City Schoolyard Garden | Urban Agriculture Collective | Food Justice Network

www.cultivatecharlottesville.org
Cultivate Charlottesville

Engages youth and community in building equitable, sustainable food systems through garden-based experiential learning, growing and sharing healthy food, amplifying community leaders and advocating for food justice.

FOOD IS A HUMAN RIGHT

We believe that working together to grow gardens, share food and power, and advocate for just systems – cultivates a healthy community for all.
In the garden I feel like I am actually taking care of a life. Preparing the garden beds, doing the physical work makes me feel useful and confident about my strengths. -Garden Aide
Urban Agriculture Collective

- Building equity by growing and sharing food
- Weekly resident community market
- Land is liberation – Black and brown farmer initiative

Food is just one of those things that always brings people together. Food tells a story. Food is love. Food is a form of healing.

-Community Advocate
Food Justice Network

- Network of 35+ organizations working along the food system
- Explore opportunities & barriers; Amplify community voice & choice,
  Mobilize combined impact; Implement strategies to transform inequities

The garden is the one place I feel at home. I feel special that I can take care of the plants and help them grow.
Food Justice & Emergency Food Relief

- Understanding what hunger and food insecurity truly looks like in America
- Having access to your own land to grow food
- Healthy nutritious food for youth to perform their best

Food justice is active when systems and structures ensure everyone has the right of self-determination at every level of our food system.
What is Food Justice?

Food justice starts with understanding what hunger and food insecurity truly looks like in America. It demands us to create a world where everyone has opportunity to nourishing, fulfilling food at any time.

MAKAYLA HOWARD
YOUTH FOOD JUSTICE INTERN
CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Food justice is about having access to your own land to grow food. It’s about owning the food you grow and eat at all times.

ROSA KEY
COMMUNITY FOOD JUSTICE ADVOCATE
CHARLOTTESVILLE FOOD JUSTICE NETWORK

Food justice is about establishing equal opportunity to nutritious foods. In our schools, it’s about youth’s right to the food we need to perform at our best.

AMYAH LIMBACHER
YOUTH FOOD JUSTICE INTERN
CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
City Schoolyard Garden Initiatives

- Nine Gardens-School/Neighborhoods
- Harvest of the Month
- Farm to School & Fall Harvest Festival
- Healthy School Foods -5 Year Plan
- Spring Seedling Project
- Youth Food Justice Interns

These carrots are amazingly delicious! I didn’t know they could be different colors. They are sweet and I like how I can take home fresh foods I grew myself.

-2nd Grader
Urban Agriculture Collective Initiatives

- Urban Farms at Public Housing
- Weekly Community Markets
- Black and Brown Farmer Group
- Farm Workforce Development
- Volunteer Engagement
- Urban Farm Park Initiative

I pick up and deliver food to several of my elderly friends who are so grateful. They say, “I can hardly wait until Friday to see what goodies I will be receiving.”

-UAC Community Volunteer
Food Justice Network Initiatives

- Network Collaboration
- City Council Food Equity Initiative
- Community Advocates
- Local Food Local Places
- City Comprehensive & Strategic Plans
- Ignite Dialogue & Thought Leadership

This work has helped me to use my voice and share my opinions. It’s been a safe space to practice being a leader because I know I’m cared about and together we can grow something beautiful.
COVID-19 Response

- School & Community Meal Deliveries
- Communication and Coordination
- Emergency Food Calendars

- Establish Principles for Equity
- Regional Food System Resource Map
- Wrap Around Services

Cultivate became a central stakeholder in COVID-19 response because of their partnerships and ability to adapt to changing situations. –City Partner
Strategies for Building Food Equity

- Practice Anti-Racism
- Center People Affected
- Build & Engage Partnerships
- Work at Multiple Levels & Intersections
- Embrace Learning
- Cultivate Broad Base Support
Practice Anti-Racism

JOIN CULTIVATE CHARLOTTESVILLE
FOR A VIRTUAL WORKSHOP by SOUL FIRE FARM
UPROOTING RACISM IN THE FOOD SYSTEM

Thursday, November 19
from 1 to 4 p.m.
Registration is on a sliding scale and is open through
Wednesday, October 19 at
WWW.CULTIVATECHARLOTTESVILLE.ORG/UPROOTINGRACISM

• https://cultivatecharlottesville.org/uprooting-racism/
• https://cultivatecharlottesville.org/what-is-food-equity/resources/

Charlottesville Food Justice Network

White Paper on Building a Healthy and Just Local Food System

Identifying and understanding disparities in food access, defining food justice, and a call to action to craft equitable practices and policies that uphold food as a basic human right
Center People Affected
Build & Engage Partnerships
Work at Multiple Levels & Intersections

**Vision**
We envision a healthy and just food system with equitable access, preparation, distribution, consumption, and disposal of food that is accessible, nutritious, and affordable for all races, genders, nationalities, ages, and religions.

**Values**
- Focus on Justice & Fairness
- Young Communities
- Sustainable Ecosystems
- Healthy People
- Culture & Legacy
- Tending Local Economies
- Vibrant Farms

**Charlottesville Food Justice Network**

**Equity Framework**

**Practices**
- Utilizing an equity approach to understand and impact the informal and formal food system, and incorporate equity into action.
- Advocating systemic barriers that impede individual actions and access to healthy, affordable foods.
- Building stronger relationships with community members, using food systems as a tool for meaningful and meaningful community involvement.
- Exposing the importance of community food justice with housing, transportation, economic development, public health, schools, agriculture, and culture.
- Equipping communities with skills and resources that help improve access to healthy and nutritious foods.

**Core Advocacy & Action Areas**

- Housing
- Transportation
- Advocacy
- Education

- The majority of students at Charlottesville public schools are at risk of food insecurity. Transforming the school food system to provide, fresh, healthy, appealing meals will build equity, create a foundation for academic success, and cultivate long-term health for our youth.

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- Housing and transportation are crucial to improving access to affordable and nutritious food, particularly for low-income residents. Combining these critical factors to improve access to healthy and affordable food is essential.

- Cultivating food equity through urban agricultural spaces continues to expose the inequitable food security faced by low-income residents. Working together, we can promote and preserve permanent land for this green infrastructure.
Embrace Learning & Adapt
Cultivate Broad Base Support
Cultivate Charlottesville Food Justice Interns
Cultivate Staff
Donors

BOUNTFUL HARVEST

LEAVES & ROOTS
Opaline Fund
Magellan Complete Care
Rimora Foundation
Albemarle Garden Club
Petit Pois
Fashion for a Cause
The Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
Iconograph Design & Brittney Butler
The Dorothea D. Nelson Charitable Trust
The LWH Family Fund

SEEDS & SOILS
Sticks Kabob Shop
Madwoman Fund of CACF
Piedmont Master Gardeners
CATEC
Pearl Island Foods
Alpha Phi Omega at University of Virginia
Albemarle Banking Company
T&N Pringing
MarieBette Bakery
Wolf Josey Landscape Architecture
Thank you from the Cultivate Charlottesville Team

“I have the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits.” -Martin Luther King Jr. on Food Justice