

**“GROW ME A GARDEN: SEEDING A COMMUNITY  
GARDEN DISTRICT IN NYC”**  
**EXHIBIT EXPLORING POLITICAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT OF EAST VILLAGE  
GARDENS**  
**TO OPEN @MoRUS SATURDAY, JUNE 24**

***Green Cuba: The Ecological Alternatives in Havana and Beyond***  
**Integrative Presentation set for Thursday, June 29**

New York, NY, June 13, 2017 — Among the oldest modern community gardens in the United States, the reclaimed open spaces of the East Village and Lower East Side blossomed amidst the urban decay of the early 1970's between abandoned buildings on vacant lots. Cultivated and maintained by the people, the gardens' pioneering spirit will be celebrated in ***Grow Me A Garden: Seeding A Community Garden District in NYC***, an exhibition at the Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space (MoRUS) opening on Saturday, June 24 at 5:00 PM. Garden members and advocates will participate in a discussion at 6:00 PM, followed by a reception at 8:00 PM. As a part of this summer-long focus on the impact of community gardening, the museum will present ***Green Cuba: The Ecological Alternatives in Havana and Beyond*** on Thursday, June 29 at 7:00 PM. Both events are open to the public with a suggested donation of \$5.00. MoRUS is located at 155 Avenue C between 9th and 10th Streets.

While the gardens are intrinsically linked to the history of local grassroots activism and have become a unifying symbol and essential feature of the neighborhood, their existence is under constant threat. ***Grow Me A Garden*** incorporates photographs, video and poster art to relay stories about these anchored yet fragile spaces representing the heritage and future of social and political fights.

***Green Cuba: The Ecological Alternatives in Havana and Beyond*** will explore how Cuba became a living experiment in a post-petrol future for humanity after the collapse of the Soviet Union, prompting a big push for self-sufficient and ecological models—bicycle transportation and urban farms in Havana, organic agriculture in the countryside. A generation later, Cuba is getting subsidized oil from Venezuela, opening up its economy, and hoping for an end to the US embargo. Have these ecological alternatives survived? Longtime East Village writer and activist Bill Weinberg reports back from his visit to the island, with photos and discussion on Cuba's squats, community gardens and organic farms.

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**About MoRUS**

Opened in December 2012, MoRUS is a fully volunteer-run and staffed non-profit history museum. The museum is a living archive of urban activism that aims to preserve grassroots activist history in the East Village and promote environmentally-sound community-based urban ecologies. Housed in the storefront of C Squat, MoRUS is open Tuesdays and Thursdays through Sunday from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Also showcasing the unique public spaces and community gardens for which the neighborhood is renowned, MoRUS offers walking tours every Saturday and Sunday at 3:00 PM. For more information visit [www.morusnyc.org](http://www.morusnyc.org).