SCHOOL-BASED URBAN AGRICULTURE AS A VEHICLE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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Webinar Outline

01. Introductions
02. Key Terms
03. Vision & Mission
04. Our Model
05. Application & Resources
06. Q&A
We believe in the power of our youth to lead us to a food-secure future.

[A] big part of making our food system a more just and equitable one is to uplift voices that are sometimes lost and hidden in the midst of what we usually think of as the bigger and more powerful voices… like our politicians and our government officials and…reclaiming that power back as people of our communities [that] we too can make change

- Teens for Food Justice Alumna
I am committed to working at the intersection of community-based agriculture and equity.

I joined Teens for Food Justice (TFFJ) in February 2020 and have since collaborated with our internal staff, teachers, students, and community partners to lift up youth voices in the food justice movement.

Prior to joining TFFJ, I worked with various food, farm and education-based non-profits, small-scale sustainable farms, and food businesses.
Key Terms

01 Food Justice
A holistic and structural view of the food system that sees healthy food as a basic human right and addresses structural barriers to that right.

02 Food Security
All people, at all times, having physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious foods that meet their food preferences and dietary needs for a healthy and active life.

03 Youth-led
When young people are involved in decision making throughout the entirety of a project, initiative, or program. 1 in 8 youth are at risk for experiencing hunger and thus should be active leaders and decision makers in developing just and equitable solutions.
Our Vision & Mission

Vision
To build a just food system for all.

Mission
TFFJ is catalyzing a youth-led food justice movement to end food insecurity in one generation through high-capacity, school-based hydroponic farming.
Who We Are
Our Model

Nourishing Minds
Hands-on sustainability and STEM curriculum.

Nourishing Bodies
Immersive food and nutrition education alongside growing for school meals.

Nourishing Communities
Food distribution to students and families, partnerships with local CBO's, students as food and health justice advocates.
Supportive Staff
Strong TFFJ + DOE Partnerships

Hands-on STEM, Food and Nutrition, Advocacy Curriculum

School and Community-level Engagement

Workforce Development
Student-led Food Distribution

STEAM Classes
Afterschool Programs

School Meals
Community Engagement Advocacy

Highly-trained DOE Partner Teachers
Class Integration into Hydroponic Farm
Student-grown Produce Served in Cafeterias
Grow Student Knowledge of Food Justice, Sustainability, Health

Schools as Food Production Hubs for School and Community
Youth Leading Local Food Justice Initiatives
Intergenerational Knowledge Building and Sharing to Support Healthy Relationships with Food
Prepare the Next Generation of Leaders in STEM and Green Careers

Long-Term Outcomes

Short-Term Outcomes

Inputs

Activities
Youth make up 16% of the global population.

Youth are among the most impacted by current crises.

Voter turnout of young people is consistently lower than other groups.

2 out of 3 countries do not include youth in their policy development processes.

Schools can function as community hubs.

Teens are already food decision makers at home - family impact.

Youth who take leadership roles within their community tend to remain civically engaged.

Including impacted populations in program, policy and project development increases efficacy.

To learn more about the information on this slide, please refer to:
1. YOUTH and the 2030 AGENDA for SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORLD YOUTH REPORT, 2018.
School-based urban ag as vehicle for community engagement:
Community and Family Food Distribution at Far Rockaway High School

**Hands-on Programming**
Students become experts in hydroponic farm technology and situate farm as a community resource.

**Student-identified Issue**
Through context-building, research and design, students create a project or initiative to address an issue impacting their community.

**Community-based Solution**
Students implement their project and engage in ongoing evaluation and innovation through community engagement and feedback.
School-based urban ag as vehicle for community engagement: Intergenerational Knowledge-Building and Sharing

**Hands-on Programming**
Students develop and taste test new recipes through food and nutrition education programs at school.

**Intergenerational Engagement**
Students take home produce, recipe ideas and share with parents and families.

**Integrate New Ideas**
By extending program opportunities through and beyond the school walls, students lead new program innovations and integrations.
School-based urban ag as vehicle for community engagement: Growing Community Leaders

Pathways to Leadership Positions
Create opportunities for highly engaged students to take on meaningful roles within the program and organization.

Training and Mentorship
Connect with aligned community partners for further training, mentorship and skill building.

Civically Engaged Youth
Students grow into youth leaders engaged in policy advocacy, peer mentorship and engaged community members.
THANK YOU

Q&A
Let's Connect!

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