



Contact: Roberta Greene  
646-918-6008 or 917-957-3415  
[Rgreene@robertagreene.com](mailto:Rgreene@robertagreene.com)

**PUBLIC OPENING OF “LENAPE EDIBLE ESTATE: MANHATTAN” AT HUDSON GUILD COMMUNITY CENTER COMMEMORATES HUDSON QUADRICENTENNIAL**

*Public Garden Designed by Artist Fritz Haeg Opens September 14th for a Hands-on History Lesson on the Early Inhabitants of Manahatta Island 400 Years Ago*

**NEW YORK**, Sept. 7, 2009 – **Fritz Haeg**, internationally renowned artist and designer, and **New York Restoration Project (NYRP)** in partnership with **Friends of the High Line** present the **LENAPE EDIBLE ESTATE: MANHATTAN**, a garden installation featuring native edibles and Lenape cultivars. Planted in June by NYRP, community volunteers and members of **Hudson Guild**, a Chelsea community center, the opening harvest event coincides with the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of Henry Hudson to the island of Manhattan. The garden provides a view back to the lives of the Lenape people, how they lived off the land on the island of Mannahatta, from the native edible plants and the mounded plantings of bean, corn and squash, also known as “three sisters.” The project was underwritten by founding sponsor **Gardenburger**.

Located in front of the Hudson Guild at 441 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and serving the residents of **New York City Housing Authority’s Elliott-Chelsea Houses**, the garden is designed to showcase examples of four distinct zones: woodland, berry patch, flowering meadow, and “three sisters” – corn, beans, and squash.

The free, family opening event on **September 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:30 PM** will feature harvest activities, interpretive garden tours, and native foods cooking demonstrations with field-to-fork food education program Growing Chefs. The evening celebration will also include the premiere of "Lenape Edible Estate: Manhattan," a short video by Fritz Haeg and Jacinto Astiazarán about the making of the garden, and the history of eating on the island of Manhattan, as told by **Eric Sanderson** of the **Wildlife Conservation Society’s “The Mannahatta Project.”**

“Though the garden was planted on June 13<sup>th</sup>, this will be the official day to introduce both residents and the public to the new Lenape garden,” said Haeg. “We become aware of the natural and cultural history of the island we live on by observing food growing in Manhattan soil on plants that were there before it was the city we know today.”

“We are so pleased to bring community gardening to NYCHA’s Elliott-Chelsea Houses,” said Drew Becher, Executive Director, NYRP. “It’s especially rewarding knowing that it will be used for educational purposes with the nearby schools.”

“The Lenape Garden is a great new addition to Hudson Guild,” said the Guild’s Executive Director, Ken Jockers. “It provides teaching opportunities for the kids in our programs and offers everyone in our community really interesting lessons about what our neighborhood was

like before it was filled with people and buildings.”

The garden is a meditation both on the historical facts and the future possibilities for occupation of Manhattan. It is surrounded by signage designed by PS New York, identifying each of the plants and telling stories about how each was used by the Lenape.

Edible Estates, an ongoing garden initiative by Fritz Haeg, has planted a series of regional prototype gardens since 2005 for families around the U.S. and abroad. This eighth garden in the series is presented in partnership with Hudson Guild, Elliott-Chelsea Houses/NYCHA New York Restoration Project, Friends of the High Line, Growing Chefs, and the Manahatta Project.

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**WHAT:        Lenape Edible Estate: Manhattan Public Opening Event**

**WHERE:       Hudson Guild at NYCHA Elliott-Chelsea Houses**  
441 West 26th Street (between 9th and 10th Ave.), New  
York, NY

**WHEN:       Monday, September 14, 2009**

**TIME:        6:00 PM – Garden tours, harvest, cooking workshops, corn  
shucking, weeding, C.S.A. stands, and free native Manhattan food  
and drink**

7:00 PM – Premiere of video about the new Edible Estate garden  
and its native plantings, The Mannahatta Project and the Lenape  
people with Eric Sanderson of the Wildlife Conservation Society’s  
The Mannahatta Project

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – NO RSVP REQUIRED**

More information about the garden at [www.edibleestates.org](http://www.edibleestates.org)

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