

GFJI Conference September 2011

“Queering the Farm: Heteronormativity and Food Justice”

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We are a group of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, and/or Allied (LGBTQA) individuals working to build an LGBTQA-centered, youth-centered community garden project in Chicago. The project aims to use food as a bridge between all people, and thus a vehicle for social justice work. Our goals are to mobilize the food justice movement to empower LGBTQA-identified people, teach others about LGBTQA experiences and analyses, and dismantle heteronormativity in all communities. We see sexual orientation, gender identification, race, nationality, class, ability, age, and body type as systems of oppression and privilege that are inextricably linked with LGBTQA struggles and must be dismantled simultaneously with heteronormativity. We define heteronormativity as the institutional bias in favor of opposite-sex relationships, and against same-sex relationships that assumes the former to be “normal” and thus “good,” and the latter to be “abnormal” and “bad.” Heteronormativity is the root cause of homophobia.

**We are requesting interviews from anyone who would like to respond to the question:

What is your dream project that would transform our current food system, restricted by heteronormativity and the gender binary, into a system supportive of all sexualities and gender identities/expressions?

We will collect these responses in text, voice or video formats in order to document the dreams and visions of GFJI members across the country.

Resources:

Queer Farmer Film Project

<http://queerfarmer.blogspot.com/>

Gender Gumby document c/o Portland Community College:

<http://www.pcc.edu/resources/illumination/documents/gender-gumby-glbtc-oppression-exercise.pdf>

Project Nia (<http://www.project-nia.org/>)

“Something is Wrong: Exploring the Roots of Youth Violence”

http://www.project-nia.org/docs/Something_Is_Wrong-Curriculum.pdf

The United Nations Association in Canada (<http://www.unac.org/>)

“The Kit”

http://www.unac.org/yfar/The_Kit.pdf

Teaching Tolerance

<http://www.tolerance.org/teaching-kits>; specifically search the term “gender” to find relevant activities