

EAT FAIR LA PLATA

(Equitable Access To Food, Area Infrastructure, & Resources)



Project Partners: Durango Food Bank, Fort Lewis College Old Fort at Hesperus, Good Food Collective, La Plata Family Centers Coalition (LPFCC), Manna, and 9-R SOIL Lab



Community members plant the next succession of crops at the La Plata Family Center's Pond Farm.



As part of their Blue Corn Harvest, the Old Fort unveiled this Blue Corn Woman mural created by FLC student and artist, Maddie Sanders (Mvskoke and Mojave Tribes).

Partnership Goals:

- To strengthen community power and agency, emphasizing under-represented communities, with higher rates of food insecurity.
- Increase agricultural production to increase food availability while supporting economic opportunities for populations with higher rates of food insecurity.
- Expand healthy food access for populations traditionally experiencing increased levels of food insecurity.

- Develop a culture of communication, collaboration, and coordination amongst food equity partners.
- Increase individual health & nutrition awareness and healthy eating behaviors.

Accomplishments at a Glance:

- \$203,000 invested in work stipends to support historically underrepresented LPC residents.
- Two new high tunnels, one additional acre of production, over 200 new community garden beds.

EAT FAIR is a partnership between six organizations working to create sustainable change in food security.

For more information, visit: www.goodfoodcollective.org/resources

49,526
Lbs. of Food
Grown in
2023

\$800,000

AWARD AMOUNT

\$203,000

INVESTED IN WORK STIPENDS

200

NEW COMMUNITY GARDENS
CONSTRUCTED

"Projects create 'Systems Change', meaning that they work to create a fairer food system by addressing the underlying conditions which have led to some residents having less opportunity for food access than others."

RACHEL LANDIS, GOOD FOOD COLLECTIVE

La Plata County Social Impact Grant

EAT FAIR LA PLATA



Surplus produce from education gardens or contributed by community gardeners is donated to emergency food assistance for underserved residents through the Good Food Collective.



FLC Old Fort Farmer Brandon Francis (Dine) speaks at the Old Fort's Blue Corn Harvest Event. The Old Fort launched a Native American Agricultural Initiative in 2023.

- LPFCC offered four trainings on traditional and contemporary food preservation and cooking to multi-generational BIPOC residents.
- The Good Food Collective invested \$179,000 in 14 socially disadvantaged farm enterprises.
- Manna provided 2 Cooking Matters classes, graduating 15 ESL residents. Additionally, they increased production with 55 raised garden beds, 2 pollinator gardens, 1 new children's garden, and 3 ADA wheelchair accessible beds.
- The Durango 9-R SOIL Lab produced 2,720 lbs. of food with help from hundreds of student/community volunteers.

- The Old Fort Farmer-in-Training program enrolled 15 trainees who produced 30,000 lbs. of food. Their CSA Program gave food to the Campus Farm Stand, FLC Grub Hub, Old Fort Country Store, restaurants, and the FLC Dining Hall.

Upcoming Projects:

- Construction of the Durango Food Bank Regional Aggregation & Distribution Center is slated to be completed in February 2024.
- The Old Fort is actively reviewing bids for its Vegetable Processing Facility and plans to break ground in spring 2024.

Through a culture of communication, collaboration, and coordination, EAT FAIR partners are working in a holistic manner.



This Social Impact Grant was made possible through La Plata County funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and facilitated by the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado.

While many organizations partnered prior to their joint EAT FAIR projects, the shared funding and partner meetings associated with these projects has strengthened existing relationships, and enabled the nonprofits to build new ones.