



CASTANEA FELLOWSHIP

Community. Power. Justice.
Leadership for the future of food.

Cohort 2: 2020 Profiles

Castanea Fellowship's second cohort showcasing how they pushed boundaries.



Alex (BCA Global) encouraged the Culinary Institute of America to integrate and invest in racial equity into its institutional practices. [Read his statement here.](#)



Kelly (Acta Non Verba) successfully assumed Phat Beets in her portfolio to grow their CSA and is starting a grocery co-op to help feed Oakland families. [Learn more about this veteran's story and work.](#)



Tavia launched their own farm to healing training practice to mentor students holistically. They are also working with [Black Land Project](#)



Anthony (Kitchen Table Advisors) raised a \$500,000 fund to support BIPOC farmers in California. [Read HEAL Food Alliance's highlight of KTA's critical work.](#)



Shane embodies food as healing and was selected as *Grist* magazine's 50 climate change leaders for their work. [Read about their compelling work here.](#)



Helga (Agricultura Cooperative) maintained and grew services for healthcare, educational, and community institutions throughout the pandemic. As the new NM Food & Agriculture Policy President her vision is clear. [Read about it here.](#)



Shantell (Cultivate Charlottesville) is shifting procurement at the University of Virginia to be more inclusive of Black and Indigenous vendors. [Hear her TedX talk on food justice.](#)

In their own words...



Deepa formally launched Ayeko Farm and shared her story about “Farming for Social Justice” in Civil Eats [which you can read here](#). [Or listen to her story](#).



Chris wrote prolifically through out the pandemic while tremendously scaling his operations to establish a large-scale collaboratively BIPOC owned food hub. [Read more here](#).



Jose is organizing for food workers’ health and safety through multiple campaigns and this [compelling piece in Forbes](#). [Or read his EcoFarm keynote](#).



Esperanza is leveraging [\\$10 Million dollars](#) to increase investment in BIPOC communities, she’s spearheaded the metrics and methods for these resources to go where most needed.



Bren is spearheading the rise and role of ocean farming, [to make kelp core to cuisines](#), as shared in the New York Times and his book “[Eat Like a Fish](#)” that implores us towards a blue/green economy.

“I am engaged and ready. Fellows have shared their resources, knowledge, and we’re working together on projects across our organizations in powerful ways.”

“In solidarity, count us in. It's going back to the collective impact and the momentum that we have been building in this cohort and just not losing that. Keep building on it, keep building our structural strategy, we can only get stronger by our collectiveness.”

“The ways in which my imagination has been stretched in this fellowship is making me realize that, wow, my imagination is growing just by being a space with you all. I'm also thinking how can I bring this experience to folks that haven't been able to experience this before?”

Cohort 1: 2019 Profiles

Learn more about how Castanea Fellowship's first cohort shows up for food justice.



Erika (Urban Grower's Collective) provided more than 1,000,000 pounds of emergency food. [Watch the news clip.](#) [Learn about the Green Innovation Hub.](#)



Martin (National Young Farmer's Coalition) activated small grant funding and policy advocacy for it's growing membership. [Read their statement on the Capitol Riots.](#)



Shorlette (Center for Environmental Farming Systems) shared a personal story about food system workers in her article, "[My Family pays the price for America's Chicken Dinner.](#)"



Dr. Geeta was the heartbeat of food as medicine during the pandemic. Providing her students, community, and patients tools to strengthen immune systems. [Read her perspective.](#) [See her training for UGC.](#)



Leonard (Pie Ranch) continued his profound leadership in reimagining the future of farming. [See his address for Eco Farm.](#)



Emily (A Greener World) helped farmers and business respond to Covid-19 through resources to stabilize business. [Hear her geek out on the power and impact of labels.](#)



Lilian (Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture Institute) was the only certified organization able to deliver food to the reservation during the immensity of Covid-19. [Learn about her organization in this profile by Yes!.](#)



Eduardo (Sin Fronteras Farm) consistently provided food for 100 families while expanding his connection and donations to small restaurants struggling to survive. [View his gorgeous farm and organic produce.](#)

In their own words...



Ma'raj (Chicago Food Policy Action Council) pushed to prioritize racial justice as part of Covid-19 relief efforts. [Read the call to action. Hear her story and why she joined CFPAC.](#)



Aileen (Sariwa Kitchen) provided meals for new mothers, ran a virtual Sama Sama camp for youth and their families, fundraised for healthcare workers. [More food as medicine projects here](#)



Rowen (Sierra Seeds) provided hundreds of ancestral seed packs to Indigenous families, launched a mentorship program, and is supporting an Indigenous Women's Flow Fund. [Learn more here.](#)



Mark (Brooklyn Movement Center) is close to opening a store front for the first black-owned food co-op in Brooklyn. [Listen to him discuss the powerful role of cooperatives.](#)

“The way Castanea Fellowship supported us during the pandemic was incredible. From the micro details to the macro concepts we were introduced to that were right on time, and then, add to that the sweet thoughtful care packages. I have just been amazed at how you all continue to support us.”

“Especially now, the farmer voice is not only needed in agricultural and food policy, if we want meaningful change, we need to make sure our perspective bridge across different disciplines and communities, building a bigger coalition while not compromising on the difficult conversations.”



CASTANEA FELLOWSHIP

is a multi-sector collaborative that creates opportunities for transformative leadership to thrive. We provide a two-year fellowship for diverse leaders working for a racially just food system in any of the areas of health, environment, agriculture, regional economies, or community development.

Castanea Fellows build power to shift structures and culture towards the creation of a more equitable, sustainable, and healthier food system for children, families, and all communities. We give Castanea Fellows the time, space, and resources they need to innovate on long-term food system solutions.

To learn more visit: www.castaneafellowship.org

Please note these words and blurbs do not perfectly capture the fullness of each Castanea Fellow's work and value. If updates need to be made, they are lovingly welcomed. Just email chan@castaneafellowship.org