



**PLANET**BOSTON  
Place of Learning with Autism individuals in a Natural Environment

# 2025 Annual Report





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## Dear Friends of PLANET Boston,

We sincerely thank you for your continued support and commitment to PLANET Boston.

Over the past year, thanks to the warm encouragement and generosity of our community, we have been able to steadily expand our programs while deepening our connections with those around us. Through our work at the farm, we are especially encouraged to see adults with ASD participating in meaningful activities where they can learn, work, and connect with others in a supportive environment.

Our mission is to create a space where each individual can live authentically in a natural setting, develop social independence, and contribute to society with dignity. In partnership with BHS and the Sudbury Farm community, we have continued to provide weekday programs. Events such as “Farm to Table” have also created more opportunities to share our work with the broader community.

At the same time, we recognize the importance of strengthening sustainable support systems and responding to a wider range of needs. We remain committed to addressing these challenges thoughtfully while continuing to enhance the quality of our programs.

The work of PLANET Boston is made possible through the understanding and support of each and every one of you. We are deeply grateful and respectfully ask for your continued partnership in the years ahead. Together, we will continue striving to build a community where everyone can connect, learn from one another, and grow together.

We sincerely appreciate your ongoing guidance and encouragement, and we look forward to welcoming you at the farm.

With gratitude,  
Akiko Ono  
The PLANET Boston Team





## Mission

PLANET Boston creates a community where individuals with Autism Spectrum Difference\* (ASD) reach their full potential through productive and meaningful activities in a natural environment, contribute to the society, and fully enjoy their lives.

\*We use “difference” instead of “disorder” as we believe Autism should not be looked at as a deficit or a shortcoming. By using “Difference” we acknowledge that those on the spectrum have different ways of communicating, socializing, and approaching situations.



## Vision

At PLANET Boston, we advance new values to rediscover, acknowledge, and respect unique and extraordinary talents of individuals with Autism Spectrum Difference (ASD), rather than focusing on their challenged abilities. We envision a diverse and sustainable society where everyone respects each other.

# 2025 Highlight

Increased community participants and participants with ASD.

Had successful collaboration between Boston Higashi School (BHS) and PLANET Boston (PB).

## 1 Seeding and Picking Events at PB Farm (Sudbury)

We invited local community members for our farming activities

- 154 participants/Volunteers

## 2 Education Programs at BHS Daily Life Farm

We supported the following programs at BHS.

- **BHS Continuing Adult Education Program (CAEP) Weekend:** Served 90 individuals with ASD during the summer session and 60 individuals during the fall session.
- **HCAEP Day Program:** Supporting 13 participants, operating 2 days per week.
- **High School Employment Education:** Providing specialized vocational lessons for 5 students with ASD, twice weekly.
- **School Vacation Camp Programs:** Provided farm activities for 110–120 students with ASD across three sessions (April, June–July, and August).

## 3 Open Farm at PB Farm (Sudbury) and BHS Daily Life Farm (Randolph)

We offered opportunities to visit our two locations and attend farming activities every weekend throughout the farming season.

- 241 Open Farm participants (excluding CAEP)
- 30 core farm volunteers

## 4 Annual Farm to Table

We had a great success in our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Farm to Table in August

- 70 participants, 30+ volunteers

# Collaboration Between Boston Higashi School (BHS) and PLANET Boston (PB)

Alongside our pilot program on the Sudbury farmland, a joint project between BHS and PB was launched. From the outset, we worked together to build a fence around the perimeter of the farm on the BHS campus and with the generous support of many volunteers, the Daily Life Farm at BHS was born in 2022.

This moment marked a beautiful fusion of the core vision of PLANET Boston—***"Place of Learning with Autism Individuals in a Natural Environment"***—and the educational goal of BHS: ***"Individuals gain social independence and dignity, and are able to benefit from and contribute to society."***

At PLANET Boston, our role is to support weekday BHS classes by providing advice and assistance with farm work at the Daily Life Farm. We also strive to create a space where adults with ASD can connect with the broader community and engage in shared learning throughout the year.

Additionally, through events Farm to Table, we were grateful for the opportunity to celebrate with everyone—our collaborators, individuals with ASD, and members of the community—coming together in joy and connection.

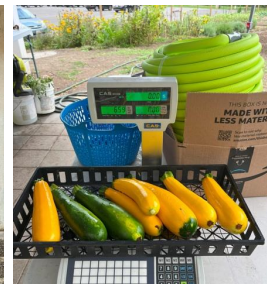


# Our Harvest in 2025

We grew 50+ different vegetables, fruits and flowers. 4262 lbs of vegetables and more in 2025 !

Vegetable	lb
Hallowin Pumpkin	450
Eggplant	350
Sweet Potato	350
Shishito Pepper	320
Cucumber	300
Daikon	300
Carrot	250
Corns	250
Strawberries	250
Potato	180
Turnip	150
Kabocha	135

Vegetable	lb
Zuchini	130
Green Pepper	120
Beans	110
Komatsuna	100
Edamame	80
Watermelon	80
Cantalope	75
Lavender	74
Onion	73
Cherry Tomato	50
Butter Nuts	30
Tomato	30



## Our Location

# Randolph

## Daily Life Farm at BHS



800 North Main Street Randolph, MA 02368

- Located on the Boston Higashi School(BHS) campus since 2022
- Open to public
- Provide farm activities to the school students, its alumni, and individuals outside the school
- Serve as a community space for individuals/families with ASD and without ASD

# Special Thanks for Verrill Farm

Our journey began with the generous support of Verrill Farm. In 2020, during a time of global uncertainty, Verrill Farm opened its doors and its land in Sudbury to us, allowing us to launch our pilot program.

For five wonderful years, the Verrill family and their team have not only provided us with fertile soil but have also stood by us as steadfast guardians of our mission. Steve and Jennifer often stopped by to check in and sometimes lend a hand with the tilling. Beyond the fields, they warmly welcomed our community and gave us opportunities for vegetable sales, making us feel like a true part of the Verrill Farm family.

As PLANET Boston evolves and updates our organizational structure, we have made the bittersweet decision to return the Sudbury farmland to Verrill Farm. Moving forward, we will be consolidating our efforts and focusing our energy on our operations at the Daily Life Farm at Boston Higashi School (BHS) in Randolph.



To the Verrill family: thank you for being the foundation upon which PLANET Boston was built. Your generosity has forever changed the lives of our participants and their families. Though our daily work shifts to Randolph, the spirit of Verrill Farm will always remain a part of our story.

# Testimonials

“

PLANET Boston welcomed us warmly from our very first visit to the farm and has continued to make us feel accepted and encouraged to be ourselves.

My daughter had been struggling to form friendships at school, and as a parent I was searching for an activity where she could feel comfortable and engaged. When we learned about volunteer opportunities at the farm, we decided to give it a try. From that first visit, something truly clicked for her. Whenever she was in town, she chose to spend her weekends volunteering at the farm.

Through PLANET Boston, she has had many opportunities to learn about farming, connect with others by working alongside fellow volunteers, and build confidence through these meaningful experiences. Watching her grow through this community has been incredibly rewarding for me as a parent.

I truly believe PLANET Boston is a special community where people support, appreciate, and accept one another for who they are.

by N.O

“

My son really enjoyed visiting the field of PLANET Boston in Randolph during the season of 2025. Among a lot of things to do there, he, as a typical picky person, could choose whatever he liked at the moment and sometimes be asked to work on around and in the field. Especially when he finished his work, carrying heavy stuffs for reorganizing the shelves along the fence, he seemed so satisfied and we were so proud of him that he was very energetic and physically strong.

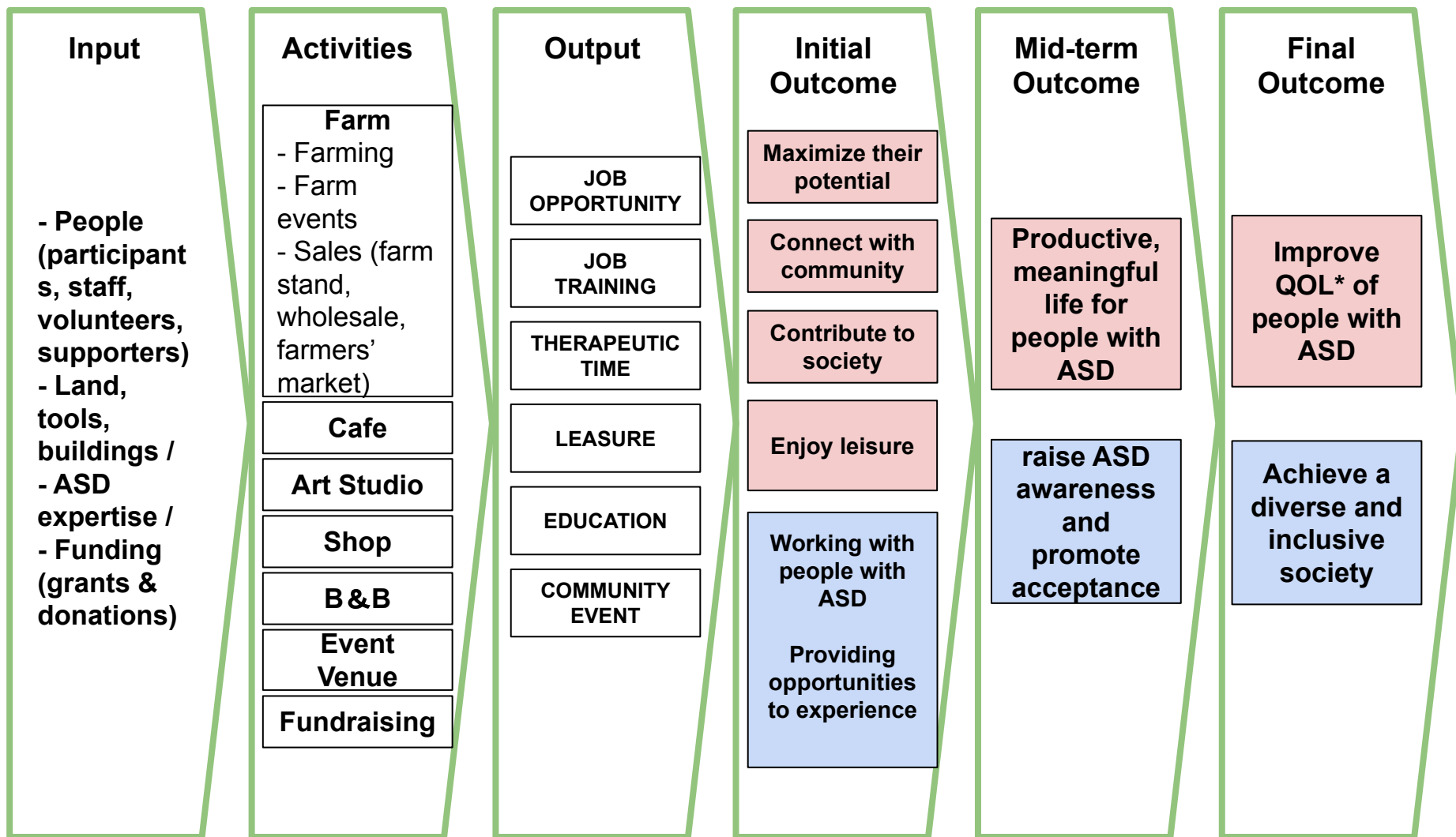
He is willing to visit the field this year when he is possible, because the PLANET Boston is a place of filled with laughter, peace, and joy.

I think the PLANET Boston is an unpolished large gem which you can find anything to work on inside; soil preparation, seeding, watering, weeding, picking, washing, scaling, observing, chatting, eating, learning, thinking, and so on. You can also feel the myth of nature in the field.

You will face many excited findings with your own eyes and body while being in the field. People gathering there are so generous and frank. I look forward to participating PLANET Boston coming season of 2026.

By U.E

# Logic Model



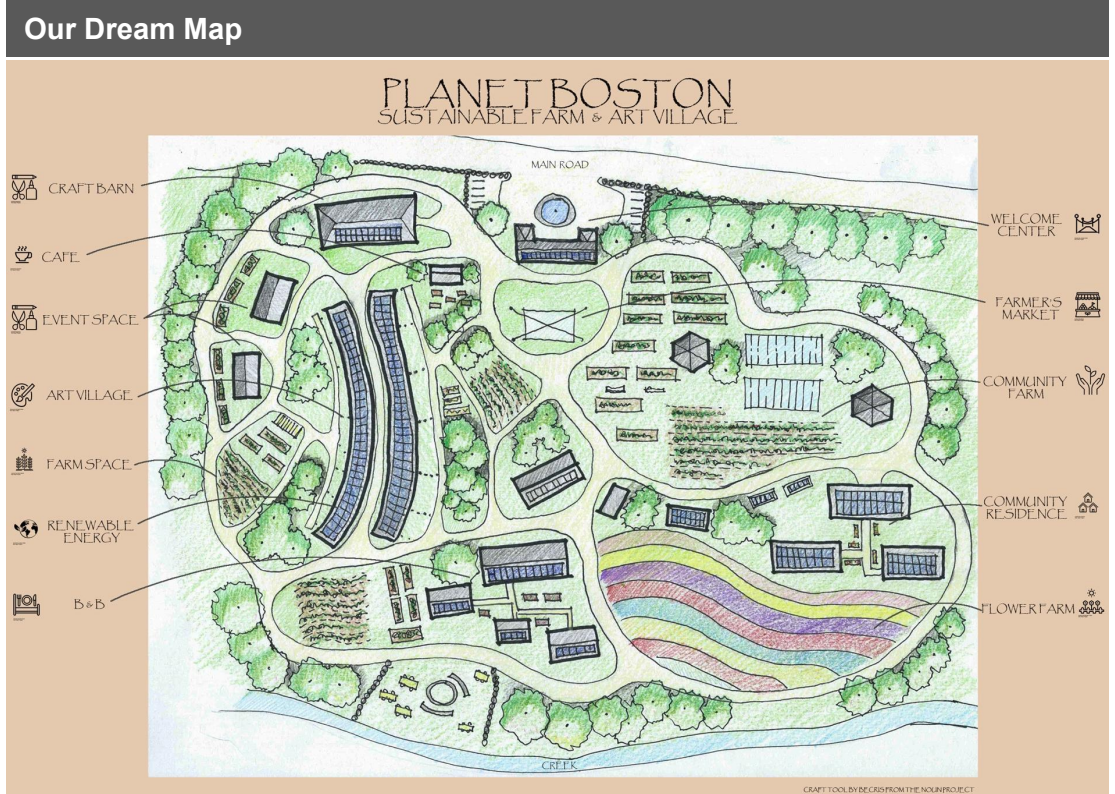
\*Quality Of Life (QOL)

# Looking ahead to the future

Our organization was officially registered in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 2021 and received 501(c)(3) nonprofit status in 2022. Since our founding, we have faithfully returned to the fields each year—sowing seeds, tending the soil, and harvesting with care. We are deeply grateful for the heartfelt participation and generous support of our community, especially individuals with autism spectrum difference (ASD), whose presence enriches our shared journey.

As we enter our sixth year, we look forward to deepening our understanding of both agriculture and one another, hand in hand with the community. In addition, we aspire to gradually expand our activities into new areas of engagement, including the arts, community events, and inclusive café spaces.

At the heart of our mission is a sincere desire to foster understanding and acceptance of ASD, enhance quality of life, and create a welcoming space where all members of the community—regardless of background or ability—can feel joy, connection, and a sense of belonging.



## New Leadership Team (as of January 2026)

**President, Akiko Ono *New***

**Director, Kiyoko Ikuta**

**Director, Naomi Okugawa *New***

**Director, Mio Yamamoto**

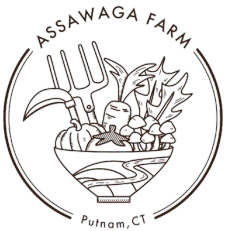
**Clerk, Sachiyo Takeoka *New***

**Treasurer, Nagisa Ikemura**

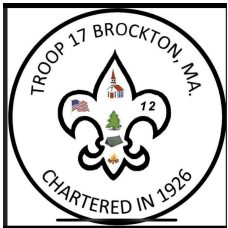
# Thanks and Acknowledgement

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have supported us—our generous donors, dedicated core farming volunteers, and administrative volunteers. Your support has been the foundation of our journey.

## Special Thanks (in alphabetical order)



BostonDynamics



Boy Scout Troop 17

Eastern Bank



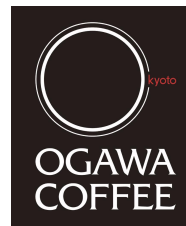
hungry ninja  
vegan sushi bowl

IGGY'S

Liberty Mutual

M&T Bank

Ocean State JOB LOT



Sunbow 5 Foundation



# JOIN US!

## **Farm Volunteering**

Help with seeding, watering, and harvesting as a farm volunteer. Join our seasonal programs at the Daily Life Farm in Randolph.

## **Volunteer Coordination**

Help plan, coordinate, and manage our volunteer programs. A great fit for anyone who enjoys community building and working with people.

## **Pro Bono / Back Office Support**

Contribute your professional skills in accounting, legal, IT, marketing, or HR to support PLANET Boston's operations. Make your expertise count for a mission-driven organization.

## **Donate**

Your donation sustains our farm programs and creates meaningful opportunities for individuals with ASD. Donate online: <https://www.planetboston.org/support/>

## **Partnership & Collaboration**

We welcome corporate partnerships, event sponsorships, in-kind donations, and institutional collaborations of all kinds. We look forward to hearing from companies, schools, and organizations.

**Contact us:** [info@planetboston.org](mailto:info@planetboston.org)