

# Thoughtful Engagement: Community Decision-Making



City  
Schoolyard  
Garden



Urban  
Agriculture  
Collective



Food  
Justice  
Network



**CULTIVATE**  
CHARLOTTESVILLE

# Cultivate Charlottesville

*Engages youth and community in building equitable, sustainable food systems through garden-based experiential learning, growing and sharing healthy food, amplifying community leaders and advocating for food justice.*



*We believe that working together to grow gardens, share food and power, and advocate for just systems – cultivates a healthy community for all.*

# City Schoolyard Garden

- Hands-on experiential garden and nutrition education
- Understanding where our food comes from and trying fresh foods
- Positive youth development and leadership skills



## GROW

*In the garden I feel like I am actually taking care of a life. Preparing the garden beds, doing the physical work makes me feel useful and confident about my strengths.* -Garden Aide

# Urban Agriculture Collective

- Building equity by growing and sharing food
- Weekly resident community market
- Power to Grow Initiative



## SHARE

*Food is just one of those things that always brings people together. Food tells a story. Food is love. Food is a form of healing.*

*-Community Advocate*

# Food Justice Network

- Network of 35+ organizations working along the food system
- Explore opportunities & barriers; Amplify community voice & choice, Mobilize combined impact; Implement strategies to transform inequities



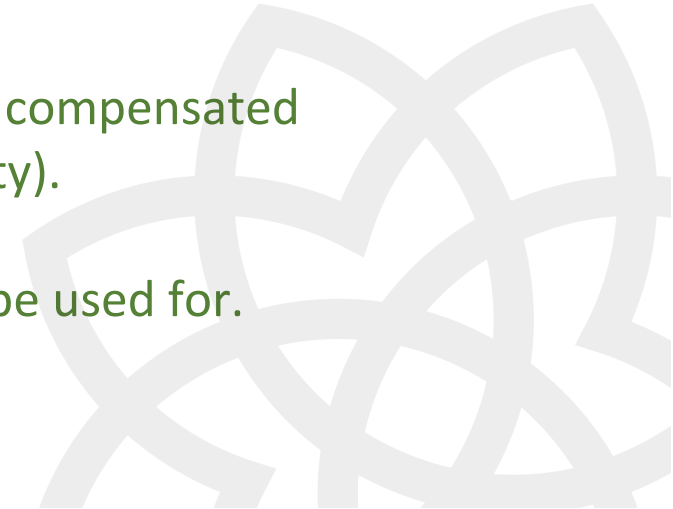
## ADVOCATE

*The garden is the one place I feel at home. I feel special that I can take care of the plants and help them grow.*

# Cultivate Staff



## *Facts We Work With*

- FOOD IS A HUMAN RIGHT.
  - The food systems are racist.
  - Community impacted by systems of oppression KNOW what needs to be done to address oppression.
  - Time and stories are valuable. People need to get compensated appropriately whenever possible (make it a priority).
  - People need to know what their information will be used for.
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# Leadership Across Generations



## Student Leadership

- ❖ **Food Justice Internship Program**
- ❖ Nutrition Committees
- ❖ Student Surveys
- ❖ Presentations
- ❖ Letters of Recommendation



## Graduate Leadership

- ❖ **Apprentice Program**
- ❖ Summer Internship Lead Position
- ❖ Full time Positions



## Community Leadership

- ❖ **Community Advocates Program**
- ❖ Roundtable Events
- ❖ Listening Circles
- ❖ Survey Collection
- ❖ Large Group FJN Meetings
- ❖ Hiring Lifelong Residents
- ❖ Supporting local gardeners and farmers



# Cultivate Charlottesville Food Justice Interns

- 8-12 students maintaining school and community gardens, advancing healthy school meals initiative, and learning about food justice and the impact food systems have on their lives and communities.

66 Food justice means an undivided and unbiased distribution to anyone who breathes of food, water, and open resources. 99

CA'NEERA "TIM" COLES  
CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

66 A food justice leader is someone who provides leadership for people who can't produce food on their own and provide local guidance for all. 99

ZAMEAR STIMME  
CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

66 A food justice leader is someone who leads by example, helps beginners who want to start gardening, has a major voice, and helps people learn more about food security. 99

MARNAJAH BIRBOTH  
CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

66 A food justice leader is someone who makes sure everyone around them has access to fresh food especially in need no matter their income. 99

ZAINAB DRASSE  
CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

66 Food justice means that all people have access to healthy food without worry about financial status. It means equity in opportunities for food for all people. 99

GRAH BELLMAN  
CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

66 Being a food justice leader is taking responsibility to help others who need food and help people understand which food is and isn't good for you. 99

HABIB WATHE  
CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

66 Food justice means that anyone can get the proper nutrients from fresh produce that they need. A food justice leader helps to protect the right to have fulfilling produce for people of any age, race, or gender. 99

DEMI BROWN  
CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

66 A food justice leader is someone who helps and supports in the garden. 99

AUBREY FERGUSON  
CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

66 A food justice leader is always fair. They help people to access fresh and food and water and create resources to help low-income families. 99

HONNA IMHASSI  
CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

66 Food justice means fresh food for everyone—that all people have the access to healthy food. 99

ZENJIAN RICHARDSON  
CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

66 A food justice leader is someone who is dedicated and determined to help those without access to fresh and healthy food. 99

ANANDA MCCLURKE-GIBNEY  
CHARLOTTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

66 Being a food justice leader is having the right to access healthy, and nutritious food with no limitations. 99

KEYSHANNA CALLOWAY  
YOUTH FOOD JUSTICE INTERN LEAD

## *Cultivate Charlottesville Apprenticeship Cohort*



- 5 recent high school graduates
- Placed in a 6 month apprenticeship with a staff person
- Collaborate with the Community Advocates for community feedback project regarding Power to Grow Campaign

## *Cultivate Charlottesville Community Advocates*



- 5 Community members
- Created and implemented a community outreach project
- Findings were presented to City Council with ask to commit public lands for urban agriculture programs

# *Embrace, Learn and Adapt*

