



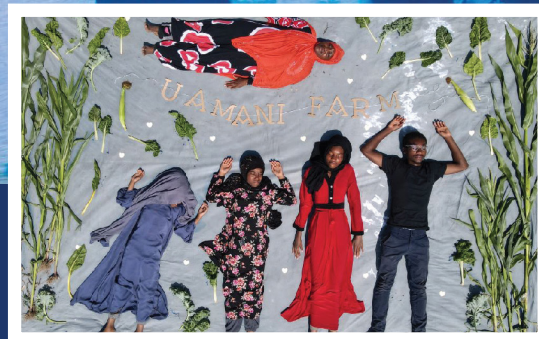
PROVIDENCE
FARM COLLECTIVE

EVERYBODY EATS

Celebrating Our Agricultural
Heritage Exhibition



project overview



EVERYBODY EATS EXHIBIT

During the growing season in 2023, Providence Farm Collective farmers, staff, and their families worked with international photojournalist Brendan Bannon, poet and photographer Joshua Thermidor, and videographer and photographer Ray Jones to create cyanotype tapestries that serve as portraits of their family farms and a record of the farmers' agricultural heritage. From this project 12 cyanotype tapestries of various sizes were created, along with poetry, videos, and photographs. The Everybody Eats: Celebrating Our Agricultural Heritage exhibition is a 5-month traveling art show that endeavors to build bridges across urban and rural communities, farmers and consumers, and artists in Western New York.

agricultural heritage

Right here, in Western New York, there are farmers nearing retirement without a transition plan for their farms. At the same time, beginning and new entry farmers are struggling to access affordable farmland. Our food system and agricultural heritage are at a crossroads – without opportunities and support for both aging farmers and new farmers, the future of our fields and tables is uncertain. Our programs at Providence Farm Collective address this challenge by empowering a new generation of diverse farmers.

"Many of our elders work at the farm. They do not stay home but now spend time outside farming. Everyone is eating fresh vegetables that are important to our traditions. In addition, our teenagers are learning our farming traditions and culture, which is very important to their parents and grandparents."

MAHAMUD MBERWA, BWEDO FARM



sustainability

Supporting a sustainability model that prioritizes the health and wellbeing of all people, land, air, and water, in addition to profit, is key to creating agriculture and food systems that are resilient and equitable for farmers and consumers.



My sister my mom my brothers
She baked the corn
she carried for us
we rested. we ate. we drank.
we marched.
we marched.
this
my
people.
maize
home.

food with dignity

PFC takes seriously the vital role we play in our region to build farms, cultivate community, steward our natural resources, and provide fresh food access that centers dignity for us all. Food with Dignity is our belief that our Western New York neighbors deserve access to fresh, nutritious produce AND our region's farmers deserve to be paid fairly for feeding us.

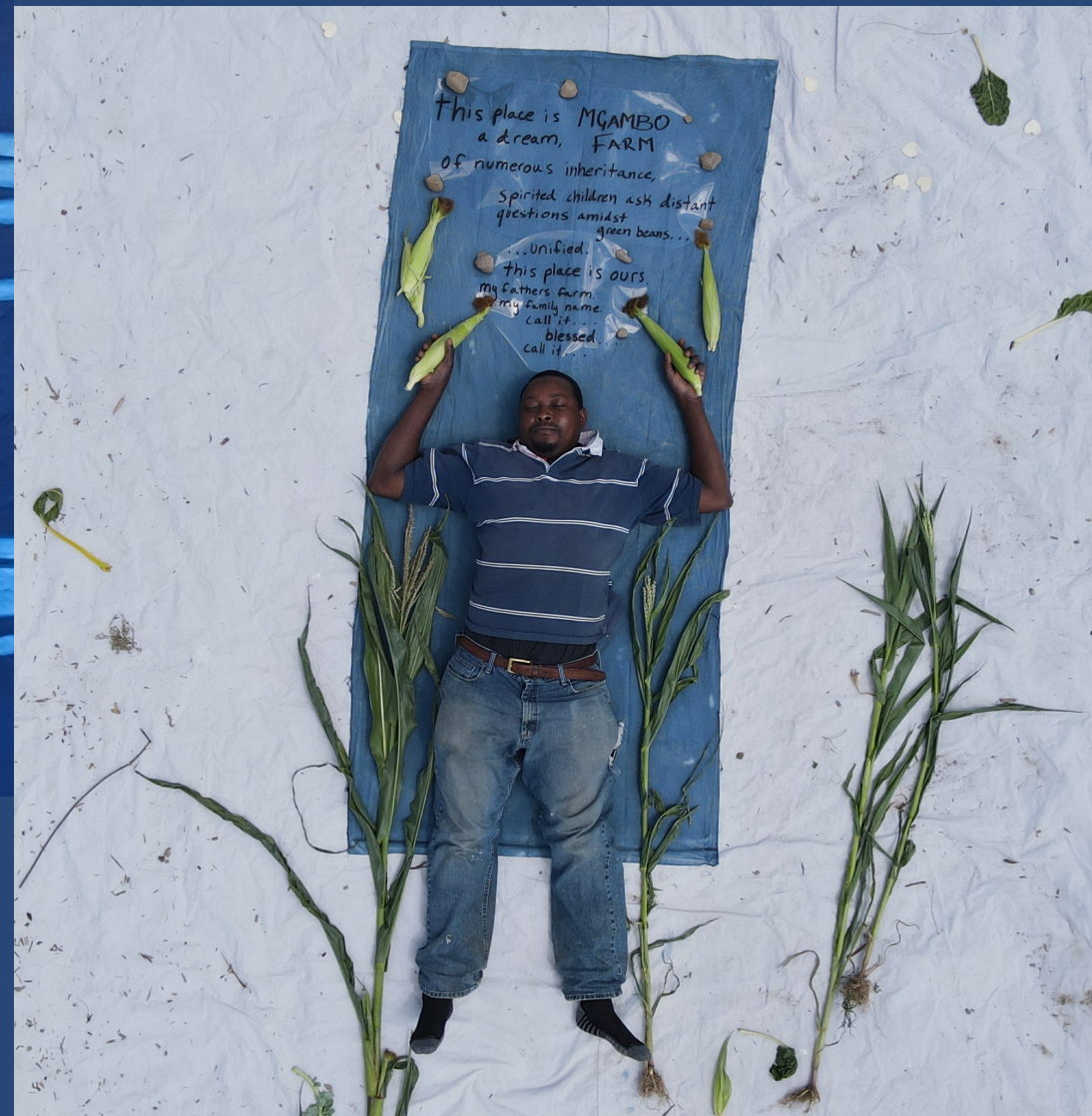


"Getting access to decent healthy food should not be a struggle. To afford, say, organic food. And to me, when I take this food and people can access it, that is food with dignity."

HAMADI ALI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

acknowledgement

Our heartfelt thanks to Mo, Nurta, Abdi, Halima, and their families for generously sharing their farming heritage through cyanotypes. We are also deeply grateful to Brendan for leading this project, Hamadi for facilitating, Joshua for reflecting the shared stories so beautifully in poetry, and to Ray for the thoughtful video and still documentation he captured. A special thank you to Diane for their partnership in bringing this exhibit together.



this place is a
dream of numerous
inheritance spirited
children ask distant
questions amidst green
beans & big baskets
how far is this place of
ours, my father's farm
my family name what
will we call it call
it something special
without argument
unified



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