

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Youth Leadership Development Meets Food System Change at The Food Project's Winter Institute

**Lincoln, MA—January 12, 2018**—Each year The Food Project hosts its Winter Institute which brings together youth development and agriculture professionals from around the country and the world. This year, the Winter Institute will take place in the Greater Boston area from February 1 to 3, 2018. The three-day Institute is packed with activities, workshops, and conversations to help participants learn about The Food Project's youth development and sustainable agriculture models. Participants learn not just from The Food Project's staff and youth, but also from other attendees.

"In the 18 years the Institute has been offered, The Food Project has supported hundreds of individuals and organizations across the U.S., Canada, Mozambique, El Salvador, and across the globe;" said Cindy Davenport, Director of Learning and Design. "Because much of our planning is done during the winter months, the Winter Institute gives participants an inside look into how we plan, implement, and evaluate a year-round, tiered youth leader development structure, as well as gain experience in building productive youth/adult partnerships."

With over 26 years of experience, The Food Project has long been a leader in the fields of youth development and sustainable agriculture. The organization provides training and tools to other food justice, farming, and youth empowerment organizations, so they can learn from The Food Project's experiences. During the Winter Institute, participants take part in real-time workshops facilitated by both The Food Project's staff and young people from Dirt Crew and Root Crew. This training method provides opportunities for the young people to teach and grow and for participants to be able to interact directly with the youth.

Held twice a year—once in the summer and once in the winter—The Food Project's Institute hosts people who want to learn from their experience. From as close as Boston and Worcester, to as far as Bangladesh, attendees include people who work for established organizations looking for ways to grow, to individuals interested in launching an organization modeled after The Food Project. While the organization remains small and focused, by sharing their model with organizations around the globe, Institute participants replicate, adapt, and improve on the models begun at The Food Project and foster food system change across the world.



The Food Project's Institute continues to inspire and offer models to bridge difference, improve community food systems, and develop young leaders in their own communities around the globe. Looking for more information? Check out The Food Project's Institute at [thefoodproject.org/institute](http://thefoodproject.org/institute)

### **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 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.

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