

11:05:42 So thank you so much for helping to make this multilingual space, and I will pass it back to you.

11:06:03 Thank you so much, Emily, and welcome everyone we're so happy to have you here to this webinar that celebrates the community gardens and urban farms that participated in the from food justice to liberation learning

11:06:21 circle. i'm going to try to Remember all that Emily just shared in terms of flowing down taking a breath and making space for us to connect with a lot of the content and what we're sharing here today.

11:06:41 I want to start with a land acknowledgement.

11:06:44 I'm Danielle and I am located in Tua Territory, which is the homelands of the Pablo Nation.

11:06:50 I belong to. I have deep gratitude for my ancestors.

11:06:56 The resistance, strength, and continued guidance we invite you all to share in the chat where you are joining from, and as you do that I encourage you to reflect on maybe what you're grateful for

11:07:09 in the spaces that you occupy. Maybe think about how you can continue to support and connect with the native organizations, native nations, and communities near you.

11:07:20 And really how to be a good relative in the spaces that we get to live in an experience, and love and pry, and all of the good things that are part of our shared experience.

11:07:41 Together

11:07:42 I'll pause and just look at who who's joining, and where you're joining from.

11:07:46 Thank you so much for sharing Crystal

11:08:02 Seeing some familiar names and locations. thanks everyone for sharing

11:08:14 Alright, as you continue to share I wanna prep us to be in the space together, We'll go ahead and take a grounding breath. and

11:08:24 This is our first webinar of the year and so we normally see everyone, and it's so different not to see everyone's faces.

11:08:34 As you know Zoom has this funky function where we can't do that during the webinars.

11:08:41 But i'll go ahead and guide us through breathing in for 4.

11:08:45 Then we'll hold for 4 and release for 4 we'll go ahead and take a breath in hold and breathe out

11:09:05 I'm gonna go ahead and do that again. free Then hold and breathe out, and one more time breathe in Paul.

11:09:28 I'm rita

11:09:34 Thank you all.

11:09:42 So i'm going to pass it to jenna who is my colleague here.

11:09:46 To talk a little bit about the practice project. and

11:09:51 What brings us here today? Thanks so much, Jamie. All

11:09:56 Good morning. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Jenna Guardi, my pronouncer.

11:10:01 She, her, and I have the privilege and joy of getting to work with Danielle at the practice project on the research and training team.

11:10:09 For those of you who are new to our work we're, a national nonprofit, and we work in deep partnership with national regional state and local partners, really working towards health, equity, and racial justice, for all a

11:10:24 key focus of our work is around, investing in supporting, appreciating, and uplifting the work of community organizers that are doing on the ground.

11:10:34 Advocacy and organizing for change. and so really excited to have some of those organizers in our space today to really learn from and center their work

11:10:48 So before we jump in we wanted to express our gratitude and our appreciation to everyone who's enabled us to have this discussion today.

11:10:58 The learning that we're going to be sharing today come from a large group of community gardens and urban farm leaders who share their insights and recommendation over the course of several months.

11:11:11 We also want to express our gratitude towards practice. Staff All of the network organizers, and also to Tilde language, justice, cooperative for their Spanish interpretation.

11:11:21 Today.

11:11:26 And just on a note for some logistics. We are recording the webinar in both English and Spanish, and we'll have that available.

11:11:33 Please use the chat and the Q. and A. throughout. despite the limitations of a webinar.

11:11:39 We want this to be a conversation so please contribute and at the end. we'll have time dedicated to Q. A.

11:11:48 For the panelists, so feel free to just pop them in the Q. A.

11:11:50 Or the chat throughout and make sure that you have the chat set to everyone, so everyone can see your chats

11:12:03 And so we're gonna continue on the introduction thank you so much to everyone who's gotten the ball rolling.

11:12:10 If you haven't yet you are invited to share your name your pronouns your role, or where you're representing, and what's your favorite way to rest, and so we'll give that maybe about one or 2

11:12:23 minutes. and i'll also add the chat as Well, what is your favorite way to rest for those of you who are joining us, and if you've already added your introductions, please go back and still add we're entering

11:12:41 a season for many of us of slowing down resting of hopefully being able to appreciate all that we've gone through this last year.

11:12:53 And so this can hopefully a service and inspiration for others.

11:14:37 Never make it. Yeah. And

11:14:52 We love soda

11:15:03 Got one out of the Why beautiful? Thank you all welcome. Thank you so much for being here.

11:15:14 I see some familiar names in the chat, and some absolute inspirations for rest.

11:15:22 We like to end webinars with calls to action in addition to hopefully thinking about ways to invest in and support community

gardens and urban farms.

11:15:32 I invite each of you to maybe pull from some of these rest ideas to implement as we enter.

11:15:38 This new reason, and so, as we jump in to this webinar excuse me.

11:15:47 We wanted to just give a quick overview of what to expect as you'll see.

11:15:53 We had some time for our pre session reading land acknowledgment and grounding, and we're going to enter into a celebration of honoring the work from the community gardens and Urban farms learning circle that

11:16:03 took place earlier this year. We'll have a panel discussion featuring some really incredible folks from that space who are going to share their own vision stories and inspiration.

11:16:15 We will have a closing really thinking about promoting commitment.

11:16:20 And then for folks who can stay on all the way until the call.

11:16:25 30 pacific 2, 30 central 3 30 eastern we'll have some optional discussion time.

11:16:30 The panelists. And so we wanted to start with some framing of what exactly are urban gardens and community community gardens and urban farms, and, according to the Usda, urban agriculture.

11:16:45 generally refers to the cultivation, processing and distribution of agricultural products in urban and suburban settings.

11:16:55 This includes things like vertical production, warehouse farms, community gardens, rooftop farms, and other innovations.

11:17:03 Urban farmers and gardeners work among diverse populations, to expand access to nutritious foods, foster community engagement provide jobs, educate communities, about farming and expand green spaces community gardens, are plots, of land

11:17:20 usually in urban areas that are rented by individuals or groups for private gardens, or for the benefit of the people caring for the garden.

11:17:28 And, as you'll see throughout our time together, I would say that community gardens and urban farms are even so much more than that.

11:17:36 But hopefully, that can be a starting place for our shared understanding.

11:17:43 And so with that share definition in early 2,022, the practice project, with support from Center for Science and the public interest convened a series of community gardens and urban form learning circles and the purpose of convening

11:17:59 organizers of community gardens and urban farms was to strengthen our understanding how to support their work, to transform local systems.

11:18:08 Of food and nutrition to provide participants in the day-to-day stewardship of their farms through capacity, building workshops and learning about ways to support their work, and also to create space for folks to build and

11:18:20 develop and deepen relationships amongst each other.

11:18:27 And we were honored to be joined by an incredible group of participating organizations that are shown here on the screen, and also listed in the brief.

11:18:37 And I also want to give a big shout out to folks who are joining this webinar today.

11:18:40 I know that there's a number of people who participated who are also joining as attendees, and when I thank you all for being here

11:18:54 And the learning circle process that unfolded in the spring of 2,022 really led by Danielle.

11:19:03 It really involves first conducting an introductory survey, just to establish their definitions among participants, understand the priorities of participating community gardens and urban farms, and to inform the learning circle design really to hear

11:19:16 what would be useful for people. Praxis conducted 3 virtual learning circles.

11:19:23 During which participants built relationships, shared stories and build capacity, and then we shared our learning through the development of a brief

11:19:33 And this is really to share reflections, insights our learning processes, but also recommendations for folks that don't work directly on a community guard in an urban farm.

11:19:44 How to invest in and support that work. And so Danielle is going to go through the details and discussion of the learning circle.

11:19:52 Just to kind of give a sense of what came up during those sessions

11:20:00 Thanks, Jenna. So these are some of the questions that we ask throughout the learning circles.

11:20:07 How did your community, garden, farm or program come to be? How did you come into this work?

11:20:13 What are some of the structures of your programs, gardens and farms?

11:20:18 We also asked about barriers, policies and practices.

11:20:21 As well as the role of community gardens and urban farms and building power and shaping policy and our final learning circle, we made sure to ask, What is your favorite part of your garden or farm what is one of your

11:20:36 biggest hopes. And how does your garden or farm help you build power?

11:20:40 And through these questions we were able to weave together all of these amazing stories of all the participants work

11:20:53 Some of the greatest challenges facing community gardens and farms are shared here, and these really came out of the discussions that we had during the learning circle sessions.

11:21:04 Some of the challenges are access to land and opportunity for generational planning, staff, capacity, capitalism, racism, and environmental racism, infrastructure and general anti-elgbtq policies

11:21:29 Some of the policies that support community gardens and urban farms.

11:21:34 Our policies that use pathways for food to get to

institutions.

11:21:38 And get to the people policies that support redirecting resources for its food systems and policies that invest in the sustainability of land

11:22:04 Jennifer, would you like to share a few of the recommendations?

11:22:07 Yeah, Absolutely. Thank you. And so, hopefully, folks got a chance to read the full brief to really get the the nuance and the the depth and the Richmond richness of the discussion.

11:22:17 We did want to share some of the recommendations that came out of the space.

11:22:21 First connect with intention. This is an invitation for funders, but also for those of us working in intern intermediaries.

11:22:31 Other nonprofits public health to connect with organizers, to identify ways to support power building through community gardens and urban farms.

11:22:40 A first step to help with developing intentionality is becoming familiar with how the stewards of these community resources describe their work, and why they do it.

11:22:50 The in practice podcast that came out last year has actually 10 sessions that really highlight some incredible food justice work that's taking place on community gardens and urban farms, and that's one place to start in addition to being

11:23:05 here today. next support community garden and urban farm infrastructure long term investment in the infrastructure and foundation of community gardens and urban farms, isn't investment in community.

11:23:20 Health. So this can take place through longer term, funding opportunities for farms for those who work in positions that can advocate for that but also ensuring that garden and farm Infrastructure development is a part of any type of

11:23:35 support that's being done to this work, identify policies and practices that have caused harm or pose an opportunity to shift food systems to be rooted in the community.

11:23:47 We can support an environment that nourishes and cultivates community gardens and community power by advancing equitable policies and dismantling harmful policies, and ensuring that those who are most impacted by those policies are

11:24:01 really informing the way that we advance, or we to dismantle them.

11:24:05 And then lastly, create opportunities for rest and connection between communities.

11:24:12 We really wanna uplift the importance of honoring the emotional work that black, indigenous, and people color, lead community gardens and urban farms really pour into their efforts and into their community and really you

11:24:26 know, support the prioritization of resources, rest and relationships just as much as the food that's grown in these species.

11:24:33 This is

11:24:45 Alright. so we just shared a little bit of what you can see

in the brief and are so happy to now invite our panelists to
11:24:54 Come on and share a little bit more about their work. we have some questions prepped for our panelists.

11:25:01 So if you have additional questions that you would like to be asked during the discussion session, please feel free to add those into the chat, and we'll share those during that session.

11:25:12 If you can't stay for the post session discussion.

11:25:17 Please still send us your questions and we'll have a recording available.

11:25:22 So I'm gonna go ahead and I have the honor and privilege of introducing these wonderful folks i'll start with Elaisa Trinidad
Elisa isn't an award-winning policy

11:25:33 advocate liberation and food, activist, educator, and artist.

11:25:38 Her path to act toward activism and veganism started early in life.

11:25:42 She was raised by centarians who lived off of the land, taught her how to be self-sustainable, and passed down much ancestral knowledge to her.

11:25:53 This shaped her views of justice and empathy for all beings protection of our sacred home, and the belief in the healing power of plants sharing, and community has an Afro indigenous Latina She approaches

11:26:08 liberation, Praxis and Vegas Veganism, with an anti-colonial framework to raise awareness of how Western colonization has, and continues to affect the of human and beyond human persons and how it has changed the

11:26:22 food system and our relationship with each other and the natural world. Through her role as executive director at Chile Zone Wills.

11:26:32 She works to reclaim public spaces and make Veganism accessible to communities and need through direct food, relief, policy, education, and mentorship.

11:26:42 In addition, a Louisa works with various coalitions and organizations.

11:26:46 As an advisor to develop community, informed strategies and policies, to transist, transcend poverty, mitigate climate breakdown, and transform our food system.

11:26:58 She is the founder of Vegan activist alliance.

11:27:03 A systems change. Focused community, driven anti-specific, anti-colonial organization, founded on the belief that all beings have a natural right to their autonomy and to live free from oppression regardless of

11:27:15 species so happy to have you here, Eliza, if you all want to share in the chat.

11:27:23 Some claps and welcoming Eloisa i'm also going to introduce Darryl from a sled of Pablo has been coordinating community-based projects in their own community of a sled of pablo since

11:27:39 2,011 working from a place that centers die.

11:27:44 Relationality. Daryl focuses on facilitating spaces for learning, authentic connecting, and self agency via public homelands.

Daryl is responsible for that administration of public resurgence as well as

11:27:58 growing food. Daryl is currently in the process of building a model for sustainable housing.

11:28:06 Welcome, daryl so good to have you here. daryl and I are from the same bubble, so it's always nice to see relative in these spaces.

11:28:16 And finally, I'm so happy to introduce Sergio Ruiz, who is part of the food justice team at little village and environmental justice, organisation being part of the response to our community's food and security we bring awareness to

11:28:30 how we have to, how we have the right to grow, eat, and sell healthy foods, bringing food into our community.

11:28:38 That is culturally appropriate, fresh, local, and grown full of care.

11:28:43 With from our workers, animals and land. Sergio strongly believes in bringing new business opportunities, healthier lives, mental physically and spiritually, and prosper.

11:28:56 Respect to our community. Thank you so much for sharing your bios with me, and letting me introduce you all.

11:29:05 I do. I don't know if you have additional words to introduce yourselves.

11:29:11 Briefly, i'll pass it over to elisa thank you, Danielle.

11:29:16 No just so grateful to be here and and grateful to everyone who has taken their time to be in community community with us, and looking forward to seeing how what we create from here, and how we come together in community more and more so thank you

11:29:30 everyone, and thank you. Thanks, Eliza. Darryl

11:29:52 Hi, can you hear me? I can hear you want to thank everybody practice project in Denmell for the opportunity for being on this panel.

11:30:02 And Yeah, just what is I love

11:30:07 Thanks sterile. And then sergeo also just wanted to say thankful for being on this panel, and J. just excited to hear from other folks doing the similar work.

11:30:20 Thank you Wonderful! Thank you all so much. and I have our first question for you all.

11:30:31 I'll let you decide who wants to Go first but our first question is, what inspires your work

11:30:52 I'll jump in. I was gonna pass it over to there all there I do want to go first.

11:30:57 I always like going last. So if you're ready yeah Okay, great.

11:31:02 Thank you we'll do Daryl: there's you then, Eliza: Yeah, Okay, yeah.

11:31:13 I mean, I think I feel like a lot of the work. that i've been engaged in for the past decade or so has been.

11:31:20 Oh, okay, my own experiences with education, and as an indigenous person, not really generally just feeling safe in in any kind of like school setting.

11:31:36 And so, when I look back on my life, the safe space that I

had was growing food.

11:31:43 My father, and being connected to the land and all of our teachings, is as public people as I.

11:31:50 People. And now, when I think about the work that we're doing that's the kind of space that I wanna make for people within my community.

11:32:03 And young people to have a safe space to be connected to the land.

11:32:09 And specifically a place that honors and cherishes their indigenous identity.

11:32:16 And speaks to the relationality that we have with this place.

11:32:23 That's you know thousands of years old and that recognizes the agency that we carry with us as indigenous people's.

11:32:35 I feel like That's been oh, as I get older, and as I grow into this role of facilitating public resurgence, starting to recognize how difficult of a process that is especially operating within like the boundaries of

11:32:57 oftentimes will put colonialism. Systems require of us.

11:33:02 Right expect of us I should say and that's the really fun part is getting having the opportunity to to make space for indigenous relationality, and places where it shouldn't have been because colonialism said you don't

11:33:16 you shouldn't exist. you but we have the great opportunity to make that space.

11:33:24 So that's really what drives my work yeah thank you

11:33:35 Yeah, thank you so much for sharing that I know i've been really inspired by the work that you're doing at home, and so happy that you're continuing to do that and that we can support that here

11:33:49 i'm gonna pass it over to sergio yeah, I I would say, probably like, would be my solution would be mostly the community that I work with within itself mostly because like half of my family had always growing up in

11:34:09 this community in little village on the southwest side of Chicago, predominantly Mexican neighborhood.

11:34:17 But yeah, I mean, even where I work at right now is is kind of an example of what the new neighborhood has always represented, and handle has always stood up for

11:34:28 Even with like the example where the community are, and I work at

11:34:31 That was organized by the people that live on that same black just because that neighborhood is surrounded by by our industrial corridor.

11:34:41 So there's a lot of like empty wastelands and a lot of you know.

11:34:46 Lands. I was just left behind by corporations and just contaminated throughout and actually in the side where I work at right now is actually a or it's a prior brown field or contaminated site, which we build upon and now created

11:35:01 this beautiful thing, you know community garden but I I will say just that, like the neighbors of people there, the spirit that

they carry just like training, whatever you know it doesn't work around us, and just kind of taking the to our benefit

11:35:17 or their And then yeah, I I would just say that that's kind of my inspiration for also like how I would want the community and neighboring communities as well to kind of look like in the future which I then

11:35:32 the bio kind of explain just keeping the like self sustain and just kind of showing some determination.

11:35:40 Yeah, for the most part it would just be the people themselves that inspire my work.

11:35:51 Thank you, Sergeant Darryl, for all the work that you do, and just shut out to serial.

11:35:56 He. He is at a very youth, and I just want to acknowledge that you know there are so many young folks working on these issues.

11:36:04 For me. What inspires my work is really, you know, the elders that I was raised by.

11:36:10 I was raised in Kiskaya we grew most of our own food, and I just had, you know, the opportunity to be connected to the land to really learn what that meant.

11:36:23 We Didn't have access to much We grew up with an outhouse as a as a bathroom.

11:36:28 That act no access to electricity, really going to the river to come, collect water and collect and bring water as well.

11:36:37 And my great great grandfather. so I think him you mentioned I was raised by elders.

11:36:41 They passed away already when they were over a 100 years old. My great grandmother was 116 years old, and so I had an opportunity to really dive into my heritage, into my african heritage, and my arrow, wack and

11:36:53 heritage, and really be proud of my affair indigenty, which in Latin America is very uncommon. we're always pushed to marry white, or you know, widify ourselves, and that was an opportunity that I

11:37:08 had that. I think a lot of people he or may not have access to, especially people who look like me.

11:37:15 Who I did tribalized, and so anti-colonial praxis really drives my work.

11:37:20 I understood the power of food and the power of land very early on in that relationship, and what that connection meant.

11:37:27 You know the elders erased me they didn't know how to read and write, and they passed everything down through the power of the story.

11:37:34 That was how we gather that knowledge, and we learned very early on what mutually was, and how we survived through mutual aid.

11:37:43 And so, being in this household, where everyone was welcomed, you know, and people who were marginalized, perhaps because they were trans because they were gay, because people thought they had 8 or so many different things that you know

11:37:56 colonialism has really brainwashed our minds to believe that are wrong.

11:38:02 It was such a welcoming space and everything we grew we

shared, and even though we didn't have much, we understood that what we had West land and without land, there was no sovereignty, and so that's what inspires my

11:38:14 work and working with community i'm really passionate about youth, because that is what shaped me, Understanding that power that we have in reclaiming that power in fighting for land and access to land.

11:38:29 And so I want everyone to have that opportunity and to be proud of their own heritage.

11:38:35 I think also specifically for people who are Afro descendant.

11:38:39 You know we are displaced indigenous people from Africa, and I think that that gets lost in the conversation a lot of times where you know it's not brought up right.

11:38:50 And so when we look at indigenous people globally all over the world, there are just so many common belief systems connection to the land collection to our beyond human relatives, and the power of plants.

11:39:04 You know we're in where that's possible and if for me in the work that I do it's really important to highlight that everything I learned about my beyond human relatives and about plans came from my ancestors

11:39:16 it's in my Dna. It was from the elders that I raised because a lot gets lost.

11:39:22 You know, in transition, and folks that historically have center themselves.

11:39:27 Continue to send themselves and take up space. you know, within these initiatives that are looking to protect others right?

11:39:35 The most marginalized and so that's how I came into this work.

11:39:41 My family, I believe, has been doing new choices that was little.

11:39:46 And so we just have been, you know, pushing against this colonial system for very long.

11:39:50 And so I grew up in in that tradition and that way, and that understanding that we must not only protect the land and ourselves, but protect those, if we have the opportunity and the chance to who are marginalized, and who may be

11:40:04 marginalized for them. There we are.

11:40:10 Thank you for sharing all of that it's wonderful to hear the connections between all of your stories and what inspires your work.

11:40:19 I heard the role of the many generations that have led to even the gardens and farms we experience today from elders teaching us parents, teaching us to the roles that maybe you all have in teaching the next generation.

11:40:37 And I want to ask our next question, which but builds on what you all shared? in?

11:40:45 What are you working towards? What are your hopes for? the next generation?

11:40:50 And also you all are thinking about your responses. I invite folks in the in the audience to go ahead and share.

11:40:59 Maybe your reflections on the role that many generations have in community gardens and urban farms and in our food systems.

11:41:10 So again, the question is, what are you working towards? What are your hopes for?

11:41:14 The next generation, and maybe this time we'll start with Sergey, and then Eloisa and end with 0

11:41:28 Oh, yeah, sure. So what I have been thinking about when I first got the question was, just kind of thing in of like the work that we're doing now, and how that's gonna affect us later and we'll help us

11:41:42 later and within even our community garden that we have something that we had always worked off of was that we were always going to be passing the torch on some next generation.

11:41:55 So we always came to an agreement at first, and most of the work that we put in.

11:42:00 Now is gonna be for the future and even if we're not there to see it.

11:42:04 We kind of want. That was kind of the plan, and like organizing with that we do always leaving the better for the next generation, and every year, or every time than you incoming organizers come and like they imply their

11:42:18 own like plans and strategies. and that's kind of like something or a model that we've always wanted to explain to community that this work is going to be behind which is awesome.

11:42:33 Something that We, for example, are are thinking about doing this upcoming year at the garden.

11:42:39 Creating kind of like a buddy system where we kind of map out what we like to go all the green, safe spaces.

11:42:47 So where we have neighboring community farms, community gardens.

11:42:52 Also just putting it into play. the ideas that we have from difficulties that we've seen in the city.

11:42:59 Whether it be with people. we work with families that we work with.

11:43:02 Youth that we work with which a lot of the times like violence is always included.

11:43:08 So really working in in how to create these safe green spaces, and how to get that.

11:43:13 You engagement, and also offering for other community members like the proper, like trainings and like programs for whatever needs they might have.

11:43:22 So this is something that we're kind of like looking towards like creating like an alliance with neighboring communities.

11:43:29 Especially focusing like on the south and West Side and what is predominantly like black and brown.

11:43:36 And then just like trying to share that knowledge that we all kind of pass down to our generations.

11:43:42 And Yeah. Religious learning from from our neighbors and community members as well as others.

11:43:49 And that's kind of like the holes we have for the next

generation that we create.

11:43:55 Or we have these spaces in place where they are able to grow.

11:43:59 And then within that like in time they create even more you know better plans, better spaces for the next generations.

11:44:06 So that's just something that we've always like mentioned as we're doing our work, and that's kind of something that always like humbles us. just remembering that a lot of this work is just for the benefit of

11:44:18 like in the future, and for like a lot of things that we're not gonna see

11:44:24 But yeah, obviously, that'll be it

11:44:35 I think you know I work a lot with youth, and they inspire me every day.

11:44:42 I I think that we don't give use enough credit for the work that they're doing.

11:44:48 So while I'm speaking about what I see for the for our use I'm.

11:44:51 Also thinking about how much they give me each and every day a chiliestone wheels.

11:44:58 We actually have a youth steering committee that focuses on food, policy and environmental policy.

11:45:04 So not only are we doing the work on the ground, and building this alternate systems of survival, but we're also pushing for that systemic change that is so needed in a I think what I envision for use is just you know

11:45:19 twofold, I think first, is that history, and really understanding what has happened to our food systems, and how decoloniality and decolonization and retribution can move us forward for me as a young person as a child, that was

11:45:36 understanding that the place where I was born was the first colony in

11:45:42 So-called the New World right Abbia yellow, and that indigenous people and people of African descent were first enslaved there and served the first genocide right.

11:45:51 And we are still here, and so really envisioning. Yes, such a future for them where that is understood, but also can lead. leading with imagination.

11:46:04 And how do we imagine ourselves being free Beyond this system, you know, and I think resting resting is a huge part of of liberation as well.

11:46:17 And so the work that we do at Chili sun wheels.

11:46:20 We do a lot of collaboration work. So we work with a community gardens throughout and urban farms.

11:46:26 We take back public spaces, and though within those areas, whether there are parks or community gardens, we do education.

11:46:34 Recently we had a program that was for the summer where children from the inner city biped children, black and indigenous children.

11:46:43 Were part of a program that was around food and sustainability.

11:46:46 They got really delicious plant-based breakfast and lunch as well.

11:46:49 They were making dyes from the plants that were in the garden.

11:46:54 They were learning about all the fruit trees, in the garden and so our vision is always to make sure that we connect our youth with what's around them, and that they have an understanding that they're part of the natural world because we live

11:47:09 such within such a built environment in New York City. however, you know their screen all around us as well, and beyond that really empowering them to work towards that systemic change.

11:47:19 So it's really twofold our youth steering committee recently just met with the Usda.

11:47:25 To push for change, to make sure that use is included within all of these decisions around school food, and that all of that is not dictated just by industry.

11:47:36 And so that is the the work that we're doing and working always in collaboration and with community and teaching our youth that community, it's the only way forward we can move forward without working together

11:48:04 I want to. Thank you, Lisa, for sharing that.

11:48:10 In your previous answer. Sorry that community carry self-care that's something that I've been started to like. Understand?

11:48:17 Now in my age, and thank you for making a point we're almost to a time.

11:48:28 Now like here in and and the purple vesela and area where it's been 500 years since the Spanish arrive.

11:48:38 They were right here in 1539. and when the Spanish arrived here Pbls public people have food security for like 7 years,

11:48:49 And Coronado, And did it really anticipate for the the extensiveness of their expedition, and upon arriving into purple area, ran out of food and ended up ransacking public food.

11:49:12 Security, and I feel like a lot of bubble people my community included, has never grieved the loss of our food and our food system, and we've never gone back to a place where we're growing food authentically for

11:49:26 our own community in our nations, and forecasting and and seeing, anticipating what the next 500 years look like.

11:49:42 I think we really wanna make the space for emotional grief process work because it's been 500 years, and and we're still seeing how that how that shift is from growing food for our nations to nourish us

11:50:02 spiritually, and honoring the relationships and relatives that come with having a relationship with our food.

11:50:11 To growing food for a colonial. and oppressive regime has really shifted the values and the underlying societal structures of our communities.

11:50:20 There's a lot of unlearning that has to occur, as well as a lot of emotional problems processing that has to occur, and this is something that we were very thankful of.

11:50:33 Learning as well from some of our Kenakomality relatives.
11:50:38 Specifically Kamala. in those who mentioned that political sovereignty can happen without food, sovereignty, and food sovereignty.
11:50:48 These big shifts that need to occur can happen without emotional sovereignty and and thinking about the next 500 years.
11:50:57 What does our What do our homelands look like? that shift that we are forecasting from colonial outputs to indigenous outputs?
11:51:08 Where we're measuring not only time but relationships with indigenous metrics.
11:51:17 It's good to require a lot of infrastructural support that is, outside of the colonial infrastructure and systems and center in of our own in the indigenous knowledge and relationalities that's kind of that's What
11:51:36 we want to work towards in terms of the next 500 years That's the framework of of probable resurgence, and some of the work that we're wanting to do around food systems the byproduct really
11:51:47 is kind of food in that sense. that's kinda like the the benefit of aligning our work with our our own food histories.
11:51:59 The main emphasis is the educational component of connecting people to this legacy that our people have been here since.
11:52:10 For thousands of years, but have continued to grow food amidst being occupied by a colonial regime.
11:52:19 And it's really beautiful to think about like how powerful planting indigenous seeds are because that act alone counteracts the entire colonial native.
11:52:32 And salt that's I take a lot of really honor, and being able to share that kind of knowledge and relationality with people from our community
11:52:47 Thank you all for sharing. Those are such powerful visions of hope for the future.
11:52:54 And there is definitely like I heard that desire for building a sense of connectedness through gardens and farms.
11:53:03 I think jenna had mentioned in the beginning that the gardens and farms that you all steward and that The folks who participate in learning circle steward are so much more than that, and they're keeping knowledge systems alive they're
11:53:19 keeping generations connected. they're disrupting stories and building new legacies, too.
11:53:29 So appreciate you all sharing that with us today. our last question is in the brief.
11:53:37 There were several recommendations for funders, philanthropy, and community members.
11:53:43 And can you share just one recommendation that you Think would support your work most, and we'll start with Eloisa.
11:53:54 Then go to Darryl and close with search you.
11:53:58 Thank you, Daniel. So I think I need all of the policies to be implemented.
11:54:06 Just want to say that, and then some and then give the land back.

11:54:09 So there's quite a lot there. I think you know thank you, Daryl, for bringing up the the grieving process, because I I believe that you know grieving.

11:54:19 We also have to know what we're grieving I think that there's so much feeling to do that We also have to recognize

11:54:25 You know what exactly we're grieving as Well, because a lot of times, because the knowledge has been so interrupted and so much culture has been pushed on us through the tribalization.

11:54:37 You know, we may think that that this is our our heritage or our culture, and that happens to different groups in in different ways.

11:54:44 And so I think just We directing resources towards food system, which really is an umbrella for for everything we need policies that are going to support access to land and in New York we have very big issues with real

11:55:02 estate developers. So while the city, perhaps may give us land to start a community garden

11:55:09 That can be taken away right after it's beautified and people are depending on on it.

11:55:14 So these spaces are not just a food spaces.

11:55:19 Their educational spaces, their community centers. They bring folks together, they heal.

11:55:24 And so within, you know, redirecting those resources it's extremely important.

11:55:29 To think about you know, redirecting power and money and lab trust to folks who have been historically marginalized in New York City alone.

11:55:40 We have one of the you know. largest indigenous population to list within urban areas, and I think a lot of folks don't realize that New York State, you know, is is like that right?

11:55:52 Because I think that there's this sort of promotion of you know who lives here, and who doesn't and so much erasure as well.

11:56:00 And so I would like to see policies that invest in food systems.

11:56:03 But not just within direct food relief, and allowing folks in in facilitating direct food access.

11:56:12 But also facilitating access to land, to education and the takeaway power from these multi-billionaire developers, which really is one of our biggest issues here in New York city where I

11:56:29 live in in Manhattan. My neighborhood actually has the most community gardens, that of the entire city.

11:56:38 And if you look at the history of the Lower East Side and that East Village community gardens have been so important and so critical in the fight for liberation, I mean, this is where folks have historically organized.

11:56:50 You know, have pushed back against, you know, marginalization and these oppressive systems.

11:56:54 And I think you know part of the reason why. And I think a lot of us, all of us, perhaps here on the call know that these send these community gardens are taken away is because they empower people,

and they empower people to keep

11:57:06 pushing and to fight, and to have a sense of identity.

11:57:11 And to work towards the liberation of the land right and I think that you know folks who are in power very much understand that.

11:57:19 So that's what we're fighting against each and every day here

11:57:29 Thank you all, Lisa. So you

11:57:39 Do I go next? I believe there was. That was my bad

11:57:45 Whoever is ready to go is welcome to go from the briefing.

11:57:51 I feel like Yeah, I feel like funders. There needs to be more

11:58:04 No assuming attached funding awarded to food growing organizations.

11:58:10 People are doing work on the ground. Neither of the people who are doing the work or the people who know the needs are in the financial needs are.

11:58:22 But, Marcel, I think, too like blue growers just across the board.

11:58:29 Should also have the same access to the same resources at large scale.

11:58:34 App food producers have access to small, you know, majority of majority of food bars in the Pablova sweater are considered small scale food producers.

11:58:48 But yeah, they Kansas staying themselves financially.

11:58:53 On the production of their foods food itself and the sale of their food, and that's not to say that they should even be required to sell their food in order to make a living from that are to be able to sustain themselves with

11:59:07 that food producers have a an innate foundational contribution to local food economies and and local economies. and if we can support our food producers, I feel that also the the local economies with at a small scale micro regional

11:59:29 level will also begin to flourish and thrive in other areas beyond food, in terms of art and culture.

11:59:35 And other cultural aspects of community. And you know I would like to see a universal basic income for food users.

11:59:52 And I think like there's a lot of there was another recommendation there about like intentionality and intention setting on the part of phone others. and I agree with that.

12:00:06 But I also feel like it's one of those things where I may might not necessarily want funders to understand entirely what we're doing, or to be emotionally invested. either.

12:00:19 Or it's Also not my responsibility to do them emotional work, or make a motion do emotional labor for funders to understand what we're doing.

12:00:29 And that's something that I feel I i'll always feel conflicted with when it comes to like establishing a relationship with funders.

12:00:39 But I think like the resources to be able to articulate how those relationships play out between people with privilege and power, and people who are doing grassroots.

12:00:52 Organization. can be really valuable for other other

organizations and people doing this work.

12:00:57 My recommendation is like, solidify the relationship, the roles and responsibilities of each side, and be sure to like.

12:01:06 Stick to that, especially when it comes to like land back transactions monetary contributions. Maybe, really, all that we really need is the support and the trust that we're, we're gonna do is gonna yield a significant contribution to

12:01:21 the world that we haven't seen from large scale hack

12:01:31 Thank you, and I know, lo you say you want to add a bit onto what Daryl just shared and then we'll pass it over to Saratio.

12:01:41 Yes, I just wanted to highlight how important it is to support those those small flowers.

12:01:49 In New York City. we have the largest school system school district in the entire country. and that's just New York City alone.

12:01:57 Not just New York's fame so what ends up happening is because those small growers are not supported and don't have apples. We are pushed into.

12:02:08 Then, you know, having to purchase food from these larger corporations.

12:02:11 And you know, growers, and so it has a direct impact.

12:02:15 Not just on those folks that are growing the food but on procurement and procurement is such a huge part of really moving forward and providing nutritious. food, to our children.

12:02:27 And so that's something that we have a big issue here in New York, and that we're working to really fix

12:02:32 You know, with the folks that are on the ground that see this happening.

12:02:36 Is to change, you know, rules and regulations around procurement, because it impacts us so much here when it comes to school food and in other ways, and just in reference to the funders, I myself have a very challenging

12:02:49 time when i'm talking to funders, because you know the non-profit industrial complex is harmful and historically has been very harmful to us, and so you know it's always you know i'm speaking

12:03:02 to the person who's usually a sis white male who is white, you know, asking them for money and it's like, I don't want to ask you for money to support my project, and so not only do we have these recommendations.

12:03:16 but for those folks who maybe on the call who are not for me historically marginalized and excluded community under. understand that when we are in those spaces speaking to these folks, we're also you know it's heavy for

12:03:27 us right, because we're talking to the people who have who historically have damaged our food system.

12:03:35 And marginalized us so it's it's a very challenging thing to navigate

12:03:44 Yeah, thank you so much for highlighting those points as well.

12:03:55 Louisa.

12:03:56 Yeah, I think it'll yeah thanks alice and they're offer

bringing up those points.

12:04:03 They kind of tied in what I was also gonna i'll mention about kind of like.

12:04:07 Besides This idea, like redirecting resources and funding also like keeping in mind a lot of the the support that comes from funders actually has to come from like i'm kind of taking a moment to think about like

12:04:25 the work that they do. just because, as I remember, when I first started off and this work

12:04:32 I I remember the discussion was up in Pennsylvania, and one of our staff meetings, and I'll, fellow staffer, had mentioned something about how even like the system of like Funders and different like Grassroots

12:04:44 organizations. is a racist system, just because, like they explain how the funders get to choose.

12:04:50 I will group or one minority group to support here and there

12:04:54 So that's also just like another theme to point out demo of the work also comes from the funders, and understanding that this is kind of like work in the speed of community.

12:05:06 And even that within itself. has a lot of you know.

12:05:09 Different points to consider such a like the trauma that they face within different communities, troubles and like the racism, lack of green spaces, and like pollution from like dying corporations as we're seeing here in the

12:05:23 city and that the speed of community is also understanding that these spaces are more than like food producers.

12:05:32 They're also just like sides. for our elders and like different ways in which people kind of like work with their trauma, and the work that we do within these spaces.

12:05:42 So yeah, I think just like one of the the recommendations that would help out.

12:05:47 And now work would just be like a little bit more of understanding, and like just like in the times that we are now in, and how everything is priced out.

12:05:56 And ever since the pandemic how that kind of left these communities afterwards, that kind of suffer through it the most yeah, that's all I have to share

12:06:11 Yeah, thank you again for just sharing those recommendations on what others can do, but also the context of and the challenges that come with some of these recommendations as well.

12:06:28 We are going to close this discussion session. Thank you for answering our questions for you.

12:06:36 Thank you for sharing with each other as well. We have a reflection question for those in the audience.

12:06:42 I added it to the chat, and we can send it again, and I am looking for my share.

12:06:49 Screen button. It is what can promote and commitment to community gardens and urban farms look like in your work.

12:06:59 You've heard from our participants here more about their work some of their recommendations.

12:07:05 What their hopes are for the next generation. what are your hopes, and and how can you think about your commitment to this work going forward?

12:07:17 We invite you to share in the mentee meter it's anonymous we just appreciate seeing that we'll share that with the participants.

12:07:25 Of the panel today. also going to invite centers for science in the public interests.

12:07:32 Maddie Berlin is here to share. Csp.

12:07:38 Was a huge partner in this work. for the learning circles.

12:07:44 And yeah, Maddie, if you want to share a little bit about Cspi's journey in supporting community gardens and urban farms, and it you all commitment going forward Yeah, definitely and first I just definitely want to thank

12:08:01 Elisa and Daryl and Sergio, for all that you shared on this panel, and also for all that you shared in the learning circles, as well as to all the participants from the learning circles who are here.

12:08:10 today, too. So my name is monty bellen i'm from the Center for Science and the public interest which is a national public health advocacy organization, and since 1,971.

12:08:25 We've been an independent science-based consumer advocacy, organization with, and our updated vision statement as of the past few years is that we envision a healthy population with a reduced impact and burden of preventable disease and an

12:08:39 equitable food system that makes healthy, sustainable food accessible to all.

12:08:43 And I think a lot of what we've done with the learning circles and inconvenience. these 18 groups to share some of their knowledge with us is that it's really understand that an equitable food system is one where community members

12:08:55 have power and agency, and towards developing food sovereignty and towards feeding communities.

12:09:02 And yeah, and I think that. so I guess to share a bit about Cspi's journey.

12:09:07 So we have been a consumer advocacy organization since 1,971, and only in the past several years.

12:09:12 So we've also become a grant-making organization in 2,020.

12:09:15 We began our grant making with the launch of our first Rfp.

12:09:19 And then over those next 2 years through operating those grants. we've definitely learned a lot from our partners, including the practice project and a lot of folks on the call today, and in 2022, we after putting together these learning circles

12:09:34 we launched our second Rfp. and our new round of grant-making, we roughly half of our grants are focused on community prioritized policies rather than policies dictated by ourselves, because I think the more that we learn

12:09:48 from our partners is that it's about community developing community agency towards working on policies, and that policies that come from funders or from national groups are often not what is most relevant or what's most needed.

12:10:01 And so really wanting to support that community work that's happening on the ground.

12:10:06 And so we were really excited to work with practice and convene.

12:10:09 These groups of community gardens and urban farms to learn more about what that community power building looks like specific like on the ground level, and are really grateful for all the recommendations shared I think, going forward we're excited to continue

12:10:26 investing in in our own learning, and definitely to to continue to to work with a lot of the groups involved in these learning circles, and to encourage that all parts of our grant making rely on the expertise of community and to invest in

12:10:39 those community gardens and urban farms, and the folks who are building the power on the ground.

12:10:46 And also going forward to 2,023 developing resources and other ways of deepening our relationships with community groups.

12:10:54 And so we have. We have funding available to develop resources and share ideas with our network of national partners, and then gets a lot of Cspi.

12:11:05 Cspi is a historically white light organization, and we have a lot of power and resources.

12:11:11 And so a lot of what we're trying to do is to try and not in overcoming white supremacy cultures to not hoard that power and resources, and to really work on sharing those with.

12:11:20 Folks. We are building new relationships with as well as to share with our relationships of other national funders like ourselves. Yeah.

12:11:27 And so I am really excited to continue learning to continue working with you all.

12:11:32 And I definitely welcome. If there are if you have any questions, or suggestions for ways that Cspi could support your work. or if you have specific ideas for ways that we can be better partners, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

12:11:47 I can share my email in the chat but it's also M.

12:11:52 Blan add cspi net org. But yeah, just definitely, very, very grateful to be here today and to hear all that y'all have shared about the learnings from your work

12:12:05 Yeah, thank you so much, Maddie, for sharing that and providing an example of ways that folks can look at partnership or opportunities for partnership.

12:12:15 And there have been a few additions into the mentee meter of folks sharing how they will continue to support and promote commitment and appreciate all of those responses as well.

12:12:30 Again. Thank you for answering our Questions We're going to move in to the audience.

12:12:35 Q. A. Our first question, and whoever feels call to respond first can go ahead and and let me know, is, in what ways are people of all ability levels being incorporated into these spaces and discussions?

12:12:55 And how does intersectionality drive and affect your programs

12:13:06 I can start So you know, internationality and understanding how folks can be oppressed and multiple level really is, you know, at the root of the work we do.

12:13:19 Our organization was founded by a queer Puerto Rican woman and an effronage in this woman.

12:13:25 But even within that just understanding that folks who are disabled, whether visibly or non-visible disabilities we work to make begin as some accessible and so within that accessibility doesn't just mean providing

12:13:41 food, and you know, by the way, folks who are disabled have one of the highest rates of food and security in the country.

12:13:48 And We have beyond the policy work that we do in the community gardens work.

12:13:55 We do hot meal shares at those fat meal shares.

12:13:59 Is it really gives our folks an opportunity to participate and collaborate.

12:14:06 Most of the people that receive from us have also been volunteers, and vice versa.

12:14:12 Our founder was actually experiencing food and security when she founded the organization, and she started with her child, who was at 4 years old, distributing food.

12:14:22 So we make sure that in the things that we do there is a place for everyone to contribute.

12:14:27 So whether is very young kids, and we have a program where they can write to political prisoners, or folks who may be disabled in other ways.

12:14:39 You know some of our volunteers are physically disabled, but they're able to be there and share food with others, and store hat.

12:14:47 Mail shares are really a way that we come to together.

12:14:52 And regardless of whether or not we have don't have we really try to blur those lines, and we also work in a lot of a lot of our work is coalition work, and we do a lot of disability

12:15:06 advocacy, especially within. for public spaces because in New York That's a really important thing.

12:15:12 I mean, we have the subways, we have the parks, and so we are in coalition with other folks who work to make sure that those spaces are accessible

12:15:29 Yeah, thank you for sharing that, Elisa Darryl.

12:15:34 Would you like to go next? 2 that are Damn! That sounds awesome.

12:15:40 That sounds really awesome. as far as our work that we're doing within the problem with sled up based on a 2,019 community health assessment, children and others were most at risk of food insecurity.

12:16:00 And it was a pretty astounding percentage. It was about 20%.

12:16:09 And we started to create programming, to make healthy local, like nutritionally dense food options available to those most insecure.

12:16:19 We put in. goodness here. we do that. We have a working

relationship with the Isla alder center.

12:16:30 And we also have a working relationship with us let a head start, and we've been able to run a grant funded boot distribution.

12:16:39 Right now, which is happening this this fall semester with us.

12:16:44 Let our head start. Oh, every student receives a bi weekly food portion.

12:16:50 And that's locally sourced as well as we contribute food to that as well that we've grown at one of our growing sites.

12:17:01 A lot of our programming has been promised on teaching people how to grow food for large scale distribution.

12:17:10 But we also want to create space for traditional, like public food economies.

12:17:22 And we are in the process now of designing and imagining what that kind of local what kind of a boot space that could look like.

12:17:33 And we are wanting to incorporate an ada compliant food garden that's accessible for children and elders.

12:17:43 And We believe that that kind of space can be co- manage, of course, between our organization.

12:17:53 But of course, community members as well, and it can be a place where people can have accessibility to food without it necessarily being transactional.

12:18:06 And so that's something that's really important to us and and making a safe space for for access to nutritionally dense food.

12:18:15 So those are a couple of ways that we're thinking about accessibility yeah.

12:18:35 Thank you, Darryl. Oh, go ahead. I just saw you on you.

12:18:40 No, I was just gonna have something real quick as well.

12:18:44 At least, talking from like a smaller perspective at at the garden.

12:18:48 Which is where most of my work is concentrated at like iing in so like a lot of

12:18:54 The things that we do, such as like physical life measurements and like spaces that we because since we also concentrate on most of the construction there, a lot of the rebuilding which was a lot of the work

12:19:08 that we were doing this year. kind of focused around like how to best support our others, how to get more like others.

12:19:15 And also children, as well as teams, involved so I I will say, like in the physical aspect that would be kind of like one way in which we're including also keeping in mind like the different age ranges and people who like different backgrounds that just

12:19:30 come through to the variance of visit. and how we keep it.

12:19:34 How do we keep it expanding? kind of like that introduction So we've got in as we continue but it it really ties into like the work that we're gonna be bringing in this upcoming year which is kind of

12:19:45 including more of like training than programming. Our goal is kind of to just have the garden like not close, you know.

12:19:54 Always have something happening there that benefits the

community. And it could be like trainings from like different organizations and different partners that were kind of building relationships with to kind kind of call and offer you know this space
12:20:09 that they can use So I feel like that's a way in which we're kind of going to be learning this up coming year more on like how to include people with different backgrounds so for us right now, it's kind of like

12:20:24 a learning process that we're gonna come upon

12:20:30 Can I have one more thing? yes, I think louisa wants to add one more thing, and then darryl if you wanna add next, and then we do have 2 more questions in the queue and we'll try to

12:20:47 end at 1 30, which time is always awful but i'll pass it to you, Daryl, or al yes, Eloisa first Bundero

12:21:01 Oh, you're on mute, thank you I think start to touch on this as well as Daryl. we work within

12:21:09 You know the food space, and there are a lot of folks in the audience who maybe working directly with food or funding food initiatives.

12:21:16 One of the things that's extremely important even when looking at intersectionality, especially within the work that I do which is, you know, plant-based food is cultural relevancy.

12:21:28 And so everything that we do is really especially in New York.

12:21:33 It really speaks to each culture that perhaps we may be working on at that moment, and we collaborate with folks from that community versus us coming into that community, dictating what needs to be done.

12:21:44 We have a mentorship program. that actually matches someone from the same social economic background.

12:21:50 If they're disabled, they will be matched as somebody who is disabled as well.

12:21:58 Their gender identity or expression and so we take that very seriously, because we understand that you know your people usually are not going to feel comfortable and like they're in a state space.

12:22:08 If somebody is so different from them. And so, in order to bring this information about regarding you know, environmental impact food systems, you know, animal welfare, we really make sure that in our mentorship program somebody is matched with somebody who

12:22:25 is like them, and who has space. the same struggles

12:22:37 So what are the things that we've also wanted to like make the space floor and support?

12:22:44 Cause there's always a way for people to contribute and participate.

12:22:53 And our community networks being portable people like whenever we have community gatherings occurring there's always a responsibility or some sort of role that people can fulfill.

12:23:09 In order to contribute and participate in what's happening

12:23:15 Just last week I was asking an older family member of mine if there are gonna be hunting this year, cause that's something that's a pretty predom like a pretty prominent practice that we continue to do

this in our

12:23:29 community. and this individual told me that their hunting days are over right they can't.

12:23:35 They're they've reached the point where our where they're no longer physically able to to complete that and the cool thing about our relationships and our networks is they're now in a new phase in their life where

12:23:56 they're participating in a in a new way and I think that's really amazing.

12:24:02 And and really important in our community networks, is being able to honor where people are at.

12:24:10 And still and see this like fuller picture of what these practices look like.

12:24:18 And so, anyway, I feel like that's that's something that we've been thinking about you know people have knowledge.

12:24:24 They have stories. they have their lived experiences beyond just simply like either the active, whatever like in this case, boot growing ways that people participate directly in in these these types of like knowledge production.

12:24:42 So that's also something that is that we consider in terms of our program development

12:24:56 Thank you. we're sharing all the ways that you are considering or even thinking about.

12:25:05 The ways that many folks can add to contribute to the work that you all are doing.

12:25:12 I'm going to ask our next question which is i'd be This is from

12:25:23 Let me see my chat is so i'll just ask the question.

12:25:30 I'd be interested to know how the panelists might view food, sovereignty, and light of disasters like Hurricane Maria, which decimated a lot of puerto rico's

12:25:41 agriculture. So how are you all thinking about climate disasters?

12:25:47 And how they'll impact the food systems

12:25:55 So i'll i'll go being that I am from an island nation, and our put our our founders Puerto Rican.

12:26:01 We actually did that kind of work during hurricane Maria.

12:26:05 We got some grants, and so what we were in Puerto Rico making sure that people were fed.

12:26:11 I mean not just people, but also the animals who were on the street.

12:26:16 And so, beyond doing the food relief we're also providing ways to clean water and other needs

12:26:25 You know, I think that it's you know that's really tied to.

12:26:30 You know the environmental issues that we're heading in right now, and the climate breakdown and you know Cup.

12:26:37 27 just happened, and sponsor back Coca-cola, which is the Picas Per Luther, probably on the planet.

12:26:45 And it was held in Egypt, in Africa, and people from that area from Africa, from Egypt were actually not able to attend, and it

was extremely challenging and difficult.

12:26:54 I work on un policy, and I work with folks from different indigenous nations that are, you know, pushing for these changes.

12:27:07 But I think that you know food, sovereignty, food, security globally.

12:27:13 You know we have to decentralize food systems.

12:27:16 We have seen time and time again the failure or re centralized food system.

12:27:21 We're seeing it now we're seeing dt issues with distribution.

12:27:24 There's no shorter to food in the world right There is, you know, a distribution problem in a poverty problem as well as a climate change problem that's going to lead to further food and security and to further

12:27:38 disruption, especially for island nations like put Rico, like Dominican Republican, Haiti, and all of these different nations, or anybody who is on the coast.

12:27:49 And so I think that we really need a shift and I don't think that there is a lot of widely available information on how folks can push for these changes.

12:28:00 I think a lot of times we have to definitely be focused on the local food systems.

12:28:07 But those local foods systems are where are going to keep people hopefully fed.

12:28:10 You know, through what we're seeing and we're seeing it Now, in different parts of Africa people are already facing, because there isn't enough land for the folks who may have who may be you know own a few cows right this

12:28:23 is their what they do. This is their indigenous ways.

12:28:25 And then there are folks who are also growing food and these are just individuals.

12:28:30 They're not necessarily growing food for Sale and these are indigenous folks in Africa that are now fighting each other for for land, as folks move in as they increase factory farming in places that we have never seen

12:28:45 before And so we have folks like Bill Gates, not just buying land here, but going globally in changing food systems that are dependent on land and on growing food.

12:28:57 And so not sure if that answers your questions. But

12:29:00 There is just such a connection there, and we have to decentralize the food system.

12:29:05 And really push to an end for an end of factory farming.

12:29:09 Over now. 99.6% of all the animal based products that are growing in this country are by large.

12:29:18 Mega producers you know they're not the small farmers that they're showing on Tv.

12:29:24 They're huge corporations and they're polluting our waters taking land from folks, and they're you know, just ripping the benefits of the system that was at 1 point for sustenance and now, is

12:29:38 completely, for profit.

12:30:05 Yeah, thank you so much for sharing What you all did

specifically.

12:30:13 As a result of the hurricane and just recognizing the role that food systems play.

12:30:22 And I heard you mentioned decentralizing food systems as well as a possible solution, Daryl or Sergio.

12:30:33 Do you have anything that you would like to add to that question I know we're at time.

12:30:38 And that will be our last question for today. Yeah, I mean, I think

12:30:48 We have to take more or less like a harm reduction approach here with some of the work that we're doing.

12:30:53 A big, a really big critical issue is gonna come be even more of an issue in the future is access to safe water.

12:31:05 You know right now. couple people are situated where we have access to bubble water rights.

12:31:11 That were established when the Spanish got here in the *s.

12:31:16 And we're later confirmed as the political environment changed here.

12:31:25 But as we're, seeing population and development, and natural resource extraction continue to increase in our environment, availability of water and availability of safe water become stressed resources, and as a underground organization like grassroots, you know.

12:31:48 some of the things that we're advocating for is just how do we get?

12:31:54 How we get water to farmers like that's like the number one thing where we're trying to make growth food and what we're finding is like.

12:32:05 We don't have an answer but we how an action and and and the simple one is, How do we get funding to put wells in that food producer sites and then, in terms of our own practice and something that we've

12:32:23 integrated into our our lab management practices, wanting to reestablish grasslands in this immediate region.

12:32:35 When at this is also documented a documented observation by both Spanish settlers and American settlers.

12:32:45 The the grasslands in and around public communities, and as far as as like

12:32:52 Arizona was that there was grasslines established here, and grass was as high as the horses valley, and the deer was so fat that water pulled on their backs.

12:33:03 That's grasslands also. sequester carbon and we can establish native grasslands, and we also have healthy soil to grow food in and so that's something that we want to integrate or

12:33:21 holistically and more widely into our land management.

Practice

12:33:34 Yeah, thank you for sharing that daryl and there's you, I see in the your response as Well, in the chat.

12:33:43 Thank you to El Lisa and Daryl for covering most perspectives on how to keep the climate crisis in mind throughout our work, and I

have so much gratitude for you all for sharing today.

12:33:58 We'll do. Maybe we can like a final breath and stretch to close out the session.

12:34:04 Thank you all to our audience for being here. If you want to also send your gratitude through the chat, we love seeing them.

12:34:12 A feedback form will pop up at the close of the session, and we will be sure to send out an email with the recording and other materials that you may be of interest, including the links to Maybe the podcast series.

12:34:24 That we did so you can join me we'll do one breath, same way.

12:34:29 We did the to start the session. breathing in for 4 holding and then releasing for 4, we'll go ahead and start, breathe in holds and breathe out.

12:34:48 Yeah, so thank you so much again. i'll place some music to close us out.

12:34:52 If you have any questions we can add our emails to the chat again.

12:34:59 Thank you, Daryl Elisa Sergio! Maddie, for all being here.

12:35:04 A huge Thank you to our interpretation team as well.

12:35:08 Thank you, Jenna, for all of your text support, and our audience for the wonderful questions.