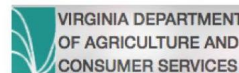


A Seat At The Table Community Roundtable



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.



WHAT IS FOOD EQUITY?

Food Equity recognizes food as a HUMAN RIGHT

- Food equity is the expansive concept that all people have the ability and opportunity to grow and to consume healthful, affordable, and culturally significant foods. Food equity takes into account how structural racism, operates within our local food system to create unequal access leading to diet-related racial health disparities.

The Food Justice Movement

- Food justice is a grassroots movement where communities exercise their right to grow, sell, and eat healthy food. Healthy food = fresh, nutritious, affordable, culturally-appropriate, and grown locally with care for the well-being of the land, workers, and animals. **Food Justice** speaks to the necessary power building and strategic organizing among individuals and organizations that must take place to advance sustainable systemic change.

History of Racial Injustice

Major Outcomes of Resource Redistribution as a Result of Redevelopment

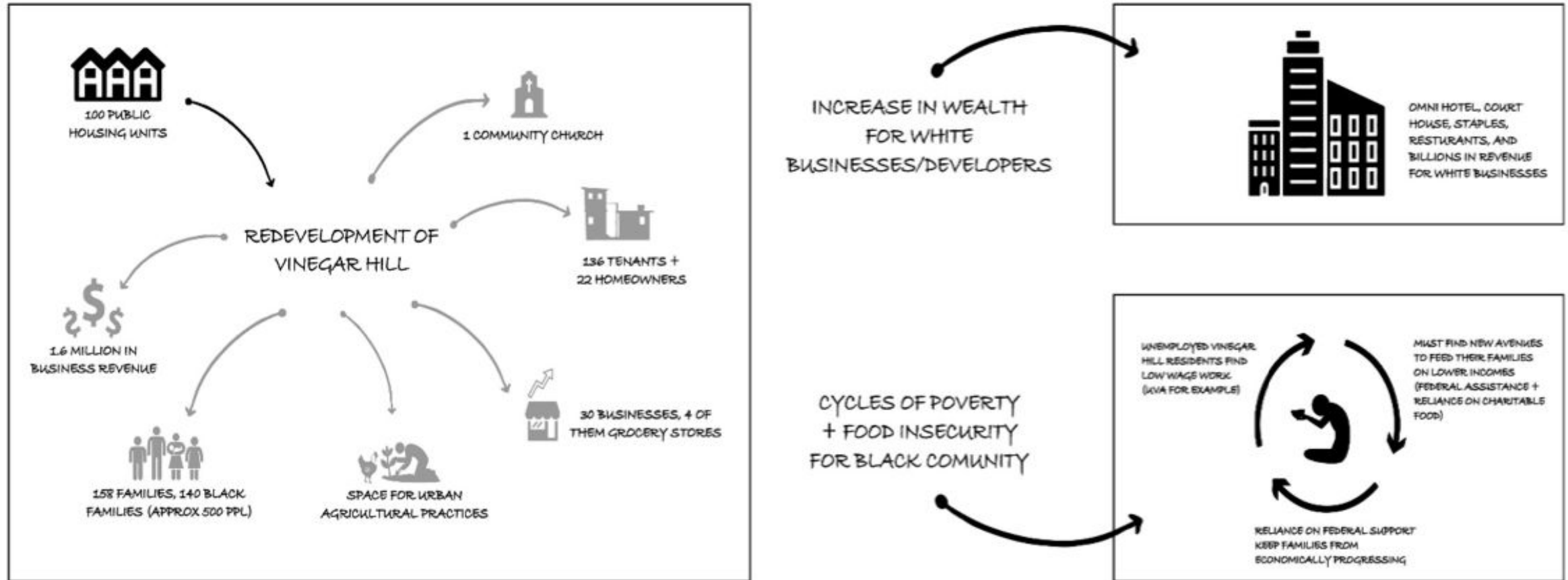
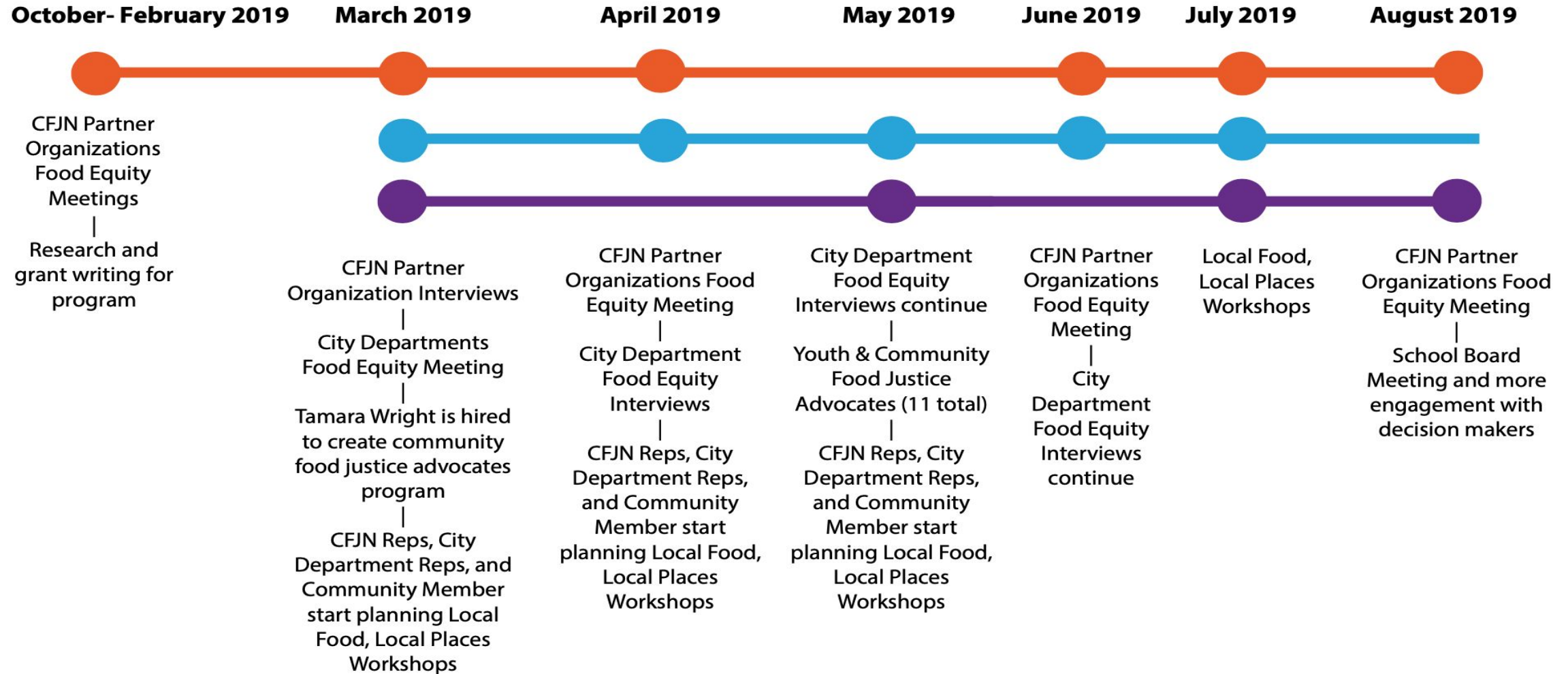


Figure 1 Concept model depicting major outcomes of redevelopment (Urban Renewal) as a tool to redistribute resources in Charlottesville, VA.

Food Equity Initiative Community Engagement



Community Visioning



2019 Local Food, Local Places Aspirations Rooted In Food Equity & Justice:



- “Student hunger reduced: lowest percentage in history of Charlottesville”
- “Charlottesville schools meet the goal of fresh locally sourced meals for every student, every day”



- “Charlottesville urban ag director announce bold plan – 5% of city land is set aside for long-term urban agriculture”
- “Neighborhood gardens sprout in all neighborhoods”



- “Charlottesville’s redesigned public transportation system makes food more accessible is modeled across the country”



- “Food bus travels to neighborhoods with produce, fresh fruits and veggies”



- “Charlottesville preserves land for food gardens for residents forever

FEI POLICY PLATFORM OVERVIEW



Food Equity & Justice –
*Advancing Systemic
Change and Collective
Movements*



The Power To Grow –
*Advancing Affordable
Housing & Urban Agriculture*



The Right to Good Food –
*Advancing Transportation &
Neighborhood Food
Pathways*



Inspire Youth Choice –
*Advancing Healthy School
Foods*



Build Community Wealth –
*Advancing Neighborhood
Food Access and Markets*



Restore Earth & Climate –
*Advancing Environmental and
Climate Justice*

FOOD EQUITY & JUSTICE

Advancing Systemic Change & Collective Movements



FOOD EQUITY AND JUSTICE

ADVANCING SYSTEMIC CHANGE & COLLECTIVE MOVEMENTS



In order to build equity in the Charlottesville food system so that all community members have access to fresh, affordable, culturally relevant food—food equity and justice must be considered as a core strategy for community health and safety. Partnerships with grassroots organizations, youth leaders, and resident advocates are critical.

SPRING 2021



...food equity and justice must be considered as a core strategy for community health and safety...

Key Policy Recommendations

- Food Equity Fund – set aside funds to invest in food equity systems change (1% of meals tax)
- Ongoing support for Food Justice Network

THE POWER TO GROW

Advancing Affordable Housing & Urban Agriculture



THE POWER TO GROW

ADVANCING AFFORDABLE HOUSING & URBAN AGRICULTURE



In pursuit of restoring the power to grow for every community, an equitable investment in urban agriculture is needed to counter impacts of necessary housing redevelopment on decreased food access and environmental health. When families have the power to grow, land is liberation.

SPRING 2021



...an equitable investment in urban agriculture is needed ...When families have the power to grow, land is liberation.

Key Policy Recommendations

- Dedicate centrally located city land for urban agriculture
- Urban Agriculture position in the city

THE RIGHT TO GOOD FOOD

Advancing Transportation & Neighborhood Food Pathways



THE RIGHT TO GOOD FOOD

ADVANCING TRANSPORTATION & NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD PATHWAYS



In pursuit of the right to good food for every community member, measures should be taken to expand eligibility to programs, cultivate ownership of affordable markets, and develop stronger transportation avenues to food resources.

SPRING 2021



...measures should be taken to expand eligibility to programs, cultivate ownership of affordable markets, and develop stronger transportation avenues to food resources.

Key Policy Recommendations

- Free transit – already approved
- Ensure effective food pathways (i.e. routes to groceries)

INSPIRE YOUTH CHOICE

Advancing Healthy School Foods



INSPIRE YOUTH CHOICE

ADVANCING HEALTHY SCHOOL FOOD



In order to ensure food equity across the city and provide all students the fuel they need to be successful learners, healthy school food options and infrastructure, informed by youth leadership, must be understood in the context of equity building and elevated with continued momentum. School nutrition programs are not a business but a service to build equity and health among Charlottesville youth.



SPRING 2021

...healthy school food options and infrastructure, informed by youth leadership, must be understood in the context of equity building and elevated with continued momentum...

Key Policy Recommendations

- Full funding for CCS and additional investment to support Healthy School Foods Plan implementation

BUILD COMMUNITY WEALTH

Advancing Neighborhood Food Access & Markets



BUILD COMMUNITY WEALTH

ADVANCING NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD ACCESS & MARKETS



In order to ignite and fund community wealth, it is critical to provide opportunities for people of color in low-wealth neighborhoods to access economic opportunities that have been limited by systemic racism. This includes expanding local food system businesses owned by people of color and providing youth and residents opportunities to thrive in food system-related positions. Robust collaboration with City departments is necessary for implementation.



SPRING 2021

...provide opportunities for people of color in low-wealth neighborhoods to access economic opportunities that have been limited by systemic racism...

Key Policy Recommendation

- Support for a community cooperative grocery

RESTORE EARTH & CLIMATE

Advancing Environmental & Climate Justice



RESTORE EARTH & CLIMATE

ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE JUSTICE



In order to provide residents of color and those with low wealth the health benefits of access to green space and discontinue the harmful effects of redlining's heat island effect, strategic planning and accompanying investment must be made in affordable housing paired with dedicated green space for urban agriculture, affordable markets, and equitable transportation routes.

SPRING 2021



...strategic planning and accompanying investment must be made in affordable housing paired with dedicated green space for urban agriculture, affordable markets, and equitable transportation routes.

Key Policy Recommendation

- Dedicate staff time to climate equity policy implementation

Breakout Group Discussion Questions

1. What does **The Power to Grow** mean to you?
2. What are the systemic barriers that prevent communities from achieving **The Power to Grow** long term?
3. What are the barriers that prevent individuals from achieving **The Power to Grow**?
4. What would it look like if this **The Power to Grow** works?
5. What is missing from the **The Power to Grow**? What needs to be changed?

Timeline & ACTION STEPS

Your feedback will be incorporated into the evolving platform over the next 6 months and as each recommendation is developed

- Community Action-opeds, social media, news, articles - [Activate Advocacy Toolkit](#) - May 3-17
- Food Equity Initiative [Policy Platform sign on](#) - Ongoing
- City Council Midyear Report May 17 @ 4:00pm-present platform and signatures
- Budget Allocations by November 2021 - request for budget supports in FY23 budget



ACTION STEPS

Food Equity Initiative Advocacy Storm

5/3: Food Equity and Justice

5/5: The Power To Grow

5/7: The Right to Good Food

5/10: Inspire Youth Choice

5/12: Build Community Wealth

5/14: Restore Earth & Climate
Justice

5/17: Food Equity Initiative Policy
Platform (full)

