

FUNDING
A RACIALLY JUST REGENERATIVE REGIONAL
FOOD SYSTEM



THE BLACK FARMER FUND TEAM

Olivia Watkins
President



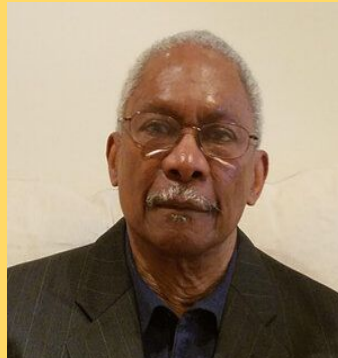
Melanie Allen
Program Director



Karen Washington
Board Member, Black Farmer Fund
Co-Founder, Rise & Root Farm



Dennis Derryck
Board Member, Black Farmer Fund
CEO, Corbin Hill Food Project



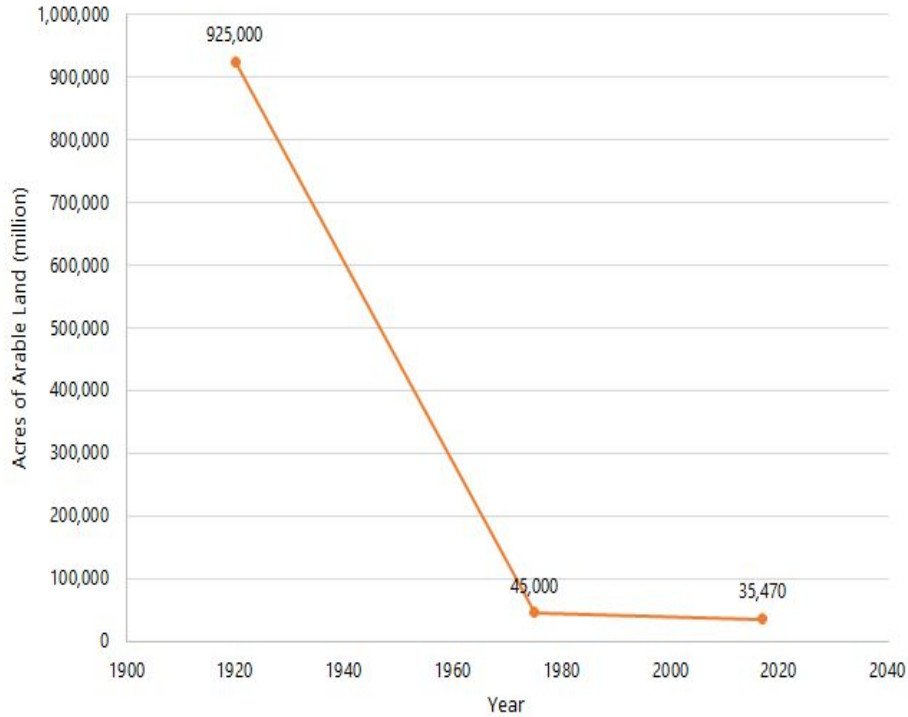
Onika Abraham
Board Member, Black Farmer Fund
Executive Director, Farm School NYC



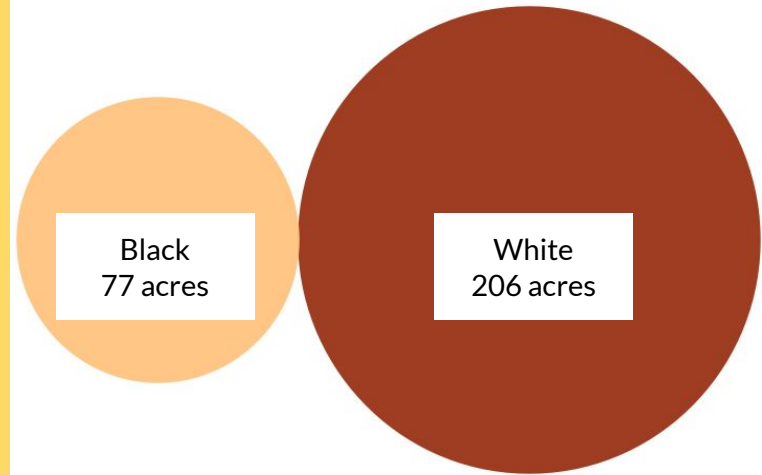
**The mission of Black Farmer Fund
is to create a thriving, resilient,
and equitable food system by
investing in black food systems
entrepreneurs and communities
in New York State.**



Number of Black Farms in United States (1920-2017)



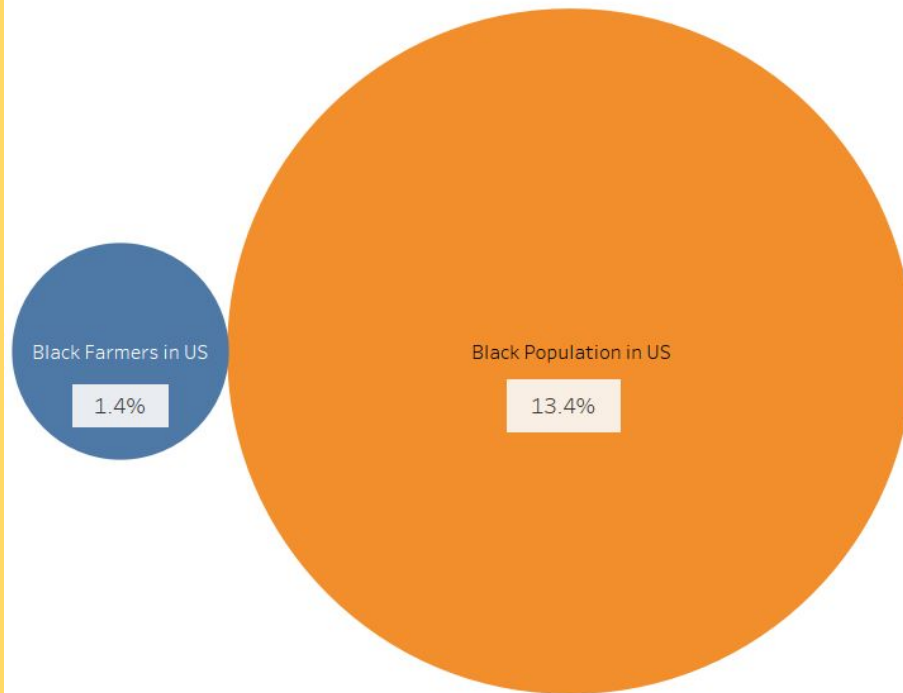
Average Number of Acres Owned by Race Across New York State (2017)



Net Cash Farm Income per Farm in New York State (2017)



Percent of Black Farmers and Black People in United States (2017)



In New York State's \$42 billion agriculture and food industry, the disparities between black farmers and white farmers are best summarized by the existence of only 139 black farmers among the over 57,865 farmers in New York State.



WHO DO WE SERVE?



For black food businesses...

- We will provide favorable financing deals and learning opportunities to expand financial education
- Unlike other funding vehicles, Black Farmer Fund led by the black food actors, is connected to the community it serves, and looks to build wealth within this community.



For Funders and Investors

- Support the transition to a socially just, regional food system
- Strengthen the economic infrastructure of black food businesses
- Increase opportunities for shared ownership, and food sovereignty
- Build community power and community wealth building



WHAT WE DO

INVEST



EMPOWER



ORGANIZE

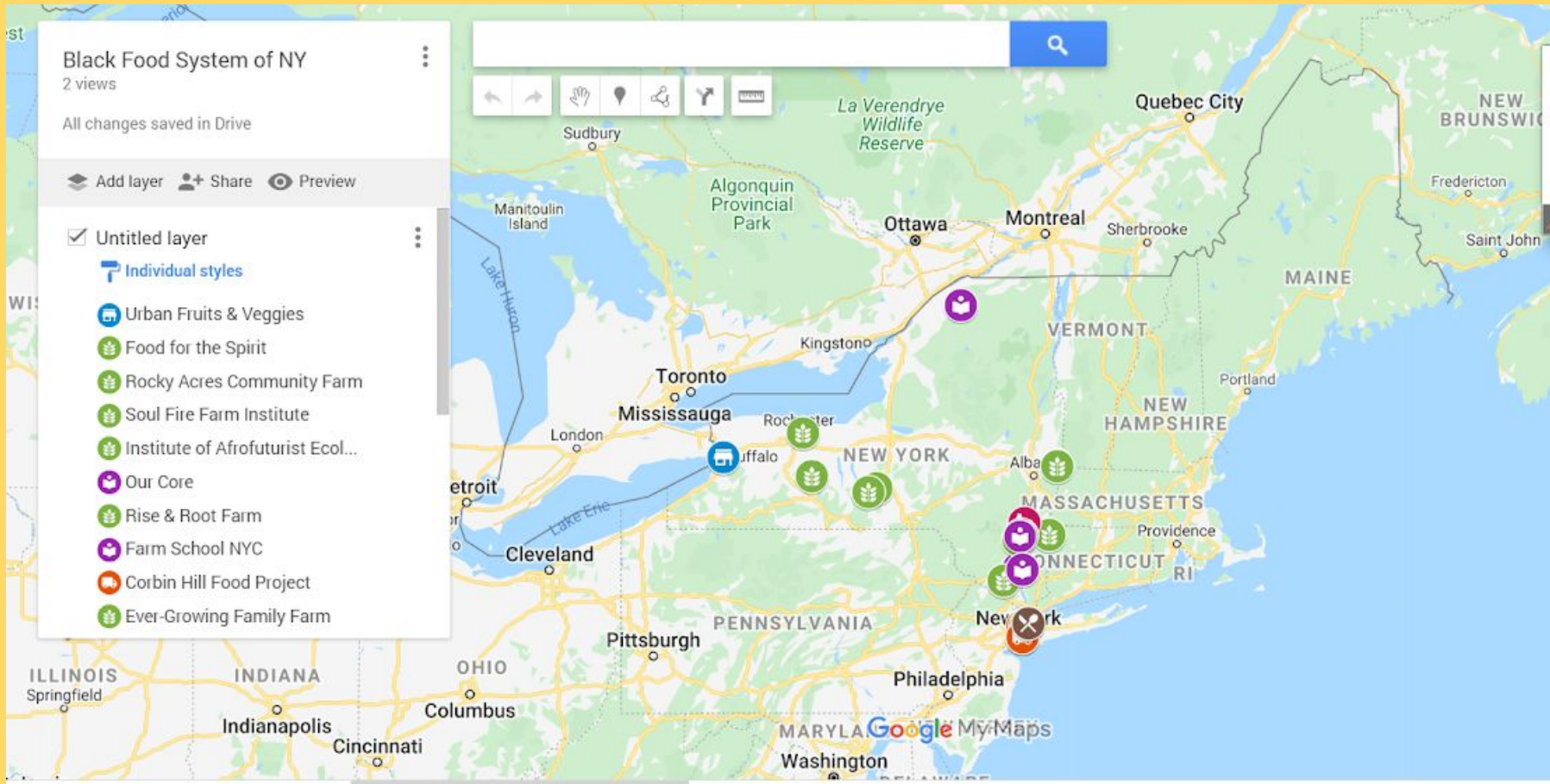


INVEST



- Developing community investment fund infrastructure
- Landscape assessment to determine financing needs
- Beginning engagement with social impact investors





EMPOWER



- Providing financial and investment education opportunities to stakeholders
- Putting this into practice with the pilot program!



ORGANIZE



- Collaborate with regional and national organizations to develop tools to educate policymakers on issues impacting black farmers
- Advocacy efforts with Farm Aid resulted in 100% of Northeast relief funds going to BIPOC farmers



What does funding a racially just regenerative regional food system look like?



How can you support Black Farmer Fund and our work?



1. Support the development of the organization
2. Support the development of the pilot program



Impact of COVID-19

- Brings attention to long-standing inequities in the areas of health, employment, and food.
- The need to create and support a network of black food businesses that increase the presence of fresh produce in Black communities.
- Invest in long term recovery and infrastructure building led by black communities.



How can you be involved?

- DONATIONS:
 - DONATE THROUGH: <https://www.pleiadesnetwork.org/>
 - Click “Donate on PayPal” and select “Black Farmer Fund Donation” in the drop box
 - CONTACT: Kolu Zigbi, Development Manager wkzconsulting16@gmail.com
- PARTNERSHIPS + COLLABORATIONS: info@blackfarmerfund.com
- NEWSLETTER: www.blackfarmerfund.org



**BLACK
FARMER
FUND**

THANK YOU!

Black Farmer Fund Investment Guidelines

Economic Justice

- Ownership: The enterprise is majority-owned by black (African-American, African, or Afro-Latinx, Afro-Caribbean) persons; or the enterprise is interested in transitioning ownership to black persons.
- Opportunity: The enterprise creates economic opportunities for persons from economically disadvantaged communities, providing a fair wage (based on an objective standard approved by the Board), employee benefits and workforce development training.
- Participation: Workers in the enterprise have input into how the enterprise is governed, or the organization practices democratic governance.

Community Wealth

- Place: The enterprise sells its goods and services locally (within a 200-mile radius of their business); seeks to serve economically disadvantaged communities; or seeks to source portions of its supply chain locally.
- Nature: The enterprise takes steps to manage its environmental impact by decreasing and mitigating its carbon and water footprint, managing its waste stream and, where possible, sourcing renewable energy.
- Relationships: The enterprise builds and maintains meaningful relationships with its community, including customers, clients, suppliers, employees, business partners and even competitors.

Enterprise Health

- Finance: The enterprise maintains a sound financial position, including a capital structure that prepares it to meet an uncertain future.
- Leadership: Leaders in the enterprise maintain trust with employees and demonstrate the capacity to learn and adapt.
- Organization: The organizational culture supports creativity, innovation and appropriate risk-taking