

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lynn Grows Looks to Residents to Build a Better Food System

February 2, 2018 -- Lynn, MA -- In late 2016, The Food Project and the Lynn Food and Fitness Alliance formed the Lynn Grows partnership with a diverse group of Lynn community member to create a more equitable and healthy food system in the city. The steering committee, a group of 25 Lynn residents and city stakeholders, recently drafted a vision and list of six priority areas to guide the Lynn Grows initiative through implementation. Priorities include creating better food access, building community gardens, enhancing school food, and more. Lynn Grows is currently holding a series of listening sessions to gather input from the community. The next session will be held on February 9, at the Lynn Community Health Center from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (conducted in English and Spanish).

"We are excited for Lynn Grows and continuing the work we started at the beginning of the year with Lynn residents and stakeholders to develop strategies that will build a better food system for everyone in the city," said The Food Project's North Shore Regional Director, John Wang. "We are pleased to be able to share a draft of that vision and to continue gathering feedback in listening sessions throughout the city and fine-tune the Lynn Grow priorities."

To date, The Food Project and the Lynn Food and Fitness Alliance have facilitated 11 listening sessions with groups around the city in order to better understand what food system related issues are important to residents. Listening sessions have included an introduction to Lynn Grows, a discussion of the Lynn food system, and an opportunity for participants to offer feedback on the vision and priorities, while sharing their experiences and ideas for the future.

In addition to the listening sessions, Lynn Grows has also held tabling events where people can fill out surveys and get additional information. Upcoming tabling events include: February 3 at the Lynn Technical High School Youth Drop-In Center from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., and on February 7 at the Lynn YMCA from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Lynn Grows is continuing to look for community feedback through February and early March. The steering committee plans on holding 25 listening sessions total with organizations and groups throughout the city. The feedback received will be incorporated into the Lynn Grows vision and priorities, which will ultimately guide the group through implementation.

The implementation phase is currently scheduled to begin in April (date TBD). There will be a kickoff event to allow Lynn residents and stakeholders to learn more about Lynn Grows and how they can be involved. If your organization is interested in participating in a listening session or to learn more about Lynn Grows, contact Olivia at oboggiano-peterson@fellow.thefoodproject.org and check Facebook (@lynn_grows) for updates.



Make your voice heard and make an impact in Lynn! Join Lynn Grows to help create a more equitable, secure food system that serves the interests and needs of all Lynn residents.

About The Food Project

Since their 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 an equitable and inclusive model that is community-controlled and supports food justice for all.

About Lynn Food and Fitness Alliance

The [Lynn Food and Fitness Alliance](#) (LFFA) is program that works to identify, develop and implement policy and environmental changes to promote healthy eating and active living for all residents. Housed within the city's Public Health Division, and funded by [Mass in Motion](#), LFFA strives to be a comprehensive approach to build and support community-wide health and health equity through policy and systems change.

###

Contact

Ross Condit

Director, Marketing & Communications

The Food Project

(P) 781-259-8621 x30

rcondit@thefoodproject.org

