



## Slow Food North Louisiana

### Equity, Inclusion and Justice Action items

*Approved by Chapter July 2020*

#### 1. Membership and Board Development

- a. We will encourage a diverse range of perspectives and experiences within our board of directors. We will spend the next 4-5 months doing outreach among existing board members and local Slow Food members to identify new members of the board that can be included in the 2021 slate of directors and officers at the 2021 annual meeting (usually in January). We will also review our Board of Directors and Officers Job Description document to ensure that it clearly states a diverse range of perspectives and experiences is a priority.
- b. We will strongly encourage all members of the Board of Directors to participate in the [YWCA Dialogue on Race series](#), as well as local Slow Food members. This will begin immediately.

#### 2. Intentionally Inclusive Programming

Slow Food North Louisiana (SFNLA) will review our annual programming and look for ways to expand existing programs or create new ones to uplift the voices of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and honor the resilience and resistance of BIPOC communities and individuals in the food system.

- a. **Story Sharing:** add opportunities for Slow Food members and non-members in the community to tell their food stories at all Slow Food events and on our social media outlets.
- b. **Recipe Sharing:** share recipes for foods indigenous to our region (of course featuring Ark of Taste items when possible, like the green striped cushaw)
- c. **Seed Sharing:** share seeds for foods that are indigenous to our region (featuring Ark of Taste seeds when possible) and encourage local growers to cultivate them.
- d. **SFNLA Book Club:** begin a Slow Food North Louisiana book club (target is to meet quarterly and via Zoom until further notice), with intentional emphasis on including books with an EIJ perspective. SFNLA will review its budget to determine our capacity to purchase a certain number of the books to be read to share among members that don't have it within their budget to purchase them. We can also seek a partnership with the Shreve Memorial Library and Bossier Library around our book club selection. This could start as early as 3Q20. Some suggested titles include:
  - i. *The Cooking Gene*
  - ii. *High on the Hog*
  - iii. *Soul Food*
- e. **SFNLA Dinner and Movie Series:** expand upon our existing dinner and a movie series with intentional emphasis on selecting films that align with EIJ goals and that include post-screening discussion. These could occur in the months in between Book Clubs (3 times per year). This could begin immediately, but our goal is to have at least one virtual Dinner and a



Movie event in 2020. Some suggested films that would be good during social distancing (because available online) include:

- i. Kevin Mitchell SFUSA Live Stream “A History of Southern Food”
- ii. *Can You Dig This* about people whose lives changed working in a garden in South Central Los Angeles, featuring Ron Finley, the Gangsta Gardener.

### 3. Relationship building with partner organizations

We will increase our support of community partners that are working to combat inequity and injustice in our regional food system with whom we already have relationships, and actively seek partnerships with other organizations with this focus to improve success for all. We will do this by direct communication with our existing partners to learn where they need help most and asking existing partners and local members about ideas for new partnerships. We will complete this outreach no later than December 31, 2020 and present a report to our membership and partners no later than our 2021 annual meeting (usually in January). Some examples that were already given include:

- Community Renewal International and their Friendship Houses
- YWCA and their Dialogue on Race series
- MSKICK (Milam Street Kitchen Incubator and Community Kitchen, a program of Southern University at Shreveport and the City of Shreveport)

### 4. We Grow Together

Amplify local awareness of the **We Grow Together** Campaign and Slow Food North Louisiana’s part in it. Slow Food North Louisiana is a founding member of We Grow Together, the mission of which is to **“Grow a Healthy Regional Food System for the ArkLaTex.”** Because of its mission, much of We Grow Together’s programming seeks to address the inequities in our food system that disproportionately affect BIPOC communities, largely around healthy food access, nutrition and health awareness, and using food as a way to rebuild a sense of community in neighborhoods in Caddo parish in particular.

We have been doing this work for just under a decade, but we have not been intentional and regular in our communication about it to our membership or the public at large – not just that it exists but WHY it exists. We will begin working with our other We Grow Together founding partners (LSU AgCenter and Red River Coalition of Community Gardeners) to ensure that we ramp up communication about this movement going forward from today and that we always state WHY it exists.

### 5. Support BIPOC Food Growers and Producers

The Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau in July 2020 launched a website featuring Black-owned restaurants, and Slow Food North Louisiana will create a companion online inventory of **BIPOC-owned farms and food producers** that will live on our website. We will also endeavor to source from this list as much as possible when we are hosting Slow Food events that involve shared meals. We will launch this effort in summer 2020, starting with an inventory of BIPOC vendors at the Shreveport Farmers Market and other local markets.



Additionally, Slow Food NLA regularly gives **stipends** to members of our community interested in attending food and farming related workshops/conferences. Going forward, we will be intentional to market these opportunities and specifically state that BIPOC applicants are encouraged to apply. We believe this could increase the number and sustainability of future BIPOC farmers and food producers in our region.

**6. Slow Food North Louisiana Marketing and Communication that is EIJ Aware**

Assess the Slow Food North Louisiana online presence and digital content, with an eye towards eliminating language and media that may undermine EIJ efforts, and amend all content for more inclusive, accurate and thorough representations of our food community.