



Dedication

A visionary and inspirational thought leader, **Jerome L. Kaufman, FAICP**, (1933-2013) was a professor at the University at Wisconsin–Madison from 1971 to 2001. When he retired, he was accorded Emeritus status and served in this capacity until 2013.

Kaufman laid the foundation for food systems planning and, thanks to his continued leadership and innovation, it has become accepted as part of planning practice today.



Kami Pothukuchi photo

PROJECT TEAM AND PARTNERS

PROJECT LEAD



PROJECT CO-LEADS



PROJECT PARTNER



NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Will Allen Growing Power

Timothy Griffin Tufts University Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy

Mary Hendrickson University of Missouri Department of Rural Sociology

Young Kim School Sisters of Saint Francis

Frederick Kirschenmann Iowa State University Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture

Kami Pothukuchi Wayne State University

Louie Rivers Jr. Kentucky State University Cooperative Extension Program

Eduardo Sanchez American Heart Association National Center

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United States
Department of
Agriculture

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Agriculture

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GROWING LOCAL: A Community Guide to Planning for Agriculture and Food Systems reflects the collective efforts of many inspiring people and communities across the United States who are working to strengthen community food systems. It is based on the research and practical experience of the Growing Food Connections (GFC) team and advisors to improve agricultural viability and enhance community food security, decades of field experience by American Farmland Trust (AFT), and a growing body of literature on food system planning and development.

Many of the policy and practice examples are drawn from GFC's Communities of Innovation and Communities of Opportunity. After conducting a national scan, the GFC team identified 299 local governments that have implemented a range of innovative plans, programs, public investments, and other policies to strengthen their food systems. After exploratory telephone interviews with 20 of these urban and rural communities, we selected 11 **Communities of Innovation** to highlight innovative food systems planning and policy work:

[Baltimore City, Maryland](#)

[Cabarrus County, North Carolina](#)

[City of Burlington and](#)

[Chittenden County, Vermont](#)

[City of Cleveland, Ohio](#)

[City of Lawrence and](#)

[Douglas County, Kansas](#)

[City of Minneapolis, Minnesota](#)

[City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#)

[City of Seattle, Washington](#)

[Lancaster County, Pennsylvania](#)

[Marquette County, Michigan](#)

[Region 5, Minnesota](#)

We also are actively engaged with representatives from GFC's Communities of Opportunity to help them bridge the gap between food production and food security through public policy. Local governments from across the country responded to GFC's invitation for community partnership, and the GFC team went through a rigorous selection process to identify and select eight diverse communities from the four U.S. Census regions based on several factors including need, readiness for change, and food production potential. GFC's **Communities of Opportunity** are:

[Chautauqua County, New York](#)

[Cumberland County, Maine](#)

[Doña Ana County, New Mexico](#)

[Dougherty County, Georgia](#)

[Douglas County, Nebraska](#)

[Luna County, New Mexico](#)

[Polk County, North Carolina](#)

[Wyandotte County, Kansas](#)

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