

PEOPLE OF CLEVELAND VOLUNTEER CORPS VISION OF ANTUNESIA HARRIS

VISION

What change do you wish to see in the food system?

The People of Cleveland Volunteer Corps is a volunteer organization designed on the Principles of Food Democracy Theory. Our organization focuses on creating pathways for people of color to significantly impact the food system of communities in which they live.

PROBLEM

What's keeping your vision from happening?

What is the root of the problem?

- The value of volunteerism is poorly understood in communities of color. People of color have a history of service yet tend to categorize volunteer efforts as “helping out.” People of color do not readily sign up for volunteer activities but respond more favorably when directly invited to “help out.”
- Volunteer activities lack innovation that incorporates opportunities across the spectrum of individual skill sets, desired skill attainment, cultural identity, and desired outcome.
- Community focused organizations that address the climate crisis and food system issues are poorly funded without adequate budgets for soliciting and retaining volunteers.



TRANSFORMATION PROPOSITION

The People of Cleveland Volunteer Corps is the catalyst to achieve change within the food system by increasing the number of knowledgeable, empowered citizens who seek to collaborate for the common good of the community they serve. Volunteers will be in service to food system change organizations and themselves through the goal of skill attainment.

The People of Cleveland Volunteer Corps will serve as the coordinator of volunteer activities for organizations with limitations in budget, opportunity design, and time to develop impactful volunteer engagement options. We seek to create pathways for people of color to access opportunities to learn, develop leadership skills, and enhance connectedness to solutions that negatively impact the food system.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

The People of Cleveland Volunteer Corps seeks to partner with an educational organization through the act of community-based participatory research (CBPR) to investigate the needs of helping organizations and volunteers.

In addition, we seek a sum of \$7,500. This will be used to support one part-time assistant at a sum of \$2,400 a year. The additional funds of \$5,100 will be allocated to create an interactive website and promotional materials.



ANTUNESIA HARRIS

Antunesia Harris was born and raised on the East Side of Cleveland. She obtained a Degree in Health Care Education from Georgia Southern University followed by a Degree of Nursing from Cleveland State University. Mrs. Harris considers herself a Citizen of the World. In her travels, she remains interested in the human condition of all inhabitants of a place. On her travels, to the dismay of others, she visits every Martin Luther King Blvd and will occasionally ride city buses for a different angle. Antunesia returned home to complete a Social Entrepreneurship Place Making Project in Cleveland's Ward 7. Mrs. Harris seeks to develop a space where art, culture, civics, and volunteerism can exist in a supportive ecosystem that positively impacts the residents within the neighborhood.

TIMELINE

Year I

- Research
- Development
- Design
- Recruitment
- 5 Community Partnership Agreements

Year II

- Education
- Subject Matter Experts
- Scale

Contact me to learn more about how to get involved:
Email: antunesia.harris@gmail.com Phone: (202) 591-7697

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