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33 Food and Agriculture Organizations Building a Better Food System in Washington, D.C.



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The 4th Annual Washington, D.C. Food Tank Summit is just around the corner, and we're excited to hear from, collaborate with, and meet our member organizations based in the D.C. area. The U.S. capital is humming with food systems activity, housing an array of organizations involved in international, domestic, and local food and

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The 2018 Food Tank Summit, “Cultivating the Next Generation of Young Food Leaders (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-food-tank-summit-washington-dc-cultivating-the-next-generation-of-young-food-leaders-tickets-37008656889>),” will be held in partnership with the George Washington University, the World Resources Institute, the National Farmers Union, Future Farmers of America, and the National Young Farmers Coalition on February 28, 2018. Tickets to attend in person have sold out, but you can still join the conversation by tuning in to the live-stream on Food Tank’s Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/TheFoodTank/>).

In preparation for the upcoming Summit, Food Tank is highlighting 32 Food and Agriculture organizations helping to build a better food system in and around Washington, D.C.

1. Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture (<http://arcadiafood.org/>)

Based in Alexandria, VA, this nonprofit promotes equity and sustainability in the Washington, D.C. area food system through a multi-faceted operation. Arcadia Farm (<http://arcadiafood.org/programs/arcadia-farm>) uses sustainable growing practices and serves as an educational site for farmers and students, growing vegetables for the organization’s Mobile Market (<http://arcadiafood.org/programs/mobile-market>) operating in underserved communities. In addition to Arcadia’s Farm to School Program (<http://arcadiafood.org/programs/farm-school-program>), the organization is working to establish a new Food Hub (<http://arcadiafood.org/programs/food-hub>) to increase access to local, healthy food.

2. City Blossoms (<http://cityblossoms.org/>)

City Blossoms works in Washington, D.C. cultivating “creative, kid-driven green spaces.” In addition to providing Community Green Spaces (<http://cityblossoms.org/open-times>) for public use, City Blossoms offers garden-based early childhood programming (<http://cityblossoms.org/projects/>) and the Mighty Greens (<http://cityblossoms.org/mightygreens>) youth entrepreneurship program focused on growing and harvesting produce while learning to grow a business.

3. Community Foodworks (<http://www.community-foodworks.org/>)

Food Tank ([HTTPS://FOODTANK.COM/](https://FOODTANK.COM/)).

(<http://www.community-foodworks.org/farmers-markets/>) in Washington, D.C. and Virginia, Community Foodworks offers a range of services including the Bonus Bucks (<http://www.community-foodworks.org/bonus-bucks/>) food access program, a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program (<http://www.community-foodworks.org/marketshare/>) through their Columbia Heights Farmers Market, and a Local Pantry (<http://www.community-foodworks.org/local-pantry/>) that sources grains, beans, and legumes from the surrounding region.

4. Compost Cab (<https://compostcab.com/>)

Compost Cab aims to “make it easy for people to compost, and make it easier for urban agriculture to thrive.” They collect household compost, work with organizations to initiate their own composting programs, and partner with local farms, agencies, and organizations to create a more sustainable food system in the Washington, D.C. area.

5. Crossroads Community Food Network (<https://www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org/>)

This nonprofit organization offers programming in food access, healthy eating, and food entrepreneurship. Their Crossroads Farmers Market (<https://www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org/what-we-do/fresh-checks/>) is a pioneer in operating farmers market incentive programming to double federal nutrition benefits. In addition, the organization runs a Healthy Eating Program (<https://www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org/what-we-do/healthy-eating-program/>) at the market and in local elementary schools, a bilingual Microenterprise Training Program (<https://www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org/what-we-do/microenterprise-training-program/>), and a shared-use community kitchen (<https://www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org/tpss-community-kitchen/>).

6. DC Food Policy Council (DCFPC) (<https://dcfoodpolicy.org/>)

Established by the D.C. Food Policy Council and Director Establishment Act of 2014 (<http://lms.dccouncil.us/Legislation/B20-08212FromSearchResults=true>), the DCFPC's Food Council ([HTTPS://FOODTANK.COM/](https://FOODTANK.COM/)).

variety of perspectives and food systems roles. With input from the public and from working group members (<https://dcfoodpolicy.org/about/working-groups/>), they participate in monitoring the local food system and provide guidance to the Food Policy Director.

7. DC Greens (<https://www.dcgreens.org/>)

DC Greens promotes food justice in Washington, D.C., working at the intersection of food education, food access, and food policy. Their work spans many initiatives; working with schools to form school garden markets (<https://www.dcgreens.org/school-garden-markets>), supporting the farm to school (<https://www.dcgreens.org/dc-farm-to-school-network>) movement in Washington, D.C., administering the city's Produce Plus and Produce Rx (<https://www.dcgreens.org/food-access/>) farmers market food access programs, maintaining a demonstration farm (<https://www.dcgreens.org/k-street-farm>), co-organizing the Rooting DC (<https://www.dcgreens.org/rooting-dc>) annual urban gardening event, and generating opportunities for community engagement (<https://www.dcgreens.org/community-ownership-1/>) to enhance the city's food policy and access initiatives.

8. D.C. Hunger Solutions (<http://www.dchunger.org/>)

Founded as a Food Research and Action Center (<http://frac.org/>) initiative, D.C. Hunger Solutions seeks to eliminate hunger in the nation's capital city. Their approach involves improving the District's food policy landscape, working to increase and support participation in federal nutrition programs, and educating others about the issue of hunger.

9. DC Urban Gardeners (DUG) Network (<http://dugnetwork.org/>)

This volunteer network disseminates information about food systems work in the Washington, D.C. area through their bi-weekly newsletter (<http://dugnetwork.org/newsletter/>) listing educational programs, events, job postings, funding announcements, and community engagement opportunities. Additionally, the DUG Network's website features a variety of resources including an interactive map (<http://dugnetwork.org/resource-map/>); listings of local food, agriculture, and sustainability organizations; a range of tools and guides covering a variety of topics such as food policy ([HTTPS://FOODTANK.COM/](https://FOODTANK.COM/)).

10. Dreaming Out Loud (<http://dreamingoutloud.org/>).

Dreaming Out Loud works toward a more equitable food system, centering their approach around entrepreneurship (<http://dreamingoutloud.org/programs/micro-enterprise-and-entrepreneurship/>) and workforce development (<http://dreamingoutloud.org/ourwork/workforce-development/>) in urban agriculture (<http://dreamingoutloud.org/programs/urban-agriculture/>) and farmers markets (<http://dreamingoutloud.org/programs/community-markets/>). In addition to offering programs designed to foster economic opportunity for individuals from marginalized communities, they engage in food policy advocacy (<http://dreamingoutloud.org/ourwork/advocacy-and-public-policy/>) in Washington, D.C.

11. Food Recovery Network (<https://www.foodrecoverynetwork.org/>).

This student-initiated network began in 2011 at the University of Maryland (<https://www.umd.edu/>) as a way to redirect surplus food on college campuses to nonprofit organizations working to reduce hunger. The network now has 230 chapters (<https://www.foodrecoverynetwork.org/chapters/>) across the United States and works with more than 300 partner agencies (<https://www.foodrecoverynetwork.org/hungerfightingpartners/>) who distribute donated food in their communities including food banks, shelters, and community centers.

12. Founding Farmers (<https://www.wearefoundingfarmers.com/>).

Founding Farmers is a restaurant group majority owned by farmers of the North Dakota Farmers Union (<http://ndfu.org/>), with locations (<https://www.wearefoundingfarmers.com/locations/>) in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Dishes featured on their menus are made from scratch, and the restaurants strive to use sustainable operating practices (<https://www.wearefoundingfarmers.com/about/story/sustainability/>) and source ingredients from family farms.

13. FRESHFARM (<http://freshfarm.org/index.html>).

FRESHFARM uses a variety of approaches to pursue its mission of promoting sustainable
 (HTTPS://FOODTANK.COM/).

Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, offering nutrition assistance (<http://freshfarm.org/nutrition-assistance.html>) programs, and running the school-based FRESHFARM FoodPrints (<http://freshfarm.org/foodprints.html>) program in partnership with District of Columbia Public Schools (<https://dcps.dc.gov/>).

14. Future Farmers of America (FFA) (<https://www.ffa.org/home>)

FFA is an intracurricular student organization for those interested in the food, fiber, and natural resource industries. FFA is one of the largest youth organizations in the U.S., organizing conferences, conventions, competitions, experiential learning, and online learning experiences through more than 7,500 chapters.

15. GW Food Institute (<https://foodinstitute.gwu.edu/>).

This group connects students and faculty across George Washington University (<https://www.gwu.edu/>) studying “all things related to food.” Researchers have partnered with organizations outside of the university and examine a wide range of topics (<https://foodinstitute.gwu.edu/research/>), such as farming in Uganda, diets and obesity prevention, conflict-free chocolate, and school meal reform. The affiliated Food Policy Leadership Institute (<https://foodinstitute.gwu.edu/food-policy-leadership-institute/>) features a fellowship program providing food systems leaders the skills and knowledge to understand and influence food policy.

16. GW Sustainability Collaborative (<https://sustainabilitycollaborative.gwu.edu/>)

Fostering future food policy leadership is one of the four strategic goals (<https://sustainabilitycollaborative.gwu.edu/goals-and-achievements>) of this collaborative. In addition to providing support (<https://sustainabilitycollaborative.gwu.edu/faculty-support>) and learning opportunities (<https://sustainabilitycollaborative.gwu.edu/education>) for faculty and students, the collaborative fosters public engagement (<https://sustainabilitycollaborative.gwu.edu/engagement>) in the university's sustainability initiatives.

17. Hungry Harvest (<https://www.hungryharvest.net/>)

Previously featured on the television show “Shark Tank”
([HTTPS://FOODTANK.COM/](https://foodtank.com/)).

food and food rejected from retail stores due to cosmetic imperfections and delivers customizable food assortments to customers' homes. This operation supports the sale of reduced-cost produce at Hungry Harvest's Produce in a SNAP Markets (<https://www.hungryharvest.net/ending-hunger/>), while others are donated (<https://www.hungryharvest.net/ending-hunger/>) to partner organizations working to eliminate hunger.

18. Institute of Applied Agriculture at the University of Maryland, College Park (<https://iaa.umd.edu/>)

Nested within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (<http://agmr.umd.edu/>), this academic certificate program offers eight different concentrations within the areas of Agricultural Business Management and Leadership, Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Management, and Turfgrass and Golf Course Management. One of the available programs is a concentration in Sustainable Agriculture (<https://iaa.umd.edu/areas-study/sustainable-agriculture>), featuring coursework, experiential learning, management education, and networking opportunities for students.

19. Martha's Table (<http://marthastable.org/>)

With plans to expand to new locations in 2018, Martha's Table's four focus areas include Healthy Start, Healthy Eating, Healthy Connections, and Community Support Services. In addition to offering child and youth development programs (<http://marthastable.org/programs/educationprograms/>) and emergency relief services (<http://marthastable.org/programs/community-support-services/>), this organization operates pop-up grocery markets (<http://marthastable.org/programs/foodaccessprograms/>). One such program, in partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank (<https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/>), is a series of Joyful Food Markets located at elementary schools in Washington, D.C.'s Wards 7 and 8.

20. Mercaris (<https://mercaris.com/>)

This company provides market data and a platform to facilitate the trade of organic and non-GMO commodities. collecting and compiling data and information from a variety of food sources. ([HTTPS://FOODTANK.COM/](https://FOODTANK.COM/)).

21. National Farmers Union (NFU) (<https://nfu.org/>)

Originally founded in 1902, the NFU works to protect and enhance the economic well-being and quality of life for family farmers and ranchers and their rural communities in the U.S. They promote legislation and education beneficial to farmers through a grassroots structure in which policy positions are initiated locally by the 33 state chapters. Founded on the core principles of cooperation, education, and legislation, their work includes a range of efforts such as agricultural co-ops (<https://nfu.org/cooperation/>), a Beginning Farmer Institute (<https://nfu.org/education/adult-education/>) program, youth educational opportunities (<https://nfu.org/youth-education-programs/>), and renewable energy projects (<https://nfu.org/2017/08/23/farmers-union-to-power-the-transition-to-a-homegrown-renewable-energy-future-for-the-u-s/>).

22. National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC) (<http://www.youngfarmers.org/>)

The NYFC is working to halt and even reverse the decline of family farming in the U.S. by representing, mobilizing, and engaging young farmers. Their policy priorities include improvements to the delivery of federal programming, land access, student loan debt, training, housing, climate and conservation, and racial equity.

23. Owl's Nest Farm (<http://www.owls-nest-farm.com/>)

Owned and operated by Liz Whitehurst (<https://foodtank.com/news/2018/02/liz-whitehurst-owls-nest-farm-washington-dc-food-tank-summit/>), Owl's Nest Farm was founded in 2016. The Farm cultivates Certified Naturally Grown (<http://www.cngfarming.org/>) crops using organic practices and sells them via a Washington, D.C. farmers market (<https://petworthcmarket.wordpress.com/>), local restaurants (<http://www.owls-nest-farm.com/find-owls-produce/>), and a CSA (<http://www.owls-nest-farm.com/take-action>).

24. Terp Farm (<http://terpfarm.umd.edu/>)

Terp Farm is a combined effort of the Department of Dining Services (<http://www.dining.umd.edu/>), College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/>), and the Office of Sustainability

at UMD ([HTTPS://FOODTANK.COM/](https://foodtank.com/)).

[\(https://www.umd.edu/\)](https://www.umd.edu/) to farm in an environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable manner. This farm grows vegetables to be served in campus dining facilities and the campus food truck and is also donated to community members.

25. The Store at the George Washington University (<https://students.gwu.edu/store>)

Students at the George Washington University (<https://www.gwu.edu/>) run this food pantry to serve the needs of GW students experiencing food insecurity. Shoppers privately gain access to the Store, which is unstaffed, to obtain the items they need. The Store partners with Capital Area Food Bank (<https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/>) for food donations and accepts other items such as kitchen and school supplies.

26. THEARC Farm (<http://www.thearcfdc.org/thearcfarm>)

THEARC Farm is both an agricultural and an educational operation. The farm, employing agroecological practices, supplies a CSA servicing Wards 7 and 8. In addition, the farm hosts youth, adult, and community workshops and other educational programs.

27. ThinkFoodGroup (<http://www.thinkfoodgroup.com/>)

Started and founded by well-known chef José Andrés (<http://www.joseandres.com/>), this company operates restaurants, sells culinary products, and participates in food education and advocacy initiatives. One of the group's most recent food service concepts is Beefsteak (<http://beefsteakveggies.com/>), a fast-casual chain centered around vegetables.

28. Three Part Harmony Farm (<http://threepartharmonyfarm.org/>)

This farm, owned and operated by Gail Taylor and located in northeast Washington, D.C., grows vegetables, herbs, and flowers without using chemical pesticides or herbicides. They also offer a CSA (<http://threepartharmonyfarm.org/sample-vegetable-csa-shares/>), sell seedlings in the nearby area, and supply their products to local stores and restaurants.

29. UDC College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) (<https://www.udc.edu/causes/causes/about-causes/>)

FoodTank ([HTTPS://FOODTANK.COM/](https://FOODTANK.COM/))

This college within Washington, D.C.'s land-grant university (<https://www.udc.edu/causes/landgrant-research/>) features five centers with a range of focus areas, including urban agriculture, gardening, sustainable development, nutrition, and youth development. UDC CAUSES offers academic, professional, and community programs to “improve the quality of life and economic opportunity of people and communities in the District of Columbia, the nation, and the world.”

30. Up Top Acres (<http://www.uptopacres.com>)

Up Top Acres, founded in 2014, grows produce on five rooftop farms in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. They sell their products through a CSA (<http://www.uptopacres.com/farm-membership.html>), at a farmers market (<http://freshfarm.org/capitol-riverfront.html>), and through wholesale (<http://www.uptopacres.com/find-our-produce.html>) to restaurants and retailers.

31. WANDA: Women Advancing Nutrition Dietetics & Agriculture (<http://www.iamwanda.org/>)

Founded by Tambra Raye Stevenson, this organization operates both in Africa and in the United States. WANDA aims “to ensure a million women and girls have access to education, advocacy, and innovative skills to improve healthy lifestyles in their families, communities, and societies through improved agriculture and good nutrition” by 2030.

32. World Food Program USA (<https://wfpusa.org/>)

This nonprofit organization operates in the United States to combat hunger around the globe in support of the U.N. World Food Programme (<http://www1.wfp.org/>). World Food Program USA works to generate financial resources from individuals, businesses, and government entities, as well as to educate lawmakers and influence food policy in the U.S.

33. World Resources Institute (WRI) (<http://www.wri.org/>)

WRI is a global research organization which covers more than 50 countries and some of the most pressing and common global resource issues. The Institute has six major focuses at the environment and development nexus: climate, energy, food, forests, water, and cities and transport. The organization's “Count it. Change it. Scale it” [Footprint Network](https://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php?lang=en) ([HTTPS://FOODTANK.COM/](https://FOODTANK.COM/)).



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Peggy Burt Edwards · Works at Homemaker

Miranda, what a great list! Don't forget about Hustlers 2 Harvesters in Ward 7. They are doing an amazing job running the Dix St Garden, the newly opening Kelly Miller Farm and a few more.

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Paul Macek · Washington, District of Columbia

I would definately add the World Cocoa Foundation to this list. Our vision is a sustainable and thriving cocoa sector -- where farmers prosper, cocoa-growing communities are empowered, human rights are respected, and the environment is conserved. Check us out at: www.worldcocoa.org

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Abigail Seiler · Communications Manager at Food & Friends

One more! Food & Friends is a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization that provides home-delivered, specialized meals and nutrition counseling to people living with HIV/AIDS, cancer and other life-challenging illnesses. As part of the national Food Is Medicine Coalition, Food & Friends is leading the way in the feild of medical-nutrition therapy and advancing the mantra that food is medicine! Food & Friends' services are free of charge to recipients who qualify solely based on their health status and nutritional need.

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Gary Oppenheimer · Founder, CEO at AmpleHarvest.org

AmpleHarvest.org is about to give food waste awareness a huge boost.

On Sept 21-23, clergy of all faiths nationwide will be doing sermons on food waste as part of their weekly service. Everything needed - information to learn about food waste, a ready to go faith specific sermon, calls to action and even a game show for the religious school are all available at www.FoodWasteWeekend.org.

With 80 million Americans identifying themselves as people of faith, this is a huge opportunity for the people in the pews to hear about food waste and solitions from the person they trust most - their spiritual leader.

Every faith leader should be encouraged to sign up at FoodWasteWeekend.org and particiapte.

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Shannon Maynard · Executive Director at Congressional Hunger Center

Don't forget the Congressional Hunger Center and our International and National Hunger Fellowship programs! Many of our fellows and alums are now leading important work with the organizations you mentioned here in DC as well as across the US and around the world.

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Miranda is a Research & Writing Fellow for Food Tank. Miranda’s interest in food systems originated while she studied anthropology at George Mason University. During the three years after graduating, she worked at a research organization focused on the wellbeing of children and youth, where her project work introduced her to topics including healthy schools legislation, school nutrition, and healthy eating programs. Miranda is also active with food-focused organizations in Washington, D.C., volunteering with farmers’ markets and interning with a school-based food education program for elementary schoolers.

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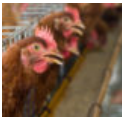
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Claire Cummings, Student Activist and Garbage Guru

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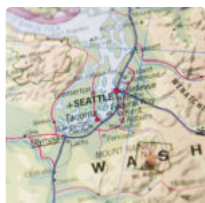
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