



*“Nature offers us both comfort and restoration. The harmonious colors from natural dyes soothe us and remind us of the beauty in nature.” – Connie Magoffin, Minnesota-based natural dyer*

2018 Dye Garden Co-Chairs  
Volunteer Positions  
May-October

Textile Center’s “A Garden to Dye For” is a source of beauty for visitors and neighborhood residents and a resource for natural dyes to be used by fiber artists throughout the year. This year we are seeking a pair of volunteer Dye Garden Co-Chairs to lead its cultivation during the 2018 growing season.

Working with the support of Textile Center’s Education Manager Melisa Wahlstrom, our Co-Chairs will:

- Work with Textile Center staff to recruit volunteers and coordinate and oversee weekly volunteer time(s) in the garden
- Plan/design the garden for the season (selection of 12-20 plants, native and rare)
- Track supplies and tools needed to maintain the garden
- Document the progress of the garden’s development during the season through notes, photos, etc.
- Be a champion and advocate for the dye garden program

The Co-Chairs will lead a volunteer team to:

- Clean up the garden at beginning of season (May, 2-3 volunteer days)
- Weekly maintenance (about 2 hours per week)
- Work with staff to create and install signage for plants
- Put the garden to “bed” for the winter (October, 2-3 volunteer days)

Natural dyeing has been a part of human history for thousands of years. To color textiles, dyes are extracted from plant flowers, leaves, roots, and bark, along with insect bodies and minerals. The addition of mordants, such as alum, tin, copper, and iron, help provide color variation and permanence. When synthetic dyes began to be developed starting in 1856, the use of natural dyes waned. Today, along with an increasing awareness about our environment and curiosity about where our textiles come from is a renewed interest in natural dyeing.

You will be surprised to learn what colors some of your favorite plants yield.

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