



# ON THE ROAD TO RESILIENCE

## Moving from Individual Crisis to Collective Power

Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>  
The Lyceum, 227 Lawrence St, Hartford, CT

*"We don't run, we don't compromise.  
We don't quit; we never do.  
We look for love; we find it in the eyes.  
The eyes of me. And the eyes of you."  
~ Willie Nelson*

### AGENDA

9:00 am **CHECK-IN**

Breakfast Refreshments available

10:00 am **WELCOME**

**Carolyn Mugar**, Farm Aid  
**Sean Ghio**, Partnership for Strong Communities  
**Alicia Harvie**, Farm Aid

10:30 am **KEYNOTE**

**Bishop John Selders**, United Church of Christ, Organizing Pastor of Amistad United Church of Christ, and Assistant Dean of Students, Trinity College

11:15 am **LAND AS A PATH TO POWER AND RESILIENCE**

This opening panel will explore different traditions and perspectives around land through the testimony of tribal nations in New England, black farmers in the South, and farmers of color in rural and urban communities in the Northeast. What do our historical experiences of land theft, land loss, land rights and land acquisition reveal about the power dynamics in food and agriculture that persist today? How are communities working to reclaim their power through the land and how does the land unite our struggles?

**Moderator:** **Savi Horne**, Land Loss Prevention Project

**Panelists:** **Rachel Sayet**, Mohegan, Professor of Native American Studies, University of Hartford  
**Isa Mujahid**, CT-CORE Organize Now!  
**Amani Olugbala**, Soul Fire Farm  
**Shirley Sherrod**, Southwest Georgia Project

12:30 pm

## **LUNCH\***

**\*Optional Tour:** Today's gathering coincides with the weekly farmers' market across the street. Join us for a quick walking tour of the farmers' market, affordable housing unit and community garden next door. *led by Johany Bedon at Billings Forge*

1:20 pm

## **RECONVENING**

**Luke Bronin**, Mayor of Hartford

1:30 pm

## **PIVOTAL MOMENTS**

When our backs are against the wall, when it seems we are up against incalculable odds, what propels us to stand up and fight back? In this session, panelists will explore the moment they knew they had to act and what they were willing to risk to save the things they love most. Panelists will also lift up where they see common ground between their struggles, and consider how to better join forces to advance a more just, democratic, and sustainable food and farm system.

**Moderator:** **Brett Tolley**, Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance

**Panelists:** **Stephanie Peterson**, Dakota Rural Action

**Sarah Lloyd**, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Dairy Together

**Abel Luna**, Migrant Justice

**Daniel Teague**, Mississippi Association of Cooperatives

2:30 pm

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **THE NARRATIVE OF RESILIENCE**

Always present though rarely seen, public narrative tells us what is possible and what to value; it guides our choices and even how we construct our identities. Increasingly, grassroots organizers and change-makers see narrative as a critical arena where we all must contest for power to achieve the better world we seek. Join this breakout session to uncover the current dominant narrative that drives our food and agriculture system and co-create a new narrative built on our shared values.

**Facilitators** **Eowyn Corral**, Dakota Rural Action

**Tracy Lerman**, Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG)

**Niaz Dorry**, Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance / National Family Farm Coalition

**Jennifer Hashley**, New Entry Sustainable Farming Project

### **DEALING WITH EMOTIONAL STRESS IN FARM COUNTRY**

As the farm crisis accelerates, advocates and service organizations often need to address farmer stress before getting to the root issues causing it. This session is intended to guide those working with farmers through practical steps in addressing the stress head on, and examine longer term infrastructure needs through examples from groups successfully integrating emotional wellbeing into their services.

**Facilitators**     **Scott Marlow**, RAFI-USA  
                          **Dave Goeller**, Nebraska Rural Response Hotline  
                          **Joe Schroeder**, Farm Aid

### **ART FOR A JUST FUTURE**

Art has the power to help us dream bigger and envision the world we want to create. Art in all of its forms can more immediately capture and expose the injustices we experience and cast us as empowered heroes in building the better future we seek. Through the creation, participation and enjoyment of art, we can engage our whole beings in our pursuits for a just, democratic and sustainable food and agricultural system – one that is accountable to people, committed to ecological stewardship and restoration, and reflective of the different needs and contributions of diverse communities. Join us for this creative collaging session to envision a better world.

**Facilitators**     **Austin Kahn**, Milk with Dignity  
                          **Abel Luna**, Migrant Justice

### **RACIAL EQUITY AS PRACTICE**

We are striving for a food system that feeds, nourishes and serves us all! Doing this in collaboration across communities of all backgrounds requires that we understand the role that othering and racism play in our work and in our lives. We must listen to the diverse stories told and the voices and spirits behind them. In this interactive session, we will examine inequity, how it looks and how it feels, from those in the room. We will together vision what is needed to chart new paths that lead us from a place of exclusion to inclusion, from inequalities to justice and liberation. Join this brave space to explore the infinite opportunities of equity in practice.

**Facilitators**     **Isa Mujahid**, CT-CORE Organize Now!  
                          **Karen Spiller**, Food Solutions New England  
                          **Tom Kelly**, UNH Sustainability Institute  
                          **Sally Lee**, RAFI-USA

4:00pm     **BREAK**  
Refreshments available

4:15pm     **WHAT WE LOVE THE MOST: REFLECTIONS & COMMITMENTS**  
Sharing what we're taking away from the gathering and what we're giving back.

**Facilitators**     **Niaz Dorry**, National Family Farm Coalition / Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance  
                          **Alicia Harvie**, Farm Aid

5:00pm     Adjourn

# EVENTS PLANNING COMMITTEE

Alicia Harvie & Carolyn Mugar  
Jeff Cordulack  
Heather Dinneen  
Niaz Dorry  
Sue Futrell  
Tracy Lerman  
Isa Mujahid  
Andrianna Natsoulas  
Martha Page  
Karen Spiller, Curtis Ogden,  
Thomas Kelly & Lisa Fernandes

**FARM AID**  
**CT-NOFA**  
**NOFA-MASS**  
**National Family Farm Coalition / Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance**  
**Red Tomato**  
**Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG)**  
**CTCORE-Organize Now!**  
**NOFA-NY**  
**Hartford Food System**  
**Food Solutions New England**

**Farm Aid would like thank our generous sponsors who helped to make this event possible:**

