

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Food Project Celebrates Youth Leadership and the Local Food System with Big Shindig

Lincoln, MA--April 9, 2018--The Food Project will kick off its 27th growing season with the Big Shindig on Wednesday, April 25 to be held at the Cyclorama at the Boston Center for the Arts. This special fundraising event, supported by Presenting Sponsors Bank of America and Linda and Bill McQuillan, aims to raise \$400,000 to support The Food Project's critical work with youth, food, and community.

The Food Project started in 1991 with the goal of building a thoughtful community of youth and adults to combat discrimination by bringing people together through the shared work of farming. Since then, the organization has become a nationally recognized non-profit that works to create local, sustainable food systems that are accessible to all. The Food Project works to engage young people in meaningful work, with the goals of developing youth leaders and promoting social justice through personal transformation.

"The Big Shindig is a celebration of The Food Project's culture, the work we do over the course of the year, and all that our supporters have accomplished," said Linda McQuillan, Chair of The Food Project's Board of Trustees. "Each year, with the help of supporters, The Food Project employs 120 young people from diverse backgrounds and donates or distributes almost 193,000 servings of healthy food to those who need it the most. That's something to celebrate!"

This year's Big Shindig will feature youth speakers from The Food Project's Dirt Crew and Root Crew and Leadership Award honorees, Cassandra Campbell and Jackson Renshaw—alumni of The Food Project and co-founders of Fresh Food Generation, a Boston-based food truck and catering company. Cassandra and Jackson will be celebrated for their commitment to hiring from the communities they serve, sourcing food from local businesses and farms, and ensuring that all people have the ability to eat well, regardless of their zip code or level of income.

Since its founding, The Food Project has grown from a single two-acre farm in Lincoln, MA to an organization that stewards 70 acres of urban and suburban farmland throughout Greater Boston and the North Shore. To date, over 1,800 young people between the ages of 14 and 18 have served on The Food Project's youth crews, and the organization has harvested nearly 4.5 million pounds of sustainably-grown produce.

The Food Project is a non-profit organization supported by the generous donations of individuals, foundations, and corporate grants. Proceeds from the Big Shindig will support The Food Project's youth programming, sustainable agriculture on urban and suburban farms, food system change, promoting community economic strength, and the distribution of fresh produce to expand healthy food access throughout the Boston and North Shore regions. **Tickets are on sale now. Visit thefoodproject.org/bigshindig to purchase tickets, get event details, and for sponsorship opportunities.**



About The Food Project

Since its founding in 1991, [The Food Project](#) has grown into a nationally-recognized non-profit organization that works at the intersection of youth, food, and community. For more than 27 years, The Food Project has brought youth and adults from diverse backgrounds together on their farms to produce healthy food for residents of the city and suburbs to build a local and sustainable food system. The organization believes that food is a unique vehicle for creating personal and social change. The Food Project aims to transform our food system into a more just, community-engaged model, that supports food security for all.

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