



# MARION INSTITUTE

Health from a Different Perspective.

**CONNECTOR**  
SERIES

**BIOMED**  
PROGRAMS

**GROW**  
EDUCATION

**GREENHOUSE**  
INITIATIVES

**SOUTHCOAST**  
FOOD POLICY COUNCIL



MARION INSTITUTE  
SOUTHCOAST FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

# July 2023 Quarterly Meeting



# Agenda

- Introductions for CAB, Work Groups, staff
- Land Acknowledgement
- Update on the Four Working Groups
- Results from “Know Your Food System” survey
- Invitation to the Eat Local Southcoast challenge in August
- Focus Group interest and Food Equity Advisors
- Other issues you would like to raise and questions

# Introductions



# Land Acknowledgement



We acknowledge that this land is the traditional unceded territory of the Wapanaak (Wampanoag). Pre-English invasion, this place, its gifts of fertile soil, waters, wildlife and beauty, had already sustained Indigenous tribes for 12,000 years. We honor and respect the precious food sources discovered, harvested and cultivated by Native peoples and remain grateful to them for their connectedness to this land and their food traditions. We further acknowledge the lands the Cape Verdeans, African Americans and Latinx farmed in this area that have been lost to them through structural racism. We make these acknowledgements with intention, and accept the responsibility of all we continue to learn. We will honor the resources which sustain us today through their protection. May food be just one of the many connections we use in our work to repair relationships with Indigenous, and People of color and of all Nations living here today.

# Strategic Planning: Four Working Groups



# Education and Communication Working Group

Top Priority: Create public awareness of, and support for, our regional food system

Key Activities: Launch and reinforce a regionally focused, multi-year, branded educational campaign. Eat Local Southcoast Challenge, September Hunger Awareness Month, Annual Food Summit



# Eat Local Southcoast Challenge



**The challenge is to eat food within a 200-mile radius of where you live, for 30 days in August.**

Register for the Eat Local Southcoast Challenge.

Receive weekly emails to:

- Act on eat local tips you will receive
- Share your experiences of eating local at **#EatLocalSouthcoast**
- Learn about "The Journey of Food in the Southcoast"
- Get involved in the local food system through volunteer opportunities.

Purpose and Reason to Eat Local:

- Elevate our regional farmers, fishermen, livestock farmers
- Support local farmers markets and local food system organizations such as Coastal Foodshed, SEMAP and the Local Food Guide, The Livestock Institute.



# Result of the “Know Your Food System” Pre-Survey

- There were 71 respondents in English, none in Spanish, Portuguese or Cape Verdean Creole.
- People that responded were predominately from Bristol County, and a few from Plymouth County and Rhode Island.
- 86% of people correctly chose the correct definition of The Food System.
- 78% of people have a strong or more than some desire to learn about the Food System
- **54% of people have little or No knowledge of Food Aggregation, Processing and Manufacturing of food.**
- **47% of people have little or no knowledge of Food Policy.**



# Food Access Working Group

Top Priority: Increase the availability of healthful, culturally relevant, local food for all.

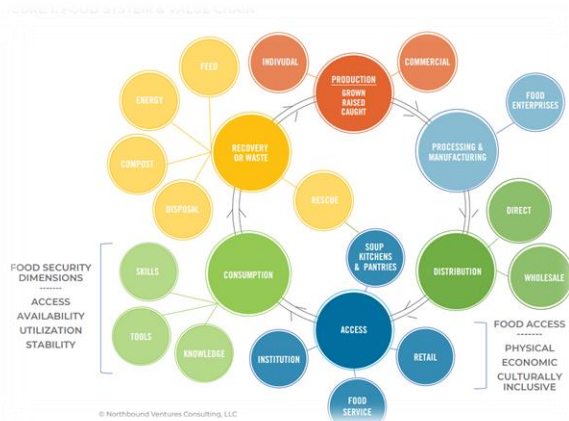
Key Activities: Establish a Farm-to-Food Relief Program and recruit volunteers to establish a regional Gleaning Program.



# Capacity Building Working Group

**Top Priority:** Build networks and infrastructure critical to a vibrant, regional food system.

**Key Activities:** Map out food system assets, grow at-large membership, strengthen distribution channels, achieve food system efficiencies, and increase composting and food waste solutions.



# Focus Group and What You Can Do

**Interested in running a food-related focus group with your community? We would love to partner with you!**

## **Be Engaged!**

- **Take action when we send legislative alerts to take action**
- **Register for the Eat Local Southcoast challenge**
- **Donate and support our work**
- **Contact [sfpc@marioninstitute.org](mailto:sfpc@marioninstitute.org)**



# Contact information

Christine Smith

[csmith@marioninstitute.org](mailto:csmith@marioninstitute.org)

Rita Higgins

[rhiggins@marioninstitute.org](mailto:rhiggins@marioninstitute.org)

Liz Wiley

[lwiley@marioninstitute.org](mailto:lwiley@marioninstitute.org)

