

**MEDIA CONTACT** Cristen Crujido, Marketing Manager, 928.774.5213 ext. 273, [ccrujido@musnaz.org](mailto:ccrujido@musnaz.org)

## **MNA receives award to revitalize Colton Community Garden**



**FLAGSTAFF, ARIZ. (February 22, 2016)** – A grant awarded to the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA) by the Sustainability Commission of the City of Flagstaff has assisted in the revitalization of MNA’s Colton Community Garden.

MNA utilized the 2015 Neighborhood Sustainability award, totaling \$1,085, to supply educators and materials for a two part compost workshop series last fall. Taught by Carol “Fritz” Fritzinger and Roots Composting, each free workshop highlighted a different method of backyard composting suitable for the region’s environment. The cultivation effort was joined by MNA Navajo research associate, Beverly Maxwell, who shared her knowledge of ancient indigenous and contemporary practices to successfully grow food at high altitude.

The workshops emphasized soil enrichment, food production, local ecosystems, water quality, energy use and the potential impact all individuals are capable of making. Additionally, students from a Northern Arizona University first year seminar class, led by Dr. Rosemary Logan, partnered with MNA to develop a demonstration garden for students and the community. The students, along with garden coordinator Lissa Buyske, will continue to maintain the composting bins created during the workshops.

Last July, after over 300 hours of volunteer effort, MNA reintroduced the Flagstaff community to the Colton Community Garden with a celebratory opening. The successful harvest included Hopi Blue Corn from First Mesa, the Yoeme Purple String Bean from the Pascual Yaqui Tribe and the Flagstaff specialty, the Walter Brandis Pinto Bean.

Dedicated to co-founder Mary-Russell Ferrell Colton for her love and appreciation of agriculture, the Museum’s garden has historically been used as a space to cultivate beans and potatoes. Today the area

hosts a high altitude demonstration garden, art installations by Museum Discovery campers and native plant beds to attract local pollinators. In the spring of 2016, Colton Community Garden volunteers will work once again with NAU to continue to build relationships with surrounding community members including the Peaks Senior Living Community and MNA staff. The collective composting effort will continue as well as a revitalization of the garden's passive solar greenhouse.

"We look forward to seeing members of the community active in the garden in 2016 and seeing their generous donation of time and resources to continue the garden's revitalization," said Buyske.

To become a garden volunteer, contact Lissa Buyske, at [lbuyske@musnaz.org](mailto:lbuyske@musnaz.org).

\*\*\*

The **Museum of Northern Arizona** inspires a sense of love and responsibility for the beauty and diversity of the Colorado Plateau. Founded in 1928, the 200-acre campus includes an historic exhibit building with nine galleries showcasing the geology, anthropology and art of the region; research and collections facilities; a museum shop and bookstore; and more than 450 public programs annually. To learn more, visit [musnaz.org](http://musnaz.org) or call (928) 774-5213.

**Location:** Museum of Northern Arizona, 3101 N. Fort Valley Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

**Phone & Website:** 928.774.5213, [musnaz.org](http://musnaz.org)

**Connect with MNA** @museumofnaz #museumofnaz

