



TITLE

The Humanity of Food

ABSTRACT

Facilitated panel discussion about FOOD, a project in Wilson NC that will feed, educate, and employ an economically disadvantaged neighborhood currently without access to fresh food. Panelists include three FOOD Committee Members (farmer, workforce specialist, designer.)

KEY WORDS

Social Justice
Racial Equity
Strategic Planning
Design

ABSTRACT

23.5M people live in places without access to fresh food.

13.5M : 23M Americans are low-income.

3% of low income Americans live more than 10 miles from a grocery store.

22% of Wilson County NC residents have food insecurity.

More than a Health Issue

(People living in food deserts eat many of their meals at fast-food restaurants)

(Death rate from diabetes in a food desert is twice that in areas with grocery stores)

More than a Social Issue

(White neighborhoods have four times as many supermarkets as predominantly Black and Hispanic neighborhoods)

Growing More Food ≠ Availability of More Food

Difficulty finding foods that are culturally appropriate and meet dietary preferences is a health barrier in human development.

Central gathering places promote and advance community recognition and pride.

FOOD is designed to socially, physically, and economically feed an economically disadvantaged community in Wilson NC. It is a place for fresh and simple nourishing meals, community pride, shared public space, health education, and workforce training and jobs. **FOOD** is a walk-to-work site to go-around inadequate transportation; reduces systemic barriers to work and bias through apprenticeships; and, makes visual a neighborhood's history and culture signaling 'human development' via food and nutrition.

This facilitated panel discussion will share current design efforts and perspectives from three of the project's key leaders : the farmer, the workforce trainer, and the designer.