The WNET Group presents
CLOSE TO HOME: Town Halls on Housing Equality
April 26-May 24, 2023
thirteen.org/CloseToHome

BIOS/Week 2 of 5
CIRCLE MADE OF SOIL: A Town Hall about Food Sovereignty and Security
Wednesday, May 3 | 6:00-7:30 pm EST


PANELISTS

NAIMA DHORE is a first-generation farmer, activist and educator committed to look after mother earth and community building. She is the program director at Somali American Farmers Association and owner of Naima’s Farm LLC, where she supports the next generation of Somali American farmers. Naima is passionate about organic farming and inspiring young people, specifically people from immigrant communities in Minnesota, to become future farmers. Her vision is informed by the lack of access to farmers’ markets that disadvantaged communities experience, hindering their ability to buy fresh fruits and vegetables. Naima holds public nutrition workshops about sustainable agricultural practices, organic farming techniques, and healthy eating habits to help address this disparity. Her work also helps educate Minnesotans facing food insecurity about how to improve their environment and health. somaliamericanfarmersassociation.com

ROSALINDA GUILLEN (she/hers) is the founder of Community to Community and a lead strategist and visionary within the non-hierarchical ecofeminist leadership of C2C. Her perspective is fundamentally influenced by her introduction to the multi-racial, working-class community organizing model of the Rainbow Coalition, the Cesar Chavez house-meeting model, The World Social Forum, the Landless Workers Movement (MST) of Brazil, and growing up as a farmworker in La Conner, WA. Rosalinda has organized farmworkers in WA State and the strawberry fields of Salinas CA. She has represented farmworkers in the Legislatures of California and Washington State and in ongoing policy and Movement-building dialogues on immigration issues, climate change, labor rights, trade agreements, ecofeminism, and strengthening the food sovereignty movement towards a Solidarity Economy. foodjustice.org

LILIAN HILL (Hopi/Quechan) is the executive director of the Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance. A strong promoter of Indigenous self-determination and food sovereignty for more than 20 years, Hill has traveled around the world advocating for the rights of indigenous populations beyond the United States. She has studied at the North American School of Natural Building, and Applied Indigenous Studies at Northern Arizona University, focusing on Traditional Ecological Knowledge. In 2004, she founded Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture, a community organization dedicated to revitalizing Hopi culture and traditions through engagement with the Hopi community and youth. She is also a recipient of a Castanea Fellowship, a program that supports people working to create a more racially just food system. nativefoodalliance.org

RITA NGUYEN, MD is the founder of the Food as Medicine (FAM) Collaborative, a multi-sector initiative that bridges healthcare and food systems to advance nutrition security and health equity. The vision of the FAM Collaborative is thriving communities supported by equitable, respectful healthcare and just, resilient food systems. The Collaborative achieves this via food programming in clinical spaces - such as food pharmacies - that promote the concept of food as medicines, systems change that mobilizes healthcare to tackle nutrition security as a health issue, and policy change that compels health insurance to cover food as a medical benefit. Food Pharmacies now operate across four health systems and 12 clinics in San Francisco County.
With a particular focus on race equity, the FAM Collaborative designs food interventions in clinical spaces to address persistent health disparities among BIPOC communities; this informs FAM Collaborative food sourcing, staff recruitment and training, and programmatic design. foodasmedicinecollaborative.org

MALIK KENYATTA YAKINI is co-founder and executive director of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN). DBCFSN operates a seven-acre urban farm and is spearheading the opening of the Detroit Food Commons, the new building that will house the Detroit People’s Food Co-op, a cooperatively grocery store in Detroit’s North End. Yakini views the work of DBCFSN as part of the larger movement for building power, self-determination, and justice. He is adamantly opposed to the system of white supremacy, capitalism, and patriarchy. He has an intense interest in contributing to the development of an international food sovereignty movement that embraces Black communities in the Americas, the Caribbean and Africa. He is a founding member of the National Black Food and Justice Alliance. dbcfsn.org

MODERATOR

jocelyn ramirez is a chef, published cookbook author, New York Times recipe contributor, entrepreneur, and advocate for healthy food access in her community. She founded Todo Verde, one of LA’s acclaimed plant-forward Latinx food businesses, with a mission to create delicious and healthy plant-forward food inspired by her Latinx roots. Her work has been featured in several press outlets including The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, Food & Wine, Vice, The Smithsonian, Bon Appetit, and more. She currently sits on the culinary advisory board for Food Forward and the leadership board for the Los Angeles Food Policy Council. todoverde.org

OPENING PERFORMANCE

Singer-songwriter RENEE GOUST, raised on the US-Mexico border, writes songs about the fight for gender equality, LGBTQIA+ experiences, and other social justice issues. She seeks to champion identities that have been historically underrepresented in the musical traditions of the Americas. Her songs “La cumbia feminazi” and “Querida muerte (No nos maten)” have become part of the vibrant soundtrack of the feminist struggles in the streets of Latin America. Renee has performed at renowned venues such as Lincoln Center, New York’s Guggenheim Museum, and Mexico City’s El Cantoral, to name a few. She has been featured on outlets such as Billboard, Rolling Stone, and Spain’s El País. She is part of the organizing committee for Marcha Lencha CDMX, the first trans-inclusive lesbian march in all of Mexico, and she is the founder and curator of @RuidoPrieto, a social media outlet that focuses on showcasing the work of independent black and brown musicians. reneegoust.com

Presented by The WNET Group
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