

Metro Blooms is growing and blooming! We've created Metro Blooms Design + Build, a for-profit offshoot wholly owned by us, the non-profit Metro Blooms. This is another major milestone in our growth since we started as a garden awards program more than 40 years ago.

We all love the opportunity to work with our communities in a hands-on way, providing design, installation and maintenance services that help overcome great barriers to creating the change we are seeking in our landscapes. At the same time, this continued expansion of our work has also stretched the capacity of our little nonprofit and the purpose for which we were originally chartered. We just can't say no when it comes to partnering with communities to create resilient lands and fostering clean watersheds, especially when a project embraces our values of equity and inclusion to solve environmental challenges. We have continued to expand our services and capacity every year, even in the middle of a global pandemic.

Last year alone, we partnered with neighborhoods to design and install more than 200 raingardens and native planting projects. We wrapped up 12 commercial and institutional projects in communities of Minneapolis where there was a history of disinvestment, and engaged with four multi-unit equitable housing sites to install raingardens and other green infrastructure, protecting clean water and creating habitat for pollinators, as well as providing amenities for better quality of outdoor life. More and more, we are working to ensure environmental improvement funds are equitably invested, leveraging community and other assets to create vibrant and resilient outdoor spaces where community members can thrive.

Over the past year, we have had to consider what it would look like to reorganize, creating a new for-profit entity. This would let us to continue to grow our design, installation and maintenance services, while allowing our nonprofit to focus more intentionally on engagement, environmental justice, education, and partnership.

We have taken the first steps to creating Metro Blooms Design + Build, wholly owned by Metro Blooms, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. This means that 100% of the net income generated by the for-profit organization will support the mission of the nonprofit. It also means that the new Metro Blooms Design + Build will be grounded in the same vision and values of Metro Blooms.

There is a lot to consider during this transition, and we are grateful to have a board of directors, advisors and a community to guide and support us as we navigate the many challenges ahead. Our top priority is to make sure the changes are as seamless as possible for the communities we work with. There may be a new name at the top of the page, but we want you to know that the staff you're working with and the services you've come to expect will remain.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to working with you as we continue to grow, bloom and inspire!