A Seat At The Table
Community Roundtable

Food Justice Network
Building a healthy and just food system for all
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 healthy, 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

- 1,600 public housing units
- 1 community church
- 120 tenants and 22 homeowners
- $2 million in business revenue
- 156 families, 140 black families (approx. 600 ppl)
- Space for urban agricultural practices
- Cycles of poverty and food insecurity for the black community
- Omni hotel, courthouse, staples, restaurants, and millions in revenue for white businesses

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

October - February 2019
- CFJN Partner Organizations Food Equity Meetings
- Research and grant writing for program

March 2019
- CFJN Partner Organization Interviews
- City Departments Food Equity Meeting
- Tamara Wright is hired to create community food justice advocates program
- CFJN Reps, City Department Reps, and Community Member start planning Local Food, Local Places Workshops

April 2019
- CFJN Partner Organizations Food Equity Meeting
- City Department Food Equity Meetings
- CFJN Reps, City Department Reps, and Community Member start planning Local Food, Local Places Workshops

May 2019
- City Department Food Equity Interviews continue
- Youth & Community Food Justice Advocates (11 total)
- CFJN Reps, City Department Reps, and Community Member start planning Local Food, Local Places Workshops

June 2019
- CFJN Partner Organizations Food Equity Meeting
- City Department Food Equity Interviews continue

July 2019
- Local Food, Local Places Workshops

August 2019
- CFJN Partner Organizations Food Equity Meeting
- School Board Meeting and more engagement with decision makers
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 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

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.

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

...an equitable investment in urban agriculture is needed ...When families have the power to grow, land is liberation.
THE RIGHT TO GOOD FOOD
Advancing Transportation & Neighborhood Food Pathways

...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)
...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
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.

**Key Policy Recommendation**

- Support for a community cooperative grocery

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