



Selma Sims

Selma Sims is the CEO and Head Grower of Gardeneers, Chicago's only full-service school gardens nonprofit serving more than 1,700 middle-school students across 22 public schools. As CEO, she leads organizational strategy, community partnerships, and staff development while advancing food and health equity in underserved neighborhoods. A passionate advocate for agricultural education and urban farming, Selma helped launch Gardeneers' "Growing + Giving" initiative to expand food access during the COVID-19 pandemic. Before becoming CEO in 2021, she served as Farm Manager, where she implemented new food safety protocols and trained youth in hands-on gardening. Selma holds a degree in Agronomy and Agroecology from Iowa State University and brings more than a decade of experience in urban agriculture, including previous work with Urban Growers Collective. She serves on Illinois' Agriculture Equity Commission and Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton's Agricultural Equity and Food Insecurity Council. Selma lives on Chicago's South Side and remains a committed advocate for equitable, community-driven food systems.



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