




July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021



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

The Learning Farm, Ithaca NY





# The Learning Farm

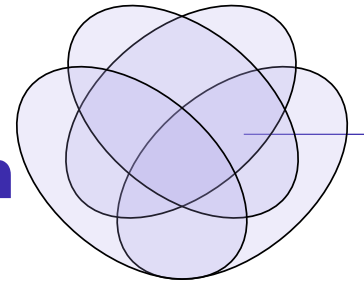
## More than a farm:

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

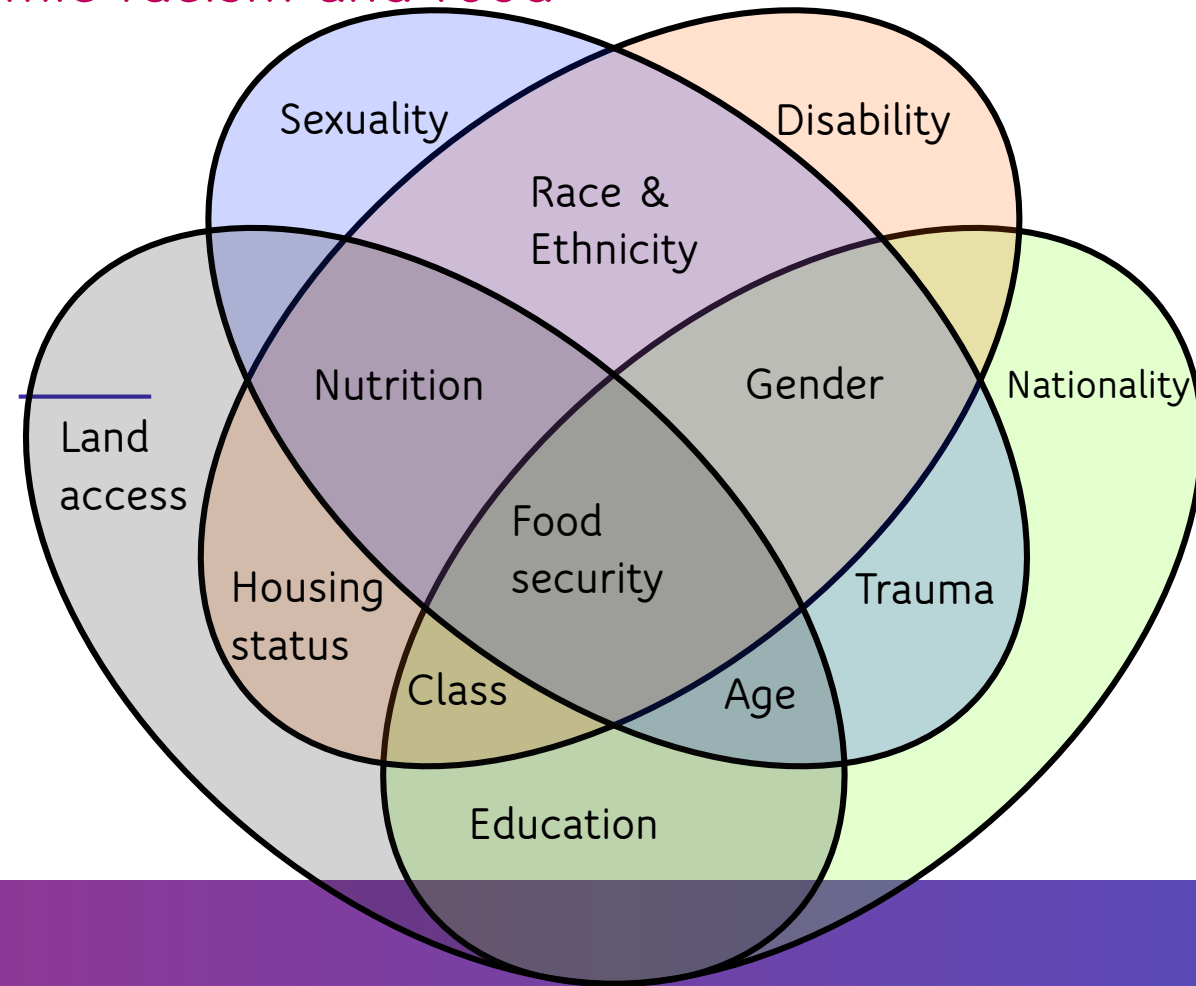
- Economic access (Can I afford it? Am I limited by my financial circumstances?)
- Socio-cultural access (Is it safe, inclusive, and relevant to my experience, tastes and interests? Is it FOR me?)
- Physical Access (Can I get there? Does it consider my schedule, transportation, family needs?)



# 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



# Coming soon: Cooperative housing pods!



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.

- 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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