



PHILADELPHIA  
**FOOD POLICY**  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

# Annual Report

2017

# Table of Contents

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About FPAC.....	3
FPAC Year in Review.....	4
Anti-Hunger .....	6
Food & Health .....	8
Good Food Procurement.....	10
Urban Agriculture.....	12
Workforce & Economic Development.....	15
Zero Waste.....	17
Communications & Outreach.....	19
Membership & Governance.....	20
Looking Forward.....	21
Acknowledgements.....	22



*FPAC members and supporters at the October 2016 general meeting.*

## About FPAC

**The Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council connects Philadelphians and their local government to create a more just food system.**

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To accomplish its mission, FPAC convenes general meetings, executive sessions, subcommittees, and working groups. FPAC currently houses six programmatic subcommittees: Anti-Hunger, Food & Health, Good Food Procurement, Urban Agriculture, Workforce & Economic Development, and Zero Waste. The Council also operates two standing subcommittees, Communications & Outreach and Membership & Governance, which communicate FPAC's mission to the broader community, manage internal affairs, and recruit new members.

Two fulltime staff members coordinate the Council's work, move projects forward between meetings, and provide administrative support. The FPAC Manager is a grant-funded position, while the FPAC Coordinator serves as an AmeriCorps VISTA through SERVE Philadelphia. Generous support for FPAC is provided by the Centers for Disease Control's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, the Leo & Peggy Pierce Family Foundation, and the Merck Family Fund.

FPAC's members are appointed by the Mayor and serve three-year volunteer terms. Members come from a diverse range of food system sectors, including businesses, academia, non-profit organizations, farms and gardens, and advocacy groups. FPAC also has robust participation from ex-officio members who serve on the Council as a function of their positions within City government. Together, appointed and ex-officio members have fostered successful and productive collaboration among the City, appointed members and their respective organizations, food systems stakeholders, Philadelphia residents, and elected officials.

FPAC is tremendously grateful to its appointed and ex-officio members, who are responsible for FPAC's success over the past year:

Jennifer Aquilante	Catherine Dockhorn	Linda Knapp	Ashley Richards
Catherine Bartoli	Stephanie Dorenbosch	Nancy Kohn	Molly Riordan
Kirtrina Baxter	Donkey Dover	Robert LaBrum	Elisa Ruse-Esposito
Glenn Bergman	Nicolas Esposito	George Matysik	Julianne Schrader Ortega
Patricia Blakely	Bryan Fenstermaker	Jessica McAtamney	Carolina Torres
Allison Blansfield	Jill Fink	Tommy McCann	Suzanna Urminska
Rickie Brawer	Kathy Fisher	Dominic McGraw	Nicky Uy
Amy Laura Cahn	Elizabeth Fitzgerald	Gregory McKinley	Amanda Wagner
Saleem Chapman	Alison Hastings	Jiana Murdic	Suzanne Weltman
Katrice Cheaton	Nicole Hostettler	Herman Nyamunga	Dwayne Wharton
Kelly Courts	Esteban Kelly	Calvin Okunoye	Sarah Wu
Noelle Dames	Christine Knapp	Alyson Platzer	Julie Zaebst

## FPAC Year in Review

**After last year's dramatic growth in attendance and new subcommittees, FPAC's 2016-2017 year was marked by changes in the Council's leadership and in the federal political context. FPAC responded to these challenges by producing a record number of pieces of testimony and deepening its relationship with policymakers, including Mayor Jim Kenney. The Council wraps up 2016-2017 with a richer understanding of policymaking in the local context and a more nuanced vision for a just food system in Philadelphia.**

In 2016-2017 FPAC's rise in attendance slowed. An average of 50 people participated at each of the six general meetings between August 2016 and July 2017, down slightly from 54 participants in 2015-2016 and 40 the year before that. Meanwhile, attendance at executive sessions – open, bimonthly meetings added to FPAC's calendar in January 2016 – remained strong throughout the year.

FPAC expanded its engagement with Philadelphia City Council and other political bodies this year, submitting testimony a record seven times. Policy engagement ranged from City Council testimony to support cooperative development, to a letter to state senators in support of the Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative, to comments sent to the United States Department of Agriculture

affirming the importance of urban food production. In fall 2016, FPAC co-organized a successful hearing on urban agriculture before City Council. Councilmembers listening to the impassioned testimony praised the diversity and commitment of the dozens of gardeners who attended. The success of the hearing set the stage for a budget ask to City Council to fund an Urban Agriculture Strategic Plan for the City.

In November 2016 American voters elected Donald Trump as President. The new federal administration brought dramatic changes to the nation's agriculture, nutrition, and community development agenda. FPAC hosted discussions in its winter fully body meetings about the Council's role given the changing federal context. FPAC's executive board,



*Mayor Kenney joins FPAC's May 2017 executive session.*





*Local students attend FPAC's August 2016 general meeting, featuring a presentation about water access in Philadelphia schools.*

consisting of FPAC co-chairs, staff, and subcommittee chairs, met several times to draft a list of potentially affected funding streams that shape the Philadelphia food system.

Having developed a rich understanding of the interplay between federal and local food policies, FPAC shared its analysis with Mayor Kenney at its May 2017 executive session. The Mayor kicked the meeting off with a few words about how poverty and opportunity intersect with FPAC's work, drawing connections between food policy and his administration's Rebuild, community schools, and pre-k programs. FPAC co-chairs and subcommittee chairs then shared information about FPAC's recent successes and outlined potential state and federal food policy changes. Mayor Kenney had great questions and feedback, and FPAC offered several opportunities where his support could have a great impact for Philadelphians. The Mayor implemented one of the recommendations, to join with other mayors in protesting cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP), by signing on to a resolution presented at the June 2017 US Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting.

Another outcome of the discussions following the election was FPAC stakeholders' request for ongoing education about food equity issues. In response, the Council organized a series of trainings for its members and supporters. In February, FPAC hosted two Hunger Advocacy 101 trainings led by hunger policy experts from Philabundance and the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger. The April 2017 general meeting featured a presentation by Workforce & Economic Development Subcommittee co-chairs on immigrant workers' rights. In May, many appointed members attended a day-long racial equity training led by fellow a member. FPAC leadership will continue to organize trainings as requested and identify opportunities to integrate equity into all subcommittee and full body discussions.

The June 2017 general meeting marked a big transition for the Council, as appointed members elected new co-chairs. FPAC members give their deep gratitude to outgoing co-chairs Amy Laura Cahn and Sarah Wu for their years of service to the Council, and welcome Esteban Kelly and Amanda Wagner to leadership. Esteban, Executive Director of the US Federation of Worker Cooperatives, brings expertise in cooperative business, racial equity work, and leadership development to FPAC's helm. Amanda chaired FPAC's Good Food Procurement Subcommittee from 2013 to 2016. An ex-officio member of FPAC since its founding in 2011, Amanda brings important connections to Philadelphia's Department of Public Health and a background in food system planning and anti-hunger efforts.

# Anti-Hunger

**Mission: The Anti-Hunger Subcommittee connects advocates to address food insecurity by educating the Philadelphia community, improving access to culturally appropriate, healthy, and affordable food, and developing policy recommendations that support systemic change.**

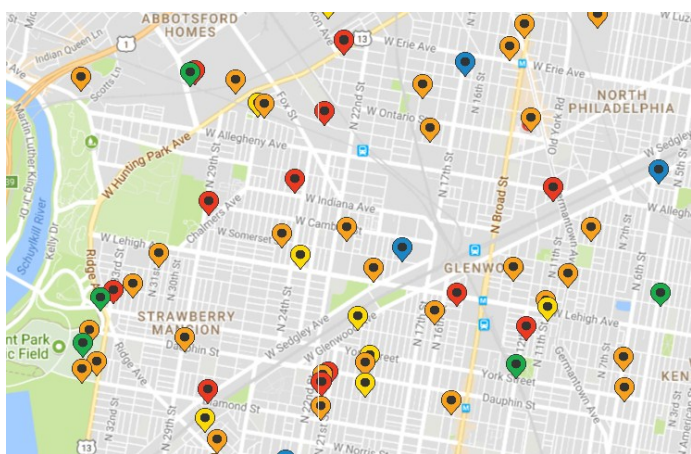
## INTRODUCTION

While subcommittee members serve as individuals, they work at various anti-hunger organizations across the city. These organizations include the Food Access Collaborative, the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, MANNA, Philabundance, the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, and SHARE Food Program.

## 2016-2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Philly Food Finder Website

Philly Food Finder, [www.phillyfoodfinder.org](http://www.phillyfoodfinder.org), was launched in 2014 as a partnership among FPAC, the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, and the University of Pennsylvania student group Hack4Impact. The website allows users to enter their address and find food pantries, soup kitchens, low-cost grocery sites, farmers' markets, and senior meals in their neighborhood. It also features



*Anti-Hunger's [www.phillyfoodfinder.org](http://www.phillyfoodfinder.org) resource helps users find healthy, affordable groceries in their neighborhood.*

information guides on federal food assistance programs, farmers' market programs for low-income individuals, meal delivery and congregate meal programs for seniors, summer and after school meal programs for kids, and more.

From August 2016 to July 2017, more than 4,000 users visited Philly Food Finder, spending an average of two minutes on the site. FPAC staff continue to manage and update the website with new site submissions as well as data from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, and the Food Access Collaborative.

### Hunger Advocacy 101 Trainings

Anti-Hunger spent its first meeting of 2017 reviewing where and how hunger policy is made. Subcommittee chair Steveanna Wynn, executive director of SHARE Food Program, walked subcommittee members through the many state and federal food relief programs that serve Philadelphia residents.

Responding to requests raised at subcommittee and FPAC full-body meetings, Anti-Hunger also collaborated with local policy experts to host two Hunger Advocacy 101 trainings. One training was held during the subcommittee's normal meeting time, while the other was scheduled after business hours and promoted beyond the subcommittee.

The public training attracted 48 people, many of whom were new to FPAC. Representatives from the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger and Philabundance led the training, covering relevant federal programs and best approaches for influencing policymakers about fighting hunger. The training empowered attendees to understand that anyone can be an advocate, and that we all have a responsibility to advocate for the programs that protect our most vulnerable residents.

### Food Recovery at Philadelphia Events

Over the summer of 2016, Anti-Hunger partnered with the Food Access Collaborative and other stakeholders on Operation Food Rescue to coordinate food recovery during the Democratic National Convention (DNC). Operation Food Rescue directed all food donations through Food Connect, a

volunteer-driven organization that picks up excess food and safely delivers it to emergency food providers.

Food Connect forwarded large donations to Philabundance or SHARE Food Program for pickup. Food Connect's volunteer drivers picked up smaller donations, such as excess food from restaurants, in their personal vehicles. This level of coordination gave organizers a birds-eye view of the donations in real time, ensuring that no single food pantry was overwhelmed with donation offers.

Over the course of the eight days of the DNC, as 50,000 visitors descended on Philadelphia, Operation Food Rescue facilitated the collection of more than five tons of food, enough for 9,366 meals. The average donation size was 50 pounds.

Anti-Hunger also collaborated with stakeholders to recover food from the National Football League (NFL) Draft in April 2017, resulting in more than 10 tons of food recovered. Food Connect is also available for everyday use by restaurants, caterers, and events.

### **2017-2018 WORK PLAN**

At Anti-Hunger's July 2017 meeting, FPAC staff led a series of visioning exercises to help the subcommittee identify goals for the coming year. After completing a network analysis of the organizations represented around the table, subcommittee members affirmed the importance of continuing to convene anti-hunger stakeholders specifically focused on Philadelphia. The subcommittee will explore opportunities to engage new populations in FPAC's work, and will continue to share resources and best practices among its members.



*Presenters and hosts gather after FPAC's Hunger Policy 101 training.*

# Food & Health

**Mission: The Food & Health Subcommittee advises the City on policies and practices that influence food and beverage choices with the aim of improving overall well-being and reducing health disparities for all Philadelphians. We envision healthy and prosperous communities where all Philadelphians have access to healthy affordable food and beverages, nutrition education, and culinary skills.**

## INTRODUCTION

Launched in February 2016, the Food & Health Subcommittee was created to respond to emerging health and policy issues, such as drinking water access, Philadelphia's sweetened beverage tax, and grocery store restrictive covenants.

Food & Health Subcommittee members are affiliated with the American Heart Association, The Food Trust, the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, MANNA, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Public Health Management Corporation, St. Christopher's Hospital, and Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

## 2016-2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Restrictive Covenants

At FPAC's September 2016 executive session, an FPAC member raised concern about the use of restrictive covenants, a legal mechanism by which grocery stores can limit the development of potential competitors, thereby reducing healthy food access in underserved neighborhoods. The issue was referred to Food & Health for further research and discussion.

A restrictive covenant is a clause in a deed or lease that limits the use of a property. When a grocery store closes, its owners may put a restrictive covenant on the property at the time of sale or lease agreement to restrict another grocer from operating a future store at that property. This is a common practice used to limit competition, but restrictive covenants may also limit healthy food access.

Food & Health worked with Councilwoman Cindy Bass' office to address community concerns about the use of restrictive covenants. The subcommittee drafted testimony in support of banning the use of restrictive covenants in areas underserved by grocery stores, which was approved

by FPAC members and presented before City Council by subcommittee co-chair Dwayne Wharton in November 2016.

Moving forward, Food & Health hopes to work with the City to explore proactive strategies for attracting supermarkets to underserved areas.

### Fresh Food Financing Initiative Recapitalization

The Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative (FFFI) was launched in 2004 to create jobs and improve health by bringing more grocery stores to underserved urban and rural areas. The program, a public/private partnership among the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, The Food Trust, Reinvestment Fund, and grocery store operators, is a national model that has been replicated across the country.

From 2004 to 2010, FFFI funded 88 food retail projects and created more than 5,000 jobs. While much progress has been made to increase access to healthy food in Pennsylvania, recent studies show that more than half a million children still live in areas where traveling to a grocery store is difficult.

FPAC, led by the Food & Health Subcommittee, sent a letter to state senators in support of appropriating \$5 million in the 2017-18 Pennsylvania budget to fund the recapitalization of FFFI.

### Sweetened Beverage Tax

In June 2016 City Council passed Philadelphia's sweetened beverage tax, commonly known as the soda tax. The measure imposes a 1.5 cents per ounce tax on distributors of sweetened beverages, including diet sodas. The tax went into effect in January 2017 and the initial revenue has funded 1,500 pre-k seats.

As it tracks implementation of Philadelphia's sweetened beverage tax, Food & Health has noted a lot of



misinformation and potential for confusion regarding beverages sold at coffee shops. The subcommittee is considering what messaging to store owners and consumers would ease the confusion.

#### Water Access and Quality in Schools

Food & Health has been tracking community concerns about water quality and access in Philadelphia's schools. The Food Trust, an FPAC partner, has been deeply involved in this issue. Common themes in what The Food Trust has heard from students include: an inadequate number of functioning water fountains in schools; warm, discolored, or bad-tasting water from water fountains; and concern about lead in school water. Many Philadelphia schools have signs over the bathroom sinks warning students not to drink the water, leading to confusion about whether water from a fountain is safe to drink. Food & Health Subcommittee member Shana Jarvis presented on these issues and potential policy interventions at FPAC's August 2016 general meeting.

In response to concerns, the School District of Philadelphia committed to installing three "hydration stations," which dispense cool, filtered water, in every school. The School District will also test water every five years, post water test results online, and immediately remove unsafe water outlets.

Food & Health has been discussing recommendations beyond testing, including allowing water bottles in classrooms and assessing water quality in terms of temperature, color, and clarity – all factors that influence water consumption.

#### **2017-2018 WORK PLAN**

##### School Breakfast Challenge

This fall, Food & Health will support a joint initiative among the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, The Food Trust, and Councilwoman Helen Gym's office to host a School Breakfast Challenge to improve school participation in the free school breakfast program. Philadelphia School District schools can serve all students free breakfast, but half serve less than a third of students. The challenge will compare school breakfast participation rates to the previous year and award prizes to the most improved schools, thus encouraging administrators to bolster participation.

##### Healthy Beverage Tax Credit Implementation

In June 2016, as a companion to the Sweetened Beverage Tax, City Council passed a healthy beverage tax credit aimed at encouraging merchants to provide healthy beverage options in their stores. Food & Health hopes to work with the Mayor's Office to determine how this tax credit could best support small businesses and healthy drink options.

##### Facilitating Collaboration Across Organization and Sector

Building on FPAC's strengths as a convener of people and organizations across the food system, Food & Health will explore more ways to intersect with FPAC subcommittees such as the Urban Agriculture and Workforce & Economic Development subcommittees.

Food & Health will also break down silos between Philadelphia-area nutrition educators by supporting the creation of a clearinghouse of programs and resources.



*Food & Health Subcommittee chair Dwayne Wharton speaks about the importance of healthy food access at the launch of Office of Sustainability's Greenworks: A Vision for a Sustainable Philadelphia.*

# Good Food Procurement

**Mission:** The Good Food Procurement Subcommittee advises the City of Philadelphia on how to spend its public dollars on “good food” that improves outcomes for producers, consumers, and the environment. The subcommittee educates and guides key governmental purchasers to develop innovative procurement approaches and establish relationships with regional businesses to increase supply and purchasing of good food.

## INTRODUCTION

This year Good Food Procurement experienced a leadership transition, received staff support from a federal grant, and released the *Philadelphia Good Food Caterer Guide*, a project years in the making.

While subcommittee members serve as individuals, they work at organizations across Philadelphia. These organizations include The Enterprise Center, Fair Food, Lintons Managed Services, the Office of Sustainability, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Restaurant Opportunities Center, the School District of Philadelphia, Sustainable Business Network, and the Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians.



*FPAC now orders snacks for its events from caterers featured in the Philadelphia Good Food Caterer Guide.*

## 2016-2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Philadelphia Good Food Caterer Guide Released

At FPAC’s December 2016 general meeting, Good Food Procurement released the *Philadelphia Good Food Caterer Guide* to help consumers find locally-owned businesses using fair labor practices and offering food that is healthy

and sustainably-sourced. This guide is the result of years of work, starting with a survey of City departments to understand purchasing patterns, followed by a survey of caterers and a verification process to confirm the caterers’ self-reported information.

The guide was disseminated via email to all City of Philadelphia employees and posted on FPAC’s website for public use. Good Food Procurement is gearing up for a second round of surveying, verifying, and certifying caterers for the next release of the guide in summer 2017.

### City of Philadelphia Employee Survey

Looking to gain a deeper understanding of departmental purchasing practices, the subcommittee created a survey which went out to all City of Philadelphia employees in early 2017. The survey received 110 responses. Forty percent of respondents said they purchase food for work-related meetings or events at least once a month, with typical orders most commonly in the \$100-199 and \$200-299 ranges. The information gleaned from the employee survey informed Good Food Procurement’s update of the Good Food Caterer survey and its outreach to caterers.

### Good Food Coordinator and Intern

In fall 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded the Philadelphia Department of Public Health’s (PDPH) Division of Chronic Disease Prevention a five-year Sodium Reduction in Communities Program Grant. The grant funds work to increase the amount of “good food” – healthy, local, sustainable, and fair – served by City agencies, as well as two staff positions to further these efforts. Additionally, the grant funds the Drexel Food Lab’s work to improve nutritional quality of foods available in the marketplace for City government agencies, restaurants, hotels, hospitals, and other institutions.

The subcommittee and PDPH welcomed Molly Riordan into the role of Good Food Purchasing Coordinator in February 2017. The GFP Coordinator sits in the City’s Procurement Department and works across departments to investigate new contracting opportunities to increase the City’s capacity to procure healthy, local, sustainable, and fair food. Among the GFP Coordinator’s first projects was a report summarizing the City’s current food purchasing practices with suggestions for increasing good food procurement from other local institutions and cities.

In May 2017, FPAC welcomed Mary Pham to the position of Good Food Intern. In the first two months of her position, Mary finalized the new Good Food Caterer survey and distributed it to more than 300 caterers and restaurants. Mary will also verify the survey responses, create an updated *Philadelphia Good Food Caterer Guide*, and provide resources to caterers interested in meeting more of the good food criteria.

#### Values-Based Food Procurement Workshop

In May 2017 the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future and the Los Angeles-based Center for Good Food Purchasing hosted a workshop in Philadelphia on values-based food procurement. The workshop, open to FPAC members as well as other food policy councils and similar institutions in the mid-Atlantic region, gave participants the opportunity to compare notes about shifting procurement practices and learn about new tools for good food purchasing.

#### **2017-2018 WORK PLAN**

##### Updated Good Food Caterer Guide

With the Good Food Intern providing considerable capacity, the subcommittee will release an updated *Philadelphia Good Food Caterer Guide* in late summer 2017. After the guide is released, the subcommittee will host an event promoting the caterers featured in the guide to City employees.



*Good Food Procurement co-chairs give an update on the subcommittee at FPAC’s February 2017 general meeting.*

##### Best Value Ballot Question

In Philadelphia’s May 2017 primary election, voters approved a change to the City’s Home Rule Charter that will allow the City to award contracts for some bids to the vendor providing the “best value” rather than the lowest price. Designed with complicated contracts in mind, the best value process allows for consideration of the quality of products and services, vendors’ past performance, and more.

In the coming year, Good Food Procurement will explore the possibility of awarding City food contracts using best value criteria. The subcommittee will convene institutional and nonprofit partners to discuss what values constitute the “best value” for City-purchased food, and make actionable suggestions to inform City food procurement policy.

##### Strengthening Relationships Around Procurement

In 2017-2018, Good Food Procurement will build on its research on procurement challenges and opportunities and further develop relationships with key partners such as the Center for a Livable Future and Center for Good Food Purchasing, as well as local partners such as the School District of Philadelphia, Philadelphia’s Procurement Department, and The Food Trust. It will also survey its membership about good food procurement related projects and opportunities that the subcommittee might pursue.



# Urban Agriculture

**Mission:** The Urban Agriculture Subcommittee guides the City of Philadelphia to develop and implement innovative laws and policies to support the conversion of Philadelphia's vacant and underutilized lands into sustainable community assets that increase food security and sovereignty for all Philadelphia residents. The subcommittee engages diverse stakeholders to inform recommendations and make current policies more transparent.

## INTRODUCTION

FPAC's Urban Agriculture Subcommittee has made great strides in the workplan it created after a community engagement session hosted in February 2016. The subcommittee's strength comes from robust participation from urban agriculture stakeholders across the city. While subcommittee members serve as individuals rather than as representatives of their organizations, members are affiliated with Farm to City, Jewish Farm School, The Merchant's Fund, North Philly Peace Park, the Penn State Center Engaging Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Philadelphia City Planning Commission, Philadelphia Parks Alliance, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, Public Interest Law Center, Soil Generation, and Temple University.

## 2016-2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Urban Agriculture Hearing

After several years of policy and on-the-ground work by FPAC and other advocates, City Council passed a resolution in April 2016 to hold hearings on urban agriculture. Urban Agriculture met twice to plan for the hearings and brought the opportunity to FPAC's September executive session. Meeting attendees discussed what City Council should know about Philadelphia's long and diverse history of urban agriculture, brainstormed a list of people and groups that should be represented at the hearings, and generated policy asks for Council.

FPAC partnered with Soil Generation, a Philadelphia-based urban agriculture and land liberation coalition, to spread the word about the hearings and coordinate testimony



*FPAC members Amy Laura Cahn and Kirtrina Baxter testify at the September 2016 Urban Agriculture Hearing.*



among stakeholders. The hearing in September 2016 was an enormous success. City Council members present were floored by the stories, data, and policy recommendations shared by witnesses from local communities, and Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown praised the diversity and wide representation of gardeners in the room. The hearing was covered by media outlets including Plan Philly, Metro, and The Philadelphia Tribune.

#### Land Bank Strategic Plan Testimony

Urban Agriculture has long been involved in supporting and providing feedback to the Philadelphia Land Bank, from its conception in 2014 to its first strategic plan and disposition policies in 2015. As the Land Bank prepared to release its 2017 Strategic Plan, the subcommittee was instrumental in ensuring that there were listening sessions for Philadelphia urban agriculture and community gardening stakeholders to provide feedback.

FPAC testified before the Land Bank in January 2017, stressing the need for a transparent and equitable process and providing detailed feedback on the contents of the Strategic Plan.

#### Storm Water Fee Discount

Urban Agriculture crossed a longstanding item off its work plan when community gardens won a full discount from City stormwater fees. In June 2016, FPAC, among many community gardens and groups, submitted testimony urging City Council to allow community gardens a special discounted rate for stormwater management services. FPAC argued that stormwater fees are an ongoing barrier to the success of community gardens, which provide stormwater management in addition to a myriad of social, economic, and health benefits.

In December, following additional public input, the Water Rate Board approved a 100% discount. Implementation began in January 2017.

#### Brownfields Working Group

Urban Agriculture's Brownfields Working Group participates in an Environmental Protection Agency grant to do environmental assessments on potential and existing urban agriculture, open space, and green stormwater infrastructure land. The grant team worked with a consultant to execute five Phase I environmental site assessments, and will meet with the gardeners to communicate the results. The grant team also identified eight additional potential sites to conduct Phase I assessments. Through the Office of Sustainability, the grant team solicited proposals from and selected an environmental consulting firm to conduct Phase II assessments based on the Phase I results.

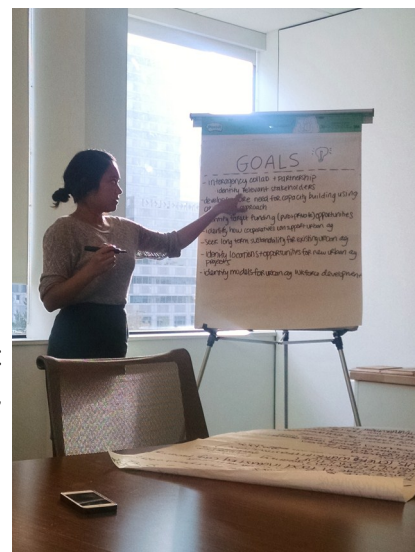
#### USDA Listening Session

In March 2017, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) hosted a listening session on sustainable agricultural production aimed at developing a research agenda for the future of US agricultural systems. While the listening session appeared to be targeted towards rural farming, FPAC submitted testimony encouraging the USDA to contribute research resources towards urban agriculture.

### **2017-2018 WORK PLAN**

#### Philadelphia Urban Agriculture Strategic Plan

Urban Agriculture will work with City government and nonprofit partners to develop a Strategic Plan for urban agriculture in Philadelphia. The Plan will help coordinate the urban agriculture work that is already happening in City government and set new goals and priorities with input from the urban agriculture community.



*FPAC manager Hannah Chatterjee leads a brainstorming session at an Urban Agriculture meeting.*

With momentum from the September 2016 Urban Agriculture Hearing, FPAC leadership engaged City Council and the mayoral administration on a proposal to City Council to appropriate money in the City's budget for the Plan. Urban Agriculture volunteered to support the community engagement aspect of the Plan. Subcommittee members will work together to hire consultants and solicit stakeholder input on the process and content of the Plan, as well as the Plan's outcomes.

#### Urban Agriculture Clearinghouse

Among the priorities identified at the subcommittee's February 2016 Open House event was developing a clearinghouse with resources for people interested in urban agriculture and community gardening. The clearinghouse, now in the early stages of development, will include categories such as land access and other needs for new gardens, resources specific to community and school gardens, where to access tools and garden inputs, links to basic and advanced how-to guides, classes and events, information about donating food, and a list of local demonstration gardens and projects.

#### Garden Data Collaborative

The Philadelphia Garden Data Collaborative, a partnership of The Public Interest Law Center, Neighborhood Gardens Trust (NGT), Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Professor Craig Borowiak (Haverford College), and Professor Peleg Kremer (Villanova University), collected data on historic garden locations and visited or virtually viewed sites to determine if the gardens are currently active.

In summer 2017, NGT will visit gardens on the Data Collaborative's list that include any privately owned, tax delinquent lots or lots owned by the City of Philadelphia. NGT will share information with gardeners about potential pathways to secure land tenure, and the Urban Agriculture subcommittee will host an open house for gardeners who have additional questions about property ownership and preservation opportunities.



*Urban Agriculture co-chair Ash Richards facilitates a process for developing the Urban Agriculture Strategic Plan.*

# Workforce & Economic Development

**Mission: The Workforce & Economic Development Subcommittee guides the City of Philadelphia in developing and implementing policies and practices to build a stronger regional economy and just food system in which workers along the entire food chain enjoy quality jobs that provide economic stability and upward mobility.**

## INTRODUCTION

Having first met in March 2016, Workforce & Economic Development is FPAC's newest subcommittee. Members represent workers throughout the food system, from farmworkers to food service workers. Workforce & Economic Development Subcommittee members are affiliated with The Enterprise Center, The Food Trust, Friends of Farmworkers, Juntos, The Merchant's Fund, the Office of Sustainability, Restaurant Opportunities Center, and other local organizations.

## 2016-2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Philadelphia's Earned Sick Leave Law

As its first project, Workforce & Economic Development developed infographic posters, targeted for the restaurant industry, to help communicate Philadelphia's earned sick leave law. Beginning in May 2015, this ordinance requires most employers to provide sick leave to Philadelphia employees. The project aims to help employees understand

their rights, and to help employers understand their responsibilities to their employees.

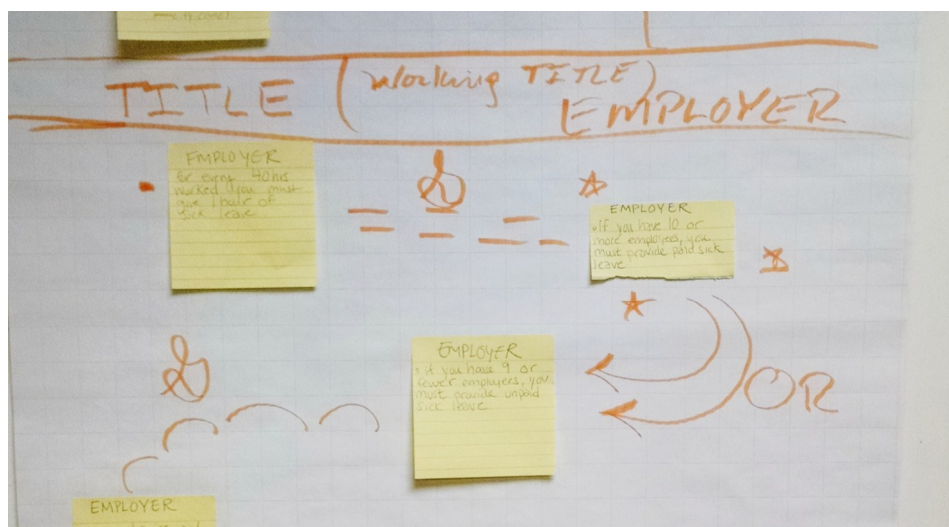
### Cooperative Development Testimony

In October 2016, FPAC joined the Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance and a broad coalition of supporters to testify before City Council on how the City can support the growth of cooperative businesses. FPAC's written testimony highlighted the important work cooperatives are doing in the Philadelphia food system and shared ideas for what City support for cooperatives could accomplish.

### Immigrant Workers' Rights Training

In its first full body meeting of 2017, FPAC co-chairs gathered ideas about FPAC's role in the context of a new federal administration and changing political climate. Among the suggestions was for Workforce & Economic Development members to host a training for FPAC on immigrant workers' rights.

Workforce & Economic Development co-chairs Stephanie



*Workforce & Economic Development members draft diagrams to explain Philadelphia's earned sick leave law.*

Dorenbosch and Calvin Okunoye gave the presentation at FPAC's April 2017 general meeting. Stephanie drew from her experience in legal representation for migrant and immigrant workers, while Calvin shared from his community organizing work to improve restaurant workers' wages and working conditions. The presentation included a brief history of US farm labor, distinctions between various immigration statuses, an overview of the conditions immigrant workers face, and a review of current advocacy opportunities.

#### Support of Good Food Procurement Work

Workforce & Economic Development collaborated with FPAC's Good Food Procurement Subcommittee on its *Philadelphia Good Food Caterer Guide* by informing the questions and certification for the guide's fair labor category. Workforce & Economic Development will follow up with survey respondents who indicated that they would like to learn more about how to meet the criteria for the fair labor category, providing them with resources that can help them improve their practices.

#### **2017-2018 WORK PLAN**

##### Clearinghouse of Workforce Trainings

In the coming year, Workforce & Economic Development will research available employer trainings. The subcommittee is interested in creating a database for people who are interested in learning more about workplace health, safety, equality, equity, and career ladders. This work will assist businesses interested in earning the fair labor designation in the *Philadelphia Good Food Caterer Guide*.

##### Dissemination of Paid Sick Leave Law Infographics

Having nearly completed the infographics communicating Philadelphia's paid sick leave law, Workforce & Economic Development will now focus on the process of getting the posters to employers and employees. The subcommittee hopes to work with Philadelphia's Commission on Human Relations and the many organizations that FPAC members and supporters represent to broaden the posters' reach.



# Zero Waste

**Mission: The Zero Waste Subcommittee convenes stakeholders to facilitate the development of environmentally responsible policies and practices that help the city achieve ‘zero waste’ (90% waste diversion) through food waste minimization, increased surplus food donation, and a robust composting infrastructure. The subcommittee educates Philadelphians about the economic, environmental, and social benefits of converting food waste into valuable resources.**

## INTRODUCTION

Zero Waste Subcommittee members are affiliated with organizations such as Bennett Compost, The Dirt Factory, the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, the Managing Director’s Office, the Office of Sustainability, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, Philly Compost, and the University of Pennsylvania.

The subcommittee is thrilled that the City has made progress on the *Zero Waste Policy Recommendations* that FPAC members approved in 2015, including expanding Waste Watchers, developing surplus food donation systems, and promoting community composting. Zero Waste also applauds Mayor Kenney’s commitment to achieving zero waste by 2035.

## 2016-2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Zero Waste and Litter Cabinet

FPAC advised in its *Zero Waste Policy Recommendations* and again in its recommendations to the Mayor’s transition team that the City establish a zero waste policy that included goals for reducing food waste.

In December 2016 Mayor Kenney signed an executive order establishing a Zero Waste and Litter Cabinet within the Managing Director’s Office. Director Nic Esposito, a former FPAC appointed member, now oversees the sixteen-member Cabinet and is preparing a Zero Waste and Litter action plan that will be released in late summer 2017. FPAC will support the development and implementation of the action plan.

### Zero Waste Testimony

In April 2017, Zero Waste chair Linda Knapp had the opportunity to testify before City Council on behalf of FPAC. Linda’s testimony affirmed that zero waste policies address

hunger, reduce food waste and its associated greenhouse gas emissions, and stimulate the local economy. She also shared FPAC’s previous Zero Waste recommendations.

### Community Compost Design Competition

Inspired by a visit to a local community composting facility, Zero Waste convened stakeholders to organize a compost system design competition to gather ideas about how to build in-vessel, community-scale urban compost systems affordably.

Compost is the nutrient-rich material created by the managed decomposition of organic matter. Community composting transforms organic matter into valuable soil amendments, keeps organic waste in a local closed-loop system, and engages communities through participation and education. Composting keeps food waste out of the landfill, where it would otherwise contribute to harmful greenhouse gases that exacerbate climate change.

FPAC recognizes achieving Philadelphia’s goal of zero waste will require a strong composting infrastructure. With an open source, affordable compost system design, FPAC aims to strengthen community-scale composting infrastructure across the city and foster a culture of composting among residents.

Zero Waste spent summer 2016 convening local composting experts and researching designs for community composting systems. Several subcommittee members traveled to Washington, DC, to learn more about DC’s Community Compost Cooperative Network. The DC Department of Parks and Recreation, Institute for Local Self-Reliance, and ECO City Farms shared their amazing work and welcomed the subcommittee warmly.

By late fall 2016, the subcommittee was ready to launch the competition. Subcommittee members reached out to a



*Members of the Zero Waste Subcommittee tour Washington, DC's Community Composting Cooperative Network sites.*

range of schools, community groups, engineers, and sustainability experts to solicit designs. After the competition's deadline in March 2017, a panel of composting professionals reviewed the entries and selected three finalists.

The subcommittee was thrilled to have participation from Philadelphia's youth in the compost competition. Many of the design proposals came from student groups at The Workshop School, where teachers incorporated the competition into the curriculum, planning field trips to The Dirt Factory and Fairmount Park Recycling Center and teaching classes on designing for real-world conditions. A panel of students from Saul Agricultural High School joined judges from The Dirt Factory, Bennett Compost, Philly Compost, BioCycle Magazine, and Institute for Local Self-Reliance to review and score the designs.

Zero Waste also secured \$6,000 in grants and sponsorships for the competition, funding the construction and transportation of the finalist designs, graphic design services to make a guide for community composting featuring the winning design, and a mini-grant cycle to fund community groups interested in building the design.

## **2017-2018 WORK PLAN**

### Community Compost Design Competition

With the finalists selected and funded to build and test their designs over the summer of 2017, Zero Waste is planning the next steps for supporting community composting in Philadelphia. Grant funding that the subcommittee received in spring 2017 will allow the subcommittee to host a mini-grant cycle supporting at least two new community composting sites. The subcommittee will also explore further opportunities for funding and strategies to support a robust network of community composting in the city.

### Support Other City Waste Reduction Efforts

Zero Waste is excited to follow the early successes of the Mayor's Zero Waste and Litter Cabinet, which is made up of representatives from across City government. As a convener of zero waste stakeholders both within and outside City government, the subcommittee will continue to make recommendations and support the Cabinet's work.

# Communications & Outreach

## INTRODUCTION

The Communications & Outreach Subcommittee manages FPAC's external communications, including its social media, website, newsletter, and media relations.

## 2016-2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### New Mission and Vision Statements

FPAC staff identified the need for an updated and more concise mission statement. They coordinated a mission and vision statement activity at FPAC's February 2017 general meeting, inviting attendees to write down words and ideas that describe FPAC's work and then grouping the submissions thematically. Communications & Outreach then developed the mission and vision statements and brought each back to FPAC full body meetings for review.

*Mission: FPAC connects Philadelphians and their local government to create a more just food system.*

*Vision: FPAC envisions that all Philadelphians can access and afford healthy, sustainable, culturally appropriate, local, and fair food.*

### Social Media

FPAC's Facebook and Twitter pages each gained more than 100 new followers this year, continuing a steady growth in FPAC's social media reach. The pages are updated regularly with meeting invitations, subcommittee updates, partner events, and news related to the Philadelphia food system.

### Newsletter

FPAC's newsletter shares subcommittee updates, events, and announcements from the community. In fall 2016 Communications & Outreach reviewed the newsletter template and made changes to make it more concise and visually engaging. The subcommittee also decided to switch from a bi-monthly to a monthly schedule for the newsletter, making it more feasible to share upcoming events.

In the wake of these improvements, the newsletter gained approximately 260 new subscribers in 2016-2017, almost exactly as many as the previous year. The newsletter maintains a relatively high open rate and click rate.

### Website

FPAC's website, [www.phillyfpac.org](http://www.phillyfpac.org), features information about FPAC's subcommittees, access to documents such as meeting minutes and testimony, appointed and ex-officio member biographies, and information about FPAC's structure and history. Between August 2016 and July 2017, the website drew more than 5,500 visitors.

### Brochure

FPAC's colorful new brochure explains each of FPAC's subcommittees by providing some context about the food system issue the subcommittee addresses and listing an example project. FPAC staff have found that this approach, rather than sharing each subcommittee mission statement, communicates FPAC's work in an approachable way. The brochure will be used for outreach events.

## 2017-2018 WORK PLAN

Having successfully institutionalized much of its communications work, the subcommittee looks forward to assisting in the outreach efforts of other subcommittees and the full body. Communications & Outreach may hold joint meetings with the Membership & Governance Subcommittee in the coming year. These meeting would draw upon the expertise represented in both subcommittees to continue exploring recruitment from communities not currently represented in FPAC and making FPAC's culture welcoming and accessible to all.



*FPAC staff lead a mission statement building exercise.*

# Membership & Governance

## INTRODUCTION

The Membership & Governance Subcommittee manages new member recruitment and establishes and oversees processes that govern FPAC. Subcommittee members work closely with FPAC staff and co-chairs and are affiliated with organizations including the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, the Office of Sustainability, the Passyunk Avenue Revitalization Corporation, Philadelphia Parks Alliance, and the Public Interest Law Center.

## 2016-2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 2017 Annual Membership Survey

FPAC uses its annual membership survey to better understand the demographics and areas of expertise represented around its table, identify gaps to fill during member recruitment, and gather feedback about FPAC's work. In 2017 50 people answered the survey, including 100% of FPAC's appointed members. Membership & Governance chair Sarah Wu presented the 2017 results at FPAC's June general meeting.

In the discussion following the presentation, FPAC members and supporters identified low-income residents, youth, immigrants, African-Americans and Latinos, and business leaders as priority areas for recruitment. Attendees also shared ideas about FPAC's appointed member and subcommittee recruitment processes.

### Member Recruitment and Training

FPAC nominates new members twice a year to ensure that the number of appointed members meets the 27 to 35 range required by its bylaws. Membership & Governance reviews nominations and selects a slate to present to members for approval in June and December. Approved nominees are then sent to the Mayor for appointment.

In December 2016 FPAC members approved seven new members. These members bring expertise in nutrition, food access, Latinx community organizing, and urban agriculture to FPAC. Membership & Governance declined to bring a slate of candidates to the June 2017 general meeting due to

a strategic decision to keep FPAC's membership on the lower end of the permitted range.

FPAC staff welcomed the new members with an overhauled new member orientation process. The new format is more engaging, bringing new members together in small groups with FPAC leadership for discussion about FPAC's structure and history and an introduction to local policymaking.

### Attendance Policy and Member Dashboard

While FPAC general meetings are never sparsely attended, attendance sometimes falls short of the 51% of appointed members required by the bylaws to do business. FPAC co-chairs identified the need for a clear process for handling attendance and quorum issues and requested feedback at FPAC's December 2016 general meeting.

Feedback from FPAC members included strong feelings that enforcing the attendance policy is important, and demonstrated that there is some confusion about what the policies are. In response, FPAC staff created a document explaining how the attendance policy is enforced and developed a dashboard that tracks appointed member attendance. The dashboard is sent to all appointed members after each general meeting, keeping them up to date on their attendance record.

## 2017-2018 WORK PLAN

Membership & Governance will continue discussions started at FPAC's general meetings about developing an outreach strategy and nomination policies that facilitate the involvement of a broad swath of Philadelphians in FPAC's work. The subcommittee will also develop a process for supporting subcommittee chair transitions.



## Looking Forward

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FPAC members look forward to maintaining 2016-2017's tremendous momentum in the coming year. Changes in the federal political context have sparked stronger civic engagement. FPAC will capitalize on this renewed energy, building new relationships and a wider constituency.

After its successful meeting with Mayor Kenney, FPAC will deepen its relationships with the Mayor's Policy and Legislative Affairs offices and identify opportunities to integrate food issues into other key City-led initiatives. FPAC will continue regular meetings with the Mayor, and will follow up on his suggestion to keep in touch with City lobbyists on food policy issues.

With the results of FPAC's 2017 Annual Membership Survey in mind, FPAC will reinvigorate its efforts to broaden the representation around its table. The Communications & Outreach and Governance & Membership subcommittees will work together to develop a new outreach plan and identify strategies for making FPAC accessible to all.

With two new co-chairs and leadership transitions on multiple subcommittees, FPAC is embracing these transitions as opportunities to bring more people to the table, innovate in meeting style and structure, and respond to the ever-changing political context.



*Appointed member Greg McKinley speaks at FPAC's August 2016 general meeting.*

# Acknowledgements

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