

Slow Money Austin

1/20/2010

Mission: Slow Money Austin exists to support and enrich a sustainable regional food system. Its primary mission is to develop and promote essential capital resources for environmentally, socially and culturally sustainable food enterprises serving the greater Austin region.

Objectives: Through its activities in the local community, and in collaboration with the national Slow Money movement and other organizations encouraging the development of regional food systems, Slow Money Austin will meet the following objectives:

- demonstrate and promote the economic viability, interdependency and importance of local and organic food enterprises;
- identify critical financial and strategic needs required for sustainable farm-to-table-to-farm food systems and encourage development of activities to meet those needs;
- offer education and guidance in support of established financial assistance alternatives, including but not limited to grant programs, lending programs, informal risk capital investment activities and institutional risk capital investment firms; and
- provide leadership in creating and/or bringing to the region new sources of capital to meet needs beyond those already in place.

Slow Money Austin Showcase: This April, Slow Money Austin brings the Slow Money movement to Central Texas, spotlighting the regional food system and its shift toward sustainability. A vital relationship between the people and the land is being rediscovered, and in that rediscovery are opportunities to support fertile soil, healthy agricultural ecosystems and related cultural pursuits, all of which encourage the regional economy to thrive.

The April 2010 Slow Money Austin Event will feature:

- a keynote speech by Woody Tasch, author of *Inquiries into the Nature of Slow Money*
- presentations highlighting the social and economic importance of Austin's growing local food movement
- showcases profiling key community organizations, and regional and organic food system businesses
- panels exploring the challenges and opportunities facing participants in the food-to-table-to-food chain

Nurturing a prosperous Central Texas economy built on environmental, social and cultural sustainability requires investment in local food enterprises with an emphasis on supporting movement to greater organic content. We invite all who share an interest in this vital activity to join Slow Money Austin in fulfilling its mission.

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Resources: Slow Money Alliance, <http://www.slowmoneyalliance.org/>

What is a food system?

A food system — encompassing nutrition, food, health, community, economic development and agriculture — involves all processes necessary to feed a population: growing, harvesting, processing, packaging, transporting, marketing, consumption, and disposal of food and food-related items, as well as the inputs needed and outputs generated at each of these steps. A food system operates within and is influenced by social, political, economic and environmental contexts.

Source: Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_systems