



Los Angeles Food Policy Council



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ANNUAL REPORT



MISSION

The Los Angeles Food Policy Council (LAFPC) works to ensure food is healthy, affordable, fair and sustainable for all.

VISION

We believe Good Food for All is possible and that all communities deserve access to good food, grown in a way that respects people and the planet. We work to create a local food system free from hunger, rooted in equity and access, supportive of farmers and food workers, and guided by principles of environmental stewardship and regeneration. To accomplish our vision of Good Food for All, we catalyze, coordinate and connect people across the LA region, including government, business and community groups working on food.

A young child with curly hair, wearing a green sweater and dark pants, stands on the left side of a wire fence. The child is looking through the fence towards a grassy area on the right. In the background, several chickens are visible, including a prominent white chicken in the foreground on the right. The fence is made of wooden posts and wire mesh. The overall scene is outdoors, likely on a farm or in a community garden.

**"LAFPC IS A LEADER IN
THE NATION. ITS SUCCESS
COMES FROM GREAT
LEADERS AND COMMUNITY
INCLUSION TO SET
AGENDAS AND MAKING
COMMUNITY VOICES
HEARD. IT'S AN INSPIRING
STORY AND MODEL
FOR ANY COMMUNITY
SEEKING HEALTH AND
JUSTICE."**

**MICHAEL DIMOCK
FLIPPING THE TABLE PODCAST**



CLARE FOX

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“We will continue to create a new world - seed by seed, person by person, community by community – until this planet is embraced in a circle of resurgent life and resurgent love.”

VANDANA SHIVA



LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On the precipice of a new decade, we dedicated our work this year to listening, following and supporting the leadership of those most impacted by an unjust and unsustainable food system. We launched Food Leaders Lab, a leadership program for people of color, women, immigrants and other communities experiencing health disparities, food insecurity, unequal food access and environmental degradation in their neighborhoods. Food Leaders Lab is a space to grow as a policy advocate, community organizer and food justice leader. We did not do it alone - and why would we? A movement is comprised of many organizations and diverse perspectives. We partnered with seven community-based organizations working at the intersections of food, land and equity in South Los Angeles to train 15 residents and neighborhood advocates. Advocates such as Toya Regan, who serves as president of her Community Garden located at Fremont High School, a project of LA Neighborhood Land Trust. Ashley Loville, a peer health educator from Social Justice Learning Institute in Inglewood. Maria Sanchez, a grandmother who has taken on the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles to permit food growing. I believe these leaders - and the Food Leaders Lab program - will pave the way of the future of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council.

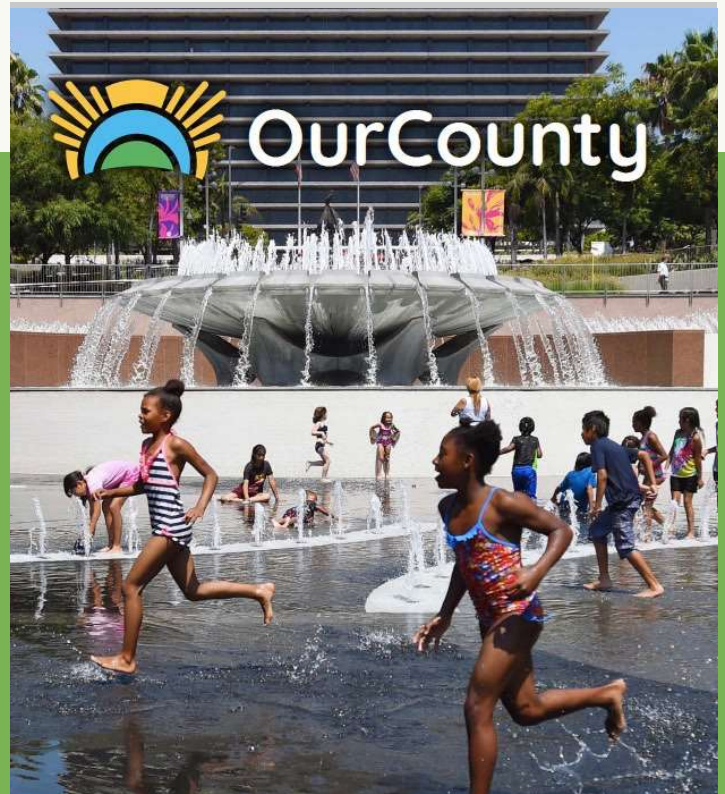
We didn't stop there. We supported street vendors in growing their businesses and advocating for fair access to permits. We launched a year-long "listening tour" to learn from mothers about ways to improve CalFresh enrollment, which will result in recommendations to the LA County Department of Public Social Services. We championed the transformation of several neighborhood markets in "food desert" neighborhoods into welcoming fresh food oases, including Skidrow People's Market and Lupita's Corner Market. Particularly special to us this year was the collaboration with the Department of Cultural Affairs on CURRENT LA:FOOD to bring dialogue, art making and historical awareness to food from an Indigenous point of view, centering the voices of Kizh, Tongva and other Tribal Nations present in Los Angeles.

2020 will mark 10 years since the launch of the Good Food For All Agenda, which called for the creation of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council. It feels appropriate that we would round out our first decade in existence by laying a foundation of equity for the next decade, rooted in a commitment to building power for historically marginalized people. As seasons change, so too does leadership shift. As I complete my last season as Executive Director with LAFPC, I look back on the last decade with awe, inspiration and gratitude. For the policy victories, the magic of LAFPC Working Groups, the generous support of donors and funders...But in particular I am inspired by, to paraphrase Danny Park of Skidrow People's Market, the strength of our relationships which is the strength of our movement. May we continue to rise together through the power of Good Food For All.

Clare Fox
Executive Director



CLIMATE RESILIENCY AND OUR FOOD SYSTEM



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“A sustainable and just food system is one in which every resident can eat foods that optimize their health and well-being without compromising the land where the food is grown and the ability of future generations to use that land.”

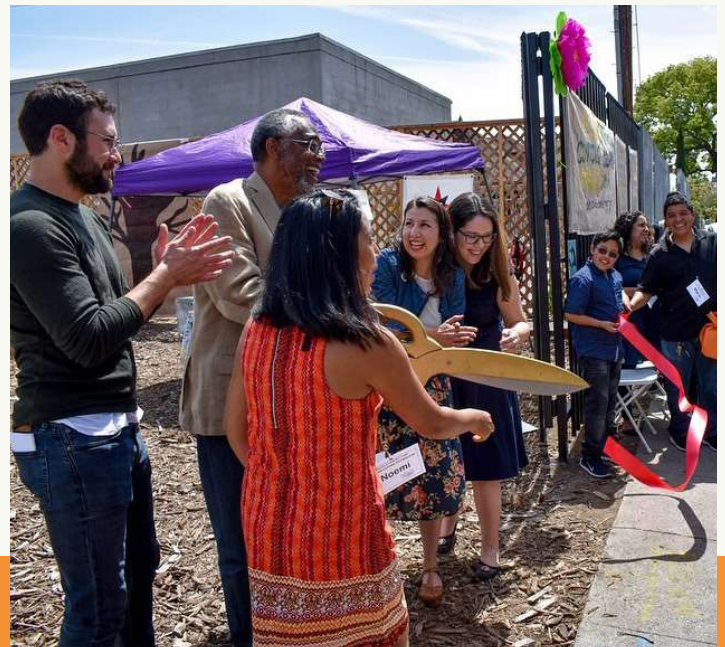
FROM OUR COUNTY - LOS ANGELES COUNTYWIDE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Los Angeles Food Policy Council mobilized our diverse network to weigh in on two critical plans this year: LA's Green New Deal - Sustainable City pLAN and Our County - Los Angeles countywide sustainability plan. Both set ambitious but necessary goals, strategies and actions to ensure a climate-resilient and equitable food supply for all Angelenos.

URBAN AGRICULTURE AND HEALTHY SOILS

Urban farming not only feeds neighborhoods, but restores the ecology of the soil, a proven climate solution. The International Panel on Climate Change released a study this year on agriculture's impact on greenhouse gas emissions, and the importance of healthy soils and local foods for carbon draw down and climate resiliency.

In 2019, we celebrated the grand opening of South LA Community Farm - a project of American Friends Service Committee and All-People's Community Center that benefited from the Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone (UAIZ) policy. The UAIZ policy connected an affordable housing developer to the community to convert a vacant lot into a vibrant community farm, which now serves over 50 families. After 30 years as an empty lot, the community now has fresh food, healthy soil, a shaded gathering spot and more green space.



The LAFPC Urban Agriculture Working Group hosted two crop swaps and developed a policy outreach survey for their more than 300 members. This year, we trained over **30 urban farmers** on how to sell to certified farmers markets, based on our publication ***LA Grown: A Guide to Selling Good Food in Los Angeles for Urban Growers***. The guide helps urban food growers understand regulations for urban agriculture, and offers practical tips for urban farmers to sell to farmers markets, farm-to-table restaurants, and small grocery retail.

PREVENTING FOOD WASTE, FEEDING FAMILIES AND STUDENTS

The Los Angeles Food Policy Council Food Waste Prevention and Rescue Working Group was instrumental in ensuring the City of Los Angeles recycLA program included food recovery.

Since its inception in 2018, over 4 million pounds - equivalent to 3.3 million meals - have been rescued and brought to communities in need. Close to \$1 million in funding has gone to food recovery non-profits.

This year, LAFPC Food Waste Prevention and Rescue Working Group launched an online resource hub and updated "Reducing Food Waste: Recovering Untapped Resources In Our Food System."

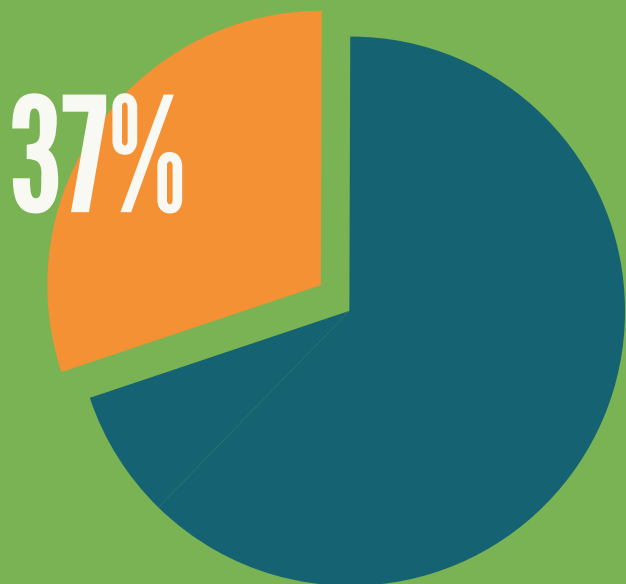




In 2019, we trained 100+ stakeholders on starting and improving food relief programs that prevent edible food from being thrown out and support families and college students in need. Hosted by LAFPC Food Waste Prevention and Rescue Working Group in partnership with Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation and Athens Services, the seminar focused on food pantries and pop-ups at community college campuses and partnerships between non-profits, local government and waste haulers.



MORE THAN A MILLION
PEOPLE IN LOS ANGELES
COUNTY DO NOT
EAT ENOUGH FOOD TO
**LIVE AN ACTIVE AND
HEALTHY LIFE.**



**37% OF LOW-INCOME
HOUSEHOLDS WITH
CHILDREN EXPERIENCE
FOOD INSECURITY**

FRESH IDEAS FOR CALFRESH

We partnered with First 5 LA and LA County Department of Public Social Services to deeply listen to families about ways to improve access to CalFresh as well as other strategies to promote access to healthy food in underserved neighborhoods across Los Angeles County.

Families with young children are particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts on health and well-being that comes with food insecurity. CalFresh can be a critical lifeline for low-income families to put food on the table, and yet 35% of families who qualify are not utilizing the benefit.

Through our Fresh Ideas for CalFresh project, parents are sharing ideas about ways Los Angeles County can improve CalFresh services, expand access to nutritious food and ensure that no child is hungry in LA County.

Over 200 community members participated in open dialogue about the needs of the community in Wilmington and South Los Angeles this year. The “Listening Tour” continues to other regions in the county in 2020, culminating with a report of recommendations based on parent and community resident input.



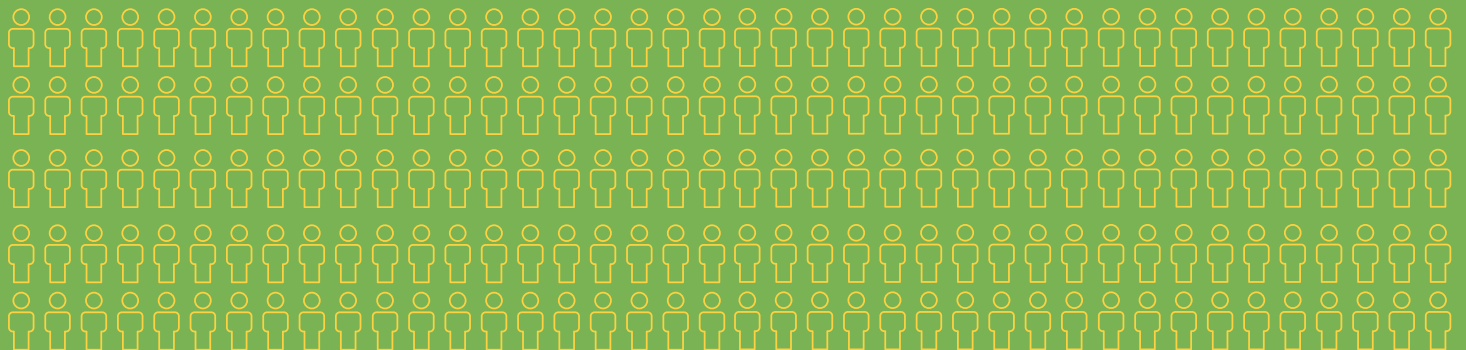
GOOD FOOD PURCHASING PROGRAM FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY

This year, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously endorsed a pilot of the Good Food Purchasing Program for the Summer Lunch Program.

Under the pilot, the Center for Good Food Purchasing evaluated county meals based on nutrition, sourcing from local economies, animal welfare, environmentally sustainable and fair labor practices. The evaluation will be presented to the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors to assess adoption of the Good Food Purchasing Policy for all Los Angeles County food programs.

To support this effort, LAFPC Good Food Purchasing Policy Working Group members outreached to families in Inglewood to spread the word about Summer Lunches and the power of procurement to create a healthy, sustainable and fair food system for all as a part of Social Justice Learning Institute's Produce Pop-Up Event and hosted an educational learning tour for the Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn at an urban farm in North Long Beach. LAFPC staff and partners joined over 200 people for the first "Power of Procurement Summit" in Chicago in May to discuss national best practices of GFPP.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SERVES OVER
200,000 KIDS EVERY SUMMER THROUGH
THE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM.



 = 1,000 KIDS



SUMMER LUNCHES **HELP FIGHT CHILDHOOD HUNGER DURING THE SUMMER** MONTHS WHEN STUDENTS ARE OUT OF SCHOOL.

OVERALL, LOS ANGELES COUNTY SERVES **37 MILLION MEALS AND SNACKS**, AND SPENDS **\$23 MILLION ON FOOD EVERY YEAR.**



STREET FOOD VENDING

Following the historic legislative victory that decriminalized sidewalk vending and created a pathway toward a permit program for vendors in the City of Los Angeles, LAFPC and our partners in the LA Street Vendor Coalition supported street vendors in formalizing their businesses and understanding public health requirements through a leadership academy, which included workshops on healthy menus and food justice.

A Street Vendor Summit in March brought 200 vendors to Los Angeles Trade Technical College to learn about regulations and permits, and a series of healthy food workshops in May equipped over 30 vendors with strategies to make nutritious menus.



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“The more I’ve been in the Street Vendor Campaign, I’ve realized how important our food is. Our people have traditional foods and it gives me great satisfaction to offer them.”

CARIDAD VASQUEZ
SIDEWALK VENDOR AND LEADER OF THE STREET VENDOR CAMPAIGN

FIGHTING FOOD DESERTS THROUGH EQUITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A “food desert” describes a neighborhood without healthy food options, often where people of color and low-income residents live.

Lack of access to fresh food comes from historic divestment in communities of color through practices such as “redlining” by banks and government institutions, which denied and limited neighborhood resources for people of color. The effects of this history still profoundly impact the health and economic vitality of Los Angeles neighborhoods.

To counter this, LAFPC launched a powerful effort to expand access to fresh food and increase economic opportunity where it is needed most including:

80 community residents, advocates and experts gathered to discuss the “State of The Food Desert: Food, Equity and Economic Development” at the Historic Dunbar Hotel in South Central, Los Angeles in April 2019.

50+ members of newly formed Good Food Economy Working Group have met monthly since May.



Published a policy brief about the Good Food Zone policy, which would devote local economic development resources to food businesses that expand access to healthy food and create economic opportunity in historically under-served neighborhoods.

Over 20k impressions from Small Business Saturday digital campaign elevating the contributions of South Los Angeles food entrepreneurs



“Food Leaders Lab really opened my eyes to look more holistically at the food system in this country and it’s impact on people, both workers and the community being served.

The best and most empowering part of the entire program, other than the amazing friends I made, was when we explored all the ways we can advocate. The advocacy training helped me to figure out how I could do my part to build a culture of health. I’ve since advocated for policies that can help mitigate our diabetes epidemic utilizing most of the forms of advocacy mentioned during the training.”

SAMANTHA SALMON
FOOD LEADERS LAB GRADUATE

FOOD LEADERS LAB: BUILDING A MOVEMENT

This year, we launched a leadership training for residents and community advocates called Food Leaders Lab. Food Leaders Lab supports the leadership of people of color, women, immigrants and other communities most adversely impacted by health disparities, food insecurity, unequal food access and environmental degradation in our food system.

This ten-week intergenerational, multi-lingual course trains community advocates and residents from neighborhoods directly impacted by food insecurity in leadership skills, policy advocacy and community change.

Fifteen residents from seven partner organizations, mostly from South Los Angeles, graduated in the inaugural class. Graduates reported a new understanding of the importance of policy to everyday life and feeling much more confident about their ability to advocate for food policy.



Partners

Social Justice Learning Institute
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
American Friends Service Committee
Brotherhood Crusade
LA Community Action Network
Food Forward
Community Services Unlimited

Venue Host

Paul Robeson Community
Wellness Center
Home of CSU's Village
Market Place

LAYERS IN THE LAND: THE STORY OF FOOD ACROSS CENTURIES

“For thousands of years the land has consistently provided us with gifts of food when we were hungry, medicine when we were sick, and shelter when we were cold. All of our needs were always provided by our Creator. Today’s generation has turned their dependency for these needs towards man to provide our food, medicine, and shelter and unfortunately man always falls short to meet our needs. Therefore, today’s generation needs to return and relearn the old ways and acknowledge the gifts still being provided by our land. We believe that in order for us to sustain our future on this land we will all need to learn how to use and steward the natural gifts already provided to us.”

MATT TEUTIMEZ
TRIBAL BIOLOGIST, KIZH-GABRIELEÑO TRIBE

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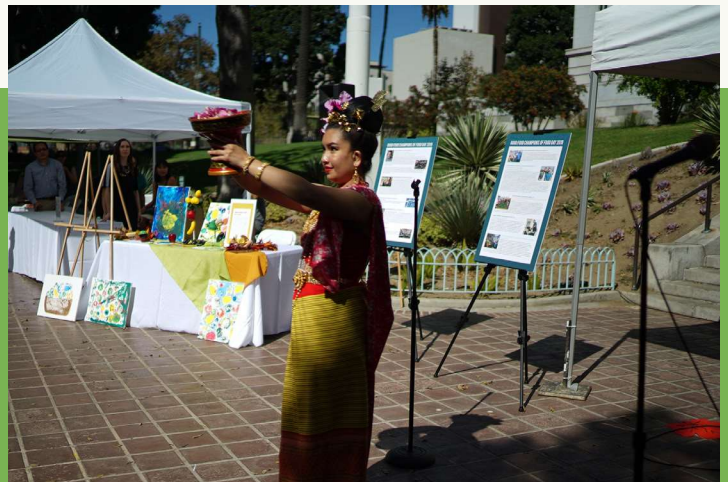


CURRENT:LA FOOD PUBLIC ART TRIENNIAL

As an official partner for the Department of Cultural Affairs public art triennial called CURRENT:LA FOOD, LAFPC hosted an important series of community conversations about decolonizing our view on food through "Layers In The Land: The Story of Food Across Food."

Gathered around a fire at Yaanga - currently LA State Historic Park - the series centered different Indigenous perspectives on our collective relationship to food, farming and land use in Los Angeles. Over 100 people joined us around the fire.

We are deeply grateful to our collaborators and presenters: Matt Teutimez, Tribal Biologist for the Kizh/Gabrieleño tribe; Rachel Surls, author of From Cows to Concrete; and Joel Garcia (Huichol), Kelly Caballero (Tongva) and Kimberly Robertson (Mvskoke) through Meztli Projects.



Our final CURRENT LA:FOOD event was the 9th Annual Food Day at City Hall with the theme "Transforming The Food System Through Art and Culture." Joined by Mayor Eric Garcetti, Councilmember David Ryu, Paul Koretz and Mitch O'Farrell, Food Day featured more than a dozen artists and performers. Highlights include an original poem by Alysha Wise, ceremonial dancers from Thai Community Development Center, the debut of the Food Justice Freedom Choir (a collaboration with LACAN), and an arts workshop with children from Lincoln Heights Youth Arts Council.

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET NETWORK

The Healthy Neighborhood Market Network (HNMN) program aims to increase healthy food options in under-resourced communities in the City of Los Angeles by building the capacity of neighborhood markets. The majority of our clients are women and immigrant-owned small businesses providing essential services to local residents with an average tenure of 20 years in their community. This program year, HNMN provided specialized and in depth business development services to 20 store owners in food desert neighborhoods across Los Angeles.

PROGRAM RESULTS

92%

of store owners introduced new produce or expanded produce offerings in their business.

85%

of store owners introduced or expanded healthy grocery items.

10

neighborhood market store owners forged new partnerships with professionals who contributed to the success of the small market. Professionals included renowned chefs, architects, designers, lawyers and product suppliers.

80%

of store owners forged new partnerships with one to three local community institutions with the goal of building their consistent customer base.

70%

of store owners saw an increase in profit for produce sales.

SKIDROW PEOPLE'S MARKET

In February, Danny Park led a transformation of his parents' store in the Skidrow neighborhood of Downtown Los Angeles to bring fresh, affordable food options. Originally called Best Market, this neighborhood store has served Skidrow residents for over 20 years. Since working with the HNMN program, Skidrow People's Market now successfully carries 24 different types of produce and has hosted 3 healthy food demonstrations in the store, among other community-led events.



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“The Healthy Neighborhood Market Network collaborates with community to create new opportunities for access. I volunteered for another healthy neighborhood market project and saw how everyone came together around this one store. The message that day was ‘stronger together.’ The strength of a movement is in the strength of its relationships. I believe that’s how we will make change and we can do it by organizing around food.”

DANNY PARK,
SKIDROW PEOPLE'S MARKET

Skidrow People's Market Partners

LA Community Action Network
Studio 526, Urban Voices
LA Poverty Department

Stop LAPD Spying
Row Church without Walls
Eayikes
Arts Center College of Design

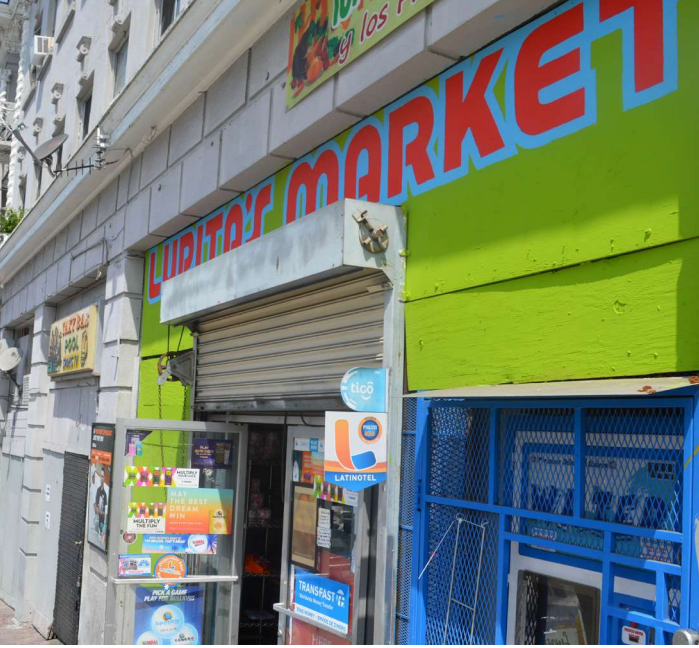
TRANSFORMING NEIGHBORHOOD MARKETS

Lupita's Corner Market

In September, we celebrated the Grand Re-opening of Lupita's Corner Market and Deli in the Westlake neighborhood. With a 25 year history, Lupita's Corner Market is run by a mother daughter team, Guadalupe "Lupita" Olague and Luz Arango. Lupita's daughter Luz, who grew up in the store, had a vision to serve the community with healthy options, particularly children from nearby schools who come to the store daily after school.

With the support of Healthy Neighborhood Market Network (HNMN), Lupita's Corner Market became WIC and CalFresh authorized, and partnered with Gensler and BuildGroup for a full re-design and renovations of the store. Since joining the program, produce sales have increased by nearly 40%. Most importantly, Luz has become an outspoken advocate for the health of her community, as well as a legacy keeper for her mother's hardwork.





Lupita's Corner Market Partners

Gensler

Build Group Construction

Califia Farms

sweetgreen

City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department

LA City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell

California FreshWorks Fund

OUR TEAM AND BOARD

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Institute of Occidental College

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Farmer, McGrath Family Farms

Rick Nahmias

Founder/Executive Director, Food Forward

Sam Polk

Founder/CEO, Everytable

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Chef/Owner, Todo Verde

Lilly Rocha

Founder, Sabor Latino Trade Show; Board Chair,
Latino Food Industry Association

Leah Ross

Retail Marketing Coordinator, Brookfield
Property Partners

D'Artagnan Scorza, PhD

Founder/Executive Director, Social Justice
Learning Institute

Wendy Slusser

Associate Vice Provost & Clinical Professor, UCLA
Healthy Campus Initiative & UCLA Schools of Medicine
and Public Health

Rachel Surls

Sustainable Food Systems Advisor, UC Cooperative
Extension Los Angeles County

Frank Tamborello

Executive Director, Hunger Action - Los Angeles

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School of Public Affairs

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Farmer and Former California Secretary of Agriculture,
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Mary Sue Milliken

Chef/Co-Owner, Border Grill

Michael Roberts

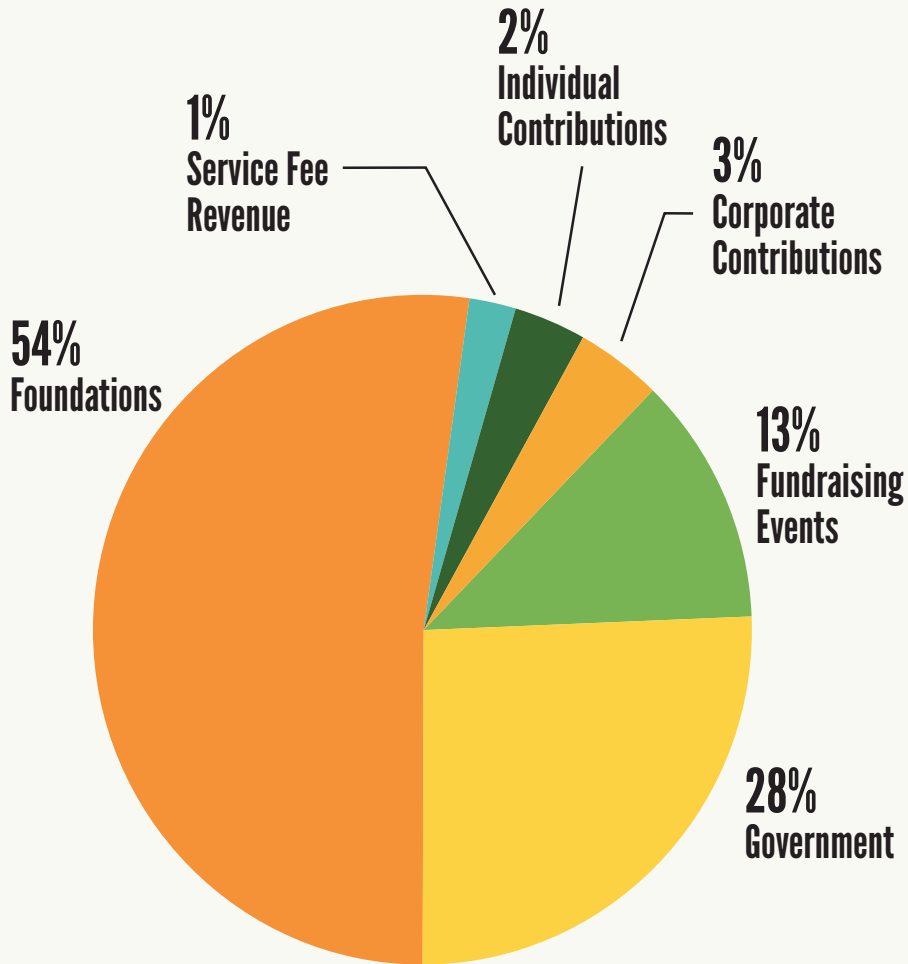
Executive Director, Resnick Center for Food Law and
Policy, UCLA School of Law

Dr. Paul Simon

Chief Science Officer, Los Angeles County
Department of Public Health

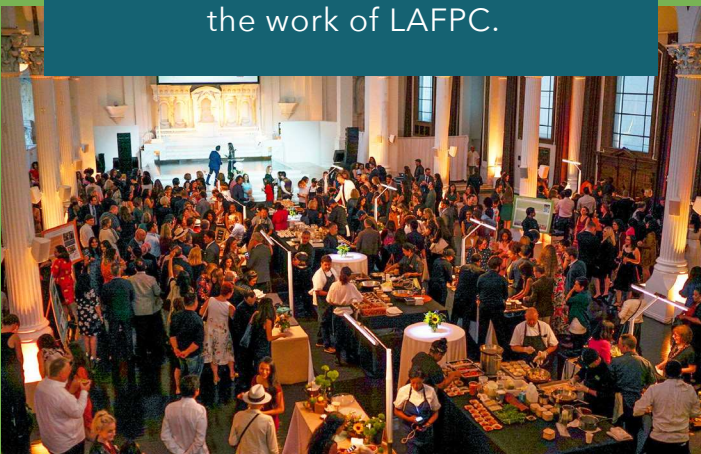
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND GROWTH

FISCAL YEAR 2018 - 2019



Good Food Gala

Our bi-annual fundraising event the Good Food Gala at Vibiana brought together over 400 guests to raise over \$65,000 to support the work of LAFPC.



New Logo

We debuted a new look and logo this year!



**Los Angeles Food
Policy Council**

MAJOR FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION VOICES FOR HEALTHY KIDS

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

CALIFORNIA WELLNESS FOUNDATION

CALIFIA FARMS

CALIFORNIA FRESHWORKS FUND

CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

CITY OF LOS ANGELES ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

GOLDHIRSCH FOUNDATION / MY LA2050 ACTIVATION CHALLENGE

FIRST 5 LA

FLORA FAMILY FOUNDATION

KAISER PERMANENTE COMMUNITY BENEFITS PROGRAM

METABOLIC STUDIO/ANNENBERG FOUNDATION

SWEETGREEN

THE ANGELL FOUNDATION

THE CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT

THE LEONARDO DICAPRIO FOUNDATION



Los Angeles Food Policy Council



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Thanks to Holly Peters for the graphic design of our Annual Report