

EQUITY-ORIENTED SCALE-MAKING

by



A. Susan Jurow



Molly Shea

How people eat, grow, and sell food is part of a system that *disproportionately* harms working-class communities of color.



We studied food justice groups engaged in “equity-oriented scale-making” or organizing systems-level change for equity.

This involved reorganizing the relationships that shape how people, food, and community work with one another.

We studied food justice groups in a multi-city region in the Rocky Mountain West.



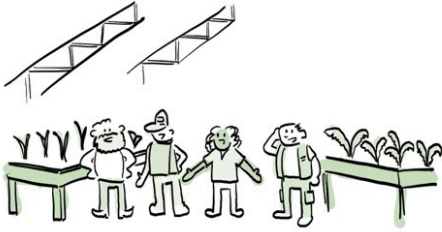
One group, FreshRoots, was changing how food could be grown and distributed in a highly polluted neighborhood whose residents were predominantly Latinx.



The FreshRoots team, which included social entrepreneurs, activists, and property developers, developed innovative ways to grow and distribute food locally.



New methods of growing food included aquaponic and hydroponic gardening.



This allows vegetables to grow without taking root in polluted soil.



Plus, they could grow in large quantities year-round.

A second innovation focused on how food gets distributed.



FreshRoots sold their vegetables in their own small market and restaurants around the city.

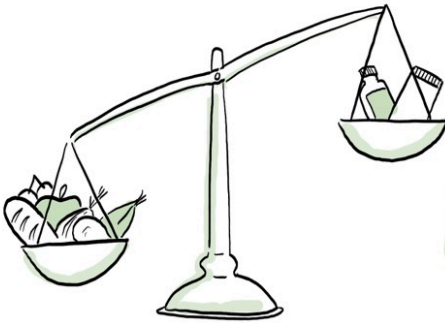
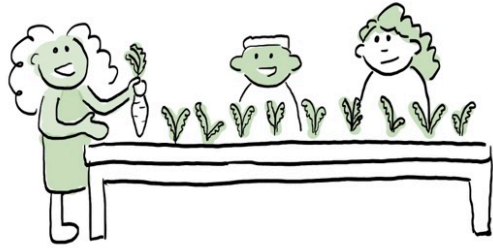


The money they earned was re-invested in the neighborhood.

System changes were supported by new learning—

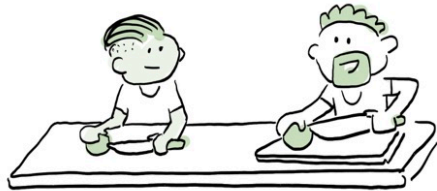
—Fresh Roots learned with residents about:

cultivating healthy,
year-round crops



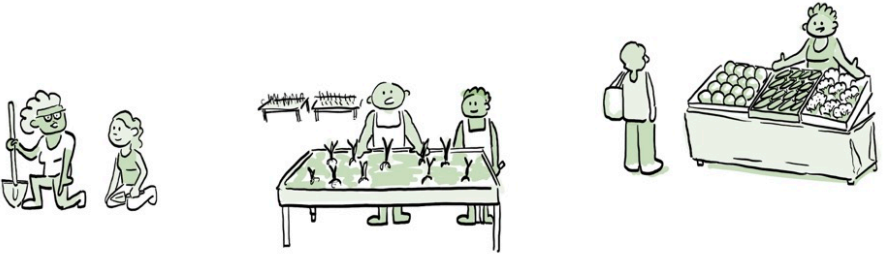
food justice

food preparation

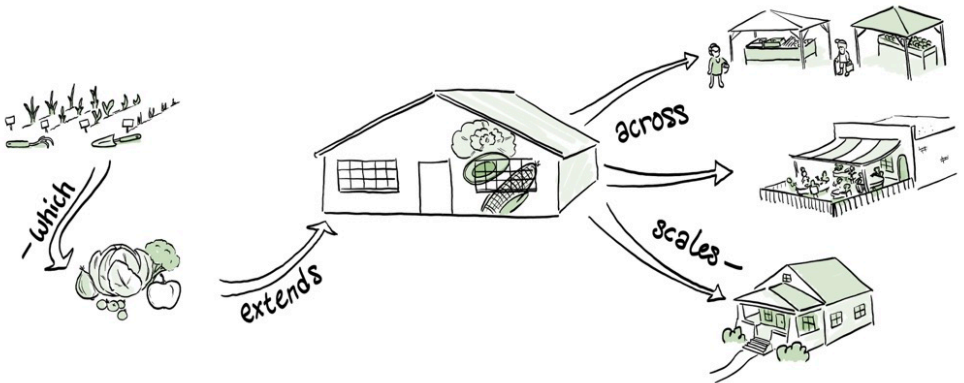


food distribution

Activism for social justice must make visible and leverage the knowledge and agency of nondominant communities.



Systemic change for equity requires building infrastructure —



— that foregrounds the needs and assets of nondominant communities.

Understanding entire systems of injustice can be overwhelming.



Activists recognize the need to work collectively and identify leverage points locally where infrastructure can shift

towards justice.

Systems-level change for equity must support expansive learning—

— not just learning new information, but supporting new ways for people...

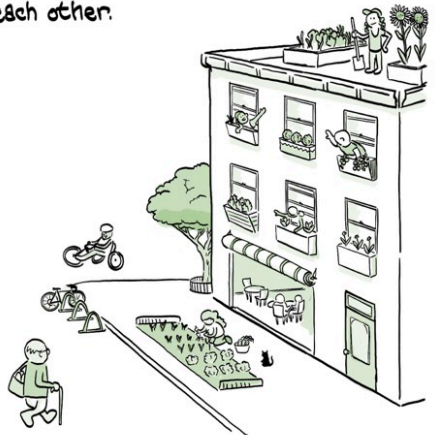


to engage with each other,

to use tools,



and to imagine alternative ways of living in community with each other.



This comic is part of
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Sociocultural Theories of Learning.**

for more, visit:
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To find out more about the research presented in this comic, go check out:

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