

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## The Food Project Announces Anne M. Hayes as Executive Director

*Youth empowerment and food justice organization continues mission in eastern Massachusetts*

**Lincoln, Massachusetts – January 16, 2019** – The Board of Trustees of The Food Project is thrilled to announce that Anne M. Hayes has been named the new executive director of The Food Project. The 28-year-old non-profit organization, with farms and offices in Lincoln, Boston’s Dudley neighborhood, Lynn, Wenham, and Beverly, will continue to work at the intersection of youth, food, and community under Anne’s leadership.

The Food Project envisions a world where youth are active leaders, diverse communities are connected to the land and to each other, and everyone has access to fresh, healthy, affordable, high-quality food. Every year, The Food Project employs 120 teens to grow food on their sustainable farms, learn about food systems, and advocate for and implement food justice initiatives.



Anne comes to The Food Project after a four-year tenure as the Chief Operating Officer of Trinity Boston Foundation where she led a strategic planning process, supervised youth programs, and optimized outcomes evaluation. She served as acting executive director this past summer.

Anne will succeed interim executive director and board chair Linda McQuillan after a seven-month tenure. Linda stepped into this role when previous executive director, J. Harrison, resigned due to health concerns. J.’s treatment is going very well.

Linda said of Anne’s appointment as executive director, “We are so excited to have Anne join The Food Project team. Her broad nonprofit management experience at Trinity Boston Foundation, where youth development is fundamental to its mission, will serve her well in this new post. And, as a parent of a Food Project alumna, she has personally experienced the power of The Food Project to transform the lives of youth.”

The Food Project’s Board of Trustees and Search Committee undertook a national search with the help of Egmont Associates. Carolyn Zern, chair of the Search Committee and Clerk of the Board of Trustees, stated, “On behalf of the Board, we are so grateful for Linda’s dedication and ability to step into the interim ED role when needed most. And on behalf of the Search Committee, I am so excited to welcome Anne to the ED role—her passion for the mission and culture, her strategic focus, and her eagerness to hit the ground running will be great assets.”



Anne will join a current staff of 25 adults and 56 young people to steward 70 acres of farmland in eastern Massachusetts. Together with neighbors, gardeners, and volunteers, they will continue their successful and ongoing work to shift power in the food system to the residents of the neighborhoods in which they farm, while cultivating young leaders.

“I am proud to join The Food Project in its commitment to working with youth and adults from diverse backgrounds to expand access to healthy, affordable food,” stated Anne. “I have had the privilege of seeing the transformative effect of The Food Project's programming firsthand and I look forward to working with our exceptional staff and board to build on the foundation of the past 28 years to expand our impact.”

Anne will begin her appointment on February 1, 2019 and will be available for meetings and interviews in the coming months. Please contact director of development, Lisa Jurras-Buchanan, at [ljurrasbuchanan@thefoodproject.org](mailto:ljurrasbuchanan@thefoodproject.org) for more information.

### **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 28 years, The Food Project has brought youth and adults from diverse backgrounds together on its 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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