

The Art of Placemaking:

**Food Security through Farming, Black Food Sovereignty,
and Community Connections**

Closing the Hunger Gap conference
Tuesday September 12th, 2017



Unity Farm



Mudbone Grown: How the journey began...

GROW-HEAL-BUILD

MUDBONE GROWN, LLC

MudBone Grown is a small black- owned small farm and food business enterprise working in and serving the Portland-Vancouver Metro area. MudBone Grown is committed to building a more resilient, thriving, and entrepreneurial food and maker community in which cooperation and shared economy are standard.

MudBone Grown is in the business of growing food, growing community health, growing business, and growing community culture around delivery of the triple bottom line to historically absent or barriered communities.

MudBone Grown practices and teaches what it promotes, and as part of a motivated and dedicated collaborative, we are working to establish a more just and equitable sustainable food system in the Portland Metro area.

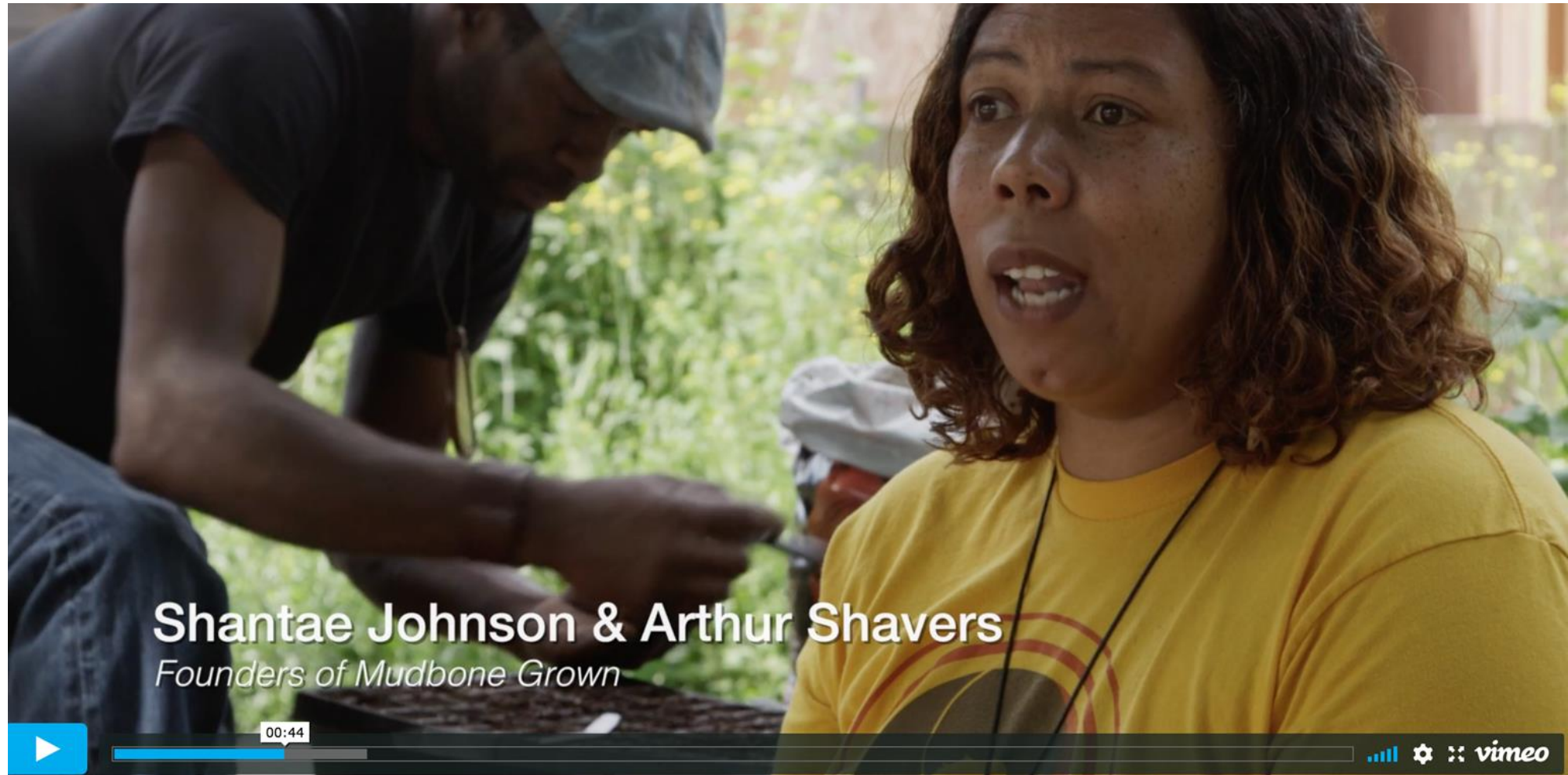


Mudbone Grown: Our vision

To honor our ancestors' wisdom as land stewards, train the next generation of food movement leaders through farming, while building cultural pride that is grounded in the ability to be self-sufficient.



Right2Root



Oregon Food Bank:

Addressing the root causes of hunger



Garden
education



Nutrition
education



Community food
systems organizing



Advocacy/
public policy

Oregon Food Bank: Equity Commitment

At Oregon Food Bank, we hold people experiencing hunger and food insecurity in Oregon and SW Washington at the center of our actions and decisions. We envision a community where each person can participate, prosper and have access to food that is both nourishing and in keeping with their culture. We recognize that systemic injustices exist – such as racism, classism, and sexism – and that these create and perpetuate conditions that sustain poverty and hunger.

Understanding this, we commit to serve marginalized communities, in both urban and rural environments, in ways that value who they are and their lived experiences. We resolve to listen to and include these communities in our work, and to respond where bias and inequities appear. We will confront oppression and poverty by developing solutions to hunger that are community-driven, honor a diversity of needs, and value everyone. Our food programs and public policy efforts aim to build a society where everyone can thrive – celebrating our differences and working together to overcome injustices that might divide us...*because no one should be hungry.*



Growing national interest in food gardening

1 in 3 households now grow a portion of their own food

38% increase in gardens among households with incomes under \$35,000



Oregon Food Bank: Farm and garden



Unity Farm



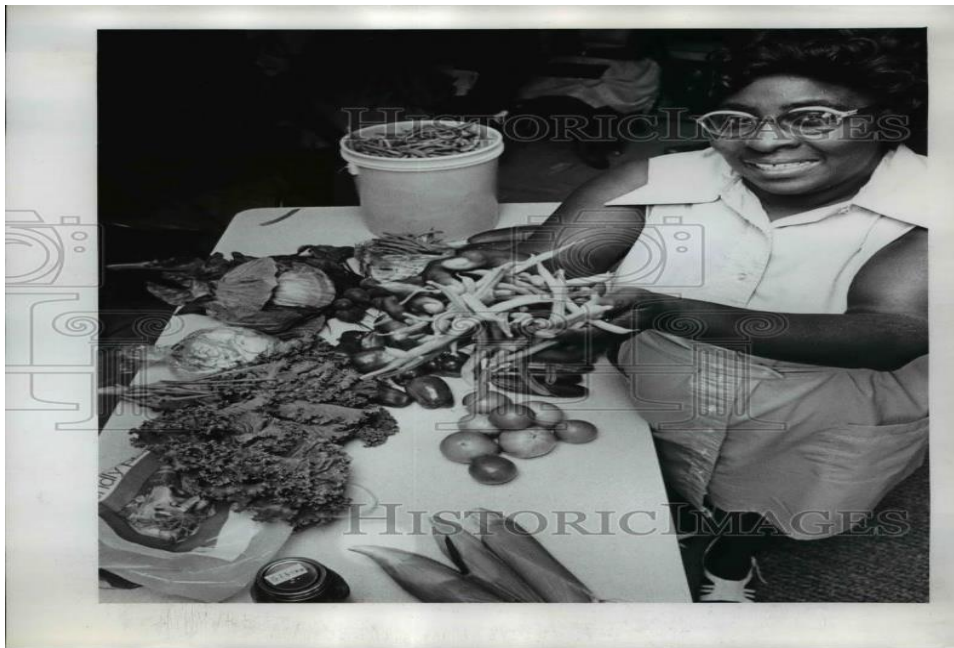
Oregon: A history of racism, displacement and exclusion

- 1848: government passed a law making it illegal for any “Negro or Mullatto” to live in Oregon
- 1850: Oregon Donation Land Act: “whites and half breed Indians” were granted 650 acres of land from the government.
- Oregon is the only state in the United States that actually began as literally whites-only.
- Even though there was subsequent legislation that challenged those statutes, the statutes were not removed from the books until 1922.

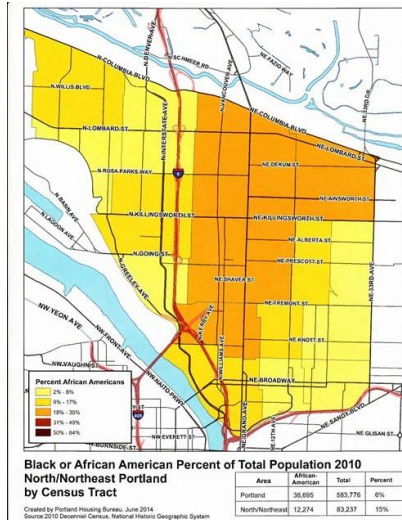
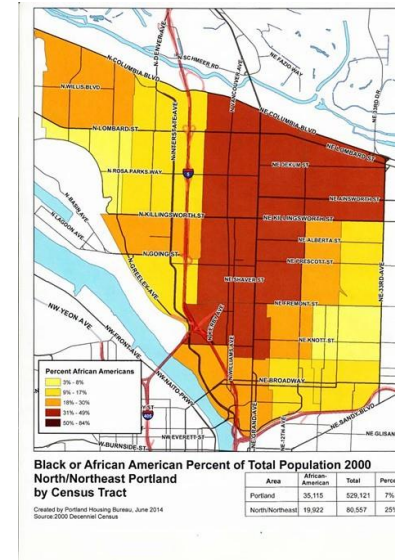
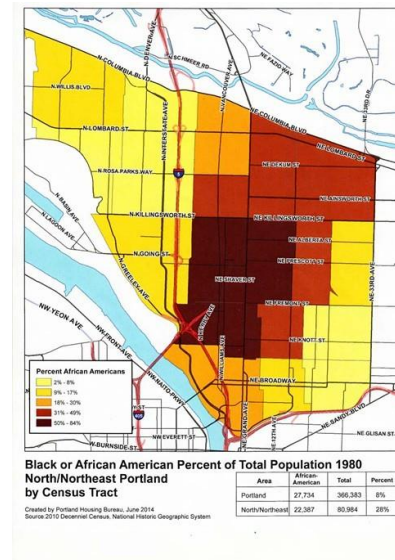
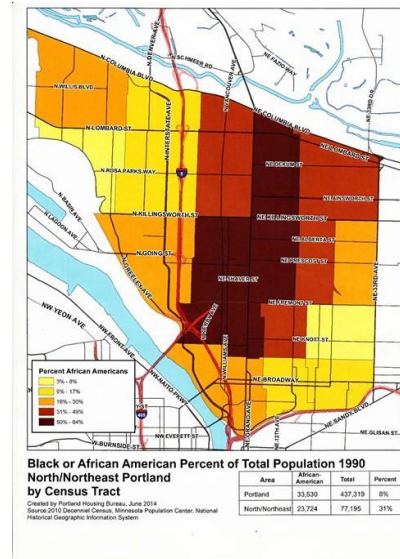
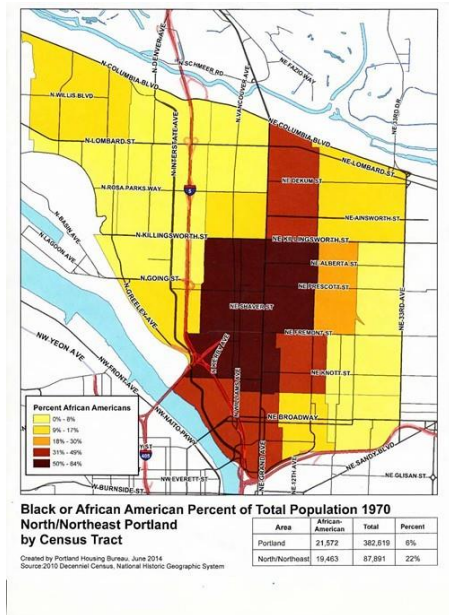


Green Fingers Community Garden Project

- 1969-1981
- 250 families served



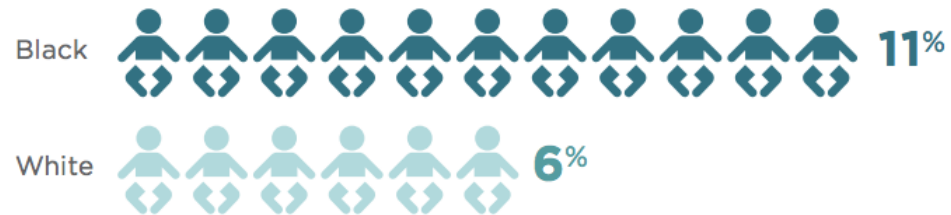
Portland: Growing Gentrification



State of Black Oregon 2015

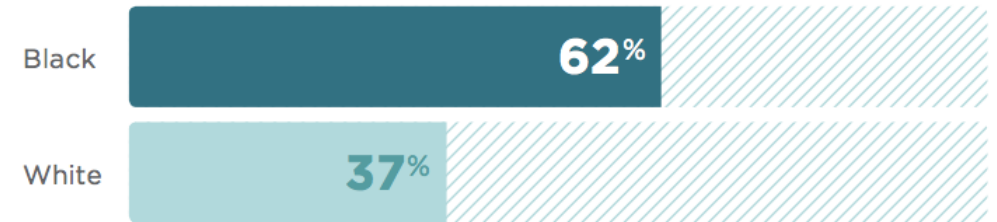
Low Birth Weight

(2013)



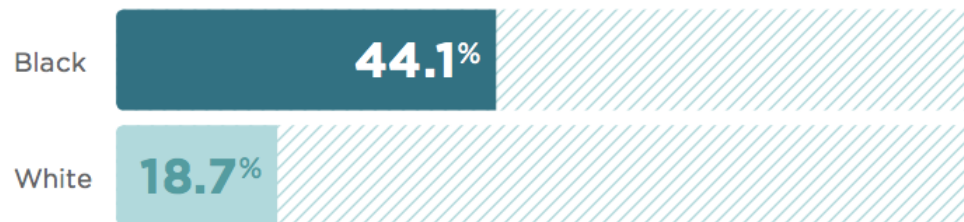
Children Living at 200% Poverty or Below

(2014)



Food Insecurity

(2010–2011)



Infant Mortality

(Deaths per 1,000 live births, 2008)



Black farmers in the United States



Black Food Sovereignty Council

Mission:

The Black Food Sovereignty Council advocates for equitable access to nutritious and culturally relevant food, building a robust local Black food economy and reforming policies to address the necessities of Black communities we represent.



Black Food Sovereignty Council:

Purpose:

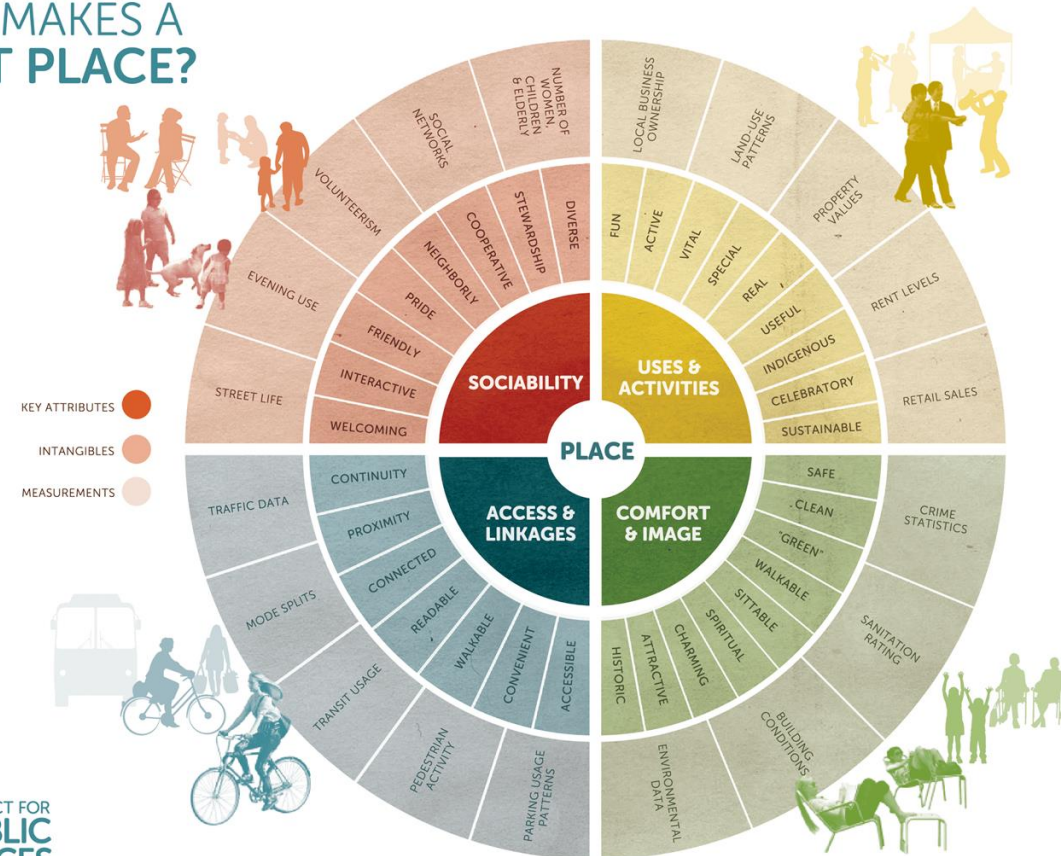
“...We work collaboratively to build a prosperous, self-determined food system centered around strengthening community partnerships, promoting holistic health, cultural awareness, and economic development. This work grows out of our long history as stewards of the land and innovative caretakers of our communities and we stand on and draw from the work of our ancestors.”

- BFSC Charter



Placemaking

WHAT MAKES A
GREAT PLACE?



Placemaking IS...

- Community-driven
- Visionary
- Function before form
- Adaptable
- Inclusive
- Focused on creating destinations

Context-specific

Dynamic

Trans-disciplinary

Transformative

Flexible

Collaborative

Sociable



Placemaking IS NOT...

- Reactionary
 - Top-down
 - Design-driven
 - A blanket solution or quick fix
 - Exclusionary
 - A cost/benefit analysis
 - Car-centric
- Dependent on regulatory controls
 - Project-focused
 - Static
 - One-size-fits-all
 - Discipline-driven
 - One-dimensional



Placemaking, Urban Farming and Gentrification

“...While we’ve got our heads down, hands in the dirt, cultivating a new world into existence, we must think of everyone who we want to be in that new world, and what we can do to get there with them—lest we look up to find that those potential allies have long since disappeared.”

- San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance



1. The community is the expert



2. Create a place, not a design

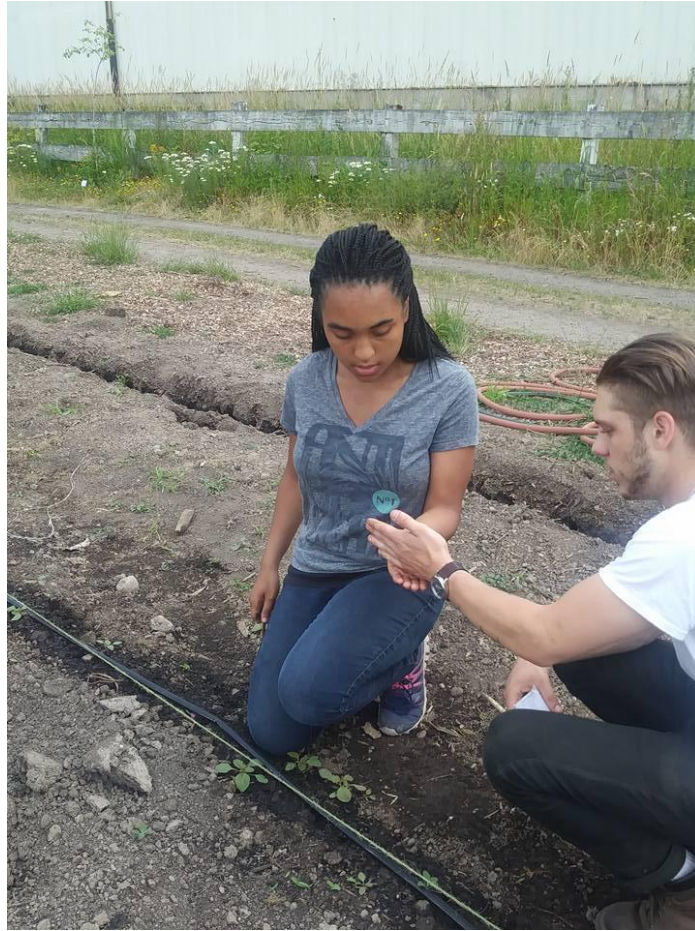


3. Look for partners

“If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. If you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”



4. You can see a lot just by observing



5. Have a vision



6. Start with the petunias



7. Triangulate



8. They always say “it can’t be done”



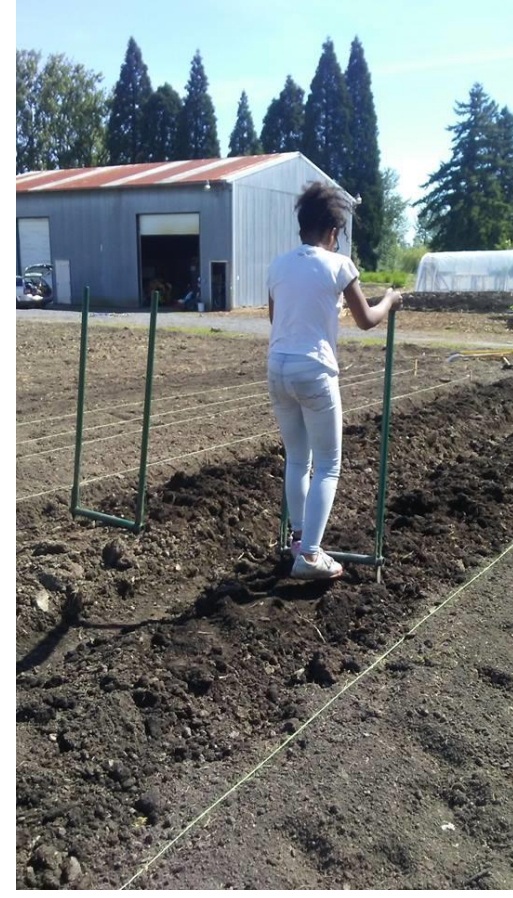
9. Form supports function



10. Money is not the issue



11. You are never finished



Putting principles into practice

1. THE COMMUNITY IS THE EXPERT
2. CREATE A PLACE, NOT A DESIGN
3. LOOK FOR PARTNERS
4. YOU CAN SEE A LOT JUST BY OBSERVING
5. HAVE A VISION
6. START WITH THE PETUNIAS
7. TRIANGULATE
8. THEY ALWAYS SAY “IT CAN’T BE DONE”
9. FORM SUPPORTS FUNCTION
10. MONEY IS NOT THE ISSUE
11. YOU ARE NEVER FINISHED



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