Karen Washington, Rise & Root Farm, Chester, NY

Karen is a farmer and community activist, striving to make New York City a better place to live. As a community gardener and board member of the New York Botanical Gardens, she worked with Bronx neighborhoods to turn empty lots into community gardens.

As an advocate, and former president of the New York City Community Garden Coalition, she stood up and spoke out for garden protection and preservation. As a member of the La Familia Verde Garden Coalition, she helped launch a City Farms Market, bringing fresh vegetables to the community.

In 2010, she co-founded Black Urban Growers (BUGS), an organization supporting growers in both urban and rural settings.

Karen is a board member of Soul Fire Farm. She is a former board member and co-founder of Farm School NYC, leading workshops on growing food and food justice across the country. She sits on the Why Hunger advisory board, bringing grassroots support organizations aimed at ending hunger.

Read more: karenclearfields.com/about