

Using Public Food Procurement to Advance Racial Equity



About the Speakers:



Dakarai Howard is a gardener, organizer, and food justice advocate. Dakarai has a passion for food accessibility and civic engagement and has worn many hats to pair the two concepts over the years. He now serves as the Equitable Supply Chain Development Specialist with the Chicago

Food Policy Action Council. Dakarai plans to continue uplifting sustainable agriculture as a means to advance policy reform and further promote community economic development and land stewardship throughout Chicago.



Fa-Tai Shieh is the Director of Citywide Food Procurement at the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services, Office of Citywide Procurement (OCP). He is responsible for managing the execution of food contracts for agencies such as Department of Corrections, Administration for

Children Services and New York Police Department. He is also a part-time faculty at the New School's Food Studies Department and serves as a board member for Street Vendor Project.



Rachel Terry is the National Partnerships Director at The Common Market. She is an advocate for a more just and sustainable food system, working to build connection and resiliency across supply chains and communities. Rachel has a demonstrated history of driving

change within institutional procurement and coordinating efforts across the value chain. She is passionate about democratizing access to good food for all. Rachel has her MBA in Sustainability from Bard and holds a B.S. in Biopsychology, Cognition and Neuroscience from the University of Michigan.

About the Moderator:



Ribka Getachew is the Director of the NY Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) Campaign at Community Food Advocates. In this capacity she leads, mobilizes and supports the NY GFPP Coalition in all activities related to advancing the adoption of the GFPP in New

York City and State. She also brings her multi-faceted knowledge of food-systems to create culinary and food justice education programs. And encourages her colleagues to think creatively about how to harness their agency and power to transform and sustain their local and regional food economies. Previously, Ribka utilized food-systems knowledge to protect threatened green-spaces and to support the envisioning and building up of local food infrastructures in New York City. Ribka's career has been guided by her strong quest for racial equity and justice. Prior to joining CFA in 2018, she worked at the Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions managing the Human Justice Community Council, where she worked to harness community power as a way of informing and sparking policy transformation. She also worked at the Innocence Project to advance the exonerations of individuals who had been incarcerated for crimes they did not commit. Ribka is a graduate of Columbia University.

Special Guest in the Audience:



Marlie Wilson is the Good Food Purchasing Project Manager with the Chicago Food Policy Action Council, working closely with partners at the Chicago Department of Public Health and Cook County Department of Public Health to coordinate the Good Food Purchasing Initiative

for Metropolitan Chicago. Marlie has a joint MS degree in Urban & Regional Planning and Agroecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a BA in Food Justice from New York University.