



A program of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation

4274 Pearl Road • Cleveland, Ohio 44109
216-459-1000 • benfranklincommunitygarden.org

November 1, 2026

Partner with Us for the 2027 *Music in the Garden* Series

Dear community partner,

Each summer, on warm Saturday evenings, Ben Franklin Community Garden becomes something special: a gathering place for neighbors, gardeners, and visitors from across Northeast Ohio who come together to enjoy live music in the heart of Old Brooklyn.

The Music in the Garden Series has become a much-anticipated part of our neighborhood's summer rhythm. From June through September, we host free, live performances by professional local musicians on the first and third Saturdays of each month—drawing families, music lovers, and new visitors who might not otherwise discover this corner of Old Brooklyn.

We are writing to invite your business to sponsor the 2027 Music in the Garden Series.

Your sponsorship helps us do more than book performers. It helps us:

- Keep concerts free and accessible to the entire community
- Support working musicians from our region
- Welcome new audiences into Old Brooklyn, strengthening the neighborhood as a whole

In return, sponsors receive meaningful visibility and goodwill within a highly engaged audience—people who value community, creativity, and local businesses. Sponsor recognition includes on-site signage, social media mentions, inclusion in promotional materials, and acknowledgement during concerts throughout the season.

Enclosed you'll find a brief overview of the Garden and last seasons' concert lineups to give you a sense of the scope and quality of the Series. We are happy to work with sponsors at a level that makes sense for them, whether that's supporting a single concert or the season as a whole.

If you're interested, I'd love to talk briefly about how a partnership could align with your business goals while helping pay forward something that truly enriches our neighborhood.

Thank you for considering support of local music, local artists, and a community space that brings people together. We hope you'll join us for the 2027 season.

Warm regards,

Mark Tapajna
Garden Operating Committee
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About Ben Franklin Community Garden:

Ben Franklin Community Garden is a vibrant greenspace located in Cleveland's Old Brooklyn neighborhood. As the largest community garden in the area, established in 1981, it serves as a haven for 200 gardeners on a 5-acre site, along with the OSU Extension's Master Gardener program, and youth gardeners from Benjamin Franklin Elementary School. The Garden is a Cleveland Summer Sprout garden and a program of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp., a 501©(3) non-profit organization, tax ID No. 34-1177633. The all-volunteer Garden Operating Committee is committed to stewardship and preservation of the garden while also cultivating programs and activities for the wider community to connect with nature, cultivate friendships, and enjoy the exceptional space.

Mission: to serve our urban community by stewarding a greenspace that provides a natural retreat for the community to grow food and learn about sustainable food practices. We promote social harmony and inclusion by creating partnerships among community, government, schools and local businesses. We build friendships, promote health, wellbeing and sustainability by empowering people from diverse backgrounds to grow the greater community together.



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Summer Music Series at Ben Franklin Community Garden



Visit a true Old Brooklyn gem this summer and discover a welcoming community space while listening to an array of local musicians as they elevate the sounds of nature!

Every year Ben Franklin Community Garden brings together a variety of artists to perform in its serene greenspace. The largest community garden in the county, Ben Franklin is home to over 200 gardeners, Benjamin Franklin Elementary School youth gardeners, and the OSU Extension's Master Gardener program. The garden Operating Committee, comprised of all volunteers, has created a space where you can relax amongst the trees with friends, old and new, as local musicians entertain you.

It's a wonderful way to spend a summer evening and it's free!

**Performances are at 6 p.m. on the first
and third Saturdays June – September.**

Bring a lawn chair & join us!

See back for lineup!



2026 Summer Lineup

June 6th – Hey Mavis This Northcoast Americana band has been weaving a musical tapestry and igniting a following of dedicated fans. With heartfelt vocals, honest songwriting, blazing instrumental solos, and an undeniable onstage musical chemistry, this quartet is the definition of great Americana music.

June 20th – Zerbo Brothers Bringing together music, new and old, sourced across thousands of miles traveled, the Zerbo Brothers connect West African, North American and other traditions in a new blend of song.

FRIDAY, July 3rd – Opus 216 Equally versed in classical and non-classical styles, Opus 216 brings a high-level performance ranging from classical to French café jazz, Top 40, hip hop, South American jazz, Irish fiddle and original music. **No rain date for this show only.**

July 18th – Da Land Brass Band Cleveland's own original brass band with a heavy dose of funk. Boasting original tunes, funky adaptations of classic songs, and true roots New Orleans music, Da Land Brass Band has the versatility to satisfy any audience.

August 1st – John Orsini Jazz Quintet Comprised of some of the finest jazz musicians in the Cleveland area, featuring trumpet player, Jack Schantz; drummer, Jim Rupp; guitarist, Brent Hamker; bassist, Tim Lekan; and saxophonist, John Orsini, this quintet brings years of experience performing all forms of jazz music. This evening they will be performing jazz from the 1940s, 50s and 60s.

August 15th – The Rhondas Led by three female vocalists and instrumentalists, the Rhondas perform a mix of covers and originals ranging from soft and sweet, lulling you into a state of bliss to kicking up the dust with some sassy tunes to get you dancing.

September 5th – Women singer-songwriter showcase featuring Liz Bullock & Jessica Sikon Vocalist and songwriter, Liz Bullock's music is inspired by folk, blues, soul and jazz. Her debut EP 'Where to Begin' highlights these influences and her powerful vocals.

Jessica Sikon's dreamy songs are blooming with layers of ethereal vocal harmonies and moving melodies. With subtle influences by artists such as Loretta Lynn and Fiona Apple, but with an indie pop/rock and cosmic country flavor.

September 19th – Classical fusion showcase featuring Arleigh Savage & Eri Snowden Cellist and singer-songwriter Eri Snowden-Rodriguez explores a variety of soundscapes by the mixing the natural cello sound with effects pedals creating a unique sound and style.

A one-woman band, Arleigh Savage crafts original music with looping pedals, amplifying the bassoon's, haunting and soulful qualities to illuminate the tension and paradox within womanhood.

Ben Franklin Community Garden is located at 1905 Spring Road in the Old Brooklyn area of Cleveland, behind Benjamin Franklin Elementary School. Parking is available in school parking lot. **wheelchair accessible! Contact Mark Tapajna if more details needed on accessibility (216-276-1183)

In the event of rain, shows will be performed on Sunday at 2 p.m.



June 7th – Global Connections An energetic blend of Afro-Latin and world grooves. This genre-spanning ensemble delivers infectious rhythms, cross-cultural instrumentation, and vibrant global spirit.

June 21st – Northcoast Jazz Collective A swinging quartet bringing fresh life to classic jazz standards. Rich vocals and dynamic musicianship deliver timeless tunes with style.

July 5th – Alla Boara Ancient Italian folk songs reimagined through jazz, percussion, and passionate vocals. This ensemble breathes life into forgotten melodies and celebrates cultural roots with dazzling artistry and emotional depth.

July 19th – Mud Window Mud Mirror Early music meets modern imagination. Soprano and percussion duo blend marimba, bells, and voice to explore Medieval and Renaissance repertoire through seasonal themes, bold textures, and experimental soundscapes.

August 2nd – Uzizi All-original folk-rock with a global soul. A wide palette of world music influences drives this alternative ensemble's rich, rhythmic, and genre-bending sound.

August 16th – Population of One & Morgan Mecaskey Population of One weaves ambient pop with textured rhythms and ethereal vocals. Morgan Mecaskey offers soulful, introspective indie folk rock with lyrical clarity and depth.

September 6th – Sunflurry Baroque rock at its most intimate and expansive. Cello, sultry vocals, guitar, and foot drums create a lush, genre-defying blend of original music and imaginative covers.

September 20th – Village Bicycle Psych-pop with mathy melodies, shoegaze textures, and vintage synths. Vocal harmonies shift from delicate to brazen in this witty, unpredictable, and sonically rich ride.

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The 2024 music series features Cleveland-based professional artists, including several Ben Franklin gardeners.

June 1st – Luca Mundaca Luca is a Brazilian singer-composer, deeply rooted in the enchanting world of bossa nova and jazz. Her music tells stories of dreams, love, Brazil's vibrant essence, and the tapestry of human experiences.

June 15th – Opus 216 This Cleveland-based string quartet, brings dynamic, memorable performances to events throughout northeast Ohio annually. Known for a diverse repertoire collection spanning several genres and styles, the ensemble maintains a full schedule of performances for both public and private events.

July 6th – Mo' Mojo This ultimate "Pardi Gras" band cranks out original and traditional Zydeco, Cajun, and Louisiana-Spiced Rock & Roll. The female fronted group features three-part harmonies, accordion, fiddle, rubboard, electric guitar, sax, trumpet, harp, bass, and drums.

July 20th – Sam Hooper Group Sam's soulful vocals have been compared to Otis Redding, while critics have likened his blistering guitar playing to Jimi Hendrix and Carlos Santana. His alluring blend of blues, rock, jazz and funk has thrilled audiences in the United States and other countries throughout the world.

Aug 3rd – Tim McDonald Quartet Saxophonist and jazz composer, Tim McDonald, got his start in the Northeast Ohio music scene in high school playing with local swing and blues groups. The music of Tim's quartet is a mix of original music and arrangements from all decades.

Aug 17th – Bent String This quartet performs a mix of early American roots music, including early jazz, acoustic blues and originals. The group centers on the vocals of Kari Ann Rutushin and underpinned with a feel of jazz age swing.

Sep 7th – John Orsini Quartet featuring Evelyn Wright Jazz vocalist, Evelyn Wright joins the quartet to perform music from the *Great American Songbook*.

Sept 21st – Sororii is an indie world duo featuring Afro-Colombian cellist Carolina Borja, and bassoonist Arleigh Savage. Sororii formed in 2021 during the height of the pandemic with the spirit to reclaim sisterhood and explore feminine voices across cultures.

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