

2018 Michigan Good Food Summit

Breakout Session #15: Designing for Equity: Modeling a Better Michigan Food System

1:45 pm

Speakers: Kibibi Blount-Dorn, Detroit Food Policy Council and Lindsay Scalera, MSU Center for Regional Food Systems

- What is equity? (Kibibi) No group is given an unearned advantage over another and that all groups are given the same resources
 - We experience this on basis of race, gender, religion, ethnicity, etc
 - Equality vs equity- crate over a fence model. Liberation- remove the fence. What would it look like to move even beyond liberation?
- Why do we use models? (In food systems and equity work) To visualize complex systems and understand them.
 - To highlight areas of intervention
 - To identify areas that need investment or development (ex: to see different outcomes like better access in the food system)
 - To drive research (ex: studying infectious disease and look at where pathogens can be transferred to limit pathogen transference.)
 - Linear models- how a food item moves from agriculture to packaging, distribution, transportation, consumption
 - Cyclical model- closed loop system- output from one step is input to next step (Michigan Good Food Charter & NCS Extension Local Food System Supply Chain have visuals)
- What is missing?
 - Language and representation
 - What is missing from standard models?
 - “The human factor” people in these parts of the food system
 - Regulation, policy information
 - It’s more complex and interconnected (all steps are connected)
 - Food waste and its causes and where it goes. Recycling, compost
 - Historical context
 - Labor equity, pricing
 - Environmental impacts and costs
 - Animals, animal rights
 - Pleasure, pain, emotions in decision-making processes
 - Health outcomes, consequences
 - Transition between steps- time and how we move from one step to the next
 - Where the revenue/profit is going
 - Layers of distribution
 - Education, career, economic/social mobility
- Food System Models that Interrupt the Status Quo

- (University of Vermont) Youtube- “What’s on Your Plate?”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQIG710-mdw>
 - SEED Model- Social, Environmental, Economic, Diet & Health
 - Social/cultural- food tradition, access, worker treatment, environmental impact, cost of food, etc
 - Environmental- climate change, and more is addressed
 - (Center for Social Inclusion- Building a Case for Racial Equity in the Food System)
 - Highlights structures, institutions, and policies in the food system
 - Labor, access, who owns the land, and more is addressed. Addresses systemic inequity, specifically racial inequity
 - Detroit Food Metrics Report (DFPC Website)- Relationships between organizations and initiatives driving Food Systems work
 - Shows interconnections of businesses, funders, and organizations
 - Different sectors- food security, opportunity/education, health outcomes, and production, food access
- What’s different about these models? - show interconnection, what is visible and hidden both, represents other types of knowledge (intuitive and cultural information in addition to Empirical knowledge)
- Are there other models you have seen and want to share?
 - Hunter/Gatherer tradition model
 - (Kibibi) do an exercise of coming together on an agreed definition of food equity with colleague, though we didn’t have time to do this as a group today. See resource handout for trainings, and reading material
 - Nancy Kramer at North Carolina has a model
 - See food system assessment resource on resource list
 - Diet culture
 - How culture influences the way we eat
 - Other systems that feed into the food system- capitalism, white supremacy, patriarchy
- Activity! Essential question- What would a model of a more equitable food system include? Big idea- As a group, begin to design a model that reflects a more equitable food system. End goal- up to you! The model we create can look different from what we’ve seen
 - #MIGoodFoodChallenge #2018GoodFood #designforequity
 - Groups will share back, take photos of other groups’ models
 - Things to keep in mind- where do we do our work within the food system? Who benefits? Who is left out?
 - How do we bring them in? What supports do they need?
 - My group
 - Make sure the food workers have livable wage \$15/hr

- Needs assessment
 - Individual community
 - Culturally-appropriate food
 - Health- what health outcomes are food-linked, emotions
 - Elements of mindfulness
 - Transparency
 - Food sovereignty- power over our food system
 - How big should this system be? Local? Global?
 - Far-away foods sometimes needed for culturally-appropriate food
 - Visual- dinner table with different plates representing different communities. Different plates representing different scales of community
 - Relationship to land and other shared values communities share create the foundation or dinner table
- Shareback

Let Kibibi know if you'd like the facilitation guide to do this activity at your organization

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