

The Mississippi Story: Making Reparatory Food Futures Possible



Land and People's Acknowledgements

Choctaw, Mississippi

We acknowledge those that were brave enough to stay behind, paid the ultimate sacrifice, through racism and adversity, we survived as Mississippi Choctaws. Our ancestors paved the way to our sovereignty and self-determination. Tribal leaders, before their time, may not have known it, fought for our education, culture, and way of .life

Delta, Mississippi

We acknowledge the richness of the soil and the land in the Delta that was the ancestral home of Indigenous people and was tilled and worked by enslaved African people. We make a commitment to restoring and regenerating the soil making it more prosperous and .accessible for ourselves and the generations that follow

Central Mississippi

We as Indigenous, African Americans, Latinx, Women are Mississippians. We acknowledge the truth and legacies of white supremacy through policy that has impacted our food systems. We acknowledge inhumane policies such as the separation of families, .mass incarceration, border policies, and public health

Coastal Mississippi

We acknowledge the earliest people on this land who came before recorded history, the Choctaw, Chickasaw, and the Creek for the settling of this land and upholding the sacredness of this ecosystem. The enslaved Africans for leaving a legacy of a self-sustaining people. We are grateful for the love shared and generational gifts of culture and light by the mixing of tribes and bloodlines in the name of .peace

Impact on place and people over the last 200 plus years

settler colonialism

plantation economies

indian removal

civil war

Reconstruction

jim crow

great migration

civil rights movement

integration, great migration

post civil rights movement economies

natural calamities

bad leadership

.inequitable philanthropic investments

southern white american cultural domination

systemic inequities that impact public education

institutions of higher learning

access to health care

labor exploitation

big ag domination

use of pesticides

pollution of air

water and food

Depopulation

mass incarceration

,Disenfranchisement

racially motivated policies

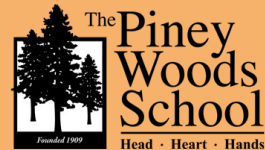
Police killings

Mississippi Food Justice Collaborative



labor rights &
as human
! rights

Hijra House



Ecosystem of Partners

Black Farmers

Vietnamese Fisherfolk

Black Oyster Producers

Choctaw Food Growers

Artists

Chefs

Cultural Workers

Teachers

Policy Advocates

Public School Centered Non Profits

Storytellers

Counselors

,Healers

Black Boarding School

Ag and Tech focused National Non Profit

Ag Cooperative

State Policy Council

Historically Black Universities and Colleges Traditionally

White Universities

AfroLatinx Community Organizers

Heath Care Advocates

Economists

Strategists

Resource Generators

Animal Husbandry Experts

Journalists

Researchers

Architects

.Developers and students

Beliefs

believe in supporting home grown
leadership
that represents all of our vibrant diversity
believe in the healing power of food as a
way
to revitalize Mississippi communities in a time
of dynamic change
believe food justice is a vehicle for
individual
and community self-sufficiency
believe working together will have a
greater positive impact on food and
- social justice
believe that all Mississippians have
the right to know how to grow and
prepare fresh food

believe in supporting
Mississippi farmers and
fishers through fair pricing
for local food
production/catch
believe in passing the food
cultural baton in order to
- keep food traditions alive
believe that healthy fresh
food is a human right and
should be affordable and
accessible to all

Values

Racial Equity

Food Sovereignty

Healthy Whole Communities

Environmental/Climate Justice

Labor Rights

Economic Justice

Ethical leadership

Principles

We uphold that all Mississippians deserve Food Sovereignty We uphold that all Mississippians deserve good quality of life We uphold that all Mississippians deserve to grow/catch and have access to healthy food We uphold that all Mississippians deserve to have access to good health

We uphold that all Mississippians deserve access to agricultural/marine resources to ethically enhance their practices We uphold that all Mississippians deserve to be paid living wages and treated with dignity We uphold that all Mississippians deserve to live, work, learn and play in environmentally safe spaces

We uphold that all Mississippians deserve clean water, clean air, healthy soil, non toxic environments to live and thrive

We uphold that people are sacred, and therefore investments must be made directly in historically oppressed communities

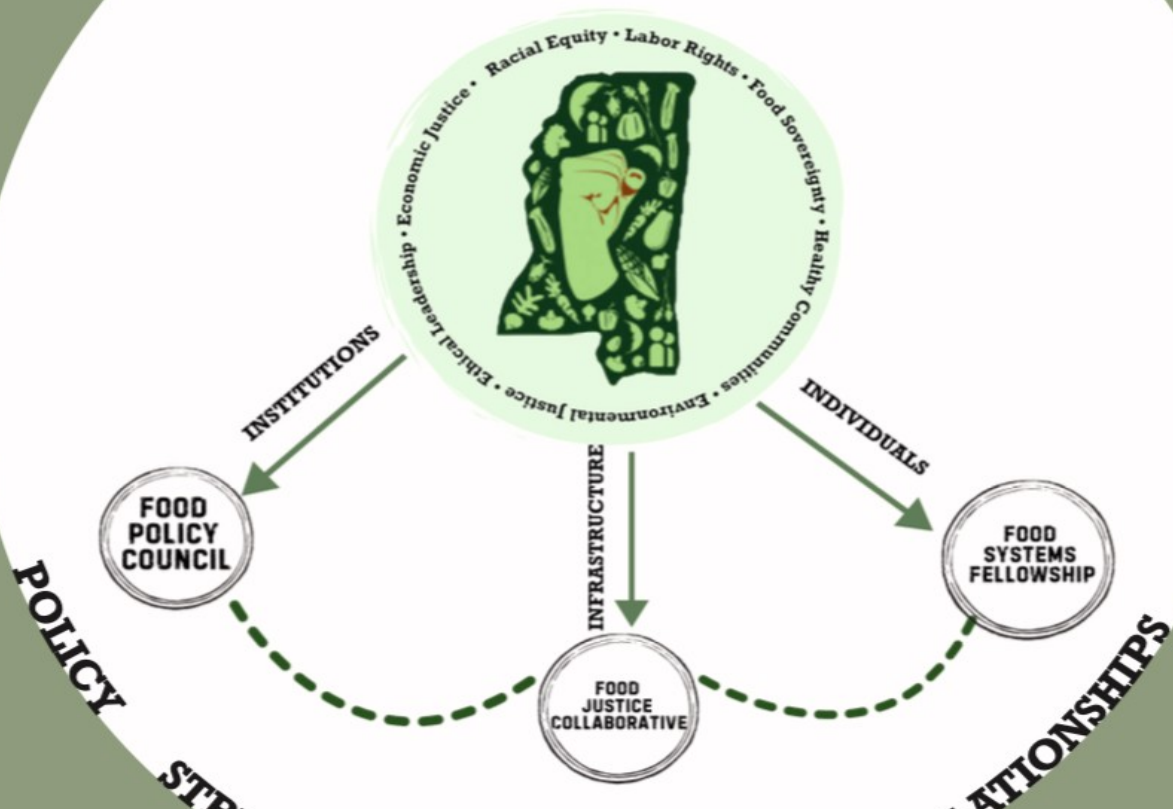
We uphold the truths and legacies of places as sacred pathways to building ethical, just and sustainable futures

:How we be

Therefore, our theory of change is that **values aligned relationships have the power to transform culture, structure and policy.** As a result, the center has scaffolded all of its relational work in a purpose of wellness, healing, conflict transformation, repair and .being in right relationship

Relationships
Culture
Structure
Policy

CENTER FOR MISSISSIPPI FOOD SYSTEMS



The expected **outcomes** of the work over the next decade are

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Racial Equity to become the cultural norm that informs dignified development of bipoc and all poor people .1

Economic Justice to become the budgeting/financial norm that results in non exploitative/extractive development of bipoc and all poor people .2

Sustainable Development to become the end goal that results in long term regenerative development of people, their institutions, their cities, communities, regions and their economies .3

Therefore, the **approach** of the center to transform food systems and economies is three pronged with a focus on long term investments in

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Individuals to become food systems leaders, advocates, stewards, organizers, culture and knowledge producers .1

Institutions to strengthen their collective voice to shift narratives, policy, culture and transform systems and structures .2

Infrastructure that is state of the art, cutting edge, tech innovation supported, climate resistant, safe and nurturing that .3
supports the sustainable, equitable and just development of people, through ideations, imaginations, collaborations,
responsible experimentations, mentoring and thought partnership, designs and deliverables. Infrastructure that is
abundantly nourishing of responsible knowledge and cultural production that inform the building, thriving and sustaining
.of reparatory food futures

?How are we building our capacities and capabilities

We build our capacities and capabilities as a collective ecosystem through

Immersive Gatherings

Book Talks

Skill Up Sessions

Story Circles

Imagining Reparatory Food Futures

Wellness Sessions and Counselor Supports

We build our capacities and capabilities as co-stewards through

Wellness Sessions and Counselor Supports

Political Education

Feedback Sessions

Coaching

Professional Development

?What have we accomplished so far

We have completed five years of building 20 food systems leaders across four regions in cohorts of five. Which means, there are **5 values**
.aligned leaders that impact food systems work in each region

We have strengthened a network of 10 institutions. Which means, we have more **institutional power** to collaborate, advocate and organize
.with

We have built a **statewide policy scan** through the food policy council. Which means that we have clear understanding of the statewide
.policy landscape, which is being useful beyond the ecosystem

We brought in over **2 million dollars in funding** so far. Which means the dignity and personal and institutional economies have become
.more secure

.We produce **annual newsletter called Rhizome**. Which means we are communicating our work responsibly to the public

We have strengthened **partnerships with 15 institutions**. Which means hundreds of students, dozens of faculty and hundreds of community
.are impacted

We have so far **co-designed and taught courses about our work at 5 universities**. Which means, more students are aware of Mississippi
.in a truthful way, and have a more dignity centered understanding of people and place

We have supported the development of a **National Community of Learning and Practice for Food Policy Councils**. Which means, more
.policy councils are informed and inspired by the framework, approaches and relational work that we are committed to

We participate in **national coalitions to advocate for policy and testify to the UN**. Which means our truths are documented in the global
.space

?Where do we go from here

We are in the process of articulating the next ten year plan, in the context of the next 60 (two generations) and utilizing the imagination tool to **manifest the 200 year vision and develop decade by decade deliverables to heal the people, heal .the lands/water, transform food systems and economies**