



For Immediate Release

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Selvin Chambers Named Executive Director of The Food Project

Local champion of youth development and bridging communities will bring years of experience to The Food Project as of June 1

Boston, MA – The Food Project announced today that Selvin Chambers will join the Boston-based nonprofit as its new executive director on June 1, 2012. An organization focused on youth development, food access, and sustainable agriculture, The Food Project is excited to have such an experienced leader join their ranks. Chambers brings nearly 20 years experience managing programs in both the nonprofit and government sectors.

As executive director, Chambers will oversee operations of the organization, which for 20 years has been a national leader in a field that combines youth and agriculture, and now is Boston's driving force behind the development of new *real food hubs* (a collaboration where The Food Project and its partners work together to address community needs tied to issues of access and education about fresh healthy food). Farming 40 acres and employing 150 teenagers throughout eastern Massachusetts each year, The Food Project distributes over 275,000 pounds of produce; builds hundreds of raised bed gardens for residents; offers workshops to neighbors and peer groups out of its 10,000 sq ft community greenhouse; and engages thousands of volunteers.

A native of Cambridge, Mass., Chambers' career has included management positions around the country with City Year, as well as heading up youth and family services departments for the cities of Boston and Cambridge. A visionary leader with deep experience in civic engagement, youth development, and family services, Chambers has served the last four years as executive director at the Elizabeth Peabody House in Somerville, Mass.

In accepting the executive director position, Chambers pointed out that, "While The Food Project has a twenty-year history of teaching the community about the importance of sustainable agriculture... To me, the most exciting part about the work at The Food Project is that they are utilizing both urban and suburban teen populations to get the message out and raise social awareness about issues surrounding access to fresh healthy foods."

With the planting season well under way at The Food Project, focus will now turn to the coming summer months. Chambers and his team at The Food Project have a lot on their plates working toward a food system that provides for everyone in our communities. Over the course of the summer Chambers will be out on the front lines at events and working in the fields to meet key stakeholders and dig into the work ahead.

In addition to announcing new leadership, this summer marks an exciting time at The Food Project as the organization celebrates its 20th anniversary. Board Chair Eugene Benson sees the two occasions as a perfect blend saying "The Food Project has been a leader and innovator for our first twenty years. With our choice of Selvin Chambers for Executive Director, we look forward to increasing The Food Project's circle of friends and supporters and taking our youth, sustainable agriculture, and community work to greater levels of success."

For more information about The Food Project and upcoming events, visit thefoodproject.org.