



FOOD

JUSTICE

MINI

GRANTS

**2021
OUTCOMES
REPORT**

**A PROGRAM OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN'S
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY**

2021
PROGRAM
IMPACT

“ ”

FEEDING OUR
COMMUNITY IS
AN ACT OF LOVE
AND CONNECTION
THAT CULTURALLY
CREATES IMPACT
DURING A TIME
OF ISOLATION
AND CONCERN.

— ROCKY LANE
PROJECT LIFERAFT

\$50K
DISTRIBUTED

13 Projects led by
Black, Brown, and
Indigenous peoples

14 Projects led
by women

8 Led by women
of color



20 PROJECTS
FUNDED

-
- 7** Food Consumption
& Access Projects
-
- 6** Food Education
& Media Projects
-
- 3** Food Production
Projects
-
- 2** Food Markets &
Retail Projects
-
- 2** Food Waste &
Recovery Projects
-

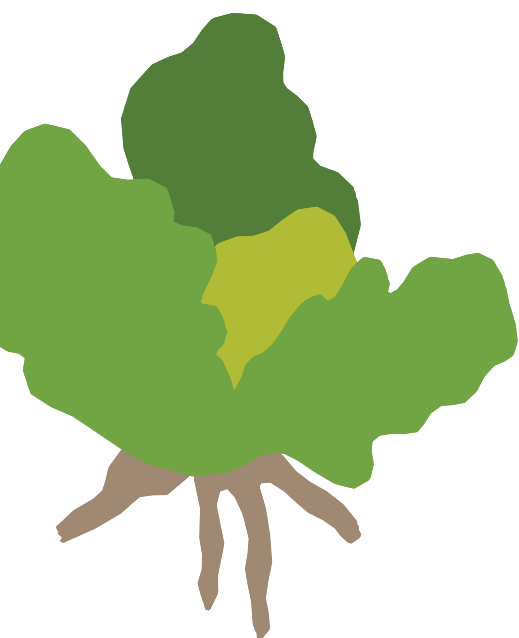
ABOUT THE GRANT

Established in 2020 as part of the Office of Sustainability's commitment to stand against racism and injustice, the Food Justice Mini Grants Program supports community-driven solutions to create a more just food system that empowers communities to grow, sell, eat, or recover healthy food.

Historically, the food system has enslaved, exploited, displaced, and undervalued the labor, land rights, and self-determination of Black, Brown, and Indigenous peoples, immigrants, women, the unhoused, and poor workers. In Austin, communities of color have been marginalized by historic City practices and continue to disproportionately experience food insecurity and poverty. Acknowledging this trauma, the Food Justice Mini Grant Program centers healing and relationship building, while recognizing the resilience and leadership of those negatively impacted by the food system. Funding is intended to support those with the lived experience to identify solutions and address challenges within the local food system.

In 2020, the program funded a single organization, Rooted in Melanin, at a modest sponsorship level of \$1,000. In 2021, the program was expanded to direct \$50,000 to 20 organizations led by individuals who are negatively impacted by the food system. These organizations were selected by an evaluation committee of both City staff and community members. By inviting community members to evaluate grant proposals alongside City staff, we hoped to mitigate City gatekeeping and share decision-making power.

THE FOOD SYSTEM IS THE
INTERCONNECTED NETWORK
OF EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS
WITH FOOD — WHERE AND HOW
IT IS GROWN, DISTRIBUTED,
SOLD, CONSUMED, WASTED,
OR RECOVERED.



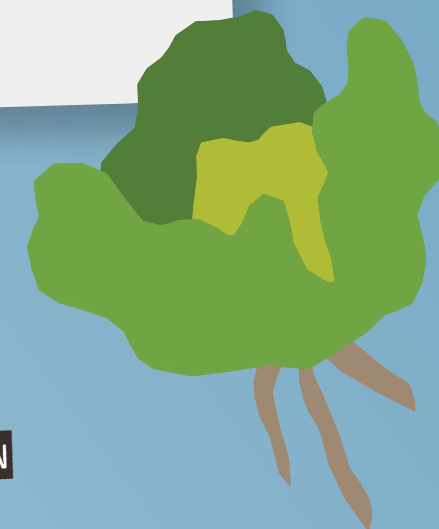
WHAT IS FOOD JUSTICE?

We define food justice broadly as movements that are advocating for transformational change around how our food moves from the fields to our forks. This includes the concept of food sovereignty or the right of communities to define their own food and agriculture systems.

With origins in Black, Brown, and Indigenous traditions, the Black Panther Party and Young Lords' Free Breakfast Program, migrant farmworker labor movements, and Native stewardship practices, the food justice movement has a long history in the US and Austin.

A NOTE ON LANGUAGE

In this report, references to the identities of people served are included as the grantees defined them in their applications.



FOOD

PRODUCTION

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

MULTICULTURAL REFUGEE COALITION

"SHARE VEGGIES" COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

The Multicultural Refugee Coalition employs refugees with agricultural expertise on its organic farm called New Leaf Farm. With funding from the Food Justice Mini Grants program, New Leaf Farm partnered with Refugee Services of Texas to pilot a produce donation program for refugees, asylees, immigrants, and survivors of human trafficking. Every week, they delivered boxes of fresh vegetables and herbs to 20 families. Grant funds were used towards the income of refugee farmers who earn a living while supporting their communities.



“ ”

THERE IS NOTHING BETTER THAN
GROWING FOOD FOR MY COMMUNITY.
I HAVE WHAT I NEED AND IT'S NICE
TO PROVIDE FOR OTHERS.

— NEW LEAF FARMER

MORE FOOD PRODUCTION PROJECTS

BLACK LIVES VEGGIES

COMMUNITY YOUTH GARDEN & EDUCATION

Black Lives Veggies worked with the Boys and Girls Club to teach children how to garden and grow their own food.

AUSTIN AREA URBAN LEAGUE

SCHOOL GARDEN

Austin Area Urban League provided gardening and nutrition programming to a Title 1 charter school.

FOOD CONSUMPTION & ACCESS

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

COMMUNITIES OF COLOR UNITED

RACIAL & ECONOMIC SOLIDARITY NETWORK: FIRST SUNDAY FOOD PROJECT

Every month, the First Sunday Food Project delivers fresh produce and other household items to 60 homes in and around Austin, serving predominantly Black, Latinx, and immigrant communities. Deliveries are also made to Casa Marianella, a shelter that serves immigrants and asylees experiencing homelessness. Amid rising gas prices and economic difficulties, Communities of Color United used Food Justice Mini Grant funds to provide additional cash support by paying volunteers to deliver monthly packages.

“MI FAMILIA ESTÁ
MUY AGRADECIDA
CON LA AYUDA DEL
PROYECTO YA QUE
NOSOTROS NO RECIBIMOS
ESTAMPILLAS Y LA COMIDA ES
MUY CARA ES UNA GRAN
AYUDA Y ES COMIDA FRESCA
Y QUE USAMOS LA MAYORÍA
DE FAMILIA HISPANAS.

MY FAMILY IS VERY
GRATEFUL FOR THE
HELP FROM THE PROJECT.
WE DON'T RECEIVE
FOOD STAMPS ANYMORE,
AND FOOD IS VERY EXPENSIVE.
IT'S A GREAT HELP,
AND IT'S FRESH FOOD THAT
MOST HISPANIC FAMILIES USE.

— SINDY ROSALES



MORE FOOD CONSUMPTION & ACCESS PROJECTS

AFRICAN AMERICAN YOUTH HARVEST

THANKSGIVING MEALS

African American Youth Harvest provided nearly **300** Thanksgiving meals to Austin families.

DRIVE A SENIOR, AUSTIN

SENIOR FOOD DELIVERY

Drive a Senior, Austin delivered more than **1,000** food pantry packages to homebound seniors and completed **650** grocery trips for their recipients.

EL BUEN SAMARITANO

FOOD ACCESS AND EQUITY PROGRAM

During the winter weather event in February 2022, El Buen worked with partners to prepare meals and distribute water at warming shelters across the city.

OUT YOUTH

QUEER AND TRANS HYGIENE AND FOOD PANTRY PROGRAM

Out Youth distributed grocery gift cards to Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color referred by Black Trans Leadership of Austin.

PROJECT LIFERAFT

LGBTQIA2S+* SELF-CARE SUNDAYS

Project Liferaft hosted weekly “Self-Care Sundays” for LGBTQIA2s+ people of color with free yoga sessions and meals.

*an acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Two-Spirit, and the countless affirmative ways in which people choose to self-identify.

FOOD MARKETS & RETAIL

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

BLACK LEADERS COLLECTIVE

FEEDING THE VILLAGE

Following the devastating impacts of Winter Storm Uri, Black Leaders Collective has worked with local, Black-owned restaurants to provide hot meals to Austin residents. The Feeding the Village Program provides culturally proficient meals from Tater Que, TheAvenue, Down South CaJJun Eats, and Let's Eat Healthily while establishing a sustainable revenue stream for Black food business owners. Black Leaders Collective used Food Justice Mini Grant funds to address a surge in need amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, continued job loss, and increased food and gas prices during the spring.



“THERE ARE GENUINELY
SUFFICIENT RESOURCES
IN THE WORLD
TO ENSURE THAT NO ONE,
NOWHERE, AT NO TIME,
SHOULD GO HUNGRY.”

— CLARENCE QUIDRY
BLACK LEADERS COLLECTIVE

MORE FOOD MARKET & RETAIL PROJECTS

PREP TO YOUR DOOR

B CORPORATION CERTIFICATION

Prep to Your Door used grant funding to initiate the process of obtaining a B Corp Certification, which codifies a commitment to social and environmental sustainability.

FOOD WASTE & RECOVERY

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

ATX FREE FRIDGE DOVE SPRINGS

FREE FRIDGE

The Free Fridge in Dove Springs provides free groceries to community members 24/7 without any documentation, application, or other barriers. Most of the food that is stocked in the fridge is sourced from surplus food that would have otherwise gone to a landfill, such as unwanted items in food pantry boxes. To further increase the ability of community members to access their unique food needs, ATX Free Fridge Dove Springs used a portion of their grant funds for monthly cash payments.

MORE FOOD WASTE & RECOVERY PROJECTS

WORKING GROUP512

FOOD ACCESS PROGRAM

WorkingGroup512 rescued and recovered fresh produce to be redistributed to Black and Latina-led households across Central Texas.

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THE FREE FRIDGE IS A
GREAT WAY TO KEEP FOOD
FROM GOING TO WASTE.
THIS IS NOT A CURE TO
END HUNGER. WHILE
INADEQUATE IN TERMS
OF ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC
ISSUES, COMMUNITY FRIDGES
ARE STILL NEEDED AS
SURVIVAL TOOLS PENDING
RADICAL GOVERNMENT
ACTIONS TO ADDRESS
FOOD JUSTICE.

— PATCHES BRASHEAR
FREE FRIDGE STEWARD

FOOD EDUCATION & MEDIA AWARD PROJECTS

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

AUSTIN COMMON

FOOD JUSTICE WRITERS FELLOWSHIP

With funding from the Food Justice Mini Grants Program, The Austin Common hired Larry Franklin, founder of Black Lives Veggies, to serve as the organization's first Food Justice Fellow. During his time as a fellow, Larry hosted a mural painting project at Martin Middle School, a gardening education class at local nonprofit Foundation Communities, and assembled a team to create a documentary on the intersections between gentrification, mass incarceration, and health in Austin. The Austin Common team also collaborated with Larry to produce a podcast episode on environmental justice and two social media stories around food justice and access.

“ALL YOU GOT TO DO IS GO DOWN THERE,
SHUT UP, AND LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE.
THEY'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING THEY NEED.
SPEND SOME TIME WITH THEM, WATCH THEM,
GET TO KNOW THEM, SHAKE THEIR HAND,
LOOK AT THEIR FOOD, WHAT THEY EAT,
HOW THEY DRESS, WHY THEY CUSS.
WE SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM THE
MARKET THAT WE'RE TRYING
TO SERVE.”

— LARRY FRANKLIN
BLACK LIVES VEGGIES FOUNDER



MORE FOOD EDUCATION & MEDIA AWARD PROJECTS

BRAVE COMMUNITIES

BRAVE AMBASSADORS FOOD JUSTICE EDUCATION & FOOD DISTRIBUTION

In addition to food distribution, BRAVE Communities held a workshop on food justice for their ambassador program, a cohort of young women training to be agents of change.

FREEDMAN'S EATS

NUTRITION EDUCATION AND SMOOTHIE DISTRIBUTION

Freedman's Eats distributed smoothies at Givens Park, which has few fresh food options nearby, and discussed healthy recipes and choices with participants.

THE KITCHEN DIVA HEALTH OUTREACH

HEALTH AND FOOD EDUCATION

The Kitchen Diva Health Outreach provided information about health, nutrition, diabetes, and diet-related illnesses through speeches, workshops, and cooking demonstrations.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, AND SUSTAINABILITY (PEAS)

OUTDOOR AND EDIBLE EDUCATION INTERNSHIP

PEAS piloted a paid internship in outdoor and edible education.

SUNDAY LUNCHBOX

YOUTH NUTRITION WORKSHOP

Sunday Lunchbox hosted two virtual workshops that taught children about nutrition through baking.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PROGRAM MANAGERS



AMANDA ROHLICH

While the roots of inequalities we see today in wealth and health run deep, we believe some of the best ways to address these issues are to listen to and be led by those who are most directly impacted. With the Food Justice Mini Grants Program, we seek to provide lower-barrier access to City of Austin funds that can give a boost to the great food work happening in our community. It has been an inspiration and pleasure to support, in some small way, these great leaders behind the movement toward food justice in Austin.



EMMIE DICICCO

The Food Justice Mini Grants Program is grounded in the belief that those closest to the problem are in the best position to solve it. We are grateful for the opportunity to leverage City funds and resources to support the tireless work and advocacy of farmers, gardeners, cooks, organizers, volunteers, writers, teachers, and all that are working toward a more equitable food system in Austin. Learning from and building community with these organizations has been deeply generative — we look forward to building new and stronger relationships.

SHARING GRATITUDE

We offer our deep gratitude to the City staff and community members that help make the Food Justice Mini Grants Program a reality:

COMMUNICATIONS, DESIGN, TRANSLATION, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT IN THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY:

- Aimee Aubin
- Shannon Stewart
- Phoebe Romero
- Sergio Torres-Peralta
- Edwin Marty
- Paula Camacho
- Lucia Athens

2021 EVALUATION COMMITTEE

CITY STAFF

- Emmie DiCicco
- Jennifer Steverson
- Phoebe Romero

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- Jen Searight
- Joi Chevalier
- Kelseanna Hollis-Hansen
- Sarah McKenna





OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY

CITY OF AUSTIN

[AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/FJMG](https://austintexas.gov/fjmg)