



October 25, 2023

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“You were not just born to center your entire existence on work and labor. You were born to heal, to grow, to be of service to yourself and community, to practice, to experiment, to create, to have space, to dream, and to connect.”

Tricia Hersey, Rest Is Resistance: A Manifesto

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Welcome to the October 2023 edition of the [NOW Innovation Forum Newsletter](#). We are excited to share opportunities and resources with you! In this edition you'll find:

- A recap of our 10th National Community Leadership Summit
- Registration for the November 30 NOW Webinar, *Building Relationships and Partnerships towards an Equitable Food System*
- Sign-ups for November's *Cultivating Community Connections: Peer Learning & Reflection Hour* with the peer learning cluster co-leads
- Applications for the 2024 Community Food Systems Fellowship
- An invitation to complete the Biannual NOW Network Survey
- The latest episodes of *In the Arena with NOW* Podcast Season 2

Thank you for your commitment to children, families, and communities and for joining us as we journey through another year together.

Bienvenido a la edición de octubre de 2023 del [Boletín Informativo del NOW Innovation Forum](#) (Foro de Innovación NOW). ¡Estamos muy contentos de compartir oportunidades y recursos con usted! En esta edición encontrará:

- Un resumen de nuestra 10ª Cumbre Nacional de Liderazgo Comunitario
- Inscripción para el seminario web NOW del 30 de noviembre, *Construyendo Relaciones y Alianzas hacia un Sistema Alimentario Equitativo*
- Inscripciones para *Cultivando Conexiones Comunitarias* de noviembre: *Aprendizaje Entre Pares* y *Hora de Reflexión* con los co-líderes del clúster de aprendizaje entre pares
- Aplicaciones para el programa de Becas de Sistemas Alimentarios Comunitarios de 2024
- Una invitación para completar la Encuesta Bianual de la Red NOW
- Los últimos episodios de la Temporada 2 de *En La Arena con NOW* Podcast

Gracias por su dedicación a los niños, las familias y las comunidades, y por acompañarnos mientras navegamos a través de otro año juntos.

Network Highlights

Celebrating the 10th National Community Leadership Summit



Last week over 250 changemakers from across the country gathered in Boston, and celebrated the 10th National Community Leadership Summit. Over two days, attendees connected through keynote conversations, seminar sessions, and collaborative workshops to explore this year's theme, **Writing Our Story: Collective Leadership for Joy, Justice, and Healing**. Thank you to our speakers, moderators, volunteers, sponsors, and of course all of YOU for making this year's summit an incredible place for us to continue to unite in our fight for justice, healing, and joy for children, families, and communities across the country.

Stay tuned as we share more highlights from this year's Summit through our podcast, blog posts, and social media channels.

[Visit the 2023 Summit Website](#)

2023 NOW Webinar Series: Save the Date!

Building Relationships and Partnerships towards an Equitable Food System

November 30 at 1pm ET

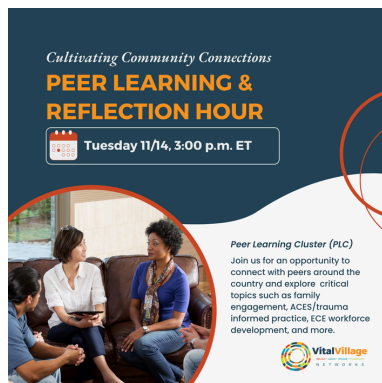
Community food systems are rooted in meaningful relationships across people and place – from farmers and distributors, to retailers and families, to advocates and local entrepreneurs. Join us for the final session in the [2023 NOW Webinar series](#), featuring two local food systems leaders and [2023 Community Food Systems Fellows](#), **Hallie Nelson of Jefferson County Food Policy Council** and **Kim Ross of Mount Terra LLC**, to learn more about their experience, strategies, and lessons learned for building sustainable and meaningful relationships across their local food systems in Jefferson County, Colorado and the Appalachian Region in West Virginia.

If you missed the first two sessions in the series, catch-up on the conversations by visiting [our archive](#) page.

[Register Here](#)



Cultivating Community Connections: Peer Learning & Reflection Hour



We invite you to join us for the next Peer Learning Cluster meeting **November 14 at 3:00 pm ET / 12:00 pm PT!** Peer learning and reflection hours are an opportunity to connect, share and learn from others who are supporting child and family wellbeing in their local communities. The monthly peer-led discussion space is an opportunity to bring questions, ideas, challenges, and successes to a national community for learning and support.

[Sign-up Here](#)

2024 Community Food Systems Fellowship: Applications are Open

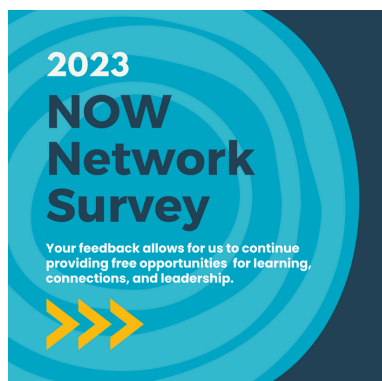
The Community Food Systems Fellowship is an 18-month leadership program that aims to increase opportunities for diverse local food system leaders to build their skills, capacity, and networks. The fellowship is an opportunity to contribute to developing a roadmap for community-powered food systems and to learn how to better capture impact in this work.

Applications are due **November 3, 2023** at 11:59pm ET. Apply today or [nominate someone](#) for our 2024 Community Food Systems Fellowship!

[Learn More Here](#)



Biannual NOW Network Survey



Your feedback is important to us! We invite you to take our 2023 Biannual NOW Network Survey. Your input will help us to continue to provide free resources, tools, and learning opportunities that can better support your work on the ground. Take the survey today and be entered into a raffle drawing!

[Take the Survey Here](#)

In the Arena with NOW Podcast: Catch-up on Season 2

We will be back with new episodes starting **November 16, 2023**, including a special mini-series featuring recorded Keynote addresses from past National Community Leadership Summits.

Until then, catch-up on the latest of Season 2, including our most recent conversation with Inés Palmarin, long-time Boston community builder, coalition leader and Vital Village National Advisory Board member.

[Listen Here](#)



The NOW community hopes to stay connected and lift up the work and stories of all of our members. Follow and tag us so that we can virtually highlight the community-led transformation you are leading

[#VillageInMind](#)



www.networksofopportunity.org [→](#)

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