

INSIGHT 12

LEVERAGE THE CURRENT MOMENTUM TO CREATE A NEW FOOD SYSTEM.

This project's key research question asked "what could be done to 'do food differently?'" Throughout the identity conversations, there was a strong desire to create a food system that upholds community values, leverages momentum from crisis, and innovates for a more equitable future.

Participants also expressed a **passion** for being part of the work but asked for guidance on how to take their next steps. Many solutions that came up during the discussions overlapped between different identity conversations. As a result, there were multiple suggested avenues for taking action.

Rural conversations focused on the development of a regional food economy. Small and minority business owners were seen as critical voices to the decision-making process. Urban conversations expressed ideas for shifting the current system through policy change. They also focused on how institutional dollars can be spent more equitably.

The Latino conversation centered around solutions that increased representation and inclusion of Latino people and culture. BIPOC participants discussed the importance of community organizing around policy issues, the role of the Black church in healing the community, and involving youth in agriculture.

The youth and elder conversations emphasized the importance of intergenerational collaboration and community resources in supporting small farmers.

A lot of hope in creating the food system we imagine on an equitable level, connecting with folks on local and regional levels, seeing ideas are similar, trying to start a coop. Aligning paths"

- RURAL

"We could feed ourselves and not destroy the planet at the same time. Vision is something y'all could do. I'll help. But it's hard."

- WHITE



Calls To Action:

- The first step is to find your place within the 11 actionable insights above. You have a place either as an individual, as part of an organization, or as part of an institution.
- Each person, regardless of affiliation, must recognize their multiple intersecting identities.
- Accountability is not limited to one institution. Many of us are members of multiple communities and have accountability to those communities as well.
- Work with community leaders, community members, and emerging leaders to keep momentum for change moving forward.