

EFOD
EQUITABLE FOOD
ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

THE UNCONFERENCE 2026 DETROIT

WELCOME PACKET

August 3 - August 6, 2026





WELCOME

Guided by ongoing conversations with EFOD member organizations and the steering committee it became clear that many in the collaborative are curious to hear how other member organizations are thinking about and enacting our EFOD criteria; particularly focusing on community leadership, community ownership and community wealth-building. Therefore, we have woven explorations around these criteria throughout the UnConference to support three distinct functions:

- relationship (who we engage and how),
- vision (what we dream into),
- and peer learning (how we activate collective resources). These functions seek to uplift each organization's gifts & knowledge, while being held by facilitators and wisdom keepers and energized by culture bearers, artists, and the support team. View their profiles and attendee profiles [here](#).



TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTACTS	P. 4
LOCAL PARTNERS	P. 5
FACILITATORS & SUPPORT STAFF	P. 7
SCHEDULE	P. 9
DETROIT RECOMMENDATIONS	P. 10
WEATHER	P. 11
WHAT TO PACK	P. 11

CONTACTS



LOGISTICS: THE NEST

For questions about the hotel, schedule or other logistical information:

- Leigh Robbie Gaymon-Jones
- Email: hello@thenestcreatives.com
- Cell: 512-653-6573

THE GODFREY HOTEL

- Address: 1401 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, MI 48216
- Neighborhood: Corktown
- Phone Number: (313) 385-0000
- Website: www.godfreyhoteldetroit.com
- Check In Time: 3:00 PM | Check Out: 12:00 PM

DTOWN FARMS

- Address: 14027 West Outer Drive, Detroit, Michigan 48239
- Website: www.dbcfsn.org/dtownfarm

DETROIT FOOD COMMONS

- Address: 8324 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI 48202
- Website: www.dbcfsn.org/detroitfoodcommons

LAFAYETTE GREENS GARDEN

- Address: 13000 West McNichols Rd, Detroit, MI 48235
- Website: www.greeningofdetroit.com/greenspaces



LOCAL PARTNERS

We are grateful to have collaborated with several local partners in creating The UnConference 2026.

These are our anchor partners in Detroit, who you will get to connect with throughout the week.



Detroit Black Community Food Sovereignty Network

Creating sustainable, equitable food systems and advocate for policies that address the unique challenges faced by Black communities in Detroit and beyond.

DBCFSN is the home to several of the locations we will visit: [DTown Farm](#), [Food Commons](#) & [Detroit People's Food Coop](#).



Lafayette Greens Garden

Enhancing the quality of life for Detroiters by planting trees, providing job training and involving our youth in the education of the natural environment.

Wednesday night's Community Dinner will be hosted at the Lafayette Gardens.



Chef Nezaa Bandele aka, Mama Nezaa

Owner of Paradise Natural Foods; Natural Food Chef specializing in plant-based, globally inspired cuisine and vegan pastries.

Chef Nezaa will be providing our offsite breakfasts, lunches and dinners.



Cary Junior

Founder & General Manager of Southeast Michigan Producers Association (SEMPA), supporting rural African American & Underserved producers near Detroit.

Cary will help connect us with the experience of local producers by sharing stories from the field.

FEATURED DETROIT CULTURAL BEARERS & ARTISTS

Hadassah GreenSky

Rosebud Bear Schneider

Najma Wilson

Djapo Cultural Arts

Naheem Shareef

Jabari Bandele

Chef Nezaa

Eager Grove Farm



EFOD CONVERSATION HOSTS, PANELISTS, & STORYTELLERS

Black Food Sovereignty Coalition

Communities in Partnership

Detroit Black Food Sovereignty
Network

Dreaming Out Loud

El Depa

Fountain Heights Farm

Fresh Future Farm

Hesapa Birth Circle

Kheprw Institute

La Mujer Obrera

Mālama Loko Ea Foundation

Oakland Bloom

Planting Justice

RAGE

Southeast Michigan Producers
Association

Sticky Rice Club

EFOD STAFF & FACILITATORS



Ashley Brailsford

EFOD Collaborative Learning & Network Manager



Ciara Segura

EFOD Collaborative Strategy & Resource Mobilization Director



Monica Cadena

EFOD Collaborative Communications & Storytelling Director
UnConference Facilitator



Trisha Chakrabarti

EFOD Collaborative National Organizer



Wyndi Moore

Loiter, Community Organizer
UnConference Facilitator



AORTA

UnConference Facilitator



June Kaewsith

UnConference Facilitator



Manzanita Capital Collective

UnConference Facilitator



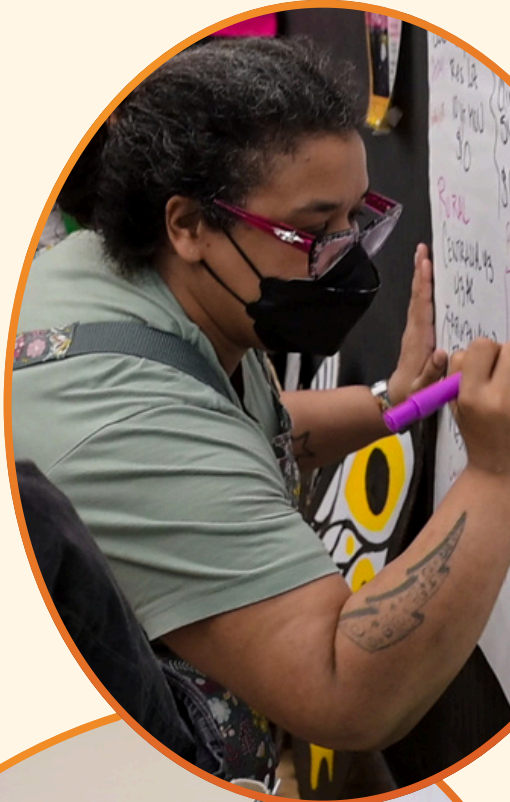
Bernice Shaw

UnConference Facilitator



Sean Chow

368 Consulting Strategist & Walking Meditation Guide



ONSITE SUPPORT STAFF

Mama Gabby

Childcare



Zu Vernon

Tuesday & Wednesday Event Production



Leigh Robbie Gaymon-Jones

Monday - Thursday Logistics Coordination



Valeria Esqueda

Monday - Thursday Logistics Coordination



SCHEDULE



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
7:00 AM		OPTIONAL WALKING MEDITATION MEET IN HOTEL LOBBY 7:00 PM - 7:45 PM	OPTIONAL WALKING MEDITATION MEET IN HOTEL LOBBY 7:00 PM - 7:45 PM	OPTIONAL WALKING MEDITATION MEET IN HOTEL LOBBY 7:00 PM - 7:45 PM
8:00 AM		SHUTTLE TO DTOWN FARM	SHUTTLE TO FOOD COMMONS	BREAKFAST & MARKET PLACE HOTEL BALLROOM 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
9:00 AM		BREAKFAST & ACTIVITIES DTOWN FARM 9:00 AM - 10:00 PM	BREAKFAST & ACTIVITIES FOOD COMMONS 9:00 AM - 10:00 PM	
10:00 AM				
11:00 AM		GROUNDING IN EFOD CRITERIA & ONE ANOTHER DTOWN FARM 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM	COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP PANEL & PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES DISCUSSION FOOD COMMONS 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM	AQUIRING LAND & CREATIVE CAPITAL DISCUSSION HOTEL BALLROOM 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
12:00 PM				
1:00 PM		LUNCH DTOWN FARM 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	LUNCH & COOP SHOPPING FOOD COMMONS 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	LUNCH & TO GO OPTIONS HOTEL BALLROOM 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
2:00 PM				
3:00 PM	HOTEL CHECK IN 3:00 PM	CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE [FARM WALK & HARVEST TOUR, CULTURAL TREE PLANTING, CULTURAL WELLNESS PRACTICES] & VISIONING PART 1 DTOWN FARM 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM	CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE [STORYTELLING, COOKING FAMILY RECIPES, RHAÉ GAME, EMERGENT CONVERSATION] & VISIONING PART 2 FOOD COMMONS 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM	HOTEL CHECK OUT 2:00 PM
4:00 PM			SHUTTLE TO HOTEL	
5:00 PM		SHUTTLE TO HOTEL	FREE TIME	
6:00 PM			SHUTTLE TO LAFAYETTE GARDENS	
7:00 PM	THE UNCONFERENCE CHECK IN & OPENING RECEPTION HOTEL ROOFTOP 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM			
8:00 PM				
9:00 PM				
10:00 PM				

DETROIT RECOMMENDATIONS

DINNER IDEAS IN CORKTOWN

OTTAVA VIA | Italian Cuisine, across the street from the hotel

SAVANNAH BLUE | Modern Soul Food

TAKOI | Modern Thai, operates HiO Farm

SUPERGEIL | Mediterranean, drawing from France, Spain & Northern Africa

STREET BEET | Vegan

IMA IZAKAYA | Japanese Inspired

MINK | Raw Bar & Seafood

MOTORCITY WINE | Corktown Wine Bar

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

BELLE ISLE | island park featuring a zoo, aquarium, conservatory, Great Lakes museum and much more

EASTERN MARKET | largest outdoor farmer's market in the United States

MOTOWN MUSEUM | Book a Ticket in advance

DETROIT RIVERFRONT



WEATHER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
						
82° 66°	83° 65°	86° 71°	87° 68°	83° 66°	83° 67°	82° 68°

WHAT TO PACK

- **Warm Weather Attire:** As you can see, it will be warm all week... so breathable outfits is the way to go!
- **Pants:** The mosquitos are roaming, so we suggest you consider pants and/or long sleeves for Tuesday's visit to DTown Farm.
- **Closed-Toe Shoes:** DTown farm has areas of uneven or rugged terrain, so please plan not to wear sandals on the farm.
- **Comfortable Shoes:** there will be some walking.
- There's a chance of rain, so bringing a rain jacket isn't a bad idea. (But... the rain isn't scheduled for our farm day!)
- **Hat and/or Sunglasses:** these will keep you comfy outdoors. We'll also provide you fans to keep you cool.
- **Water Bottle:** we'll have onsite hydration stations so you can keep your water bottle filled!
- **Sunblock & Bug Spray:** we'll have some on hand, but it never hurts to have your favorite products on hand.
- **An Outfit for Wednesday Night:** something between casual and fancy for our Garden Community Dinner at Lafayette Gardens

THE UNCONFERENCE

2026 DETROIT

