



# FOOD INNOVATION NETWORK

a program of Global to Local



## 2019 Year in Review



A program of Global to Local, Food Innovation Network's mission is to enhance the local food system, increase access to healthy food, create pathways for success, and support resource- and idea-sharing that engages the diverse communities of SeaTac/Tukwila and South King County.



# Food Access

FIN addresses racial inequity in our food system by creating a farm-to-fork distribution channel and connecting people to food. We operate two [community food markets](#) in partnership with the IRC New Roots program: Tukwila Village Farmers Market and Namaste Farm Stand at Matt Griffin YMCA.

This year, our Tukwila farm stand grew into the new Tukwila Village Farmers Market featuring produce from local growers, mostly immigrants and refugees. Additional booths offered prepared foods from FIN Incubator businesses, and crafts made by a local refugee artisan. We also hosted Namaste Farm Stand at Matt Griffin YMCA in SeaTac for a third season. We accepted SNAP/EBT payment as well as Fresh Bucks, and made locally grown produce affordable and accessible for hundreds of customers.

In addition to creating market channels for local immigrant and refugee growers, FIN collaborated with community partners to improve resource and farmland access. We helped growers at our market get licenses, bank accounts and insurance. We also hosted a Farming in King County Summit reaching more than 50 aspiring growers.



**"I love the people here. They're friendly and kind. They know how to answer the questions that you ask. You learn how to eat healthy nutrition. I didn't eat a lot of vegetables and fruit, and now, I love them. I feel better, like I have more energy."**

-Mildred Austin, Tukwila Village Farmers Market customer

**"We love bringing good seasonal vegetables to the farmers market. We're happy to see a lot of diverse people there, and to meet customers."**



-Krishna Biswa, grower with Namaste Community Garden & Namuna Garden



**35**  
market  
days

**30**  
healthy food  
demos

**\$1,790**  
in SNAP/EBT  
& Fresh Bucks  
accepted

**600+**  
people  
accessed fresh,  
local food





# Food Business Incubator

In its third year, our [Food Business Incubator](#) continued helping South King County women, immigrants, and refugees launch and grow food businesses. From subsidized commercial kitchen access to marketing assistance, we provide the support that entrepreneurs need. To help businesses connect with customers, we hosted the Taste Around the Globe booth at five South King County farmers markets and Pike Place MarketFront. We also linked businesses with [catering](#) opportunities, including an order for 300 meals for a local tech company.

In the spring, we helped launch three new businesses: Monique's Hot Kitchen, Boujee Food & Things, and Afella Jollof Catering. Over the course of the year, nearly 60 people expressed interest in joining the program, and seven new businesses enrolled in the fall. These businesses are preparing to operate kiosks at [Tukwila Village Food Hall](#), our Incubator's future commercial kitchen and community hub. Construction was underway in 2019, and the Food Hall is set to open in 2020.



"What the Incubator program does for immigrant women is life-changing. I joined the program when my second baby was three months old. I was at a crossroads not knowing if I wanted to rebuild my business or get a 'real job.' But FIN stepped in and gave me a platform to experiment and grow my brand at a very minimal cost to me. I speak for everyone when I say FIN has been a turning point for us all."

-Lilian Ryland, owner of Naija Buka



**7**  
businesses  
enrolled to open  
in spring 2020

**8**  
businesses  
incubated

**6**  
farmers markets

**17**  
peer network  
and business  
meetings,  
including 2  
orientations

**180**  
180 farmers  
market days—up  
from 21 in 2018

**120**  
hours of one-  
on-one technical  
assistance  
provided to  
entrepreneurs

**57**  
catering orders



# Community Engagement



**“We, as Advocates, have the opportunity to support system and policy change in order to end the poverty cycle in our communities.”**

-Gladis Clemente, 2019 FIN Steering Committee Co-chair and Community Food Advocate

We seek and create opportunities for community members to engage in the local food system, and to increase community ownership of that system. FIN Community Food Advocates are leaders who represent the diverse multicultural communities of South King County, and they are at the heart of our community engagement work.

In 2019, 10 Community Food Advocates contributed more than 545 hours to support community engagement, participate in leadership development, advocate for food incubation funding in the state capital budget, and guide FIN’s work plan. Thanks to their work, as well as collaboration with more than 15 partner organizations, we reached hundreds of families and individuals through a Food and Community Resource Fair, and four Community Kitchen Dinners—including a traditional nyama choma goat roast.

**10**

Community Food Advocates

**2**

Food Business Incubator orientations

**545**

hours of service

**1**

Farming in King County Summit

**4**

Community Kitchen Dinners

**1**

annual Resource Fair

