

CELEBRATING WOMXN'S LEADERSHIP IN FOOD

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

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CO-DIRECTORS' NOTE

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear Community,

As we all grapple with the challenges 2025 is already bringing forth, we find it critical to ground ourselves in our community and the work we do together. Our work is nimble, and we know this year will necessitate changes and adaptation to meet the shifting landscape. Reflecting on all that unfolded in this past year at Celebrating Womxn's Leadership in Food reminds us of the power we all have when we sink into community. 2024 brought a deepening of existing relationships and a burgeoning of new ones through our community-based efforts. We even welcomed new Leadership Circle member, Josefina Lara Chavez.

The year started off with some valuable input and reflection at our Visioning Session. We entered into our third season of collaboration with The Cultural Conservancy and our network of North Bay farmers, deepening the work of the Grow a Row initiative. Plants to the People brought together our urban and rural farming communities for another year of relationship building and mutual aid through plant sharing. We hosted our first Summer Solstice Celebration with our Central Coast farming community. And our annual symposium brought together more people than ever to gather around community solidarity, indigenous foodways, and joy.

In 2024 the gatherings we hosted and community we facilitated focused on ease, solidarity and care. Many in our farming community suffered losses due to climate extremes, including during the severe flooding in the early part of the year. We wanted to show up for people in ways that felt nurturing and joyful. We created spaces for deep conversations, self care, connection and good fun.

Celebrating Womxn's Leadership in Food gathers people together to connect across difference, build trust, nurture community and grow solidarity. Thank you for taking a few moments to explore what that looked like in 2024. We cannot wait for all that 2025 will bring!

In Solidarity,

Caitlin Hachmyer + Layla Aguilar, co-directors



VISIONING SESSION

GATHERINGS

We started 2024 with a visioning session with our community partners. As a team, we wanted the chance to ground our work in the expressed needs of our community, and what better way to do that than ask them to spend a cozy late winter day with us, connecting, brainstorming and reflecting (and of course, eating good food!).

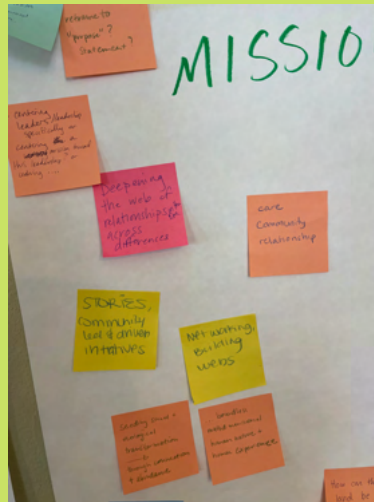
We began with a Friday evening retreat for the leadership circle the evening before everyone else arrived. Our intention was to connect as a team and deep dive into a conversation around renaming our organization in order to more accurately reflect the inclusive nature of our work (ie, removing the word “Womxn”). This is a still a work in progress that we hope to have capacity to revisit in 2025.

When folks arrived that Saturday morning, everyone had a chance to introduce themselves and share the ways they have interacted with the work of CWLF. We had small group discussions about why folks felt it was important to be present that day - literally answering the question, “why are you here?”, allowing us to dive into the spirit of our work which calls people to remain engaged. Then everyone had time to do some independent journaling and pair shares while reflecting on our mission statement, discussing its relevance and accuracy at this point in time. This gave the leadership team a chance to hear from others about the pieces of our mission that resonate most and the initiatives on which they feel we should focus. This day informed our work plan for the year and allowed us to remain present to the needs and desires of our community.

Overall, it was a great way for us to hear from our partners about the importance and impact of the work we’ve been doing over the past 8 years. Time and again, we realize that the simple act of creating spaces for folks to gather, reflect, connect and laugh is valuable enough in this world.

VISIONING SESSION

GATHERINGS



PLANTS TO THE PEOPLE

INITIATIVES

Plants to the People continued to bring farmers together from across the urban and rural regions of the greater Bay Area in 2024. This initiative launched out of urgency in 2020 when urban growers recognized a critical and impending need to grow more food, and quickly, on their urban community farms. The plant share has grown into a twice-a-year event. This year it brought together sixteen growers to send 10,500 plants grown in rural greenhouses to urban farms, community gardens and school gardens in San Francisco and the East Bay.

We circled up at Winter Sisters Farm in the Spring to enjoy snacks, connect with our grower community and load up trucks with vegetable, flower, and herb starts. In the Fall, CWLF co-directors drove starts down to San Francisco and the East Bay to deliver plants to our urban community. These plants bring together not just the network of growers building relationships over their exchange, but hundreds of families across the Bay that then plant them, tend them, and enjoy their bounty.

For instance, the starts shared with Common Vision - one of our seven recipient groups - are distributed to four school sites in West Oakland and San Leandro. They are integrated into environmental education, health, wellness, and cooking education along with academic learning - counting, colors, measuring, art, etc. - for the whole school community. Thus, those plants impact the growth of more than 1,200 students and their families, as well as 200 volunteer learners and gardeners. Further, Common Vision harvests the vegetables and includes them in their weekly food distributions at multiple Oakland sites.

Many thanks to [Hummingbird Farm](#), Castlemont High School + Sankofa Gardens, [Sogorea Te Land Trust](#), [Common Vision](#), [The Cultural Conservancy](#), [West County Community Farm](#), [Singing Frogs Farm](#), [Lets Go Farm](#), [Open Field Farm](#), [Little Rainbow Farm](#), [Red H Farm](#), [Beet Generation Farm](#), [Shone Farm](#), [Monan's Rill](#) and [Winter Sister Farm](#) for their continued commitment to building community across our region.

PLANTS TO THE PEOPLE

INITIATIVES



GROW A ROW

INITIATIVES

Grow a Row is a solidarity collaboration between CWLF and The Cultural Conservancy (TCC). Our collaboration seeks to strengthen relationships between Native communities in TCC's network and North Bay farmers. These farmers dedicate one row on their farms to growing produce to be distributed through this network, thereby supporting seed growing at Heron Shadow (TCC's farm in Graton).

This year, 8 North Bay farms and ranches worked with TCC staff to deliver over 5,400 pounds of donated food to Native communities across the Bay Area. We had two new farms join our efforts, bringing in more bunching greens and grass fed ground beef for folks to enjoy! All of this food was delivered to those accessing resources through the [California Indian Museum and Cultural Center](#) (Santa Rosa), the [American Indian Cultural District](#) (SF), the [American Indian Child Resource Center](#) (Oakland), [Sonoma County Indian Health Project](#) (Santa Rosa) and [Intertribal Friendship House](#) (Oakland).

We love our annual tradition of gathering at Heron Shadow in the warmth of the greenhouse for a community potluck kickoff to the season, and are thrilled to know these connections ripple throughout the year. An exchange of labor and care unfolded this year, with several workdays taking place across Sonoma County. Mutual aid is felt in all directions, with farmers receiving physical assistance in the height of the season, and community members receiving nourishment throughout the year.

I really value being a part of and in community with TCC. But it was even more special to have been the lucky recipient of their help. Besides the physical help in weeding and hauling that caught me up in my season, we got a chance to connect more and share in peak season challenges and wins. The connection was needed by all. I am still so grateful and it was a reminder to lean into help and community and mutual trust.

Reyna Yagi, Yagi Sisters Farm

Huge amounts of gratitude to our Grow a Row farmers: Red H Farm, Singing Frogs Farm, [Fledgling Farm](#), [Yagi Sisters Farm](#), Beet Generation Farm, Open Field Farm, [Petaluma Bounty](#) and [True Grass Farms](#). Their generosity is deeply felt and appreciated!

GROW A ROW

INITIATIVES



SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

GATHERINGS

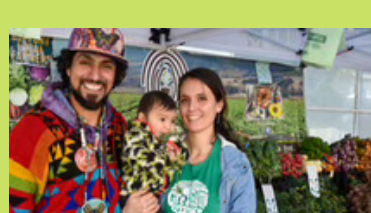
This year we grew our programming outside of our usual geographic region and hosted a lovely gathering on the Central Coast in June. We felt the connections with the Latine farmer community in that region grow stronger and it was such a joy to be in community with them for one whole day!

The Solstice Celebration brought together a group of about 40 farmers and community members for a day of nourishment - physical and emotional. Childcare was provided (as always!) so that parents could: immerse themselves in a yoga class with the talented [Isabella Guzmán](#), learn how to make an herbal salve with Rosalba of [Black Zocolo](#), or have fun drawing and connecting with St. John's wort in a botanical art workshop led by Madalyn from the [Community Medicine Cabinet](#). Folks toured nearby [Blossom's Biodynamic Farm](#) and left inspired to try new things and explore agritourism possibilities on their own farms. A tasty plant-based lunch was provided by the amazing Cultiva, showcasing produce from their [Green Thumb Farms](#) in San Juan Bautista. People ate, relaxed, went home with a little salve and connected with folks from across the greater Bay Area.

We are grateful to Leadership Circle member, Josefina Lara Chavez, for bridging our work in the North Bay to the Central Coast, fostering deeper trust across these two vibrant farming communities. We look forward to this connection continuing to blossom over time and space.

SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

GATHERINGS



8TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

GATHERINGS

Celebrating Womxn's Leadership in Food held our eighth annual Symposium in early December of 2024. We gathered for a day of connection, education, and celebration at Green Valley Farm + Mill, in Sebastopol, California.

The symposium strikes the balance between supporting our broader community and creating a space for our close network of collaborators to connect and build stronger relationships. We launched the symposium with a Friday night dinner with our local farmer community to show gratitude for all they contribute to our initiatives like Grow a Row and Plants to the People. We shared a home cooked meal and chatted into the night, leaning into friendship and camaraderie.

Saturday brought a full day, beginning with breakfast, coffee and big conversations about Native Foodways, food and land sovereignty, and community healing with Lyla June Johnston and Alondra Aragon in the morning. 120 people joined us for the day, listening intently, diving into World Cafe conversations, and breaking out in an afternoon of interactive workshops. Folks immersed themselves in cheesemaking with Aubrie Maze from Green Valley, genogram and free writing exploring generational trauma, challenges, resilience, and inspiration with Dr. Erica Tom from the Santa Rosa Junior College, community organizing trainings with Alondra Aragon and Kai Sarmiento from Hummingbird Farm, lavender wreath making with Justina Salinas from Araceli Farms, yoga and movement with Isabella Guzman and Native land stewardship methods with Lyla June Johnston. We ended the day with a mocktail and herbal latte bar hosted by former leadership circle member Phanie Maldonado of Apothecary for the People.

With interpretation, the best food and drink to indulge in, and a warmth of spirit, we do everything we can to make the symposium welcoming, inclusive and nurturing to all who want to attend. We have huge gratitude to our sponsors Biotic Beverages, Healthy High, Stemple Creek, Cowgirl Creamery, Petaluma Coffee + Tea, Straus Family Creamery, Traditional Medicinals, Mama Mel's Bread, and Sarmentine Artisan Boulanger for making the day delicious and nourishing for our community. As always, the symposium left us filled with hope and resolve.

8TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

GATHERINGS



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THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Tremendous thanks to [The Globetrotter Foundation](#), [Paicines Ranch](#), The Martha and Hunter Grubb Foundation, Inc., and the [Occidental Arts and Ecology Center](#) for supporting this work!

