



LOCAL FOOD ACTION PLAN

CITY OF COLUMBUS & FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 2018

The City of Columbus and Franklin County are working to make sure every Franklin County resident has access to healthy food. The Columbus & Franklin County Local Food Action Plan provides common goals and actions to unify efforts in growing, processing, transporting, selling, consuming and disposing of food. The Plan seeks to address inequalities in access to healthy food, affordable food, and local food.

The loss of multiple full-service grocery stores in our community in recent years highlights how the rapidly changing retail industry has left many of our most-vulnerable residents farther away from fresh, healthy foods. A coordinated, strategic, and collective approach is needed to ensure that residents in every neighborhood in Columbus and Franklin County have access to the food they need. The Local Food Action Plan embodies this approach and the City and County are committed to identifying community-based solutions to ensure the availability of healthy food, affordable food, and local food in every neighborhood.

The Four Goals of the Plan are:

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 - A. Enhance coordination and communication among existing food resources and agencies.....
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 - B. Improve access to and education about healthy food, affordable food, and local food.....
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 - C. Increase the role of food in economic development.....
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 - D. Prevent food-related waste.....

Legislative Champions

Priscilla R. Tyson

Columbus City Council

There have been many significant developments as a result of the Local Food Action Plan, which was adopted in November 2016 by Columbus City Council and the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. I am excited to share some of these accomplishments with you in this annual report.

As we developed the Plan, we found that many children in Columbus and Franklin County are not eating enough fruits and vegetables. To help solve the problem, Columbus City Schools applied for and was awarded a USDA Farm to School grant of more than \$99,000 to purchase a machine that can clean, slice, preserve, weigh, and bag produce such as apples, carrots, and cucumbers. More than 52,000 children in Columbus City Schools will now be offered fruits and vegetables in a way that children are more likely to eat. Not only will this increase access to healthy foods, it will also increase revenue for our local farmers.

Examples such as this one demonstrate the importance of the Plan to our community. We will continue our commitment to providing the resources and leadership needed to help initiatives like the USDA grant be successful and increase access to healthy food, affordable food and local food for all of our residents.



John O'Grady

Franklin County Board of Commissioners

When we developed the Local Food Action Plan, we built upon our community's assets and innate collaborative spirit to create a strategy for building a more resilient local food system, considering every aspect from producer to supplier to consumers. We know a stronger food system in Columbus and Franklin County will not only improve access to food; it can also lead to job growth for our residents.

Since we launched the plan in 2016, three of our partners have secured more than \$1.1 million in funding for projects that will help local food producers grow more food and feed our residents. In addition to this work serving the needs of Franklin County residents, the Local Food Action Plan along with the Green Business and Urban

Agriculture Plan won a statewide award for Best Practice at the 2017 APA Ohio Statewide Planning Conference. These successes are surely a sign of great things to come, and I look forward to the work ahead.



2017: Building for Success

The **Columbus & Franklin County Local Food Board** was established in late 2016 to oversee and guide implementation of the Plan. The Board represents a broad cross-section of community leaders and decision-makers who can create change around food-related issues in our community to support the implementation of the Plan.

Columbus Public Health and the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department hired staff members to form the **City-County Local Food Team**. The Team is responsible for the day to

day work needed to implement the plan as well as to connect local government and community food projects to the Plan.

The **Franklin County Local Food Council** serves as an independent, non-governmental advisory group that provides a way for residents to get involved in the local food system. The Council receives staff support and resources from the Team. The Council provides community updates and input to the Board and the Team. Find out how you can get involved and sign up for the Council's e-mail updates at www.fclocalfoodcouncil.org.

Who We Are

Columbus & Franklin County Local Food Board

Susan Beaudry

Director of Programs, Osteopathic Heritage Foundations

Matt Habash

President and CEO, Mid-Ohio Foodbank

Cathann Kress, PhD

Vice President of Agricultural Administration & Dean, The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, The Ohio State University

Tony Logan

Managing Partner, The Renewables Space LLC

Aaron Mann

District J Manager Columbus, The Kroger Co.

Ty Marsh

Executive Director, Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO)

Laquore Meadows, PhD

County Extension Director, OSU Extension Franklin County

Michelle Moskowitz Brown

Executive Director, Local Matters

Charles Nabrit

Associate, Penn Nabrit & Associates
President, Greater Columbus Growing Coalition

Ernest Perry

President and CEO, HandsOn Central Ohio

Randy Sokol

Owner, Sokol & Associates
Co-Owner, Tee Jaye's Country Place

Chris Strayer

Senior Project Manager, Columbus 2020

City-County Local Food Team

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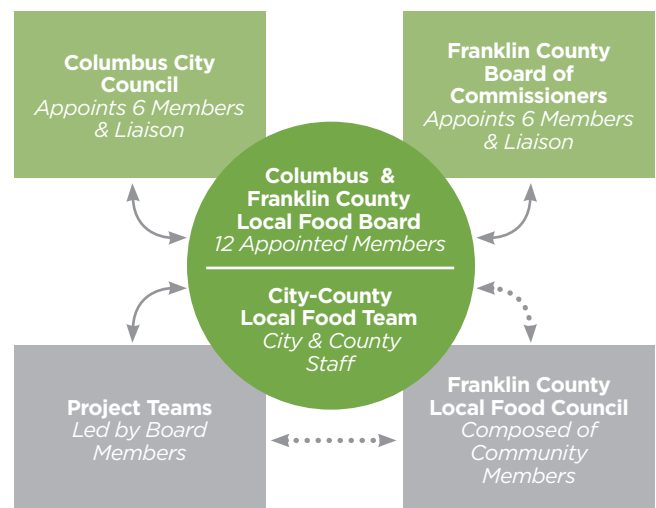
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How We Work Together

— Shared Responsibilities

.... Supporting Relationships



2018 Will Be a Year of Action

In 2018, the Local Food Board will oversee the work of at least two Project Teams. These Project Teams consist of residents, community leaders and local experts who will work together with the Local Food Team and the Franklin County Local Food Council to implement specific actions in the Plan. The first Project Team will make healthy food more available by supporting our local farmers markets (Action B3). The second Project Team will link local food businesses to tools and resources to help them reach economic success (Action C9).



Community Impact

In 2017, community partners in Columbus and Franklin County received over \$1 million in funding to grow food for local residents.

Mid-Ohio Foodbank does more than send emergency food to local food pantries. Through Urban Farms of Central Ohio, it is engaging the community by growing and providing more fresh fruits and vegetables on formerly vacant, underutilized land in Columbus. Funds were also used to support its Youth Job Readiness Training Program that gives local students an opportunity to work on the farm, learn how food grows, and develop valuable job skills, while instilling self-confidence. Additionally, Mid-Ohio Foodbank has offered grants to invest in other urban farms and community gardens. The grants are used by urban farms and community gardens to build structures like high tunnels, low tunnels and other resources that help extend the growing season. A portion of the food produced is provided to those in need. This project is supported by a **\$300,000 grant from the USDA.**



The Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT) at Ohio State

is working with central Ohio partners to form a network of low-income households, particularly in communities of color, that grow and sell food to Ohio State and other markets. The goal is to increase household food security and self-reliance for fresh food, while creating new economic opportunities in neighborhoods that need them the most. This project is supported by a **\$750,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.**



The Agriculture Literacy Academy teaches women, veterans and minorities interested in urban farm ownership how to grow food and run a farm business. Their training helps participants write an application for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency Micro-loan program. The project is funded by a **\$50,000 grant from the USDA Farm Service Agency** and is taught by A&L Afterschool Literacy+ Institute.



Improving Access to Local Food

In the 2015-2016 school year, Columbus City Schools (CCS) served almost 3 million apples. Not one of those 3 million apples was grown in Ohio, even though Ohio is one of the top 10 apple-growing states. Joe Brown, CCS Foodservice Director, recognized this opportunity for change and **began purchasing apples from Ohio orchards in 2017 with support from members of the Local Food Team, The Ohio State University Extension Farm to School program, and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.** Apples were just the beginning. In the 2017-2018 school year, they are on target to spend 17% of the district's food budget on foods grown, raised and/or processed in Ohio (excluding milk).

Source: CCS Foodservice



Food & Economic Development

Koki's Tortillas, located on the west side of Columbus, is the only fresh tortilla producer in Columbus. In late 2017, owner Koki Garcia **began using Ohio-raised whole corn in her tortillas thanks to connections made with help from the Local Food Team and OSU Extension.** This not only opened a new market for the corn producer, it also caught the attention of local school foodservice directors in Bexley and Upper Arlington. For September's Ohio Days: My Plate, My State menu, more than 1,000 students were served OH! Chips whole grain tortilla chips, made using Koki's Tortillas.

