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Philadelphia Orchard Project launches search for new Executive Director to lead next chapter of growth

Philadelphia, Pa. — Sept. 8, 2025 — The Philadelphia Orchard Project (POP), a leading nonprofit that plants and supports community orchards in the city of Philadelphia, announced the launch of its search for a new Executive Director.

Founded in 2007 with the bold vision of creating urban ecosystems in partnership with communities across Philadelphia, POP has grown from supporting a handful of orchards to nurturing 70 sites across the city. These orchards provide fresh fruit, hands-on education, and neighborhood green spaces while serving as powerful places for community and renewal.

As POP has expanded in scope and scale, the Board of Directors has carefully considered the organization's future leadership needs, drawing on valuable input from staff members and current leaders. To lead POP into its next phase, the board has established an expanded leadership framework that includes one Executive Director position and dedicated leadership roles that more closely align with the trajectory of the organization's growth.

Current co-Executive Directors Phil Forsyth and Kim Jordan will remain with POP in senior-level roles that leverage their deep expertise: Forsyth in horticultural leadership and Jordan in external affairs and development.

"The next Executive Director will inherit a strong foundation — a dedicated team, trusted community partnerships, and financial stability," said Marci Green, POP Board President. "On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank Phil Forsyth and Kim Jordan for their continued leadership. What began as a grassroots effort has blossomed into a leading urban agriculture organization under their stewardship."

This is a rare opportunity to lead an organization that is not only impacting urban agriculture and food justice but is poised for significant growth and innovation.

POP has retained Strategic Nonprofit Finance to lead the recruitment of its next Executive Director. Applications are due by Oct. 10, 2025, with an anticipated start date of January 2026. Full position details and application instructions are available at https://bit.ly/popexec.

About POP: Philadelphia Orchard Project (POP) is a non-profit organization that plants and supports community orchards across Philadelphia — 70 orchards in 24 zip codes in the city. Since 2007, the organization has grown from a grassroots organization into an integral part of Philadelphia's urban agriculture ecosystem. POP orchards are diverse community spaces, ranging from radically reimagined vacant lots to schools, urban farms, and places of worship that provide fresh food, clean air, learning, and peaceful green spaces for connection. POP has informed the city's Urban Agriculture Plan and Tree Plan and provided training and resources for city programs, including TreePhilly and Farm Philly. POP's work has been recognized in the media internationally, including by *The New York Times* and the BBC. For more information, visit www.phillyorchards.org.

Photos: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1n_ZUPrL7PIlxLeVtQT2TN7X51ygaIqet?usp=drive_link