

Saturday, May 29, 2021

Farmers Market Taking on Food Apartheid

Press Release



Introduction

What:	Local community non profit announces Grand Opening of Farmers Market in North St. Louis
Where:	One Africa! One Nation! Marketplace, 4031 West Florissant Ave. St. Louis, MO 63115
When:	Opening Day: June 5, 2021 and Every First Saturday of the Month, 9am - 2pm
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Our Mission

The mission of One Africa! One Nation! Farmers Market is “to provide access to fresh, healthy food to the black community, end food apartheid and create community commerce by building relationships with black farmers and vendors.”

The market is addressing food justice by cultivating the re-emergence of black farmers and ranchers and is using a community-based approach to economic development.

The One Africa! One Nation! Farmer’s Market is a part of the vision of the Uhuru worldwide movement, a movement responsible for a host of economic development projects and programs in North St. Louis referred to collectively as the Black Power Blueprint.

With the OAO! Marketplace flagship currently operating in Philadelphia, this venture is vital to the movement’s local objective to build genuine community and economic development for African people and will answer the cultural and material needs of the Community. The Black Power Blueprint Economic Development Director, Ticharwa Masimba, explains, “this is a powerful and multi-phase project, committed to transforming the colonial conditions plaguing the Black Community of North St. Louis City.”

The Market has been recognized and awarded a grant in support by the USDA who said “There is a clear road map for other organizations to use this market as a model for creating their own market in a food desert.”

The Farmer’s Market will allow local farmers an opportunity to procure space, for a nominal cost, to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to an area where there are no grocery stores and limited access to healthy food options. Vendors, small businesses and community residents are also able to sell clothing, accessories, home decor, artwork, books and literature, as well as specifically regulated food items; all while enjoying music and other cultural presentations.

Ona Zene Yeshitela, African People’s Education and Defense Fund President, and architect of the Black Power Blueprint states, “the Black Power Blueprint exists because the material conditions of African people will only be realized when African people have power over their own lives. Gentrification in St. Louis is a ploy to drive people out of this community. The people live in a food desert and this area has been robbed of the rich, vibrant culture that St. Louis is known for. This is why we build! Our people deserve the best!” she says.

Across the street from the Uhuru House at 4101 W. Florissant Ave., standing tall in the community, is the huge Red, Black and Green flag. This powerful symbol is located at the center of the newly completed beautiful outdoor venue and Gary Brooks Black Power Garden, which is named for 30 year community resident Gary Brooks, who has provided expert guidance on the development and planting of the garden.

This will be the location of the One Africa! One Nation! Farmers Market. See you every first Saturday of the Month, 9am - 2pm!

For more information visit <https://oneafricamarket.com/>

Key Staff:

Ticharwa Masimba	Project Director
Marisa Martinez	Market Manager
Nzeyi Masimba	Recruitment Coordinator