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**SUMMARY KEYWORDS**

sectors, mm, support, food, impact, connection, racial inequity, system, food policy council, access, retailers, programming, local food system, people, supplemental, terms, retail sector, talked, producers, concept

**SPEAKERS**

Interviewer, Participant 213, Interviewer 2

**Interviewer 2** 00:00

There's a video, and there's a video recording in there as well. So the record, the meeting is now being recorded interviews being recorded. And so your participation, again is voluntary. You can choose not to answer any of our questions or even withdraw it from the research at any time, we will definitely keep the recording confidential within our team. And we won't use your name or any other identifying information in the results in the research results. However, you might want to be mindful, we know you're in the office and that people coming in or out my hear something you have to say. So you can mind your own confidentiality there. And if you have questions after the interview, feel free to reach out to us, you know, either of us, both of us with anything else you might want to share, you have our email information. And your concern is demonstrated by you continuing to participate in the interview. Any questions before we get started? No, I'm clear. You're clear. All right, cool. Beans. So this is gonna be the hardest question we're going to ask you during this whole time. For Sally shakes her head when I say that, um, how would you describe your role? And or your experience in local food systems and in particular influence?

**Participant 213** 01:24

How would I explain my role and experience? Well, I would explain my role as a I don't know, I guess I would explain my role as a as a support or a catalyst and change. I have a unique position, because my work is not necessarily tied to operations. My own work is tied to the support of different segments. So whether that be you know, I don't know whether that would be programmatic, grassroots supplemental work, whether that would be education, you know, whether whether that would be access, my job is to find and support those those programs that are going to create change. Now, my experience. My experience is relatively new, I would say, I hadn't had any food systems experience prior to taking this position here, Community Foundation, what I did have was lots and lots of experience with project management, larger projects. So there was some there was some translation that occurred because this was such a big endeavor that require getting our arms around, it puts a strategy behind it. So that's where the intersection is, between my experience being limited, as far as full system was working has been in terms of this being a project that I couldn't do that it must be so god.

**Interviewer 2** 03:04

Yeah, absolutely. Absolutely. Absolutely. And to get into it a little further, we're going to go over with you some definitions, because we're working with five different sectors of local food systems, but this set of interviews, the first sector of being in production, so growing crops or raising livestock, and that can be anything from your backyard to you know, larger farm and production operations. And then secondly, we've grouped processing and packaging together. So those were products are washed and packed and turned into value added products even such as you know, we got a tomato here and then we ended up with lovely salsa that someone made from that. The third third sector being our wholesale and our resellers. So they take the products and goods gather them, things that are made by Produced by others, and they start to move that through the supply chain. And then your retail, where we go to buy our food, you know, the stores, the grocery stores, the convenience stores, the fire stands, the farmers market, the boxes, the restaurants, the caterers, the food, trucks, all those places where people go, and food is sold to customers. And then last but not least, not everything about food is edible, and not all the food is eaten. So we deal with the waste aspect of it which would include composting, but also people who rescue food, they might take edible food and move it you know through the process. Any questions about these definitions or any comments about them before we move forward? No. No? Okay. Okay, um, so based on your experience, where would you see yourself having the most expertise in these in these sectors? Or outside these sectors? Is something different than that?

**Participant 213** 05:26

I don't know, I would say, based on the way I answered your previous question, my experience is going to be pretty evenly spread out amongst all those sectors. So I wouldn't say that I have any more insight in one category over any of the others, I would say, my experience, what I've learned, what I know, it's all been on equal footing for all five of those categories. So okay.

**Interviewer 2** 05:54

Okay, awesome. Awesome. So to get started, it's been your interview, your first interview is probably a year ago. So Chris is gonna take a few minutes and just refresh your recall around how the mental modeling process works. Good.

**Interviewer** 06:13

Awesome. Um, so just like last time, we're gonna be building out your understanding of how the food system works. So even though I'm going to be the one, you know, adding concepts and making connections, we want to make sure that you have a feeling of ownership over it so that you feel very free and welcome to jump in. And correct me just say, I wouldn't connect it that way. You know, I wouldn't word that concept that way, to you know, sort of check my work and make any changes that you like, because it even though I'm the one making it, it is very much war map. So feel free, like feel free to jump in and say, you know, I know, I wanted to look this different way to be accurate to your understanding. So with that, sort of the base understanding, and I'll go through a really quick example of the FCM process. So you know, we have these concepts that have connections to each other, and there's a few decisions need to make with those connections. The first would be if it's positive or negative, which doesn't necessarily mean like a good connection or a bad connection, just if one increases, does the other one also increases or decreases. So if I'm looking at what affects traffic, I could say that the number of cars if there's more cars, more traffic, less cars, less traffic, moves in the same direction, so it's a positive connection. So we'll end up with a blue arrow. Public transportation might be a negative connection and an orange arrow. Because if we have more public transportation, or a better public transportation system, we would have less traffic, so moving in the opposite direction. So that's positive and negative. And then my last decision is the strength of the connection. So really thinking about how impactful or influential is one thing on another, so cars to traffic might be a strong connection, as it's really influential. If tomorrow everyone decided to stop driving their cars, we wouldn't really have a traffic problem. Whereas public transportation is made more of a medium connection, that it can be pretty influential, but it's never going to be you know, like, it's never going to fully solve the problem. Potentially, there's cities with amazing public transportation systems that still have traffic, because, you know, some people love driving their cars, or maybe they live or work somewhere that's not serviced by it, or, you know, they have to do other things, like carry their groceries, and I don't want to do that, on public transportation. Um, a weak connection might be something like the number of cyclists in the city. So if we, you know, advertised and promoted biking to work or something, you know, there might help a little bit with traffic, but it's never going to be a solution to a traffic problem. You know, everyone can't bike everywhere to solve all their problems. Like, if you're trying to move a couch, you're not gonna bike there, and you're not going to take public transportation, like, you're still gonna need a car eventually. And so that's sort of the decisions if it's positive or negative. And if it's a weak, medium or strong connection. Do you have any questions about this process? Oh, awesome.

**Interviewer 2** 09:36

All right, great. So now this base map has all the food sector that we talked about, as well as the ratio and equity which will also leave in at some point. And then so as your role as a [Role] for the [Organization] how do you see your connections to these sectors? And also what do you see as connections even between the sectors themselves?

**Participant 213** 09:42

Well, you know my role is obviously, I do a lot of access to healthy food. Right. So I would say those sectors obviously, all of those sectors play a part in access. Right. And I'm saying access from the standpoint of a resident. I don't know if I'm using the proper term for that. But yeah, so that's, you know, all of those sectors play a part. And obviously, I review different creative proposals or ideas that may fall in line with one or several of those different sectors. I'm not particularly sure how to articulate-I guess it just seems kind of obvious how racial inequity would affect those, those different sectors and how they all relate. So I guess I'll just wait for more questions.

**Interviewer 2** 09:57

Yeah, yeah, let's get a few more concepts up here, before we go there. Because you're right, it's gonna connect, you know, just thinking about what you do, you know, every day and how you interface with these connections, and then these sectors and how you see them interacting with each other, it's probably a good way to just kind of dive into it.

**Participant 213** 10:07

Yeah, so obviously, I see a lot of opportunity in the retail sector, whether that be supporting wholesalers or processors, and supporting their relationships with the retail sector producers as well. There's a lot of support that producers would need prior to even entering the retail sector; there may be some educational components that are needed to create producers to enter the retail sector. So again, my role listed there with funding and grants or whatever the case may be. I would support those types of initiatives, there's a direct line from funding and grants to education as well. Now, I also don't want to leave composters out there as an outlier because there is a lot of opportunity and identifying waste and [Interviewer 2] you remember the conversation that we had when we were at the food bank, and how that just the terms, just the language that we were using took us down-you know we had a tangental conversation but for the purposes of I would say that we're on the same page here and how we understand compost or waste there, there is an opportunity there and there's even an opportunity for composters to get into, or those who work in the area of waste to get into, you know, the retail sector. There's a direct line to those composters. I don't necessarily have those answers, but I do know, but I support folks who may. So it's my responsibility to put them in a position of action so that with the ideas that they have, you know, they can execute. Awesome. The reason why I went with centering the retailers. You know, there's a lot of work that we do here that supports the supplemental food system, right, those safety net programs. To an extent there's some waste within that system that's directly related to duplication of efforts, so to avoid that, to avoid the necessity-well such a heavy reliance on the supplemental sector-that retail aspect creates jobs. People need money to buy their food. I believe that sometimes that's lost in the discussion.

**Participant 213** 12:42

Mm hmm. Right. Uh huh. Yeah. Yeah. Just even having money for food, right? Mhmm, I see that. Yeah. How we looking so far?

**Participant 213** 12:56

I didn't know I had all this in my head before.

**Interviewer 2** 15:10

You haven't seen nothing yet. Anything yet, there was a lot of, while she's sketching those last two concepts, you said something earlier about it takes education to produce producers. That was interesting, you know, you got the education concept there...

**Participant 213** 15:34

I started with that also-I mentioned that because you know, I see my role as helping to support people who have solutions to their problems. Right, solutions that they create to their problems, not that someone tells them they should do but solutions that they arrive at just based out of necessity, right, for their own particular circumstances. So you know, we can create a system here where I know, it seems that at one point, it was just, you know, it was really hot out here to have urban farming and that sort of thing. So that energy has dissipated. But if we go back to that, we can create a local economy of producers, who are wholesalers or resellers who then work within the retail system and may have some direct lines to residents. Right, that may increase their access to healthy food.

**Participant 213** 16:42

That brings me back to-I didn't realize how much I value, I guess, the retail system, but it looks like that's where everything is pointing for me. But, yeah, I mean, that's the issue. I mean, you're familiar with the city, you know, what we're dealing with in terms of grocery stores, corner stores, markets, that sort of thing. This retail system is important, not just to not just to participate in it, but to benefit from it, for generating some money.

**Interviewer 2** 17:59

Right, yeah, I hear what you're saying. You're talking about, you know, just the impact it has on every other sector in the system is what I'm hearing you say, kind of catalyst for the other sectors. Okay. That's excellent. And so when you think about that, let's build on that for just a little bit. And when you think about that, in terms of your perception with retail sector, what kinds of things are impacting the retail sector? Are there things that are helping other things that are hindering you know, are there things about it that you want to speak about and make sure we've got reflected here, so we're aware of the importance of it and its impact?

**Participant 213** 18:50

There are two things I believe impact the retail sector primarily. One would be disinvestment in the neighborhoods where folks needed most. Okay. The other will be transportation.

**Interviewer 2** 19:14

Hmm. Okay.

**Participant 213** 19:19

A lot of those trusted retailers are not always easily accessible to the most vulnerable populations

**Interviewer 2** 19:36

Okay. Yeah. Okay.

**Participant 213** 19:49

Now because of that disinvestment and the lack of retailers, you have all this creative programming that's been born, you have the food coop initiative as well. I also believe that no matter how creative we are, no matter how resourceful residents are, access to capital is important and lobbying in that regard is important as well. Which is why, in my estimation, that should be a platform of this newly formed Food Policy Council.

**Interviewer 2** 20:50

Hmm. Okay. Mm hmm. Say a little bit more about the importance of the access to capital. And they we'll also come back to the role of the Food Policy Council, as you see that in terms of access to capital, say a little more about the importance of access to capital and the things that...

**Participant 213** 21:10

I look at it as a two ends of the spectrum. So access to capital, obviously, impacts entrepreneurship, capital investments, businesses that may center food being available. And then obviously, access to capital directly impacts an individual's ability to participate in that retail sector. You know, we've seen the farmers market, we've seen this investment in the downtown corridor. We haven't necessarily seen it expand further north or further south where it would be more impactful to say. We do see all sorts of creative, resilient programming coming out of these local organizations who do work, right.

**Participant 213** 22:44

We see again, now referring back to the supplemental sector, these pantries, some of the programming, and like I say, some of the larger institutions work. But again, no matter how creative, no matter how resourceful we are, problems are going to be present. Unless that access to capitalist is addressed. We see the type of large scale projects that are possible with that access, and it's been a fight to get that access. But I'll use again, the co op as an example.

**Interviewer 2** 23:31

Right. Gotcha. Yeah, in terms of being able to be in that local food economy, which [Interviewer] has pointed there, Mm hmm. Um, you talked about the food policy council, did you want to go somewhere else for us? I want to go back to that.

**Interviewer** 23:58

Lobbying is disconnected right now. So I think you're?

**Interviewer 2** 24:02

Yes. Yeah. You said, yeah, you felt it was important to lobby for capital, access to capital,

**Participant 213** 24:10

Access to capital and investment in the neighborhoods.

**Interviewer 2** 24:15

Ah and investment in the neighborhoods. Okay.

**Interviewer** 24:18

Are you thinking about, like, local level, state level, federal level for lobbying efforts?

**Participant 213** 24:27

The answer is yes. But if we're making this almost anecdotal-if we're making this local, then obviously, we will be talking about the local and state level. An example would be a voice for how these article funds are going to be distributed, all the COVID Relief dollars that came down in the past few years, we've been advocating to make sure that access to healthly food or just the food system, food sector period is represented in those conversations as it relates to allocation, so.

**Interviewer 2** 25:10

Okay, that's good. That's good. I'm gonna circle you back to, we talked about the importance of the Food Policy Council and really moving this forward, say more about that, that you said the access to capital was a platform you felt that was appropriate for the Food Policy Council?

**Participant 213** 25:31

Sure. So, um, you know, when you put so many different players together, who have an interest or who have skin in the game as it pertains to the local food system. When you have this pool of knowledge and experience, sometimes it's challenging to say, okay, what are we going to do? Why are we meeting? Why are we having these discussions other than just saying, Hey, I know a lot of stuff about a lot of stuff. What are you doing, right? Well, what's important when you when you convene that way, is to create a strategy, create a platform, make a to do list, I guess, almost simplified, right. And I believe that that should be something the Food Policy Council will be built on, I'll give you two examples. One action item, I believe that the Food Policy Council could be instrumental in is organizing that supplemental sector, right, where we have all these different USDA distributions. We have all of this programming at different pantries throughout the week, organizing that work, and putting that organized answer out there for the public see, could be a platform for the food policy council to stand on. That's local on the ground, grassroots tangible work that can be done. There are other more nuanced, sophisticated responsibilities, I believe the Food Policy Council should have, and that would be identifying influential folks in local government, including them in those conversations, including them in the Food Policy Council, so they can take that information to their particular jobs to what they do, and take that information and apply it to the decisions that are being made. And it's really unique, what's going on right now. Because we do have this influx of resources, and we're working to find the best, most effective way to apply those resources. That aspect of lobbying, that aspect of advocating on behalf of the food system as a whole, regardless of whatever the five sectors may be, that would be important work for the food policy council. So that's what I was referring to. And I discussed a lot, okay, affecting policy is going to impact the food system.

**Interviewer 2** 28:20

Okay, got it. Got it. Got it, inclusion and participation. And we're seeing that connecting all the way back to the local food economy. So when we're tracing where that flows to, in terms of what you were saying affecting the whole system. Okay. All right. Great, great, great, great. Other connections you see?

**Participant 213** 29:07

I also think there's a connection between producers and market stores and restaurants. Mm hmm. Moreso markets and restaurants because that can be sort of a niche endeavor. Like, I enjoy dinners, I enjoy nice dinners, I enjoy a nice bourbon every now and then. Right. One of the things that I've recognized, these restaurant tours love to tell you about Farm to Table, they love to tell you that your food is locally sourced. And sometimes when I hear that I go a little bit deeper. And not to be a jerk to the person who's helped us out but I just have these questions. If I don't know, if you're just getting the lip services talking, trying to sell me trying to upsell me, or if this is something that you're really committed to, and what I could see happening here is with that education, that we would support, cultivating these producers, creating different pathways, you know, the market determines, you know, what's bought and sold and we can kind of, you can support that. These pathways for local producers to distribute what they produce, to different markets to different restaurants, and stores as well. But there's a market for that there's an atmosphere that that would support that. And I would, quite frankly, I would love to see more initiatives around it, I was working with a guy who's got some youth programming built around sports, but also one of the things that he has is a growing component, hydroponics farming, so on and so forth. Those young people need something to do with what they grow, they need something to do with that lettuce, or that corn or squash or okra, whatever it is that they grow. And they also need to know that when you work, you deserve to get paid. So they may need that lesson as well. So creating those avenues for distribution, whether that be you know, to the food that whether that be to Flint Fresh, whether that be a stall at the farmers market. That's an avenue that we can create, tying in our outlying counties where a lot of the food is produced to direct to retailers. I think that's an opportunity as well.

**Interviewer 2** 32:04

That's excellent. I'll jump in here for just a second anecdotally. That's essentially what we did. You know, in Detroit, my very first project in Detroit was to help start a youth entrepreneurship program, market garden, so that we started a farmers market site at the location. And they also sold at the main farmers market, in a booth specific for local growers.

**Participant 213** 32:31

Yes that's exactly what I'm talking about.

**Interviewer 2** 32:33

Absolutely. Yeah, that was the very first program we did: compost system, growing, selling, entrepreneur based, you know, program. So just kind of throwing that out there.

**Participant 213** 32:46

So it can be done.

**Interviewer 2** 32:50

1,001st, one out the gate. That was my first project out the gate. Yeah, so we could talk about that another time. But just to say, we'll talk

**Participant 213** 32:56

We'll talk about that.

**Interviewer 2** 33:02

So I heard you tie a couple of things in there, and I'm sure [Interviewer] has got them in terms of not only you know, your traditional producers, but your youth producers, you know, inside of this and you tied it to-you talked about focusing on increasing the access or avenues for distribution, whether it's the hubs or the market, as well. And in tying in the outlying markets, and you pulled in a couple of things in terms of you talked about with distribution, cultivating those pathways for the producers, so that they can get to be in markets is what I heard you say as well. So basically making sure you cultivate the distribution path, focused on that. Okay. Okay. All right. I got those. Um, yeah, you mentioned that there was an atmosphere for this way of working, you want to say a little bit more about that kind of influence and the impact it might be having on the development of these localized sectors?

**Participant 213** 34:13

I think because of that atmosphere, the opportunity to impact the local sectors are there. I'm just not sure that it's been capitalized. Right. Like I'm sure if I sat down and got into some operations with with [Name], for example, right, over at [Organization], you know, what are his Twitter his channels of supply? Where is he? Where is he getting his progress? Where are they gonna stay? How is it scheduled? Geographically growing seasons, like how all of this works? I'm sure there are opportunities for local producers to work with our food hub, right? I'm sure there may even be a need. Now, based on the disruptions in our supply chain, based on COVID, or the rising cost of fuel, but again, the atmosphere dictates that, the market dictates that. If I go to the court for brunch or dinner on a Wednesday night, and they're telling me about their locally sourced food, or it's, they're playing that up, well, then that's what's going to drive the demand for those products. Right. And if there's a demand for it, then there should also be a commitment to our local economy. And we should find a way to help these folks all work together. So the basic components of create those producers, the market for those producers, to distribute their products, and then the education of the consumers, which is going to drive the demand for that for that time.

**Interviewer 2** 36:02

Got it. Let's make sure we got all those Oh, I heard that the atmosphere comes from market demand. And that's basically consumer market demand. And you connect it back to being able to feed that local demand into the local into the local economy, which for us has got there. And you talked about the education of consumers as well as being a part of that. So stay a little bit more about that. I think we got the There you go. There it is. Okay. So education and local consumers. Okay. Um, you mentioned, when you talked about Flint Fresh in terms of the hub, you mentioned a couple of things in terms of what might be leaning into their ability to respond. And you touched, the opportunities, you touched COVID, you touch rising costs, might be some variables that could lead to them being more connected to the local system. [Interviewer], you got all of that. From the hub, when [Participant 213] talked about, you know, when you go deeper, looking at it sources like the hub and saying, you know, is it a sourcing opportunity? Is it tied to COVID? Is it cost related? You got those.

**Interviewer** 37:32

Um, I can go through it and make sure we got everything. So I'm from COVID-19, supply chain disruptions affecting food access, and affordability, potentially prompting producers kind of tie in stuff with this partnerships or pathways for distribution being the sort of mutual benefiting relationships between retailers and producers.

**Interviewer 2** 37:59

The last one thougth [Interviewer] because he made a connection between that supply chain and the food hub itself. Which is actually a wholesaler, yeah. Oh, there we go. We don't want to miss that one.

**Interviewer** 38:15

Would that be a positive or a negative connection?

**Participant 213** 38:20

In my mind? That's a negative connection from the supply chain disruptions to the wholesalers or retailers.

**Interviewer 2** 38:30

Okay, got it. Okay, gotcha.

**Interviewer** 38:34

Yeah, this one is like a light positive, because how I heard you talking about it, which I could have misinterpreted is that, you know, some of these supply chain disruptions actually prompt more local production or sourcing from local producers, because it's harder to get stuff that is from, you know, dependent on like, a more like, national or global icon,

**Interviewer 2** 38:57

for sure. Okay.

39:03

So, also I wanted to...

**Interviewer 2** 39:08

Oh, just real quick, you had it connected to affordability is, um, so that's in terms of the price of the food, right? Yeah. Right. Gotcha. Oh, yeah. In terms of food, they're sourcing. Okay, gotcha. Okay. I just want to clarify.

**Participant 213** 39:23

So I know a lot of what I'm what I'm saying may seem as if it's tilted towards a consumer with needs, right. If you have the ability to participate in the food system, if you have the resources to buy what you need in life more importantly, you're going to have different motivations. So I'm not saying this to shove aside the need for access in our neighborhoods, right. I can think about landmark on the north side I think about landmark on the south side, right? One thing that always hear-that I know for a fact and I was looked at that note is that those prices are not always the best. And in certain cases, the shopping experience is not always the best. Right? I'm talking about landmark on the north side, and the south side, right? Not too far from [store] on the north side. So you have these limited options. Well, with the food co op presenting itself, you don't have competition in the area. Right, you now may have a new bus route in the neighborhoods, right, where you can get to the food co op, all of these things are going to be beneficial, again, to our most vulnerable neighbors. And everything that may be tangentially related or, or an aside, so to speak, must be evaluated and supported. If it if it's you know, if it shakes out that it's that it's positive. So I just wanted to add context, because I know, I know that a new grocery store is not the magic bullet, but we need one. So it doesn't mean that we should just discredit it as if, you know, we're being reductionist by saying that we need that we need it, all of this other stuff, plays plays a part in it. But oftentimes, the folks who say, well a random grocery stores ain't the answer to our people who have means to participate in the ways that we've discussed up to this point. So two things can occupy the same space, two things can be true at the same time, I just wanted to make sure I'm getting that across also.

**Interviewer 2** 41:58

Absolutely. Absolutely. And thank you for calling that out, too. Because, you know, like you said, these things all feed into one another. Yeah. So when you think about that, um, so you mentioned, the vulnerable population, you know, a number of times. So you want to say a little bit about the vulnerable population as it relates to these food sectors?

42:32

Sometimes you have to take what you can get. And you know, it's a little-when you have options that don't present the best choices, we know what those outcomes are, right. And when I say, when I use vulnerable in front of populations, that's what I mean, those populations are vulnerable to those conditions. Right, so presenting options that will allow the population to empower themselves is a focus. Right. And that's where I was going earlier with education. access to transportation. Organizing the supplemental sector, and then feeding into the retailers. It's not one particular thing as people who live in a neighborhoods where you have corner stores or anything else. It's a multi, multi faceted, I guess, approach.

**Interviewer 2** 43:58

Mm hmm. Okay, great. Great, great, great.

**Interviewer** 44:06

Got it. Um, this is, again, I love modeling. I think it's super interesting. I like working in systems, but sometimes you come across stuff that I'm like, this is a big concept means it's hard to simplify it down. So let's have you we're gonna Okay, so first of all, I'm not 100% Certain on the way how would you word this concept? I currently have an option to empower which isn't the best wording but maybe like, Okay, enough to like, represent this big concept. Is there something else you'd rather call it? Choice? Twice? Yeah, okay. Awesome. And so currently, it's connected to education and access transportation, but there's definitely more things that you've covered there. What other connections would you make? To or from this concept?

**Interviewer 2** 45:10

He said two others. One was that concept of organizing the supplemental sector and the other was connected directly to retailers. Okay, those were the other two, I heard.

**Interviewer** 45:20

And it feeds into retailers. Mm hmm. So, um, things like the supplemental sector, access to transportation and education, education, impact choice, and then choice impacts retailers. Awesome. Fantastic. Okay.

**Interviewer 2** 45:42

I'm sorry, [Participant 213], I jumped in there. Okay, cuz I've got two notes on that. Yeah. Um, okay. So, um, what else is, when you think about the system in general, or your role and opportunity to, you know, connect to these things. Anything else that you're seeing right now, before we delve into? Look at that beautiful brain right there on paper? I'll tell you. Right. Okay, and something may come up. So let's Let's chat a little bit about you started earlier to make the connection to racial inequity as relates to the the food system. So what are some of the ways that racial inequity is impacting or equities impacting participation in the local food system?

**Participant 213** 46:58

Yeah, well. That's really broad. Mm hmm, and it would be difficult for me, just because I start somewhere doesn't mean I'm prioritizing that thing, it's just...

**Interviewer 2** 47:21

no gotcha. Gotcha. Yes. Yeah. When you think about the sectors, are there things that you see that, you know, have racial equity or inequity implications as you talk about the different sectors, in particular? And it may be tied to other concepts that are on the map already.

**Participant 213** 47:49

Well, obviously, we know the straight line that goes from which racial inequity to disinvestment in the neighborhoods. Right? We understand redlining, we understand no investment north of certain streets the way I see it in the city or south of certain streets? I think that really drives everything else because obviously racial inequity affects the disinvestment, that would affect the the number of retailers which within having a negative impact on the choice that residents have. I also think that racial racial inequity affects our education system. And obviously, that's an indicator of behavior choices also. Trying not to get too broad right now. Yeah, I'll stop right there.

**Interviewer 2** 49:27

Okay. Um, are there would you consider some racialized barriers to participation in the food system?

**Participant 213** 49:44

Racialized barriers to participation, as it pertains to production value added processors, wholesalers or resellers, composters?

**Interviewer 2** 49:57

Or any of the other concepts that you have on the map that could be presented as barriers and racialized barriers.

**Participant 213** 50:09

Well that access to capital will definitely prevent someone from enacting a solution you know, I may want to, I may want to purchase a food truck which would then put me in the game for working with wholesalers retailers, producers, resellers. But because my zip code has 04 or 05 on the end of it, that loan might not be underwritten, it may be considered too risky.

**Interviewer 2** 51:14

So my geography as an entrepreneur maybe? Okay. Access to capital, where's the access to capital asset? There it is. So the geography connected to access to capital as well? Okay, got it okay.

**Interviewer 2** 51:53

Hmm So let me ask you the third way.

**Participant 213** 52:00

My education level education level or my geography right with my local school system may prevent me right?

**Interviewer 2** 52:27

Mm hmm gotcha yeah, okay.

**Interviewer 2** 53:17

Are there ways that the food system contributes to racial inequity?

**Participant 213** 53:30

Hmm, I'm just you know I'm thinking about production, right. And I'm also thinking about where we could live when the great migration occurred when we came here to work.

**Participant 213** 54:20

We didn't have access to all that land and space and outline cabinets. And we probably didn't move there because of the proximity to the factories just wasn't there, but once we got the resources to be able to do that, there were other aspects that prevented us from from being there. So I guess there's a line of racial inequity, access to land and thereby production. And I'm sure if I sat here long enough, based on what we know about racial inequity, and how it touches every aspect of our interaction here as Americans and globally, but we just being specific right now, so I will say, you know, I'm sure that we can break it down with all of these different sectors. But one thing I'm noticing is, and I'm really working hard not to simplify or be reductionist, like I said before, but when I am drawing these connections, there may be a straight line to racial inequity to retailers. But look at what all comes off retail. Right? There's a straight line access to capital, look at what all comes off my access to capital, so they don't want to undersell this at all. I don't want to make it so simple, but damn, it looks like it is, so.

**Interviewer 2** 56:01

You drawing the connections, they're there, [Interviewer] show him that-they're the ones connected to retail or an access to capital, if you can, and so we can see those connections to those things. So how much of that? I mean, to your point, I mean, it touches so many things. Well, it isn't reductionist at all. It's like honing in on key variables. Right. So you know, yeah, that's the um, anything else on that particular concept before we talk about a couple of others? All right. Okay. And if they come up, we'll get them. So there are things that are major influences and impacts on the food system. So what are what do you see as some of the major impacts and influences you know, on the local food system? What things-either past, present?

**Participant 213** 57:20

Obviously, affordability. Retail choices and options. Okay, retail choices and options. Other things that impacted the food system, obviously, the water crisis.

**Interviewer 2** 57:51

Ah, huh. Okay, how would you describe that in terms of its impact?

**Participant 213** 58:07

It's devastating. But on the other side of that we have a more knowledgeable citizens, and more knowledgeable residents.

**Interviewer 2** 58:21

hmm.

**Participant 213** 58:32

We also had lots of resources that came into the city. From the backside of that, during that I should say, you had a lack of trust was born out of that. So a lot of these institutions and people that we rely on to put the public first, that trust is eroded. So there's work that has to go into rebuilding that and our faith in the systems. But yeah, the water crisis with those resources that came into the city with that money that came in and people were throwing and donating to the city. We had resources for creative programming, we had resources for responsive programming, which created more connectivity within a community.

**Interviewer 2** 59:48

Okay. Okay. Great, connectivity, okay.

**Participant 213** 59:58

You know, I don't want to, again, I I'll say this for context, I'm not downplaying the impact. It's traumatic. And we know the impact, I like to spin, I'd like to identify if this is eventhe right word but positives like stories... we need to highlight the wins, some of our wins.

**Participant 213** 1:00:37

We always have to discuss that against the backdrop of victims, because that's what it is. But out of that, you know, we use this word resiliency all the time. That was I feel at times, overused. That connected community, those responsive programs, solutions based, neighborhood engagement, these types of things came out of that. So and obviously, they're going to affect the food system. Right, as it pertains to access or retailing, or markets or even the waste, or the supplemental sector.

**Interviewer 2** 1:01:26

Okay, so let's look at that you said so you talk about the connectivity and, and responsive programming. I love this language, the responsive programming and solution based neighborhood engagement. So that connected neighborhood that you talked about that connected community, impacted, access, impacted, retail impacted market impacted waste. So having that connected community is what I heard you say solution based network engagement is all in that bubble of connected community. Okay, and it touched all of those things waste excess retail and Mark and other markets markets. Okay. Okay. Yeah, that's a good one to lift up. Mm hmm. Okay, and she's shonwing that through the local food economy -are you good with that representation? Yeah.

**Interviewer** 1:02:33

It's kind of like a couple of steps of like, the connection to community feeds and physical products. If it's a local food economy that supports retailers, and it's all kind of interconnected,

**Interviewer 2** 1:02:44

It's in there. Okay. Okay. Got it. Got it. Got it. Got it. Let's see. Can you click on that one, again, connected to that? Community one?

**Interviewer** 1:02:59

Yeah. So food access, waste. They're connected to demand for local products to local food economy, local food county to retailers, retailers, and sort of interconnect. I think

**Interviewer 2** 1:03:13

He connected that one, too. He added waste to that as well, because he said at first retail waste, specifically, so we might need to add that one. Oh, there it is. Okay. To the economy. Okay. Got it. Okay. All right. Got it. That's the loveliness of looking at this. It's ah, you lifted up COVID earlier in terms of impacts. Anything else you want to add to that? Because you talked about its impact on the supply chain. Other ways you want to talk about how COVID impacted this the local system?

**Participant 213** 1:03:53

Well, yeah, I mean, you know, obviously, it is if it affects our supply chain, if it interrupts that we're talking about cost increases, and then we're also going to talk about scarcity which would, again, impact costs, right. So from that aspect, and then again, you know, we we shut down our economy. And people who worked service industry jobs were hurting, they were hurting. And that drove a lot of reliance on the supplemental sector. Right. And just locally, my conjecture is that there's a lot of disorganization within that supplemental segment. So I can imagine how frustrating that would be to navigate that as a necessity especially When you've been told you can't go to work.

**Interviewer 2** 1:05:20

All right. Um, any other things you feel having major influence on the system, the local system. We got the shocks, the water crisis and COVID. And the disinvestment, which you pointed to anything else?

**Participant 213** 1:05:49

Oh, man, I, you know, we've supported a lot of educational programming, right? Healthy food, lead mitigating food, two gen approaches, cooking classes with parents and children. Those things are great. But it's very difficult to measure behavioral changes, or the impact of those types of a bad type of program. So that fuzzy-that led up to that point, the program is super tight after that, after programming, is there some ambiguity, I don't know, if the participants are making these decisions, these choices in their shopping for what they purchase to cook and eat, how much has that changed based on an eight week cooking class they may have gone through or something that the youngsters learned at school that was supported, right? So just the follow up in some of these in some of the programming that's supported. Just for efficacy, just to see how impactful it is to see something that people even care about after it's been concluded, you know, those behavioral changes. Again, just my conjecture, but I believe we'll impact the food system, because they're directly related to what the market offers residents. You know, if I've been armed with knowledge, and I know how to cook more healthy options for my family, and I'm assuming all the best things about this, right, I'm assuming that you know, this is culturally relevant, you know, we have the tools necessary to prepare the foods in this particular way. Well, now, I'm taking that knowledge to the grocery store, to the farmers market, to the corner store, right. Hopefully, this will impact you know, my behavior and what I bring to my household. So education really is impactful on the food system, but also the mechanism that we measure. That's going to be important as well. And I don't know if we've all figured it out yet. But that's important.

**Interviewer 2** 1:08:53

Yeah, that's a big one that you lift up. I mean, that triggered a whole bunch of stuff, when you talked about the things that are done the classes, the learning, all the education being able to measure the impact and efficacy of that. And I heard, I heard two different things I heard. Do they care and does it change behavior? So the behavior trail led us down to culturally relevant foods, it led us also to having the proper tools you said to prepare, be equipped. So not only is their culturally relevant food, but also the tools to actually be able to do what they need to do. Um, I heard those kind of tease, tease out a little bit more. And then obviously, like you said, that lead right to the knowledge to the store to the behavior,

**Participant 213** 1:09:56

When I use the phrase, do they care? What I mean by that is I don't mean that there's an apathy or there's a dismissive energy to it. I mean, when I have to prioritize for my family, can I make these decisions? Or do I have to compromise? Do I have to compromise, do I have to sacrifice something? So maybe I should have flesh that out a little more. I'm not...

**Interviewer 2** 1:10:34

No, no, no, it just asked just for clarity. Not for sure. Hey, you know, so prioritization in your tying that back to whether there's a behavior change, you know, because that's where, where you were at, you know, many places somewhere else, you said, prioritization, to be able to make the decisions without compromise and sacrifice, thought to make sure that we were reflecting that in terms of behavior change comes from prioritization, following what you were saying, you know, prioritization and decision making. Right, correct. Okay. Change. And decisions. Okay, great. Got it. And that was tied to behavior change. Okay, got it. Okay. All right. Now, this is this is good. This is good. Um so this is, uh, this is your beautiful brain on paper. And going back to an earlier example, and Chris talked about the nuance with traffic and things like that. Is there anything else that might become you know, a friend of mine, even now, as you you know, as you look at this, just like we talked about, hey, if we, if we improve something in the system, some other thing changes, anything coming to mind concept wise here, before we bring it in for we're coming close to a landing here?

**Interviewer** 1:12:20

Or like, possible leverage points?

**Participant 213** 1:12:21

See, this is my least favorite part. Because what happens here is, what time is it right now? It's 11:18, I can guarantee you at 1:48 or something, I will think about something else.

**Interviewer 2** 1:12:38

You know, I mean? And that's when you do that email, are you down? And you tell us, hey, I thought about this. It's okay. Hey, we all got some delay processing going on. So we're good with that. We know you and definitely reach out. There's something you don't like, I missed this on my map. So as we're thinking about this, um, Damon with all of all those great things, you know, that these that you've outlined on the map right now, we started look at considering changes that would improve the system, you know, what would you see? What would you what kind of changes would you make to improve the system? So here we're talking about things that could be leveraged points could be enablers could be-what kinds of things would you see yourself making changes to?

**Participant 213** 1:13:38

I'd like dedicated bus routes to the grocery stores to the food Co Op. I'd like some support for local entrepreneurship within the food system. I'd like more operational support from the philanthropic side. Typically, the support that organizations request is always tied to programming. I'm not sure that that's always equitable, because some organizations just need operational support that they wouldn't be able to get if they walked into Huntington and said, I need $19,000 for this type of programming, this endeavor, whatever the case may be.

**Interviewer 2** 1:14:47

They couldn't access the traditional route: capital. Okay, so there's that tied back to access to capital.

**Participant 213** 1:14:56

Mm hmm. I'll give you a give you an insight, I may get a proposal from an organization that says, hey, I need a $70,000 for a staff member who's going to run the educational component of my strategic plan in my organization. And I, you know, I get my pin out, I do the math, and I create a timeline. And I work with this organization, and I help flesh out what their priorities would be. What's the most important staff member they may need? And then I go to committee, and I present this proposal to a committee. They say, [Participant 213], this is, this is really great work. But again, this will just address operational support. And we don't fund those types of programs. So now we're back to square one. Whereas we would use philanthropy, fill in the gaps that are created by access to capital, I have another barrier, which I don't even know if I should just draw a direct lines of funding and grants for racial inequity. But I'm sure it's there.

**Interviewer 2** 1:16:39

You just drew it.

**Participant 213** 1:16:41

Just an example. And that's, that's frustrating. How do we define what's worthy of support? It's almost easier to say, hey, I'd like this cute program, I'm going to give them some money, that's great. Take some pictures, watch my pocket, as opposed to supporting this organization and setting them up for long term sustainable impact. I can't always just value programming, over capacity building operational support. But definitely impressive.

**Interviewer 2** 1:17:36

If I can unpack that, just a hair, you're talking about the the types of funding options that philanthropy offers, when you say, leap on this, but we don't fund that, you know, programs over capacity building over operational support. So just make sure that I got you on that.

**Participant 213** 1:18:04

Yeah, it's easier to attach. It's easier to identify a program, there's a beginning of it. There's something tangible there. This is what we're doing.

**Interviewer 2** 1:18:29

Mm hmm.

**Participant 213** 1:18:30

It seems so much more valuable than a concept at times, and rightfully so at times. But the concept of building capacity to execute programming at times can be just as valuable as the actual program. You don't support or you can't support those initiatives, that can be, that's a barrier. So very okay.

**Interviewer 2** 1:19:07

Okay. All right.

**Participant 213** 1:19:16

You know, that is not my thing, not the talking guy you notice.

**Interviewer 2** 1:19:33

I just know how to ask the right question. So thank you for that. I mean, in the midst of all of that, is there anything possible and it might be like that ping that happens now or at 148? Anything else that was important that we either didn't think to ask you, or just might even be surfacing you know, now, you know, as we're kind of closing in on how would you change this system, how would you improve that

**Interviewer** 1:20:01

or anything else that

**Interviewer 2** 1:20:02

you may have touched on?

**Participant 213** 1:20:04

You know, I know that there's been so much that's gone into this research project. And I'm at the point now where I may even I may even really narrow the way that I view things and say, this is something that I would like to happen. This is something that I like to happen, but I'm not going to discredit all the work all the input that went into this. Because now I'm at a point where I'm really relying on this process to help nudge me in a direction where I identify leverage points. I tend to do a pretty sharp dude, you know, I mean, I know how to get-but I also know that with all the work, the way that this is structured, there are things that are going to be presented to me that are going to come out of this that I'm going to identify also. So I'm relying on this research to help me in that regard. Because I don't have all that, despite what I think I may know, I don't have a lot of answers.

**Interviewer 2** 1:21:15

Right. Right.

**Participant 213** 1:21:17

But it's in this research, I believe that. Hmm. I do believe that. Thank you. I'm just I'm waiting. I'll refer to this often. And [Interviewer 2], you know, I've referred to this but that that menu of options that came from that was, I was gorgeous. Mm hmm. Okay, organized, that was linear, it was contextualize. I could just have to suspect I could just see something like that come as a tool coming from, from all of this work out over the last few years.

**Interviewer 2** 1:22:03

Okay. We got it all. Talking the rest of the day. Day to day, money as well, as always, Damon, thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, thank you. And just as our final reminder that the entire interview everything we've talked about confidential, your name's not on anything, we're going to use the results and use the information to help do our work. At 148, when that next talk pings you, you've got Chris's email, my email, our phone numbers, by all means please, please, please. And I know phone. Thank you, by all means, please do you know reach out to us. Um, the last thing today that we have in terms of ask is, as always, we do the evaluations and we do appreciate you taking a couple minutes, Crystal send you an email as well. So you can either take it out of the chat or you can get it out of your email. And back to us. A couple things you'll notice in that email is that we are still we're working through the end of this month to complete this next cycle of interviews. So we do have a few more opportunities open. So if you know some people, you know, as you're thinking through it now that you feel, you know, hey, get them in a seat means please pass that onto us via the via survey or via, you know, direct contact us so that we can invite them in or invite them and just give them our information and we'll reach out. We've got some seats still open this week, a couple so we appreciate any help you can, you know, any any insight you have for people to get their voices, you know, in this conversation, so, okay. Alright. Okay. So with that, thank you again, and now. We'll see you. I'll see you Wednesday.

**Participant 213** 1:24:09

Thank you. I appreciate you all included me any to ask any questions about this. So thank you for sticking by aftershave.

**Interviewer 2** 1:24:20

You're welcome. Yeah. Thank you. All right. Have a great day. Good afternoon. All right. Bye.