Community Food Systems Hub—New Haven

Collaborators

Vision

We envision the Community Food Systems Hub as a place to catalyze, design, build and maintain a local food system that works for every New Havener and that can be a model for grassroots food systems change across the state and country.

We are committed to food systems work within four arenas: food justice, environmental preservation and justice, equitable economic development, and community building. The Community Food Systems Hub will be the nexus of urban food and agriculture in the New Haven area.

Shared Values

The Community Food Systems Hub will support:

- Equitable economic development
- Racial equity (mitigating & ceasing harm)
- Sustainable, local agriculture
- Celebration of food and culture
- Food justice
- Self-determination / food sovereignty
- Community building
- Environmental justice
- Integrity
- Authenticity
- Gratitude
- Resilience
- Humility
- Haven / safe space
- Grassroots systems change
- Collaboration

Priority Site Components

- Market space
- Cafe/retail space
- Commercial kitchen with 6 stations for food business incubation, loading dock
- Teaching kitchen
- Farm / growing space with potential for greenhouse, chickens, bees, herb garden
- Open office space for all involved, as well as flexible office space for rent
● Outdoor engaging space
  o Grassy community and play space / shaded outdoor space / educational space
  o Outdoor kitchen space (electricity, water, countertop, two wash stations, pizza oven!)
  o Kids area (playground, climbing wall, ropes course, touch space)
● Parking (cars, bikes, food truck electrical outlets)
● Storage (dry, cold, materials, soil/compost/wood chips, bobcat, tools, boats)
● Flexible / unplanned space for community input and growth
● Flexible indoor programming / event space (preferably) opens up to outdoors
● People of Color-directed space
● Community art
● Bathrooms (including shower for bike commuting)

Total Square Footage: 16,000-20,000+
Parcel Size: 1+ acres
Other ‘nice-to-have’ aspects: youth space, info desk, woodshop, indoor childcare space, boat launch, environmental trail
Ideal design attributes: flexibility, efficiency, natural light, collaborative work environment, LEAD certification, iconic, inviting and welcoming

**Anticipated Programming**

● Food-based business incubation and acceleration
● Cafe/ farmers’ market/retail establishment for sales of food products from food-based business incubator/accelerator participants
● Food, nutrition, and agriculture educational programs
● Agriculture/food youth entrepreneurship programs
● Private events
● Food/community public events

**Budget**

The estimates below are based on potential real estate options and previously dimensioned architecturals.
Building Acquisition: $750,000 - $1.5 million
Build-Out and Retrofit: $1 million - $1.5 million
Total: $1.75 million - $3 million