FOOD21, PITT HONORS AND GREAER PITTSBURGH COMMUNITY FOOD BANK PRESENT:

BUILDING A RESILIENT FOOD CULTURE

LESSONS FROM THE PANDEMIC

The third session in our five-part virtual discussion about the problems and challenges revealed and created by the COVID-19 pandemic and how we move forward

Join us for Session Three –
Economic Realities Facing Our Communities

December 17, 2020 from noon to 1:00 p.m. | Click here to register!

Panelists:
Alex Baloga, President & CEO - Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association
Tammy Thompson - Executive Director, Circles Greater Pittsburgh
Rebecca Bykoski - Program Manager, Sustainable Pittsburgh
Christopher Briem - Regional Economist, University Center for Social and Urban Research, University of Pittsburgh
The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic has exposed many gaps and weaknesses within the realities of our food culture. The consequences of unequal access to food and barriers to sustainable, healthy lifestyles have become even more pronounced as the health and economic crisis has unfolded.

Food culture is a uniquely all-inclusive system within our society. It includes both public and private ventures; it affects health, well-being, and economic viability; it is affected by public policy, personal choice and business acumen; it affects all people, yet it does not equally distribute challenges among different races or socioeconomic groups.

Food insecurity and poor nutrition can cause bad health outcomes, which leads to societal nonproductivity. The lack of abundance of and access to food can drive communities and peoples to food insecurity. A fragile food supply chain – locally or globally – can lead to food scarcity and inequitable options for different communities. Poor or shortsighted public policy decisions can culminate or exacerbate these poor outcomes.

In order to make the necessary changes to our food system, we all must look back so we can move forward together. The fragility of our food space has not happened in a vacuum. Many practices and processes have culminated into the precarious situation we now found ourselves. We must learn from our mistakes and shortcomings. We must ensure that we do not duplicate the practices that have made the system so vulnerable in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. We must build a culture that can withstand the many challenges public health and economic crises present.

Future sessions will focus on:

- Public Policies and Legislative Priorities - January 21
- Building a Viable Local Food Economy - February 18