



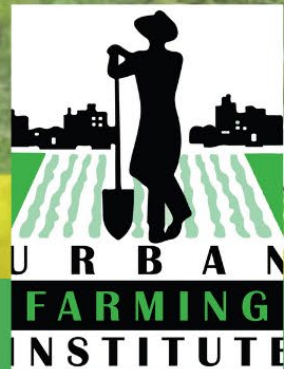
The Urban Farming Institute of Boston *in partnership with the*  
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources *presents*

**Our 7th**

# Massachusetts Urban Farming Conference

Join Us for this Exciting  
Virtual Conference

March 5, 6, 9 & 11, 2021



**Online Via Whoa**



# Welcome



Welcome Farmers and Friends,

We thank you for your steadfast support and continued partnership and collaboration. The Urban Farming Institute welcomes you to our 7th MA Urban Farming Conference, an expanded 4-day virtual conference with a separate Saturday track dedicated to the next generation of Urban Farmers - our youth.

Our support of each other and genuine caring for the health and wellness of our communities helped us all get through the last year. UFI's ongoing mission is to develop and promote urban farming to engage our neighbors and stakeholders in growing food and building a healthier community and a more locally based food system.

As we prepare for the 2021 growing season, we look forward to working with you and inviting you to our headquarters at the Fowler Clark Epstein Farm in Mattapan, MA. The once vacant 18th century farmhouse and 19th century barn is now a 21st century hub for urban farming, training and education in Boston.

This conference promises to be simply amazing and the most diverse to date. We encourage you to interact deeply with one another and build upon the exciting ideas that will emerge as we envision and create a more just and equitable future.

We want to thank our partner MDAR, our generous sponsors, presenters, our keynotes, volunteers, vendors, our event planning team, and longtime Urban Farming supporters! Have a great 4 days of engaged learning, meeting new friends and sharing.

As always, we thank our UFI board, staff, and consultants for being the catalyst behind this dream.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Patricia E. Spence'.

Patricia E. Spence President/CEO  
Urban Farming Institute  
Welcome!

# Welcome



Welcome!

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is pleased to welcome you to the 7th Massachusetts Urban Farming Conference.

MDAR is thrilled to once again, partner with the Urban Farming Institute to bring you informative panels, engaging speakers and a virtual experience that will connect farmers, partner organizations and leaders from in and outside of our state. The Baker-Polito Administration has made both rural and urban agriculture a priority and is committed to increasing fresh food access to all and to supporting policies that continue to foster a sustainable food system.

Our team hopes you take advantage of the ambitious 4-day agenda, crafted to spark conversation, inform and to build upon this multi-sector, urban farming network.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "John Lebeaux".

John Lebeaux  
Commissioner



## ***Presenting our Callaloo Sponsors***

**Henry P. Kendall**  
FOUNDATION



**L O V E ,**



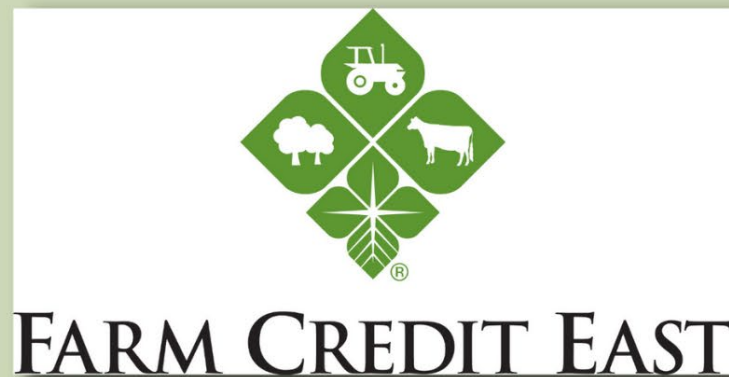
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# ***Presenting our Koussa Squash Sponsors***

## **MFF Merck Family Fund**



# Registration, Whova, & Technical Support

## Step 1: Have you registered for the conference in Eventbrite?

- **Yes.** Please refer to Step 2
- **No.** Visit <https://7thurbanfarmingconference.eventbrite.com>, then select the green **Tickets** button. Choose “General Admission.” Once your tickets are chosen, click **Checkout** and proceed with your preferred method of payment. Hooray!!! You are registered!



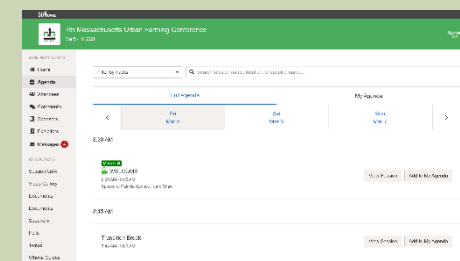
## Step 2: Join Whova - The Online Conference Platform

Whova is the virtual conference center. It is how you access pre-conference materials and resources, the conference sessions, virtual sponsor booths, and opportunities to connect with other attendees.



### For Ticket Holders using a Desktop or Laptop Computer:

1. Navigate to our event link - [https://whova.com/portal/webapp/ufiac1\\_202103/](https://whova.com/portal/webapp/ufiac1_202103/) Click “Sign up here” if you don’t have a Whova account yet.
2. Using the email used when registering in Eventbrite, fill in your email and create a password; otherwise, it won’t allow you to join the conference.
3. The app will automatically take you to the main conference page.
4. Find the Agenda tab on the left of the screen. You will see a list of



sessions.

5. You can move through different days by selecting the date you want to view on the calendar at the top of the agenda.
6. Once you find the session you want to access, tap on it.
7. If the session is live, it will begin playing immediately upon entering. Otherwise, a message will indicate the scheduled start time.
8. If the session hasn’t begun, you can click Add to My Agenda to put the session on your own personal agenda and set a reminder.
9. Continue exploring the virtual conference features.

For the best conference experience, please create your Whova account several days before the conference and view essential pre-conference materials.

### For Mobile Users:

1. Download Whova - Event & Conference App from your devices App Store.

2. Enter the email address you used for event registration or use your social media account. To automatically log in to your event, please make sure to use the email you used when registering for the event in Eventbrite.
3. View the complete Whova Guide for Attendees at <https://whova.com/pages/whova-app-user-guide/> to learn more about how to use the Q&A features, see who is attending the event, visit the community board or join a virtual meet up!

### **Can't Log on or Access a Conference Session?**

Use this [link](#) to reach our **Virtual Help Desk** if you need assistance accessing the conference on any conference day (March 5th, March 6th, March 9th, or March 11th). The Virtual Help Desk is open each conference day from 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM, except for March 6th, when it is open from 9:00AM - 12:30 PM and from 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM.

The Virtual Help Desk is an open Zoom room monitored by the conference Tech Team who is also attending the conference sessions. If you log on and find yourself in the waiting room for an extended period, please text 617-612-5576.

# Keynote and Featured Speakers

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Jillian Hishaw**  
Founder and C.E.O.  
F.A.R.M.S



**Emmanuel Pratt**  
Executive Director  
Sweetwater  
Foundation



**Karen Washington**  
Co-Owner, Rise & Root  
Farm; Co-Founder,...

## FEATURED SPEAKERS



**Greg Watson**  
Director  
Policy and Systems  
Design at the...



**Sha'Von Terrell**  
Deputy Director  
Black Church Food  
Security Network



**Rev. Mariama White-Hammond**  
Founding Pastor  
New Roots AME  
Church



# Conference at a Glance

**March 5, 2021**

Main Hall	Friday, March 5   8:30-8:45 AM <b>Welcome</b> Patricia Spence, Klare Shaw	Friday, March 5   12:00-1:00 PM <b>Keynote: System Land Theft</b> Jillian Hishaw, Esq, LLM	Friday, March 5   3:00-4:00 PM <b>Coalition Building</b> <b>Mass Urban Ag Coalition</b> Rebecca Miller, Elizabeth Wills-O'Gilvie, Lydia Sisson
	Friday <b>Session One</b> 9:00-10:00 AM	Friday <b>Session Two</b> 10:30-11:30 AM	Friday <b>Session Three</b> 1:45-2:45 PM
Track 1	Land Security is Food Security	Making of an Urban Farm	From Novelty to Necessity: Municipal Initiatives to Grow Urban Farms
Track 2	Grant Writing 101	Intensive Growing and Maximizing Your Farm Land	Intra-Community Urban Food Systems
Track 3	How to Interpret Your Soil Report and Balance Your Soil to Grow Nutrient Dense Food	Winter Markets - Crunching the Numbers	Season Extension Techniques and Tools

# Conference at a Glance

**March 6, 2021**

Main Hall	Saturday, March 6   8:30-8:45 AM <b>Day 2 Opening</b> Nataka Crayton	Saturday, March 6   11:30 AM-12:30 AM <b>Keynote: [Re]Creating Trust Through Food, Farming, and the Future</b> Emmanuel Pratt	Saturday, March 6   3:30 PM-4:00 PM <b>Closing- Sharing, Reflection, Intention</b> Patricia Spence, Nataka Crayton, Anna Gilbert-Muhammad
Main Hall	11:00– 11:30 AM Movement Break: Movement Arts Practices for Growing Bodies & Community Rooting – Capoeira Angolaaaaaaaaaa!	2:00-2:30 PM Sound Bath	
	Saturday <b>Session One</b> 9:00-10:00 AM	Saturday <b>Session Two</b> 1:00-2:00 PM	Saturday <b>Session Three</b> 2:30 PM-3:30 PM
Youth Track	Youth Welcome & Movement, Music, Intention	Urban Soil Bioremediation	Youth Food Justice Activism & Advocacy
Food Justice	Food Justice is Economic Justice	Sustainability WHAT?!?!?	Building Power: The Next Generation of Food Justice Activists and Leaders

# Conference at a Glance

**March 9, 2021**

Main Hall	Tuesday, March 11   8:30-8:45 AM <b>Day 3 Opening</b> Patricia Spence, John Lebeaux	Tuesday, March 11   11:45-1:00 PM <b>Community &amp; Faith Based Organizing for Healthier Communities</b> Sha'Von Terrell, Rev Mariama White-Hammond	Tuesday, March 11   3:00-4:00 PM <b>Keynote: Urban Farms/Food System as Incubators for Climate Change &amp; Applied Technology</b> Greg Watson
	Tuesday <b>Session One</b> 9:00-10:00 AM	Tuesday <b>Session Two</b> 10:30-11:30 AM	Tuesday <b>Session Three</b> 1:45-2:45 PM
Track 1	The Importance of Cultural Crop Development	Bio-nutrient Dense (BND) Principles in Raised Beds and Small Spaces	Farmland Access & Tenure Strategies
Track 2	Greenhouse Management	Diseased Management Strategies for Vegetables Seedling Production in the Greenhouse	Successful Pivots: Farmers Share Lessons Learned During Covid
Track 3	Food Safety	Community Property Management	Holistic Evaluation in Urban Agriculture

# Conference at a Glance

**March 11, 2021**

Main Hall	Thursday, March 11   8:30-8:45 AM <b>Day 4 Opening</b> Patricia Spence	Thursday, March 11   12:00-1:00 PM <b>Keynote: The Cost and Value of Growing Food</b> Karen Washington	Thursday, March 11   3:00-4:00 PM <b>Panel: The Importance of Women in Agriculture</b> Karen Washington, Jillian Hishaw, Jessica O'Neill
	Thursday <b>Session One</b> 9:00-10:00 AM	Thursday <b>Session Two</b> 10:30-11:30 AM	Thursday <b>Session Three</b> 1:45-2:45 PM
Track 1	Road Map to Financial Sustainability	Collecting and Tracking Farm/Market Data Through the Season	Bees and Beyond, Diversifying Your Urban Farm
Track 2	Musroom Production	Grow Soil, Grow Food: Urban Farming Without Farmland	Vertical Farming to Unlock Food Access and Improve Business Resiliency
Track 3			

# Session Descriptions

**Friday, March 5, 2021**

**9:00 AM-10:00 AM | Concurrent Sessions**

## Land Security is Food Security

**Speakers:** [Alex Rosso](#), [Dave Madan](#)

Presenters will share the legal steps to acquire land for urban farming, and how community land trusts can provide long-term land security how community land trusts can help solve the land availability gap for urban farmers of color.

## Grant Writing 101

**Speaker:** [Jessica Wilson](#)

Grants can be a key tool in expanding your business, and moving new projects and ideas forward, but for many it's hard to know where to begin. In this workshop, we will discuss how to create a grant writing strategy that works for you while ensuring that your proposals align with your mission and community needs. We'll think through creating a grant pipeline, structuring proposals, and effective funder communication to make processes that are both achievable and effective.

## How to Interpret Your Soil Report and Balance Your Soil to Grow Nutrient Dense Food

**Speaker:** [Laura Davis](#)

We will cover total exchange capacity and organic matter and what that means for your garden when considering amendments. We will also discuss Dr. Charles Albrecht's model for balancing and growing soil that will enable you to increase the nutrition in your food.

**10:30 AM-11:30 AM | Concurrent Sessions**

## Making of an Urban Farm

**Speaker:** [Miriam Gee](#)

We will discuss how to choose a site and design a farm. This presentation will serve as an overview of the legal and technical considerations of creating a new urban farm site.

## Intensive Growing and Maximizing Your Farm Land

**Speaker:** [Greg Maslowe](#)

Land is typically at a premium in urban environments, so understanding how to get the most out of your farm is crucial to meeting your financial and community goals. In this workshop we'll start with the big picture: how to think about the space you have available. We will then dive into some of the important details for maximizing productivity including fertility, spacing, succession planting, structures and tools for increasing your efficiency. Takeaways: Is your soil and fertility plan ready for intensive production? What systems can you put in place to maximize your yields? Partnering to make your small farm bigger than it actually is.

## Winter Markets - Crunching the Numbers

**Speaker:** [Chuck Currie](#)

Discussion will focus on what crops to grow and how crops compare profit-wise, as well as considerations for harvest, washing, storage, and transportation when doing winter sales. Presenter will also discuss market strategies, challenges and what it takes to have a successful winter market plan.



**12:00 PM-1:00 PM**

**Keynote: Systemic Land Theft**

**Speaker:** [Jillian Hishaw](#)

Hishaw talk will focus on the intersection between food and land justice as it relates to her upcoming book "Systematic Land Theft." Presently, White Americans own over 98 percent of farmland in the United States through the misappropriation of tribal nation land.

Hishaw talk will focus on the intersection between food and land justice as it relates to her upcoming book "Systematic Land Theft." Presently, White Americans own over 98 percent of farmland in the United States through the misappropriation of tribal nation lands and the exploitation of enslaved Africans. As the enslaved African population grew, the government welcomed immigrants from Europe to settle into the U.S., ensuring their majority status. As Europeans immigrated into the U.S., the adoption of English common law created the separation of land into statehood, thus replacing African and tribal groups' beliefs of communal living. The creation of state boundary lines and personal property rights became the foundation of U.S. modern property laws. Due to forced assimilation into the "new" American way of life, systematic tactics continue to dispossess Black and Tribal Nations out of land

Due to the history of land theft and property laws, Blacks lose 30,000 acres in land ownership per year. Hishaw will explore the history of European settlements in the Plain States as a replica for other U.S. regions and the present-day land loss of both exploited communities. Hishaw will provide recommendations regarding the valuation, legislation, and compensation for land reparations.

Attendees will learn:

- The history of how Whites have leveraged stolen land to become economically superior over other races.
- Why Whites presently own over 95 percent of U.S. farmland.
- The stark economic disparities of Blacks and tribal nations compared to Whites.
- Why Black farmers currently lose 30,000 acres of land ownership lost per year.

**1:45 PM-2:45 PM | Concurrent Sessions**

**From Novelty to Necessity: Municipal Initiatives to Grow Urban Farms**

**Speakers:** [Barbara Knecht](#), [Sara Dewey](#)

This interactive workshop will explore urban policies and regulations to promote urban farming. We are specifically interested in exploring how cities are supporting the permanent acquisition of land and development of farm sites. We will hear what municipalities are doing to facilitate and support the growth of urban farms which enhance neighborhoods, increase climate resilience, and reduce food insecurity. We will discuss the experiences and challenges of workshop participants with the aim of working toward shared principles and methods to apply in our respective cities.

**Intra-Community Urban Food Systems**

**Speakers:** [Denzel Mitchell](#), [Noli Taylor](#)

Presenters will highlight their network's impact and provide tools for connecting the urban farm site to local organizations, schools, health care entities, restaurants, and farmers. Discussion will center on production, multiple streams of income, as well as reducing food security issues on a neighborhood scale. This workshop will inspire you to see your community's eco-system as in intra-community food system.

**Season Extension Techniques and Tools**

**Speaker:** [Jeremy Barker Plotkin](#)

Jeremy Barker Plotkin co-owns and runs Simple Gifts Farm in Amherst, MA, which operates a year-round farm store and Community-Supported-Agriculture program. His presentation will cover the various season extension structures that he uses to harvest fresh produce every week of the year.

**3:00 PM-4:00 PM**

**Panel Intro to the Massachusetts Urban Agriculture Coalition**

**Speakers:** [Rebecca Miller](#), [Elizabeth Wills-O'Gilvie](#), [Lydia Sisson](#)

Join the MA Urban Agriculture Coalition for a discussion about how the coalition was started, what we did during the pandemic to share skills and support each other and where we are going in 2021! Come share and learn with fellow practitioners!

***Saturday, March 6, 2021***

**10:00 AM-11:00 AM | Concurrent Sessions**

**People's Wellness and Resistance! Movement Arts Practices for Growing Bodies & Community Rooting - Yoga, Meditation and Capoeira Angolaaaaaaaaaa!**

**Speakers:** [Marlene Boyette](#), [Pampi they/them](#)

How are Movement Practices connected to Urban Farming? Why do Communities Organize Gardens where they live? Why were movement practices like Meditation and Martial Arts developed and by Whom? Come try on a bit of Wellness for our Growing Bodies and learn about People's Wellness and Resistance! [wear comfortable clothes and stay hydrated (hot tea recommended)]

**Food Justice is Economic Justice**

**Speakers:** [Grantley Payne](#), [Dwaign Tyndal](#), [Chavella Lee-Pacheco](#)

Join us as we take a deep dive into the politics around the need for a real strategy to address injustice, backed by assurances to bring forward a just and equitable America. Panelists will discuss the importance of developing strong collaborations between organizations, city and state institutions, as we move toward meaningful change in our communities. The hope is to step out of our silo discussions around food as it is intrinsically connected to economics. Not to mention our people who are historically left out of the equation

**11:00 AM-11:30 AM**

**Main Hall: Mocement Break: Movement Arts Practices for Growing Bodies & Community Rooting – Capoeira Angolaaaaaaaaaa!**

**Speakers:** [Deraldo Ferreira](#), [Pampi they/them](#)

How are Movement Practices connected to Urban Farming? Why do Communities Organize Gardens where they live? Why were movement practices like Meditation and Martial Arts developed and by Whom? Come try on a bit of Wellness for our Growing Bodies and learn about People's Wellness and Resistance! [wear comfortable clothes and stay hydrated (hot tea recommended)]

**11:30 AM-12:20 PM**

**[Re]Creating Public Trust through Food, Farming, and the Future**

**Speaker:** [Emmanuel Pratt](#)

Sweet Water Foundation (SWF) is a community-rooted, nonprofit organization that practices Regenerative Neighborhood Development to create safe and inspiring spaces and curates healthy, intergenerational communities transforming the ecology of so-called 'blighted' neighborhoods. Utilizing a unique blend of urban design, urban agriculture, carpentry, art, and STE(A+)M focused the primary objective of SWF's work is the continued healing of the neighborhood, its land and

its people, and re-rooting of the community through a unique intersection across education, agriculture, arts, culture, and housing.

Since 2014, SWF has created a series of urban acupuncture inspired installations that actively re-story and re-construct a neighborhood located at the nexus of Englewood and Washington Park, two African American communities directly impacted by redlining and long-standing histories of municipal disinvestment. SWF's headquarters site has become a dynamic, living campus now known as "The Commonwealth." The Commonwealth spans four contiguous city blocks and includes more than three acres of urban farmland, open community gardens, a carpentry workshop, two formerly foreclosed homes transformed into live-work-learn spaces, and a timber frame barn that serves as a pavilion for a wide variety of community gatherings for public programming.

The primary objective of SWF's work is the continued healing of the neighborhood, its land and its people, and re-rooting of the community through a unique intersection across education, agriculture, arts, culture, and housing.

For this event, Emmanuel will contextualize the historical degeneration vs regeneration of The Commonwealth to present date, lead viewers on a virtual site visit, and share some upcoming developments emerging across a network of value-based partners as they collaborate to re-create Public Trust.

### **1:00 PM-2:00 PM | Concurrent**

#### **Urban Soil Bioremediation**

**Speakers:** [Ariel Arroyo](#), [Josh Valle](#), [Anthony Escalaera](#), [Beth Ward](#), [Andrew Laurion](#), [Agnes Arieas](#), [Bernard Harvey](#)

Healthy food starts with healthy soil, but what if your soil is contaminated with heavy metals or other harmful toxins? Have no fear, Mother Nature is here! Learn all about how you can help Mother Nature clean up toxic waste in our soils by growing certain plants and mushrooms.

#### **Sustainability WHAT?!?!?**

**Speakers:** [Darnell Adams](#), [Pamela "Mela" Bush Miles](#), [Tamika Francis](#)

This word is everywhere, but what does it really mean? In this panel discussion, we'll explore what is truly needed for us to sustain...our lives, our health, our communities, our businesses, our planet. As it becomes overwhelmingly clear that our historical and current extractive/exploitative economic, social and agricultural systems cannot continue, we must redefine how we live, eat, work and build community.

### **2:00-2:30PM**

#### **Sound Bath Break**

**Speaker:** [Marlene Boyette](#)

Join us for a 30-minute Sound Bath experience intended to encourage deep relaxation and ease tension within the mind and body. We will begin with intention setting and a basic breathing exercise to guide participants into a calm state, before welcoming the vibrations from the singing bowls to wash over you.

Both Tibetan singing bowls and crystal singing bowls will be used.

Recommended Items:  
Headphones or a Speaker  
Comfortable clothing  
Blanket  
Water

### **2:30 PM-3:30 PM | Concurrent Sessions**

#### **Youth Food Justice Activism & Advocacy**

**Speaker:** [Benia Darius](#)

This word is everywhere, but what does it really mean? In this panel discussion, we'll explore what is truly needed for us to sustain...our lives, our health, our communities, our businesses, our planet. As it becomes overwhelmingly clear that our historical and current

extractive/exploitative economic, social and agricultural systems cannot continue, we must redefine how we live, eat, work and build community.

### Seeding the Future: The Next Generation of Food Justice Activists and Leaders

**Speaker:** [Emmanuel Pratt](#)

“Teach them well and let them lead the way...” We all know the words and the profound meaning, but easier said than done. Building the next generation of Food Justice leaders is critical to the success and sustainability of the movement. Join this intergenerational discussion about how to build highly engaging and effective youth leadership

programs. From curriculum development to program structure to recruitment and retention, panelists will share strategies to help you strengthen your existing youth programs or inspire you to launch a new one.

**3:30 PM-4:00 PM**

### Closing - Sharing, reflection, intention

**Speakers:** [Patricia Spence](#), [Nataka Crayton](#), [Anna Gilbert-Muhammad](#)

## ***Tuesday, March 9, 2021***

**9:00 AM-10:00 AM** | Concurrent Sessions

### The Importance of Cultural Crop Development

**Speakers:** [Txong Yang](#), [Jessy Gill](#), [Henrietta Nyaigoti](#)

This panel will discuss the importance of crop selection and inclusion of cultural crops in your market spaces. We will talk about our experience with placing cultural crops at the forefront of our market plans, and why we should build spaces that support all food cultures. Come with your experience and questions.

### Greenhouse Management

**Speakers:** [Joy Gary](#), [Charissa Zapata-Walker](#)

Attendees will leave understanding:

The top considerations for construction and design of greenhouses

Common types of greenhouse structures best for urban context

Methods to manage pest pressure, plant health

### Food Safety

**Speaker:** [Michael Botelho](#)

Today's session is led by Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources Produce Safety Inspection Program Director, Michael Botelho. He will offer guidance for producers specific to on-farm practices to manage disease occurrence and mitigation. The discussion will also focus on markets, update for food producers related to COVID-9 and time for any questions related to Food Safety.

**10:30 AM-11:30 AM** | Concurrent Sessions

### Bio-nutrient Dense (BND) Principles in Raised Beds and Small Spaces

**Speaker:** [ML Altobelli](#)

Raised beds are the future because raised beds can be built almost anywhere and can become ultra-productive, providing for a family or an income or both. Every suburban/urban area and even many, many rural home sites have totally messed up soils. All of these soils have been

massively disturbed and have very little in common with farmland of any kind – although many house-lots are cut out of old farms....and soil is critical to the success of any urban farm. Raised beds/containers are a boon to anyone who can't (or won't) get down on the ground and can be placed anywhere regardless of soil quality (or no soil at all) below the bed, yet a lot of raised beds don't thrive and produce. You've heard about soil tests, compaction tests, visual and textural tests, now learn how those apply to raised beds and containers. There are "tricks" and specific information that you can use to make your raised beds and containers successful and raise great food where every you can set up a bed.

### **Disease Management Strategies for Vegetable Seedling Production in the Greenhouse**

**Speaker:** [Angela Madeiras](#)

This session will discuss general disease management principles in greenhouses with a focus on vegetable seedling production. We will examine the biology and life cycles of common plant pathogens as well as cultural and chemical disease management techniques.

### **Community Property Management**

**Speaker:** [Michelle Cook](#)

Learn how to manage urban farmland and make it available equitably to neighborhood farmers. Michelle will break down the tactical work and decisions involve in managing a farm in the city.

**11:45 AM-1:00 PM** |Community

### **Community and Faith Based Organizing for Healthier Communities**

**Speakers:** [Sha'Von Terrell](#), [Rev. Mariama White-Hammond](#)

Today's speakers are powerful, outspoken advocates, who build alliances and work across socioeconomic lines to create positive change in their communities. The intersecting of climate change, food sovereignty and equity are at the heart of their work. This interactive presentation will examine the radical ways that Black churches are leveraging their resources to create sustainable economic opportunities

for Black farmers and to address environmental and equity issues and engage other people of color in the climate movement.

**1:45 PM-2:45 PM** | Concurrent Sessions

### **Farmland Access & Tenure Strategies**

**Speaker:** [Jae Silverman](#)

A discussion of basic farmland access and tenure strategies, including both purchasing and leasing options. Emphasis will be put on determining what methods are best for your situation. We will also review strategies for finding farmland and ways to evaluate the land's potential for your farming ...

### **Successful Pivots: Farmers Share Lessons Learned During Covid**

**Speakers:** [Stevie Schafenacker](#), [Alisa Klein](#), [Alison Worman](#)

The impact of COVID within our food system has been unprecedented, farmers and farming organizations are grappling with new restrictions with marketing their products and navigating new safety regulations, while working to provide much needed food access to consumers. The pandemic forced farms and food access organization to pivot, quickly adapting to the challenges of social distancing. Today's presenters will share their experiences, lessons learned, best practices and thoughts on the new reality of markets and meeting consumer demand.

### **Holistic Evaluation in Urban Agriculture**

**Speakers:** [Sara Shostak](#), [Catherine Sands](#), [Kristen Whitmore](#), [Tamar Harrison](#)

Join Professors Sara Shostak (Brandeis University) and Catherine Sands (UMASS Amherst), Tamar Harrison (Centers for Disease Control) and Kristen Whitmore (UMASS Amherst) for an interactive session that will encourage and help you build skills to share the impact of the important work you do in your community. You will be inspired by the stories of urban farmers and programs across the state, meet others who want to shift the narrative about urban agriculture, and learn how to capture what's special about your story.



**3:00 PM-4:00 PM | Keynote**

**Keynote: Urban Farms/Food System as Incubators for Climate Change Research & Applied Technology Development**

**Speaker: Greg Watson**

Urban food systems can play a critical role in assisting in the development of technologies and practices designed to help Massachusetts farms adapt to our changing climate that has already been chemically “programmed” into the atmosphere.

State, federal, and private funds will support R&D efforts on topics including but not limited to:

Season extenders

- Climate controlled growing environments
- Aquaponics
- IoT sensor technology/systems
- Rooftop growing systems
- Heat tolerant crops
- Vertical farm design and operation
- Alien pest control
- AI powered “Food Intelligent Grid”
- Marketing

R&D efforts would be conducted at existing urban farms, greenhouses, controlled environment growing facilities, farmers’ markets, public markets and state-owned lands. The research would be carried out by farmer/researcher collaborations. Researchers would be students from area public and private school systems. The goal would be to design research projects that can be integrated into urban farm operations as seamlessly as possible. Grants would cover time, overhead and estimated loss of revenue resulting from the R&D effort.

## Thursday, March 11, 2021

9:00 AM-10:00 AM | Concurrent Sessions

### Road Map to Financial Sustainability

Speaker: [Jessica Wilson](#)

Over the past seasons Mill City Grows has worked to improve the way we track our field production, harvest yields and market performances. Brian will share some of the tools and spreadsheets that have made this process easier, more accurate and ideally timesaving. We will look into a mostly Google Suite system that helps us as well as open it up to other farmers who would like to share some of their tricks and ideas that have worked for them!

### Mushroom Production for Urban Farms

Speaker: [Tradd Cotter](#)

This presentation will give people a baseline understanding of common ways mushrooms are produced commercially and how they could plug in to the growing mushroom industry. We will look at a couple of examples of small-scale mushroom farms and ways to incorporate them into an urban setting. We will talk about the opportunities and challenges in starting a commercial mushroom farm. See you there!

10:30 AM-11:30 AM | Concurrent Sessions

### Collecting and Tracking Farm/Market Data Through the Season

Speaker: [Brian Mariano](#)

Over the past seasons Mill City Grows has worked to improve the way we track our field production, harvest yields and market performances. Brian will share some of the tools and spreadsheets that have made this process easier, more accurate and ideally timesaving. We will look into a mostly Google Suite system that helps us as well as open it up to other farmers who would like to share some of their tricks and ideas that have worked for them!

### Grow Soil, Grow Food: Urban Farming Without Farmland

Speaker: [Deb Habib and Ricky Baruch](#)

Participants in this workshop will learn methods for building soil and growing abundant food using simple tools and local resources on the cheap. Lots, lawns, and marginal land transformed support micro-farm urban livelihoods and food justice, making nourishing, affordable food available in all communities. No-till methods shared through this workshop include the cardboard method, cover crops, raised beds and tarping to grow bountiful food and a fertile ecosystem, reduce costs and labor, mitigate climate change, and foster a more connected relationship with the land.

12:00 PM-1:00 PM | Keynote

### Keynote: The Cost and Value of Growing Food

Speaker: [Karen Washington](#)

Many times, growing food in underserved communities or for underserved communities falls along the lines of charity or volunteerism. Yet there are people growing food in urban or rural spaces, either for-profit or non-profit that need and want to get paid. As growers and/or laborers there is a cost and value in the work they you do. Let's discuss why making money is not a bad thing or is it?

1:45 PM-2:45 PM | Concurrent Sessions

### Bees and Beyond, Diversifying Your Urban Farm

Speaker: [Samantha Winship](#)

Bees and Beyond will give participants basic skills on bee keeping. My experience with empowering the youth through the bee yard and how we can engage youth in our communities with agriculture programs. Plus, how small farming/family farms make a huge impact.

## Vertical Farming to Unlock Food Access and Improve Business Resiliency

**Speakers:** [Caroline Katsiroubas](#), [Alexandra Basquett](#)

Lexy Basquette and Caroline Katsiroubas of Freight Farms will be discussing the benefits of indoor vertical farming and how this method of hydroponic agriculture can be used by individuals with limited farming knowledge and limited space to grow acres of fresh food in any climate. Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) can be a beneficial addition to traditional soil agriculture by extending the growing season, providing fresh nutritious food year-round, and protecting against increasingly extreme weather conditions. They will explain how Freight Farms technology enables farmers to grow at a commercial scale with limited labor and resources, and how farmers around the world use their container farms to nourish and inspire change in their communities. You'll get a glimpse into how a wide variety of industries and backgrounds use the technology, including entrepreneurial small business farmers, corporate businesses, retail stores, municipalities, schools & universities, and amazing nonprofits.

3:00 PM-4:00 PM | Panel

## Panel: The Importance of Women in Urban Agriculture

**Speakers:** [Karen Washington](#), [Jillian Hishaw](#), [Jessica O'Neill](#)

The 2021 U.S. Agriculture Department's Census of Agriculture revealed that 36% of U.S. farmers are women and 56% of all farms have at least one female decision maker. According to USDA, farms with female producers making decisions tend to be smaller than average in both acres and value of production. "Farming while Black" and female brings even more barriers. BIPOC farmers made up 5 percent of all farmers in the U.S, and these numbers are declining due, in part, to a long legacy of discrimination within the USDA. BIPOC farmers have less access to, ownership and control of key resources related to infrastructure and information for successful, sustainable farms.

Addressing where we have come from and what is needed to level the agricultural playing field, there must be gender mainstreaming within planning and policy, while supporting women in achieving greater sovereignty.

Today's speakers will share their own stories and insights on what we need to know and do as a community, and as participants in the food system, to support Women in Agriculture.

# Whova Live Stream Links

	Time	Session Title	Speakers	Live Streaming URL
<b>Friday, March 5, 2021</b>	8:30 AM-8:45 AM	WELCOME	Patricia Spence; Klare Shaw	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/99567311985?pwd=cUM1ZFV0QTN0V3JtR09BbTZwS0pZUT09">https://zoom.us/j/99567311985?pwd=cUM1ZFV0QTN0V3JtR09BbTZwS0pZUT09</a>
	8:45 AM-9:00 AM	Transition Break		
	9:00 AM-10:00 AM	Land Security is Food Security	Alex Rosso; Dave Madan	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/95368410204?pwd=VUMyUVozRFJSa1RnbFAvN1dZai9XUT09">https://zoom.us/j/95368410204?pwd=VUMyUVozRFJSa1RnbFAvN1dZai9XUT09</a>
	9:00 AM-10:00 AM	Grant Writing 101	Jessica Wilson	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/91207555085?pwd=a3lzYWVXRjEydmltU2ZQa0M1SlBxUT09">https://zoom.us/j/91207555085?pwd=a3lzYWVXRjEydmltU2ZQa0M1SlBxUT09</a>
	9:00 AM-10:00 AM	How to Interpret Your Soil Report and Balance Your Soil to Grow Nutrient Dense Food	Laura Davis	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/96154293648?pwd=ZklvNS91UERIVGt0Y0xpaU9hZTBxdz09">https://zoom.us/j/96154293648?pwd=ZklvNS91UERIVGt0Y0xpaU9hZTBxdz09</a>
	10:00 AM-10:30 AM	Transition Break		
	10:30 AM-11:30 AM	Making of an Urban Farm	Miriam Gee	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/99077771146?pwd=REhZS0x1VUs2aHMxdHI4ZjRhNClZz09">https://zoom.us/j/99077771146?pwd=REhZS0x1VUs2aHMxdHI4ZjRhNClZz09</a>
	10:30 AM-11:30 AM	Intensive Growing and Maximizing Your Farm Land	Greg Maslowe	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/92307140380?pwd=LzNhcnZyZWZxb0daVlc2K055bldkdz09">https://zoom.us/j/92307140380?pwd=LzNhcnZyZWZxb0daVlc2K055bldkdz09</a>

	10:30 AM-11:30 AM	Winter Markets - Crunching the Numbers	Chuck Currie	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/92035057726?pwd=RWN4eU50c1NTSUxXTlFuc1lBazdjQT09">https://zoom.us/j/92035057726?pwd=RWN4eU50c1NTSUxXTlFuc1lBazdjQT09</a>
	11:30 AM-12:00 PM	Transition Break		
	12:00 PM-1:00 PM	Keynote: Systemic Land Theft	Jillian Hishaw	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/96767364980?pwd=VkRSQjJ2MUlJVlhxQXlLWTkrK0dDZz09">https://zoom.us/j/96767364980?pwd=VkRSQjJ2MUlJVlhxQXlLWTkrK0dDZz09</a>
	1:00 PM-1:45 PM	Lunch		
	1:45 PM-2:45 PM	From Novelty to Necessity: Municipal Initiatives to Grow Urban Farms	Barbara Knecht; Sara Dewey	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/99622232760?pwd=SFZ6cWNWdWZqcTl3UVFuRFNIUVhEQT09">https://zoom.us/j/99622232760?pwd=SFZ6cWNWdWZqcTl3UVFuRFNIUVhEQT09</a>
	1:45 PM-2:45 PM	Intra-Community Urban Food Systems	Denzel Mitchell; Noli Taylor	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/95685092714?pwd=MUw4MzFERms3aFZPY0VmRlMzT0RMQT09">https://zoom.us/j/95685092714?pwd=MUw4MzFERms3aFZPY0VmRlMzT0RMQT09</a>
	1:45 PM-2:45 PM	Season Extension Techniques and Tools	Jeremy Barker Plotkin	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/96645199756?pwd=RIZZWlB3RitqdTc4QitleXZHTEZqUT09">https://zoom.us/j/96645199756?pwd=RIZZWlB3RitqdTc4QitleXZHTEZqUT09</a>
	2:45 PM-3:00 PM	Transition Break		
	3:00 PM-4:00 PM	Intro to the Massachusetts Urban Agriculture Coalition	Rebecca Miller; Elizabeth Wills-O'Gilvie; Lydia Sisson	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/93760626118?pwd=YjFFQUxmVZCRkFscVlwYlEwWWVWkQT09">https://zoom.us/j/93760626118?pwd=YjFFQUxmVZCRkFscVlwYlEwWWVWkQT09</a>
<b>Saturday, March 6, 2021</b>	9:30 AM-9:45 AM	Opening Welcome	Nataka Crayton	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/94100351513?pwd=dnBtWXY5YldjUXoycHowQWFic253Zz09">https://zoom.us/j/94100351513?pwd=dnBtWXY5YldjUXoycHowQWFic253Zz09</a>
	9:45 AM-10:00 AM	Transition Break		
	10:00 AM-11:00 AM	People's Wellness and Resistance! Movement Arts Practices for Growing Bodies	Marlene Boyette; Pampi they/them	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/98095633934?pwd=VFpFZGpLcUxUNk9BSiY4aHMYSjZjdz09">https://zoom.us/j/98095633934?pwd=VFpFZGpLcUxUNk9BSiY4aHMYSjZjdz09</a>



	& Community Rooting - Yoga and Meditation		
10:00 AM-11:00 AM	Food Justice is Economic Justice	Grantley Payne; Dwaigh Tyndal; Chavella Lee-Pacheco; Emmanuel Pratt	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/99112901163?pwd=a3V3cWpHNzFmcEV4NC9FbXdWdy84QT09">https://zoom.us/j/99112901163?pwd=a3V3cWpHNzFmcEV4NC9FbXdWdy84QT09</a>
11:00 AM-11:30 AM	Movement Break: Movement Arts Practices for Growing Bodies & Community Rooting - Capoeira Angolaaaaaaaaa!	Deraldo Ferreira; Pampi they/them	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/98095633934?pwd=VFpFZGpLcUxUNk9BSlY4aHMySjZjdz09">https://zoom.us/j/98095633934?pwd=VFpFZGpLcUxUNk9BSlY4aHMySjZjdz09</a>
11:30 AM-12:20 PM	[Re]Creating Public Trust through Food, Farming, and the Future	Emmanuel Pratt	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/91216368342?pwd=WTFYZlZtRW5lYisxSDVOT1FlajArdz09">https://zoom.us/j/91216368342?pwd=WTFYZlZtRW5lYisxSDVOT1FlajArdz09</a>
12:20 PM-1:00 PM	Lunch Break		
1:00 PM-2:00 PM	Urban Soil Bioremediation	Ariel Arroyo; Joshua Valle; Anthony Escalaera; Beth Ward; Andrew Laurion; Agnes Arieas; Bernard Harvey	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/98095633934?pwd=VFpFZGpLcUxUNk9BSlY4aHMySjZjdz09">https://zoom.us/j/98095633934?pwd=VFpFZGpLcUxUNk9BSlY4aHMySjZjdz09</a>
1:00 PM-2:00 PM	Sustainability WHAT?!?!?	Darnell Adams; Pamela "Mela" Bush Miles; Tamika R. Francis	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/99112901163?pwd=a3V3cWpHNzFmcEV4NC9FbXdWdy84QT09">https://zoom.us/j/99112901163?pwd=a3V3cWpHNzFmcEV4NC9FbXdWdy84QT09</a>
2:00 PM-2:30 PM	Sound Bath Break	Marlene Boyette	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/95754195598?pwd=ZjNLdnBFVnI5emc2cFNNcW4xR28wQT09">https://zoom.us/j/95754195598?pwd=ZjNLdnBFVnI5emc2cFNNcW4xR28wQT09</a>
2:30 PM-3:30 PM	Youth Food Justice Activism & Advocacy	Benia Darius	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/98095633934?pwd=VFpFZGpLcUxUNk9BSlY4aHMySjZjdz09">https://zoom.us/j/98095633934?pwd=VFpFZGpLcUxUNk9BSlY4aHMySjZjdz09</a>
2:30 PM-3:30 PM	Seeding the Future: The Next Generation of Food Justice Activists and Leaders	Emmanuel Pratt	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/99112901163?pwd=a3V3cWpHNzFmcEV4NC9FbXdWdy84QT09">https://zoom.us/j/99112901163?pwd=a3V3cWpHNzFmcEV4NC9FbXdWdy84QT09</a>
3:30 PM-4:00 PM	Closing - Sharing, Reflection, Intention	Patricia Spence; Nataka Crayton; Anna Gilbert-Muhammad	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/99112901163?pwd=a3V3cWpHNzFmcEV4NC9FbXdWdy84QT09">https://zoom.us/j/99112901163?pwd=a3V3cWpHNzFmcEV4NC9FbXdWdy84QT09</a>

<b>Tuesday, March 9, 2021</b>	8:30 AM-8:45 AM	DAY 3 OPENING	Patricia Spence; John Lebeaux	
	8:45 AM-9:00 AM	Transition		
	9:00 AM-10:00 AM	The Importance of Cultural Crop Development	Txong Yang; Jessy Gill; Henrietta Nyaigoti	
	9:00 AM-10:00 AM	Greenhouse Management	Joy Gary; Charissa Zapata-Walker	
	9:00 AM-10:00 AM	Food Safety	Michael Botelho	
	10:00 AM-10:30 AM	Transition Break		
	10:30 AM-11:30 AM	Bio-nutrient Dense (BND) Principles in Raised Beds and Small Spaces	ML Altobelli	
	10:30 AM-11:30 AM	Disease Management Strategies for Vegetable Seedling Production in the Greenhouse	Angela Madeiras	
	10:30 AM-11:30 AM	Community Property Management	Michelle Cook	
	11:30 AM-12:00 PM	Transition Break		
	12:00 PM-1:00 PM	Community and Faith Based Organizing for Healthier Communities	Sha'Von Terrell; Rev. Mariama White-Hammond	
	1:00 PM-1:45 PM	Lunch		

	1:45 PM-2:45 PM	Farmland Access & Tenure Strategies	Jae Silverman	
	1:45 PM-2:45 PM	Successful Pivots: Farmers Share Lessons Learned During Covid	Stevie Schafenacker; Alisa Klein; Alison Worman	
	1:45 PM-2:45 PM	Holistic Evaluation in Urban Agriculture	Sara Shostak; Catherine Sands; Kristen Whitmore; Tamar Harrison	
	2:45 PM-3:00 PM	Transition Break		
	3:00 PM-4:00 PM	Keynote: Urban Farms/Food System as Incubators for Climate Change Research & Applied Technology Development	Greg Watson	
<b>Thursday, March 11, 2021</b>	8:30 AM-8:45 AM	DAY 4 OPENING		
	8:45 AM-9:00 AM	Transition Break		
	9:00 AM-10:00 AM	Road Map to Financial Sustainability	Jessica Wilson	
	9:00 AM-10:00 AM	Mushroom Production for Urban Farms	Tradd Cotter	
	10:00 AM-10:30 AM	Transition Break		
	10:30 AM-11:30 AM	Collecting and Tracking Farm/Market Data Through the Season	Brian Mariano	

10:30 AM-11:30 AM	Grow Soil, Grow Food: Urban Farming Without Farmland	Deb Habib and Ricky Baruch	
11:30 AM-11:50 AM	Transition Break		
11:50 AM-1:00 PM	Keynote: The Cost and Value of Growing Food	Karen Washington	
1:00 PM-1:45 PM	Lunch		
1:45 PM-2:45 PM	Bees and Beyond, A glimpse of Ancient bee keeping and our Future.	Samantha Winship	
1:45 PM-2:45 PM	Vertical Farming to Unlock Food Access and Improve Business Resiliency	Caroline Katsiroubas; Alexandra Basquette	
2:45 PM-3:00 PM	Transition Break		
3:00 PM-4:00 PM	Panel: The Importance of Women in Urban Agriculture	Karen Washington; Jillian Hishaw; Jessica O'Neill	

# Speakers and Panelists Bios

**Agnes Arieas** represents Home City, a non-profit, resident-centered developer of multi-family and mixed-use properties in the Springfield region.

**Alex Rosso**

**Alexandra Basquette**

**Alisa Klein** is the Executive Director Grow Food Northampton, a sustainable agriculture and food justice organization in Northampton, MA. Alisa brings to her role years of experience in program and executive management, policy analysis and advocacy, and strategic planning. She is a long-time activist and community organizer working on issues as diverse, yet interconnected, as the climate emergency, peace and justice in Palestine and Israel, policing and prison abolition, and bringing restorative and transformative justice models to addressing harm in communities. Alisa also served as a Northampton, MA city councilor for three terms where she established a Select Committee on Pesticide Reduction and wrote and sponsored legislation to prohibit the use of pesticides in municipal spaces.

**Alison Worman** grew up tending a small backyard garden in the city of Milwaukee. Shortly after moving to Baltimore in 2008, she began working at Whitelock Community Farm, where her passion for urban agriculture grew. She completed the Future Harvest CASA Beginner Farmer Training program in 2013 while training at Calvert's Gift Farm and went on to manage Whitelock Farm from 2014-2018. This experience was instrumental in building her commitment to advocate for a socially just and sustainable food system. Alison currently tends a plot at the Roosevelt Community Garden. She has also farmed at Two Boots Farm, Hidden Harvest Farm and is an active member of the

Hidden Harvest Compost Collective. She is thrilled to continue to work among an amazing network in her role as Program Coordinator with the Farm Alliance of Baltimore.

If you would like to learn more about Farm Alliance of Baltimore's programs or talk about potential partnerships email [programs@farmalliancebaltimore.org](mailto:programs@farmalliancebaltimore.org)

**Andrew Laurion**, an urban farmer, and woodworker born and raised in Springfield, Mass, focused on connecting backyard farms through a network of sharing knowledge, resources, and space.

**Angela Madeiras** is responsible for diagnosing diseases in floriculture, vegetables, small fruit, and turf, and gives recommendations for their control. She also participates in extension educational activities.

**Anna Gilbert-Muhammad**

**Anthony Escalaera** represents Home City, a non-profit, resident-centered developer of multi-family and mixed-use properties in the Springfield region.

**Ariel Arroyo** represents Home City is a non-profit, resident-centered developer of multi-family and mixed-use properties in the Springfield region.

**Barbara Knecht, R.A.** has been developing land for public benefit in cities for more than thirty years. Since 2012, she has been developing urban farm sites in Boston on behalf of the Urban Farming Institute and Boston Farms Community Land Trust. She has worked in the public and not for profit sectors as well as in academic settings. Through her work, she has researched and observed urban farms



across the country and across the world.

Working with 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, and she was a Loeb Fellow in advanced environmental studies at Harvard University.

**Benia Darius** was born in Haiti and raised in the U.S., She got her start at organizing at the age of 14 when she became the spokesperson for a number of student social justice organizations and has lobbied many politicians on numerous social, educational, and health justice actions. Despite her full schedule, Benia still finds time to do what she loves: cook. Benia is a huge advocate for seasonal eating and loves to show others how to prepare her favorite dishes. She was an assistant manager at Bushwick Farmers' Market for two years and went on to being manager at said Farmers Market for the next 2 years. She is a certified Just Food Community Chef. Benia moved from NYC to Florida 3.5 years ago and now she's back doing what she loves: caring for her loved ones and giving back to her community. She plans on furthering her education by going to law school and studying food law and policy. Benia is now the organizer for the Youth Food Justice Network and Social Media Coordinator for East New York Farms!

**Bernard Harbey**

**Beth Ward**

**Brian Mariano** represents Mill City Grows, located in Lowell, MA, and cultivates roughly 5 acres throughout the city. Focused on providing food access to underserved populations, we distribute and sell through Mobile Markets, farm share programs, donation channels and local food businesses.

Brian has been farming at Mill City Grows for the last four seasons, working as an apprentice to now managing the Farm and Market Program. He loves falling down rabbit holes of data systems, margin management and ways to incorporate no-till into the field rotation.

**Brian Medina** is from Home City is a non-profit, resident-centered developer of multi-family and mixed-use properties in the Springfield region.

**Caroline Katsiroubas**

**Catherine Sands** has over two decades of experience developing cross-sector partnerships that bridge difference across race, economic and generational divides, and galvanize efforts for systems, environment and policy change. She founded Fertile Ground LLC, where she teaches systems thinking, design and build technical and evaluation tools with networks of communities, municipalities, corporations and nonprofits who are fighting deep structural inequities that impede families to thrive. She has supported multiyear farm to school and food justice organizing throughout the Commonwealth and helped to gather stories for the Mass Food Plan. She teaches food justice and policy at UMASS Amherst Sustainable Food and Farming Program.

Catherine believes our best work is done together. Together with partners, she engages communities in dismantling racism-centered change work. She instructs white people to understand the subtle impacts of systemic racism on practices and policy, to sit in discomfort, and move them to change organizational practices and build generative partnerships.

**Charissa Zapata-Walker** is an independent Project Manager and Sustainable Designer. She has served as Assistant Manager of Eva's Garden in South Dartmouth and ReVision Urban Farm in Dorchester and is passionate about bringing an innovative and holistic approach to land design and stewardship. Charissa has spent her career as a leader in multiple sectors and enjoys weaving together the threads of interconnection to create a strong framework for building change.

**Chavella Lee-Pacheco** is a 4th-generation Bostonian and is a product of the melting pot that is America. She cares deeply about our planet, the flora and fauna that inhabit it, and how we exist in relationship with each other. Chavella is a youth worker at heart and has addressed issues such as climate change and social inequities through roles such

as a garden-based educator, a food systems educator, and more recently as a community planner. Currently, Chavella works at Madison Park Development Corporation as Community Planning Manager. In this role she manages Roxbury in Motion, a branch of the statewide Mass in Motion movement through the Department of Public Health, to mitigate chronic disease in Lower Roxbury by focusing on the places in which live, work, and play. She is responsible for keeping her finger on the pulse of development in the Lower Roxbury neighborhood and integrating the residents of MPDC properties into the conversation and decision-making process.

**Chuck Currie** started farming in 2004 after completing a B.S. degree in Plant and Soil Science at UMass Amherst. He started his first farm business in 2006 in Vermont before starting Freedom Food Farm in 2012. The farm moved to its current location on Wampanoag land in Raynham, MA in 2014 and has been working towards his goal of a diversified, four-season, regenerative farm. Freedom Food Farm currently supplies hundreds of families in the region with a full-diet year-round, including produce, grains, meat, eggs, and value-added products. He is passionate about food and social justice, no-till agriculture, and mid-20th century farm machinery.

**Darnell Adams** is a leadership development coach and consultant at Firebrand Cooperative. She has over two decades of experience in non-profit, for-profit, and cooperative businesses. She has been recognized by Boston Magazine as a “Thought Leader” and part of “Boston’s new power class: the visionaries, idealists and thinkers among us whose insights are transforming the way we live, work, learn, play”. Darnell is a developer and facilitator of strategic plans, special projects and workshops, and provides expertise and training on an array of topics including implicit bias and power, and start-up business best practices.

**Dave Madan** is the board president and co-founder of Boston Farms Community Land Trust and was a founding board member of the Urban Farming Institute. He serves as a Partner at Boston Investments, a real estate development firm. In 2010, Dave founded theMOVE, an urban sustainability education nonprofit, teaching youth about social justice through experiential farm education. He also

founded and currently leads the Builders of Color Coalition, working to expand access and diversity in Boston’s real estate sector.

**Ricky Baruch and Deb Habib** are three-decade farmers and educators, and founders of Seeds of Solidarity in Orange MA. Their solar-powered family farm uses agroecological methods to regenerate soil, restore climate, and build community food resilience. The non-profit educational wing of Seeds of Solidarity innovates programs that awaken the power among people of all ages--from toddlers to teens to people who are incarcerated-- to Grow Food Everywhere to transform hunger to health and create resilient lives and communities.

They are co-founders of the North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival that they organize with their neighbors, an event that ignites regional art, agriculture and economy, and produces only two bags of trash for 10,000 people. Ricky and Deb are the authors of *Making Love While Farming: A Field Guide to a Life of Passion and Purpose*, Levellers Press, 2019

**Denzel Mitchell Jr.** is an educator, farmer, chef, and organizer. Born and raised in Guthrie, Oklahoma; he and his wife moved to Baltimore in 2006 and soon got active in Baltimore’s urban agricultural movement. Denzel went on to find the Greening and Nutrition program at Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School and soon heard the call from the land to be a farmer. On six vacant lots and with the help of friends, neighbors, a chef and food historian, he brought the nearly forgotten heirloom, Baltimore’s Fish Pepper, back to the Chesapeake region’s culinary palette. He left the classroom in 2010 to pursue dreams of vegetable farming and operated Five Seeds Farm until 2015. He currently serves as the deputy director of the Farm Alliance of Baltimore and is a part-time “biscuithead” at Blacksauce Kitchen.

Denzel loves to eat, cook and play with his family and friends. He also enjoys books, music and movies. He lives in Union Square with his wife and 5 children.

**Deraldo Ferreira** is a Mestre (official master) of Capoeira Angola. Mestre Deraldo Ferreira brings a 40-year tenure in Capoeira, Samba

drumming and dancing, musical composition, and choreography. He is among the first to bring the Capoeira art form and Afro-Brazilian Samba dance and percussion to North America. Mestre Deraldo is an organic farmer on his own farm in Brazil. While there, he teaches Capoeira Angola to children of the Pataxó Indigenous tribe and other local communities.

**Dwaign Tyndal** has over twenty-five years of professional experience in economic development, community and neighborhood development, youth development and workforce development. Throughout his professional experience, Dwaign has effectively led capable and diverse teams and has also been able to communicate complex public policies to various stakeholders to show how community-based partnerships can build stronger communities and empower residents and businesses to take active roles in their neighborhoods

**Elizabeth Wills-O'Gilvie** serves as the director of the Springfield Food Policy Council and the board chair of the youth driven, urban agriculture organization Gardening the Community. She is also a member of the Steering Committee and Advisory Boards of the statewide Massachusetts Food System Collaborative and Massachusetts Farm to School. Supported by Liz's leadership, the Springfield Food Policy Council serves as a partner, advisor and driving force behind efforts to build a healthier food system in Springfield including Springfield Public School's efforts to increase fresh food access in the school food program through the development of the \$22 million Culinary Nutrition Center designed for scratch cooking, staff & student training and economic development and growing the school garden program while increasing STEM curriculum alignment. She also works with social justice organizations, schools and universities across the country on developing pathways and curriculum for undoing systemic racism and white organizational culture.

While Liz's early work focused on brick and mortar affordable housing and commercial development projects in marginalized communities, for the last 11 years her focus on the food system, public health and community building has been driven by a commitment to ensure that

community change efforts to eradicate health and access disparities move on parallel environmental, systems and policy change tracks; and that those efforts are community-driven with the voices and actions of people most impacted at the center.

A critical thinker about issues relating to race, class, gender, culture and privilege, Liz is quite comfortable with the discomfort attached to conversations about race.

**Emmanuel Pratt** is an Artist, Urban Designer, and MacArthur Fellow. He is the co-founder and Executive Director of Sweet Water Foundation (SWF), a 501c3 organization that utilizes a unique blend of agriculture, woodworking, art, experiential education, and community-scale production to transform so-called 'blighted' spaces and abandoned buildings into economically and ecologically productive community assets. Emmanuel's praxis involves more than a decade of explorations, investigations, and transdisciplinary work that intersect architecture, urban planning, agriculture, and public health. His work has built upon and moved beyond the theory of Communicative Action towards the creation of a new paradigm of Regenerative Neighborhood Development (RND). RND is an urban acupuncture-inspired and emergent design process that dynamically cultivates intentional acts of civic arts and participatory design as integral components to reimagine the urban ecology of the built environment. At its core, RND concentrates on the transformative processes of building Public Trust as evidenced by the transformation of four contiguous city blocks into what has come to be known as The Commonwealth located at the intersection of Washington Park and Englewood on Chicago's South Side. Emmanuel was a Visiting Lecturer at Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Michigan, a Harvard GSD Loeb Fellow in 2017, and a 2019 Joyce Award recipient.

**Grantley Payne**, the last child of Nita and Charles Payne, is a lifelong student of healthy living, a graduate of Boston Latin School and Hampton University, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU); UMass Extension Nutrition Educator II; Boston Is Growing Gardens (BIGG) - Dorchester Program Manager; Healthy Dorchester Program Coordinator

**Greg Maslowe** came to farming through his graduate work in environmental and agricultural ethics. Greg loves talking with people, young and old, about where their food comes from and how their answers and choices impact other life/lives. He feels fortunate to have found a way of life that allows him to be outside most of the time: a vocation that means he's in the dirt, come rain or shine, throughout the growing season, participating in creating a better world; and time during the off-season to explore the mountains on skis, leading backcountry trips in the Green and White mountains for the Boston Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. He is a board member of the Urban Farming Institute and on the planning committee for Eastern Massachusetts Collaborative Alliance for Farmer Training (EMass CRAFT).

**Greg Watson** is Director of Policy and Systems Design at the Schumacher Center for a New Economics. He served two terms as Massachusetts commissioner of agriculture from 1990-1993 and from 2012-2014. He was executive director of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative from 1995-1999. His work currently focuses on community food systems and an initiative to improve global systems literacy informed by a reimagining of Bucky Fuller's World Game Workshop. Greg has spent over 40 years learning to understand systems thinking as inspired by Buckminster Fuller and to apply that understanding to achieve a just and sustainable world.

**Henrietta Nyaigoti** comes to World Farmers with extensive experience marketing and sales and is excited to bring her expertise to the team. Henrietta and her family are farmers at Flats Mentor Farm, operating a 2-acre farm enterprise, and she has been featured by international news outlets for her innovative marketing success here in the United States. Henrietta immigrated to the United States from Kenya when she was young, but still holds strong ties to her home country and has plans to return and build her own farming business in Kenya. In addition to her farming and marketing experience, Henrietta has several years of experience in home healthcare and she is a mother of two sweet and beautiful daughters.

**Jae Silverman** is the Massachusetts Field Agent with Land for Good, working with farmers and landowners on issues of farmland access, tenure, and transfer. Jae is also a first-generation hay farmer, owning and operating Windrow Farm in Conway, MA, and is passionate about the contribution of grass farming to the local food and fiber system.

**Jeremy Barker Plotkin** is the co-owner of Simple Gifts Farm in Amherst, MA. He raises organic vegetables and pasture-based beef, pork, and eggs for sale to our local community through a farm store and a Community-supported agriculture program.

**Jessica O'Neill** is the Executive Director of Just Roots, a nonprofit organization in Greenfield, MA, located in Franklin County. Jessica helped establish the organization which is best known for reinventing the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model to be equity centered and accessible to an economically diverse membership. Just Roots operates the leading SNAP enrolled CSA farm share program of its kind in Massachusetts. Jessica is co-author of two publications on the scientific findings of the CSA's impact on health outcomes, published in two leading peer-reviewed medical journals. A steering committee member of Food Is Medicine MA, she serves on their Community Benefits Organization Task Force. A member of the Coalition to End Hunger, she serves on the Policy and Advocacy committee. She serves as Chair of the Franklin County Food Council, as President of the Heath Agricultural Society, a member of the Heath Agricultural Commission and is a board member of the Greenfield Farmers Exchange and the Friends of HAY, integrating agriculture with primary education.

**Jessica Wilson** is the Executive Director of Mill City Grows. She has over 15 years of non-profit leadership and fundraising experience in both Lowell, MA and New York City. She and has managed teams of all sizes to raise millions of dollars for community focused non-profit institutions. Her specialty area is working with organizations who are new to fundraising and helping shape systems to take these organizations to the next level. Working at Lowell organizations UTEC, Inc., LTC (Lowell TeleMedia), and Mill City Grows, she has successfully implemented new fundraising initiatives, and helped these organizations raise their annual revenues sustainably. She holds a BA

in Communication from UMASS Amherst, an MA in Media Studies from the New School, and a graduate certificate from the Institute of Nonprofit Management and Leadership at Boston University.

**Jessy Gill** works closely with the farmers at Flats Mentor Farm to develop and refine all programs and services to fit individual needs, requests, and goals; ensuring each farmer is fully supported in achieving their farming goals. Prior to joining World Farmers, Jessy 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, CA.

**Jillian Hishaw** is the Author of “Systematic Land Theft” her new book in addition to an agricultural attorney, founder, and C.E.O. of F.A.R.M.S. Inspired by her own family’s land loss this international non-profit provides technical and legal assistance to small farmers while reducing hunger in the farmer’s community. Hishaw’s book "Don’t Bet the Farm" on Medicaid, available on Amazon, examines how U.S. long-term care facilities can exercise their federal authority to place a lien on a resident’s property, forcing the sale if an outstanding debt is owed. Hishaw has over 15 years of professional experience in the areas of civil rights, land protection, and agricultural policy. Her prior experience working on land protection matters for local and state agencies and on civil rights matters for the U.S. Department of Agriculture within the Office of Civil Rights in Washington, D.C. has given her immense insight on the topic of land loss. Past academic publications include Drake Journal of Agricultural Law, The Journal of Food Law & Policy, South Dakota Law Review, Environmental and Energy Law Policy Journal, and American Bar Association Environmental, Energy and Resources Agricultural Management Newsletter.

Hishaw’s recent advocacy work for Black farmers in the hemp and cannabis space has led to published op-ed articles in Civil Eats, The Counter, and HempLand U.S.A. In 2017, Hishaw was recognized as a Food Changemaker by the Clif Bar Foundation and has been featured in O, The Oprah Magazine, The Atlantic, Vice News, The Washington Post, and more. In 2019, the Food Tank organization voted Hishaw 1

of 15 women in the World Impacting the Food Industry.

Hishaw has a bachelor’s degree in biology from Tuskegee University, plus a Juris Doctorate and Legal Masters in agricultural law from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville Law school. Hishaw’s own land loss experience has influenced her commitment to law and advocacy work in agriculture and asset protection.

**John Lebeaux**, the grandson of a farmer and son of a nursery owner, was sworn in as Commissioner of the Department by Governor Charlie Baker on February 6, 2015. After working at Shrewsbury Nurseries, his family’s nursery/garden center/landscaping business, while a student, John then worked for four years as an Urban Horticulturist in New York City. Upon rejoining the family business, he served as its Chief Operating Officer for twenty-six years. John was very active serving in a variety of green industry affairs positions, including two terms as President of the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association. He has been a Massachusetts Certified Horticulturist since 1983.

A member of a family very active in volunteer government service, John was elected to his hometown Representative Town Meeting as soon as he turned eighteen. He is an eight-term Selectman in the Town of Shrewsbury and is a Charter Member of the Shrewsbury Farmers Market Steering Committee. John served nine years as a member of the Massachusetts Board of Food and Agriculture representing the interests of agriculture to the Department and providing input on policy development and budgetary decisions. He also served for nine years as a public member of the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission.

Prior to his appointment as Commissioner, John served from 2009 to 2015 as Town Administrator of the town of Princeton, a beautiful rural north-central Massachusetts municipality with an active agricultural sector.

Proud parents of three adult children and grandparents to three grandchildren, John and his wife Debbie live in Shrewsbury on a former portion of his grandfather’s Buttonwood Farm.



**Joshua Valle** represents Home City, a non-profit, resident-centered developer of multi-family and mixed-use properties in the Springfield region.

**Joy Gary** is the owner of Effloresce Culture & Design, a regenerative design project that seeks to sustain, connect, and equip the community with the food, designs, and skills that encourage resilience. She has dedicated her time to supporting regenerative systems development, food justice, and education through urban ag projects while building gardens for and teaching growing skills to residents in and around the Boston area.

**Karen Washington** is a farmer and community activist, striving to make New York City a better place to live. As a community gardener and board member of the New York Botanical Gardens, she worked with Bronx neighborhoods to turn empty lots into community gardens.

As an advocate, and former president of the New York City Community Garden Coalition, she stood up and spoke out for garden protection and preservation. As a member of the La Familia Verde Garden Coalition, she helped launch a City Farms Market, bringing fresh vegetables to the community.

Karen is a board member of Farm School NYC, leading workshops on growing food and food justice across the country, a board member at Soul Fire Farm an organization committed to undoing racism and injustice in the food system, and on the board of Why Hunger a grassroots support organization aimed at ending hunger. In 2010, Karen Co-Founded Black Urban Growers (BUGS) an organization supporting growers in both urban and rural settings, and most recently in 2019 co-founded Black Farmer Fund aimed at supporting black farms and businesses with capital and resources in New York State.

In 2012, Ebony magazine voted her one of their 100 most influential African Americans in the country and in 2014 was the recipient of the

James Beard Leadership Award. Recently in 2020 Essence magazine name Karen one of their Essential Heroes recipients. Since retiring from Physical Therapy in 2014, Karen is Co-owner/Farmer at Rise & Root Farm in Chester, New York.

**Kristen Whitmore** is an organizer, evaluator, and researcher based in Northampton, MA. She has spent the past decade working to foster vibrant and equitable community food systems, collaborating with farmers, students, and community members in the northeast and in Latin America. Kristen holds a bachelor's in Sociology and Gender Studies from Mount Holyoke College and a master's in Regional Planning from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She currently works as an Evaluation Consultant with Fertile Ground, Special Projects Coordinator at Healthy Hampshire, and researcher/PhD student at UMass Amherst.

**Laura Davis** is a certified organic vegetable grower at Long Life Farm and the Market Manager of the Hopkinton Farmers Market in Hopkinton, MA. Laura volunteers her time as a Board Member for the Northeast Organic Farming Association, Massachusetts Chapter as well as works as a staff member in soil technical assistance and organic certification assistance. Laura's most important crops are her daughters Mei 18 and Li 15 who are both in high school.

**Lydia Sisson** co-Founded Mill City Grows in 2011 and oversaw Program operations and development through 2019. She is an experienced commercial farmer and small business owner. Before founding Mill City Grows, Lydia ran a 5-acre CSA farm for four years, feeding 75 families and selling wholesale produce to other regional CSAs. Her expertise in food production is backed by 12 years of commercial agricultural experience. Her understanding of community organizing is rooted in years of coalition-building work in Lowell. Lydia currently serves on MA Governor's Board of Food and Agriculture and was the founding member of the Lowell Food Security Coalition. She was recently appointed to the Governor's Cannabis Advisory Board.

She holds a BA in Environmental Studies from Vassar College, a Master's in Economic and Social Development of Regions from UMASS



Lowell, and a certificate in Amazon Resource Management and Human Ecology from the School for International Training in Belém, Para, Brazil. She participated in the Associated Grant Makers 2017-18 NonProfit Learning Institute.

**ML Altobelli** has 40+ years' experience creating healthy sustainable soils that grow colorful mixed flower and vegetable gardens, healthy environments and happy people. From the days of dealing with slugs at a retail garden to current projects that integrate top quality veggies into

flower gardens, increase food for pollinators early and late in the season and soil development at every turn, ML's curiosity and practical outlook are driven by her fascination with soils and what can be done to improve them for the sake of the plants and the animals and humans that interact with them. She has collected a BS in Animal Science, multiple certificates from Arnold Arboretum, Green School and others. ML built a fine garden landscaping business (M.L's Greenery in Motion) and was a founding member of the Ecological Landscape Alliance.

She (and her sister) own Woody End Farm (with ducks, dairy goats, hugelkulture beds and custom growing) and she is currently the chair of her local agricultural commission, runs local training programs and experiments to find ecological and organic solutions that suit each individual site.

**Marlene Boyette**, a 300 RYT certified Trauma Informed Yoga Instructor, was raised between Central Massachusetts and Central Texas. She started on a meditative and yogic path in her teens, reading books such as "Siddhartha", "How to Practice", finding her deepest sense of peace while seated amongst nature, under the full moon at the Wachusett Reservoir. After moving to Boston in 2003 and beginning a personal yoga practice, Marlene first became certified to teach Children's Yoga in 2013 and in 2016 was trained and certified by 4 Corners Yoga + Wellness in Dorchester as a Trauma Informed Yoga Instructor. Presently, Marlene teaches Yoga & Mindfulness full time at The Advent School in Boston's Beacon Hill, has co-founded two yoga social justice initiatives (Peace in Boston and Blck+Blnd) and independently offers countless community classes and workshops,

collaborating with organizations and institutions throughout the city of Boston. She is dedicated to using yoga, meditation and overall wellness as a catalyst for supporting, empowering, building and healing communities and believing in yoga as radical self-care and self-preservation, especially for people of color.

**Michael Botelho** serves at the Massachusetts' Department of Agricultural Resources, as the Director of the Produce Safety, Market Access and Certification Program Area. Michael is responsible for the design, implementation, deployment and management of the State's voluntary Produce Safety Program, Commonwealth Quality, launched in 2008 and has been responsible for the implementation of a Produce Safety Inspection Program in alignment with the Federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) signed into law in 2011. The FSMA has given the Food and Drug Administration and Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) new authorities to regulate the way foods are grown, harvested and processed nationally and in the Commonwealth.

Michael represents MDAR in both senior and advisory roles for state, national and regional initiatives and currently serves as the Principal Investigator for the CAP program with the FDA.

**Michelle Cook** is a graduate of the 2019 Urban Farming Institute of Boston's training program and Urban Farmer. She is also the co-founder of Urban Outdoors Association, an organization that offers unique services to enjoy the outdoors in all seasons.

**Miriam Gee**, CoFounder, CoEverything and Board member of Boston Farms Community Land Trust. Miriam is 1 part Architect, 1 part Educator, 2 parts Community Champion, 3 parts Optimist. Miriam is passionate about architecture and sustainable development and its potential for building community. Miriam is also part of a working group of BIPOC folks who are incubating a new urban farming worker-coop in Boston.

**Noli Taylor** has done environmental and agricultural advocacy and organizing work with non-profits and community groups across the country for more than 20 years. She graduated from Haverford

College and the Green Corps Field School for Environmental Organizing and served on the boards of the Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources and Massachusetts Farm to School. She has been working with Island Grown Initiative on Martha's Vineyard since 2006, and helped launch IGI's farm to school program, mobile market, community lunch program, gleaning program, and more.

**Pamela "Mela" Bush Miles** is a Native Bostonian who has spent decades organizing and advocating for transit equity and environmental justice. She brings a wealth of wisdom and experience to her community and beyond. She formerly served as the Acting Director and Lead Organizer for The Greater Four Corners Action Coalition. She has been championing the fight for transit justice for the 100,000 plus riders and residents along the Fairmount corridor in Massachusetts.

She is the Director of Transit Oriented Development and T Riders Union (TRU) at Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE). TRU is an empowered network of MBTA Riders fighting for Transit Justice and Equity. She is the Former Chair of and now serves as the Special Advisor to the Fairmount Indigo Transit Coalition, and an active board member of the Rail Users Network, a North American Rail advocacy coalition. She is also Vice Chair of the Regional Board of COOP Power, an energy cooperative in the Northeast Region including New England and New York. as well as an organizing founder of Harambee Food Source, an emerging COOP in Roxbury started and run by African Americans. Mela designed and scaled the programs for and related to transportation, food and eco-fashion for the largest environmental festival in New England, known as Boston GreenFest. Some of her past Greenfest forums include Food for Us Forum, Green Jobs Forums as well as Transportation Tomorrow Today Forums and ECO Fashion shows since 2009

For over a decade, she served the 4 corners Dorchester community organizing residents to preserve affordable Housing Transportation and green space. With her guidance and collaboration, resident leaders worked to start neighborhood associations, community gardens, urban farms, food forests, urban wilds, and land trusts. She embodies the words of Professor Angela Davis- "I am no longer willing

to accept the things I cannot change; I am changing the things I cannot accept."

Mela is a 2007 Senior Fellow of the Environmental leadership Program and an Aspen Ideas Scholar. She is an esteemed lecturer, panelist and ambassador for Environmental Justice, Community Engagement/organizing, Transit-Oriented Development, and Climate Justice.

**Pampi** is a 20+ year newcomer-settler of Turtle Island (currently in residency on Pennacook / Sokoki territory). A nonbinary second-genx casteD-Bengali culture worker, Pampi plays at the intersection of healing and popular education. As an expressive artist and dedicated community worker, they use poetry, dance and community gardening to encourage people to shift the way that they look at the earth, and the soil, and how it holds us.

Pampi is a founding member of Neighborhood Grow Plan, established in the spring of 2020. The program supports families who rent property in Roxbury, Dorchester and Mattapan to grow food where they live. With a special focus on supporting immigrant families, Neighborhood Grow Plan helps renters understand their rights regarding land use and builds a sustainable liberatory future through community building and growing food. Currently they are facilitating a workshop exploring the Zine as a Popular Education Organizing Tool connecting growing knowledge with Our Right to Remain. Young organizers who are growing food are joining from Springfield, Hartford, Chelsea, Lynn and Flint, MI.

They are dedicated to the great work of liberation through food sovereignty and the struggle for living wage by reclamation of unskilled work as in fact so very skilled and essential.

**Patricia Spence** is President and CEO of The Urban Farming Institute (UFI) of Boston. Prior to UFI, Pat had a successful career in corporate sales & marketing in the tech world, and at WILD 1090 radio and GBH-TV. Pat has also worked in education for the Boston Public Schools, developed the Educational Options Series for families and founded They Made It So Can I, The 5thGrade Speakers Series. Patricia

grew up near the Fowler Clark Epstein Farm in Mattapan and comes from a family that has always grown its own food. She is passionate about passing these growing skills on to the next generation and building a healthier community. Pat has recently become a board member of the Mass Audubon Society.

**Rebecca Miller** is the Campaign for HIP Funding Manager at the Massachusetts Food Systems Collaborative, where she has successfully led campaigns to increase funding for the past two years in the state's budget. Becca also helps to facilitate the MA Urban Agriculture coalition, which was formed during the COVID emergency in spring 2020, and works to build a more sustainable, equitable, resilient local food system through policy and advocacy. Becca previously worked on HIP as a program coordinator for Mass Farmers' Markets, where she assisted farmers and market managers in the HIP onboarding process, helped implement farmer and recipient surveys and utilized grant funding to produce and distribute additional resources for HIP. Becca graduated from Clark University in Worcester, MA in 2015 with a Bachelor's in Global Environmental Studies and in 2016 with a Master of Science in Environmental Science and Policy.

**Rev. Mariama White-Hammond** is an advocate for ecological & social justice, youth engagement, and Spirit-filled organizing. Rev. Mariama is the founding pastor of New Roots AME Church in Dorchester. New Roots is a multi-racial, multi-class community that is innovating new ways of being a church. Rev. Mariama is active in secular and interfaith justice efforts. In particular, she uses an intersectional lens in her ecological work, challenging folks to see the connections between immigration and climate change or the relationship between energy policy and economic justice. She is a fellow with the Green Justice Coalition which brings together 8 social/environmental justice groups from around Massachusetts. She speaks throughout the country and was the MC for both the 2017 Boston Women's March and Boston People's Climate Mobilization. As the former director of Project HIP-HOP, she used the arts as a tool to raise awareness for social issues. Rev. Mariama has received numerous awards including the Barr Fellowship, the Celtics Heroes Among Us, The Roxbury Founders Day Award and the Boston

NAACP Image award. She was selected as one of the Grist 50 Fixers for 2019 and Sojourners 11 Women Shaping the Church.

**Samantha "Foxy" Winship** is a Farm-Her, Mother, Beekeeper, Mater Gardener, and owner of mother's Finest Family Farm LLC in Winston Salem, NC. Samantha lived in the Eastern part of North Carolina up until she became a teenager and relocated to Chicago, IL where she spent most of her adult life. On a search to connect back to more of her indigenous roots, she relocated back to North Carolina. Today, she represents food sovereignty, women of color in beekeeping, food activism, and farming. She started Mother's Finest Family Farm in 2016 after attending an Urban Farming program at her local Cooperative Extension. Since, taking the class she has created a successful and fully functioning farming enterprise with herself and her family. She also serves at her local farmers markets, partners with retail locations across the US and advocates for community wellness with her handmade wellness tonics and syrups. She has been featured in the New York Times magazine, appeared on PBS Black Issues Forum, and many other high-profile media outlets for diligent work in creating a more equal and just food system. She is also continuing a path to enlighten other families about the power of planting a seed.

**Sara Dewey** is the Director of Farm & Food at Conservation Law Foundation. Sara has worked on environmental, agricultural, and energy issues as a legislative aide in the U.S. Senate and as policy director of an environmental governance initiative at Yale University. Sara holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School, a Master's in Environmental Management from Duke University, and a B.A. from Middlebury College.

**Sara Shostak** is Associate Professor of Sociology and Health: Science, Society and Policy at Brandeis University (Waltham, MA). Her forthcoming book, "Back to the Roots: Memory, Inequality, and Urban Agriculture," explores how urban farmers and gardeners in Massachusetts are reclaiming cultural traditions linked to food, farming, and health; challenging systemic racism and injustice in the food system; demanding greater community control of resources in marginalized neighborhoods; and moving towards their visions of more equitable urban futures.

**Sha'Von Terrell** is a rising and inspiring voice in the Black Food and Land Sovereignty community, Sha'Von Terrell is a child of the deep south, freedom dreamer, and a strategic food systems planner specializing in food and land sovereignty.

She is the granddaughter of former farmers who have undergone economic exploitation, environmental racism, and spiritual devastation through systems of oppression. Therefore, Sha'Von's passion is rooted in Black self-determination, collective organizing, and reclaiming our right to agriculture.

As the Deputy Director with the Black Church Food Security Network, Sha'Von manages a local market that steers thousands of dollars and support toward Black farmers and small business owners.

Additionally, she travels the country organizing and consulting with anchor institutions, such as colleges, universities, churches, and grassroots organizations. Through this work, she advances local self-reliance in the food system.

She holds a Master's of City and Regional Planning from Morgan State University and a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Tuskegee University.

**Stevie Schafenacker** returned in 2016 to Massachusetts (where she began her farm and food justice career, first as a student at Mount Holyoke College and then as a farmer around the state). She spent the previous nine years in NYC, managing urban farms and gardens, educating the public on city agriculture, and supporting other food justice organizations in their growth and expansion. Stevie also moonlights in other food arenas. She adds whole animal butcher shop, camp kitchen management, and catering onto her list of experiences. Currently, Stevie is the Business Assistance Coordinator for CISA, supporting farms and farmers in the region.

**Tamar Harrison** is a recent graduate of Brandeis University '20. Here she studied Health: Science, Society, and Policy, and African and African-American Studies. As an ORISE Health Communications fellow

with CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP), she is leading success story development for some of NCCDPHP's funded programs. CDC's NCCDPHP Success Stories application provides federally funded grantees with a tool to show how their funding is used and why their work matters to current and potential partners, decision makers, and funders.

**Tamika R. Francis** is a curious generalist, currently working as a public health practitioner by day, and moonlights in food by night. She has a strong passion for the outdoors, farming, and indigenous food traditions. After graduate school at the Heller School at Brandeis University, she ran away to the tiny island of St. Lucia to work on marketing and product development for an eco- and agro-tourism project working with a permaculture farm, street food vendors, a women's fishing cooperative and local food festival. Tamika has been a chef instructor at the Haley House, The Kitchen at Boston Public Market, The Food Project, and the Urban Farming Institute in Boston where she is also a member of the board. Her company, Food & Folklore, pays homage to global food tradition and highlights unrepresented foodways, centered around the question "What does home taste like for you" where she explores travel, nostalgia, belonging, identity and the immigrant experience through culinary classes, pop up dining, and storytelling with a collaborative of other local chefs. Tamika is on a personal mission to get more people to enjoy goat meat.

**Tradd Cotter** is a microbiologist, professional mycologist, and organic gardener, who has been tissue culturing, collecting native fungi in the Southeast, and cultivating both commercially and experimentally for more than twenty-two years. In 1996 he founded Mushroom Mountain, which he owns and operates with Olga Katic, to explore applications for mushrooms in various industries and currently maintains over 300 species of fungi for food production, mycoremediation of environmental pollutants, and natural alternatives to chemical pesticides.

In 2014, Tradd completed and published the best-selling book *Organic Mushroom Farming and Mycoremediation* (2014), that is still one of the top ten releases with the publisher, Chelsea Green. Tradd has won

numerous awards for his work including the prestigious Clemson University Entrepreneur of the Year Award (2013), the EPA GRO-U Fellowship Award (2011), and an expert lecturer on all topics related to fungi in agriculture and medicine.

His primary interest is in low-tech and no-tech cultivation strategies so that anyone can grow mushrooms on just about anything, anywhere in the world. Mushroom Mountain is currently expanding to 42,000 square feet of laboratory and research space near Greenville, South Carolina, to accommodate research for commercial production of new and experimental species, as well as mycoremediation projects. In 2018 Mushroom Mountain started a daughter company, MYCOMATRIX, that develops novel medicinal extracts for consumers and cobranding into consumer products. In 2019 Mushroom Mountain opened THE BLUE PORTAL, a psilocybin research and mediated session center, that is available in Jamaica and soon Costa Rica. Tradd's current research projects include bacterial interactions with fungi and novel antibiotic discovery.

**Txong Yang** has worked with his parents on their land at Flats Mentor Farm since 2003 and at their farmers' markets introducing cultural crops to communities in the Boston area. After graduating with a Bachelor's in Biology from Framingham State University, Txong worked as a Lab Analyst with UMass Medical School. Two years later, he rejoined his parents at the farm with the goal to help his parents manage the farmer's markets. His family currently operates on 4-acre land with their own tractor, two high tunnels, and attend Central Square, Davis Square, and Copley Square Farmer's Markets. In the evening, Txong works as a Medical Technologist at Quest Diagnostics, and during the day, Txong rejoins the team as the Retail Market's Mentor to assist and guide farmers looking to expand into farmer's markets.

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And For Being A Part Of  
Our Community!!!***