The Incredible Edible School Garden at Liberty Hall
The 1772 Foundation
Phyllis Duke, Project Director

The 1772 Foundation has funded the "Incredible Edible School Garden at Liberty Hall" project. Phyllis Duke, Director of the Office of Facilities and Campus Planning at Kean University will serve as the Project Director.

Kean University has an extensive history of providing educational and entertainment opportunities for local school districts, particularly those located in urban areas.

The Incredible Edible School Garden project will offer workshops for youth on organic gardening. Schools and summer camps will be contacted to schedule trips to the Garden, where children will be able to harvest the vegetables and herbs, just as children at Liberty Hall did hundreds of years ago. The children will make vegetable pizzas with their collected ingredients and cook them in the outdoor pizza ovens. Workshop instructors (Kean students) will explain the value of organic gardening to the children, many of whom will be inner-city urban youth who have never been in a garden nor experienced the enjoyment of growing and harvesting their own food.

A brief history of Liberty Hall, including the children that lived there, will be presented by Liberty Hall Foundation staff dressed in period costumes to illustrate how different yet similar children’s lives were many years ago. Once the pizzas are cooked, the children will enjoy a meal that they prepared in the outdoor pavilion. A tour of the extensive gardens and still producing orchards established at Liberty Hall by Governor William Livingston in the late 1700’s will further pique the children’s interest in gardening and history.

Furthermore, the University established an organic restaurant on the main campus this year for the students, faculty and staff. Some of the vegetables and herbs grown at the Incredible, Edible School Garden will be used in this restaurant and in our new public restaurant to be opened at the Center for Science, Mathematics and Technology, across from Liberty Hall.