



# BOSTON FOOD ACCESS COUNCIL

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday September 25th, 2019  
O'Neill Conference Room | Room 801, Boston City Hall

## **Introductions & Welcome**

*Boston Food Access Council Meeting  
Wednesday, September 25th, 2019*





## Meeting Agenda

*Discussion of Food Policy Work in General  
(HFLPC and OFA)*

*Small Group Discussion & Report Back*

*History of BFAC*

*New BFAC Structure*

*Next Steps & December Meeting Goals*

## **Food Policy Work in General**

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FOOD LAW  
*and* POLICY CLINIC  
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

# Boston Food Access Council: Pathways Forward

Emily, Erika, Maggie, Matt  
September 25th, 2019

# About the Food Law Policy Clinic

1. Provide **legal and policy advice** to nonprofits, government agencies, entrepreneurs, and other organizations on a range of food policy questions
2. **Educate students** about the role of law and policy in the food system





# What we will discuss...

1	Food Policy Overview
2	Food Policy Ideas from Other Cities
3	Group Brainstorm



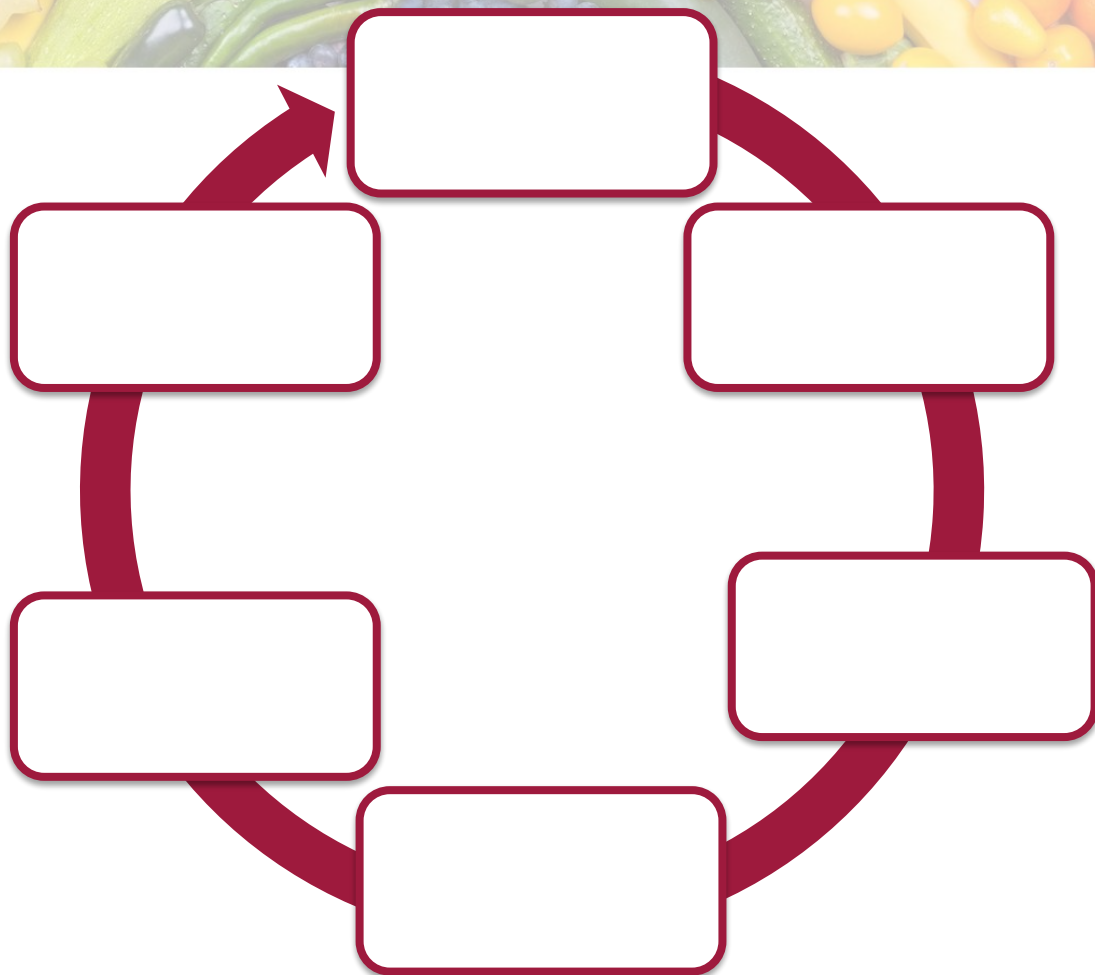
# Food Policy Overview





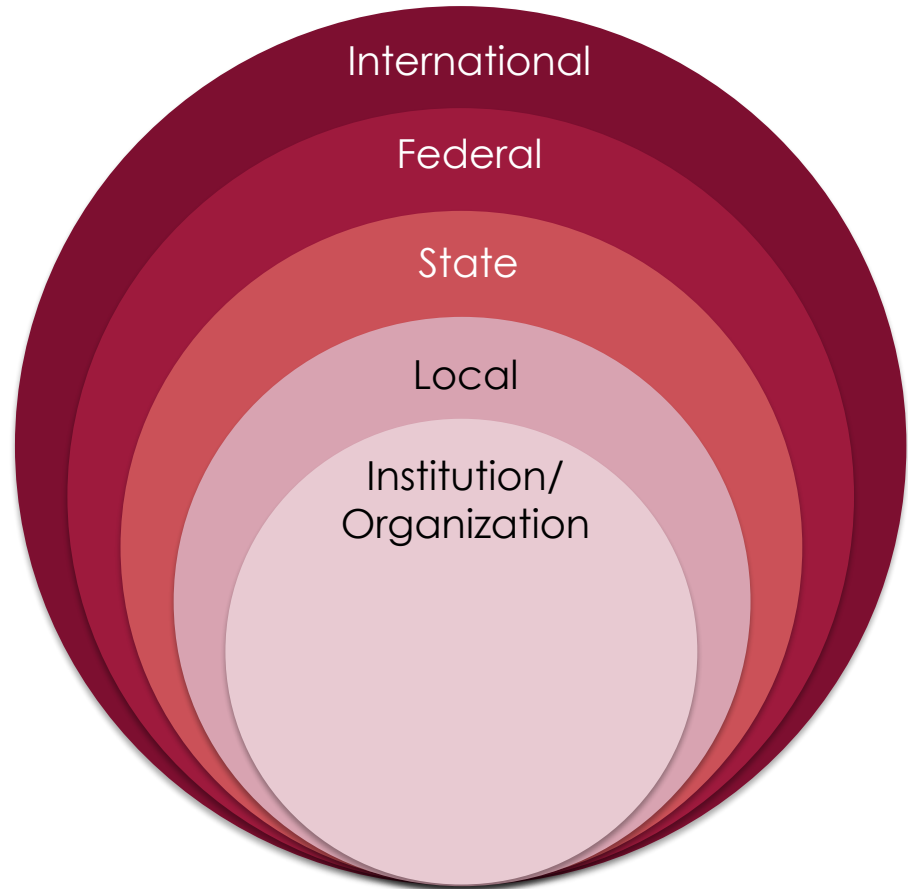
**What is  
the Food  
System?**

**What is  
Food  
Policy?**





# Levels of Food Policy





# Who Makes Food Policy?

## Federal

- Congress
- 15 agencies, including:
  - USDA
  - FDA
  - EPA
  - FTC
  - CDC
  - DHS

## State (Massachusetts)

- Massachusetts State Legislature
- Dep't of Public Health
- Dep't of Agricultural Resources
- Dep't of Education
- Dep't of Human Services
- Dep't of Environmental Protection
- Dep't of Economic Development

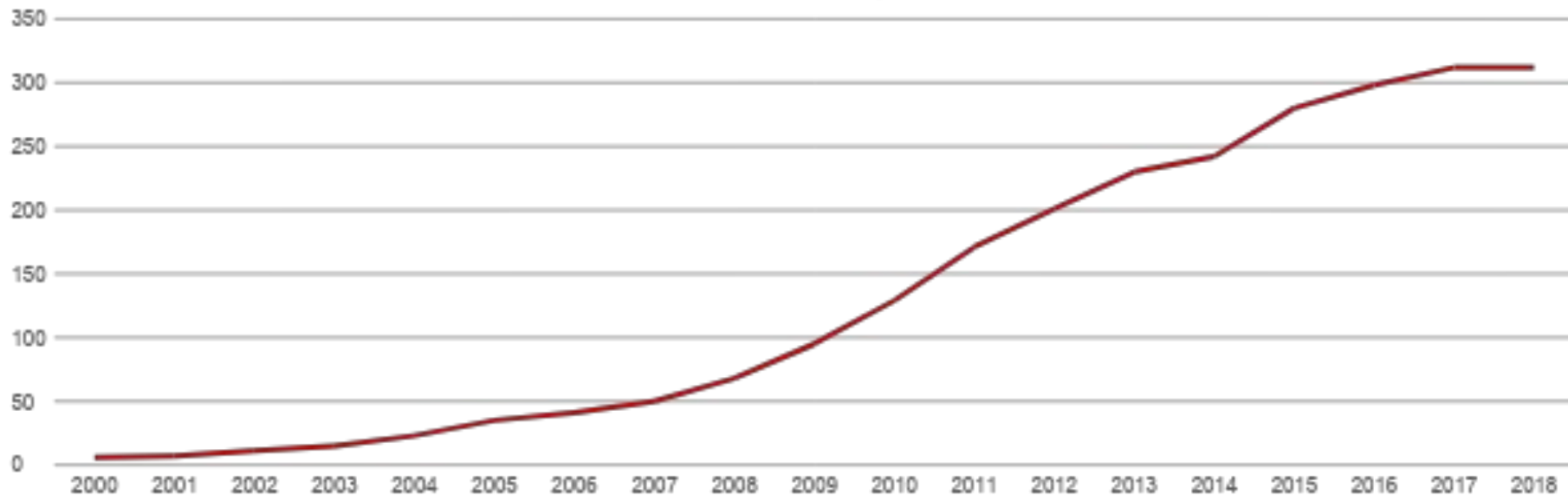
## Local (Boston)

- Boston City Council
- Boston Office of Food Access
- Boston Public Health Commission
- Boston Zoning Commission
- Boston Transportation Department
- Boston Public Schools



# Food Policy Councils in the U.S.

Number of Food Policy Councils





# Federal Level

- Federal authority is **limited**
  - Authority over goods that cross state lines (interstate commerce)
  - Authority when federal dollars are spent
- For example:
  - Nutrition Facts labeling
  - Farm Bill
  - National School Lunch Program
  - Federal food assistance programs

Nutrition Facts			
Serving Size 2/3 cup (55g)			
Servings Per Container About 8			
Amount Per Serving			
Calories 230		Calories from Fat 40	
		% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 8g		12%	
Saturated Fat 1g		5%	
Trans Fat 0g			
Cholesterol 0mg		0%	
Sodium 160mg		7%	
Total Carbohydrate 37g		12%	
Dietary Fiber 4g		16%	
Sugars 1g			
Protein 3g			
Vitamin A		10%	
Vitamin C		8%	
Calcium		20%	
Iron		45%	
* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily value may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.			
	Calories:	2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less than	65g	80g
Sat Fat	Less than	20g	25g
Cholesterol	Less than	300mg	300mg
Sodium	Less than	2,400mg	2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate		300g	375g
Dietary Fiber		25g	30g



# State Level

- State authority is **broad** - states can regulate
  - When the federal government does not have authority
  - When the federal government has authority but has not acted
  - When they can exceed a federal floor
- For example:
  - In-state sale of “cottage foods”
  - Administration of federal food assistance programs
  - Liability protection for food donors



## COTTAGE FOOD LAWS IN THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2018

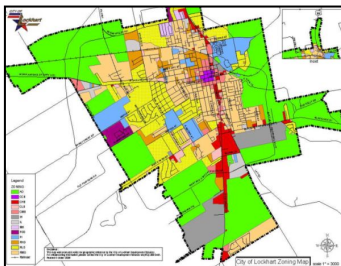


# Local Level

Local authority varies from state to state

It is dependent upon authority granted from state government

## Common Examples:



Zoning and  
Land Use



Municipal  
Procurement



Licensing of  
Businesses



# Food Policy Issue Areas

<b>1</b>	<b>Consumer Access</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Consumer Demand</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Farmers Markets</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Procurement</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>School Food and Education</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Urban Agriculture</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Food Waste</b>





# Consumer Access

**Providing** more retail options

**Improving** transportation to food options

**Removing** economic barriers to food purchasing

# Consumer Access Examples

## Tax Incentives

**Baltimore:** 10 year, 80 percent credit against property tax for supermarkets locating in or making significant improvements in targeted areas

## Flexible Permits and Licenses

**NYC Green Carts Program:** Low-cost and priority permits for mobile food carts that sell only fresh fruits/veggies





# Consumer Demand

Methods to influence consumer purchasing through:



## Labeling

Nutrient  
Warning Labels



## Product Requirements

Fresh Produce  
Requirements



## Education

Community  
Food Education

# Farmers Markets

## Streamlining Permits

**San Jose, CA** streamlined the permitting process for Farmer's Markets in 2011

## Produce Plus Checks

**Washington, D.C.** provides \$10 to eligible patrons (anyone showing proof of participation in SNAP, Medicaid, WIC, TANF, etc.) at farmers markets up to two times per week

## WIC Markets

**Flint, MI** replaced tokens with an electronic system for its Double Up Food Bucks Program.





# Procurement

**Procurement** refers to **guidelines** agencies use for obtaining products and what **purchasing standards or preferences** the government considers



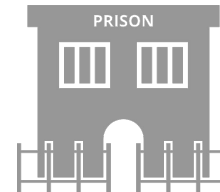
Schools



Government  
Agencies



Hospitals



Prisons

**Includes:** Geography, Production Methods, and Labor Practices



# Procurement Success Story



**CONGRATULATIONS  
BOSTON,  
MASSACHUSETTS**

ON ADOPTING THE  
**GOOD FOOD** PURCHASING PROGRAM

THANKS TO LEADERSHIP FROM

corporate accountability

MASSACHUSETTS FARM TO SCHOOL

UFCW Local 1445  
A VOICE for the food system and the food insecure

FOOD LAW and POLICY CLINIC  
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

mSPCA  
advocacy

CENTER  
GOOD FOOD PURCHASING

FOOD CHAIN  
COMMONWEALTH

COMMON WEALTH KITCHEN

GOODFOODCITIES.ORG  
#GOODFOODCITIES

# Procurement **Examples**

## **Geographic Preference**

Fruits and vegetables **grown within 250 miles** for city-sponsored events whenever logistically and financially feasible in Albany, CA

## **Production Method Preference**

**15% of all produce** served in public institutions should be organic and locally-produced by the year 2020 in Santa Monica, CA





# School Food and Education

**Healthy food can impact long term health**, as children consume 19-50% of total daily calories at school.

**Health, agricultural, and nutrition education** can have lasting effects on health through fostering understanding of the food system.





# School Food and Education Examples

## Free Classroom Breakfast

**Washington, DC** requires universal classroom breakfast service for all students where free/reduced meals > 40%

## School Gardens

**Oxford, MS** combines school gardens with classroom lessons, improving meal offerings and educating students about healthy food

## Local Sourcing

**Washington, DC** offers 5 cent increased reimbursement for meals with locally-grown unprocessed foods





# Urban Agriculture

Integrates food production activities within urban environments

Combats air pollution, build community, support food access and knowledge about food.

Barriers often include zoning codes, financial challenges, and lack of access to land.





# Urban Agriculture Examples

## Permissive Zoning

**Boston** adopted an urban agriculture article (Art. 89) which allows for farms under one acre in all zoned areas. Certain types of farms may require review, especially in residential areas. Farmers may keep bees and chickens in neighborhoods that opt-in.

## Zoning Requirements

**Seattle** requires at least one community garden for every 2,500 residents

## City Leases

**Baltimore** allows farmers with one year of experience to lease city land for \$100/year for 5 years to operate urban farms

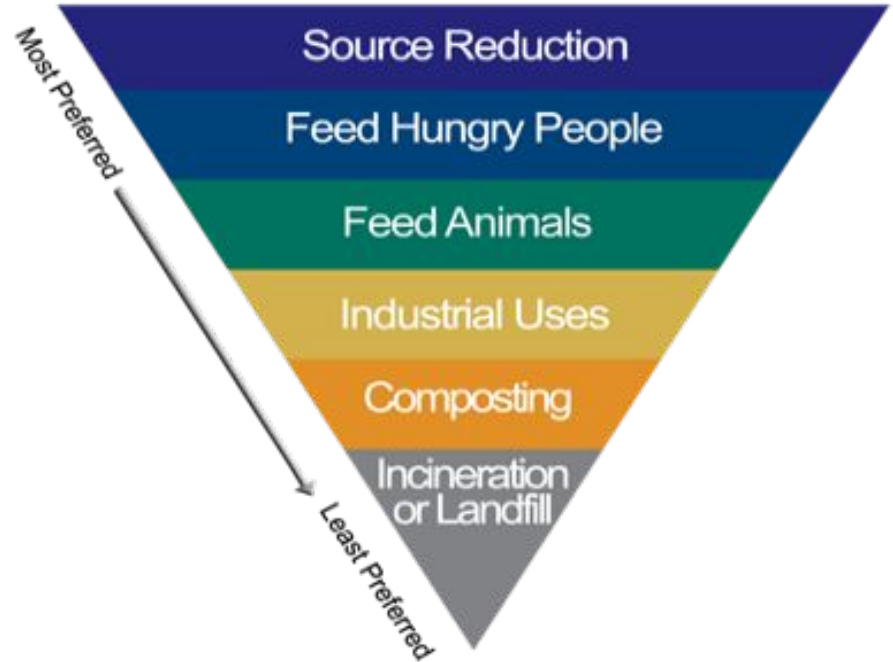
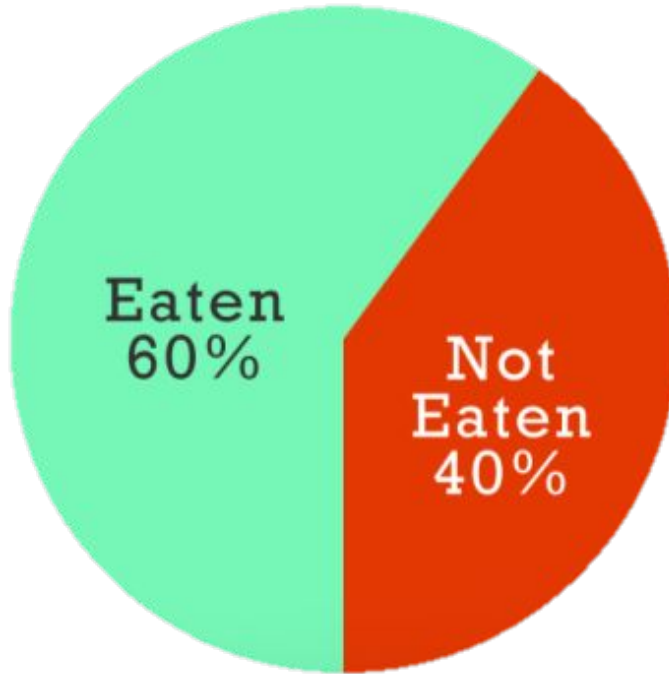
## Inventory Programs

**NYC** requires city administration to maintain a database of city-owned property that includes if land is “suitable for urban agriculture”



# Food Recovery/Food Waste

## EPA Food Recovery Hierarchy



# Food Waste Examples

## Food Business Donation Education

**New York City** has health inspectors give guidance handouts to food retailers about federal and state donation liability protections and encourages them to donate any surplus food

## Food Donations by City Agencies

**Los Angeles, CA's** Surplus Food Policy requires all city departments and elected offices to donate surplus food





# Food Waste Examples

## Curbside Compost

- In **Seattle, WA** residents and businesses are legally required to either compost their food waste or hire a service to do it for them.
- **Cambridge, MA** offers curbside composting citywide.

## Consumer Education

**King County, WA** implemented a consumer education campaign using materials from EPA's Food Too Good to Waste Toolkit

## **Overlap of OFA Work with BFAC**

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# Mayor's Office of Food Access

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## Vision

*The Mayor's Office of Food Access for the City of Boston believes that food is a right, not a privilege. As such, our vision endorses a just, resilient, and robust food community in Boston that supports the wellbeing of all Boston residents.*

## Mission

*The mission of the Mayor's Office of Food Access for the City of Boston is to improve equitable access to **nutritious** food with respect to **affordability**, **physical accessibility**, and **cultural connectedness**. In pursuit of this mission, OFA will foster a more food secure community with a vibrant, inclusive food culture, reflective of the diverse residents of the City.*





# Creating Mayor's Food Access Agenda - GOALS

*Reaffirm the City's commitment to racial equity and resilience*

- Racial equity means “closing the gaps” so that race does not predict one’s success, while also improving outcomes for all.
- Creation of deliberate policies and practices that provide everyone with the support they need to improve the quality of their lives.

*Develop Mayor's priorities to remove food access barriers in Boston and eliminate food insecurity*

- Affordability/ Accessibility / Underutilization of Programs/ Awareness of Food Insecurity
- Create Mayor's Food Access Agenda for OFA and partners to rally behind, to tackle food insecurity and food access in a strategic, collaborative, unified way.

*Strengthen and bolster work and partnerships around food access in Boston*

*Provide a partial road map for the work of the Boston Food Access Council*

**Questions for Harvard Food Law &  
Policy or OFA**

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## **Small Group Discussion + Report Back**

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## Small Group Discussion

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*Reflecting on the presentation from the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic and from OFA around the advocacy, policies, and programs that the BFAC could tackle in this next phase, consider the following questions:*

- Are there issue areas or initiatives that you feel are pressing for the BFAC to tackle?
- Are there any issue areas that haven't been mentioned yet that you think should be tackled by the BFAC?
- What are your food access priorities (considering personal experience, community, professional vantage point, etc.)? When thinking about access, some areas to consider include:
  - physical access (can I get to the food I need and want?)
  - financial access (can I afford the food I need and want?)
  - cultural access (can I access the food that is important to my culture)
- What priorities do you think the BFAC should adopt in its first year of work?

## **History of BFAC**

*Boston Food Access Council Meeting  
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# History of BFAC

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**2009**

- Boston Food Policy Council formed under Mayor Menino
- Networking, education, information sharing

**January 2014**

- Mayor Walsh inaugurated
- Conversations begin around Office of Food Initiatives becoming Office of Food Access
- Beginning of numerous department and cabinet leadership changes

**2010**

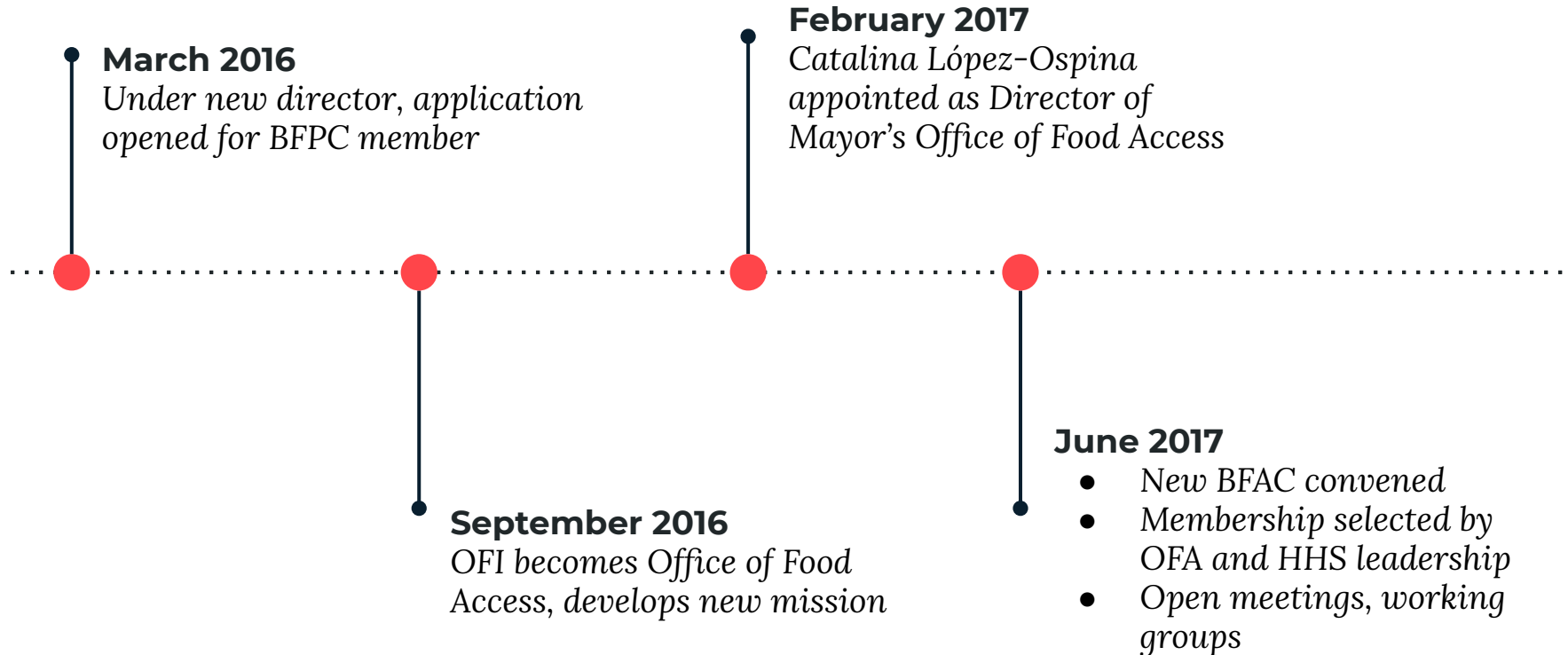
Mayor's Office of Food Initiatives created, manages BFPC

**March - June 2015**

Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic, working with BFPC members, developed potential advocacy agenda for BFPC

# History of BFAC

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# History of BFAC

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## January 2018

Marty Martinez appointed as Chief of Health and Human Services for the City of Boston

## January 2019

OFA hosts Boston Food Access Summit. 80+ stakeholders. Outcome is Mayor's Food Access Agenda

## Sept 2019

Newly restructured BFAC convened

## Dec 2018 - March 2019

- Considerations for new BFAC structure
- Constraints of existing BFAC, limited from moving outside of OFA & Mayor's Agenda.
- Lack of community voice or representation

## May - September 2019

Transition Committee convenes to address previous BFAC issues & constraints to restructure and strengthen the BFAC



## **New BFAC Structure**

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## JOIN YOUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE BOSTON FOOD ACCESS COUNCIL

The Boston Food Access Council (BFAC) brings community and stakeholder voices together to create access to affordable, just, culturally connected, healthy, and sustainable food in Boston. The work of the BFAC will include initiatives working towards this goal in areas such as:

Improving access to healthy and  
affordable foods

Reducing the amount of food  
wasted in homes and restaurants

Supporting local food producers  
and food businesses

**WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN THE NEW BFAC**  
OPEN TO ANY INTERESTED INDIVIDUAL!

### Three opportunities include:

1. **BFAC Membership**, including Voting Membership
2. **Working Group** participation
3. A seat on the **Steering Committee**, through elections by the BFAC Membership

MORE INFORMATION ON  
**WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE BFAC**  
ALL LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT ARE OPEN TO  
ANY INTERESTED INDIVIDUAL!

**BFAC MEMBER**

**BASE LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT -- BRING YOUR VOICE TO THE TABLE!**

Identify food-related concerns that matter to you and could help your community

Voice your opinion on the Council's efforts and set the BFAC agenda

Members can become **Voting Members**, and thus are allowed to vote in Steering Committee elections, by attending 2 of the 4 most recent meetings

COMPOSITION

- Must complete a BFAC Membership Form to be added to the member list
- To gain voting rights as a **BFAC Voting Member**, must demonstrate commitment to the BFAC through attendance of at least 2 of the past 4 meetings
- Boston residency not required

TENURE

- Year to year (reaffirm interest annually)

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Create the agenda of the BFAC by voicing your opinion
- Participate on one or more working groups, as interested
- Elect BFAC Steering Committee Members

MORE INFORMATION ON  
**WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE BFAC**  
ALL LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT ARE OPEN TO  
ANY INTERESTED INDIVIDUAL!

### BFAC WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANT

HELP TO RUN BFAC INITIATIVES THROUGH THIS HANDS-ON ROLE

Working Groups support and implement the BFAC agenda

Each Working Group will have Co-Chairs appointed by the Steering Committee

Working Groups will include:

**Outreach & Engagement  
Working Group**

**Working Group to tackle  
OFA-specific initiatives**

**Other Action Areas  
Identified by BFAC Members**

#### COMPOSITION

- Open to BFAC Members and to the public and other stakeholders
- Co-Chairs (appointed by the Steering Committee) steer Working Group agenda

#### TENURE

- Duration of time that the Working Group is convened to accomplish task

#### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Hold and attend regular Working Group meetings
- Implement BFAC Agenda through focus area relevant to Working Group, as determined by Steering Committee and informed by BFAC Membership and work of OFA
- Develop and implement action plans; research; develop partnerships; resource acquisition; feasibility inquiries and planning; and more.
- Community outreach for input gathering; recruitment to bring other voices to the table with a focus on inclusion of underrepresented voices
- Present recommendations to BFAC Steering Committee and BFAC Membership

MORE INFORMATION ON  
**WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE BFAC**  
ALL LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT ARE OPEN TO  
ANY INTERESTED INDIVIDUAL!

**BFAC STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER**

COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES LEADING THE BFAC TO MEET  
ITS GOALS WHILE INCORPORATING MEMBERS' VOICES

Shape the BFAC agenda using Member input

Steering Committee positions open to anyone who qualifies as a BFAC Voting Member (see above)

9 positions available, including 2 Co-Chair roles

Elected by BFAC Voting Members

**Steering Committee elections will occur on December 4, 2019:**  
**Applications due Nov. 8, 2019**

COMPOSITION

- 9 Members, including 2 appointed Co-Chairs; 3 seats designated for Boston community members to ensure at least this much community representation on Steering Committee
- Must be a BFAC Voting Member (see above) to be elected
- Elected by Voting Members
- Complete BFAC Steering Committee Candidate Form by **November 8, 2019** to run this year

TENURE

- Two-year appointment, staggered so that half of the Committee is up for election each year

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Attend 6 planning meetings and at least 3 of 4 quarterly BFAC meetings each year
- Create, dissolve, and approve work of Working Groups; appoint BFAC Working Group chairs and participate in Working Groups when appropriate
- Drive overall BFAC agenda and monitor progress of Working Groups
- Pass and update BFAC by-laws

**Steering Committee Co-Chairs**

- Tenure: One year, option to renew
- Duties and responsibilities: Set Steering Committee meetings and agenda; coordinate with Working Groups and Mayor's Office of Food Access for meeting planning and other needs

## **Next Steps**

*Boston Food Access Council Meeting  
Wednesday, September 25th, 2019*



## Next Steps

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**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 4th, 2019, 6p-8p, Room 801 (8th floor), Boston City Hall

- Remain an engaged BFAC Member.
- Conversation about BFAC priorities will continue.
- Steering Committee elections will occur. **Be there to run or to vote!**

**Please sign up to be BFAC Member.** Forms available here and online.

**Consider running for the Steering Committee.**

- Elections will occur **December 4th**. Applications due **November 8th**.
- Need to have attended today (or have previous attendance or other qualifying participation) and be there on Dec 4 to run for Steering Committee.

Please spread the word about the BFAC and all the ways to get involved.

- Take some flyers.
- Direct people to [boston.gov/food](https://boston.gov/food)
- Let us know if there is an event we should attend as an outreach opportunity.
- [bostonfoodaccesscouncil@boston.gov](mailto:bostonfoodaccesscouncil@boston.gov), 617-635-3717







# THANK YOU

BFAC

[bostonfoodaccesscouncil@boston.gov](mailto:bostonfoodaccesscouncil@boston.gov)

617-635-3717

OFA

[food@boston.gov](mailto:food@boston.gov)

617-635-3717