

From the Mid City Messenger

<http://midcitymessenger.com/2014/12/11/dinner-to-raise-funds-for-faubourg-st-john-community-garden/>

Dec 11 2014

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The Faubourg St. John Community Gardens (FSJNA.org)

Cafe Degas will host the Feast of the Epiphany Dinner on January 5th to benefit the Faubourg St. John Community Garden.

The dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. and costs \$100 per person. Each dish will feature one ingredient from the Ark of Taste, a program created by the Slow Food Foundation to preserve indigenous foods from around the world.

The five-course meal will be prepared by chef Laurent Rochereux of Cafe Degas and Joseph Turley featuring local ingredients, including some grown in the Faubourg St. John Community Garden, located at the corner of North Dupre and St. Philip.

The garden is owned by Parkway Partners, a non-profit dedicated to establishing community gardens. Slow Food New Orleans, an organization whose goal is to provide healthy, environmentally friendly food for all, handles daily operations.

“The neighborhood really appreciates that we’ve taken over this garden that had gone blighted and fallow,” said Gary Granata, chair of Slow Food New Orleans.

Linda Landesberg, board member of the Faubourg St. John Neighborhood Association, said money from the dinner will fund basic infrastructure improvements for the garden, such as fence repairs and purchases of new soil and seeds. “It’s a big neighborhood effort,” Landesberg said.

At present, Granata is paying for much of the garden's infrastructure out of his own pocket. Seasonal vegetables like kale, cabbage, and broccoli from the garden have been sold to local restaurants like 1000 Figs and Pagoda Cafe.

Granata's future plans include sponsoring a garden in Africa and expanding the Faubourg St. John Community Garden. He wants to grow food outside of the current fencing, allowing neighborhood residents to pick those foods for free.

"It's a way to introduce fresh, local vegetables in the neighborhood," Granata said.

A menu for the event will soon be online at the Faubourg St. John Neighborhood Association's website, fsjna.org.