



City of New York
Parks & Recreation



GreenThumb

The Arsenal
Central Park
New York, New York 10021
Adrian Benepe
Commissioner

49 Chambers Street, Rm 1020
New York, New York 10007
Eddie Stone
Director

Herrn Steffen Kreutzer
GEFIPLAN GESELLSCHAFT mbH
Repenter Straße 6
16837 Luhme

3/5/08

Dear Sir,

I am writing to support the grassroots community group that created and has run the "Garden Rosa Rose" since 2004. I had the pleasure of visiting this garden in the Summer of 2007 while I was in Berlin to attend the international conference of Stiftung Intercultur. Like the intercultural gardens that were the subject of our conference, the Garden Rosa Rose has become an important community resource.

By providing the Friedrichshain district with much needed open space, a place for neighbors to gather and get to know one another, and an important demonstration site for sustainable ecological practices, the Rosa Rose garden group has performed an important community service. Their efforts and the efforts of grassroots groups like theirs throughout Europe and the world will become increasingly important as we combat global warming and over-development in the years to come.

New York City has become a global leader in the preservation of community gardens as a part of an aggressive plan to increase green practices in our city. Through various mechanisms, including sale to community groups, municipal intervention, and private trusts we have managed to preserve over 500 community managed green spaces that are assisted by my program, GreenThumb. These spaces have become an important part of our network of parks and playgrounds.

I believe that Berlin, as a major European capital with cultural resources that rival those of New York, should have an equally ambitious program to preserve open space and gardens. By helping the Rosa Rose gardeners to find a way to purchase your property and preserve the garden space, you will be making an important contribution to that effort. Your foresight and generosity will provide benefits for many generations of Berliners to come.

Please consider the reasonable requests of these dedicated gardeners,
Sincerely,

Eddie Stone, Director, GreenThumb Program