ROLE OF GARDENS AND URBAN DECAY.

Social.
There are few opportunities for gardeners to come together and partake in gardening events.
There are not enough community members involved.
Not much variety of age groups among gardeners.
Vandalism.
Litter.
Homeless people with nowhere else to go.
Nutritional needs not being met

Economic.
Gardens are not exploiting their income generating capabilities.
Inefficient resource use.
Lack of funding.

Gardening.
Lack of garden visibility.
Sustaining interest in gardening.
Recruiting/training young people.
Vacant garden lots/abandoned gardens.
Turnover rates of gardeners.
Gardeners have minimal economic investment

PROBLEM STATEMENT.
Currently there are over 700 vacant lots in Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine neighborhood. These lots collect trash, attract homeless people and crime, and contribute to the area's negative image. Reclaiming vacant lots and non-buildable parcels for community use can improve not only a neighborhood's image, but also the quality of life for the people who live there.
Community gardens can:
Provide a viable food source for sustenance and economic benefit, become a venue for community interaction, require plans and stewards that develop, continuing community interest in the garden and beautify vacant lots and the surrounding street/neighborhood.