

PUBLIC EVENT/SPECIAL ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION

City of Somerville, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Application #: PEL25-000062

File #: 23-004675

Application for: Public Event

Organization name: Friends of the Community Growing Center

Description: From late April through Dec, the Center will offer a range of workshops, children's programming, seasonal community celebrations and cultural events for free. They range from workshops on gardening and herbs, yoga classes, nature study and citizen science, films, music and seasonal festivals in keeping with our mission.

Date(s): There are Several dates for this License starting 4 /26, Please check the attached calendar for all the information.

Setup starts at (time): 12:30 PM

Entertainment: Some events include music, film or dance, also educational events related to nature, food, growing, crafts, literacy, etc.

Attendees:

Max attendance at one time: 200

Maximum attendees accommodated: 300

Attendee fees or suggested donations: Events are offered for free, though donations are welcomed.

Social or cultural benefits:

The annual calendar for the Growing Center provides multiple opportunities for free cultural and/or educational events and participation for residents of all ages throughout the rest of 2025.

Event Contact: Lisa Brukilacchio

Event name: Somerville Community Growing Center 2025

Location: The Somerville Community Growing Center

Rain date(s): 04/27/2025

Event ends at (time): 05:00 PM

Temporary Structures: If needed, dependent on weather, we utilize 10x10 pop up canopies, with leg weights for safety.

Total people attending: 10-450, for 3-4 hr event

Total Somerville residents attending: generally 75-90%

What is your budget for this event: The budget for these events range from \$0 to \$3K.

Financial benefits:

Proximity to Union Square helps introduce visitors to the Center to nearby businesses for food and entertainment.

Event Contact Phone: 781-953-4826

Event Information	Yes/No	If yes, Describe
Open to the public?	Yes	Flyers around the City, social media, outreach through partners
Food served?	Yes	Limited currently to June 14 Festa Juninia, planning to serve low risk baked goods from Nibble provider, for a 3rd year in accordance with Temporary Food Permit in development.
Caterer used?	No	
Alcohol served?	No	
Grill/open-flame device used?	No	
Streets blocked?	No	
Sidewalks blocked?	No	
Describe any accessibility features available to attendees/participants		The Center's paths, stage areas and porta-potty are ADA accessible.
Arrangements:		
Police Detail:	No	

Parking (for Attendees)?	No	
Restrooms?	Yes	We have our own on site accessible porta-potty, which is serviced regularly.
Liability Insurance?	Yes	We have liability coverage for \$1M, as part of our license with the City.
Will any public parks be used?	Yes	Somerville Community Growing Center
Has the event occurred in the last two years?	Yes	Since 1994, the Center has been providing a range of free educational and cultural events for the residents of Somerville. The City Clerk issued a blanket permit, which we are applying for here. There are Citizenserve records from 2021 through 2024.

Approved By:

CS Mayor, Approved

Kevin Roche, Approved

CS Traffic and Parking, Approved

Eric Weisman, Approved

Susan Yerkes, Approved

Charles Breen, Approved

Rico Isidoro, Approved with Conditions

Must obtain a police detail.

Kimberly M. Wells, Approved



Somerville Community Growing Center

2025 Calendar

Sponsored by the Friends of the Community Growing Center.
Located at 22 Vinal Avenue, Somerville (near Union Square)

The Somerville Community Growing Center is a place for people of all ages and backgrounds to gather, learn and celebrate – to grow a healthy community. On our quarter acre site you will find gardens and space for arts, performances, education and community gatherings. This peaceful urban oasis was built by the community and is maintained and run by a volunteer organization called the Friends of the Community Growing Center.

Check for last minute details as this is a weather dependent outdoor venue:
www.thegrowingcenter.org/calendar

All events are free, sometimes a “suggested donation” is noted, but all are welcome.

The site is mostly accessible by wheelchair. Porta-potty available.

Public Transit: Green Line access (10-15 min walk) or buses # 85, 87, 88, 90.
Parking: The City of Somerville has permit parking on all streets, including Vinal Avenue, except for Sundays. Drop off option for disabled visitors.

Volunteers and donations are always welcomed to help support events and programs offered at this city-owned site.

To volunteer, contact Bethany Burke at volunteer@thegrowingcenter.org

To host a program or event, contact Lisa Brukilacchio at lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

To receive electronic notices of events and volunteer opportunities, visit <https://www.thegrowingcenter.org/contact> or send a request to volunteer@thegrowingcenter.org

All other inquiries, contact info@thegrowingcenter.org

An * after an event title indicates that the event is supported in part by a grant from the Somerville Arts Council, a local commission supported by the City of Somerville and/or the Mass Cultural Council.



APRIL

Earth Day: Rooted in Resilience

Saturday, April 26, 2:00-4:00 pm

Rain Date: Sunday, April 27

Come to the Center for the afternoon of Somerville's Earth Day celebration, following the morning events at South St Farm with Groundwork Somerville ! Learn about ways to sustain yourself and the Earth. Demonstrations of vermicomposting and making ink from natural materials. Explore volunteer opportunities with the Growing Center and activism with local climate & justice focused groups. Visit the Pollinator Gardens and make native seed balls. Pot up a Red Fire Farm herb seedling to take home (limited supply). Exchange garden supplies with other gardeners. Check our social media for updates on developing details!

Contact: Lisa at lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

MAY:

Compost Workshop

Saturday, May 3, 12:00-1:00 pm

Come learn the basics of composting and see how the volunteer managed compost system at the Center works, with Lee, our Compost Coordinator, who will share their passion and knowledge!

Contact: Lee at lee@thegrowingcenter.org

Spring Garden Day

Saturday, May 3, 1:00-3:00 pm

Rain Date: Sunday, May 4

Gather to exchange seeds, seedlings or house plants. Enjoy Morris dances and participatory Maypole dance with [Whistle Pig](#), Boston's first queer-led, queer-focused Morris dance team. Learn to grow trees from seeds, such as acorns (some limited seedlings available). Donate native plants for local pollinator projects. Lend a hand on craft projects for future events, such as Festa Junina. Enjoy a community gathering celebrating spring in a garden setting!

Contact: Lisa at lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

Climate Convening 2025: Building Somerville's Capacity to Respond

Saturday, May 3, 4:30-6:30 pm

Rain date: Sunday, May 4

Somerville-area climate, environmental, and biodiversity justice advocates will gather during the city's SustainaVilleWeek to explore shared concerns and goals, network, and build resilience. Hosted by the Somerville Community Growing Center, Climate Convening 2025 will ask how we can grow city-wide efforts during a period of federal setbacks, strengthen conversation between the city and area advocates, and promote justice. Community engagement is a strong predictor of resilience in our ongoing climate crisis. Convening together in common space, we will celebrate and strengthen our capacity to respond to the ongoing climate, environmental, and biodiversity emergencies and reduce harm to the vulnerable human and nonhuman members of our shared ecosystem. Facilitator TBD.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Yoga with Jenn

Mondays, May 5, 12, & 19, 6:00 pm

An hour of mindful movement practice to turn off from obligations and connect to the body and mind. Offered by [Jenn Pici Falk](#), who offers recorded sessions at youtube.com/picijenn.

Contact: Jen at jennpfalk@gmail.com

Pub Sing

Tuesdays, May 6 & 20, 7:00-9:00 pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Introduction to Nature Monitoring in the City with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, May 10, 2:00-3:30 pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EwA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EwA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Learn about EwA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Visit [here](#) for information on science apps used. recommended.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

Nature Journaling for Everyone with Libby

Sunday, May 11, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Come and slow down, observe, and connect with nature through journaling. We'll begin by crafting our simple journals using paper and watercolors, then step into the natural world to capture what we see, hear, and feel through words, sketches, or color. Afterward, we'll gather as a group to share our reflections over a soothing cup of herbal tea. This is a relaxed and supportive space for creative exploration, presence, and connection with like-minded individuals. For more info, visit Libby Curtis Webb's website at <https://libbycurtiswebb.com/>

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Book Swap: Bring a Book, Take a Book

Saturday, May 17, 2:00-5:00 pm

Rain Date: Saturday, May 31

Bring a book, take a book! This free event is for readers of all ages and genres, with extra books so all are welcome. All languages encouraged! Somerville Public Library will be there to register attendees for library cards. We will also be joined by Loving Little Minds, a home library non-profit that provides monthly children's multicultural books.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Microgreens with Ceilidh

Wednesday, May 21, 7-8pm

Join Ceilidh Peden-Spear to learn how to grow microgreens at home! Limited supply of starting kits will be available.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Opera On Tap: Buzzing B's and High C's*

Saturday, May 24, 2:00-4:00 pm

Rain Date: Sunday, May 25

A celebration of the creatures who bring us the fruits and flowers, this educational event combines information on nature's busiest bees and their friends with live performances of opera and musical theatre. Meet up with friends and learn from Growing Center volunteers all about pollination and what we can do at home to assist our pollinator friends! Whether you're more of a bumblebee, a moth, or a black digger wasp, the afternoon will include fun craft activities for all ages and a garden tour, while Opera on Tap Boston's performers serenade us with songs on the loveliness of the natural world. Grab your butterfly or fairy wings or make a pollinator head band! We're all ***buzzing*** with excitement to bring you this community afternoon of fun and joy that includes even our youngest STEM and music lovers! This event is presented with support from the Somerville Arts Council, the Mass Cultural Council, and the Somerville Garden Club.

To learn more, check out www.operaontapboston.com and the [Somerville Pollinator Action Plan](#).

Bumba Meu Boi Dance and Music Workshop

Saturday, May 24, 5:00-7:00 pm

Rain Date: Sunday, May 25

Would you like to learn to play some traditional Brazilian music and dance with a large ox puppet? A Brazilian dancer/musician will run a workshop for everyone to learn to dance and play music along with an ox puppet called Bumba Meu Boi--a tradition from the northern and northeastern part of Brazil. Learn how to use matracas for music making. This workshop is part of a preparation for the Festa Junina (Brazilian Harvest Festival) which will happen on June 14 at the Somerville Growing Center. Come play with us!

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

JUNE

Pub Sing

Tuesdays, June 3 & 17, 7:00-9:00 pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Red Fire Farm CSA Distribution

Wednesdays, June 4-Oct 15, 3:30-6:30 pm

The Center is a pickup site for a weekly pre-ordered farm share including veggies & herbs with the option of adding fruit and more. Sign up [here](#) to order a 20 week share to be picked up at the Center. The Center is open to the public during this time.

Contact: Red Fire Farm at csa@redfirefarm.com

Wednesday Creative Musings

June 4 - October 15, 3:30-6:30 pm

Come visit the Growing Center for some relatively quiet time during the weekly Red Fire Farm CSA distribution window. Bring a book and read. Grab your journal and write a bit, create a poem or make an entry in our Growing Center Journal that will be available. Find those art supplies and come sketch, draw or paint while enjoying inspiration from nature in a green setting in the city. Some limited kids and garden/nature books and art supplies will be available for use on site.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

QiGong for Rest and Relaxation with Martha

Monday, June 9, 6:00-7:00 pm

Rain date: June 16

Join instructor Martha Oesch for an evening of qigong practices. The exercises combine flowing movement, breath work, and meditation in a fun way for people of all ages and abilities. By releasing stress in our body, calming our mind, and centering ourselves, we'll create an opportunity to be simply present and aware. For more information, visit [Martha's website](#).

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Sourdough Workshop with Spencer & Emma

Tuesday, June 10, 6:30-7:30 pm

Rain date: Thursday, June 26

Join Growing Center volunteers to explore the wonders and delights of creating your own sourdough bread at home. Learn tips and techniques in this workshop. Share your stories--and some limited sourdough starter will be available.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Community Gathering for Racial Justice: Building Solidarity in Somerville

Wednesday, June 11, 7:00-9:00 pm

Rain date: TBD

Join us for an evening of connection and dialogue as we gather to advance racial justice in Somerville. Hosted by the [Racial Justice Collaborative \(RJC\)](#), this event invites the Somerville community to: Reflect on how anti-Blackness and systemic racism continue to impact our lives and city; Learn more about RJC's mission to create spaces for open, mixed-race dialogue on race and justice; Strengthen relationships across different sectors and communities in Somerville; Explore how we can work together to address injustice locally and support virtual training and dialogue opportunities through the RJC

Together, Labor Spring, the Urban Pastorals project, the RJC, and community members are creating a shared space to decide what matters most and what we are ready to work on collectively. This is a space for anyone committed to strengthening Somerville's resilience and advancing racial justice, whether or not you typically use words like "equity" or "inclusion."

All are welcome. Come as you are, bring your voice, and be part of shaping the next chapter for Somerville's racial justice movement.

This program is supported in part by a Public Humanities/Community Engagement Grant from the [Mandel Center for the Humanities](#) at Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts.

Root Stamp Making Workshop

Thursday, June 12, 4:30-6:00 pm

Artist Ruchika Madan will guide participants through making stamps from root vegetables. Learn to make your own and help make some for the upcoming weekend Festa Junina event.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Festa Junina/ Brazilian Harvest Festival*

Saturday, June 14, 1:00-4:30 pm

Rain Date: Sunday, June 15

Festa Junina is a traditional harvest celebration in Brazil. This annual Growing Center event will include craft stations (root printing, lantern making, making dance accessories), participatory Quadrilha dancing, traditional treats and music. This year, the festival will also feature Bumba Meu Boi, combining music, dance, puppets and costumes to symbolically resist social oppression and celebrate the cycle of life.

Contact: Yumi at yumiisu65@gmail.com

Introduction to Nature Monitoring in the City with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, June 14, 2:00-3:30 pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EwA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EwA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Learn about EwA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Visit [here](#) for information on science apps used. recommended. Please note, this will be taking place during the Festa Junina celebration.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

Nature Journaling for Everyone with Libby

Saturday, June 21, 2:00-4:00 pm

Come and slow down, observe, and connect with nature through journaling. We'll begin by crafting our simple journals using paper and watercolors, then step into the natural world to capture what we see, hear, and feel through words, sketches, or color. Afterward, we'll gather as a group to share our reflections over a soothing cup of herbal tea. This is a relaxed and

supportive space for creative exploration, presence, and connection with like-minded individuals. For more info, visit Libby Curtis Webb's website at <https://libbycurtiswebb.com/>
Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Somatic Therapy for Queer Self- Care with Monia

Sunday, June 22, 10:00-11:15 am

Rain Date: June 29

Join Monia (she/they) for an exploration of embracing self care and nervous system regulation. This workshop offers practices that help aid a deeper connection to you as an individual while also weaving in intersectional identities. Queer Self Care speaks to the understanding that our beings are complex and different parts of our bodies, minds, energies need different care in relation to our internal and external experience. Together we'll use practices like pranayama (breath-work), vinyasa (yoga movement with breath) and journaling to ground and connect. For this workshop, please bring journals, art supplies, water or tea, snacks, fidget items or anything you feel will help you integrate your internal and external being. Learn more about Monia [here](#). Limited to 20: [Please RSVP](#).

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Teddy Bears' Picnic

Thursday, June 22, 6-8 pm

Bring a picnic and your teddy bears (or other cuddly toys) and join with local families and friends of all ages.

Contact: Courtney at cscooke@live.com

Spoken Word/Poetry Open Mic

Tuesday, June 24, 6:00-7:30 pm

Join us for a night of creativity and expression. Whether you're a seasoned poet or just starting out, this open mic is the perfect opportunity to share your work with a supportive audience. Come listen to talented performers, or take the stage yourself and showcase your writing. Don't miss this chance to connect with fellow poetry lovers and immerse yourself in the power of spoken word. See you there!

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org (adding eventbrite sign up)

Sketching Hours

Sunday, June 29, 2:00-4:00 pm

The Garden is opening for people to come sketch and draw in a garden setting. Some limited materials available.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

JULY

Pub Sing

Tuesdays, July 1 & 15, 7:00-9:00 pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Mindful Garden Experience with Sue

Tuesday, July 8, 7:00-8:00 pm

Rain date: TBD

Looking for a way to slow down and unwind? Let Susan Novick, a certified Kripalu Mindful Outdoor Guide, teach you how to do just that through mindful breathing, movements, and

walking that will help you be present in the moment and connect with the natural world in new ways during this time at the Growing Center.

Contact: Sue at shnovick2@gmail.com

Native Pollinator Garden in a Container workshop

Saturday, July 12, 1:00-2:00 pm

Join with Growing Center folks to create a range of container gardens, using native plants to help provide nectar or pollen resources for native pollinators. Learn how and why to plant for attracting pollinators and some ideas on how all of us can play a role. Check out the Somerville Pollinator Action Plan [here](#). Some materials provided (limited containers, soil, some native plants and seeds).

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Introduction to Nature Monitoring in the City with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, July 12, 2:00-3:30 pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EwA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EwA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Learn about EwA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Visit [here](#) for information on science apps used. recommended.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

Veggie Fermentation with Flora

Thursday, July 17, 6-8pm

Flora Spivak will discuss and demonstrate simple techniques for making veggie fermentations such as sauerkraut and pickling at home. Sample recipes provided. Come learn and/or share your own experience and knowledge of these traditional methods of preserving food. (Check out the Somerville Fermentation Festival she is coordinating for Sunday, September 7 at the Center for the Arts at the Armory!)

Contact: Flora at sfspivak@gmail.com

Tree Walk with Emily

Friday, July 18, 6:00 pm

blurb from Emily

Join volunteer Emily Wang for a walk around the Center and the neighborhood to visit and get to learn about local urban trees together.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Nature Journaling for Everyone with Libby

Saturday, July 19, 8:00-10:00 am

Come and slow down, observe, and connect with nature through journaling. We'll begin by crafting our simple journals using paper and watercolors, then step into the natural world to capture what we see, hear, and feel through words, sketches, or color. Afterward, we'll gather as a group to share our reflections over a soothing cup of herbal tea. This is a relaxed and supportive space for creative exploration, presence, and connection with like-minded individuals. For more info, visit Libby Curtis Webb's website at <https://libbycurtiswebb.com/>

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Cordage from Natural Materials

Monday, July 21, 7:00-8:00 pm

Explore how to make twisted or braided cord from natural and foraged materials. What do you have at home that might be considered waste (corn husks, banana peels, etc)? What might your garden offer (long grasses, etc.). Come explore some options and methods using basic tools.

Contact: lisa@thegrowingcenter.org

Spoken Word/Poetry Open Mic

Tuesday, July 22, 6:00-7:30 pm

Join us for a night of creativity and expression. Whether you're a seasoned poet or just starting out, this open mic is the perfect opportunity to share your work with a supportive audience. Come listen to talented performers, or take the stage yourself and showcase your writing. Don't miss this chance to connect with fellow poetry lovers and immerse yourself in the power of spoken word. See you there!

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org (adding eventbrite sign up)

Act for Change: New Play Readings on Climate Change*

Thursday, July 31 and Friday, August 1, 6:00-8:00 pm

Rain date: Monday, August 4

Join us for readings of new short plays on climate action created in our summer workshop led by Alicia Hyland. "Act for Change: New Short Plays on Climate Action" aims to spark conversation, build community, and inspire change. Please bring a blanket or folding chair and enjoy our lawn seating. Seating will be available for persons unable to sit on the ground or who use scooters and wheelchairs. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Somerville Arts Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Sketching Hours

Saturday, July 26, 12:00-2:00 pm

The Garden is opening for people to come sketch and draw in a garden setting. Some limited materials available.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Plant and Solar Dyeing

Sunday, July 27, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

A family friendly event, for all ages. Explore dyeing yarn with plants using the power of the sun. Please bring a glass jar, if possible, to take home to see yarn change color over time (there will be some extras).

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

AUGUST

Stuffed Animal Campout

Sunday, August 3, 5:00-6:30 pm

Rain Date: Sunday, August 10

Drop off your stuffies for an overnight camping experience! We'll have a camping-themed Pajama Storytime for the kids prior to saying their good-byes, and then it's party time for just the animals, with garden exploration time, hide-and-seek, (pretend) s'mores making, singalongs, and more! Follow along in the fun on social media! Additional drop-off times and pick-up opportunities to be announced.

Contact: Betsy at betsy@thegrowingcenter.org

Pub Sing

Tuesdays, August 5 & 19, 7:00-9:00 pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Summer Film Night

Thursday, August 7, 8:00-9:15 pm

Come enjoy film(s) and lively discussion in a garden setting.

Contact: Maddie at madeleinecmorgan@gmail.com

Sketching Hours

Friday, August 8, 4:00-6:00 pm

The Garden is opening for people to come sketch and draw in a garden setting. Some limited materials available.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Introduction to Nature Monitoring in the City with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, August 9, 2:00-3:30 pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EwA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EwA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Learn about EwA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Visit [here](#) for information on science apps used. recommended.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

Yart Sale

Saturday, August 9, 12:00-4:00 pm

Rain date: August 10

It's the Somerville Arts Council's 4th Annual Yart Sale-with the Growing Center offering one of the spaces for a range of vendors for this city-wide event, like a Yard Sale, only for art. Expect to see a range of products and activities like live art, handmade objects, art supplies, collectible items or even plants!

Contact: Betsy at betsy@thegrowingcenter.org

Marshmallow: Herb of the Month with Mo

Sunday, August 10, 6:30 pm

Spend an hour and a half getting deeply acquainted with one medicinal plant as part of a local series organized and offered by herbalist Mo Katz-Christy. This month at the Growing Center will focus on Marshmallow. Learn through drawing, tasting, science and storytelling. Bring your journal and leave with an in-depth account of botany, history, clinical use and more. Free. For full March-November schedule, visit <https://mokatychristy.com/learn.html>

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Summer Film Night

Tuesday, August 12, 8:00-9:15 pm

Come enjoy film(s) tbd and lively discussion in a garden setting.

Contact: Maddie at madeleinecmorgan@gmail.com

The Massive Letdowns

Saturday, August 16, 6:30-8:00pm

Join local 6-person rock band, the Massive Letdowns, playing a mix of covers and original music for a performance in an urban garden space. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and feel free to bring your own picnic and non-alcoholic beverages and thank you for helping us make this a zero-waste event.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

The Time is Now: Music Brings Us Together

Thursday, August 21, 7:00-9:00 pm

Rain Date: Thursday, October 9

Local bands and musicians come together for a night of community reflection, joy and resistance through song. Please bring a blanket or folding chair and enjoy our lawn seating. Seating will be available for persons unable to sit on the ground or who use scooters and wheelchairs. Sponsored by the Urban Pastorals project and supported by a Public

Humanities/Community Engagement Grant from the Mandel Center for the Humanities at Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Spoken Word/Poetry Open Mic

Tuesday, August 26, 6-7:30 pm

Join us for a night of creativity and expression. Whether you're a seasoned poet or just starting out, this open mic is the perfect opportunity to share your work with a supportive audience. Come listen to talented performers, or take the stage yourself and showcase your writing. Don't miss this chance to connect with fellow poetry lovers and immerse yourself in the power of spoken word. See you there!

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org (adding eventbrite sign up)

SEPTEMBER

Pub Sing

Tuesdays, September 2 & 16, 7:00-9:00 pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Gathering of the Fairies: Celebrating Nature Spirits

Saturday, September 6, 2:00-5:00 pm

Rain Date: Sunday, September 7

Come learn about nature spirits from around the world—and our imaginations! Everyone is invited to come dressed up as their favorite magical being. Celebratory activities in the garden for fairies and their friends include storytelling, building a fairy house and creating a fairy wand. Donations are encouraged to support the Growing Center and Gathering of Fairies.

Contact: Kathleen at kathleen@thegrowingcenter.org

Medicinal Plant Walk with Mo

Wednesday, September 10, 5:30-7:00 pm

As part of a local 2025 series, join herbalist Mo Katz-Cristy for a stroll about the neighborhood to meet the plants. Explore botany and medicinal uses and have lots of space for questions and conversations. For more information on the entire March-September series, visit

<https://mokatzchristy.com/learn.html>

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Now is Still Time: Climate Change Theater Action 2025*

Thursday, September 11; Friday September 12; Saturday September 13; Sunday September 14, 6:30-9pm

Rain dates: Thursday, September 18; Friday September 19; Saturday September 20; Sunday September 21

Join us for the 2025 edition of Climate Change Theatre Action, a global festival of short plays engaging with climate change and promoting transformative climate justice. Find community through an evening of performance, original music, and calls to action. Climate Change Theatre Action at the Somerville Community Growing Center aims to create and sustain a more fully inclusive and open Somerville, recognizing that community engagement is a strong predictor of resilience in our ongoing climate crisis. Please bring a blanket or folding chair and enjoy our lawn seating. Seating will be available for persons unable to sit on the ground or who use scooters and wheelchairs. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Somerville Arts Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and by a Public Humanities/Community Engagement Grant from the Mandel Center for the Humanities at Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Introduction to Nature Monitoring in the City with Earthwise Aware
Saturday, September 13, 2:00-3:30 pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EwA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EwA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Learn about EwA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Visit [here](#) for information on science apps used. recommended.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

Harvest Festival: Gathering in Gratitude
Sunday, September 21, 2:00-5:00 pm

Rain Date: Saturday, September 28

Harvest and nature arts activities, pumpkin decorating and a celebration of the bounty nature shares with us throughout the year. Check the website for details as they develop through the season.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

OCTOBER

Poet and Naturalist Elizabeth Bradfield, Reading from her new collection SOFAR
Friday, October 3, 6-7pm

Rain Date: Saturday, October 4

In SOFAR, poet-naturalist Elizabeth Bradfield attends our current ecological and historic moment, her decades-long queer love, a lifetime of work on boats, and her body's shifting currents with wry yearning and linguistic delight. SOFAR is an acronym for the "sound frequency and ranging channel," a deep layer of oceanic water that enables sound to travel vast distances, and, drawing upon her deep knowledge and experience of the sea, Bradfield plumbs what can be heard by listening across the vast distances of our lives—within our memories and larger histories, between strangers and beloveds, and to the more-than-human world. Sponsored by the Urban Pastorals project and supported by a Public Humanities/Community Engagement Grant from the [Mandel Center for the Humanities](#) at Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts.

Contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org

Pub Sing

Tuesdays, October 7 & 21, 6:00-8:00 pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Introduction to Native Monitoring in the City with Earthwise Aware
Saturday, October 11, 2:00-3:30 pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EwA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EwA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Learn about EwA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Visit [here](#) for information on science apps used. recommended.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

Seasonal Salvage Sale & Makers' Market

Saturday, October 25, 12:00-5:00 pm, rain date October 26

Rain Date: Sunday, October 20

An innovative Yard Sale featuring seasonally-themed salvaged goods. Local makers and crafters are invited to share their goods and crafts.

Contact: Betsy at betsy@thegrowingcenter.org

AntiMorris and Autumn Sing

Friday, October 31, 5:00-7:00 pm

Rain or shine

Autumn Sing followed by the AntiMorris at Sunset, danced by Recently Traditional Fictional Morris. The dancers shall fade silently into the night upon conclusion of the dance.

Contact: Jeremy Kessler at greenuguy@peculiarity.net

NOVEMBER

Pub Sing

Tuesday, November 4 & 18, 6:00-8:00 pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Introduction to Nature Monitoring in the City with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, November 8, 2:00-3:30 pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EwA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EwA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Learn about EwA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Visit [here](#) for information on science apps used. recommended.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org

DECEMBER

Pub Sing

Tuesdays, December 2 & 16, 6:00-8:00 pm

A pub-style sing along. Anyone can lead a song, but no-one is obliged to. Drinking songs and sea chanteys always go over well, but anything with a good, singable chorus will be appreciated!

Contact: Jeff Keller at jeff.keller@gmail.com

Introduction to Nature Monitoring in the City with Earthwise Aware

Saturday, December 13, 2:00-3:30 pm

Join Claire and [Earthwise Aware](#) (EwA) citizen scientists and learn how to observe and record the plants, insects, and animals of the Somerville Growing Center. With these observation events and through the EwA photo documentation using the iNaturalist platform, we contribute to biodiversity science while enjoying the outdoors together in this beautiful little garden. Learn about EwA's arthropod (insect and spider) and phenology studies at the Growing Center. Visit [here](#) for information on science apps used. recommended.

Contact: Claire O'Neill at claire.oneill@earthwiseaware.org