Anti-Oppression and Values Working Group Farm Alliance of Baltimore Core Strategic Values, December 2017



Sustainable Agriculture

- Definition: Farming practices that enhance environmental quality and the health and quality of life for farmers and communities
- Practices: Provide locally grown, chemical free produce to residents of Baltimore
 City; all members held to standard of practices, and must: not use high toxicity
 pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, etc. and chemicals
 such as plant growth regulators; test soil for contaminants and nutrients; develop
 a food safety plan to ensure high quality healthy food
- Goals: Protect and strengthen local food system (help fill the gap in food access left by big ag); utilize practices that promote the health and well-being of workers, consumers and the environment; advocate for recognition of farms as sites for building healthy ecosystems in the city

Solidarity

- o **Definition:** Interconnectedness; our fate is tied to that of Baltimore City residents
- Practices: Mutual aid, working with communities we serve / working together in a way that supports the self-selected needs of communities
- Goals: Mutual empowerment supporting community partners in their work;
 actively recruiting members who reflect Baltimore City communities

Collective Power

- Definition: Strength in numbers, collaborative approach to movement building, cooperation
- Practices: Shared markets and resources; support in building farms
- Goals: Use collective power to bring positive change (employment, localized economies); advocate for changes in systems and structures in Baltimore to be more participatory and reflective of community needs; building a culture of communication between farmers; collaboration with businesses and local organizations; leverage voice to affect policy; provide model for localized food system; enable farmers to build/grow beyond their individual means

Equity

- **Definition:** Shared power; fair and just control of and access to resources
- Practices: Access to trainings + education; member-led organization
- Goals: Community power building; shifting dependency in communities, especially underserved communities - supporting food sovereignty; land tenure/ownership; develop local leadership; equitable distribution of our products - marketing our products to neighborhoods that have low access to healthy food; reduction of food waste

Education

- Definition: Ongoing exchange of knowledge, experiential learning and farmer development; collective questioning and critical dialogue
- Practices: Farmer training; on-farm skill building; farmer-to-farmer sharing of best practices
- Goals: Farmers continue to learn; farms act as venues for community education; farming projects evolve with the needs of our communities; build an informed base of producers and consumers