



WHITE PRIVILEGE IN THE FOOD SYSTEM

in collaboration with hua foundation

BACKGROUND

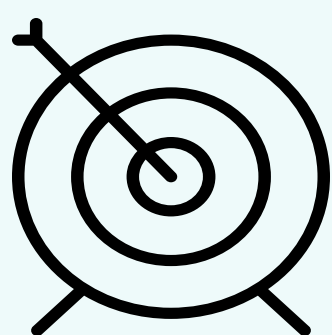
Community Partner:

"hua foundation is a youth-driven non-profit based in Vancouver, Canada dedicated to bringing together the worlds of cultural heritage and social change with a socio-environmental lens"(2)



Unpacking White Privilege in the Food Movement:

1.5 day workshop offered by the hua foundation as part of the 2018 Sustenance Festival



Workshop Goals:

- Impact conversations and work of members in key organizations
- Help participants gain ability to hold conversations about race and white privilege with peers
- Develop connections between Vancouver and Kamloops Food Policy Councils and hua foundation(3)

SIGNIFICANCE

White Privilege:

Unquestioned and unearned set of advantages, entitlements, benefits and choices bestowed upon people solely because they are white (1)

Racism:

Economic, political, social, and cultural systems, beliefs, and behaviours that perpetuate unequal privilege, resource, and power distribution between people of colour (POC) and white people (4)



- Agritourism caters to white and affluent populations(7)
- Unseen reliance on migrant farm labour (7)

- Historical racism and exclusion of Chinese-Canadian farmers has led to parallel food systems (6)
- Disproportionate numbers of white leadership and policy-making positions in food system

Organizations Represented at Workshop:

- City of Vancouver
- Vancouver Food Policy Council
- Kamloops Food Policy Council
- UBCFarm
- BC Association of Farmer's Markets
- Vancouver Food Bank
- Fresh Roots

OBJECTIVES

- Assist hua foundation in evaluating the impact of the workshop
- Identify strengths and areas of improvement for future race equity events
- Encourage discourse on white privilege between representatives of the food system(5)

METHODS



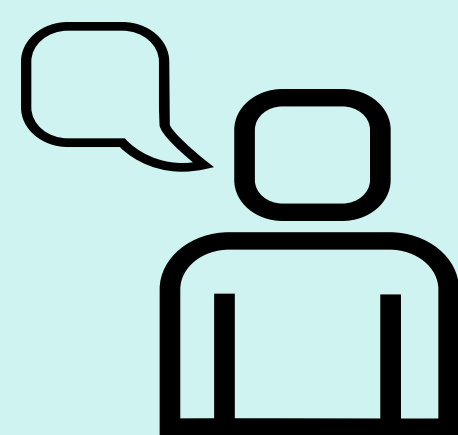
Participant observation of workshop



Pre-interviews with 5 participants



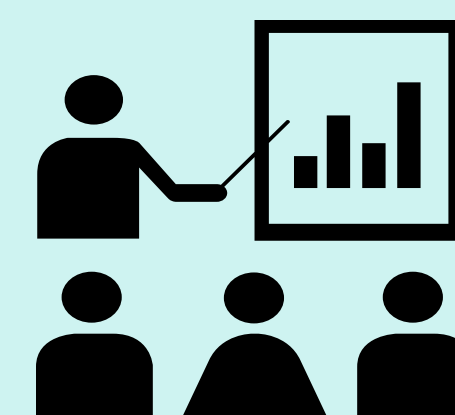
FINDINGS



Pre-Interviews:

- Desire for proper vocabulary when addressing race-based issues
- Practical examples of anti-racist actions
- Lasting resolutions to food system issues require POC* perspectives and knowledge
- Acknowledgement of personal position of power and privilege

*People of Colour



Workshop Observations:

- Assurance of confidentiality between participants encouraged participation
- Many participants felt safe to share vulnerable stories
- Positive inter-organizational interactions
- Interest in learning more about historical injustices

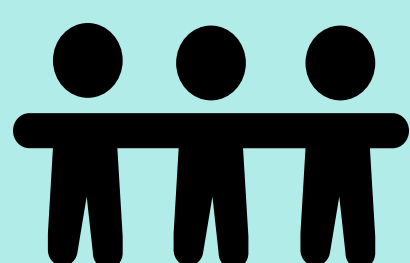
"Racism and white privilege are continuously at work in everything we do – everyone should talk about it, and continue to do so regularly."

"... to appropriately address these issues, we have to go beyond just having a conversation."

"I hope the workshop creates meaningful reflections on how we can give up power and support BIPOC* in a systemic way."

*Black/Indigenous/People of Colour

NEXT STEPS



- Follow-up interviews for before-and-after comparison
- Gather feedback from participants
- Provide list of resources to continue personal learning experience
- Explore ways to facilitate accountability groups/partners/etc
- Offer workshops to variety of food system stakeholders e.g. students, consumers

References

- 1 McIntosh, P. (1988). White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming To See Correspondences through Work in Women's Studies., Working Paper 189, Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley, MA.
- 2 hua foundation. (2018). Our mission, vision, values. Retrieved from <http://www.huafoundation.org/about/mission-vision-values.html>
- 3 LFS350. (2018). Hua foundation - unpacking white privilege in Vancouver's food movement. Retrieved from <http://lfs350.landfood.ubc.ca/community-projects/2018-fall-projects/hua-foundation-unpacking-white-privilege-in-vancouvers-food-movement/>
- 4 DiAngelo, R. (2011). White fragility. *International Journal of Critical Pedagogy*, 3(3), 54-70.
- 5 K. Huang, personal communication, September 19 2018
- 6 Gibb, N., & Wittman, H. (2012). Parallel alternatives: chinese-canadian farmers and the metro vancouver local food movement. *The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability*, 18(1), 1-19.
- 7 Hjalmarson, E., Bunn, R., Cohen, A., Terbasket, E., & Gahman, L. (2015). Race, food, and borders: Situating migrant struggle in the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 5(4), 77-82. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2015.054.007>