

**Future of Food Think Tank**  
**5/28/24 Planning Meeting Notes**

**Attendees:**

1. Andrew Hargrove
2. Brooke Hansen
3. Chrisitan Brechot
4. Christian Leon
5. David Himmelgreen
6. Emmanuel Roux
7. Eric Eisenberg
8. Jennifer Friedman
9. John Johnson
10. Joseph Dorsey
11. Margaret Winter
12. Nancy Romero-Diaz
13. Rita DeBate
14. Ross DuBose
15. Sandy Justice
16. Tangela Serls
17. Tina Lucas

Christian Brechot, professor of medicine, acting as Senior Dean for Academic Affairs, how will we be connected to the many activities ongoing for the university.

David Himmelgreen, professor in anthropology and director for center for food security, metropolitan food project, and many other projects on food and nutrition.

Nancy Romero Daza, also anthropology, food security research, many projects included feeding Tampa Bay and food as medicine.

Eric Eisenberg, Sr. VP of Partnerships, chair the university are corporation, very involved in region food insecurity, and invited Christian Leon community leader for Patel ... I am very involved in construction projects in and around the area, there is an opportunity for urban planning as we think of food.

Tangela Serls, instructor in Women's studies and special advisor to the dean, I met Will Schanbacher about the urban food sovereignty group and he invited me to attend this meeting. Jennie Friedman and I co-authored a report and proposal on food security, sovereignty and mental wellness.

Emmanuel Roux, USF SP, consultant on urban aquaculture and tourism, downtown farm in SP, a half-acre, going to have events, couch on social and nutritional and cultural and economic aspects of food. Written a proposal for a farm on campus in the USF. Background in food processing, started a company in 1979 with specialty pasta. Had also several restaurants, field-to-fork.

Rita DeBate, professor in COPH and director for applied lifestyle medicine, working on food insecurity, and working with TGH on Tampa Well program for evaluating program.

Brooke Hansen, metropolitan food project, anthropologist, indigenous food and regenerative food systems, lots of time of tourism and agriculture ... EU regenerative farms to teach about sustainable food systems, and

Board of Directors and work with Regional Planning Council, with Sustainability Plan re: food sustainability and reducing food waste in hospitality.

Jenny Friedman, Associate Professor in Sociology, food with Dr. Graham and Faculty Council proposal advocating for building the USF Botanical Gardens and connecting food insecurity and mental health and connect with students and faculty. Hopeful for the future, cited your research (DeBate) on mental health, and one of the things is getting everyone on the same page. Many facets of food, have a landing page, a destination so that students can be involved and help develop the skills to move forward as the field moves forward.

Andrew Hargrove, Honors college, working on sustainability initiatives with students and bridge across faculty across the university.

Ross DuBose, new AD in USF SM for the Office of Research

Margaret Winter forwarded this meeting by Taryn Sabia, school of architecture, background in community planning.

Christian Leon, from Patel Family Foundation, food is nexus for so many people doing great work, I will be partnering with ERIC EISENBERG to apply the research and do real world projects.

Joseph Dorsey, Global Sustainability, oversee food security and AD for AA, food interests go back to nutrition doctorate from University of Michigan. my interest here in urban food production, esp. aquaponics. I have been working with community gardens and have worked in Detroit and Tampa Bay and St. Pete.

Christian Brechot, we are all convinced of the importance of food, and interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach. From our point of view, everything started with microbiome, within the USF institute, now recognized as state institute, we wanted to have some more specific programs, one on aging, and then we went to CREATE with David and Brooke, metropolitan food project, CREATE wanted to achieve to merge different areas/depts. And created a diversity of activities, proposals and others, but not limited to basic research, but also go for translation. Particular with those in the room, to contemplate how to est. partnerships, and urban farming, many of us have seen/connect what we are doing for application and adoption, and David has been instrumental and many others, connect with what is going on in Tampa Bay with the many initiatives ... open up to the various communities, and within the USF ... connect to the initiatives that are going on. Some I have just discovered. We are trying to achieve the Healthy Food Campus. Many things can be inserted, but the idea is to today, we are here to delineate how we can work to get to build the many activities ... and an impressive array of activities already happening here at the USF ... started from today, prepare and shape for a proposal ... I may be naïve ... what we want to do is make a proposal to USF and Tampa Bay, you have a unique opportunity to develop something for food ... safety, security, sovereignty, and connected regionally, nationally, globally ... and known some partnerships and international convenings. And attract some interest. We need to prepare an agenda, this is a good place, taking into account what is already existing, and what to develop ... we know the key words. Education, training, enticing internal and external stakeholders to improve our perception of food, for basic and applied research, the connections with industry and partners and the international collaborations and the connections with foundations ... this will be very important.

David Himmelgreen, great to see that we have people from outside of USF here. It is very important to connect and working with Emmanuel with urban farm and connect with a number of schools, and multitude of community partners, Tampa Fam Health Centers, NviroHealth, community foundation, after school cooking

programs, and even with the counties, and homegrown Hillsborough to create connections with everyone across the food system. And Feeding Tampa Bay, the grant opening. The major food bank and it provides services to 10 countries. 215K sq feet. Double their outreach and impact with their new facilities. Job training, housing and food ... working with Metropolitan Ministries and partners including Bay Care. And USF works with them, bringing students out there. I started working with them in 2013, we talked a lot about food insecurity, a symptom of a larger structural issue. The food bank is leading toward solutions for future leading the charge. ERIC EISENBERG has connected and supported to help the MOU promote a flourish ... there is always so much going on, I created the center to bring people together, and that has flourished as well. This is a great time for this topic and for this Think Tank. The advancement for ... has been involved in ten funded projects and contracts, involving P3 and students, and many are doing similar things here. If we can pull this together, collaborative space to connect, share, and strengthen.

Eric Eisenberg, mentioned that to start branding and moving forward, nucleating, need to put it in context of the larger ecosystem. I have notices that community has benchmarking Tampa Bay against other urban areas across the country. Housing affordability, choices of food and housing, transportation, public health issues as well. The starting point is that there is a complex ecosystem as we move into this brave new world. Which part of the ecosystem do you want to work on, and how do we leverage it... if we focus on food, how does that effect quality of life, food deserts and transportation, and that is also a way to think about other partners, the insurance companies, others such as the VA made a deal with Uber to get people back and forth to their appointments. Casting a wide net and showing food is nexus point to leverage.

Emmanuel Roux, I would like to build on what has been said. To put things in context in the Bay Area, 3M people spending \$8-9B a year, and the local food network is not part of the local food system, but a part of the global food system. Food produced here is going to Canada and other places. If we produce 2 percent of the \$8 or \$9B, that is about \$190M which is a significant economic impact. The multiplying factor is between 7-30 times, depending on which economic that you talk to ... tremendously economic impact ... dividends regarding social, education and health dividends which are nonexistent unless you look at the global food system. David and I were in New Orleans at a conference meeting with NIFA deputy director who told us that Tampa Bay is the largest market without an organized food system. There is a lot of talent attending this Think Tank. In the community, there are a lot of resources. The question is, where is the land. I have identified 3 acres and most of it is owned by churches and government. I see a tremendous potential for USF to take the lead on this.

David Himmelgreen, I have been talking with people about developing local and regional food systems, and speaking with Will S. about food sovereignty, and the two literatures are separate, but they need to be brought together to achieve food security. And the 2nd thing, there are all these other folks out there that are jumping on this bandwagon, and others that would, but they just do not know. And the insurance companies discovered that food is medicine and food is health ... better for food security ... Humana and Florida Blue investing in resources in innovative programs for Food is Medicine programs.

Sandy Justice, as we were thinking in December about what to call this think tank here food is medicine or lifestyle medicine were some of the topics that were thrown around. Then there is so much around the future of food that isn't health, you know, because it is economics and housing and transportation and urban planning and so much more. But I love the point that Emanuel made about the economic impact, and I think that there is so much to unpack, and that it is incumbent on us as a as a knowledge economy, for the university to bring the people in this in this area together so that they can talk to each other learn what we're doing, because it's this is the university's 800 pound gorilla. And we don't know what we don't know. I think this is a really good first step.

Nancy Romero-Diaz, health consequences, environmental consequences, also thinking connection between health-food-water and very evident at the global settings. And intra relations and food energy. And water. Bringing together engineers... casting the net and look at international settings ... we also have connections with Costa Rica (NSF) working with engineers to look at water management. Food security research of the last 15 years. We love concurrent programs bringing different disciplines together.

Sandy Justice, I heard that the global south is so much migration north because farms are failing because of climate change. And I recently went to USAID with the education project and learned that there is a youth a global youth leadership program. And they're from South America to Africa to all over the world. They're dealing with water insecurity, housing insecurity and food insecurity. At such a scale, that it boggles the mind. I think we're in a great position to do things that will have a global impact. I'm delighted that we've attracted you to come here to do this.

Christian, educational schema is one good goal of this activity.

Sandy Justice, so as we're thinking about this and have these conversations, I do want to make sure that you know there's a MacArthur Grant Foundation opportunity for \$100 million to make global change. It will have a preliminary deadline. But first of all, a webinar. Here's our opportunity 100 and change. It's to have global change. It is unlike a lot of opportunities, large opportunities, engines, and things that are mapping to chips in science, this one is not dictating what you have to do. It's anything you want to do you want to end poverty. Do you want to solve the water crisis, do you want to help the food insecurity issue? So, they are just inviting great bold ideas, and I think that we have an opportunity to leverage the intellectual capital around this topic to really make some big heads start.

David Himmelgreen, transdisciplinary research in this area, more interest in the soil microbiome and plant microbiome, and types of food and farming.

Christian Brechot, microbiomes have become a fashionable word again. Fashionable is not true for many centers. One of the very few centers in the US that are really addressing both food, health and soil ... we have an advantage in this.

Eric Eisenberg, one thing that we could do is create non-credit programs for people at every level, through life-long learning, if there was some sort of program that we wanted to do that, when we know how that ties to themes that we want to focus on. We have a people development institute partnership with TGH, focused on individuals without a bachelor's degree, and improve their Professional Development. And JSOU also deal with individuals without BA degrees, we have the mechanism in place.

Looking at the interdisciplinary teams around food production projects, food forests, and community supported and neighborhoods, and the water based, hydroponics, and controlled environments, brown fields vertical farms, and food supply and food security, good chains ... grocers and restaurants, etc. and food security to reduce hunger, and shelters disaster relief, food and nutrition / diet and fitness, and food safety, and the microbiology, genetically modified, and nutraceuticals, and food waste, conversation behavior and the psychosocial and converting to biomass energy, transforming to fertilizer and recover/replace, and an app development (innovation) and policy influencing change, and food waste matrix, scales and indicators ... look at the projects that we have thought through this.

Christian Brechot, my understanding is that what we are willing to do, know each other, shape the workshops to be held in September 25<sup>th</sup> and in between, there are two possibility, not exclusive, to work with all of the topics, it is nice to be interdisciplinary but not easy ... we can define some topics, small groups working on this and then connecting ... to move to progress, the other way, to start with project immediately, but do not want to go too fast. A group about where ... group on education, we all share many ideas, and group on partnerships, and economic focus, and the local food system, and think about the systemic ... then we could have something about the social impact, and mental health impact, and sustainability of all of this ... everyone can be in several groups by definition. Maybe we can try to elaborate a little bit more. Send it around more ... and help frame the future gatherings ... each group could have two or three topics ... we are all interested to come to the workshop with more elaborate ideas.

Eric Eisenberg, I would like to see a white paper (not that dramatic) but a framing preamble to situate the broad context ... like responding to the MacArthur opportunity ... big picture, then why food focus, then situates make sure the connectivity is clear. Feeding Tampa Bay, rift feeding, feeding community, feeding connection ... and be sure to include community partners as we move forward, and include the students.

Christian Brechot, I met with representatives of students and was impressed with their commitment, they are the future.

David Himmelgreen, there is huge interest among the student body, and there is student groups (minorities in medicine, 250 grads and UGs) and a food insecurity student group.

Eric Eisenberg, Before the September convening, collect success stories of the food group, Christian Wells has done a terrific job.

Sixth Annual Food Soven annual conference

I have been working with Fat Beef Farm, biodigester, lovely little restaurant, Jenn came to me the other day, their employees cannot live in Tampa Bay anymore. We are going to visit developers and look at combining housing and food security. Her employees are couch surfing because they cannot afford to live in

MacArthur opportunity and notes

Round Table Introductions

Kick off the conversation.