taking this project from the Science Barge classroom in 2008 to over 130 science lab classrooms by 2020. New York Sun Works’ active presence today in NYC public and private schools is a testament to the hard work, durable focus, and spirit of intense cooperation that Sidsel and Manuela have created together.”

— Dr. Ted Caplow, founder of NY Sun Works and current Chair of the Board

In 2020, Sidsel Robards moved out of daily operations and into a strategic role with the Board of Directors. Since 2008, Sidsel has been at the heart of New York Sun Works’ campaign to build greenhouse science classrooms in New York City public schools. As a co-founder of the Greenhouse Project and Director of Development & Events from 2010 to 2019, Sidsel worked with education authorities, teachers, and administrators to secure the multitude of individual school partnerships that have proven critical to the organization’s mission. She also established many successful public-private partnerships, including with the DOE’s School Construction Authority and local elected officials, that resulted in lasting collaborations and secured crucial capital allocations for the greenhouse classrooms.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ted Caplow: Founder and Chair
Rebecca Edwardson: Treasurer
Sidsel Robards
Joshua Desai
Marisa Brasor
Laura Sametz: Secretary

MEET THE TEAM

Manuela Zamora: Executive Director
Megan Nordgren: Director of Program Development
Margarita Rosas: Director of Finance & Operations
Dave Hazan: Director of CEA Operations
Hannah Jaris: Director of Education Programs
Nathaniel Coburn: Associate Director of Human Resources, Education, and Development
Elana Mass: Senior Development Manager
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