The Capitol Hill Farmers Market to Move Locations April 18th

After 10 years in its location outside of Seattle Central Community College, this beloved neighborhood staple is moving to a permanent home.

Capitol Hill, Seattle: The Neighborhood Farmers Markets (NFM) is thrilled to announce that the Capitol Hill Farmers Market, a year-round source of local produce and artisanal foods, will be moving to a new, permanent home this spring. Shifting a block north of the market’s current location outside of Seattle Central Community College, the new site won’t be hard to find. With the move comes growth. The new layout will include E Denny Way (E Barbara Bailey Way) between Broadway and 10th Ave E, as well as the adjacent plaza in front of the light rail station entrance.

Market Manager Ele Watts is excited for the opportunity to expand our vendor base and local offerings for the Capitol Hill community. “I’m excited for the market to move to its new, forever-home located in the heart of Capitol Hill! This new site will help the market grow into an even more vibrant community space for the neighborhood. We’ll be able to expand the number of vendors in the market, so shoppers will find a huge variety of fresh, local foods, beautiful flowers, and delicious treats every Sunday, all year round.”

With the move comes security for the vendors at the Capitol Hill Farmers Market and community members that support and rely on it. To NFM Executive Director Jennifer Antos, the new site is a guarantee that this essential food source is here to stay. “Over the years, markets have been displaced by development and construction. A permanent home for the Capitol Hill Farmers Market was prioritized by the community. With a long-term agreement in place, farmers and shoppers can rely on the market for fresh, local food for years to come.”

Antos also sees a great deal of potential in the newly developed space for use by neighborhood residents, “In addition to a home for the Capitol Hill Farmers Market, we are-excited about being a part of an entirely new public place. The AIDS Memorial Pathway, E Barbara Bailey Way, and the proximity to Cal Anderson Park all enhance the connection between residents, visitors and this place that we share.”

The Neighborhood Farmers Markets wishes to thank the community and many partners who have worked tirelessly to realize a permanent home for the Capitol Hill Farmers Markets. Partners include the Capitol Hill Champion for leading an active community engagement process and centering community priorities, the City of Seattle and Sound Transit for site planning and development, the AIDS Memorial Pathway for realizing a historic public art project, Edlen & Company and Green Cities Property Management for prioritizing public
spaces and long term use by the Capitol Hill Farmers Market, and Seattle Central Community College for being a home and operating partner to the Capitol Hill Farmers Market since 2011. Finally, we wish to thank the neighborhood and community for their ongoing support of the Capitol Hill Farmers Market.

About the Neighborhood Farmers Markets:

Neighborhood Farmers Markets began in the University District in 1993 and since then has grown to include seven food-only farmers markets across Seattle, with a mission to support and strengthen Washington’s small family farm businesses while educating consumers about seasonal eating, local agriculture, and the importance of supporting our local farm economy.

Pre-COVID, NFM hosted over 200 farm and food businesses within the markets selling a wide variety of products, including produce, honey, eggs, dairy, protein, prepared food, and alcohol. In 2019, NFM hosted 237 market days and over 11,000 vendor stalls! In addition, over $500,000 were spent via food access programs that ensure equal access to fresh food for all income levels. Community groups and nonprofits were offered 193 booth spaces in the markets and 23,765 pounds of food was donated to local food banks. The NFM works with a range of federal and local food access programs, including SNAP, SNAP Market Match, WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, and Fresh Bucks Vouchers.

However due to COVID-19 and local restrictions resulting in market closures, a limit on the number of participating vendors, decreased capacity for shoppers, and an increase in overhead equipment costs, an incredible amount of lost revenue is the reality for this nonprofit organization. The future of farmers markets in Seattle depends on the support of dedicated weekly shoppers, generous donors, community partners and local government. If you would like to learn more about the markets, please visit https://seattlefarmersmarkets.org/

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