

Will work for Food Dignity:

A workshop on making research serve food justice

Christine M. Porter University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY

E. Jemila Sequeira Whole Community Project, Tompkins County, NY

Jim Sutter Blue Mountain Associates, Wind River Indian Reservation, WY

Hank Herrera Dig Deep Farms & Produce, Bay Area CA (and C-PREP)

Daryl Marshall, Sarita Daftary, & David Vigil East New York Farms!, Brooklyn, NY

Gayle M. Woodsum, Director, Feeding Laramie Valley (and ARI), Laramie, WY

*Yale Food Systems Symposium
New Haven, CT. October 18th, 2013*

Today

- Introducing Food Dignity
- Our stories about food justice-research relations
- Co-developing the lessons from our stories, your stories, and benchmark documents for how to make research serve food justice.

A little about FoodDignity

“Action Research on Engaging Food Insecure Communities and Universities in Building Sustainable Community Food Systems”

Core research questions:

- How do, can and should US communities work to create sustainable and equitable food systems that generate food security?
- How should universities help?

5 +1 Food Dignity (FD) Case Stories

5 stories of community initiatives

- **East New York Farms!** (ENYF!), United Community Centers, Brooklyn, NY
- **Whole Community Project** (WCP), Cornell Cooperative Extension, Tompkins County, NY
- **Feeding Laramie Valley** (FLV), Albany County, WY
- **Wind River Indian Reservation** (WRIR), Blue Mountain Associates, WY
- **Dig Deep Farms & Produce** (DDF&P), Alameda County, CA

1 story of the project, focus on academic attempts at allyship

- **Cornell University**
- **University of Wyoming**

Food Dignity Action-Research Design

- \$325k “support package” to each community over 5 yrs:
 - community organizer (half-time)
 - steering committees
 - community research budget
 - minigrants for citizen action (\$30k total per place)
 - university-community liaison (FLV and WCP)
- 5 + 1 case studies including:
 - photonarratives
 - interviews
 - file collection and coding
 - participation & observation
 - minigrant tracking
 - garden harvest measures

Christine's learning 1: Heart first

- Courage
- Love
- Gratitude

Let ethics and relationships guide what knowledge we seek, and how.

Note the "1" - I'm counting strategies

1a: courage starts with naming fears

 United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture



1b: People and problems (not disciplines) at the center



Christine M. Porter:

- Aiming for a position at the University of Love, College of Courage, Department of Gratitude.
- Currently studying for a PhD in humility at FD community partner university.

Lost the agroecologist on the Wyoming team. Designed the research with gardeners instead.

1b: People and problems (not disciplines) at the center

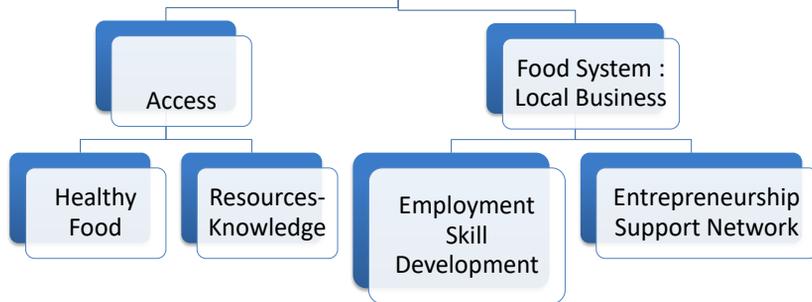


Date	Crop type	Weight (ounces)	Food Use				Notes
			Eat	Store	Share	Loss	
e.g. 7/15	Beets w/ stems & greens	14.7	X				Some beets damaged by gophers. Just cut around gopher bites and ate the rest. Ate beets, stems, and greens
e.g. 7/30	carrots	32.3	10.3	12	10		Used in tonight's stir fry, froze some, and gave some to a friend
e.g. 7/31	radish	2.3				X	Estimated weight. Our best radish disappeared the day before we were going to harvest!
7/3	scallions	4.7 oz	X				weight includes green part which we eat
7/3	Rhubarb	5.02			X		we give rhubarb away
7/6	scallions	2.4 oz	X				(ditto 7/3)
7/9	scallions	3.9 oz	X				(ditto 7/3)
7/13	Chard	9.3 oz	X				Second planting due to gophers eating it before we got to market.
7/16	Chard	8.7 oz	X				ditto - usually pick for 3
7/24	Chard	9.1 oz	X				(ditto chard)
7/24	scallions	4.3 oz	X				(ditto 7/3)
7/25	Rhubarb	19.2 oz			X		(ditto 7/3)

Lost the agroecologist on the Wyoming team. Designed the research with gardeners instead.

Food Dignity in Tompkins County Sustainable Food System

All TC Residents Experience Dignity in Access to Healthy Foods and Are Equipped with Resources and Information to Participate in All Areas of the Food System



Jemila Sequeira



Growing Health conference, Binghamton, NY





Jim Sutter



Wind River to Brooklyn



Take your pick



Lillian Aragon approached the table of Kathleen and Timothy Thomas, of Ethete, who displayed a large selection of cucumber, homemade salsa, peppers, tomatoes and baked goods at the farmer's market in Fort Washakie. The market will run every Thursday and week of October.





East New York Farms!

...is a network of

- 33 youth interns
- 1 youth & staff-managed urban farm
- 24 community gardens
- 30 backyard gardens
- 80 gardeners
- 1000+ volunteers & visitors
- 10 community educators
- 4 regional farmers
- 17,000+ market customers

Daryl Marshall



1995, Pratt Center for Economic and Community Development, university-based group, helped convene the collaboration – including UCC – from which ENYF! was born

1998: First Farmers' Market







Steering Committee first convened in June 2011, currently we have: Ira Livingstone, Phiola McFarlane, Scott Young, Suzette Jules Jack, Simpson Brenton, Ann Howson, Nurys Garcia, Johnathan Bradley (Leave of Absence), Rey Pinder (Leave of Absence)



Ira Livingstone has been a vendor at East New York Farms!(ENYF) and now is a consultant working on a Healthy Bodega Initiative with the New York City Department of Health. In this role he has been getting small corner stores in the area, to increase the availability of fresh, local, quality produce. He was recommended by staff, who believed he would be a good fit. Since joining the committee Ira has been instrumental in his participation and outreach.

Phiola McFarlane is a high school teacher in the area, and a resident of East New York. Some of her students have participated in our internship program. She was also someone staff felt would be interested in being a member. Sometimes when her students see her, they believe that somehow they may be in trouble; she quietly assures them they are not.

Scott Young has lived in East New York for most of his life. He is a host of a local radio show. The station is very community-oriented and discusses issues that affect the neighborhood. Scott was invited to a meeting by another member, Rey Pinder.

Suzette Jules Jack lives in the area, and works for a non-profit. I met her at a local community organization event while I was doing outreach. I wasn't sure if I reached anyone at the event, but clearly I did.

Simpson Brenton is an acquaintance of Ira. Simpson resides in the area, and is very

concerned with the local food landscape. He has brought a very inquisitive nature to the committee.

Rey Pinder is from the East New York community and an active Community Educator with ENYF. Once I mentioned it Ray, he jumped on board. Rey is also a host at the local radio show, and has let me use his time slot to speak about grants. Rey Pinder had to undergo an operation recently, I'm glad to report he is doing well. He is working his way back into rotation at the radio station, so we need to discuss if he still can commit to committee.

Ann Howson actually lives on the same block as United Community Centers (UCC), the larger organization which East New York Farms!(ENYF) is a project of. She attended the center as a child, and her daughter attends here currently. She was invited to our meeting by Suzette Jack another member. I can still remember Ann saying "Wow I pick my daughter up every day; I didn't know something like this was happening." She wants to give back to the center that has made such an impact on her. Ann at the moment is finishing up her degree but still makes time to make it out to the meetings.

Nurys Garcia is a resident of East New York, a mother and a proud alumni of NYU. She speaks a few languages such as Japanese and Spanish, which has been helpful in doing outreach to Spanish speaking community members. I met her while working outside at our farm. She was curious about what we do and grow. I explained to her the programs we have and she seemed interested in the committee, so I followed up with her.

Johnathan Bradley is a friend of Nurys and speaks about as many languages as her. He really helped a lot in the grant review process by reading all applications assigned to him. Unfortunately he and his family were affected by Hurricane Sandy and were displaced. We have been looking to possibly do Skype meetings and are still working out logistics, but right now we are well aware of his first priorities.

Third Minigrant Cycle: got 6 applicants: funded 5

Gemma Garcia's Bee Project- Expanded into neighboring community and has proven the need for extractor. Trainings and rules have been implemented in regards to extractor.

Isabahlia Ladies of Elegance Foundation- Local non-profit was awarded grant for hoop house and workshop trainings for community members

Watch High School- Curriculum based student led group that will use juicer to create healthy drinks for class.

Ira Livingstone- Pilot project that will use a van shuttle service to bring customers to the farmers market.

Danilo Henry- Project is for a fan to be installed in Greenhouse of community garden that he is a member of. This will make it more comfortable for gardeners and visitors from nearby schools.



Tomorrow's Leaders- after school program that wanted to include healthy snacks in program. Also created index cards of healthier food choices that youth could use when food shopping.

Had issues of inconsistent staff, but reached out to us and we came up with a plan to hire local interns.

Have applied for grants from other sources and have been successful in obtaining those grants.



Gayle Woodsum

Gayle

Thank you!

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The Kettering Foundation

contact@fooddignity.org

Making research serve food justice: workshop handouts

- Gust, S. and Jordan, C. *The Community Impact Statement: A tool for creating healthy partnerships*. Minneapolis, 2006.
- Community Network for Research Equity & Impact. *Agenda for Change*. 2nd National Community Partner Forum, December 5-7, Washington DC, 2012.
- People's Movement Assemblies. *Draft Principles of Food Justice*. Food + Justice = Democracy conference, Sept 24-26, Minneapolis, MN, 2012.

(Additional slides for reference if
needed)

Dignity is a bridge.

It needs two sides that, being different, distinct and distant
become one in the bridge

without ceasing to be different and distinct, but ceasing
already to be distant.

...

Dignity, then, is struggling so that dignity will eventually be
the world.

A world where all the worlds fit.

So dignity is and is something that needs to be created.

It is a path to travel.

Dignity is the tomorrow.

- Zapatista March of Dignity, Puebla, Feb 2nd, 2001

participation + negotiation = power

	High voice/ participation	Low voice/ participation
Effective negotiation	Mediated negotiations	Deal-making
Weak negotiation	Public hearings	Bureaucratic procedure

John Forester, 2006

<https://papyrus.bib.umontreal.ca/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1866/2491/forester.pdf?sequence=1>