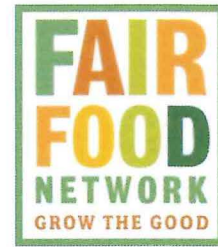


# Detroit Food Convening Summary

Wednesday, May 7, 2014



The inaugural Detroit Food Convening, held Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at Ford Field in Detroit, spotlighted tangible solutions to a number of challenges faced by organizations working to make the Detroit food system more just and sustainable.

In April 2013, Fair Food Network's (FFN) Strengthening Detroit Voices (SDV) program approached six of our most active partners to offer them an opportunity to submit proposals for work they could do which would align with the six policy targets that were identified in partnership with the Detroit Food & Fitness Collaborative. The work produced was remarkable in that the outcomes were tangible and could be used to fill in gaps that other food system organizations may have. After reviewing the final reports submitted by the six partners, it was decided that FFN should host a convening to share the project outcomes with stakeholders in Detroit.

## Conveners and Topics Covered

Organizations presented their projects and findings at the Detroit Food Convening:

- Eastern Market Corporation – Christine Quane, Wholesale Market Coordinator  
*Michigan Fresh Frozen*
- Detroit Parent Network – Yolanda Eddins, Project Director  
*Healthy Food Education and Activities*
- Detroit Black Community Food Security Network – Malik Yakini, Executive Director  
*Urban Agriculture Policy Guide*
- Black Family Development – Theresa Bass, Project Director  
*Project Local*
- Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeast Michigan – Rachele Bonelli, Project Director  
*Small Plates*
- Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength (MOSES) – Ponsella Hardaway, Executive Director  
*Food Advocacy and Justice*

## Attendees

There were over 20 organizations and community groups in attendance, covering a number of areas of the Detroit food system. Representatives from the offices of Senator Debbie Stabenow, Congressman Sandy Levin, Detroit City Councilwoman Raquel Castaneda-Lopez, and Wayne County Commissioner Alicia Bell were also in attendance. This cross section of attendees provided optimal opportunities to discuss policies and programs that could make the Detroit food system more just and sustainable.

## **Group Sessions**

Lunch followed the presentations, and afterward the attendees returned to the conference room for spirited group discussions based on what they had heard in the morning session. We split into groups of five with a facilitator from FFN guiding discussions around the question, "After hearing the presentations today, what is becoming clearer to you about how we can work together toward a more just and sustainable food system?"

## **Action Items**

FFN has made transcripts of the questions and answers from the group discussions and is in the process of comparing the responses for similarities. Our hope is that these discussions will inform our work and the partners we seek to collaborate on it going forward.