



# **Analyzing the Urban Food Movement Through a Social Justice Lens**

**April 4th & 5th, 2014**

---

## Friday, April 4, 2014

---

5:00-5:45pm	Sign in, Refreshments and Networking
6:00-6:15pm	Presentation- Hue People Welcome and Introductions <i>Dr. Rhonda Y. Williams, CWRU Social Justice Institute</i>
6:15-6:20	<b>Representative Armond Budish</b> <i>District 8</i>
6:20-6:30pm	<b>Jonathan Ferrer, Youth Organizer</b> <i>United Puerto Rican Organization of Sunset Park (UPROSE)</i>
6:30-7:15pm	<b>Dr. Monica White, Assistant Professor</b> <i>University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>
7:15-7:45pm	<b>Dara Cooper, Director</b> <i>NYC Food and Fitness Partnership</i>
7:45-8:25pm	Question and Answer
8:25-8:30pm	Wrap-Up and Announcements <i>Dr. Rhonda Y. Williams, CWRU Social Justice Institute</i>

---

## Keynote Speakers

---



***Dr. Monica White***

***Assistant Professor University of Wisconsin-Madison***

Monica M. White earned a Ph.D. from Western Michigan University in Sociology. She is an assistant professor of Environmental Justice at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a joint appointment in the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology, and is a former Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of African American Studies at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign. Her research engages communities of color and grassroots organizations that are involved in the development of sustainable community food systems as a strategy to respond to issues of hunger and food inaccessibility.



***Dara Cooper,***

***Director NYC Food and Fitness Partnership***

Dara Cooper brings a wealth of experience in local food systems, community access, community health and community economic development both domestically and internationally. Prior to joining Restoration, Ms. Cooper led the launch and expansion of an award winning mobile market and community health programming, which quickly became a nationally recognized model for healthy food distribution and community based self determination and empowerment.



---

## Saturday, April 5, 2014

---

9:00-10:00am Registration, Continental Breakfast, and Networking

10:00-10:30am Welcome, Brief Re-cap of Friday, Order of Day  
*Randy McShepherd, Rid-All Green Partnership*

10:35-11:50am Discussion Groups

### **The Black Land Project**

**Facilitators:** Mistinguette Smith/ Allison Guess- Black Land Project and Fred Collier-City of Cleveland Planning Commission

### **Food, Justice & Culture: Not Just a Black White Thing!**

**Facilitator:** Jesus Sanchez-Esperanza Inc.

**Panelists:** Dr. Carolyn Henry- Hurst-Southeast Seventh-day Adventist Church, Kimlee Sureemee - A.S.I.A. Inc., Sundance-Cleveland American Indian Movement, Elaneet Aharone-World Traveler, Vegan, Lacreia Muhammad- Mosque 18, Cleveland, Ohio, Divya Sridhar-Green Triangle Board member

### **Local Leadership Roundtable/Food Justice Collaborative**

**Facilitators:** Malik Yakini-Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN), Greg Brown- Policy Bridge, Vedette Gavin- Healthy Eating Active Living Buckeye

### **Young Adult Leadership Discussion: College and High School**

**Facilitators:** Jonathan Ferrer-United Puerto Rican Organization of Sunset Park (UPROSE) and Jason Boarde-Cleveland State University Academic Association for Food Policy & Research

**Panelists:** Kofi Khemet-President of Blakfacts Educational Resources and Blakfacts Media Network, Armon Short- Golden Ciphers, Eva Barret-Botanical Gardens Green Corp, Rain Kendal- New Abolitionist Association Project Green Thumb

Noon-1:00pm Lunch and Discussion Group Report Out

1:00 -2:00 pm Panel Discussion

### **Social Justice and Race: How it Affects the Food Movement**

**Moderator :** Randy McShepherd- Rid-All Green Partnership

**Panelists:** Dr. Rhonda Williams, Malik Yakini, Dara Cooper, Dr. Monica White, Jonathan Ferrer

2:00-2:30pm Question and Answer /Closing

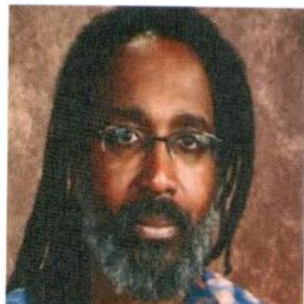
---



---

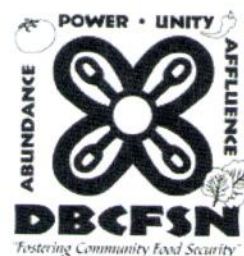
## Guest Facilitators

---



### Malik Kenyatta Yakini –DBCFSN

Malik Kenyatta Yakini is a founder and the Executive Director of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network. He views the "good food revolution" as part of the larger movement for freedom, justice and equality. He has an intense interest in contributing to the development of an international food sovereignty movement that embraces Black farmers in the Americas, the Caribbean and Africa.



### Mistinguetta Smith– The Black/Land Project

As the founder and director of the Black/Land Project, she has traveled the country gathering black people's stories about relationship to southern farmland, urban city-scapes, changing neighborhoods, and public green spaces since the fall of 2010. Blending her literary ear as a poet and playwright with her professional knowledge of women's health, food security, and leadership development for social equity, Smith turns the gift of individual stories into a body of information that engages and heals black communities.



### Allison Guess– The Black/Land Project

Allison became a member of the Black/Land Project in 2011. Allison acts as a researcher, writer, consultant and Academic Liaison at the Black/Land Project. Allison holds two degrees from the University of Pittsburgh in Political Science and Hispanic Languages and Literature (Spanish) as well as a Minor in Brazilian Portuguese. Her interests include, movement as a relationship to land, migration, gerrymandering, mapping, the Black middle class and "Generation Y." Allison plans to earn a PhD in Environmental Science/Geography with a focus on the African Diaspora.



### Jonathan Ferrer- United Puerto Rican Organization of Sunset Park

Growing up in southwest Brooklyn, in a community surrounded by three large power plants, Jonathan Ferrer witnessed first-hand the social and environmental injustices that put the health and well-being of his family and friends at risk. Today, Ferrer is an award winning youth justice organizer and core leader at UPROSE, a community-based organization that works to ameliorate the environmental burdens of the Sunset Park neighborhood. Through UPROSE, Ferrer organizes the NYC Climate Justice Youth Summit, the largest youth climate convergence in New York City.



---

*"I have experienced personally over the past few years how purity of diet and thought are interconnected. And when Americans become truly concerned with the purity of the food that enters their own personal systems, when they learn to eat properly, we can expect to see profound changes effecting in the social and political system of this nation. The two systems are inseparable"*

**-Dick Gregory**

Civil rights activist, comedian and nutritional liberationist



---

## Local Experts and Facilitators

---

**Vedette Gavin, M.P.H., is the Director of Community Engagement at the Case Center for reducing Health Disparities at MetroHealth.** In her role she is responsible for the Center's community engagement and place-based neighborhood health improvement research, demonstration and advocacy efforts around health equity, healthy living and creating strong communities. Vedette's work is firmly rooted in her expertise in health education, public health promotion, community engagement and minority health— and her belief that "place matters." She worked in partnership with residents and stakeholders in three inner-city Cleveland neighborhoods to create an overall culture of healthy living, creating and overseeing the Healthy to Eating & Active Living Initiative (a community-led initiative to engage residents in shaping neighborhood conditions and culture to support healthy living).

---

**Gregory L. Brown became the Executive Director of Policy Bridge,** a 501c (3) non-partisan public policy think tank based in Northeast Ohio, in November 1999. Policy Bridge's key objective is to monitor urban policy issues, and inform regional public policy debates, by framing issues of relevance to the minority community. Prior to November 2009, Mr. Brown was president of Brown & Associates Consulting Services providing services to philanthropic, public and nonprofit organizations in the areas of: strategic planning, community building, youth and organizational development, education policy, public policy, program and project development.

---

**Freddy Collier Jr. is the Assistant Director of the Cleveland City Planning Commission.**

He holds a B.A. in Urban Studies with an emphasis in urban planning, and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. Prior to his current role, Freddy served as Chief City Planner and project manager of the Connecting Cleveland 2020 Citywide Plan. Other initiatives that Freddy has been engaged in including: Re-imagining a More Sustainable Cleveland; the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium; and the Cuyahoga County Place Matters team, which seeks to improve the health of communities by working with policy makers and organizations to focus on the social determinants of health creating more viable, sustainable communities.

---

**Jesus Sanchez is the Director of Programs at Esperanza Inc.** He earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Biology and Wildlife Management from the University of Findlay (Findlay, OH) in 2004 and his Masters of Science Degree in Biology with a focus on Plant Ecology and Physiology from John Carol University in 2008. Upon completion, Mr. Sánchez returned to the Cleveland Botanical Garden in December of 2008 as the Youth Manager. Jesús was later promoted to Program Director overseeing the entire Green Corps program. Jesús became Director of Programs at Esperanza in July of 2013, where he currently manages and oversees nine full-time program staff as well as six outreach and educational support programs within the Cleveland Hispanic and Latino community. Additionally, Jesús is a Case Western Reserve University Treu-Mart Fellow and continues to advocate for youth development and resiliency.

---

**Jason Eugene-Boarde is the Consultant to the Cuyahoga County Conference on Social Welfare, and Development Chair of the Academic Association for Food Policy & Research (AAFPR) at Cleveland State University.** He was the former Program & Event Director for PPC Los Angeles. He currently attends Maxine Levin College of Urban Affairs as an Urban Studies and Planning major. Jason's background includes Architecture & Design at City College of San Francisco and Environmental Studies with a focus in the Urban Environment from SF State University. He holds a BFA from NYU Tisch School of Art. In 2009 he co-founded PPCLA, a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to the development of local, sustainable food systems. His interests include urban agriculture and food security, urban and environmental policy and planning, social welfare and human needs.