**FLPP: Interview Template**

**Q: How would you describe the different connection strengths between retail use and the five retail types?**

**Interviewer** 14:06

So my first question with this would sort of be focusing on this use of retail to different restaurants. Is that how- do you think about or how do you understand sort of the strength of relationships between people, you know, purchasing food and in Flint in local versus chain restaurants? Are they about the same? Do people go to one versus another way more? What is sort of your understanding?

**Participant 120** 14:34

Yes. A lot of fast food. So I associate that with chain restaurants.

**Interviewer** 14:39

Yeah.

**Participant 120** 14:41

And then- I just talk and you help me.

**Interviewer** 14:50

Yeah, absolutely.

**Participant 120** 14:52

Yeah, so I see. Right. I think there's definitely a large consumption of fast food which I would associate with chain restaurants. And then there are local restaurants that I think of like Chinese restaurants here throughout the east side or other Mexican restaurants or just even some wonderful crispy chicken.

**Interviewer** 15:18

Maybe like a more medium connection to local restaurants that like they exist, but there are so much fast food restaurants that maybe that will be a bit stronger of a connection. Great. What's sort of your perception with the different strengths between grocery stores, convenience stores or farmer's markets? How much do you think people are getting their food from one source or another?

**Participant 120** 15:42

And I'm talking about the residents of the city of Flint? Yeah, I don't think anybody goes to the farmer's market, not residents of the city. That farmer's market is for people outside of the city from affluent communities, in my perspective and conversations I had with community members. Convenience stores, yeah, we got a couple liquor stores here on the street that our community center's on. Got a lot of pedestrians here on the east side, a lot of people get their stuff from there just because it's closer than the grocery store that exists.

**Participant 120** 16:12

But grocery stores inside the city of Flint don't have the same — actually, what word do I want to use? Environment, support, trust. Use, versus Mejiers or Walmart, which are outside of the city limits, but a lot of people, right, they live in the neighborhoods that transportation is the issue, you go to these neighborhood grocery stores, and then also no- these grocery stores didn't exist until just a few years ago.

**Interviewer** 16:51

So we can use that transportation is sort of a factor and also sort of trust maybe or if there's a better word, when used to describe this is that people go places where they have more trust. And a big determinant on people's ability to get to groceries or that they trust is transportation. Would that be sort of a fair sort of overview of what you were talking about?

**Participant 120** 17:34

Yep, it's really easy to get to the convenience store. People walk there all the time, so you can walk with a whole bunch of bags. You can walk to the grocery store, but it's more so, it's more of a hike and it's cold right now. We ain't got no public transportation that can easily get you there either. Take you an hour just to get down the road. But the public transportation does take you to the large grocery stores.

**Interviewer** 18:04

And then what would be maybe your understanding of how people are, you know, using different supplement and nutrition programs at different stores? Is it more than one versus another? Or do you think there's some that maybe you can't speak to?

**Q:** **Okay, then thinking about the connection strengths between use of the supplemental sector and the different types of stores,** **how do you think about these strengths? Are supplemental nutrition programs used at certain places more often in Flint?**

**Participant 120** 18:25

Well, you don't see these advertised as prominent in the Mejiers or the Walmarts outside of the city. But for the grocery stores inside the city, in the corner stores you see EBT, WIC, SNAP everywhere.

**Interviewer** 18:45

And at the farmers market. Do you think that is prominent or not really?

**Participant 120** 18:54

They do not really go there, it's too expensive.

**Interviewer** 18:58

Yeah.

**Participant 120** 19:02

I know they got a program. They got a program. I think they double your money there. A $10 tomato is quite expensive.

**Q4: Which of these other values are important to the Flint food system that you want to include in your map?**

**Interviewer** 23:19

Do you have a sense of which two or three you would like to include in your map?

**Participant 120** 23:29

Yeah, the ones that I highlighted, but then for the second one was education, quality of life, nutrition food- nutritious foods, affordability, and availability. If I could choose three, it would be availability, affordability, nutritious foods.

**Q5a:** **Based on how you see the current food system in Flint, how would you draw connections between these concepts?**

**Interviewer** 23:50

And we can go back and add the other two after we talk through the first three and just- sometimes when you have a lot of concepts, and it gets hard to sort of find a starting point. So we usually recommend starting with two or three and then building onto the map from there rather than starting with lots of things and having too much to do. You know, starting a little bit narrower. Okay, great. I'm gonna switch back to the modeler, and I'm going to go ahead and add availability, nutritious foods, and then affordability. So, based on your understanding of the current food system in Flint, how would you start drawing connections between these concepts?

**Participant 120** 24:45

All right. Sure. Okay, if we just start with affordability because there's a couple liquor stores, two liquor stores on- two corner stores, two convenience stores on our street which I see a lot of people go to and which I go to and visit. I know every time I go there- this I apologize I speak very colloquially [inaudible] use better language- but yes I find that I spent- okay because I keep it real. I'm in a community center, I'm in the community [laughs].

**Interviewer 2** 25:27

We encourage you to chat. That's what- we really need to hear it real so you are safe, comfortable, please by all means sir.

**Participant 120** 25:38

Thank you but yeah, I see everytime I go there it that I spend significantly more amount of money than I would if I were to be outside the city shopping at a Mejiers or a Walmart. Significantly more like this is outrageous, it's ridiculous. Which I think is just terrible. But so affordability right I see that the inside the city is more expensive than outside the city which is very, very interesting. I think that's what I would have to say about that. Nutritious foods, yeah, I don't think I see anything nutritious in the convenience stores.

**Participant 120** 26:25

I try to eat a healthy, nutritious diet. I know yesterday I accidentally brought the wrong Tupperware and I did not bring my lunch and I had to find something to eat and looking at the convenience store which is the most readily available, there was ain't nothing there. I was like I'm gonna eat some hot cheetos or some Takis which is all I see there or a sugary drink.

**Participant 120** 26:51

But yeah, so a complete lack of nutritious foods at the convenience stores. The Flint grocery stores do have nutritious foods, they do exist there. I would say the quality of those nutritious foods I shop at the- the majority of my groceries come from the Mejier just outside of the city limits. However, if I drive even further out the availability, the quantity and the quality of fresh produce, doesn't even compare, doesn't even compare. And then if we talk about nutritious foods, grocery stores, convenience stores- right the farmers market they got unaccessible nutritious foods.

**Participant 120** 27:42

But hey, I tried, I tried I wanted to support them but I couldn't. Then availability, a big thing like I said we have a cultural- we are a cultural community center, so we advocate for the culture and yeah availability of culturally relevant items is just non existent. In- in Genesee County, right, it's kind of a food desert of culturally available products in Genesee County, a lot of our people drive outside the county to Pontiac, or Detroit or Lansing to get their cultural items which are essential to our everyday foods. Yeah, so that's a big one.

**Interviewer** 28:33

Let me make sure I am capturing this.

**Participant 120** 28:43

Yeah, culturally relevant, irrelevant. The last part of the issue is some grocery stores do better. Look at the major chains that are outside the city, but unfortunately you have to drive to two or three different grocery stores just to get the regular groceries you need for the week. And that's [inaudible].

**Interviewer** 29:11

And this is something that maybe you didn't explicitly say, but it's a connection that you're sort of talking about is that, you know, that's sort of like the- the availability of culturally relevant food to have its food. Like, you know, it's not just like, oh, well, this is a fun treat, but it is like a fundamental part of your quality of life. Do you think will be a fair connection to make here?

**Participant 120** 29:35

We talk about that quite frequently. This is the diet we practice. If you're over here, give me a nutrition class, you talking about some irrelevant stuff that I- that I do not do. Stuff that I probably don't even have in my house.

**Interviewer** 29:57

Other connections that you like to make?

**Interviewer** 30:08

I can also ask some directional questions, if that'll be useful. I know once the map gets to a certain level of busy

**Participant 120** 30:15

[laughter] Yeah I'm trying to figure out all the lines, okay.

**Interviewer** 30:18

I would say maybe, if you have any connections you want to draw to or from sort of this emergency sector, sort of like, how this affects the community or what affects its ability to function in the community.

**Participant 120** 30:37

Yes. I may say some stuff that might be irrelevant.

**Interviewer** 30:43

Everything's relevant.

**Participant 120** 30:44

Right, then it might help. Right, the quality of life and the cultural relevance issue, right, like I said, we see this- alright, it's a liquor store. So, liquor store in Flint, I try to say that hopefully that'll paint the picture, what I'm trying to say, is the only spot in Genesee County that sell good tortillas, right, tortillas is a staple of all the foods that we eat, right we tortillas with every damn thing, right, it's ridiculous our intake of tortillas. But this is the only place in Genesee County that sell real tortillas, and I was confused why. But there's- the owner had a part of his family live in Mexico. So he know. The price is outrageous. The price is outrageous. It's 300% more than I would go pay if I drive up to Pontiac.

**Participant 120** 31:49

So that might be irrelevant though. So there's some frustrations, there is some frustration. And then yeah I could start going on these things with the use of emergency things. If that makes sense.

**Interviewer** 32:11

I'm trying to capture this idea. And I think it's really important. I'm just trying to think about the best way to think about it. I'm thinking maybe this sort of like it's fair to call it maybe scarce products, that sort of this combination of low availability of certain foods means that affordability of them. You know, if it's less prevalent than it's also more expensive, which sort of, you know, is another disservice, right? That like the few things that are available, because it's you know, they're so scarce or not so prevalent that they're also less affordable. Is that an okay way to sort of map this sort of dynamic you're talking about?

**Participant 120** 33:03

I see- I see- I see what you did there. You could say that.

**Interviewer 2** 33:09

Could I write one thing? Because what I did hear you also say is you refer to it as a quality of life issue?

**Participant 120** 33:16

Yes. Yeah, absolutely. The quality of life is- is a real one, that's something else I was going to mention, like I said, it might be irrelevant, but I think current- current events, pretty- can help with the association. But right, we see what the pandemic has hurt small businesses, specifically businesses that we will find in the city, possibly even further black and brown businesses. But what we see is that our cultural community businesses are struggling. And there's probably a few that will close as a result of the COVID. Well, but we know the history of Flint, right? It's had its economic crises, and businesses have closed just throughout the decades. There used to be cultural markets or cultural convenience stores. There used to be a lot more prevalence of culturally relevant foods. But those businesses found themselves on the closing end of economic crisis.

**Interviewer** 34:29

Yeah, for sort of a, an offshoot of the same research project is we're trying to do sort of an inventory of the different locations that people can get food in, in Flint. And it was, as I was going through different, you know, different store options within the city of Flint. I was surprised that I could only find, you know, a couple places that advertise themselves. You know, I'm no, I live in Ann Arbor right now. So like, you like there's- feels like there's like an Asian grocery store on every corner that it's pretty convenient to find different culturally relevant foods. I was surprised when there weren't more in Flint as someone who doesn't have a lot of experience with Flint.

**Interviewer** 35:18

So the connection I added right here is that no- there maybe isn't this that much available in Flint, but the ones that maybe could exist have a positive impact on cultural relevance. Are there other connections you would like to make?

**Participant 120** 36:01

Yep, that's a lot.

**Interviewer** 36:04

Yeah, maybe the last thing you talk about before we move on [inaudible].

**Participant 120** 36:09

Oh, yeah. I could elaborate it maybe if it's helpful, a little bit more on the trust issue with different grocery stores. Because that's a- that's an issue. That's an issue. Right? I want to support my local grocery stores. But at the same time when I shop at these local grocery stores, I don't recognize any of these brands. And I don't trust that they got the best interests of my health and well being.

**Interviewer** 36:47

Would it be- Would you call out something like food safety or recognition or something like that? Or do you just want to sort of wrap it into this trust connection?

**Participant 120** 37:03

I would just chalk it up to systemic racism.

**Interviewer** 37:05

Yeah, yeah.

**Participant 120** 37:06

I wouldn't know how to associate that any other way. But these groceries, right? Affluent people are not shopping at these grocery stores. The dominant culture is not shopping at the grocery stores. When I go to these grocery stores, I don't recognize none of the brands.

**Interviewer** 37:27

So, other connections that you want to make from this other sort of effect that you see?

**Participant 120** 37:37

Well, I don't know how long you've been working on the project, but a lot of these grocery stores and food availability have increased in the last couple of years, which I'm really happy about. But it is all [inaudible].

**Q5b: Were there other values that we went over that you also think are important and want to include?**

**Interviewer** 37:47

Yeah. So another thing we've talked about nutritious foods, availability, affordability, and we added in quality of life. The other one you pulled out would be education. Do you- would you like to add that to your map?

**Participant 120** 38:13

Yeah, I mean, that would just be very general education. Would be- I just think, as individuals, we're grossly under-educated on how to eat a healthy diet. I think the education has been um-

**Interviewer** 38:31

That education has the potential to, like affect how much people are eating nutritious foods.

**Participant 120** 38:39

Right or decide, right, how to eat in general. Just be aware of these things. I know I just learned how to eat.

**Interviewer** 38:51

Yeah, it's a-

**Interviewer** 38:54

A continuous process. Any more connections you would like to add? We will have a few more opportunities to change the map, so if nothing's coming to mind immediately we definitely-

**Participant 120** 38:54

Didn't know.

**Participant 120** 39:16

Right quality of life is respected in terms of what? Because, right, I have the means to get outside the city. But then I see a lot of east side people who may or may not have those means and they rely on their local corner stores and the local grocery store for their food.

**Participant 120** 39:42

[inaudible] the quality of life is disrespected.

**Interviewer** 39:47

Transportation-

**Participant 120** 39:49

Transportation, the sidewalk- you can't even get down the sidewalk. I see people, I see the elderly, I see people with mobile issues struggling to get to the damn grocery store and especially in the wintertime, safer to walk in the street. Because these sidewalks ain't- even in the summertime, the sidewalks are just tore up or missing. It's a damn hazard. But in the wintertime, I was- I got on the wrong bus the other day and I had- [laughs] had to walk- walked through the center and walked in the street, cause it's safer to walk in the street. Sidewalks are just not shoveled.

**Q6: Are there other things that influence these variables? For example, if we got back to the traffic example, I might add carpooling, as something that decreases the number of cars on the road. Is there anything else you would like to add to your map?**

**Interviewer** 40:35

Maybe we can transition to thinking about you know, you know, we've introduced one of these sectors and these values, and we've kind of talked about other concepts, but maybe taking a step out and thinking about what might be other things that influence these concepts we've already talked about. So for example, for my little traffic example, I could think about, you know, we have cars and traffic and public transportation. What affects these things?

**Interviewer** 41:01

And they say, well, you know, carpooling affects how many cars there are or like, funding for public infrastructure could affect, you know, the quality of transportation system. What do you think, are some other things that are influential in the Flint food system, other things, other concepts, new concepts that you want to add to your map?

**Participant 120** 41:24

I would say there's a hierarchy, a hierarchy of human value. I think that can manifest itself, right, within nonprofits that want to do positive work, but still have like a low standard, or people just on the outside like in the food system, right? There's a hierarchy of human value, right? What is that standard of quality? I really wanted to challenge people.

**Participant 120** 41:54

I went to Walmart, out in Lapeer, I don't know if anyone knows where Lapeer is at, but it's pretty far away, about 40 minutes out 30 minutes out from the city went up to a Walmart for the first time because I accidentally asked my granddad if you want to go to a grocery store.

**Participant 120** 42:09

He said yes, volunteered to drive we ended up- I end up losing the whole thing at the grocery store. But it was a blessing. But- but it was my first time out at this Walmart. So why the heck we out here? And I walked in and I couldn't believe it. I said, "Oh shit," this Walmart nice, damn devil. It was nice. It was nice.

**Participant 120** 42:28

Everything about it was nice. And yeah, I would just like to challenge some of these affluent communities, try shopping at these local grocery stores. Mm hmm. You think they'd be happy with that? I mean, I don't know- I want to know what else to do. But if you think it's acceptable, go shop there. If that's the case, then go shop there.

**Interviewer** 43:02

So the connections I'm making, I just want to double check is, you know, that sort of this valuation right, has that sort of impact you're talking about of, you know, the quality of retail, not only the food, but sort of the experience and sort of comfort and safety choices, all these sorts of factors that, you know, it's there, this has the potential so I wrote it as a as a positive connection because it moves in the same direction, right is that because it's currently you know, not respected that there is low quality in Flint and this drives people to maybe use these stores less that is driving sort of the the movement of folks to outside of Flint to purchase food. And then I also connected it to quality of life is respected. Um, yeah. Any other connections or other connections you want to make with this concept? Any changes?

**Participant 120** 44:22

No. I hope they got it.

**Interviewer** 44:25

So considering sort of your experience and your perspective on the food system, you know, sort of if you ran the world, what would be some things that you would change to improve it? I know, that's sort of a big question.

**Participant 120** 45:34

Before we start with the question, are we gonna go to the emergency sector?

**Interviewer** 45:36

Oh, we can definitely talk about that. Yeah.

**Participant 120** 45:38

Yeah I really want to talk about that, so if we can come back to that question, I would like to talk about that real quick.

**Interviewer** 45:42

Absolutely. Yeah, talk about the emergency sector.

**Participant 120** 45:49

Sure. Right. I think current events are pretty indicative to some good insight of what's happening. But right, I think, kind of in the nation as a whole, you know, there's never been more people waiting in line at the food pantry. And in Flint, people wouldn't wait in line for food pantry for- since the 80s. So, but what we've seen, unfortunately, right, again, was that culturally relevant food? Or does this adhere to when I'm normally eating? You gave me a whole bunch of stuff that's irrelevant. So that's one thing, right? It's culturally irrelevant.

**Participant 120** 46:27

Some of these things that are held in emergency foods. And then it's, it's ,right, some different things kind of happened, right, as a result of Flint's water crisis, but we do see that there has been a change in the quality of produce that is given. Right, there is a change sometimes, right. And I say sometimes, but there is a clear change that should be recognized, right? It's a step in the right direction. However, that is not the majority. So be careful- [inaudible] to associate. Because while there is that there's still a whole lot of now called canned foods, right? We look at communities of color and health disparities and communities of color and low income communities.

**Participant 120** 47:21

All I'm getting is canned foods this ain't helping my diabetes, my blood pressure, my heart, my heart disease. So that's another thing, what are we giving? Are we getting we giving out foods that are highly processed or that only contribute to health disparities?Again, we try to let people know is, is this a standard of quality? You wanted emergency food, and it was an affluent community, would this be the standard of quality? especially if you know the same people coming here every day or every week. But yeah, so culturally irrelevant, and not necessarily healthy.

**Participant 120** 48:13

There is a great partner though, there is a great partner in the game. Flint Fresh. They give out fresh produce, but that's also a branch of our partner of Hurley, Hurley hospital. They do their thing but, very expensive, but I encourage a lot of nonprofits to buy this stuff from there if they're giving out food.

**Interviewer** 48:44

[inaudible] about sort of the benefits of sort of increasing accessibility because it comes right to you, increasing nutritious foods, if it's there, if it's fair to say that but the downside is it's not necessarily the most affordable.

**Interviewer** 49:08

Other sort of connections you want to make with the emergency sector.

**Participant 120** 49:23

This might be a weird one, but at our center there's a food pantry that operates here once a week. Every Wednesday it started about 330 families every week, every week and the pandemic increase, right? But we know that people that come here once a week, also visit other food pantries, which is great. What I question is, if you know a significant amount of families that are getting their food from emergency sectors, does that help support our local grocery stores or our local food system?

**Interviewer** 50:15

This is definitely something- an interesting dynamic that we have been hearing in these interviews and wasn't something that we were necessarily expecting of how the great honestly great work that has done that has been done by different emergency sectors had how that might have changed the dynamic that the prevalence of free food in Flint have made it so you know, things like Flint Fresh are less desirable of like, why would I pay money for these? I could just get it from a place that gives it to me for free.

**Participant 120** 50:54

Yes, there may be times when you know, it's always great. It's weird. It's a, I think, a dichotomy. I think that's the word I'm looking for. But there's times where, man I wish these- well these emergency food systems I know specifically the pantry that gives out food that is desired. And I would say desired by older me who didn't know as much, but they're giving out sweets or chips, kind of junk food. So that's great.

**Participant 120** 51:23

I got something I can eat, but at the same time, that's really unhealthy, that's not good. Dichotomy. Great. I'm sure that people was happy. I think it's furthering the health disparities, contributing to health disparities. Right? Yep. Not sure if it's helpful at all, but in my own experience, I grew up eating hot cheetos every day, every day. And that's literally every day I grew up on it. For years, I ate nothing but McDonald's and hot cheetos.

**Participant 120** 51:57

That's why I eat a fairly healthy diet now for all the damage I've done did to my body, because this is what was available to me. And this is what I could afford: two bags of Hot Cheetos and Arizona tea full of sugar. Found out hot cheetos- well not hot cheetos, chips in general curb the appetite. So that make a lot of sense.

**Interviewer** 52:23

This is a bit of a tangent, again. I've gotten really into the food systems and stuff in the last couple of years. And it's been shocking to me how, you know how much often like people blame individuals for their own health when so often it's like this is like pressures from society. This is like situation. This is like systemic disenfranchisement. And that is the biggest determinant in like what you're able to eat. Rather than like, you being lazy or something like it's it's, you know, it's it's shocking how often it gets portrayed like that. When it is certainly not the case. Rarely your person your own personal decision.

**Participant 120** 53:10

Absolutely. And that's a no. But recently, in this position, I started traveling throughout Genesee County and went to some of the more affluent communities. Kind of taken back. Oh, my goodness. Interesting. But, yeah, I mean, all of it. There's really a lot, especially when we look at right? It's difficult time is an issue. Somebody can prepare cook food for me, that's great. If you use a bridge card you know, put my chicken in the fryer for me. Oh my god. That's wonderful. And it's going to be delicious. Yep, just be like there's a overconcentration of unhealthy options.

**Q7: When you look at the model you created, is there anything you think is missing, or that you want to add to better capture how you think about the food system in Flint?**

**Interviewer** 54:09

And things are getting a bit busy, but I have some tricks up my sleeve, how we can narrow stuff down. Any other concepts you would like to add any other changes or connections before we move on to talking about leverage points?

**Participant 120** 54:32

Yeah, like a complete absence of- of hmm. Right, let's learn a little bit about nutrition wanted to do better. So for a year I practice eating a vegan diet. Had no social life because there's no way to be social eating a plant based because there was no where we could go in Flint that offered anything other than- not even a salad because even the salads had meat cheese, and just terribleness in it. But yeah, if you're trying to be health conscious is almost impossible. The available areas to eat something that would be a balanced meal, hard to find.

**Interviewer** 55:18

Yeah, it's been. I've been vegetarian for many years. And I forget that other people don't have to Google the menu of a restaurant before-

**Participant 120** 55:26

Yeah, I've been out to cities where vegetarian and vegan restaurants are available, or they're just non-existent. I'd also say that it gets back to the hierarchy of human value, or possibly systemic racism.

**Interviewer** 56:40

I'm trying to make it a little bit easier. Alright, anything else or would you like to talk about leverage points.

**Participant 120** 56:51

Well, right kind of goes back to either, probably systemic racism, but right. So Flint has a history that's pretty complex, but economic suppression of neighborhoods is the issue. And that clearly affects them with the food system. That's kind of what I was trying to allude to when I talked about that they used to be more relevant markets and more corner stores that were healthy or culturally relevant.

**Participant 120** 57:23

But the neighborhoods economically suppressed, or even destroyed. Right behind our center is the expressway. Maybe if you went to a couple prominent neighborhoods, right, took away a couple pharmacies, neighborhood institutions. Yep, when I started the job, my granddad told me, oh I used to live right by the center.

**Participant 120** 57:52

I said oh cool, can I see your house? I want to see your childhood home. He said I can't take you there because they don't exist no more. I thought it was just like one of the many blighted out houses as all maybe they got burned down [inaudible]. Who knows? And then, yeah, he told me no, it's underneath the expressway. Oh, so if I wanted to see it, I could just drive 75 miles an hour. But yeah, I mean, that was awesome. That also affects our histories, [inaudible] food system.

**Q9: So now considering your map of the current Flint food system, how would you make changes to improve it?**

**Interviewer** 58:36

I- sorry, I'm just trying to think about best ways to represent concepts because this is all so important, and like significant of a perspective on the system. And sometimes it's just a little hard to turn very real and big things into, you know, boxes and lines. I hope I'm doing ok. Okay. Cool. Um, yeah, maybe, unless there anything else that comes to mind? Maybe we can turn the conversation towards potential leverage points that you see in the system.

**Participant 120** 59:37

That sounds good.

**Interviewer** 59:42

So what are I know, again, it's sort of a free form or maybe a big question, but this could be you know, anything that you would change or add or improve. And it could be small things, big things. Kind of whatever. Whatever you think.

**Participant 120** 1:00:01

Yeah. Could you repeat your question? I-

**Participant 120** 1:00:04

Yeah.

**Participant 120** 1:00:04

I recall a little bit of what it was but I want to make sure I got it right.

**Interviewer** 1:00:08

Sure. I'm sort of, you know, we're trying to sort of explore this work, you know, we're going to build these maps of sort of what's going on in that system, and then explore, you know, if we made this change, or if we added this new thing? How would that impact the outcomes we want? Or how would that change, availability, affordability, you know, quality of life is respected all these sorts of values? So, you know, if you ran the world, basically, if you had total free control, what would be some things that you think would, you know, changes, improvements that you think would have positive outcomes on the food system?

**Participant 120** 1:00:51

That's a good question. Hmm. That's difficult I mean, I don't know I just know, in- I see a couple of these issues, I do- a lot of the issues we focus on, is healthy food just available in the community or neighborhood and then culturally relevant food. That's kind of a big one, because that's the Genesee County issue. But right, part of the problem is we see a number of community members, right, many of them immigrants, who have ran businesses in their home country, and even more specifically ran markets, stores, convenience stores, that would like to do that here are kind of locked out of the whole system of starting your business.

**Participant 120** 1:02:06

But, you know, I think the local community has all the answers to address the needs, but quality alone- if there's a grocery store in- what's that affluent [inaudible] by Detroit? Bloomington or something? I'm not too familiar with Detroit I just know that it's similar-

**Interviewer 2** 1:02:26

Yeah, Bloomfield Hills.

**Participant 120** 1:02:27

Bloomfield Hills, yep, if the grocery store in Bloomfield Hills, it should look the same in Flint. Alright, that's it. The grocery store, like I said, produce looking sad. Trying to get produce at the grocery store that shit is rotten. I'm sorry this stuff is rotten. It's like mm mm. Oh, another, like the culture relevance, like I said, gotta go to three, three different grocery stores to get a majority of your stuff.

**Participant 120** 1:03:01

And you really got to go outside of Genesee County to get everything you need. But right, there's definitely, definitely a presence of Spanish speaking community members in these grocery stores. And we have similar diets. But it's just me as an individual can be frustrating when I get there and all the culturally relevant produce is sold out. So much so that we talked with the grocery store, people asking, where do they start, please produce just to make sure we go on the right day.

**Participant 120** 1:03:36

Yep, making sure things are culturally relevant. Right? If we're talking about nutrition, not everybody's the same diet. If these things are important to health and well being nutrition is the number one thing to make sure they're available in the communities that way people are represented. I wish I had a better answer.

**Interviewer** 1:04:01

That is a great answer. Absolutely a great answer. So this is sort of main point, we have one last thing to talk about on the map, and then we'll sort of wrap up.

**Participant 120** 1:04:14

I hope you got it.

**Q12: We’ve talked a lot about different food system sectors and values, and the impact of COVID-19. Is there anything important about this conversation that I forgot to ask you, or something that you want to add?**

**Interviewer** 1:13:35

I'm gonna save this. And stop sharing. And my last question is really, you know, we talked a lot about these different sectors that we are working with and these values that we found sort of the impact of COVID-19. But is there anything else important about this sort of conversation around food in Flint that we haven't talked about today? And we really want to make sure that we sort of carry forward in this research.

**Participant 120** 1:14:01

Yeah, everything appeases. Yeah, there's a overall, there is a large percentage of the food available whether that be at the grocery stores or just in restaurants in general, that appeases the dominant culture. It would be great to have some food by other cultures. This is particularly prevalent. We look at our downtown selection of restaurants. At this point, I don't care what culture's represented. Anyone would be great.

1:15:00

Yeah, pre-COVID there used to be a thing where people would have lunch meetings. Like people go downtown and invite people over here to east side. "Come on have a lunch with me, come on."

**Participant 120** 1:15:16

Right now contrasted the neighborhood. Safe? Yeah. Absolutely. We're gonna do the same thing with the grocery stores.

**Participant 120** 1:15:47

Yeah, the, just the lack of- right? Like I said, we have a bunch of great- we have a lot of talent. A lot of people who have the professional experience, the education, whatever it may be. But there seems to be a real lack of connecting, right, in these communities, with the economic opportunity to make them happen. I say that because I'm gonna say one more store, which is to waste a little bit more of your time. But there's a- there is a Mexican American, [inaudible] restaurant, in downtown Flint, it's downtown Flint. A New Mexican restaurant opened up because they said there was no Mexican restaurant that was available downtown.

**Participant 120** 1:16:44

And these people do not come from the culture that opened up this new one. As you must be confused because there's one right there. But they said they have authentic Latin American food. All they serve is Mexican food. That's all they serve and I say okay, well, you missed the picture because none of this shit available. They don't eat tacos and the rest of Latin America they eat tacos in Mexico. And then but racist ass logo, racist ass name. So they were inspired when they went out.

**Participant 120** 1:17:21

I think in Southwest Detroit, or something around there, they traveled, they went on some travels, were inspired and came back and had to bring this back to Flint. I said shit, you need to leave the country. You didn't even talk with the people in the city. I was really heated, really mad. I'm just mad about the whole- I'm bitter about it. Because like I said, we have great community members that make real Latin America food. Shit that's not available in Genesee County. So yeah, we need something available. That's not catering to the dominant culture. Something I don't care what it is. Little angry, frustrated is the better word.

**CB Knox** 1:18:02

No, it I mean, it's, it is like- and we try to not be like stuffy researchers, right? Because we're not asking questions about or know some people, you know, we researched snails and sale behavior, you could be stuffy about that this is you know, food is such an integral personal experience and a social experience like this is people's lives. This is people's well being like, you can't just connect the person from that experience in the way you can. Researching snails, you know, so that is fair.