

## Working Group Updates

### Food Business Development

- Room for collaboration with NOLABA; ½ day co-op summit on Tuesday 12/4
  - \*NOLABA has added food as part of their music sector
- Creating recommendations to City Council for infrastructure, wholesale spaces
- Crossover with other working groups is a key opportunity

### Food Access

- Seeking to collaborate on farm to institution with food access projects (Propeller)
- farm to school policy work can take advantage of LSU coordinator position
- good food purchasing program holds potential as model/mentorship for FPAC's farm to institution work
- Market Umbrella has USDA Farm to School grant; partnering with 10 NOLA schools for gardens, procurement, grower support (GAPs), processing/packing--maybe--in partnership with existing network partners like Second Harvest
- Looking at fresh food procurement for food banks; modeling off other states where there is state allocated money to support farm to food bank; Louisiana used to have this funding before Katrina
- WIC updates/programs:
  - Fresh Food Retail Initiative in conflict with state moratorium with new WIC outlets
  - WIC Market Plus program is trading a punch card for market vouchers that vendors can accept; breastfeeding support program to trade \$80 market vouchers (monthly) for attending breastfeeding class
    - → question/need for WIC-market outreach to women of color who are statistically less likely to be breastfeeding
- Small Box Retail Study by City Planning Commission; should there be mandatory offering of fresh produce by dollar stores?
  - Tulane should be able to hand over a lot of data (working on an MOU with City first)
  - Could mean that a certain %age of square footage is dedicated to fresh food (not just produce)

Several FPAC members and community members attended public hearing and made on the record comments

### Food Production

- Yearlong (until July 2019) project to write a vision for New Orleans Urban Agriculture (with policy and program recommendations)
  - Phase 1 (current): Developing methodology and participant list concurrent with designing preliminary baseline surveys (quantitative, key concept identification) and in-person data collection questions to find out what people want for food production and urban agriculture in New Orleans
    - → all FPAC members invited to provide ideas for groups to contact with survey or for listening sessions:  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SRzNsSCfEq7pcLfzpwu4LRiURqrPb68INMjniWIk8w/edit?usp=sharing>
  - Phase 2 (soon): Listening sessions to gather data (particularly qualitative) from a wide and diverse population of organizations, private and public sector stakeholders, and any individual interested in providing their opinion
  - Phase 3 (spring): Based on listening sessions, hold key informant interviews to enrich input, create a vision to present to City of NO, and to help form recommendations
  - Conclusion/Capstone: Write and furnish report to City Council and public release of findings

- ASAP work: get with City Planning Commission, with support of Council members who have vacant land to be farmed in their districts, to change zoning ordinance language for most pressing food production and urban farming needs (this includes onsite washing, packing, sales, and structures essential to production and farm work)

#### Farm Bill Updates

- Emily Mickley-Doyle, Maggie Kaiser, and Margee Green represented Greater New Orleans Growers Alliance/National Young Farmers Coalition in D.C. in mid-November. Met with: Sen. Cassidy, Sen. Abraham, staff member of Rep. Richmond, staff member of Rep. Scalise, staff member of Sen. Kennedy
  - Platform was a lot of agriculture production, also food access (advocating for no work requirements for SNAP)
    - Big shout-out for Danny Mintz who gave lots of data on poverty, food insecurity, nutrition program usage in Louisiana
  - Requested that Richmond talk to Rep. Abraham about programs that impact small producers and food access (background: Abraham opposes urban agriculture, small farms, SNAP without work requirements and is in favor of cash crop insurance and subsidies; he is on joint Ag Committee)
  - Biggest message: PASS A FARM BILL (that keeps funding provisions for access and production)
    - LAMP (Local food and value-added grant funds)
    - FOTO (Beginning Farmer and 2501 funds, which are for farmers who have been farming less than 10 years, socially disadvantaged farmers and veteran farmers)
    - Combined programs of LAMP and FOTO mean that pools of money are big enough that they can be mandatory funded (25 million is minimum for mandatory funding)
- Farm Bill is still on negotiation level. New interest in a Forestry title which would give federal control of forestry and expediting logging projects; depending on the interest of in-power parties, could harm forests. In general, further complicates budgeting allocations (since the Farm Bill is essentially a budget outline)

#### Council Updates

- FPAC-Propeller Farm to Institution Pilot Project (report in 2019)
- Palmer's office: Local Food Resolution that would encourage anchor institutions (hospitals, universities) to purchase local. FPAC pushing for number increase of local food purchases. This could lead to incentives.
- Nguyen and Palmer's office: Land use resolutions and CZO changes; could lead to tax incentive for land in agriculture
- Elisa has secured meetings with most council members; our members can go to these meetings, particularly if they live in or have a food project in those meetings
  - FPAC or a contact from FPAC (Districts A and D)

Eat Local Challenge: FPAC is in charge of it, and it's not too early to begin planning!

- June 2019
- Need helpers, event ideas

#### FPAC and Partner Announcements

- December 13th 5:30-8pm FPAC Holiday Party at River Queen Greens; food for purchase, Urban South beer, punches by Zack Miller, fire pit, karaoke?

- January 5th, 2019 FPAC house party at Pepper's
  - Interested in local products and produce
- GROW Louisiana program recruiting farmer participants for a yearlong program; free, includes trip to Southern SAWG conference in January:  
<https://www.lsuagcenter.com/profiles/rbogren/articles/page1543350307786>
- Southern SAWG is January 24-27 in Little Rock: <https://www.ssawg.org/january-2019-conference/>
  - (hot tip: financial support info <https://www.ssawg.org/fee-waivers>)
- Top Box hosting a fundraiser at Gordon Biersch Wednesday 11/28 6-8pm