

# SALT LAKE CITY RESIDENT FOOD EQUITY ADVISORS PROGRAM

## About the Project

In 2020–2021, the Sustainability Department piloted a unique engagement program for resident leaders from historically underrepresented and underserved communities to participate in how Salt Lake City tackles healthy food access. The Resident Food Equity Advisors consisted of 13 residents from a diversity of backgrounds who met monthly to strategize solutions that would be most beneficial for their communities. One goal of the program was to identify solutions that reflect the knowledge, lived experiences, and diverse priorities of residents whose lives have been impacted by inequities in the food system. The Advisors deepened the City's understanding of local food insecurity and the unequal barriers some residents face when trying to access healthy, culturally appropriate, and personally relevant food. The program culminated in a report with recommendations for how the City can achieve greater food equity.

## Some Key Ideas From the Report

- » Put people first and prioritize voices from underrepresented and underserved communities by creating ongoing leadership opportunities to co-develop SLC's food policy agenda.
- » Acknowledge and address the structural causes of food inequity and injustice, including the role of past and current policy.
- » Support holistic solutions that provide equitable and reliable access to fresh, healthy, affordable, and relevant food — including the ability to grow food.
- » Recognize that “normal food” means something different for everyone and food access solutions must reflect this diversity.
- » Advance solutions that reduce stigma and cultivate dignity and self-determination.
- » Prioritize food planning and investments in historically marginalized neighborhoods, building on local strengths and opportunities and celebrating SLC's diverse food cultures.

*“This is only the beginning because a tree is only as good as its fruit, and I hope the seeds of such fruit produce an entire forest! Take the report and build off from it, critique it, or add to it, just don't forget about it.”*

— **CRISTOBAL M VILLEGAS JR**  
2020-21 SLC Resident Food Equity Advisor

# Recommendations From the Report



» **Adopt a Mayor-City Council Joint Food Equity Resolution** to show residents, visitors, and businesses that SLC is committed to advancing food equity as vital to the city.



» **Develop more inclusive outreach and communication strategies** for food resources. Ensure that information is tailored for people with differing needs, languages, and life circumstances.



» **Continue the Resident Food Equity Advisors Program** and pursue other inclusive leadership opportunities, such as a Food Equity Academy, that empower residents to co-develop equitable food solutions.



» **Develop a Food Equity Assessment & Action Plan** using an inclusive process to identify “priority zones” and generate equitable solutions for turning underserved areas into “edible landscapes” or “food oases”.



» **Support programs that expand relevant and dignified food choices**, such as food or cash vouchers or client choice food pantries.



» **Create a healthy neighborhood corner market or food cart initiative** to promote fresh food retailing and discourage the inequitable distribution of unhealthy foods.



» **Expand opportunities for residents to grow more food** by developing “Edible City for All” educational events and resources, planting neighborhood orchards, and awarding microgrants for backyard gardening.

# What's Next?

The Sustainability Department has set aside funding to plan and implement some of the Advisors' recommendations, including the continuation of the RFEA program. Stay tuned for future announcements!

# Learn More

**DOWNLOAD THE FULL REPORT:**  
[www.slc.gov/sustainability/rfea](http://www.slc.gov/sustainability/rfea)

This project was funded in part with a grant from Healthy Babies Bright Futures and the Mayors Innovation Project.

*“I look forward to the day I see a Food Oasis in safe streets on the West Side of Salt Lake City offering healthy restaurant food options.”*

— **LISIA SATINI**

2020-21 SLC Resident Food Equity Advisor



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