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**MILL CITY GROWS HOSTS LIVE VIRTUAL PANEL FEATURING EIGHT FOOD & SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATES FROM ACROSS THE NORTHEAST**

**Registration is now open for “Food Systems, Food Justice & Food Ways” Virtual Guest Panel Discussion on Thursday, April 29 at 4pm EST**

**[LOWELL, MA]** - Lowell-based non-profit Mill City Grows will host a premiere guest panel event, “Food Systems, Food Justice & Food Ways,” on Thursday, April 29 at 4pm EST via Zoom. The live discussion brings together eight panelists from Greater Boston, Connecticut, the Merrimack Valley, and New York working on the front lines of food access and social justice in their communities. Registration is \$10 per person. Full details, speaker bios, and online registration is at [MillCityGrows.org](http://MillCityGrows.org).

“Social justice, including food justice, is an integral part of public health,” says event moderator Jamie Kluffs, Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives at the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-MA). “As moderator, I hope to illuminate the inspiring and creative ways organizations helped their communities meet their food access needs in 2020.”

Mill City Grows Executive Director, Jessica Moore-Wilson, will also join the event as a featured guest panelist. Wilson became executive director of the organization in early 2020, just weeks before the COVID shutdown.

“My biggest goal after 2020 is not to get back to normal, but to get better,” says Wilson. “We learned so many important lessons about how to create a more resilient food system through the pandemic, and I am excited to share these lessons and learn from our colleagues on this panel.”

The event is made possible by Mill City Grows’ 2021 Annual Event Sponsors: Nancy L. Donahue, Plenus Group, Inc., Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA, Microdesk, Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union, Eastern Bank, Enterprise Bank, Align Credit Union.

For more information on Mill City Grows' Virtual Guest Panel, please contact Katherine Davis at [Katherine@millcitygrows.org](mailto:Katherine@millcitygrows.org) or call 978-455-2620. Detailed bio information for all panelists can be found at [MillCityGrows.org/2021-virtual-guest-panel](http://MillCityGrows.org/2021-virtual-guest-panel). A brief listing is below:

### **Event Guest Panelists**

#### **Charlotte Border**

Operations Director at [Boston Area Gleaners](#) (Boston MA)

#### **Grace Sliwoski**

Director of Programs for the [Regional Environmental Council](#), (Worcester MA)

#### **Jessica Moore-Wilson**

Executive Director of [Mill City Grows](#) (Lowell MA)

#### **John Wang**

North Shore Regional Director at [The Food Project](#) (Lynn and Wenham MA)

#### **Kelly Proulx**

Development & Communications Coordinator at the [Merrimack Valley Food Bank](#) (Lowell MA)

#### **Latha Swamy**

Director of [Food System Policy](#) for the City of New Haven (Connecticut)

#### **Nahommy Agosto**

Fellowship Program Member at [The Food Project](#) (Greater Boston MA)

#### **Sheryll Durrant**

Resident Garden Manager at Kelly Street Garden (New York), and Food and Nutrition Coordinator for New Roots Community Farm, managed by the [International Rescue Committee \(IRC\)](#)

#### **Event Moderator: Jamie Kluffs**

Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives at the Massachusetts Chapter of the [National Association of Social Workers \(NASW-MA\)](#)

### **About Mill City Grows**

Since 2011, Mill City Grows (MCG) has worked towards food justice in Lowell, Massachusetts, using the following strategies and programs: education in and out of

schools, supporting community leadership through community gardens, increasing urban agriculture through urban farming, implementing a mobile market, and empowering people to produce their own food. MCG infuses food production spaces with food education to support their belief that a community that understands how to grow, access, and prepare healthy food will have better quality of life and deeper investment in their local environment. Visit [MillCityGrows.org](http://MillCityGrows.org) to learn more, and follow MCG on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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