



Seeding Power Fellowship

MARCH 14, 2025



Community Food
Funders (CFF) is a
**philanthropic
organizing project** for
funders, donors, and
investors in NY-NJ-CT



**CFF's steering committee
is comprised of 11
foundations, organized
around shared goals and
values**

Adam Liebowitz (he/him)

Barbara K. (she/her)

Shelley Levine

Kellie Terry (she/hers)

Bronwyn Starr

Janet Levoff

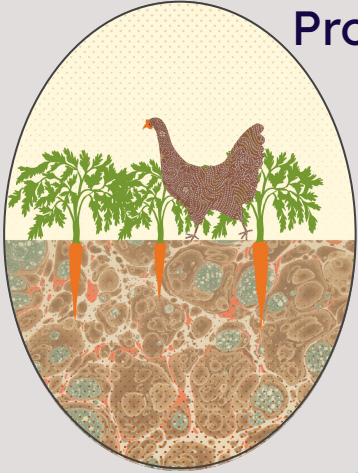
Jennifer Ching (She/Her)

Ruth Goldman she/her

Alva Davis (She/her)

The Food Chain

Production



Processing



Distribution



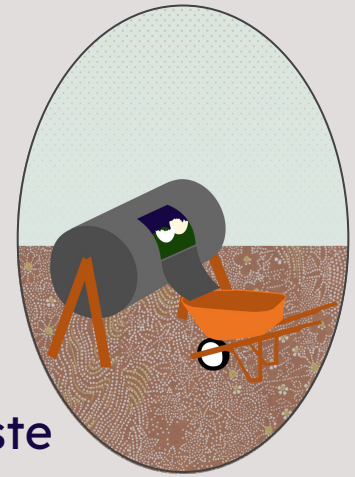
Sales



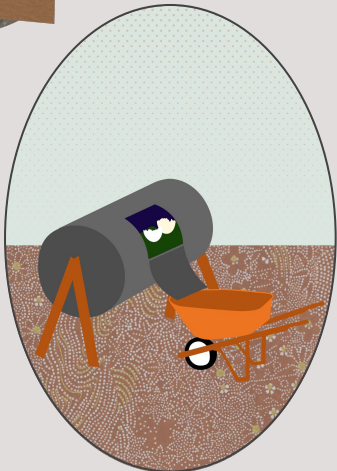
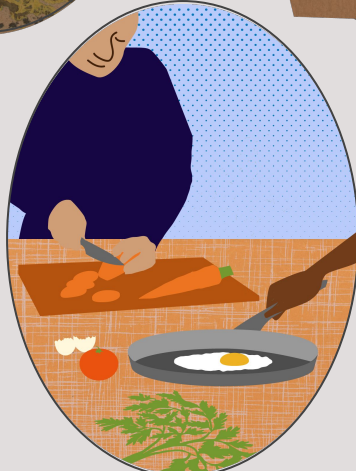
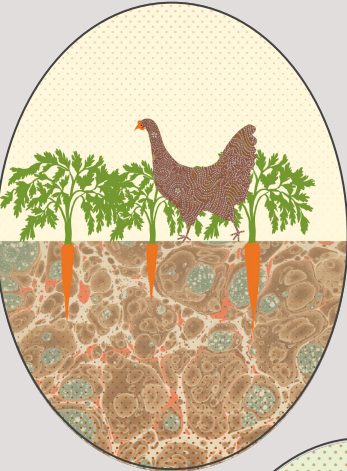
Consumption



Waste



The Food System



SEEDINGPOWER

LEADERSHIP FOR A REGIONAL FOOD MOVEMENT

Nine-month cohort-based fellowship for food justice leaders and philanthropic partners

Open to nonprofit, philanthropic, government, and private sectors





Why Now?

Food justice leaders
under attack

Cannot remain
disconnected

Relationships are
movement infrastructure

Rest & recuperation

Joy & connection



Emerging Equity is an Afro-Latinx women-owned consulting firm whose mission is to build transformational cultures in groups, institutions and systems using a human-centered equity development process. Through social equity, organizational development and leadership development, Emerging Equity cultivates **communities and networks of practice** in creating meaningful and nuanced social impacts for humanity's collective thrivance.



Tina Vasquez

Tina (she/her/hers) is a first generation American of Puerto Rican, Cuban and Jamaican descent. She specializes in systems and processes, training and development, change management and social equity development.



Itai Jeffries

Itai (they/them/y'all) is a yesah/Occaneechi Two Spirit educator, qualitative researcher, and equity consultant. Their specialties are qualitative methods, curriculum development, Critical Race Theory, health equity, and gender studies. Itai has done work in the field of organizational equity for roughly a decade.



Bianca Shaw

Bianca (she, her, hers) has over a decade of experience in social justice and nonprofit settings. Bianca is a consultant, restorative justice practitioner and coach.



Benjamin Knight


Benjamin (he/him/his) has spent most of his career working in the nonprofit sector focused on education, community development, and nonprofit operations and finance.



Meenakshi Richardson

Meena (she, her, hers) also known as Minosa'ins (Little Moon) is a citizen of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe and Asian Indian of Indo-Fijian descent. She holds a Masters in Public Health, a Masters of Science in Prevention Science.





How Will Seeding Power Work?

- Community of practice
- Foundational understanding of power and relationships
- Team collaborations
- Coaching
- 13 virtual sessions
- 3 in-person retreats

Seeding Power Curriculum

June/July	Virtual Orientation
September	Retreat #1 (Community Building; Power and Values)
October	Personal relation with risk & Risk-averse communication
November	Risk-averse & Risk-conscious communication
December	Application / navigation within the current political climate
January	Situating equity: perceptions, myths & truths
February	Team development & Innovative approaches to risk navigation
March	Retreat #2 (Collaboration teams)
April	Collaboration teams
May	Retreat #3 (Close-out sharing and Graduation)

- Cohort panels
- Coaching
- Ad-hoc sessions
- Responsive hours

Equity Development Framework for Seeding Power Curriculum

Values - The role White Supremacy Culture and Values play in how we show up

Grappling w/Power - What are the different forms of power and how does our agency engage with the relationship between our power and the power of others.

Assessing Risk - What our relationship to risk is and how we explore/expand/contract our thresholds for risk. How this assessment plays a role in decision making and communication.

Risk Averse/Conscious Communication - What is motivating our communication, what strategies are we employing and to what degree do they serve us, our organization and the mission.

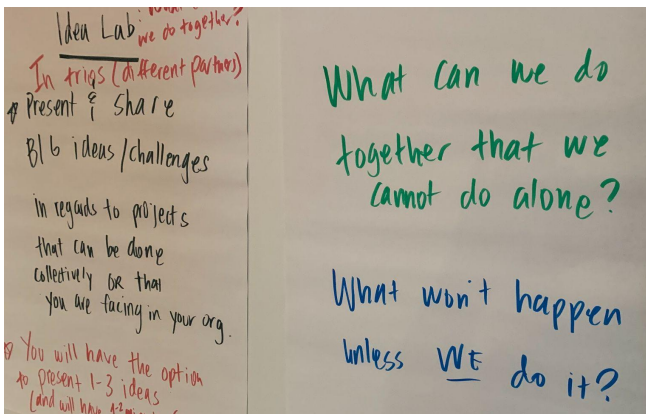
Equity Framing and Application - Pulling all of our reflective skills together, how balanced is our perspective on what we believe social equity is and how it should be practiced. Where are the blind spots, not just in our experiences, but also in our perceptions of our experiences and the experiences of others.



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FOOD MOVEMENT





1st Cohort





2nd Retreat





3rd Retreat



Collaboration Projects

Themes

Healing and Story

Addressing burnout, the need for advocate healing, honoring elders, storytelling, and/or a bridge-building objective

Systems Change

Addressing a systems gap, a need within the system, or an underexplored strategy

Capacity Building

Increasing connectivity, networking, mapping assets, or growing the interdependence of movement stakeholders

Designs

Zine

Virtual Event

Alumni Network

Kain Na

A Seeding Power
Fellowship Project



May 2024

Limited Edition

Helado

In the summer,
I long for helado.
When it is hot,
when it is sticky,
when I am having fun.

I take my first bite
and feel your delight.
I taste joy, everytime—
but maybe especially
when I am frolicking.

Today I made helado,
and it was fresh, it
was mine. Still, everytime,
but especially this time,
I taste the freedom of fun,

this love for sun.

Jazz Kerr

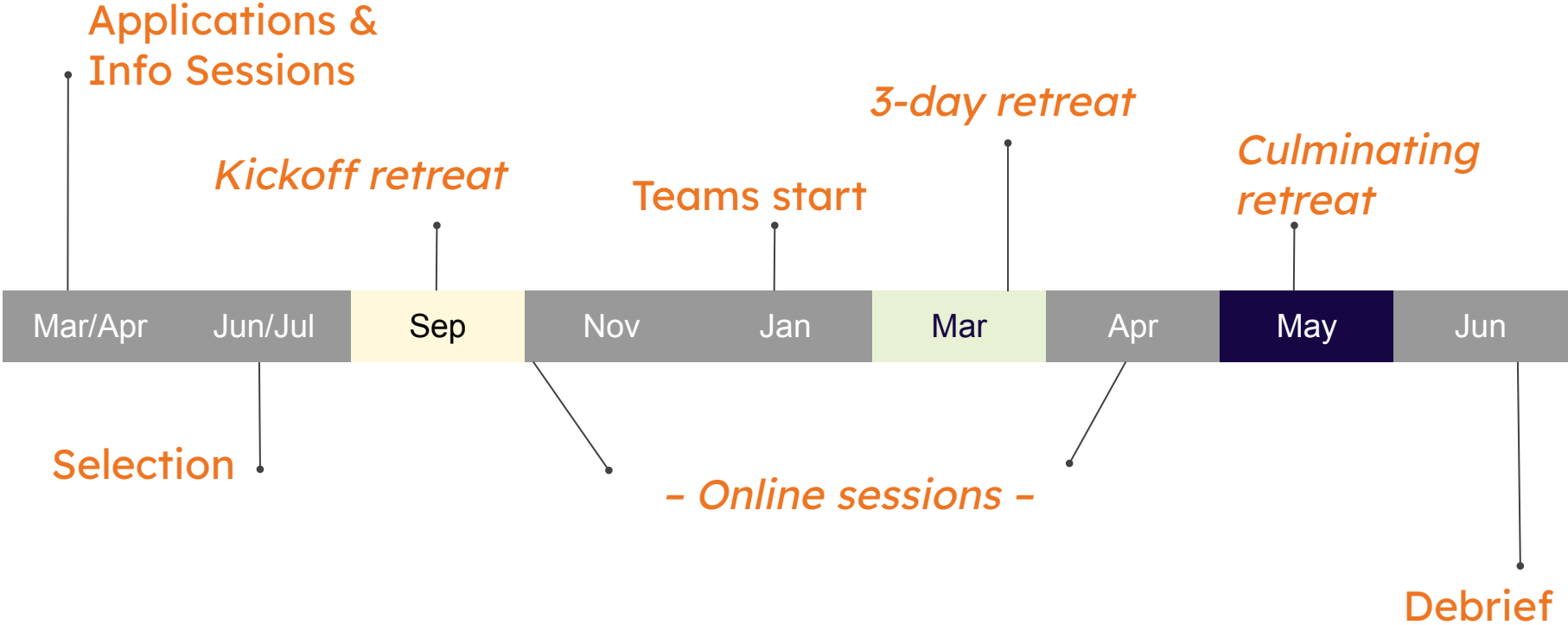


Alumni Network

A photograph of four people in winter attire, including jackets and hats, smiling and posing together outdoors. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

- Co-created with alumni committee
- Quarterly gatherings
- Goals:
 - Community building
 - Teaching/mentorship
 - Collaborations
 - Movement building!

Seeding Power Timeline



How Can You Help?

Spread the word: info sessions 3/26 & 4/2

Tell folks to apply: March 15 - April 30, 2025

Join Community Food Funders

Thank You!

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seedingpower.org

adam@northstarfund.org

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Sparkle Wells

United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes

"I am deeply committed to disrupting and transforming the future of philanthropy to foster more equitable and empowering relationships with grantees. I believe that traditional philanthropic structures often perpetuate power imbalances and fail to fully acknowledge the expertise and lived experiences of those on the ground"

Seeding Power Fellow

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Francis Yu

Catskills Agrarian Alliance

"I worked in the food industry to make ends meet on my own as a young, queer immigrant which helped put me through school. As I studied and began a career of community organizing, urban planning, and public policy, I re-examined not just the restaurant industry, but the entirety of the food system through the lens of racial justice, economic justice, and environmental justice"

Seeding Power Fellow

Alumni Panel

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Akirah Hlatshwako

Ubuntu Permaculture Mission

"There is collective power in working in community—aligning our individual skill sets and gifts and creating change. At Ubuntu Permaculture Mission, we focus our work on building relationships amongst community members and teaching our students how to grow their own food"

Seeding Power Fellow



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Reggy St. Fortcolin

Fridgeport

"During the George Floyd protests, people camped out in front of the police station for 7 nights to fight for change. I led the food tents, and so being the person everyone talked to at some point, I heard HUNDREDS of stories about food insecurity—how it affected people and how the uncertainty and start of Covid had them scared that maybe these were some of their last meals. The experience pushed me to ask questions in regard to access and the stigma behind getting help"

Seeding Power Fellow