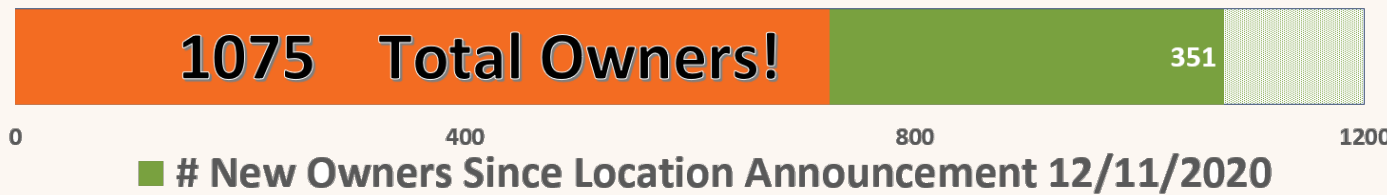




bi-monthly eBlast for followers and supporters of the Food Shed Co-op - June 18, 2021



**We're now at 1075 owners!** Join today to help us reach our goal of 1200 owners and open our community-owned grocery store by the fall of 2022! Click [HERE](#) or on any *Become an Owner* button!

## Our Community

We're excited to be out in the community again! Join us at one of [our events](#) to talk to us in person and learn more about becoming an owner of the Food Shed Co-op.



From left: Sue Jensen, board member; Lou Ness, CIC manager; and Martie Gorman, board member

## Community Food Network to Build Black-Led Grocery Store in Detroit

It has been over a year since the first signs of the coronavirus hit Michigan. Since the pandemic, many socioeconomic factors have been highlighted in communities of color. Financial pitfalls and health matters have all been brought to the forefront in the midst of this international crisis.



Access to fresh food is one of the major issues in many underrepresented communities. A local Detroit activist and farmer is working to bring the city a sustainable source for food and an opportunity to become a part of a piece of history in Detroit by building one of the city's few Black-led grocery stores.

Malik Yakini is the Executive Director of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network. Formed in 2006 to bring awareness to food insecurities across Detroit's Black neighborhoods, DBCFSN supports some local markets, grocers, and restaurants through its operations with D-

Town Farm, the largest Detroit farm and garden community.

During the pandemic, an increasing amount of families relied on food pantries to fill the void where they could not traditionally grocery shop. Despite various urban farms rising to the occasion, the issues surrounding food in the Black community still remain.

"It's critical (food security). I mean clearly, food is one of our most vital needs. We don't survive without it for too long. So, I would venture to say there are very few things more important than our access to high-quality food," says Yakini. "At the present time, clearly we don't control that access in the city of Detroit."

Now, with the help of DBCFSN and some local community owners, Detroit's Black residents will soon see a space where purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables, with no additives or pesticides, will be right in their own backyards.

"We think that food cooperatives are one of the key things that need to be developed in Black communities if we're going to control the food supply in our communities."

Although the farm is working to create sustainable food options and healthy produce for the city's Black population, the community at large will be able to support the food co-op. To continue to garner support for food initiatives, the community is encouraged to support urban agriculture, shop at farmers' markets, and or grow small personal gardens.

“Even if we just start with small things so that agriculture is becoming more a part of the popular culture among Black people again would be a helpful step towards being more self-reliant in terms of food,” says Yakini.

To help combat the issue of food for Detroit, the executive director, together with a band of farmers and other community advocates, have come together to purchase land in the city’s North End neighborhood, on Woodward and Euclid, to build what will be known as the Detroit People’s Food Co-op.

“Currently, we have 1,164 member-owners; people who have paid \$200 to essentially buy a share of the business. For those 1,100 people are all the owners of a business,” Yakini says.

After some years of planning, preparing, surveying Detroiters, and focus groups, the ball got rolling on plans to build the food co-op.

“There have been many many steps in the process. The most arduous part of the process has been obtaining the land that we’re building this on. That took us a number of years,” says Yakini. “Also obtaining all of the financing. At this point, it’s about a \$17 million-dollar project.”

Taking up to ten years, food co-op’s can be a heavy lift. Despite the timeline, having total control and autonomy to own and operate the food space and the actual building, which will be the Detroit Food Commons, was essential to the community owners. Having to navigate gathering funds needed to launch the multi-level building that will house the grocery store, shared community space, and incubator kitchens proved to be no easy feat.

“In the last five months, we’ve been able to raise about \$5 million in grant money from local foundations,” says Yakini.

Plans to begin construction on the multi-use building are set to begin in late summer 2020. The buildout is expected to take anywhere from nine months to one year to be complete, pending the effects of the pandemic and the severity of the winter months. The food co-op is expected to open its doors in 2022.

*Article by: Megan Kirk, Michigan Chronicle*

---

## History of Food Co-ops (Part 2 of 3)

*by Caron Wenzel, Board Director*

### The Grange Movement after the Civil War

The post-Civil War era in the US was tumultuous, pioneering, expansive and from a human rights perspective, ghastly and horrific. It solidified labor and co-ops as no other period in our history. The Grange Association formed after the Civil War to advocate for and promote farming. Actively promoting co-op development, the Grange worked to control costs with

greedy, unregulated wholesalers, allowing farmers direct access to one another, thereby “eliminating the middleman.” The Grange adopted the [Rochdale Principles](#) in 1875.

The Grange movement led to the founding of hundreds of agricultural suppliers and buying co-ops, as well as other member-based organizations. Some of these, like the Farmers' Alliance and the Society of Equity, were more political than the Grange and were aligned with the progressive agendas of the day. However, “racial discrimination practices made it difficult for black farmers to participate in the Alliance.” Jim Crow laws practiced against Southern black farmers in the 1890s significantly affected cooperative development.

During this time, labor organizations such as the Knights of Labor (KOL) also experimented with developing cooperative stores for their members. Many retail co-ops also formed independently at the time too. Intimately linked to the economy, many laws were passed to regulate wholesale practices, insufficient capital, and poor management. The Rochdale Principles were again used to form these labor union /co-ops.

### **A Connection to Chicago**

In the tinderbox era between the “Robber Barons” of the late Victorian Era, and at the height of the Labor Movement, the [Haymarket Riot](#), occurred May 4, 1886. This violent standoff between police and labor protesters in Chicago became a flash point of the international struggle for workers’ rights, and had a lasting effect on the labor movement in the United States. It is still associated with May Day and International Workers’ Day. The KOL, on strike for the eight-hour day, were blamed for the incident, though their involvement could not be proved. Still, many KOL members ended up leaving to join the less-radical American Federation of Labor.

### **Worker’s Rights**

Interest in cooperatives intensified around the turn of the century, due to monopolistic practices and the excesses of capitalism. Cooperation was viewed as a more socially responsible economic way, hotly opposed by Big Industry. The turbulence of the latter half of the 19th Century can not be underestimated in shaping the world we have today. Humane working conditions, an end to child labor, and a mechanism to address wage exploitation, were some of the hard-won benefits.

*Source: Pitman, Lynn. History of Cooperatives in the United States UW Center for Cooperatives, 2018*

**Part Three will be The 20th Century and Beyond.**

If you want to be part of this history and future of a cooperative movement, [become a member of the Food Shed Co-op today!](#)

---

## Upcoming Events

### [WPPC June Garden Walk](#)

Sunday, June 27, 2021 at 02:00 PM

[Lisa and Christopher Maier Property](#)  
Holiday Hills, IL

The WPPC (Wildflower Propagation & Preservation Committee) is hosting a series of free garden walks to promote the use of native plants, shrubs, and trees. The third (of seven) walks takes place on [Sunday, June 27](#), 2021 at the [Lisa and Christopher Maier](#) property. Garden walks will be held at 2:00pm and 4:00pm on Sunday.



### [Crystal Lake 4th of July Parade!](#)

Sunday, July 04, 2021 at 12:00 PM

[Crystal Lake Parade Route](#) in Crystal Lake, IL

The Food Shed will be participating in the 4th of July parade in Crystal Lake on Sunday, July 4th. Come out and join in the fun. If you would like to walk in the parade with us - [join as a member today!](#)- then [register](#).



Help us spread the word about our community owned grocery store by sharing our posts with your followers on social media. And why not [BECOME AN OWNER](#) now?

### Mission

Our mission is to build a LOCAL food COOPERATIVE promoting a HEALTHY, ETHICAL and RESILIENT COMMUNITY.

## Core Values

- *Promote and foster better food choices*
- *Cultivate and strengthen our local economy*
- *Inspire and empower community*
- *Champion environmentally responsible practices*

Food Shed Outreach

<http://www.foodshed.coop/>



Food Shed Co-op • PO Box 1663, Woodstock, IL 60098 • 815.315.1541  
[info@foodshed.coop](mailto:info@foodshed.coop) • <http://www.foodshed.coop/>



This email was sent to [info@foodshed.coop](mailto:info@foodshed.coop). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).  
Created with [NationBuilder](#).