

Slow Food Chicago

Letter to our Community

June 2020

A couple weeks ago, amidst national heartbreak over the senseless deaths and oppression of black people in this country, Slow Food Chicago put forth a commitment. We committed, alongside [Slow Food USA](#), to make Slow Food an anti-racist organization that authentically pursues good, clean and fair food for all. It's a modest commitment given the large and urgent need to end racism across all sectors and systems in America, yet it's our way to add to the fight. Over the past few weeks we have discussed, planned for, and acted on this commitment. We know change won't happen overnight. It will take a conscious effort over the longterm to dismantle systemic oppression and racism within our food system. We are motivated to contribute to the fight and make meaningful progress day by day. Today, we'd like to outline a few steps we are taking to honor this commitment.

Slow Food Chicago will:

1. Seek out, partner with, and promote more Black, Indigenous, People Of Color (BIPOC) owned restaurants, farmers and food businesses starting with highlighting and supporting BIPOC-owned farms for our upcoming fundraiser, adding more BIPOC-owned businesses to our Snail of Approval nomination list, and promoting BIPOC-owned businesses on our social channels.
2. Share a summer reading, watch and listen list with our community that highlights our recommended books and films on topics of food equity, inclusion and justice. We plan to follow this up with in-person book and film discussions once allowed.
3. Participate in the Food Solutions NE 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge
4. Hire a consultant to work with our Board of Directors on how to be actively anti-racist.
5. Add a new section to our website to share our learnings and relevant equity, inclusion and justice resources with our community in an accessible way.
6. Diversify our primarily white-women led Board of Directors by engaging with and recruiting in new communities.
7. Make events more accessible by providing scholarships to those in need.

There is so much more to be done and we promise to keep you updated as we attempt to move the needle forward. We invite you to join us in this work so we can create a more equitable, inclusive and just food system that provides good, clean and fair food for all. We would also like to listen and learn from YOU. If you have feedback or ideas for how we can do better in this regard as a chapter, please email us at info@slowfoodchicago.org.

With love and hope,
The Slow Food Chicago Board