



Collectively changing the story of our food system at the Food + Justice = Democracy conference, September 24–26, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Much of this material paraphrased from The Peoples Movement Assembly Organizing Kit available at <http://www.peoplesmovementassembly.org/>

We are undertaking this food justice Peoples Movement Assembly process because we believe we can build a better world, a world that is fed by a fair, just and healthy food system. The dominant narrative of our food system—that it is healthy and efficient—is inaccurate, incomplete and deceptive. The full impact of the food system on the people who live and work throughout the food chain—particularly people of color, from the fields to the processing plants, to the supermarkets, to the plate—is hidden. The fact that our stories are not heard, and therefore not considered in policy and planning processes, reinforces health inequities and the current legacy of historical injustices.

The Peoples Movement Assembly provides a process for bringing our stories together and identifying collective actions for bettering the world.

Why does the food justice movement need new plans of action?

Current, social, economic and political systems are designed to fail our communities.

Social movements are strained.

One strategy is not sufficient.

Reforms are not enough; we need to develop long-term vision and strategy.

Leadership must be held by people who live and experience injustice.

Six Food Justice Breakout Sessions and Facilitators

Historical Trauma Room: New Sweden West (Second Floor—One level down from Ballroom) Sam Simmons, Simmons Consulting Sam Grant, Movement Center for Deep Democracy LaDonna Redmond, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy	Labor and Immigration Room: Norway 1 Diana Robinson, Food Chain Workers Alliance Charlotte Williams, Center for New Community Kandace Vallejo, IATP Food and Community Fellow, Student/Farmworker Alliance (SFA) Yvonne Yen Liu, Applied Research Center
Land Room: Norway 2 Savi Horne, Land Loss Prevention Project Julie Ristau, On the Commons Ana Micka, On the Commons	Local Food System, Community Development and Public Investment Room: Minnesota Room Eric Holt-Gimenez, Food First Annie Young, Harrison Neighborhood Association
Toxic-Free and Climate-Just Food System Room: Norway 3 Katie Rojas-Jahn, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy Orrin Williams, Center for Urban Transformation Shiney Varghese, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy	Hunger Relief, Health disparities and the Industrial Food System Room: New Sweden East (Second Floor—One level down from Ballroom) Lorrie Clevenger, WhyHunger Brooke Smith, WhyHunger LaVida Davis, Bread for the World

The outcomes of this process

Each breakout session looks at food justice through its issue lens and provides consensus statements on the following:

Conditions that need to be addressed (e.g., poverty wages, documented institutional racism in federal farm programs)

Opportunities for correcting the situation (e.g., building a new food system not dependent on toxic chemicals, challenging the social structures that exacerbate health disparities)

Actions that we, as food justice advocates, are committed to take (e.g., commit to providing every child with a healthy food environment, work in our communities to eliminate hunger)

Broad policy principles that are needed to address food justice inequities (e.g., end all exploitation in the food chain, reform policies that promote corporate concentration)

Roles to be filled:

- Lead organizers
- Spiritual/cultural leaders
- Speakers
- Notetakers
- Timekeepers
- Small group facilitators
- Synthesizers to bring breakout principles to large group

Sample Agenda for PMA Sessions:

- Welcome and cultural action to set the tone (prayer, words of wisdom, song)
- Introductions, vision and goals
- Guidelines for working together
- Discuss political context and analysis, themes from conference speakers
- Small group discussions
- Large group reconvening to craft principles
- Synthesis and closing

We Can Build a Stronger Food Justice Movement

1. ANALYZE the current political movement
2. VISION the future we want
3. COMMIT TO ACTIONS toward that future