Let's Talk: Farming, Justice and Land Access with Christa Nunez

The Learning Farm, Ithaca NY

July 20th, 2021
More than a farm:

We are a Black-led center for teaching, learning and collaboration in outdoor spaces

- Agriculture, Environmental Education, Equity
- Youth Programming
- Community Gathering Space
Equity, Antiracism and our Systems Change Approach

Addressing the root problems at their core, and promoting equity of access and opportunity at all aspects of our work

Accessing opportunities

- Economic access (Can I afford it? Am I limited by my financial circumstances?)
- Socio-cultural access (Is it safe, inclusive, and relevant to my experience, tastes and interests? Is it FOR me?)
- Physical Access (Can I get there? Does it consider my schedule, transportation, family needs?)
Intersectionality
Recognizing and addressing forms of systemic racism and food trauma

- Food insecurity. Affordable housing. Childhood literacy. Lack of access to outdoor recreation.
- We recognize the intersectionality of the human experience and identity informs how different communities and individuals relate to land, food and agriculture.
Quarter Acre
For the People

Examples of our Hands on Programming

The “Problem”: Historical and current displacement of BIPOC community

Our Goal: Reconnecting and reclaiming our space in agricultural landscapes, creating food and community.

• Land access, technical skills and tools
• Fresh, culturally relevant foods
• Hands on, family-inclusive activities
• Addressing housing and food insecurity through housing pods and inclusive farm community vision
Together with experts for Cornell’s Departments of Human Ecology and Global Development, we are developing housing pods that offer the opportunity for historically marginalized families to land-share, farm and live-in a sustainable, nurturing community.

**Coming soon: Cooperative housing pods!**

- Affordable housing & land access for families
- Opportunities for entrepreneurship and development of technical skills in agriculture/homesteading
- Cooperative community setting centering BIPOC
It takes a village!

Community partnership & support through our broad-based coalition makes our work possible

- The Community Foundation
- Park Foundation
- Black Hands Universal
- Ithaca City School District
- Cornell University, Departments of Human Ecology and Global Development
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County
- Ithaca Children’s Garden
- Youth Farm Project
- Groundswell
- Van Noble Farm
- Here We are Farm
- Rootwork Herbal & BIPOC Community Garden
- And so many more!
Learning by doing!
Strengthening our community and our food system

On-farm production and food access
Providing an inclusive space to experience rural agricultural landscapes and access healthy foods

Accessible Housing Pods
Development of family-inclusive housing/homesteading infrastructure, allowing farming opportunities for aspiring BIPOC farmers

STEAM youth education
Engaging math, science and agriculture in outdoor settings

Land Access & Reparations
Facilitating land access on local farmlands for BIPOC families to produce their own fresh food.

Integrative, tailor-made Agricultural curriculum
Designing and teaching curriculum that weaves social justice, social emotional development and sustainable agriculture, centering BIPOC representation and voices.

Childhood Literacy
Ubuntu Library, our literacy program offers books that promote BIPOC representation, environmental education, social justice, and character development to at risk youth and those with reading difficulties.
THANK YOU!

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