

# TORONTO BLACK FOOD SOVEREIGNTY PLAN YEAR 1 UPDATE



Officially launched in 2022, the Toronto Black Food Sovereignty Plan provides an immediate and long-term, community-led response to address structural inequities and root causes of Black food insecurity. Informed by an anti-Black racism lens, the Plan is guided by a commitment to realize the Right to Food, and the principles of recognition, development and justice, under the UN International Decade for People of African Descent.

28.4%

OF BLACK HOUSEHOLDS ARE FOOD INSECURE



## The Black Food Sovereignty Advisory Circle



Driven by community priorities, the Plan is informed by a co-governance model which included the development of an Advisory Circle comprised of 8 or more members.

In year one, nine Black community leaders were appointed, representing intersectional expertise and experience in food business and entrepreneurship; food insecurity programming; culinary arts; school food; farming and urban agriculture; youth food organizing; seed sovereignty; health research; and community development. In addition to providing local expertise, the Advisory Circle has two international members who represent a pan-African perspective in food sovereignty to support innovation, connection, and the development of best practices, as part of a global movement of action to advance Black food sovereignty.

### 5 PILLARS ADVANCED IN 2022

SUSTAINABLE FUNDING & COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING



8 Actions Advanced

ACCESS TO GROWING SPACE



6 Actions Advanced

ACCESSIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE



2 Actions Advanced

BLACK FOOD HUBS, PROCUREMENT & CULTURAL MARKETS



4 Actions Advanced

CULTURALLY ROOTED FOOD & NUTRITION PROGRAMS



2 Actions Advanced

10+

BLACK-LED COMMUNITY GROUPS FUNDED

Black-led and serving organizations and grassroots groups were funded to develop, pilot and scale food security responses and food sovereignty initiatives.

48%

OF ALL ACTIONS STARTED

In year one, 22 of the 45 City Council approved actions were advanced in partnership with City divisions, Black-led partners and Black community leaders.

8

CITY DIVISIONS STEWARDED OUTCOMES

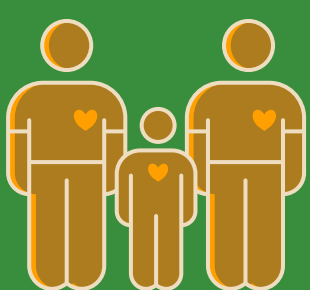
In 2022, 8 City divisions partnered with Black communities and the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit, providing in-kind staff time, resources, expertise, and support.

“Through this collaboration we now have a larger voice to make the changes we need to make for the Black community, and future generations coming behind us.”

-Toronto Black Farmer's Collective



In Year 1, the Toronto Black Food Sovereignty Plan strategically focused on investments and partnerships. Collaborations have been established with Black-led organizations and grassroots groups working to improve access to culturally relevant food and economic opportunities that serve Black youth, continental African residents, and Afro-Indigenous and 2SLGBTQ+ populations.



To build and strengthen partnerships with Black communities, all activities prioritized in year one will continue their implementation into 2023. This approach will also further align activities identified in the final year of the City of Toronto's Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism, and the delivery of place-based neighbourhood planning projects, like the Jane and Finch Initiative.

# YEAR 1 MILESTONES

## MILESTONE NO. 1

Delivered 5 food security grants to Black-mandated agencies to increase culturally appropriate food access to seniors and families in Etobicoke and North York.

1

SPRING  
2022

2

## MILESTONE NO. 2

Provided \$100k to African Food Basket and Black-led partners to deliver land-based agricultural and leadership programming for Black youth.

3

## MILESTONE NO. 3

Funded 8 new and enhanced Scarborough and North York Fresh Food Markets to increase healthy food access in areas with a high density of Black residents.

4

## MILESTONE NO. 4

Launched the Market Bucks program to subsidize the cost of fresh food at new Scarborough Farmers' Markets working to support Black families.

5

## MILESTONE NO. 5

Established a new Black business promotional program to spotlight and support economic development for Black food restaurants and entrepreneurs.

6

## MILESTONE NO. 6

Granted \$35k to the Afro-Caribbean Farmers Market in Little Jamaica to deliver an enhanced farmers' market for the 2022 season.

7

## MILESTONE NO. 7

Selection, launch, and on-boarding of the first Black Food Sovereignty Advisory Circle to advise and evaluate implementation of actions.

SUMMER  
2022

8

## MILESTONE NO. 8

Worked with Black food organizations to deliver Afro-Caribbean programming for Emancipation month, through Hungry for Comfort, including live panels on systemic barriers in food, culinary talks, tastings, and Black food history tours.

9

## MILESTONE NO. 9

Gathered over 50 Indigenous and Afro-Indigenous community members to participate in a community feast to build relations & share their sovereignty visions.

FALL  
2022

10

## MILESTONE NO. 10

Provided 3 Black-mandated food agencies and grassroots groups operational funding in Phase 1 & 2 of the Black-Mandated Funding Framework pilot.

11

## MILESTONE NO. 11

Increased and subsidized infrastructure and kitchen space access for Black food entrepreneurs at Venture Park Labs, and at the North York Food Hall.

WINTER  
2022

12

## MILESTONE NO. 12

Convened the second annual Black Food Sovereignty Conference, hosting 2 community conversations to increase accountability and build capacity for community governance and action.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Year two of the Plan will continue to work with Black-mandated agencies and grassroots groups, City divisions, and the Black Food Sovereignty Advisory Circle to plan, evaluate and advance all 22 Actions identified in year one, in addition to 13 new Actions that will begin implementation in 2023. Activities in year two will work to achieve outcomes across four thematic areas:

### CAPACITY

Increase the ability of Black-led agencies to develop, pilot, scale and evaluate community-led food security interventions to address immediate needs.

### OWNERSHIP

Identify, facilitate, and support opportunities for increased Black ownership and access to community food assets, and resources to build a more resilient and responsive local food system.

### WELLBEING

Embed and standardize community-led approaches and tools to assess holistic measures of wellbeing and community food security.

### CULTURE

Foster opportunities to cultivate, deepen, recognize, and share Black cultural food practices, traditions and histories to highlight and revitalize cultural foodways.