HIP HOP IS GREEN

Hey Hip Hop is Green Community:

We hope you've been doing well. We're excited to bring this newsletter back with renewed purpose and energy.

This week marks the 10th anniversary of the 10th Element of Hip Hop: health and wellness. Over the past decade, the 10th Element has been our North Star — guiding a vision of Hip Hop culture rooted in self-discovery, connection, and care for all living things.

In that spirit, we know things may feel heavy right now, but our young people are the path forward. As we reflect on winter, welcome spring, and renew our commitment to the 10th Element, we're reminded that our work with young people sits at the heart of everything we do.

That work strengthens our purpose, meaning, and connection, as we build a greener world — one that nourishes us as much as we nurture it. If you care about making our planet survivable in every sense, your curiosity and willingness to show up can shape the next generation of changemakers.

After nearly 18 years of impact, our movement is growing to new heights. Let's dive in, celebrate the momentum taking root, and explore how you can join in.

What We're Growing

Across Hip Hop is Green, growth is both what's happening in the soil — and with our young people, programs, and collective movement.

From the Farm 🌱

Step inside Cherry Street Farm, and you'll feel it immediately: the low hum of the hydroponic system, the dense

green of stacked leaves, the peppery scent of arugula. Trays of microgreens — chervil, cilantro, mitsuba, French sorrel — stretch toward the light, while basil and Swiss chard anchor the walls.

We've expanded nutrient-rich, microgreen production significantly, experimenting with new varieties and working to build relationships with local restaurants. We're delivering samples to get our produce into delicious dishes across the city.

Are you a restaurant owner in Seattle — or know one who might be interested in fresh samples? Reach out at: info@hiphopisgreen.com.

New crops are also on the way based on community requests: a flowering toothache plant, buttery and slightly sweet turnips, and new hot peppers. And — everything we grow goes to our community in 100% plastic-free, fully biodegradable packaging.

The farm is also deeper than a grow space — it's a community hub.

As part of our Youth Excellence Program (YEP) — which returns this spring with new changemakers — young people are cultivating food on the farm, wellness practices, and their inner purpose. They're sharing this food with neighbors, learning why this growing matters, exploring an innovative climate curriculum, and forging their paths. After each YEP cohort, we continue engaging and supporting participants along their journey.

Get excited — the grand public opening of Cherry Street Farm will be on June 22!

Beyond the Farm
Hip Hop is Green has expanded further into a year-round ecosystem. We're preparing to launch:

- The **Summit Atlas Expedition** — an immersive experience for middle and high schoolers to learn environmental leadership, teamwork, and personal growth
- A new **plant-based cooking series** with the Miller Community Center — the curriculum will teach young people to prepare globally inspired dishes while exploring the health and environmental benefits of plant-forward eating in a fun, accessible way
- New urban and rural strategies to continue scaling our impact nationwide — an approach that we reaffirmed by attending the Living Future Conference
- More **staff-led yoga classes**

A Welcome Pause

Especially now, pausing to reflect on meaning and purpose has been important and grounding. We asked our staff to share a meaningful moment, reflection, or insight from this past season:

"When developing the curriculum for our youth visits to Cherry Street Farm, I really dove into the Black history of the Central District because it was healing to be able to support the rebuilding of this culturally vibrant community."
—Julianna, Plant Life Cultivator, Cherry Street Farm

"Watching our 'OG' Climate Changemakers grow year after year, reminds us that this work is about long term relationship building, not just one-off programs."
—Tina, Instructor, Youth Excellence Program

"I work in a restaurant on Capitol Hill in the evenings, and it has been a lot of fun to find collaboration points between my two jobs. Most recently, our head chef at Altura has agreed to come and teach one of the Hip Hop is Green cooking classes this spring!" —Max, Plant Life Cultivator, Cherry Street Farm

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Alongside Us

This movement has always been about community and power. From longtime supporters to new community members, we're grateful and energized to see more folks show up. Sharing our work. Bringing friends. Volunteering. Donating. Believing in what we're building.

This season, I want to especially shout out **Anika Ledhe** for being our day one supporter. She has been involved even before we were an organization and has seen us grow. Over the years she has donated BIG TIME, volunteered, and promoted Hip Hop is Green in the fullest way. We're so grateful for Anika.

If you've been meaning to support, or are considering it, now's a powerful time.

Make a monthly donation to help us expand our support for young people and farm operations. Every dollar truly matters for our future! Consider giving in honor of someone who inspires you.

Interested in Hip Hop is Green but want to learn more about joining our community? Let's chat. Email me at: info@hiphopisgreen.com.

Thank you for your presence in our Hip Hop is Green community! We're glad that you're here.

Keith
Founder and Executive Director
Hip Hop is Green

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