

# FOOD JUSTICE & URBAN AGRICULTURE IN ACTION: PHOTO ESSAY

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## *DIGGING IN: FACILITATING DIALOGUE AND ACTION*

### **KEY THEMES AND TERMS**

Food justice, food security, food sovereignty, social justice, anti-poverty, vertical poverty, anti-racism, structural racism, anti-oppression, food apartheid, food desert, governance, community-shared agriculture (CSA), urban agriculture.

### **CATALYZING CONNECTIONS**

#### **DECODING QUESTIONS**

- *Description:* What do you see/hear/feel while watching the video?
- *Personal Connection:* How can you connect Dianne's and Fernando's experiences to your personal experience or stories in your family?
- *Common Themes:* What are the social issues/themes that emerge from our personal stories? Is there a common issue that is shared among us?
- *Social Analysis:* How did this come to be? What are the historical and social processes that created this situation?
- *Planning for Action:* What can be done? How does this inspire me to change my actions?

#### **SPECIFIC QUESTIONS**

- How did Leticia's personal and community organizing experience help her understand food justice in the Jane-Finch community?
- What are some examples from the photo essay that helped you understand food justice?
- Leticia uses the term "food apartheid." What does this term mean to you? Where do you see evidence of it in your community? How does it differ from the term "food desert"?
- How does structural racism shape the food system and food movements?
- Why were governance and community control such important issues at the Black Creek Community Farm? How were these issues addressed?

## HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

Think about where you live. Is anyone struggling with food insecurity? Are there food deserts, examples of food apartheid, or urban agriculture initiatives in the community where you live or in the city you live in? Investigate grass-roots actions in response to these issues.

## INTERGENERATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

How is the farm engaging youth and seniors? What is the value of this intergenerational engagement?

View the video "[Black Creek Community Farm: Healing the Community](#)" as Leticia describes in greater detail the programs and purposes of the farm. How did she broaden your understanding of food justice?

How does Leticia's experience connect with the experience of other Legacies collaborators on the issue of food justice?

Read the photo essay "[Organic Agriculture in Mexico: From Urban Gardens to Multinational Companies](#)" and compare urban agriculture in suburban Guadalajara with urban agriculture in Toronto.

## INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE ACTION

How does the [Black Creek Food Justice Network](#) organize around food justice issues in the community and beyond?

What role can an organization like Black Creek Community Farm play to galvanize collective action in a community?

How could urban agriculture address issues of food security, food sovereignty and food justice in cities? In your local context?

The U.S. and Canadian food movements have been criticized for structural racism. What are the ways that it is manifested? How are these issues being addressed by food movement leaders and organizations?

## CONNECTING TO OTHER PHOTO ESSAYS

- [Equity Tensions](#)

# *DIGGING DEEPER: RESOURCES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND ACTION*

## **VIDEO**

JustFoodNYC. (2017, April 7). [Keynote Address by Dr. Ricardo Salvador - The Future of Food Justice](#). Youtube.

Democracy Now!. (2020, Dec. 10) [As Food Insecurity Surges, Leading Scientist Says Hunger Is a Deliberate Choice by Those in Power](#).

Climate SAN. (2020, May 7). [Africa Climate Action Initiative Event](#). Youtube.

## **MUSIC**

Brown, Zak'isha. ["Zakisha Brown - DEY KNOW."](#) June 13, 2019. YouTube.

## **AUDIO**

[Flavors of a whole community: Recipes for food justice - Nikki Henderson-Silvestri](#). (n.d). [Audio podcast episode] Bioneers.

[Nourishing the Future: Creating a Just and Healthy Food System for All - Malik Kenyatta Yakini, Oren Hesterman & Catherine Couch](#). (n.d). [Audio podcast episode]. Bioneers.

## **BOOKS & ARTICLES**

Brones, Anna. (2018, May 7). [Karen Washington: It's not a food desert, it's food apartheid](#). *Guernica*.

CBC News. (2020, December 15). [What one Ontario farming group is doing to get more racialized farmers into agriculture](#). CBC.

Deawuo, Leticia Ama. (2020, June 4). [Words from our chair: We cannot talk about food without talking about racism](#). SeedChange.

Food Tank. (2016, April 26). [24 groups leading the charge in urban farming](#). EcoWatch.

Holt-Giménez, Eric. (2010). [Food security, food justice, or food sovereignty](#). *Food First Backgroundler*, 16(4), 1-4.

Lessa, Iara, and Rocha, Cecilia. (2009). Nourishing belonging: Food in the lives of new immigrants in T.O. In C. Palassio & A. Wilcox (Eds.), *The edible city: Toronto's food from farm to fork* (pp. 148-153). Coach House Books.

Palassio, C., & Wilcox, A. (2009). *The edible city: Toronto's food from farm to fork*. Toronto: Coach House Books.

Penniman, Leah. (2018). *Farming while black: Soul fire farm's practical guide to liberation on the land*. Chelsea Green Publishing Company.

Ramsaroop, C., & Wolk, K. (2009). Can we achieve racial equality in the food security movement. In C. Palassio & A. Wilcox (Eds.), *The edible city: Toronto's food from farm to fork* (pp. 252-263) Coach House Books.

Roberts, Melana. (2020, February 3). *Black food security in Canada*. Broadbent Institute.

## ORGANIZATIONS & WEBSITES

- **Afri-Can FoodBasket**
- **Black Creek Community Farm**
  - **Black Creek Food Justice Network (Facebook)**
  - **Black Creek Food Justice Network (York University)**
- **Black Food Toronto**
- **Equity in Farmers Markets**
- **FoodShare Toronto**
- **Jane-Finch.com**
- **Michigan Urban Farming Initiative**
- **RUAF Foundation**
- **Soul Fire Farm**
- **Toronto Food Policy Council**
- **Toronto Urban Gardeners**
- **Urban Harvest STL**
- **Whitelock Community Farm**
- **York University, Faculty of Environmental Studies**