I. HOUSTON FOOD SYSTEM COLLABORATIVE

VISION
The Houston Food System Collaborative envisions a more vibrant and integrated food system that intentionally provides for all in the Greater Houston Area: people, organizations, communities, and the environment.

MISSION
The mission of the Houston Food System Collaborative is to facilitate growth of a sustainable local food system, accessible to all, through education, innovation, and collaboration.

VALUES
The Houston Food System Collaborative demonstrates the following core values when engaging with our members, our networks, and communities:

- **Collaboration**: The workgroup works together to address issues and achieve a purpose that could not be accomplished alone;
- **Equity**: The workgroup fosters a culture of equity by identifying disparities in our food system and taking steps to address them;
- **Holism**: The workgroup understands that the parts of the whole are interconnected and views the whole as greater than the sum of its parts;
- **Respect**: The workgroup treats its members and partners with dignity and admiration as a result of their abilities, qualities, or achievements;
- **Sustainability**: The workgroup carries out activities with an eye on the longevity of application and results as well as supporting long-term ecological balance;
- **Stewardship**: The workgroup manages its resources responsibly; and
- **Wellness**: The workgroup supports decision-making that promotes the prevention of illness and prolonging of life for greater Houston area residents.

GOALS
- People understand that their local food choices support thriving businesses, healthy communities, and vibrant working landscapes.
- Organizations across the food system work together to reduce food loss and waste.
- Everyone has access to healthy, affordable, and culturally diverse food.
- Local farm, fisheries, and food businesses are profitable and rewarding to all involved.
- Policy, regulation, and infrastructure supports long-term local and regional food production, distribution, and marketing.
- The ecosystems and resources that sustain a robust food system are conserved and enhanced.

STRATEGY
Our overall strategy for realizing our vision and goals includes three components:

1. **Build networks.** Networks consist of diverse organizations, institutions, businesses, and individuals that align their shared interests around common goals. By growing a network of relationships and connections throughout the food system, we can learn
from each other, leverage resources, and increase our impact throughout the region.

2. **Identify areas of leverage and opportunity.** To determine where to focus our collaborative energy and resources, we listen to and learn from people across the region, synthesize research, and together identify areas in the food system where we believe targeted shifts could result in greater integration throughout the rest of the system. This ongoing and evolving process will ensure that the Houston Food System Collaborative reflects the unique interests and needs of our region now and in the future.

3. **Grow one initiative at a time.** By focusing our collaborative efforts on specific, critical concerns, we can continue to nurture the growing network, learn and respond to changing conditions, and achieve lasting, meaningful impact. Therefore, we will expand the scope of the Houston Food System Collaborative one initiative at a time.

The image below illustrates basic food system activities from farm and sea to table to compost; the producers, entrepreneurs, institutions, people, initiatives, and agencies that support these processes. We aim to have a Houston Food System Collaborative membership that represents all of these stakeholders.
I. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

HOUSTON FOOD SYSTEM COLLABORATIVE CO-CHAIRS
The co-chairs are responsible for setting the overall direction and strategy of the group as well as overall operations including meeting schedules and fund development when appropriate. The co-chairs serve two-year terms with one-year overlap between the two. The current co-chairs nominate and invite the incoming co-chair.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
The Executive Committee convenes Action Team meetings and carries out activities to inform Collaborative efforts and monitor progress. The Executive Committee also facilitates communication and learning across the workgroup to advance the shared goals.
- Josh Owens, Houston-Galveston Area Council, (Past Co-Chair, 2017 & 2018)
- Rosalind Bello, MD Anderson Cancer Center (Past Co-Chair, 2016 & 2017)
- J. Boone Holladay, Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension (Past Co-Chair, 2014 & 2015)
- Libby Kennedy, Urban Harvest (Past Co-Chair, 2015 & 2016)
- Scott Howard, (Past Co-Chair, 2013 & 2014)
- Regi Young, Houston Food Bank
- Scott Snodgrass, Edible Group LLC
- Megan Hoag, Texas Hunger Initiative

ACTION TEAMS
Action Teams coordinate implementation of priority actions in each of five areas: Production & Harvesting; Processing; Distribution & Marketing; Consumption; and Nutrient & Waste Management. New Action Teams are proposed by Membership through the Action Team Proposal Document.

II. RESOURCES AND EXAMPLES

2. Local Foods, Local Places [https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places](https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places)

### FOOD TANK


### JOHNS HOPKINS CENTER FOR A LIVABLE FUTURE