Message from our Appointed Members

The Food Policy Advisory Council is made up of 30 appointed members representing Philadelphia’s food system who advise the Mayor and local officials on how to create a food system that is just.

A just food system means everyone in Philadelphia has the power and resources to access and control our food, land, and labor. Racism, white supremacy, and other forms of oppression keep us from getting where we want to go. To address these barriers and shift power, FPAC works to change policy.

We are led by the wisdom and power of those most affected by oppression – Black, Brown, Indigenous, poor, and marginalized people. As we create a space for all of our voices, we find and remove the barriers in our food system that keep us from taking charge of our food, land, and labor.

Guiding Principles and Values

After listening to more than 500 Philadelphians who either lead hunger relief work in their communities or attended the two public meetings hosted by the Urban Agriculture Plan, we came up with the following recommendations.

These recommendations were chosen based on the impact they will have in FY23 and how well they:

- Are led by people who have dealt with food injustice
- Meet the coexisting needs of people who grow food, work in restaurants, experience hunger, and provide food for communities
- Address racism and transfer power and resources to historically disinvested communities
- Align with the priorities of local food justice and sovereignty movements

We are calling on the City of Philadelphia to take action in Fiscal Year 2023 towards our long-term vision of a just food system.
FY23 ACTIONS AND COMMITMENTS

Support City Food Program Capacity

Support and advocate for a just local food system by:

☐ Growing FPAC’s staff capacity in order to further our work in community engagement and coordination of food-related work throughout the city
☐ Committing resources, staff, and funding to the Urban Agriculture Plan implementation
☐ Investing in food justice initiatives led by Black and Brown communities
☐ Creating a communications and engagement plan to share food resources, information, and programs with the public

Increase Access and Ownership of Land for Agriculture Uses

Focus on transferring public land for agricultural use to Black, Brown, Indigenous, poor, and marginalized communities that have suffered from neglect because of systemic racism by:

☐ Advocating in City Council and working with the Sheriff’s Office to extend the moratorium on all Sheriff and Market Sales of active gardens.
☐ Developing an education and communications plan around existing paths to land ownership (short and long-term leases, land disposal)
☐ Working with communities, farmers, and gardeners to develop new internal practices

Adopt a Good Food Purchasing Policy

Adopt and implement a Good Food Purchasing Policy to be applicable in City food purchases following a 4-year scale-up process that takes into consideration (1) local economies, especially small-scale producers of color, (2) environmental sustainability, (3) nutrition, (4) a valued workforce, (5) animal welfare, and (6) cultural relevance by 2026. Commit to the following:

☐ Adopting operational Good Food values definitions as part of the Philadelphia Nutrition Standards revision
☐ Conducting community conversations about City food programs’ nutrition and cultural relevance to improve program menus
☐ Agreeing to a one-year food supply chain advancement project
☐ Developing a rubric for evaluating all City contracts and agreements with private and nonprofit organizations to determine vendor awards

Expand Local Food and Produce Distribution

Support the local economy and expand access to local, fresh, culturally relevant food in communities impacted by structural racism by:

☐ Creating a public support network for farmers markets and farm stands (ex. technical assistance and funding)
☐ Engaging in a phased program to require SNAP acceptance at all markets in the city
☐ Investing in food justice initiatives led by Black and Brown communities
☐ Committing resources, staff, and funding to the Urban Agriculture Plan implementation

Read the full report:

www.phillyfpac.org | fpac@phila.gov | November 2021