

Being an informed citizen in a democracy requires more than access to information and the capability to act upon it. Citizenship also necessitates understanding the people who make, and will be affected by, community decisions. This paper shares planning from our North Carolina Humanities Grant funded project that seeks to help create a better-informed Charlotte citizenry through a one-day workshop about the connective potential of foodways, or why we eat, what we eat, and what it means. By staging a workshop where participants explore the foodways of Charlotte's different cultural communities, we seek to foster increased trust and acceptance of diversity that residents consider when making civic decisions. Food serves as a universal communicator when citizens "self-sort by politics, race, culture, and income," and Charlotte, as an economically immobile and racially divided city, needs to have more conversation. On March 29, 2019, Civic Eats, a partnership between UNCC's Center for the Study of the New South and CPCC, will build upon the concept of food literacy through application in civic contexts. The workshop is designed to help participants explore commonalities and differences, and this presentation will discuss the project's planned activities and anticipated outcomes. As community leaders cautioned in the *Charlotte Observer*, "how do we work collaboratively to address common issues and find solutions that give us hope for our future?" This workshop tries to help create citizens better able to address these challenges. Obtaining feedback at Winthrop's Conference will help ensure a successful Civic Eats workshop.