

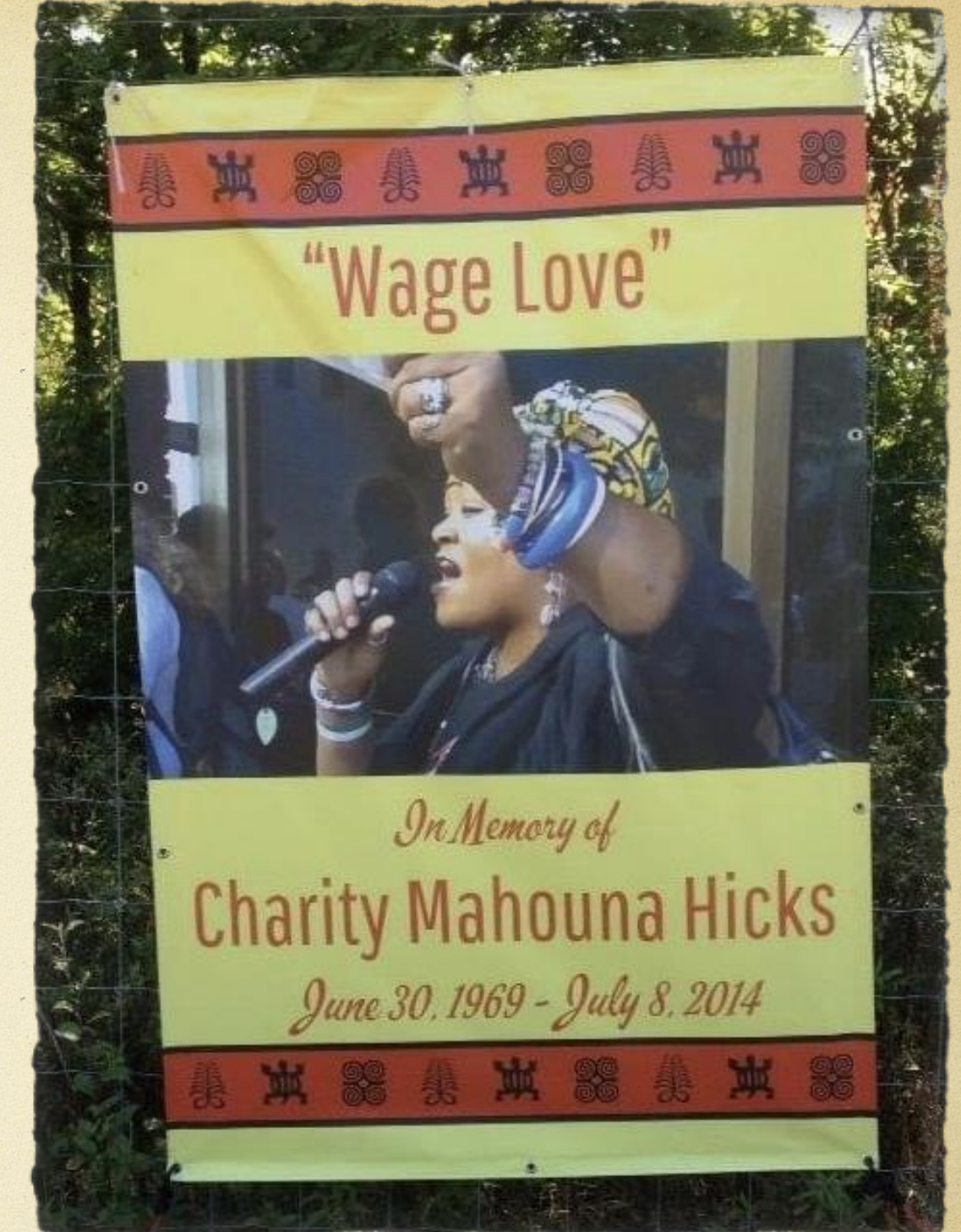
Urban Ag Through the Lens of Sankofa: Looking Back to Move Forward!

Malik Yakini





We Honor Our Ancestors!



“We only get correct answers if we ask correct questions.”

Dara Cooper, Founding ED of the National Black Food and Justice Alliance



Dara Cooper with current NBFJA Co-ED Cicely Garret

“Why is there such injustice and inequity in the current American food system?”

- White Hegemony/White supremacy
- Settler Colonialism and Genocide
- Enslavement of Africans
- Concentration of land “ownership.”
- Drive of global capitalism for maximum profits



Where have we been?





Ancestor Cynthia Hayes



Will Allen



Rashid Nuri



Karen Washington

Urban Ag Proliferates in:

↪ Detroit



↪ Philly



↪ NYC



↪ Chicago



Urban Ag is Growing

↳ Syracuse, Dallas, Minneapolis, Richmond, Ithaca, St. Petersburg, Milwaukee, Cleveland, New Orleans, Kansas City, Portland, Seattle, St. Louis, Boston, LA, Columbus, Denver, Oakland and many other cities.

Urban Ag Directors



Patrice Brown - Detroit



Qiana Mickie - NYC



Ash Richards - Philadelphia



J. Olu Baiyewu - ATL



Kate Lee - Washington D.C.

Other signs of progress

- ↷ USDA has opened 17 Urban Service locations.
- ↷ More thoughtful consideration of urban land for ag use.
- ↷ Produce sold direct to consumers and grocery stores in some cases.
- ↷ Youth food and ag programs abound.
- ↷ Many cities have food policy councils.
- ↷ Some universities are providing paid internships at urban farms.
- ↷ Funders still like urban ag.



But still...

Towards a More Effective Food Sovereignty Movement

- ⌘ We can't garden our way to liberation.
- ⌘ We must study liberatory movements.
- ⌘ Think, speak and act unrestrained by fear,
- ⌘ Consolidation of conversations and agendas.
- ⌘ Local and regional cooperation
- ⌘ "Organize, organize, organize!" - Kwame Ture

Leadership

- Local grassroots producers and consumers of food must lead the movement for food sovereignty.
- Although they can participate and support, it must not be led by:
 - USDA
 - City Governments
 - Philanthropy
 - Academics
 - Gentrifiers

We can't garden our way to liberation. But we can:

- ↳ Develop a self-reliance and health consciousness.
- ↳ Build intergenerational networks.
- ↳ Facilitate the study of liberatory politics.
- ↳ Develop Self-determining Food Economies.
- ↳ Reconnect with the earth.
- ↳ Advance sustainable, regenerative, reparative practices.



At the crossroads

- ↪ Environmental Stewardship.
- ↪ Human Rights
- ↪ Food Security
- ↪ Racial Justice
- ↪ Land Justice
- ↪ Economic Equity
- ↪ Health and Well Being



Thank You!

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*Detroit Black Community Food
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www.DBCFSN.org

National Black Food and Justice Alliance

www.blackfoodjustice.org

