**MEDIA ADVISORY**

*Saturday, April 24, 3:00 pm CST*

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**Beyond School Bells partners with The Bay and other organizations
to bring high-tech farming to Lincoln and create ag education and
entrepreneurship opportunities for young people**

*The Greenery will be unveiled at a ribbon-cutting on April 24. Mayor Gaylor Baird to deliver remarks.*

(LINCOLN) – On Saturday, April 24, members of Beyond School Bells (BSB), Nebraska’s afterschool network, and The Bay, a Lincoln youth service organization, will host a ribbon-cutting on an innovative new farm in Lincoln.

Through a generous gift from the Ben Hormel Harris Foundation, Beyond School Bells is excited to announce the arrival of the Greenery – an innovative, new product of the Boston-based company Freight Farms. The Greenery is an entirely self-contained 40-foot-long shipping container that operates as a high-tech hydroponic farm. The container has space to vertically grow over 13,000 plants year-round – the equivalent of a 2.5-acre farm. BSB is partnering with The Bay to provide space for the Greenery and develop an informal learning and growing program, with the long-term goal of teaching important 21st century career skills and supporting nonprofit sustainability while providing healthy, locally produced food.

Youth will grow and sell their food at local farmers’ markets or through weekly Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxes that will be called “Bay Boxes” and learn the ins and outs of running a business. While most Greenery farms are run for profit by adults, this will be one of the few utilized to educate and spark career interest in agriculture among young people and next generation entrepreneurs. “It’s going to be one of the few Freight Farms in the country that is pretty much exclusively run by youth,” said Anna Wishart, the Director of Partnerships of Beyond School Bells. Those who work in the Greenery will be able to participate in a variety of activities from planting seeds to managing crops, to learning the technology that makes this modern farming possible.

**WHO**: Beyond School Bells and The Bay

**WHAT**: Ribbon-cutting for the Greenery, Mayor Gaylor Baird remarks at 3:00 pm

**WHEN**: Saturday, April 24, 2021, 3:00 pm CST

**WHERE**: The Bay – 2005 Y Street, Lincoln

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**ABOUT BEYOND SCHOOL BELLS:**

Beyond School Bells, an initiative of Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, is dedicated to improving access to and quality in Nebraska’s before and afterschool learning and summer education programs by building partnerships and addressing state and local policy that affects these vital initiatives. We watch the national scene, make recommendations, pull the right people to the table, and support system-builders and educators as they strive to make build an educational system that better serves all Nebraskans. To learn more, visit [beyondschoolbells.org](http://www.beyondschoolbells.org).

**ABOUT NEBRASKA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FOUNDATION:**

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation supports children, young adults, and families with the overall goal of giving our state's kids what they need to thrive. We do this by building strong communities that support families so their children can grow up to be successful, productive adults. To learn more, visit [nebraskachildren.org](http://www.nebraskachildren.org).