



# BOSTON FOOD ACCESS COUNCIL

*6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday September 13, 2022*



# Agenda

- 6:00 p.m. Welcome
- 6:05 p.m. Introductions
- 6:10 p.m. General Council Updates
- 6:15 p.m. Spotlight: Hunger Action Month
- 6:20 p.m. Working Group Updates
  - MFAA
  - P&A
  - COEE
  - Fundraising
- 6:40 p.m. Breakout Rooms
- 6:55 p.m. Shani Fletcher from GrowBoston
- 7:15 p.m. Community Updates
- 7:25 p.m. Next Steps



**BOSTON  
FOOD ACCESS  
COUNCIL**

***Please mark yourself present by completing the form in the chat!***



# Meeting Norms

- We will work to create a safe space for people with lived experience and recognize all it takes to speak truth to power.
- Hear feedback, critique, and experiences as opportunities for growth and not as personal offenses.
- Everyone is encouraged to participate.
- You may be asked to share what you think, or we may ask for comments from those who haven't spoken. It is always OK to "pass" when you are asked to share a comment.
- When you speak, be brief and to the point.
- When you speak, state your name and where you live (working group & public meetings)
- Treat others with respect as you disagree or agree and value what's being shared.
- When in doubt, ask for clarification.
- Every participant's voice will be respected.
- Step up and step back; allow space for others to contribute.
- Always remember that we are working within a broken food system, and any critique of the emergency food system is a reflection of that, and not a personal critique or someone's work or intent.

Presented by: Adriana



**BOSTON  
FOOD ACCESS  
COUNCIL**



# Values Statement

- The Boston Food Access Council (BFAC) brings together residents, activists, thought leaders, organizations, farmers, researchers and other diverse stakeholders to address equitable food access in the city of Boston, recognizing its role in the larger Massachusetts food system.
- The BFAC asserts that consistent access to healthy, nutritious, affordable and culturally-appropriate food is a basic human right.
- The BFAC seeks to create an anti-racist, inclusive and participatory culture of learning by building trusting and transformational relationships within the community by engaging residents with lived experience in hunger.
- The BFAC aims to ground itself in a power-sharing model that honors and values all voices at the table, treating each with dignity and respect, and is trauma-informed and self-critical.
- The BFAC seeks to offer a space to help provide an equitable, community-centered platform for food access, affordability, and economic opportunity.



Presented by: Cheryl



# Welcome to the Boston Food Access Council!

- Originated in 2009 as an appointed council
- Reorganized in 2019 by the City's team and stakeholders as part of the Mayor's Food Access Agenda
- BFAC is currently a volunteer led, fiscally sponsored, organization that works to engage organizations and community members across Boston around food access and food system issues.
- Work closely with Mayor's Office of Food Justice.
- Working groups are movers
  - Community Outreach, Education, and Engagement
  - Fundraising
  - Mayor's Food Access Agenda
  - Policy & Advocacy





## 2022 Steering Committee

- Cheryl Jean, Community Member, SC Co-Chair
- Christine E. M. Keller, Organizational Member from Fourth Presbyterian Food Pantry, SC Co-Chair
- Yasser Aponte/Maritza Rosario, Organizational Member from The Food Project, COEE Liaison
- Ryann Montiero, Community Member, MFAA Liaison
- Lauren Palumbo, Former Co-Chair, Organizational Member from Lovin' Spoonfuls, P&A Liaison
- Seana Weaver, Organizational Member from About Fresh, Media and Marketing
- Adriana Mendes-Sheldon, Organizational Member from Project Bread

## 2022 Summer Intern:

- Caroline Bond





# Help make the vision of BFAC become reality! Apply for the 2023-2024 Steering Committee Cohort!

- Elections to be held at December 6 meeting.
- Vacancies
  - 3 Organizational Representatives
  - 1 Community Representative
- Eligibility:
  - Must be a voting member of BFAC, attended 2 meetings in the last year.
- Applications and additional information
  - <https://forms.gle/FaVDdJJMqQ9fpfqm6>
- Due November 11, 2022.





# 2022 Working Group Co-Chairs

## Policy & Advocacy

- Chloe Miller
- Lexie T. Gozdiff

## Community Outreach, Education, and Engagement

- You?

## Fundraising

- Christine Ayash
- You?

## Mayor's Food Access Agenda

- Hae In Kim
- Alex Fleck





# Attendance and Directory Survey

- Attendance for tonight's meeting
- Join BFAC by filling out the membership form
- Survey (**only** if did not complete in March or June)
  - Purpose
    - Internal BFAC Directory
    - Food Systems Map
    - Stakeholder Mapping
    - Grant Funding Applications
  - Personal data to be shared publicly is noted in the description for the question: Zip code, Languages Spoken, Food System Sector
  - Organizational Information to be shared in directory





# General Organization Updates





# Strategic Planning

1. Please participate in the BFAC evaluation: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
2. The Steering Committee will use your feedback and focus the organization's goals.
  - a. 1-5 year goals
  - b. Process to routinely assess Boston's Food System and Food Insecurity, in partnership with the Office of Food Justice.
3. From these overarching goals, the Steering Committee and Working Group Chairs will determine what actions needed and when.

We are working with outside consultants, and will present the outcomes in December.



Presented by: Christine K.



# Media & Communications Strategy

Partnering with Boston University School of Public Health  
“Communication Strategies for Public Health”

Focus area 1: Urban Agriculture

Focus area 2: Food Systems Networking

Internally: Seana Weaver is handling Social Media. Reach out if you have important news to share!

Quick links to our social media in chat box.



Presented by: Christine K.



# September is Hunger Action Month



**Dates of Hunger Action Month:**  
September 1 - 30

## **Actions**

- **On social media:** Share a tweet/post that says why you believe hunger shouldn't happen
- **Go to** <https://www.feedingamerica.org/take-action/hunger-action-month>
- Join a BFAC Working Group
- Invite people to the next public BFAC meeting.





# **Mayor's Food Access Agenda Working Group**

**Co-Chair, Hae In Kim  
Co-Chair, Alex Flack**





# **Policy & Advocacy Working Group Report Out**

**Lexie Gozdiff and Chloe Miller**



## P&A Report Out:

- Lexie Gozdiff (she/her) joined us over the Summer as our new co-chair! She comes from Tufts with an MS in Food Policy and Masters of Public Health!
- We look forward to redefining our goals in upcoming meetings this Fall
  - Better include our community's goals and directives of partner organizations
  - Guide project selection
- Looking for members already serving on legislative coalitions and community organizations around Boston (i.e. SNAP Food Coalition etc)
- Next meeting: Thursday, September 22 at 6pm
  - Priorities & Goals Exercise on Miro





# **Community Outreach, Education, & Engagement Working Group Report Out**

**(Working Group Chairs Needed!)**



# COEE Report Out:

- Urban Agriculture focus
- Working with School Public Health Communications Class to identify intervention and implementation strategy to
  - Improve awareness of urban agriculture resources
  - Reduce food insecurity

*The in person event originally scheduled for this fall has been moved to spring of 2023, so we welcome any individuals to future COEE meetings who might be interested in participating in those efforts.*



# Community Impact Model

**Community Outreach Education Engagement**



# Why Community Empowerment?

- The focus is on changing structures of inequity AND individual's behaviors
  - Understands that these pieces are connected
- Recognizes the need for social support to sustain individual-level change
- Recognizes the capacity within individuals and communities to change the structures of inequity that affect their lives
- Connects “process” and “content” of a program: Programs should be planned with community members if they intend to empower community members



# Empowerment as an outcome AND a process

- You can have an empowering process, like engaging community members in a conversation about how to improve the food system
- You can have an empowerment outcome, like people feeling like they can change the food system after participating in the conversation
- Need both and should measure both to know if you are achieving them



# How do we measure these outcomes?

## ACCESS TO, & DEMAND FOR, HEALTHY LOCAL FOOD

OUTCOME	SAMPLE INDICATORS
Increased awareness of healthy local food and its benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Increased consumer knowledge about where to purchase local food</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Increased consumer knowledge about local food benefits</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Increased willingness to pay a premium for local foods</li></ul>
Increased purchases of healthy, local food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Sales numbers for local food, especially fruits, vegetables and other non-processed foods</li></ul>
Increased access for marginalized groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Diversity of client or program participant population</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Amount of food sold or distributed at reduced rates for low income populations</li></ul>
Increased storage potential for local food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Square footage available at local food storage centres</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Square footage of refrigerated storage space</li></ul>
Increased food skills and literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Increased knowledge regarding food skills (e.g., canning)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Increased knowledge about nutrition</li></ul>



# How do we measure these outcomes?

PERSONAL & COMMUNITY WELL-BEING	OUTCOME	SAMPLE INDICATORS
	Improved health	<input type="checkbox"/> Program participants' opinions regarding health improvements
	Improved self confidence in decision-making	<input type="checkbox"/> Program participants' opinions regarding improvements in confidence
	Increased social connections	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of new relationships formed through program participation or involvement with organization
	Increased feeling of community belonging	<input type="checkbox"/> Stories regarding sense of belonging from program participants <input type="checkbox"/> Number of participants indicating an increased sense of belonging
	Implementation of policies supportive of sustainable local foods	<input type="checkbox"/> Documentation of new policy initiatives that support sustainable local foods



# Zoom in on Community Empowerment:

Three interlocking pieces:

1. Feelings of individual level capacity to make a difference
2. Connection to those in your community
3. Taking action together as a community to tackle a common issue



We achieve our ultimate impact by empowering communities

*Empowerment refers to the ability of people to gain understanding and control over personal, social, economic and political forces in order to take action to improve their life situations*



**OUTCOMES:**

***Individual-level:***

Residents can access, cook, and grow their own food

***Community-level:***

Residents are connected to each other and other community stakeholders

Residents and other community stakeholders partner to actively engage in neighborhood food systems change



**ULTIMATE:**

*Increase access to and consumption of fresh, healthy, affordable food for food-insecure residents in the communities where we operate.*



# Themes from Community Impact Brainstorm

## We need to do other things if we want to change people's consumption:

"We need to make sure that we go to the next level of people actually eating it. If all we do is offer places to grow it, or purchase it, but don't follow through on what we do then, we haven't closed the loop."

"We can't just provide folks with fresh affordable food, there has to be follow-up, how do you incorporate those foods, stick with it, make it work."

## Connection to community:

"More about the feeling of being seen and heard"

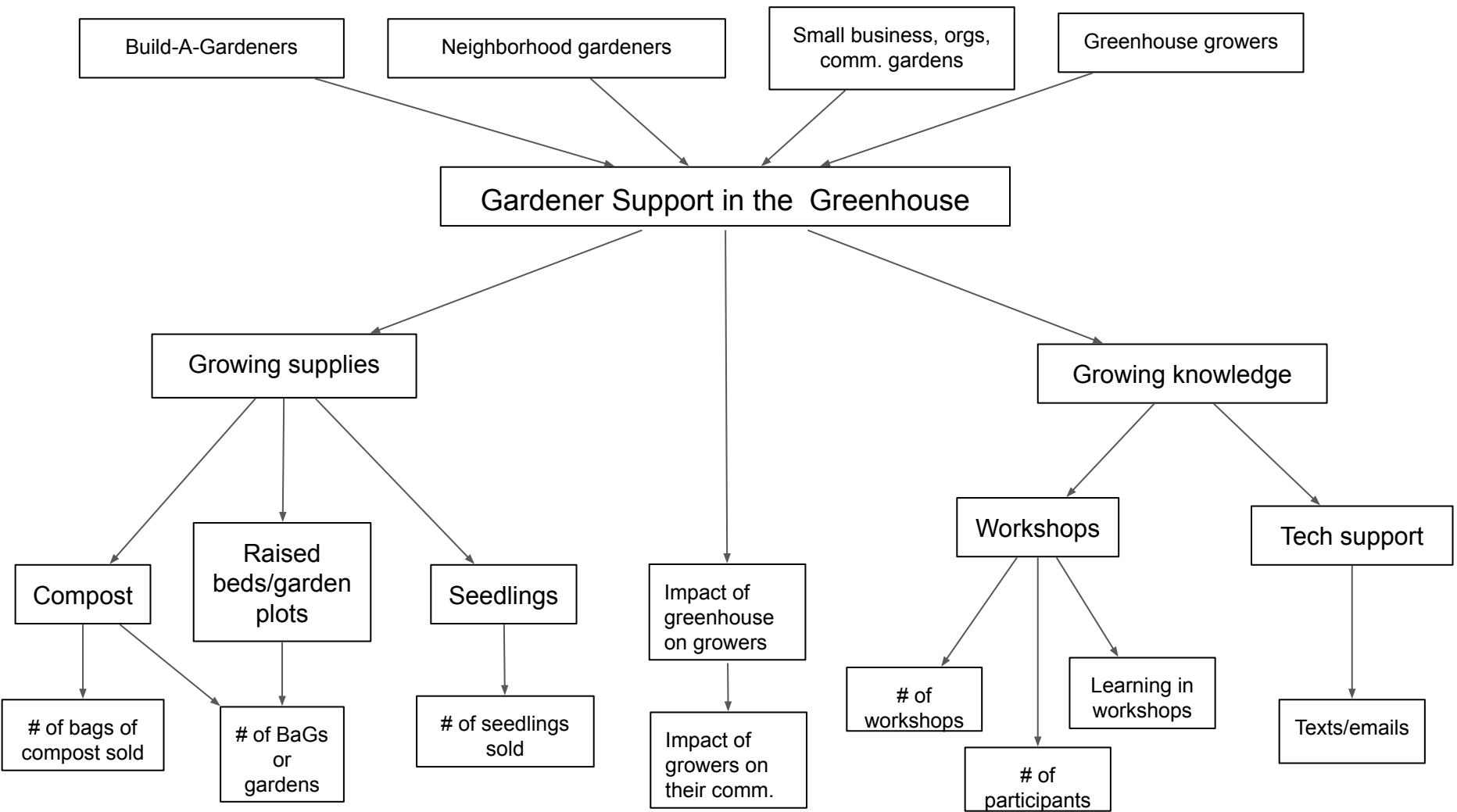
"People want to spend time there and that brings people together and makes them excited about growing there."

## Changing systems of inequity:

"What would concretely help people consume more fresh food? If they had more time, more money, less stress in their life."

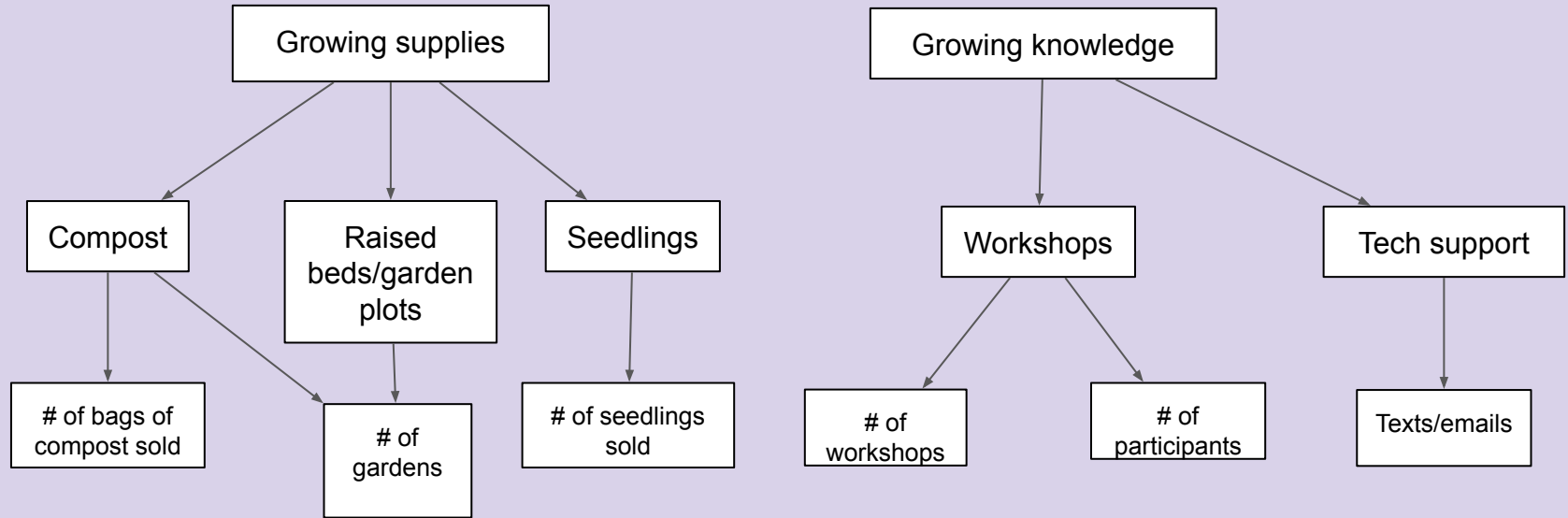
"People definitely already want food— and they come to the market to buy specific things, they don't need anyone to teach them how to cook. How can we increase accessibility?"







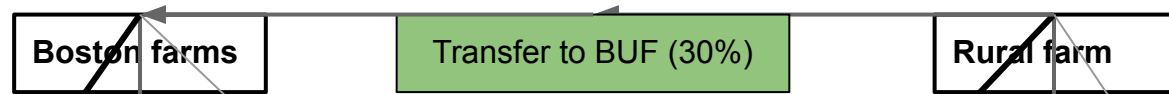
## Access to growing spaces and experienced farmers



Residents of DorRoxMatt and Lynn know how to access, cook, and/or grow vegetables



# FOOD DISTRIBUTION *(Ideal)*



**Boston farms**

**Transfer to BUF (30%)**

**Rural farm**

**Farmers' markets  
in DorRoxMat  
(65%)**

**HROs in  
DorRoxMat  
(25%)**

**Food Businesses  
(10%)**

**Corner stores in  
DorRoxMat (6%)**

**CSA (45%)**

**HROs (20%)**

**HROs in  
DorRoxMat  
(8%)**

**Food Businesses in  
DorRoxMat (5%)**

# of customers, % new  
& repeat

# / \$ sold, # / \$ sold  
through benefits

Impact on behavior

# donated

# served by HRO

Stories of impact  
from HRO

# / \$ sold

Double up

Stories of impact

# donated

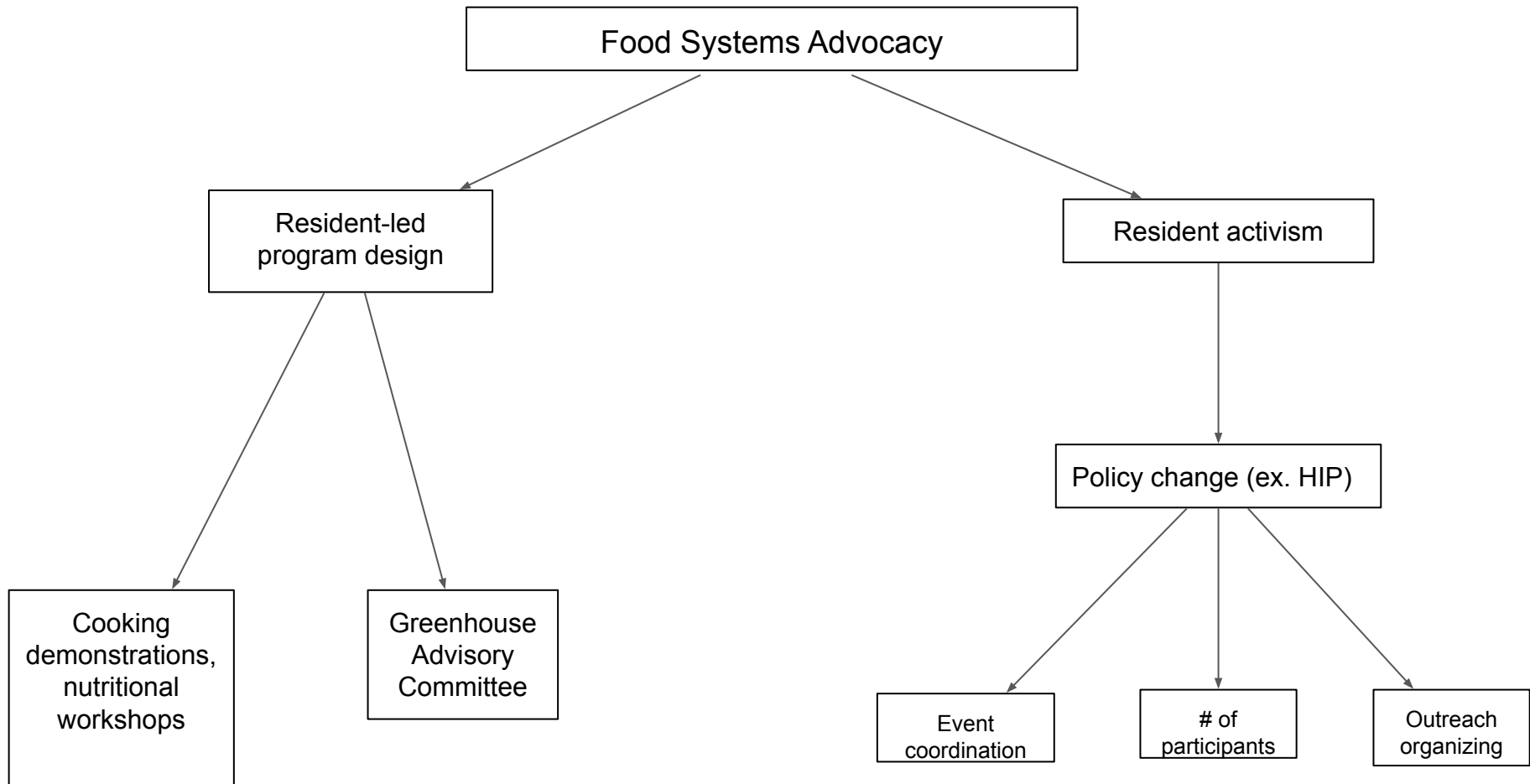
# served by  
HRO

Stories of impact  
from HRO

# / \$ sold

Stories of impact









# **Fundraising Working Group Report Out**

**Christine Ayash**



# Fundraising Report Out

Fundraising Working Group efforts are focused on building partnerships across private and public sectors, writing grants, organizing fundraisers, and generating revenue for BFAC initiatives.

Grant Submission To Date:

July 31, 2022 - Greater Boston Food Bank 5K Community Grant

October 2022 - RFA release from MA Department of Agriculture Grant  
Submission for Local Food Councils

On September 20th BFAC will hold a strategic planning meeting which will help guide BFAC's fundraising strategy.



# Breakout Room Prompts

1. Introduce yourselves to each other in the “room”, including your name, pronouns, organization (if any), and where you live.
2. Prompts:
  - a. From the Boston food system who is not being represented in the BFAC?
  - b. In order to address current problems in the Boston Food System, what questions must BFAC ask?





**Daily  
Table**

i don't see any  
here tonight  
for example

**Farmers  
Markets**

**Shelters -  
youth and  
family**

Organizations  
that provide  
meals for  
seniors and  
disable adu  
like Ethos

ABCD Reps from  
all/most  
neighborhoods

Housing  
authorities

Organizations that  
are more closely  
connected to  
residents not only in  
the food space. Like  
New England United  
for Justice.

**Free  
Fridges**

**Fair Foods  
Boston  
(JP)**

**Greater  
Boston  
Food  
Bank**

more  
university  
student  
involvement

Mass Farmers  
Market  
Coalition, for  
example

Residents, youth,  
Everything outside  
of non profit food  
space: health care,  
food stores, retail,  
restaurants,  
business

**Native  
Americans**

We also have a ser  
food insecurity  
problem on campus  
UMass Boston. As the  
only public university  
in town, it'd be good  
to bring in our  
campus food  
insecurity team  
(called UAccess  
pantry)

Homeless  
representation

From the Boston food system who is  
not being represented in the BFAC?

**Mobile  
markets**

General food pantry  
representation

**(council  
on  
aging)**

**Regional  
office of  
FNS**

**Producers  
and  
farmers**

Reps from  
DTA office and  
Rep Pressley's  
office

USDA  
representatives

**DTA**

**Local food  
coalitions**

Public school  
district  
representation



# In order to address current problems in the Boston Food System, what questions must BFAC ask?

**It is hard to create this questions, because it depends who we are asking.**

**Consider different scopes: emergency food, SNAP, EBT; but, also consider the roots of these issues, like financial and housing stability**

**Who do we go to when the City changes zoning or takes away our ability to do our work?**

**How does transportation impact your access to food?**

**Players to consider: Farmers markets, pantries, bodegas, health community, etc.**

**Where are you shopping?  
Where to you get your food?**

**Questions must provide contact for who we are surveying. Where else do you go for food? Does this meet your needs completely (or what per cent)?**

**What are the cultural problems that you run in to in your food experience.**

**What is the gap for you that is still not met?**



Featured Speaker:

**Shani Fletcher, Director of GrowBoston:  
Office of Urban Agriculture**



Presented by: Yasser





# Grow Boston:

## Office of Urban Agriculture



# Urban Agriculture

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**urban agriculture:** producing food in the city!



## Forms of Urban Agriculture:

- Food forests
- Urban farms - growing food for others
- Community garden plots and home gardens - growing food for yourself and family
- Rooftop growing
- Greenhouse growing
- Vertical growing
- Raised beds
- Beekeeping
- Raising small livestock





# Boston's Urban Ag History

- Community gardens since at least WWII - Victory Gardens
- Urban farms since the 90s
- Article 89 zoning regulation established 2013 - national leader
- Food forests being established over last several years
- Some rooftop farms, freight container farms, and greenhouse operations
- Major increase in urban farming in last decade+
- Increase in demand for food-growing space since beginning of COVID-19 pandemic





# Urban Ag at MOH

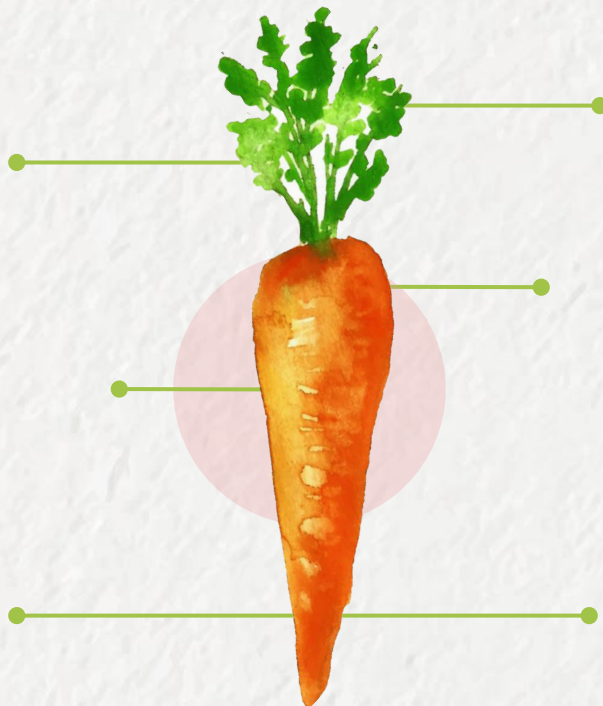
- MOH has made land available for gardens and open space for decades
- Grassroots Program started in 1990s
  - Focused on site development on MOH land with federal money - CDBG
  - Mostly farms, gardens, and other open spaces
  - Grassroots also funds capital open space improvements on non-MOH land





# GrowBoston: What's Coming?

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GrowBoston

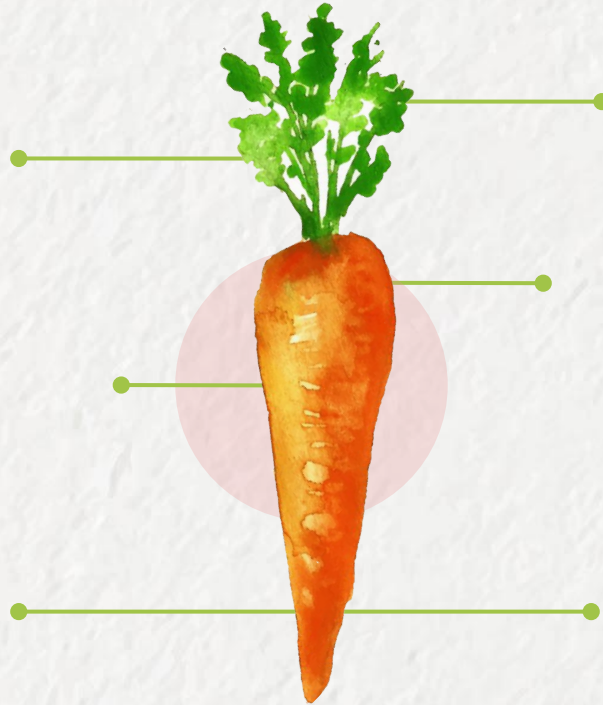


# GrowBoston: What's Coming?

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## Public Facilities

Creating food production spaces at senior centers, schools, BHA sites, and MOH-produced housing





# GrowBoston: What's Coming?

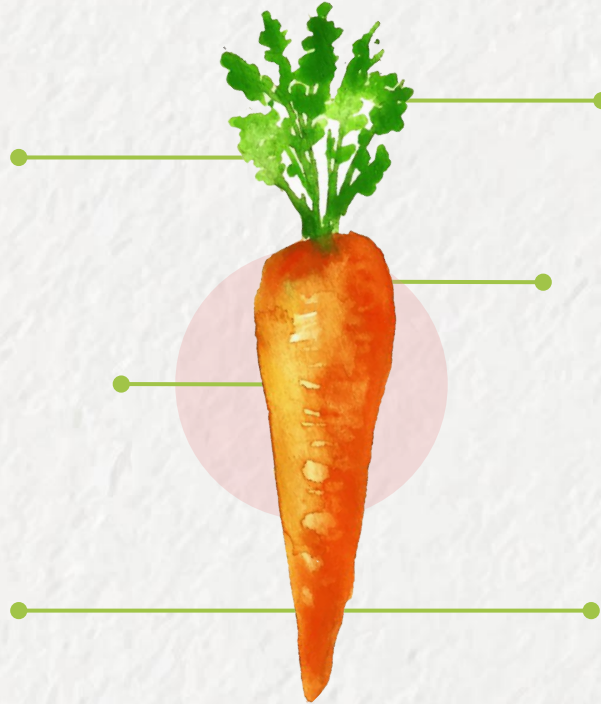
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## Public Facilities

Creating food production spaces at senior centers, schools, BHA sites, and MOH-produced housing

## Home gardens

Building garden beds at homes of low-income families



GrowBoston



# GrowBoston: What's Coming?

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## Public Facilities

Creating food production spaces at senior centers, schools, BHA sites, and MOH-produced housing

## Community-led vision:

Facilitate urban agriculture planning processes in neighborhoods with highest rates of food insecurity

## Home gardens

Building garden beds at homes of low-income families





# GrowBoston: What's Coming?

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## Public Facilities

Creating food production spaces at senior centers, schools, BHA sites, and MOH-produced housing

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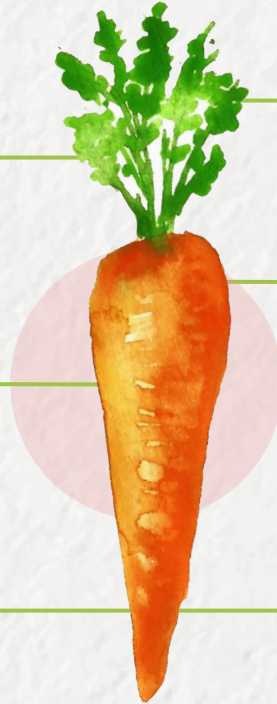
Facilitate urban agriculture planning processes in neighborhoods with highest rates of food insecurity

## Home gardens

Building garden beds at homes of low-income families

## Education & professional development resources:

Providing resources and programming for gardeners, farmers, beekeepers and more



GrowBoston



# GrowBoston: What's Coming?

## Public Facilities

Creating food production spaces at senior centers, schools, BHA sites, and MOH-produced housing

## Community-led vision:

Facilitate urban agriculture planning processes in neighborhoods with highest rates of food insecurity



## Home gardens

Building garden beds at homes of low-income families

## Encouraging innovative production:

Roofs, greenhouses, vertical farming, hydroponics

## Education & professional development resources:

Providing resources and programming for gardeners, farmers, beekeepers and more



GrowBoston



# GrowBoston: What's Coming?

## Public Facilities

Creating food production spaces at senior centers, schools, BHA sites, and MOH-produced housing

## Community-led vision:

Facilitate urban agriculture planning processes in neighborhoods with highest rates of food insecurity

## Capacity-building and technical assistance:

Helping farmers and other food producers strengthen operations and expand production



## Home gardens

Building garden beds at homes of low-income families

## Encouraging innovative production:

Roofs, greenhouses, vertical farming, hydroponics

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GrowBoston

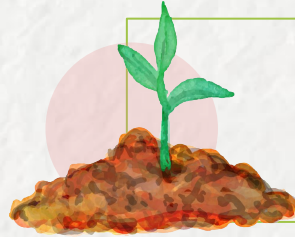


# Growing!

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We are growing! Our staffing will soon include the Director, two Program Managers, and a rotating graduate Northeastern 6 month co-op student.



We will work with other agencies to make the creation and operation of ag sites easier!



We are partnering with Office of Food Justice in their access/distribution work, and Environment Department in their climate resilience work.



GrowBoston



# Questions?



GrowBoston





# Community updates



# Next Steps and Action Items

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## Next BFAC Meetings:

*Tuesday, December 6, 2022*  
6-8 p.m. Zoom

*Tuesday, March 7, 2023 6-8*  
*PM Hybrid!*



- **2023 Meeting Schedule!**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/128Pq3\\_2yuwduaf0GWTigBf6D3gL\\_Csp4a8RHbzVXonQs/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/128Pq3_2yuwduaf0GWTigBf6D3gL_Csp4a8RHbzVXonQs/edit?usp=sharing)

- **Become a Member**

<https://airtable.com/shr9mKFf26dIZVslm>

- **Join a Working Group**

- **Email BFAC if interested in a Fundraising or COEE co-chair position!**

- **Intern for BFAC this Fall**

- Questions - ask the current intern Caroline Bond  
[caroline\\_bond@emerson.edu](mailto:caroline_bond@emerson.edu)
- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1an4pmCCueWfisNOxyfy1mi4tSG7nYBlx/view?usp=sharing>

Presented by: Adriana



# Help make the vision of BFAC become reality! Apply for the 2023-2024 Steering Committee Cohort!

- Elections to be held at December 6 meeting.
- Vacancies
  - 3 Organizational Representatives
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- Eligibility:
  - Must be a voting member of BFAC, attended 2 meetings in the last year.
- Applications and additional information
  - <https://forms.gle/FaVDdJJMqQ9fpfqm6>
- Due November 11, 2022.

**Also, please join a working group!**



**BOSTON  
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# THANK YOU

**[BostonFoodAccessCouncil.org](https://www.bostonfoodaccesscouncil.org)**

**[office@BostonFoodAccessCouncil.org](mailto:office@bostonfoodaccesscouncil.org)**

**[instagram.com/bostonfoodaccesscouncil](https://www.instagram.com/bostonfoodaccesscouncil)**

**[facebook.com/bostonfoodaccesscouncil](https://www.facebook.com/bostonfoodaccesscouncil)**

**[twitter.com/councilboston](https://twitter.com/councilboston)**

**[Bostonfoodacc-czn2665.slack.com](https://bostonfoodacc-czn2665.slack.com)**

**<https://www.linkedin.com/company/bostonfoodaccesscouncil/>**