

Food Justice, Science, and Democracy

A Community Forum

June 6, 2015

The Capri Theater

Minneapolis



{cSD
Center for
Science and Democracy
at the Union of Concerned Scientists

[WELCOME]

Thank you for joining us for *Food Justice, Science, and Democracy: A Community Forum*.

The Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists seeks to strengthen the capacity of local efforts to improve communities' access to healthy foods by facilitating access to scientists and public health professionals. Over the past several months, the Center has been working with an advisory committee* to explore ways in which community members and researchers can work together to improve local food policies and address the obstacles people face, particularly in Minneapolis, in securing healthy food.

On June 4–5, the Center convened 40 community leaders, researchers, students, and policy makers at the local YMCA to address the perpetuation of systemic and institutional inequities and injustices in the food system, and to develop a framework for respectful and trusted partnerships that value scientific and community knowledge and experience.

At today's forum, we will share with you some highlights of the food justice and equity meeting, including examples of how local residents, researchers, public health officials, and policy makers are collaborating to address food access, affordability, and availability in communities of color, low-income communities, and tribal communities—in Minnesota and elsewhere. We will also present the results of a recent survey on what your friends and neighbors consider their assets and challenges on healthy food access and affordability. We encourage you to share your stories, experiences, and perspectives as well.

The food justice and equity meeting and this public forum are a follow up of our “Science, Democracy, and a Healthy Food Policy” forum held at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota on May 6, 2014, and an extension of *Healthy Food in Your Community: A Toolkit for Policy Change*, our resource guide for individuals interested in improving the local food environment for their families and communities.

(Learn more at www.ucsusa.org/foodtoolkit.)

[AGENDA]

1:00–1:45

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Welcome from the Union of Concerned Scientists

Andrew Rosenberg, *Center for Science and Democracy*

“Why Food Justice, Why Now?” video

Co-produced by **D.A. Bullock**, *Bully Creative Shop*, and

LaDonna Redmond, *Urban Food Goddess Productions*

Food Justice and Equity in Minneapolis

DeVon Nolen, *West Broadway Farmers Market*

Presentation of results from a survey of local residents on what they consider their unique assets and barriers for a healthy food environment

Community-Researcher Partnerships for Food Justice

M. Jahi Chappell, *Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy*

Vayong Moua, *Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota*

Highlights from the June 4–5 food justice and equity meeting on how communities are partnering with scientists and researchers to secure food justice and equity for all

1:45–2:30

AUDIENCE Q&A AND DISCUSSION

Moderators:

Vanessa McKendall Stephens, *Face Valu Evaluation Consulting, Inc.*

Pallavi Phartiyal, *Center for Science and Democracy*

2:30–3:00

SNACK BREAK

Connect and exchange ideas with local leaders, organizations, researchers, policy makers, and peers working on food justice and equity

3:00–4:30

SOUL (SUSTAINABLE, ORGANIC, URBAN AND LOCAL) FOOD MONOLOGUES

LaDonna Redmond, food justice advocate, curator of SOUL Food Monologues

In this compelling theatrical performance, community leaders and scientists working on overcoming food injustices and inequities share their experiences through the moving art of storytelling.



The SOUL Food Monologues were produced and directed by LaDonna Redmond; videography by D.A. Bullock.

LaDonna Redmond is a food justice activist/writer/motivational speaker and a trained facilitator in the StoryHealer process. As curator and production director of SOUL Food Monologues, Redmond leads a retreat process for performers, helping them write monologues. She has used this process to develop and perform her own show, “Diary of an Urban Food Goddess”.

D.A. Bullock is a Minnesota-based videographer. He is an award-winning filmmaker and principal at Bully Creative Shop, <http://bullycreative.com>.

*We are grateful to the advisory committee for their guidance and many contributions: Dr. Tiffany Beckman, University of Minnesota; Dr. M. Jahi Chappell, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy; DeVon Nolen, West Broadway Farmers Market; LaDonna Redmond, Campaign for Food Justice Now; Simone Senogles, Indigenous Environmental Network; Cassandra Silveira, University of Minnesota; and Monica Marie White, University of Wisconsin—Madison.

[Union of Concerned Scientists

The Union of Concerned Scientists puts rigorous, independent science to work to solve our planet’s most pressing problems. Joining with citizens across the country, we combine technical analysis and effective advocacy to create innovative, practical solutions for a healthy, safe, and sustainable future.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Two Brattle Square
Cambridge, MA 02138-3780
www.ucsusa.org

 Printed on recycled paper using vegetable-based inks.

©2015 UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS

Cover Photo: © iStockphoto.com/STUDIObgd