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Dear friends,

In a challenging year filled with threats and uncertainty from the federal administration, food justice advocates and supporters across the country felt the strain. We feel it too. Now more than ever, the people must drive change from the local level. Food policy councils are critical avenues for filtering information from above and below to move our cities, regions, and country towards a just food system.

This year FPAC updated its policy platform to drive that policy change. The 2018 Platform acknowledges the importance of federal programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that is currently under attack in the 2018 Farm Bill reauthorization process. The platform pushes for improvement locally by urging the City to create an Urban Agriculture Plan that guides the City on how to establish long-term support for urban agriculture in Philadelphia. These and many more policy recommendations will inform FPAC’s work moving forward.

Thank you to our members and everyone who has joined us to work on food systems change. In the next year we look forward to following the lead of our new Equity Working Group in continuing to improve our membership and operations to more fully live out our values of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Sincerely,

Esteban Kelly
Appointed Member Co-Chair

Amanda Wagner
Ex-Officio Co-Chair
About FPAC

The Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council connects Philadelphians and their local government to create a more just food system.

To accomplish its mission, FPAC convenes public meetings to advance food policy priorities related to its subcommittees: Anti-Hunger; Food & Health; Good Food Procurement; Urban Agriculture; Workforce & Economic Development; and Zero Waste.

FPAC’s volunteer members are appointed by the Mayor and come from a diverse range of food system sectors, including businesses, academia, non-profit organizations, farms and gardens, and advocacy groups. FPAC ex-officio members serve on the Council as a function of their positions within City government.

Together, members and participants have fostered successful and productive collaboration among the City, food systems stakeholders, Philadelphia residents, and elected officials. FPAC is tremendously grateful to its members, who are responsible for FPAC’s successes this past year:

**Appointed Members**
Kirtrina Baxter  
Pamela Babcock  
Rickie Brawer  
Saleem Chapman  
Kelly Courts  
Noelle Dames  
Lan Dinh  
Stephanie Dorenbosch  
Donkey Dover  
Bryan Fenstermaker  
Jill Fink  
Kathy Fisher  
Ebony Griffin  
Esteban Kelly  
Paul Kimport  
Linda Knapp  
Nancy Kohn  
George Matysik  
Gregory McKinley  
Jessica Moore  
Jiana Murdic  
Kamaryn Norris  
Herman Nyamunga  
Calvin Okunoye  
Bridget Palombo  
Lisa Quattlebaum  
Julianne Schrader-Ortega  
Kate Scully  
Devon Sundberg  
Carolina Torres  
Nicky Uy  
Suzanne Weltman  
Dwayne Wharton  
Julie Zaebst

**Ex-Officio Members**
Jennifer Aquilante  
Catherine Bartoli  
Nicolas Esposito  
Elizabeth Fitzgerald  
Nicole Hostettler  
Frank Iannuzzi  
Robert LaBrum  
Jo Lin  
Dominic McGraw  
Ashley Richards  
Molly Riordan  
Elisa Ruse-Esposito  
Suzanna Urminska  
Amanda Wagner
FPAC | By the Numbers

- **130** New Facebook & Twitter followers
- **122** New newsletter sign-ups
- **5,470** Website visitors
- **5,500** Philly Food Finder visitors
- **47** Average number of attendees at general meetings
- **28** Average number of attendees at executive sessions
- **249** Average monthly newsletter opens
- **169** Clicks on the 2018 Food Policy Platform
- **130** Urban Ag Open House Attendees
- **7** Letters of Support or Testimony
The Urban Agriculture subcommittee hosts an Open House to connect with more gardeners in the city, understand gardeners’ policy priorities and challenges, and provide resources like compost, soil testing, and gardening supplies.

We had a full house at the Urban Ag Open House on August 24th, where more than 130 people participated in a workshop to provide feedback on the process for creating an urban agriculture plan for the City. The Coalition for Racial Justice (Corajus), a collaborative that works to eliminate race-based disparities around land and displacement in Philadelphia, facilitated the workshop. Gardeners felt strongly that urban spaces for food production must be increased to improve access to healthy, local food. Gardeners also made an explicit connection between urban ag and economic opportunity for producers and entrepreneurs.

Building on the momentum from the Open House, a subgroup of the subcommittee drafted a request for proposals for a consultant to create the Urban Agriculture Plan. The subcommittee looks forward to hosting the next Open House after the consultant is selected.
This photo won first place in the Humor category of the 2018 Food Policy Networks photo contest hosted by the Center for a Livable Future.

In September 2017 FPAC, Get Healthy Philly, and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation released Growing Safely In Philadelphia’s Urban Soil. Using the research gathered through FPAC’s 2014 Soil Safety Working Group, FPAC and partners developed this guide to show how easy it is to implement soil safety best practices. While testing soil is always recommended, it is sometimes cost prohibitive for gardeners. There are many benefits to gardening in the city, and gardeners can significantly reduce their exposure to contaminants that might be in the soil by following the recommendations in this guide.

Readers learn best practices for growing food safely and about local resources they can access for testing soil and understanding their site’s land use history.
Following an executive order passed in May 2015, employees in Philadelphia became eligible for accruing paid and unpaid sick leave. The Workforce & Economic Development subcommittee celebrated its passage, but worried that the policy language was dense and inaccessible to many Philadelphians. Acknowledging that policy is only effective with proper outreach, the subcommittee developed and released infographics explaining the new sick leave policy for both employees and employers in English and Spanish.

The subcommittee also shared the sick leave infographic with hundreds of local caterers during the process of updating the Good Food Caterer Guide. To be considered a fair business in the guide, employers must understand and implement the sick leave policy.

View the sick leave posters on the FPAC website.
The Good Food Procurement subcommittee developed the Philadelphia Good Food Caterer Guide to help consumers find businesses offering food that meets at least two of the four ‘good food’ values: healthy, sustainably-sourced, fair, and local. The businesses in the guide nominated themselves to be included, and the subcommittee verified businesses’ responses about how they incorporate health and sustainability in their menus, or fairness and equity in their business practices.

Good Food Procurement met jointly with the Workforce &Economic Development subcommittee to discuss the ‘fair’ category in the Guide. Caterers had many questions about the category, so the subcommittees developed a resource guide for employers that contains free and low-cost trainings and resources for businesses interested in providing benefits and transparent living wage policies beyond minimum legal requirements. As of July 2018, a group of Good Food Caterers and other local food businesses are reviewing and providing feedback.
In December 2017, FPAC welcomed six new appointed members (from top to bottom, left to right): Lan Dinh, Farm and Food Sovereignty Director at Vietlead; Jessica Moore, consultant at Kitchen Table Consultants; Bridget Palombo, senior associate at The Food Trust; Lisa Quattlebaum, The Little School Project and The Homesteadista; Kate Scully, Policy Director at Drexel’s Center for Hunger-Free Communities; and Devon Sundberg, Coordinator of Dietetic Services for the School District of Philadelphia.

FPAC also thanked the class of 2017: Katrice Cheaton, Alison Hastings, Jessica McAtamney, and Tommy McCann. FPAC is grateful for every members’ invaluable contributions throughout their service on FPAC.

Interested in serving on FPAC as an appointed member, or nominating someone? Fill out our nomination form.
January | 2018

FPAC 2018 Policy Platform

Appointed members voted to approve FPAC’s 2018 Food Policy Platform at the December General Meeting. The platform is an update to FPAC’s 2014 policy platform, A Philadelphia Food Policy Road Map. The Platform includes recommendations from each subcommittee, as well as operational recommendations to the Administration. Thanks to the expertise of our members, these recommendations will move Philadelphia toward a more just food system.

FPAC will use the Platform as an internal workplan for subcommittee policy work. For example, the policy recommendations in the Platform served as a guide for Urban Ag subcommittee members while reviewing a memo from the Harvard Food Law & Policy Clinic that recommended state-wide urban ag policies that would benefit Philadelphia growers. Members prioritized the recommendations based on the Platform and identified other solutions for protecting and supporting urban gardens.
FPAC appointed members and partners hosted a Farm Bill 101 at the February FPAC General Meeting. The topics covered in the training included a history of the Farm Bill and why it matters, SNAP statistics and hunger prevention policies, challenges facing young farmers, impacts to Penn State Extension programs and services, and opportunities for equity in the Farm Bill.

The presenters and other FPAC members were also involved in the Greater Philadelphia Regional Farm Bill Working Group, which hosted a Farm Bill Town Hall on March 6th FPAC at the Philadelphia Flower Show to bring greater attention to the Bill. FPAC appointed members and other food system and environmental leaders led panel discussions on why Farm Bill legislation matters to the Philadelphia region and how Congress can craft a transformative Farm Bill.
The Anti-Hunger subcommittee hosted a Food Resources 101 briefing for City Council on March 8th. The briefing offered an opportunity for Councilmembers to better understand hunger in Philadelphia, and to learn about local organizations improving food insecurity. Councilmembers and constituent services staffers packed the room and picked up materials from the resource fair about Philadelphia hunger-fighting organizations.

**PCKatering**, a social enterprise of Philabundance’s Community Kitchen and a Good Food Caterer, provided delicious sandwiches and salads for the event. The Community Kitchen offers an adult culinary arts job training program for low-income adults and PCKatering proceeds benefit students, graduates, and neighbors in need.

Thanks to all of the presenters and resource tablers for sharing their expertise, increasing awareness of anti-hunger work in the city, and advocating for protection of critical state and federal programs!
In March 2018 FPAC updated its food resources toolkit Philly Food Finder and released printable PDFs for each City Council District. Guides include information about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), meals for kids, congregate meals for seniors, soup kitchens, food pantries, and farmers’ markets. The FPAC Anti-Hunger subcommittee presented Philly Food Finder at the Food Resources 101 City Council briefing in March, and distributed booklets to each City Council office and other outreach partners.

Through Philly Food Finder, Philadelphians can search for their needs in one place, view information on-the-go, and learn about applying for SNAP and other nutrition assistance programs. The website also crowdsources additional food resource locations through an online form.

Find food resources in your neighborhood with the 2018 guides and interactive map at www.phillyfoodfinder.org! Spanish translations are in the works.
On May 7th FPAC member Dwayne Wharton testified in support of sodium warning labels on chain restaurant menus at a City Council hearing, following a recommendation from the Food & Health subcommittee in FPAC’s 2018 Policy Platform.

Of the ten largest cities in the U.S., Philadelphia has the highest rates of hypertension and premature death. Consumer education is one way to inform the public about healthier options. Warning labels can help reduce sodium intake, hypertension rates, and ultimately make Philadelphia healthier and save lives.

Thank you Dwayne and the Food & Health subcommittee for leading the charge on supporting policies that improve the health and well-being of all Philadelphians!
In June 2018, FPAC welcomed three new appointed members: Ebony Griffin, staff attorney at the Public Interest Law Center; Paul Kimport co-owner of Standard Tap and Johnny Brenda’s; and Kamaryn Norris, an advocate of social justice and economic independence.

Ebony focuses on projects that support low-income, historically disinvested communities, and communities of color in advocating effectively for sustainable and equitable neighborhoods. As the co-owner of several community-centric bars and restaurants, Paul is committed to being a good neighbor, and has participated in many community projects in both Northern Liberties and Fishtown. Through her position at The Food Trust, Kamaryn helps lead policy campaigns to restore access to fresh, healthy food retail in underserved communities.

Welcome aboard!

Interested in serving on FPAC as an appointed member, or nominating someone? Fill out our nomination form.
The Zero Waste subcommittee is wrapping up a yearlong project to spread community composting through the Compost System Design Competition. Its goal is to identify a mid-size, easily-replicable, neighborhood-scale composting system that costs less than $500 in supplies. The subcommittee promoted the competition to schools and maker spaces across the city and beyond and received 13 entries. Experts from Bennett Compost and the Dirt Factory chose two finalists: a cylindrical tank design from The Workshop School and a refurbished chest freezer design from a zero waste education organization in British Columbia, Canada.

After testing, FPAC will host the Compost System Design Competition ‘Big Reveal’ at Share Food Program in early August 2018. At the event, attendees will see the winning design, participate in composting demos, and have the chance to learn about the mini-grant cycle. The grant will provide funds to build two compost systems at community organizations, schools, or other neighborhood spaces.
Looking Forward

Food policy councils emerged in the U.S. to democratize decision-making in the food system. However, food policy councils across North America struggle to be welcoming, inclusive, and representative spaces, and FPAC is unfortunately no exception. Unintended bias towards the professional class makes invisible the people who are struggling with food systems challenges, such as a family experiencing food insecurity, or a food worker who doesn’t make a livable wage.

The results of FPAC’s 2017 annual membership survey revealed gaps and blind spots among members’ demographics and experiences. For example, all FPAC members are college-educated and skew towards middle and upper-middle class. Compared to Philadelphia as a whole, white people are overrepresented on FPAC (59% FPAC vs. 35% Philadelphia), while black people are underrepresented (28% FPAC vs. 44% Philadelphia). While 62% of members have experienced food insecurity firsthand, none of them indicated that they are currently food insecure.

Philadelphia aims to be a model for how food policy councils can empower residents who are most often marginalized in the food system to lead and influence policy work. FPAC members are interested in shifting FPAC’s membership and operations to fully live out its values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. FPAC has built momentum around this work by conducting more than 30 interviews with members to explore how FPAC can be more inclusive in reach and engagement. FPAC also established an Equity Working Group composed of leaders within FPAC who are people of color to begin the conversation about how FPAC can achieve its values.
Acknowledgements

This report was developed by:
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Hannah Chatterjee, FPAC Manager

With contributions from the FPAC Executive Board:
Catherine Bartoli, Good Food Procurement Co-Chair
Kathy Fisher, Anti-Hunger Co-Chair
Ebony Griffin, Urban Agriculture Co-Chair
Esteban Kelly, FPAC Appointed Member Co-Chair
Linda Knapp, Zero Waste Chair
Kamaryn Norris, Workforce & Economic Development Co-Chair
Calvin Okunoye, Workforce & Economic Development Co-Chair
Ashley Richards, Urban Agriculture Co-Chair
Molly Riordan, Good Food Procurement Co-Chair
Amanda Wagner, Ex-Officio FPAC Co-Chair
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Sarah Wu, Governance & Membership Chair
Steveanna Wynn, Anti-Hunger Co-Chair

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