

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Food Project Celebrates 26 Years of Youth Leading Food System Change

Lincoln, MA -- April 7, 2017 -- The Food Project will kick off their 26th growing season with the *Big Shindig* on April 26 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, helps the organization raise over \$250,000 each year to support The Food Project's critical work with youth, food, and community.

When The Food Project started in 1991, their goal was to build 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 organization works to engage young people in meaningful work, with the goals of developing youth leaders, and promoting social justice through personal transformation.



“The Food Project was founded with an invocation from Ward Cheney, ‘For love of land and people, for the good of the community,’” said J. Harrison, executive director of The Food Project. “Behind this invocation is a belief in the fundamental value of all people, of the land, and of work in service of the greater good. The Big Shindig is a celebration of The Food Project’s culture, our work over the course of the year, and all that our supporters have accomplished.”



The Big Shindig will feature inspiring stories from youth speakers from The Food Project’s Dirt Crew and Root Crew, and a celebration of Leadership Award honoree, Leah Penniman, co-director of Soul Fire Farm in Grafton, NY, and an alumna of The Food Project. Leah is being honored for her work with young people, providing farm training for Black, Latinx, and Indigenous growers, and her contributions in the movement towards food sovereignty and community self-determination.

Since its founding, The Food Project has grown from a single two-acre farm in Lincoln, MA to an organization that maintains 70 acres of urban and suburban farmland throughout Greater Boston and the North Shore. To date, over 1,700 young people between the ages of 14 and 18 have served on The Food Project’s youth crews, and the organization has harvested almost 4.5 million pounds of sustainably grown produce.

The Food Project is a non-profit organization supported through 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, system building to improve community economic strength, and distribution of fresh produce to fill gaps in food access in the Greater Boston and North Shore regions. Tickets are on sale now. Visit shindig.thefoodproject.org to purchase tickets, get event details, and for sponsorship opportunities.

10 Lewis Street Lincoln, MA 01773 tel 781-259-8621 thefoodproject.org

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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 25 years, The Food Project has brought youth and adults from diverse backgrounds together on their farms to grow 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 the local food system into an equitable and inclusive model that is community-controlled and supports food justice for all.

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