

Welcome to the Fifth Annual

# MASSACHUSETTS URBAN FARMING CONFERENCE



Photo by Maureen White

*“Cultivating Lands, Nourishing Communities, Building Businesses.”*

Saturday, March 4, 2017  
8:00am to 5:30pm

The John A. and Marcia E. Curry Student Center  
Northeastern University  
Boston, MA

Host by:

In Partnership with:

With Presenting Sponsors



Welcome Farmer Friends, Returning and New,

We thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. The Urban Farming Institute welcome you to our 5th Annual MA Urban Farming Conference. As we look back at our collective impact, we achieved so much over this time!

At a time when many things are in flux, our ties to the land and to one another keep us grounded. UFI's mission is to develop urban farming entrepreneurs and to build healthier and more locally based food systems that contribute to stronger communities. As we prepare for the 2017 growing season we look forward to working with you and to your participation in our upcoming public activities: public workshop series, annual food day event at the Garrison Trotter Farm and youth & corporate volunteer days.

Our co-developers, funders and partners are working to make our new Mattapan headquarters a reality. The rehabilitation and revitalization of the Fowler Clark Epstein Farm is a collaborative effort by Historic Boston, Inc, The Trust for Public Land, and the Urban Farming Institute. The once vacant 18th century farmhouse and 19th century barn will become a 21st century center for Urban Farming and education in Boston.

This conference promises to be amazing and we want to thank MDAR, all of our presenters, volunteers and longtime Urban Farming supporters! Have a wonderful day of learning and sharing. Special shout-out to our UFI board and staff for being the catalysts behind this dream.



Patricia E. Spence, Executive Director  
Urban Farming Institute



---

Welcome!

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) welcomes you to the 5th Annual Urban Farming Conference.

Together, with the Urban Farming Institute, we have worked to convene knowledgeable and experienced presenters and provide informative panels and networking opportunities to benefit the urban farming sector. The Baker-Polito Administration continues to invest in both rural and urban agriculture, which reflects their commitment to increasing fresh food access to the Commonwealth's citizens and to supporting policies that continue to foster a sustainable food system.

Today, we hope you take advantage of the full agenda, crafted to spark conversation, inform and to build upon this multi-sector, urban farming network.



John Lebeaux  
Commissioner  
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources





## Today's Agenda

8:00 to 8:45 am	Registration & Networking
8:45 to 9:45 am	Session 1
9:45 to 9:55 am	Transition/Break
9:55 to 11:00 am	Morning Keynote
11:00 to 11:10 am	Transition/ Break
11:10 am to 12:10 pm	Session 2
12:10 to 1:30 pm	Lunch, Vendors & Networking
1:30 to 2:30 pm	Session 3
2:30 to 2:45 pm	Transition/Break
2:45 to 3:45 pm	Session 4
3:45 to 4:15 pm	Networking Break
4:15 to 5:15 pm	Closing Keynote
5:30 pm	Conference Ends

### Lunch Menu

#### Assorted Wraps:

Hummus Tomato, Carrots, Red Peppers,  
Red Onion, Romaine, Cucumbers

----

Baby Spinach, Black Bean, Red Peppers & Tomato

-----

Roasted Sweet Potato, Roasted  
Red Peppers, & Swiss Cheese

#### Healthy Ginger Slaw Cup

**Large & Delicious Homemade  
Chocolate Chip Cookies**

#### Herbal Iced Tea

Vegetarian dishes with vegetables sourced from  
local Metro Boston urban farms!



**HALEY HOUSE  
BAKERY CAFÉ**

12 Dade Street, Dudley Square, Roxbury, MA 02119  
catering@haleyhouse.org | (617) 445-0900 | haleyhouse.org



# Eat the Most Delicious Things on Earth



We Believe in Real Food™

WFM.com



#### **Our Mission**

*The Urban Farming Institute of Boston (UFI), is a Massachusetts community-based non-profit organization. UFI's mission is to develop urban farming as a viable commercial industry that creates green-collar jobs for local residents in communities of color, primarily in Boston, specifically Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan.*

34 Linwood Street, Roxbury, MA 02119



## **The Urban Farming Institute of Boston, Inc. Welcomes You to The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual 2017 Massachusetts Urban Farming Conference**



#### **Farming Training Program**

- 9 Week Urban Farming Course (March-May)
- 20 Week Hands On Urban Farming Summer Program (June – October)

#### **Community Education**

- Ongoing Workshops (Example: Food As Medicine, Growing Food Without a Garden, Seed Saving, Foraging for Wild Edibles)
  - School Service Learning
  - Corporate Volunteer Service Learning



**WWW.URBANFARMINGINSTITUTE.ORG**

**Land Acquisition**

**Farm Operations**

**Community  
Education/Training**

**Statewide Advocacy**

Tel: 617-989-9920

Fax: 617-989-9948

Email: [ufiboston@gmail.com](mailto:ufiboston@gmail.com)



**Find us Online**  
**mass.gov/massgrown**  
**Your Gateway to Local!**

- Farmers' markets
- Garden centers
- Wine & cheese trails
- Culinary/agri-tourism
- Agricultural fairs
- Online promotions
- Calendar of current events
- "Buy Local" groups

**You're just one click away!**



Room 440	<p><b>Aquaponics and Vermiculture</b></p> <p>Aquaponics and Vermiculture have become increasingly relevant and pursued forms of agriculture. Aquaponics is the marriage of hydroponics and re-circulating aquaculture systems (RASs). Vermiculture uses and grows annelids (worms) to breakdown compost. Aquaponics and Vermiculture promote sustainability by transforming wastes into nutrients that can produce desirable, marketable products. Learn how aquaponics and vermiculture design considerations to setup and operate a small or modest-scale system.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Dr. Joe Buttner, Professor, Salem State University  <b>Speakers:</b> James Carnazza, Founder and President, Full Circle Earth  Anastasia Perullo, Salem State University  Laura Presutti, Salem State University</p>
Room 340	<p><b>CommonHood Agriculture Supported Communities</b></p> <p>Our panel of seasoned growers, visionaries, and implementers will share insights harvested during 30 years cultivating locally controlled urban food systems. We will address new challenges, timely opportunities, and compare notes on the proven, promising, and seductive crops, growing systems and projects of 2017. Urban farming can expand its local and global impact by using private and public money, land, community partnerships, and political capital more efficiently and creatively. We will highlight specific collaborative initiatives for growing a more equitable, expansive, and permanent agricultural cityscape.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Bruce Fulford, Principal, City Soil  <b>Speakers:</b> Danielle Andrews, Dudley Farm Manager, The Food Project  Cara Snajczuk, Co-Manager, Haley House Urban Farm  Greg Watson, Director of Policy &amp; Systems Design, Schumacher Center for a New Economics  Glynn Lloyd, Founder and CEO, City Fresh Foods</p>
Room 322	<p><b>Technical and Financial Resources Available from the USDA Service Center Agencies</b></p> <p>Session will summarize technical and financial resources available from the USDA Service Center Agencies and outline collaborative steps to working with the agencies through the use of successful customer examples. Participants will gain an understanding of the products available and customer requirements for a successful partnership.</p> <p>Topics will include: Farm Bill programs, natural resources assessment, conservation practice implementation, Farm Bill participant eligibility criteria and Conservation Districts. Handouts addressing USDA internet based customer support tools will be available for those interested in more detail. Demonstration of the tools will be available at the USDA booth.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Christine Clarke State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service -USDA  <b>Speakers:</b> Mia Halter, District Conservationist, NRCS  Jeff LaFleur, Executive Director, MA Association of Conservation Districts  Dawn Pindell-Outreach Specialist, for CT, MA &amp; RI, USDA Farm Service Agency.</p>
Room 320	<p><b>Regenerative Placemaking and the Perry Ave Commons Designing for People, Planet, and Profit</b></p> <p>Sweet Water Foundation is working with local residents and a diverse ecosystem of organizations across the public and private sector to counter disinvestment and catalyze economic activity in the Washington Park and Englewood neighborhoods of Chicago, IL. As part of an initiative featured by ArtPlace America, the SWF team will embark upon the custom design/build of several community greenhouse design models, a series of innovative pocket parks, the transformation of two foreclosed homes into live work housing for SWF apprentices and artists/designers in residence, a series of public art installations on adjacent vacant properties, and the design/build of a "Thought Barn" which will serve as a multi-purpose art gallery/reflection/performance space on the 2 acre Perry Ave Community Farm. Ultimately, the neighborhood revitalization efforts will be a case study for inclusive, equitable community economic development that integrates housing, art, food security, education, sustainability, and environmental justice.</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Emmanuel Pratt, Co-Founder &amp; Executive Director, Sweet Water Foundation</p>



### Commercial Kitchens Strengthening Our Local Food Economy

Today's presenters are experts in value-added contract manufacturing, product development, offering efficient processing and packaging services for local crops. Urban and small farmers will learn how turning local produce into value-added products-like sauces, pickles, relish, and jams can be a great way to increase revenue, extend the season, or create an outlet for bumper crops. Learn from the experts what it takes to develop a value-added product, and how and where to sell it.

**Facilitator:** Sarah Brezniak, Principal, Captus Group LLC

**Speakers:** Jen Faigel, Executive Director, CommonWealth Kitchen  
John Waite, Executive Director, Franklin County  
Community Development Corporation

### Chef Talk Getting Your Product into Restaurants

This is a panel session about the growing world of farming for chefs. A handful of Boston's chefs have been receiving local produce from small farmers for decades. Now it has mushroomed into its own sector in the farming community. Hundreds of Boston area chefs now value the flavor and quality of fresh local food and are willing to pay more for it. Hear from a few local chefs on their relationships to farmers and how they decide how much local food goes into their menu. Listen to farmers describe their strategies in growing for chefs. Moderated by Didi Emmons, author of *Wild Flavors*, *One Chef's Transformative Year on Eva's Farm*.

**Facilitator:** Didi Edmonds, Chef and Author

**Speakers:** Alex Crabb, Chef, Asta, Boston  
Peter Davis, Chef, Henrietta's Table/Charles Hotel  
Tristram Keefe, Farmer, Urban Farming Institute  
Irene Li, Co-Owner, Mei Mei Street Kitchen & Restaurant  
Steve Verrill, Owner, Verrill Farm

### Irrigation Systems for Urban Farms

Best practices for installing and operating irrigation systems for urban farms. Multiple system types will be explored.

Proper irrigation is something that many farms are lacking upon start-up. Curtis will demonstrate multiple approaches such as drip, overhead, and greenhouse systems, then discuss the reasons behind each approach and how you can best customize them for your own situation.

**Speaker:** Curtis Stone, Green City Acres, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada



**Hubway Bike  
Share supports  
the Massachusetts  
Urban Farming  
Conference.**

thehubway.com

Follow @Hubway



**Hubway**

## MORNING KEYNOTE - 9:55-11:00 AM

Blackman Auditorium

# Farming in the City

A virtual tour of Green City Acres, a profitable commercial urban farm in Kelowna, BC, Canada. Sales for 2016 grossed \$105,000 by only operating on one third of an acre of land, that's 15,000 square feet of productive area. This lecture is a demonstration of the key production, marketing and economic elements that can be replicated on any farm.

**Speaker:** Curtis Stone, Green City Acres,  
Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada



**The Urban Farming Institute is One Step Closer to Home  
at the Fowler Clark Epstein Farm**

UFI is excited to announce that Historic Boston Inc. has begun rehabilitation and redevelopment of the Fowler Clark Epstein Farm in Mattapan. By the end of 2017, the farm will become the permanent home of the Urban Farming Institute of Boston, and Baraka Community Wellness.

Dating to 1636, the Fowler Clark Epstein Farm property today contains a 1786 farmhouse built by Fowler descendants and a 1860s carriage barn built by members of the Clark Family on 30,000 square feet of land. When completed, the complex will have education, living and office space as well as a working farm.

Thank you to the many foundations and individuals who have helped secure the funds and make this dream a reality. A special thanks to our partners including Historic Boston, Inc., The Trust for Public Land and Perkins+Will, who have contributed to the re-imagining and redesign of this historic site into a 21st century urban farming, education and training center.

**The Urban Farming Institute of Boston, Inc.**

**2017 Urban Farming  
Training Program**

The Urban Farming Training Program (UFTP) trains residents from Boston neighborhoods in the specifics of small plot urban farm enterprise.

**Classroom Session (9 Weeks)**

Classes begin March 30, 2017  
Thursdays, March 30 – May 25  
6:00-8:30pm.  
(Scholarship available)

**Farming Training – 20 Week  
Summer Program**

Begins June 5, 2017  
June 5 – October 20, 2017  
Mon-Friday 8:00am-12:00pm  
(Stipend Provided)



The Urban Farming Institute of Boston (UFI), is a Massachusetts community-based non-profit organization. UFI's mission is to develop urban farming as a viable commercial industry that creates green-collar jobs for local residents in communities of color, primarily in Boston, specifically Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan.

FOR INFO: Call 617-989-9920 Email: [ufiboston@gmail.com](mailto:ufiboston@gmail.com)



**Slow Rise Breads from  
Nashoba Brook Bakery.**

Anything worth having  
is worth waiting for.

VISIT OUR CAFÉ - DELICIOUS + FRESH  
FROM SCRATCH 7 DAYS/WK  
152 COMMONWEALTH AVE, WEST CONCORD MA 01742  
(978) 318 1999 • [WWW.SLOWRISE.COM](http://WWW.SLOWRISE.COM)



**Living Potting  
Soil for Organic  
Growers**

Contact us  
for a quote

**[vermontcompost.com](http://vermontcompost.com)**

802-223-6049 | Montpelier, Vermont

**WE SPEAK ORGANIC**



Room 346

**Film Showing****Arc of Justice and discussion of Community Land Trusts**

Secure long term tenure is a challenge for urban farming across the state. With land security, infrastructure investments and land use are protected. This film tells the story of the first Community Land Trust – its formation by civil rights activists, dissolution in the era of Jim Crow, and its recent re-formation. This panel will discuss why land trusts are effective instruments for collective land ownership and protection, how they apply to urban farms and the experience of participating in a Community Land Trust.

**Speakers:** Barbara Knecht, Registered Architect, Urban Farming Institute

Tony Hernandez, DNI Director of Operations & Stewardship, Dudley Street Neighbors Inc.

LaShawn M. Hoffman, Managing Partner, Hoffman & Associates, Atlanta, GA

Room 320

**Rural and Urban Farms:  
Growing the Partnership**

Join a conversation with business owners representing both urban and rural farming enterprises, to discuss an evolving partnership and how to meet the needs of Massachusetts residents in all communities. Panelists will share their business models that utilize new markets, create new revenue streams, train and mentor new farmers, in order to strengthen the local food system and increase access to healthy food for all.

**Facilitator:** Stevie Schafenacker, Technical Assistance Coordinator, Buy Local Food

**Speakers:** Lydia Sisson, Founding Co-Director, Mill City Grows

Mark Smith, President, Brookwood Community Farm

Karen Washington, Co-Owner, Rise & Root Farm

David Dumaresq, Farmer, Farmer Dave's

Tory Field, Projects Manager, Next Barn Over Farm, Hadley, MA

Room 333

**Youth in the Food System:  
Beyond Fast Food**

Let's flip the script on the quintessential burger-flipping, coffee slinging job that many urban youth think of when it comes to entering the workforce. With a focus on public health and equity, this panel discussion will explore the social, health and economic impacts of low-wage food service jobs that are plentiful in our urban centers, and how we can better prepare youth to enter the food workforce as change agents. Panelists will represent initiatives around the state that engage young people in relevant and empowering workforce development programs in the food industry. We'll discuss the current landscape of food industry labor, how it's changing, and how to best prepare youth to join the workforce in support of a healthy, just and sustainable food system.

**Facilitator:** Francey Slater, Founding Co-Director, Mill City Grows

**Speakers:** Shavel'le Olivier, Co-Chair/Youth Coordinator, Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition

Juana Lopez, Green Team Member, Groundwork Lawrence

Heather Conley, Community Food Manager, Groundwork Lawrence

Jackson Renshaw, Co-Owner, Fresh Food Generation

Youth Participant, UTEC, Lowell

Room 318

**The Economic Impact of Cultural Crops**

Panelists will focus on crops popular among the different ethnic/immigrant communities in Massachusetts. This will include the importance of knowing the Latin name of each crop in order to be able to understand and implement the appropriate nutrient and crop management. Specific examples of crops popular among immigrant groups in our region will be discussed. Information will also be provided on promotion and marketing strategies and the use of enterprise budgets to know the economic viability of these crops.

**Facilitator:** Christopher Muhammad, Director of Operations, Community Servings

**Speakers:** Frank Magnan, PhD, Stockbridge School of Agriculture, UMass Amherst

Maria Moreira, Executive Director and Co-Founder, World Farmers

Rafael Herrero, Director of Agriculture and Environment, Nuestras Raices

Room 322

**Protecting Intellectual Property in Urban Farm & Food Businesses**

Think intellectual property is only for seeds? Think again, protecting your brand is critical to your success. From trademarks, trade secrets, copyrights, and domain names, learn what steps to take to protect your brand and your business.

**Speaker:** Mary Rose Scozzafava, Ph.D, Partner, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr



**Urban and Small Farm Financing 101**

Urban and small farmers at the early stages of their business venture will receive guidance with the "nuts and bolts" of financial management and planning for success. This discussion will frame what you will need to "bring to the table" to meet your financial goals and will also focus on various funding options for urban farmers and offer guidance on securing capital for much needed infrastructure and equipment investments.

**Facilitator:** Ruth Goldman, Program Officer, Merck Family Fund

**Speakers:** Gerard Kennedy, Director, DACTA, Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources  
Samantha Stoddard, Loan Officer, Farm Credit East, ACA

**Massachusetts Local Food Action Plan and the Role of Urban Agriculture**

The goals and recommendations in MA Local Food Action Plan touch on every aspect of the food system – from land access and soil health, to food waste and marketing. There are many intersections between urban agriculture and the plan, and the work of the MA Food System Collaborative, a group working on its implementation. This presentation will highlight some of those intersections, and offer an opportunity for discussion about collective action that will strengthen the urban agriculture sector.

**Speaker:** Winton Pitcoff, Director, Massachusetts Food System Collaborative

## LUNCH, NETWORKING, EXHIBITORS - 1:30-2:30 PM

Thank You 2017 UFC Vendors			
950 Design	Biodiversity for a Livable Climate	Boston Area Gleaners	Boston Food Forest Coalition
Boston Gardener	The Carrot Project	City Compost	City Soil & Greenhouse
The Conway School	Farm Credit East	The Farm School	Foundation for a Green Future
Freight Farms	Grove Labs	MDAR	New Entry Sustainable Farm
NOFA/Mass	OESCO	Regeneration Mass	Restoring Roots
Sustainable Business Network	Urban Farming Institute	USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service	Vermont Compost

The Merck Family Fund is proud & honored to sponsor the  
5th Annual Massachusetts Urban Farming Conference!



Congratulations to the Urban Farming Institute!  
Five Years in Boston  
Growing Food  
Growing Farms  
Growing People

To the attendees, organizers, partners, speakers, vendors, advertisers and sponsors,  
Thank you!

You make Boston greener, healthier, more just and sustainable.

Sponsorship of the Urban Farming Conference is part of The Merck Family Fund's goals to restore and protect the natural environment, ensure a healthy planet for generations to come, and to strengthen the social fabric and the physical landscape of the urban community.



The Merck Family Fund was established in 1954 by George W. Merck, President of Merck & Co., Inc. He created the fund for two principal reasons: to do good with the resources acquired through the company's success, and to create an opportunity to regularly bring family members together.

Learn more about our Urban Farming and Youth Leadership & propose a project for consideration at [merckff.org](http://merckff.org).

Room 318	<p><b>Greenhouse Management</b></p> <p>Controlled growing environments make the most use of limited space on an urban farm. In this talk greenhouse set up and management will be covered. Materials used to construct a greenhouse, heating systems, and layout will be the main focuses.</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> David Dumaresq, Farmer, Farmer Dave's</p>
Room 333	<p><b>Food Sovereignty, Urban Agriculture and Neighborhood Impacts</b></p> <p>Farms, gardens and other greening efforts improve neighborhoods and impact property value. Increasingly there is discussion and study of the impact of such projects on the people who initiate them. Are these changes precursors of displacement as gentrification follows local resident initiatives that increase open space, fresh food and environmental resilience in neighborhoods. What can residents do before gentrification to insure tenure and long term benefits without displacement. Join a discussion of how communities have succeeded in protecting local interests.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Catherine Sands, Director, Fertile Ground</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Bayoán Rosselló-Cornier, Community Organizer, Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative Emmanuel Pratt, Co-Founder &amp; Executive Director, Sweet Water Foundation Karen Washington, Co-Owner, Rise &amp; Root Farm</p>
Room 346	<p><b>Cultivating Success with Immigrant Farmers</b></p> <p>For decades Immigrant populations have found a home in Massachusetts, becoming an integral part of the community and making strong contributions to the Bay State's economy. With an increase of immigrants coming from agrarian backgrounds, there is a unique opportunity to support immigrant farmers in finding a sense of place, while supporting an increased demand for local foods in the face of an aging farmer population. Join us in discussing the opportunities, successes, and challenges of immigrant farmers in Massachusetts, and in supporting immigrant farmer businesses.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Jessie Gill, Program Director, World Farmers</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Rafael Herrero, Director of Agriculture and Environment , Nuestras Raices Immaculate Nyaigoti, Outreach Specialist, World Farmers Janel Wright, Farmer Training Program Manager, New Entry Sustainable Farming Project</p>
Room 322	<p><b>Crunching Numbers to Crush Your Season</b></p> <p>How to optimize information to expedite your learning curve to better manage your business and farm. Harvesting data is almost as important as harvesting vegetables. Much like seed needs to be saved and stored to plant again, data must also be harvested, and sorted to be fully optimized. In order to do so, you must have systems in place. Using a series techniques and specific spread sheets, Curtis will show you how it all comes together so that you can apply it to your farming season immediately. The numbers don't lie. This kind of information can open a whole new world of possibilities.</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Curtis Stone, Green City Acres, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada</p>
Room 440	<p><b>Soil Fertility</b></p> <p>This session will emphasize the importance of having soil tested where food crops will be grown, how to take soil tests to be submitted for analysis and how to interpret the results such that the appropriate rates of lime and plant nutrients will be applied, if needed. The session will also cover the importance of the potential for lean contamination in urban soils and how to address it.</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Frank Magnan, PhD, Stockbridge School of Agriculture, UMass Amherst</p>
Room 320	<p><b>The Case for a Smarter and More Integrated Agriculture Industry</b></p> <p>We need more young farmers to be involved in the MA Agriculture Industry. For new farmers, choosing what to grow, where to grow, and how to grow can be a complicated choice. Their business can fail if they invest in the wrong approach to begin with.</p> <p>This session will feature a presentation on emerging technologies and business models in AgTech. Technologies including vertical farming and hydroponics will be discussed in the context of the broader spectrum of agriculture. A thesis for a smarter and more integrated food system in MA will be presented. Then, a discussion about encouraging the most appropriate agriculture technologies in MA will follow.</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Henry Gordon Smith, Managing Director, Blue Planet Consulting</p>



---

Room 340

**Season Extension:  
Techniques and Tools**

Join Greg Maslowe, seasoned farmer manager who will share his techniques on how to best extend your growing season and production capacity. He will share his best practices, as well as some of his failures, to help you learn what you can do to increase your urban farm's viability. This session will cover tunnel production, materials, crop selection, irrigation, harvesting, maintenance, soil protection, and transplants.

**Speaker:** Greg Maslowe, Farm Manager, Newton Community Farm

---

## SESSION FOUR - 2:45-3:45 PM

---

Room 333

**Diversifying the Field**

**Stories from the Front Lines**

A conversation on building equity in all aspects of food change work. Our facilitator will weave a conversation with the panelists to draw out personal stories about their commitment to food and justice, and to draw out some examples of steps organizations can take to build an inclusive, learning environment. Participants will leave with tools for personal and organizational change making.

**Speakers:** Shani Dowd, Director of Culture InSight, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation  
Rose Gonzalez, Community Engagement Director, Groundwork Lawrence  
Talib Toussaint Paskins, Food Justice and Market Manager, Gardening the Community  
Anne Richmond, Co-Director of Administration and Finance, Gardening the Community

---

Room 320

**Youth and Entrepreneurship: Models for Success**

Today's panel will highlight their innovative programs that bring urban food production, youth entrepreneurship, and new employment opportunities to teens in their communities. Learn about the successes and lessons learned, through projects that are creating small business opportunities and job training directly related to urban farming for young people.

**Facilitator:** Dave Maden, Founding Trustee, Urban Farming Institute  
**Speaker:** Michael Barnett, Professor of Science Education and Technology, Boston College  
Ed Frechette, CIO, UTEC, Lowell  
Maya Paul, YouthGROW Program

---

Room 318

**Agribusiness, Outreach and Marketing**

Showcasing successful models, such as Farm Fresh Rhode Island's farm to business delivery system, Market Mobile, we will explore how to work with different distribution models, accessing infrastructure through wholesale and distribution channels. Working smarter through technology, how do we market and brand and ourselves to gain access to niche customers and have more of a voice in regards to food sourcing? How do we partner and outreach to like-minded people in the food system like food incubators? How can we add resiliency to your crop by producing more Value added products and allow B-Grade Produce to work in your favor to reduce waste and bring you profits?

**Speaker:** Michelle Cruz, Business Development & Outreach Manager, Farm Fresh Rhode Island  
Georgina Sarong, Farmers Markets Program Manager, Farm Fresh Rhode Island

---

Room 346

**Boost Your Farm Power with Chickens**

Love the local food movement? Ever thought you might like to try keeping your own chickens? Want to add a flock for your school or community garden? Come join "The Chickeness", Khrysti Smyth, of Yardbirds Backyard Chickens for a rundown of popular breeds, housing needs and design, feeding and care, health, laws and zoning, info on how to effortlessly mix chickens and neighbors, and everything else you might want to know about keeping your own backyard chickens. Course materials will be provided, and each attendee will receive a signed Certificate of Course Completion. Come find out whether keeping chickens might be a good addition to your garden, your school, your kitchen, and your community's overall health and wellbeing, and (hopefully) meet a few of her feathered Chicken Ambassadors too!

**Speaker:** Khrysti Smyth, Founder, Yardbirds Backyard Chickens

---

---

Room 322

### **Intensive Production Systems For Urban Farms**

Maximizing the output of land with intensive strategies such as verticalization, intercropping, crop season optimization, season extension, and hi-rotation planting.

Urban farms are often faced with the logistical challenge of operating on small land bases and sometimes multiple plots of land. In this lecture, Curtis will explore key strategies on how to maximize the output of the land without expanding your land base. Techniques such as verticalization, intercropping, crop season optimization, season extension, and hi-rotation planting will be examined.

**Speakers:** Curtis Stone, Green City Acres, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada

---

Room 340

### **Food Safety/FSMA: Everything You Need To Know**

Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) comprise a prerequisite program that can be utilized to manage food safety risks as produce transitions from the field to packing environments. The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) is a set of rules and regulations created by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to create safeguards in food production. It places a large financial and logistical burden on small to mid-scale farmers across the U.S. Any farm making over \$25,000 a year in produce sales could be affected, i.e. most fruit and vegetable production farms in America. In this workshop, get the facts and the current status of these regulations and how they may impact your urban farming enterprise.

**Speakers:** Michael Botelho, Commonwealth Quality Program Manager, MDAR

---

## **CLOSING KEYNOTE - 4:15-5:15**

Ballroom

# **Civic Synergy and Urban Agriculture Democratizing Food Production**

Civic synergy is the collective power of people in organized networks to transform the systems that affect their lives. Cities possess latent political power that organized networks of citizens can transform into political power enabling them to improve the quality of life for their families and communities as a whole. In fact, Jane Jacobs and others have argued that cities wield more influence in shaping economies than either nations or states. Urban agriculture is an example of civic synergy in action. As powerful as it is, the movement has yet to realize its full potential. How might we make that happen?

**Speaker:** Greg Watson, Director for Policy and Systems Design,  
Schumacher Center for a New Economics



**AMAZING THINGS HAPPEN**

**WHEN PEOPLE WORK TOGETHER**

We're honored to partner with the Urban Farming Institute of Boston in their mission to develop and promote healthy and locally based food systems throughout urban communities. Our Foundation is focused in helping people cultivate their own food and create sustainable communities.

The Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation is proud to sponsor the 5th Annual Massachusetts Farming Conference.



**Harvard Pilgrim  
Health Care**



## Since 1954. Tools & Equipment for Farmers.



### Call us for a catalog

We are open 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday  
and 7:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Saturday



P.O. Box 540, 8 Ashfield Rd.  
Rt. 116, Conway, MA 01341

800-634-5557 [www.oescinc.com](http://www.oescinc.com)

## 2016 Massachusetts Urban Farming Conference Panelist & Facilitator Biographies

Listed Alphabetically

### Aa

**Danielle Andrews** manages the Boston farms and year round Dudley greenhouse at The Food Project. This operation relies on youth and volunteers to produce veggies for 2 farmers markets, multiple restaurant accounts and donations to food pantries. The Dudley Greenhouse includes both enterprise and community sections where multiple groups use space to support their urban agriculture programs.

### Bb

**Michael Barnett** is a professor of science education and technology in the Lynch School of Education at Boston College and a CASE/Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Professor of Year for the state of Massachusetts. Dr. Barnett is currently the leader editor for two forthcoming books on how Urban Agriculture programs can be utilized to improve youth learning of science.

**Michael Botelho** started at MDAR in 2008. He previously organized the Dairy Revitalization Task Force and had considerable experience as a businessman familiar with setting up new ventures. He researched and developed the Commonwealth Quality Program "seal of quality" program that emphasizes Massachusetts locally grown products, highlights best management practices, agricultural product safety and the quality and freshness of the Commonwealth's agricultural products.

**Sarah Brezniak** is the Principal at Captus Group. She comes to Massachusetts from Washington DC where she was a federal contractor. Her career includes program management, business development, environmental research and operations focusing on public safety, security and sustainability. Sarah uses her experience to mentor cleantech and social impact startups through CleanTech Open and MassChallenge. Her work in urban ag began while developing concepts for MIT Climate CoLab.

**Dr. Joe Buttner** is a Professor in the Department of Biology at Salem State University, Outreach Specialist for the Cat Cove Marine Laboratory and Co-coordinator for the Northeastern Massachusetts Aquaculture Center. He is a life member

of the American Fisheries Society, Charter Member of the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association, a Trustee for the Massachusetts Aquaculture Association and an AFS Certified Fisheries Scientist. His teaching, research and extension efforts target freshwater and marine organisms, finfish and shellfish, open, semi-closed and closed aquaculture systems.

### Cc

**Heather Conley** is a resident of Lawrence, She brings over fifteen years of experience fighting for social justice through community organizing and youth development. She manages Groundwork Lawrence's 1/2 acre urban farm and oversees the Green Team program, a year-round job-readiness and youth empowerment program with the dual goals of preparing Lawrence's youth for a lifetime of environmental and healthy community leadership, and investing in our community's future and capacity to improve its physical environment.

**Mr. James Carnazza** is Founder and President of Full Circle Earth (FCE, Inc. 2012). Accredited Organic Land Care Professional in 2011. James is an alumnus of Salem State with an education in sociology,



Wegmans Organic Farm

## Organics from Family Farms Near Our Stores

The Wegmans Organic Farm partners with family farms that are near our stores so we are less reliant on the west coast for organics. Together we work to extend our brief growing season, and make organic farming a more economically sustainable option.

**Wegmans**  
(617) 762-2000 • [wegmans.com](http://wegmans.com)

social work, and is pursuing a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling through UMASS Boston. James has experiences in several key areas relevant to FCE including vocational training, community building, permaculture gardening, organic land care, aquaponics, composting, and music.

**Christine Clarke** represents the Massachusetts State Conservationist USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service. As State Conservationist, Chris is responsible for overall management and delivery of USDA/NRCS programs in the Commonwealth. Chris started her career as a soil scientist and during her 32 year career with the agency has held a variety of positions in several states and Washington DC. Chris is a graduate of URI and served in Jamaica with the Peace Corps.

**Bayoán Rosselló-Cornier** is a community organizer and planner for the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative. Along with Alternative for Community and Environment and The Food Project, he helped facilitate a 9-month food planning process where a group of Dudley residents came together to envision the food system they want for the neighborhood: Dudley Grows. While a studying for a Master of Public Policy in Tufts' UEP Department, he continues committed to food justice in the Dudley neighborhood through Dudley Grows' efforts.

**Alex Crabb**, Chef, Asta, Boston

**Michelle Cruz** is the Business Development & Outreach Manager at Farm Fresh RI, and works closely with their wholesale program, Market Mobile. Cruz is the CEO of her own line of natural hair, beauty and home products called Natural Creola and co-founder URBAN Facts.

## Dd

**Chef Peter Davis's** motto is "fresh and honest". After working in international hotels including the Hyatt Regency Singapore, the Bali Hyatt, the Grand Hyatt Hong Kong, and The Peninsula Beverly Hills, he returned to Boston as Executive Chef at The Charles Hotel in 1995. An avid conservationist with ties to New England fishing and farming communities, He was an early proponent of local products. A true "working chef," involved in daily operations of the restaurant. Opening of Henrietta's Table was a lifelong ambition.

**Dr. Shani Dowd**, B.A., LHD(hc), L.C.S.W. serves as Director of Culture InSight, a program of the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation. Ms. Dowd is Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, at the

Boston University School of Medicine, and is a member of the faculty of the Center for Multicultural Training in Psychology at Boston University. She serves on the Board of Trustees of William James College (formerly the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology.

**David Dumaesq** has been a self-employed farmer for 20 years. Farmer Daves has grown to include an APR farm and several leased fruit and vegetable farms in Dracut, Westford, and Tewksbury. Several greenhouses help to extend the harvest season which now offers 41 weeks of CSA shares, several famers markets and three farm stands. He has spent time working overseas in agriculture in Latin America and Africa. More recently he has spent four winters working as a consultant on a USAID Economic Prosperity Initiative in the Republic of Georgia building their greenhouse vegetable industry. His 8 month old twins will encourage him to spend more time locally.

## Ee

Chef and Author **Didi Emmons** earned her BS in food service management at NYU, was an apprentice to La Varenne in Paris and opened restaurants including Haley House Bakery Cafe, a non-profit in Roxbury, whose staff are people transitioning from homelessness and incarceration. She began "Take Back the Kitchen," at the cafe teaching area residents to eat and cook healthfully. *Vegetarian Planet* was nominated for a James Beard Award. and *Entertaining for a Veggie Planet* won "Best Book in the Healthy Category" by the International Association of Cooking Professionals. Didi wrote *Wild Flavors* after meeting Eva Sommaripa whose herbs and greens are used by Boston-area chefs.

**Jen Faigel** is a co-founder of CropCircle Kitchen, now CommonWealth Kitchen (CWK), and became Executive Director in 2014. Jen is responsible for organizational strategy, raising funds, wrangling staff and businesses, developing and managing partnerships, and managing the chaos. Jen's background is in real estate and community economic development. She was a real estate consultant for the Pearl project, which is home to CWK's flagship operation. She has developed more than 400 affordable homes and over 225,000 SF of commercial real estate as a means to create jobs and economic opportunity.

**Tory Field**, Projects Manager, Next Barn Over Farm, Hadley, MA

**Ed Frechette** - As Chief Innovation officer, Ed is constantly looking for new ways to enable UTEC to help youth transform their lives. He is currently focusing on creating a range of social enterprises that will provide real-world work opportunities for the young adults and revenues for the organization.

**Bruce Fulford** is President of City Soil & Greenhouse LLC. He pioneered composting, bioenergy, four-season crop production and storm water management practices and projects. His company built Mattapan EcoVation Center, operates City of Boston's Composting Facility, manufactures and delivers composts, mulches, soils and provides technical assistance to gardeners and growers. He works with organizations in land remediation, sustainable agriculture, fundraising, and training. He is a member of the Massachusetts Audubon Society Council's Climate Committee and was briefly Goat Milking Champion of Pennsylvania

## Gg

**Jessy Gill** works closely with the farmers at Flats Mentor Farm to develop and refine all programs and services to fit individual needs as well as support farmers in pursuing new opportunities. Prior to joining World Farmers Jessy has worked with a local NGO in Northern Kenya, on a farm in the Green Mountains of Vermont, and led federal, state, and local policy efforts at the Community Food and Justice Coalition in Oakland, California.

**Ruth Goldman** has 20+ years of experience in environmental issues, youth development and experiential education. She started a consulting practice to work with foundations and philanthropic networks to build capacity for change on urban environmental issues including food systems, green infrastructure, sustainable communities, and the role of urban youth in the green economy. Ruth is the Consulting Program Officer at the Merck Family Fund and co-Chair of Community Food Funders at the North Star Fund in New York City. She holds a BA in Comparative Religion and Education from Dartmouth College and a M.Ed. from the University of Toronto.

**Rose Gonzalez** is responsible for outreach, managing volunteers and events, and overseeing GWL's food programs such as the farmers market, community garden network, urban farm and healthy on the block bodega initiative. Several years ago she developed our "Eat Right / Move More" curriculum, which is now the foundation of a city-wide schoolyard gardening program and she is also the chair of the Healthy Active Living working group of the Mayors Health Task Force.



## Hh

**Mia Halter** is the District Conservationist (DC) for the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, grew up on a cranberry farm along the Pacific ocean outside Bandon, Oregon. Served in the USCG (small boat rescue) and graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in Crop & Soil Science. Has worked with Soil & Water Conservation Districts and the USDA-NRCS nineteen (19) years all together.

**Tony Hernandez** is the Director for Dudley Neighbors Incorporated. He is a leader in advancing Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative and the organization's work to reclaim brownfields in the community while avoiding resident displacement. Tony has lived on the Dudley Land Trust along with his school age daughter for the past 15 years. He has a Master's degree in architecture, and has played an integral role in community development and ensuring affordable housing for low income families in his community.

**Rafael Herrero** is the Director of Agriculture and Environment for Nuestras Raices Inc. He completed his bachelor's degree in Agriculture from the University of Puerto Rico and a master's degree in Landscape Architecture from the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico. Before working for Nuestra Raices he worked from the Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture and different farms across the area. He is the director for the new farmer training program of Nuestras Raices, a NRCS grant to train 100 new farmers in 2 years.

**LaShawn M. Hoffman** is the Managing Partner of Atlanta-based Hoffman & Associates, which is focused on smart community development, strategic neighborhood planning, community building and civic engagement, traditional and non-traditional land-use, and successful, influential non-profit management. The intersection of public health and community development is an important factor in LaShawn's approach to comprehensive community revitalization and development. LaShawn work with clients to develop measurable indicators and outcomes to evaluate the social impact of their work.

## Kk

**Tristram Keefe** is an Urban Farmer from Boston, Mass. He is currently the Farm Manager at the Urban Farming Institute where he manages production on three urban farms in Dorchester and Roxbury. After completing the Urban Farming Institute's farmer training

program, Tristram held the position of Farm Manager at City Growers LLC from 2013 to 2015. When he is not in the fields Tristram enjoys deejaying, cooking, and wild foods

**Gerard Kennedy** oversees the Division of Agricultural Conservation and Technical Assistance at MDAR which is responsible for agricultural land preservation and provides funding and support to farmers for agricultural stewardship, including the urban agriculture program. Gerard is a graduate of Tufts University's Agriculture Food and the Environment program.

**Barbara Knecht** is a registered architect who has been developing land for public benefit in cities for more than thirty years. Working with the Urban Farming Institute (UFI) brings together her experience developing urban land with a love of all things edible. Ms. Knecht holds degrees in architecture from UC Berkeley and Columbia University.

## LI

**Jeff LaFleur** serves as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts where he oversees the implementation of technical assistance providers assisting land owners with conservation programs and regulatory certainty. Jeff and his wife Kim have two children and own Mayflower Cranberries a 112 acre farm in Plympton, Massachusetts.

**Irene Li** co-owns the Mei Mei group of businesses: a food truck, a restaurant, a shipping container kitchen, and a line of sauce. In addition to overseeing all operations, she directs purchasing and menu development and is passionate about local farms, local food infrastructure, and pasture-raised meats. Her work is informed by her experiences organizing for social justice and working on a diverse set of farms.

**Glynn Lloyd** is founder and President of City Fresh Foods, a community food service company delivering thousands of meals a day to childcare, students and homebound elders. Glynn is founder and board member of The Urban Farming Institute a current board member of Project Bread. Currently, Glynn is the Managing Director of Boston Impact Initiative- a social impact fund investing in transformative urban entrepreneurs.

**Juana Lopez** has been a member of the Groundwork Lawrence Green Team for 3 and a half years. A resident of Lawrence, Juana takes great pride in working with the Green Team on multiple projects that clean, green and feed her community. Juana has worked at GWL's Urban Farm for the past two summers and is an expert at marketing and engaging customers at GWL's farmers markets.

## Mm

**Dave Madan** is a founding trustee of the Urban Farming Institute, and a partner at Boston Investments, a real estate development firm. He was previously founder and director of theMOVE, a social justice and sustainability education nonprofit, and vice-chair of the board of trustees of the UUSC, an international human rights nonprofit. He was raised in Cambridge, and has a bachelors degree in business and urban planning from UC Berkeley.

**Frank Magnan**'s program is to evaluate production and marketing systems for vegetable and herb crops with an emphasis on crops popular among the growing immigrant communities. Starting in 2011, they begun to work with urban growers as part of an overall systems approach to provide fresh produce to urban populations. They created a Facebook page to report on this work ([facebook.com/umassurbanag](https://facebook.com/umassurbanag)). Magnan's PhD was in soil fertility as it relates to vegetable production.

**Greg Maslowe** is Farm Manager of Newton Community Farm (NCF). He has managed NCF since its inception in the spring of 2006. Before coming to NCF, Greg was a doctoral student in Boston University's Science, Philosophy and Religion interdisciplinary program. His research focused on the ethics of genetically modified crops. He took a terminal Masters degree when he left the program to farm full time. Greg also has a Masters of Theological Study from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in systematic and philosophical theology. He lives at NCF with his wife and two children.

**Maria Moreira** implements research, works with farmers and teaches in the area of sustainable vegetable production. A focus of his research has been to identify crops that can be grown in the Northeastern United States popular among the growing immigrant populations in our region. Works closely with markets to promote and sell these crops. Addresses the financial sustainability of growing and marketing these crops. Results of this work are available at website he maintains: <http://worldcrops.org/>

**Maria Moreira** has mentored beginning farmers since 1984. She is a businesswoman, a farmer, a mother, and an advocate. Maria has been a leading force in identifying and establishing market opportunities for ethnic crops in Massachusetts, increasing access to culturally appropriate crops for immigrant and refugee communities. Maria has sat



on numerous Organizational Boards, and always prioritized bringing the voice of the farmer to the table.

**James Mussoni**, Specialist, Integrated Pest Management

## Nn

**Immaculate Nyaigoti** is a native of Kenya and has lived in the United States since 2001. She is currently an Outreach Specialist at World Farmers, and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Political Science degree at UMass Amherst. As a first generation immigrant and daughter of farmers, she has had the opportunity to not only see the challenges that farmers face, but has also lived them for herself.

## Oo

**Shavel'le Olivier** is passionate about her community. At the age of 17 she joined a youth group called Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition. Seven years later she is the co-chair and organizes a successful event called Mattapan on Wheels. After graduating from Boston College with a marketing and management/leadership degree she completed 2 years of AmeriCorps with DREAM. Her experience with DREAM and MFFC led to her take the journey of completing her Masters in Non-Profit Management.

## Pp

**Maya Paul** is a senior at Claremont Academy in Worcester and a Junior Staff of the YouthGROW Program. She has worked with YouthGROW for three years.

**Talib Toussaint Paskins** is the Food Access and Market Manager for Gardening the Community. Passionate about racial equity and community development, Toussaint has focused his attention on food insecurity in Mason Square. Being new to gardening, Toussaint has fallen in love with the power food has to bring people together. As a native of Springfield, MA, he takes pride in seeking to develop a self-sustaining community and equity for its residents.

**Anastasia Perullo** recently completed all requirements for her B.Sc. in Biology from Salem State University. She plans to attend the formal graduation ceremony and receive her diploma in May. As part of her senior research project she became involved in an on-going aquaponics project and has elected to continue pursuing aquaponics now that she has essentially graduated.

**Dawn Pindell** has worked as an advocate for farmers for 37 years at the USDA Farm Service Agency. FSA has locally elected County Committees and works to provide farm ownership/operating loans, low interest funding for farm storage facility loans, and safety net programs like the Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program which are enacted through national Farm Bills. Since October 2016, her focus is with helping farmers connect to FSA programs, with an emphasis on new/beginning farmers.

**Winton Pitcoff** is Director of the Massachusetts Food System Collaborative, which works to promote, monitor, and facilitate implementation of the Massachusetts Local Food Action Plan. He is also coordinator of the Massachusetts Maple Producers Association, previously worked as a dairy technical consultant for NOFA/Mass, and ran an ice cream business. He has raised goats, cows, pigs, chickens, and bees.

**Emmanuel Pratt** is co-founder and Executive Director of the Sweet Water Foundation and the Director of Aquaponics for Chicago State University. His work involves explorations and investigations in the topics of architecture, urbanization, race/identity, gentrification, and transformative processes of community development through intersections of food security and sustainable design innovation. He explores the role of art and social praxis as a component of urban design, farming, and sustainability with a concentration on the creation of paradigms for city planning. He is a Loeb Fellow at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University.

**Laura Presutti** a recent graduate of Salem state university holds her B.Sc. in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. She began working with aquaponics as part of her senior research project. As of now, Laura is exploring career opportunities and continues to learn just what can be created with aquaponics. Laura plans to attend the formal graduation ceremony and receive her degree in May.

## Rr

**Jackson Renshaw** is one of the owners at Fresh Food Generation and an alum of The Food Project. FFG is a catering company with a food truck and cafe at the DotHouse Health Center in Dorchester. Their mission is to bring healthy, locally sourced, and



affordable options to all neighborhoods of Boston with their catering, cafe, and food truck. He has a BS in Ecological Agriculture, and experience in youth development and entrepreneurship.

**Anne Richmond** is the Co-Director of Administration and Finance for Gardening the Community (GTC). She is passionate about local food, urban agriculture, and organizing for racial equity. Anne was born and raised in Cincinnati Ohio, and has lived in Springfield, MA for the past 20 years with her partner Todd and their two children Kyle and Aaron. She has over 25 years of program, fundraising and community development experience and is an anti-racist organizer and trainer.

## Ss

**Catherine Sands** is the director of Fertile Ground, designs and implements participatory and impact evaluation for community food projects and foundations throughout the Northeast. She is an adjunct food policy professor at UMASS Amherst, contracts with the Harvard Pilgrim Healthy Food Fund, helped develop the MA Local Food Action Plan, and co-chairs the PV Grows Racial Equity in the Food System Committee.

**Georgina Sarong** is the Farmers Markets Program Manager at Farm Fresh Rhode Island and Co-founder of Urban FACTS (Food Agriculture Collaborative Talk Sessions) and CEO of Layer of Taste.

**Stevie Schafenacker** is the Technical Assistance Coordinator with the Local Hero Program at CISA (Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture), an organization dedicated to strengthening farms and engaging the community in local agriculture in the Pioneer Valley. Prior to moving to MA, she worked in urban agriculture for 9

years in NYC, as a farm manager, educator, and consultant for other food and farm organizations and businesses.

**Mary Rose Scozzafava** is a partner in the Intellectual Property Department of WilmerHale and advises clients in the areas of patent, trademark and copyright. She is an experienced attorney who represents technology clients, particularly in the areas of solar energy, energy storage and renewable fuels. Mary Rose also is an avid gardener and a board member of LexFarm, a non-profit community farm privately operated on town-owned land.

**Lydia Sisson** is the Co-Director of Mill City Grows. Before founding Mill City Grows, Lydia ran a 5 acre CSA farm for four years. She has also worked at youth farms, CSA farms, and in meat and egg production. She holds a BA in Environmental Studies from Vassar College, a Master degree in Economic and Social Development of Regions from University of Massachusetts – Lowell. Lydia currently serves on MA Governor's Board of Food and Agriculture.

**Francey Slater** is the Co-Director of Mill City Grows and oversees the Community and Education Programs. Francey is a seasoned educator and gardener; she holds a BA in Biological Basis of Behavior and a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction, as well as a Master Gardener certificates. Her experience creating garden-based educational programming spans a decade, several continents, and youth through adult learners. Francey's work in Lowell focuses on working within the community to generate resiliency and community-based solutions to some of our most pressing food system challenges

**Mark Smith** is co-founder and president of Brookwood Community Farm, a non-profit community farm in Milton that operates a 300-member CSA and works to improve food security in several Boston neighborhoods. Mark is the former communications director at Farm Aid.

**Henry Gordon-Smith** is a sustainability strategist focused on urban agriculture, water issues, and emerging technologies. He has a BA in Political Science from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, a certificate in Food Security and Urban Agriculture from Ryerson University, and an MSc in Sustainability Management from Columbia University. He is the founder of Agritecture.com and an Association for Vertical Farming (AVF) board member. Two years ago, Henry launched Blue Planet Consulting, where he helps entrepreneurs with urban agriculture feasibility studies, concept development, recruiting, and systems design.

**Khrysti Smyth** (The Chickeness) is an urban backyard chicken farmer and founder of Yardbirds Backyard Chickens. Using experience in animal husbandry, veterinary technician skills, and Wildlife Ecology, she offers classes, chicken care training, coop/chicken consultation, brokering, help permitting, coop building/installation, maintenance and health check-up, chicken and farm sitting and consults cities on chicken-related regulations. She is an advocate for chickens as garden work-birds that consume weeds, bugs, thinned seedlings, dead leaves, grass cuttings, turn it into compost and provide eggs

**Cara Snajczuk** first began farming at a 100+ acre family farm in Edgartown, MA, where she specialized in tomato production. She currently lives and works at the Haley House soup kitchen in the South End and co-manages growing and programming at the Haley House Thornton Street Farm. The farm is collaborative partnership with Hawthorne Youth and Community Center on city-owned land in the Highland Park neighborhood of Roxbury.

**Samantha Stoddard** grew up on a dairy farm in northern NH, and now has over ten years' experience financing farmers in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, helping new and established farmers achieve their goals. She currently serves on the Board of the Massachusetts Flower Growers Association.

**Curtis Stone** is a farmer, author, speaker and consultant. His expertise is in quick growing, high value annual vegetables for direct consumer market streams. His book, *The Urban Farmer* demonstrates organic intensive techniques focusing on business and systems to streamline labor and production. His farm, Green City Acres in Kelowna, BC, Canada generates \$75,000+ in an eight month growing season on one third of an acre by specializing in high value, quick-growing crops for multiple plantings and calculated intercropping. The farm is recognized internationally, as an example of profitable and productive urban agriculture.

## Vv

**Steve Verrill** -Verrill Farm was established in 1918 as a dairy farm. After graduating from Cornell University in 1957, Steve assumed farming responsibilities from his dad and in 1972 began the transition to crops. Strawberries were one of the first crops grown followed by mixed varieties of vegetables. 1990, was the end of the dairy operation and the beginning of Verrill Farm, as it's known today. Currently, Verrill Farm grows everything from asparagus to zucchini, has a 250 member CSA, supplies produce to many restaurants and has a farm stand and kitchen.

## Ww

Since March 2000, **John Waite** has overseen all operations and programs of the Franklin County CDC, a regional economic development organization. He helped raise \$900,000 to build, equip and operate the Western MA Food Processing Center, which opened in 2001 and has served over 300 food and agricultural businesses. John has a BA from UMass, a Masters from Columbia University and spent 10 years working overseas with the Peace Corps, CARE, and several Microfinance programs.

**Karen Washington**, is a community activist and co-owner of Rise & Root Farm. In 2012 Ebony magazine voted her one of their 100 most influential African Americans in the country. In 2014 she was the recipient of the James Beard Leadership Award.

**Greg Watson** is Director of Policy and Systems Design at the Schumacher Center for a New Economics and oversees the Cuba-U.S. Agroecology Network. He served two terms as Massachusetts commissioner of Agriculture (1990-1993 and 2012-2015). As executive director of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (1995-1999) he worked to secure funding to build a 10,000 square foot greenhouse that has become one of the anchors of the Dudley community's urban agriculture program.

## Uu

**UTEC Youth Participant:** A UTEC's young adults participating on the Youth Panel. between 17-25 years old with a history of gang and/or criminal justice involvement. Many UTEC youth do not have a high school credential and nearly half have at least one child of their own. These participants work in one of UTEC's social enterprises and education program.

**Janel Wright** provides technical assistance to New Entry's farmers, teaches exploring farmers with New Entry and with the Urban Farming Institute, and coordinates the Beginning Farmer Network of Massachusetts. She has over a decade of experience working in immigrant and refugee communities towards equitable fresh food access and revitalized local food systems. Janel holds a BA in Sociology and Social Work from Gordon College and a MS in International Agricultural Development from University of California, Davis.

# THANK YOU

2017 MASSACHUSETTS URBAN FARMING CONFERENCE SPONSORS

---

## PLATINUM SPONSORS

---



---

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

---

