

# CUIR KITCHEN BRIGADE

South Minneapolis Food Access Plan



2020 FUNDING PROPOSAL



# **CUIR KITCHEN BRIGADE SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS FOOD ACCESS PLAN: BUILDING A YEAR ROUND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM**

South Minneapolis Food Access Plan



*The future of the food system of South Minneapolis will be formed through youth and adults coming together to reclaim what is theirs. Consumers and communities restoring and supporting the food they will eat. South Minneapolis has always been underserved with respect to Black, Indigenous, people of color having access to the foods that are affordable, exist within a lens of cultural competency and are organic. In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and the civil unrest in the country individuals have lost economic resources that once allowed them to access food. With supermarkets closed and the loss of jobs Mutual Aid projects have started offering, food including fresh produce as well as household goods to families in the south Minneapolis area. With winter looming, those mutual aid projects have lost all of their supply of fresh produce as the farming season has come to a close. Our goal is to fill this gap. Cuir Kitchen brigade along with members of the south Minneapolis community desire to utilize the man-power of those wanting to contribute, and build a winterized greenhouse on a community plot of land in order to continue feeding the 400+ families served through various mutual aid projects in south Minneapolis . The winterized green house is a tool for promoting community wellness, urban agriculture, community building, skill sharing and so much more. Our goal is to promote conscious consumption, sustainable agriculture and to create economic opportunity to BIPOC individuals in South Minneapolis.*



@ CuirkitchenBrigade

## OVERVIEW



**Cuir Kitchen Brigade** is an international environmental collective with bases in New York and Minneapolis founded after Hurricane Maria, CKB is a queer transgender black, indigenous, and people of color led collective that in the past three years has made it its mission to work with frontline communities most effected by climate change. In the past three years CKB has helped deliver preserved and fermented foods to individuals in Puerto Rico working with national groups like the Climate Justice Alliance. We worked on over 30 farms helping farmers across the island rebuild in the aftermath of the hurricane and have hosted solidarity brigades, bringing individuals from the diaspora living in the United states to Puerto Rico in order to reconnect with land and learn farming practices. We have worked at the Tijuana/ US border during the arrival of the migrant caravan in 2018 taking over a kitchen at an organizing space and preparing meals 3 times a day serving over 100+ individuals a day as well as translating for legal groups like Al Otro Lado who were providing legal support for individuals seeking asylum. We have hosted retreats for healers in northern Minnesota creating a space for healers of all kind to develop their holistic practices. In May of 2019 we were on the planning committee for the HEAL conference planned in conjunction with the HEAL food alliance, Real Food Media, Pesticide Action Network and COFED. During the beginning of the pandemic we helped organize and distribute 2,700 milkcrate gardens to over 600+ people across 4 boroughs in NYC. We have hosted countless workshops, presented at various national and international conferences and have spent the past three years building community, teaching youth and creating alternative approaches for BIPOC communities affected by climate change.

Cuir Kitchen Brigade is pleased to submit this proposal for funding to support our winterized green house plan. The Greenhouse is in the very beginning stages of planning, we need financial support to ensure that we can complete this project and create jobs for the youth that will be involved. Covid-19 has resulted in the jobs of many individuals in this low income neighborhood. Free store mutual aid projects are spending approximately \$5,000 a week in order to provide household goods and fresh produce to community members serving 400+ multigenerational families. With 24% of the population being black, 32% being Latino and 4% Asian, BIPOC Individuals in south Minneapolis make up 60% of the population of that area. By providing funding for this project, you will be supporting the building of the first winterized green house in South Minneapolis, creating jobs for BIPOC youth in the neighborhood, creating a community hub for local agricultural distribution, community events and educational programming. The work is about to begin and we need your help to ensure it continues and communities in South Minneapolis can not only survive, but thrive!

## The Objective



To build a winterized greenhouse in south Minneapolis that would function as a hub for sustainable agriculture. We consider this adversity to be an opportunity to create a food system that functions for the people as a global example of what the future should be in terms of food sustainability; this moment allows us to create a new and enduring road map.

- Provide food for south Minneapolis mutual aid projects and the community at large
- Create jobs for BIPOC community members
- Urban agriculture education
- Skill sharing
  - Building workshops
  - Seed saving
  - Food preservation
  - Cooking of traditional foods from various cultures
  - Compost workshops
- Creation of a Seed library

## The Opportunity

Funding this project means providing underserved communities to food in order to survive. It means creating jobs allowing them to contribute to the economy at large as well as gain practical skills and education allowing them to pursue careers in the field of agriculture.

\$1- \$1,000 – Bronze Contributor

\$1,000 - \$10,000 – Silver Contributor

\$10,000 - \$100,000+ Gold Contributor

## OUR PROPOSAL

### Timeline for Execution



The Winterized greenhouse will take 2 weeks to build. The estimate is for planting to begin mid – end November. This would mean that our first harvest could be as early as mid – end December. .

Key project dates are outlined below. Dates are best-guess estimates and are subject to change based on changing circumstances.

Description	Start Date	End Date	Duration
Project Start	11/3/2020	N/A	
Gathering building materials	11/5/2020	11/13/2020	1 Week
Begin Build	11/5/2020	11/20/2020	2 weeks
Solar panel installation workshop	11/19/2020		
<b>Build Phase Complete</b>	11/20/2020		
Community Meeting	11/21/2020		1 Day
Planting	11/22/2020		
<b>Planting Phase Complete</b>	11/22/2020		
Composting workshop #1	12/5/2020	12/5/2020	3 week course 1 day/week
<b>First Harvest</b>	1/7/2021		1 Day
Distribution of harvest	1/8/2021		1 Day

## Needed Materials

Material Needed	Cost
Hand tools ( Shovels, Drills, Saws(both electric and hand), Hammers, Ladders, Screw Drivers, posthole diggers,)	\$5,000
Cherry Picker	\$1,200
Building Materials ( Wood, insulated panels, metal supports)	\$5,000
Total Costs	<b>\$10,200</b>

## New Developments



Below are some of the new developments:

- We have secured a space for the greenhouse and have our first community meeting scheduled.

## Resources

We have \$6,000 from a grant and individual donors to fund this project so far.

## EXPECTED RESULTS



A functioning green house with the ability to produce food all year round for south Minneapolis and jobs for BIPOC south Minneapolis community members.

If proper continued funding is given, we expect our proposed resilience plan to provide the following results:

### Agricultural Benefits

- **Land Remediation:** The land was previously occupied by a building that has since been knocked down and cleared. The land requires remediation in order to produce viable and consumable vegetables.
- **Community Compost :** Becoming a community compost site allows this project to reintegrate community waste and transform it into viable material to use to continue to grow food for community members.
- **Promoting Sustainable Practices:** creating a system that is mostly closed through the use of rain water catchment systems and use of compost as well as seed saving will allow the land and the plants to flourish

## Community Benefits

- **Economic opportunities:** The creation of jobs for BIPOC community members
- **Community wellness:** The promotion of eating in a more holistic way in order to improve quality of life.
- **Education:** Community members learning from each other’s ancestral farming practices and adapting them to this particular climate in order to learn more about their farming zone.

## Tools for Measurement of Success



Cuir Kitchen Brigade believes that in addition to the technical data and metrics to be collected, it would be beneficial to document the entire project to show the resilience of these communities and what a sustainable rebuild or agriculture systems can, *and should*, look like.

- Weekly updates will be written up by members of the group documenting the process of this community collaboration.
- Success for the project will be measured by lbs of vegetables produced, # of families fed and harvest # of jobs created.
- An additional index of success will be in the form of the network of collaboration. Collaborating with other groups will enable them to have the resources and networks already in place to ensure the long-term success of this food revival and their projects and to act swiftly and efficiently in reaction to potential future climate change destruction, global pandemic or civil unrest.

## ESTIMATED BUDGET

The following table details the pricing for delivery of the services outlined in this proposal. This pricing is valid for <## days> from the date of this proposal:

Jobs	Price
5 Employees - \$20/ Hr @ 20hrs a week for 26 weeks	\$52,000.00
10 Stipends @ \$600 each	\$6,000.00
Total Jobs Costs	<b>\$58,000.00</b>
<b>General operating costs</b>	
Harvesting Supplies ( Knives, Scissors, Bags, Crates)	\$5,000.000
Seeds	\$2,000.00
Planting Materials ( Seed Trays, Dirt, Wood chips)	\$2,000.00
Transportation ( Gas) for 26 weeks	\$1,000.00

Misc Supplies	\$5,000.00
Total Services Costs	<b>\$15,000.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$83,200.00</b>

Disclaimer: The prices listed in the preceding table are an estimate. This summary is reflective of 26 weeks of work. Estimates are subject to change if project specifications are changed or costs for services change.