



Diversity Report 2023

The Diversity Action Group (DAG) spent the 2021-2022 season applying for the RHS Flourish Fund to be able to run the Diversity Scholarship again, this time with RHS funding. The scholarship previously ran in 2021 and funded 5 growers of colour to receive FFTF training and mentoring to learn about the business of growing flowers. DAG had previously applied to the RHS and been unsuccessful. One of the criteria that had to be met this time round was that all scholars / students would receive some sort of horticulture qualification at the end of their time. DAG spent a considerable amount of time researching this however no floriculture qualification currently exists in the UK. We therefore spoke to Organic Blooms who teach and train people up to receive their City and Guilds Level 2 Certificate in Practical Horticultural Skills. As experienced flower farms Organic Blooms would be able to teach the scholars the course with a focus on flower farming. The rest of the time was spent budgeting for the scholarship based on 5 people participating, creating policies and liaising with Flower From the Farm.

The scholarship funds could not be received by Flower from the Farm on behalf of DAG during the 2022 season due to internal financial issues.

However FFTF have now become VAT registered so the monies can be received with a 20% shortfall. The aim is to launch the scholarship application process in May and have the 2023 cohort start in September.

The work of DAG between now and September will be to launch and market the scholarship; grade and decide on scholars, advise scholars and schedule the rest of the program with Organic Blooms. We will pair scholars with FFTF members as mentors and schedule the remaining online tutorials that make up the rest of the learning. We will also need to find a way to fundraise the remaining 20% so that 5 scholars can be funded instead of 4. We will be reaching out to members who had previously contacted DAG to support the scholarship. This is a goal that DAG would like to achieve and is not a stipulation of the RHS.

We are looking forward to working with the RHS on this and welcoming a new cohort of scholars.