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**YCP to Receive Heirloom Vegetables at Inaugural Sotheby's Auction**  
*City's largest food pantry provides healthy cooking and nutrition classes*

**New York---** The Yorkville Common Pantry (YCP), New York City's largest food pantry, will receive crates of edible heirlooms at the upcoming **The Art of Farming inaugural Tri-State Heirloom Vegetable auction on September 23, 2010**. YCP is one of two local community food providers to receive donated vegetables from the auction.

Sotheby's Auction House will serve as host for the auction with support from leaders and visionaries in the sustainable food and farming movement, including Eric Ripert, Ruth Reichl, Martha Stewart, Bette Midler, Dan Barber, Liz Neumark, and others.

"Every day, Yorkville Common Pantry provides underserved New Yorkers with healthy and nutritious meals," said Stephen Grimaldi. "Through the generous donation of heirloom vegetables, many more children and families in need will be able to experience fall's fresh bounty."

The Yorkville Common Pantry's Nutrition Initiative for Children and Families (NICF) offers classes that teach healthy cooking techniques to children and adults and focuses on preparing meals with fresh ingredients and teaching participants about the beneficial nutrient content of each vegetable used. The program is very popular with adults and children, and participation has grown by 33% in the last year, with many classes now operating at standing room only.

YCP's food pantry program, its best-known program, distributes packages of nutritious groceries to between 1,600 and 1,800 low-income families every week. In addition, YCP provides emergency food packages to families during off hours as well as hot meal programs weekly.

"We thank Sotheby's Auction House, Liz Neumark, and local leaders of the sustainable food and farming movement who are equally committed to a healthy New York," added Grimaldi.

The Art of Farming evening will begin with a cocktail reception with "local" hors d'oeuvres by renowned restaurant Rouge Tomate, which strives to address social and environmental issues, taking pride in farm to table cuisine and implementing sustainable practices such as their firm dedication to composting. Jamie Niven, Chairman of Sotheby's North America, will lead a live auction of Heirloom vegetables from more than 40 local farmers from the tri-state area, including Brent Ridge and Josh Kilmer-Purcell of Beekman 1802, John Gorzynski of Gorzynski Ornery Farms, Russell Glover of Consider Bardwell, Tom Culton of Culton Organics, and Richard Ball of Schoharie Valley Farms. All seeds for the produce on sale have been donated to the farmers by Landreth and Seed Savers.

To support Yorkville Common Pantry or to learn more about its healthy cooking initiatives, please visit [www.ycp.org](http://www.ycp.org) or contact (917) 720-9700.

For more information on The Art of Farming or to purchase tickets, visit [www.artoffarming.org](http://www.artoffarming.org)

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Since 1981, Yorkville Common Pantry (YCP) has been dedicated to reducing hunger while promoting dignity and self-sufficiency. YCP champions the cause of the hungry through food pantry and meal distribution programs, nutrition education, basic hygiene services, homeless support, and related services. YCP's community-based programs focus on East Harlem and other underserved communities throughout New York City.