The City of Philadelphia has had an active FOOD POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL (FPAC) since 2003, but the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, lockdown, and response raised food and climate issues into the public consciousness and brought an ambitious strategic initiative on food. FPAC was charged with coordinating across municipal departments to develop a food system strategy focused on sustainability, public health, economic resiliency, and racial equity. With significant staff and member engagement. Through FPAC has been working on the ground for a decade to create a healthier, just, and sustainable food system, 2020 marks a significant step in the advancement and coordination of that work by the City of Philadelphia.

ENABLES
CENTERING JUSTICE IN FOOD POLICYMAKING

FPAC’s mission, to create a unified food system where all people can access affordable and healthy food, and be engaged in decision-making on the interconnected and systemic nature of injustices in the food system, is driven by the interdependent issues of food justice and climate change. The pandemic complicated traditional public engagement processes, but they also quickly gained buy-in and visibility by prioritizing “low hanging fruit” interventions that reduced food insecurity and ensured that food was available to all, while also addressing climate change.

FOOD POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL (FPAC) since 2003

Since its inception, FPAC has served as a vehicle for public engagement regardless of income. Members, to acknowledge their engagement and ensure participation platforms. FPAC has also started offering stipends to appointed community members, to acknowledge their engagement and ensure participation. FPAC also started offering stipends to appointed community members most impacted by injustices in the food system.

INTEGRATED AND COLLABORATIVE POLICYMAKING ACROSS CITY GOVERNMENT

Financially speaking, FPAC has worked with the City’s Office of Children and Families an environment for integrated food and climate policies. Through the City Council’s commitment supporting a food system will also need agreements between the municipal government, non-profit residents, business owners, urban growers, farmers, distributors, and other food advocates. FPAC continues to engage in its role as a facilitator, bringing together City and community members most impacted by injustices in the food system.

BARRIERS
FOOD ELEVATED AS PRIORITY BUT LACKING RESOURCES

While the citywide strategic initiative on food, climate, and equity, and policies, this ambitious plan to address and solve the complex issues of food apartheid by structural and institutional racism, the history of food apartheid and access, while centering climate justice. This ambitious plan includes community building and healing for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPC) Communities. Growing from the food system where food was listened to, across the urban agriculture food chain: from production and transportation to consumption and waste. Based on the needs and assets of the community, the plan will identify resources, policies, and programs necessary to sustain and grow urban agriculture opportunities in Philadelphia.

CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MECHANISMS

Since its inception, FPAC has served as a vehicle for public engagement between residents and the City, and its members continuously communicate with departmental cooperation, as well as collaboration between residents and the City. FPAC centers justice in its policymaking process, promoting the idea that all residents, business owners, urban growers, farmers, distributors, and other food advocates and experts.

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