Food for Thought

The Role of Philanthropy in Georgia’s Food System
About GGA’s Annual Meeting:
Health...hunger...education...social justice...clean water...healthy soil...climate change...farmer prosperity...economic development – all of these issues converge in Georgia's food system. Through our speakers and discussions among grantmakers, we will learn how your interest areas are reflected in the state's food system and how private philanthropy can strengthen it to promote greater sustainability, improved health outcomes, local economic development, community building and wellness.

About the Georgia Grantmakers Alliance:
The Georgia Grantmakers Alliance is a nonpartisan association open to all private grantmakers in the state, regardless of SECF membership. GGA was founded in 2010 to:

· **Convene.** Bring private grantmakers in Georgia together to strengthen our connections.
· **Learn.** Explore together statewide issues, connections to public policy, and the implications for grantmaking.
· **Educate.** Share our learning within and beyond the grantmaking community to promote sound public policy.
· **Connect.** Expand our reach by connecting with partners who share common interests.

GGA is supported by generous grants and fees for its programs. Quality programming requires capable volunteer leadership. **If you would like to volunteer, please contact GGA’s staff liaison, Will Kauffman, at will@secf.org.**

About the Southeastern Council of Foundations:
The Southeastern Council of Foundations (SECF) is one of the nation’s largest regional associations of grantmakers, serving more than 330 of the most dynamic foundations and corporate giving programs in the South. SECF works in partnership with members in 11 Southeastern states to serve, strengthen, promote and champion the South's philanthropic voice and infrastructure through engaging programming, leadership development training, access to unique resources and invaluable connections. By encouraging insightful philanthropic collaboration, SECF creates opportunities to increase the region's grantmaking impact and empower transformational community change.

SECF’s Statement of Intent & Code of Conduct:
SECF’s Statement of Intent: The Southeastern Council of Foundations strives to support Members and grantmakers with access to education, resources and networking by serving as a convener and facilitator, offering a diverse range of voices and perspectives. We do not endorse colleague organization views, but rather aim to provide access to a broad range of information and resources to increase grantmaking impact and develop philanthropic leaders throughout the region.

SECF’S Code of Conduct: The Southeastern Council of Foundations is composed of a broad and diverse membership of grantmakers. At our core, we are a community of grantmakers connecting with each other to improve the practice of grantmaking in the Southeast. At our meetings and events, we also welcome visitors from other organizations – which are not members – that participate as presenters or participants. SECF strives to create a comfortable place for all Members, visitors, and others engaged in philanthropy to exchange experiences and ideas and engage in conversations that are welcoming and of benefit to all participants. As such, SECF is not a venue for grant seekers, fundraisers, or other types of charitable solicitations during any of its meetings, events or through its publications nor is it an appropriate venue to conduct political activities. We ask that our Members and visitors not solicit at SECF-sponsored events or programs and that Members and visitors not use information obtained through their SECF membership or participation in SECF events for charitable, business or other solicitations outside of those events.
Fellow Georgia grantmakers,

Welcome to the Annual Meeting of the Georgia Grantmakers Alliance (GGA)! I hope you are ready for a day of connection, education and inspiration as we explore the complexities of our state’s food system – and how we, as grantmakers, can help improve it.

The Annual Meeting caps off a phenomenal year for our organization and for philanthropy in our state. During this year’s legislative session, GGA held four Lunch & Learn events focused on vital issues such as education and access to quality health care, including mental health services. And, as a prelude to today’s event, we also conducted our first site visit in June, visiting the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia’s new branch in Clayton.

We have expanded in other ways as well, adding more than 50 new members and collaborating with new partners. This year, we worked with Voices for Georgia’s Children to keep members informed of public policy developments. We also partnered with the Foundation Center to help gain a broader understanding of the grantmaking landscape in Georgia through our biennial “Taking Measure” survey. We are also proud to welcome new leaders stepping up to help ensure GGAs long-term success.

Sincere gratitude goes to our Annual Meeting planning committee for its preparations and the James M. Cox Foundation for serving as our host. Their contributions have resulted in an Annual Meeting that is poised to be our best yet!

I hope all of you enjoy your experience today and come away with an improved understanding and appreciation of how grantmakers can help promote the health and well-being of Georgia’s children and families. Thank you for attending, and thank you for supporting the Georgia Grantmakers Alliance!

Warmly,

Lesley Grady
Chair, Georgia Grantmakers Alliance Steering Committee

P.S. Mark your calendars for the December 6 rollout of “Taking Measure,” our annual survey of Georgia foundations, in partnership with the Georgia Center for Nonprofits and the Foundation Center!
AGENDA

8:00am  Networking Breakfast

8:45am  Welcome

9:00am  Food 101: Georgia’s Food System

Speaker: Gary Black, Commissioner of Agriculture
Introduction: Shell Berry, President/CEO, The Community Foundation for the Central Savannah River Area

Georgia's agricultural industry plays a major role in the state’s economy, contributing over $74 billion annually. Georgia has 9.6 million acres of land devoted to farms, with an average farm size of 228 acres. Of the more than 42,000 individual Georgia farms in production in 2012, more than 17,000 raised beef or dairy cows, while 2,600 farms grew cotton. The commissioner will highlight several efforts the state is taking to improve access to Georgia-grown products and promote healthy eating.

9:45am  The Challenge: Why Does the State’s Food System Need Attention?

Speaker: Bill Bolling, Chair, Food Well Alliance
Introduction: Gilbert Miller, Trustee, Beloco Family Foundation

Access to reliable, nutritious food forms the basis of every healthy society. In Georgia, much of the food we consume is grown thousands of miles away, reducing the quality of our food supply and increasing its vulnerability to events like drought. When it comes to food access, too many Georgians can’t afford food. Our food banks are seeing increased demand, often from employed residents who don’t earn enough to cover their basic needs. Some of the people least able to feed themselves work in the food system. These are just a few of many indicators that show our current food system is not sustainable, that the price of food on the store shelf does not always capture all costs. Bill will share his perspective on the current state of the food system and help funders see opportunities to connect the public and private sectors to improve it.

10:25am  What Do We Mean by Good Food? And What Would an Ideal Food System Look Like?

Speaker: Alice Rolls, Executive Director, Georgia Organics
Introduction: Louisa D’Antignac, Trustee, The Wilbur & Hilda Glenn Family Foundation

Georgia is following national trends with an increasing number of school and community gardens, farmers markets and new options for low-income community members to access fresh, healthy food. Important progress is being made across the state. Funders can help accelerate and scale this progress and elevate new issues needing greater attention, leadership and investment. Alice will walk us through the history and share the momentum of Georgia’s current food movement.

11:00am  Conversation: Gary Black, Bill Bolling and Alice Rolls
Moderator: Ellen Macht, Project Manager, BetterLife Growers

11:45am  Locally-sourced Buffet Lunch, courtesy of Cox Enterprises

Food for today’s lunch is provided by the following regional suppliers:

- Tenderloin from the Cox Family Farms in Georgia
- Chicken from Joyce Farms in Georgia
- Shrimp from Harbor Docks in Destin, Florida

Lunch leftovers will be picked up by Second Helpings Atlanta and provided to those in need of food.
Thought Leader Interviews and Discussion:

12:30pm  Education and Food

Speaker: “Cafeteria Man” Anthony Geraci, Memphis City Schools Nutrition Services  
Moderator: John Bare, Vice President for Programs, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation

Cafeteria Man is the story of how positive change is possible in our nation’s schools. It’s about school officials, parents and students coming together to change the way kids eat. It’s about overhauling a dysfunctional nutritional system. First in Baltimore and next in Memphis, Tony Geraci’s replaced pre-plated, processed foods with locally-grown, freshly prepared meals. The approach transformed the food systems for more than 280,000 students. In Georgia, school districts are pursuing similar solutions, with more than 50 Georgia districts participating in the state’s Farm to School program, competing annually for Golden Radish awards recognition. Tony will share secrets to using school food to improve child health and school outcomes through a school-nutrition program that makes smart financial sense.

1:15pm  Social Justice and Food

Speakers: Jeremy Lewis, Urban Recipe, and Sara Berney, Wholesome Wave Georgia  
Moderator: Kathy Palumbo, Director, Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta

Many of us take for granted our access to well-stocked grocery chains, health food stores, farm-to-table restaurants and farmers’ markets. But what if you lived in a community without these luxuries? 18.7 percent of Georgians – 1 in 5 – are food insecure, meaning they do not have consistent access to enough adequate nutrition to maintain a healthy life. Many live in food deserts – urban neighborhoods and rural towns without ready access to fresh, healthy and affordable food. Urban Recipe and Wholesome Wave Georgia are two innovative nonprofits working to address hunger and healthy food access in new ways.

2:00pm  The Environment and Food

Speakers: Will Harris, White Oak Pastures, and Dr. Peggy Barlett, Emory University  
Moderator: John Lanier, Executive Director, Ray C. Anderson Foundation

The key to healthy food and water is healthy soil. Unfortunately, not all agricultural practices and systems pay proper attention to how they impact our soils. At White Oak Pastures, Will Harris and his family are committed to farming in a way that not only sustains soil health, but also regenerates it while treating livestock with dignity. You’ll hear from Will and Dr. Peggy Barlett of Emory University about how our food and water systems impact our natural environment and how we can improve those systems.

2:45pm  Our Health and Food

Speaker: “Dr. Gourmet” Timothy Harlan, Associate Dean for Clinical Services, Tulane School of Medicine and Executive Director, Goldring Center for Culinary Medicine  
Moderator: Lisa Medellin, Senior Program Officer, Healthcare Georgia Foundation

Shouldn’t your doctor know more about how to eat for health? Dr. Timothy S. Harlan is a board certified internist, chef and author. He has written It’s Heartly Fare, Hand on Heart, The Dr. Gourmet Diet for Coumadin Users and Just Tell Me What to Eat!. His work has been featured in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and on CNN, among other top-tier media outlets. Harlan won an Emmy award in 2002 for excellence in medical programming for his “Dr. Gourmet Show” television program. The Goldring Center for Culinary Medicine at Tulane is the first dedicated teaching kitchen to be implemented at a medical school. It teaches physicians about food: how to cook, what to eat, and how to help their patients improve their diet – and thereby, their health.

3:30pm  Closing: Opportunities for Funders

4:00pm  Adjourn
SPEAKER PROFILES

Peggy Barlett • Goodrich C. White Professor of Anthropology, Emory University

Peggy Barlett, Goodrich C. White Professor of Anthropology at Emory University, is a specialist in agricultural anthropology and sustainability in higher education. An early leader in sustainability at Emory and chair of the Sustainable Food Committee, she has led workshops on curriculum development for over 500 campus leaders around the country. Co-editor of Sustainability on Campus: Stories and Strategies for Change (MIT Press, 2004) and Sustainability in Higher Education: Stories and Strategies for Transformation (MIT Press, 2013), she is also author of an award-winning study of the U.S. farm crisis of the 1980s (American Dreams, Rural Realities: Family Farms in Crisis, University of North Carolina Press, 1993). She has served on the National Research Council Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Atlanta Local Food Initiative and seeks to combine the scholarship of sustainability and culture change with the joy of deeper engagement with place.

Sara Berney • Executive Director, Wholesome Wave Georgia

Sara Berney is the first full-time Executive Director Wholesome Wave Georgia. Under her leadership, Sara has expanded the organizational budget by 275 percent, increased personnel from one to five, grown the Healthy Food Incentive Program from 14 to 50 partner farmers markets, and connected health care providers, farmers markets and families with chronic illness through the Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program. Prior to joining WWG, Sara worked as a public health consultant for Deloitte, supporting clients at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and public health nonprofits including the Flour Fortification Initiative. Sara also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Peru, where she partnered with community leaders to design and lead training programs for community health promoters and youth health educators. Sara has lived in Atlanta since 2006 and currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Farmers Market Association.

Gary W. Black • Commissioner of Agriculture

Serving his second term, Commissioner Gary W. Black is the 16th Georgian to hold the office of Commissioner of Agriculture since the department’s inception in 1874. Black earned a degree in agricultural education from the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Throughout his 35-year career in agriculture, he has championed sound state and federal policies impacting food safety, science-based environmental stewardship and agricultural marketing. Gary and his wife, Lydia, raise commercial beef cattle on the family farm in Commerce. He also serves in the Sunday school and music ministries of Maysville Baptist Church.

Bill Bolling • Chair, Food Well Alliance

Bill Bolling founded the Atlanta Community Food Bank in 1979 and served as its executive director for 36 years before stepping down in June of 2015. Under Bill’s leadership, the Food Bank distributed more than half a billion pounds of food and grocery products through a network of nonprofit partner organizations that feed the hungry. Bill recently created Food Well Alliance, a nonprofit that connects farms, community gardens, farmers markets and other members of Atlanta’s local food movement. He currently serves as board chair for Food Well Alliance and as senior consultant for the Georgia Food Bank Association.

Bill is a frequent speaker on topics related to sustainable food, hunger, poverty, regionalism, affordable housing and public policy reform. His skills in bridging various public sectors have made him a leader in strengthening the community to serve those most in need. Prior to his association with the Food Bank, he served as director of community ministries for St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Atlanta.

Tony Geraci • Executive Director, Memphis City Schools Nutrition Services

After catalyzing change around school food in Baltimore, “Cafeteria Man” Tony Geraci felt he had taken his role as far as he could and left in 2011 with confidence that the people and programs were in place to sustain the momentum. Tony is currently the executive director of Memphis City Schools Nutrition Services, which provides over 200,000 meals a day for 110,000 students. Since his arrival in fall 2011, he has increased participation in the Breakfast in the Classroom program, initiated an At Risk Supper Meal Program, expanded the farm-to-school program, and established a 100-acre farm. Tony also was recently named one of the top 20 most influential Food Service people in the country.
Dr. Tim Harlan, aka “Dr. Gourmet” • Associate Dean for Clinical Services, Tulane School of Medicine and Executive Director, Goldring Center for Culinary Medicine

“Eating well and eating healthy is the same thing,” says Dr. Tim Harlan, aka “Dr. Gourmet,” who discovered his love of food long before embarking on a successful career as a physician. While completing his degree at Emory University School of Medicine, he began writing about the clear link between food and health, blending his extensive knowledge of food and nutrition with his medical expertise. Teaching patients that eating great food is the easiest path to health, Dr. Harlan launched DrGourmet.com as the definitive evidence-based source for diet, health, wellness and lifestyle information. His books, It’s Heartly Fare, Hand On Heart and Just Tell Me What to Eat!, guide readers on what they can eat for optimum health. Dr. Harlan has appeared on numerous local news programs, demonstrating how to cook healthy meals. His program, “The Dr. Gourmet Show,” earned an Emmy Award for excellence in medical programming. In addition, he has been featured in The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal, and on CNN, as well as other top-tier media outlets.

Will Harris • Owner, White Oak Pastures

Born and raised at White Oak Pastures, Will Harris tends the same land that has been in his family for four generations. He was trained in standard industrial farming methods while attending the University of Georgia’s School of Agriculture, but in the mid-1990s, became disenchanted with industrialized farming methods. In 1995, Will decided to return to the farming methods his great-grandfather had used 130 years before. After successfully implementing these changes, Will has been recognized all over the world as a leader in humane animal husbandry and environmental sustainability. Will is the immediate past president of the Board of Directors of Georgia Organics. He is the Beef Director of the American Grassfed Association, and was selected 2011 Business Person of the Year for Georgia by the Small Business Administration.

Jeremy Lewis • Executive Director, Urban Recipe

Jeremy Lewis is the executive director of Urban Recipe, an organization creating food security for low-income families in the metro Atlanta area for 25 years. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia with a bachelor of business administration in finance and of Emory University with a master of divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology. Prior to joining Urban Recipe in 2015, Jeremy was the executive director of CDF Action in Clarkston, Georgia. As a former board member of Bread for the World, he advocated on behalf of communities he worked with to be a part of conversations around creating policies that affect access to fresh food for low-income individuals. In response to that work and in connection to his work with the refugee community, Jeremy helped co-found Edible Yard & Garden to work toward increasing the access to fresh food around the Atlanta area through sustainable practices of edible landscaping and urban agriculture.

Ellen Macht • Project Manager, BetterLife Growers

Ellen Macht is project manager for the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta’s social enterprise initiative. BetterLife Growers will be a 1.5 million pound aeroponic lettuce and herb growing operation that will provide approximately 25 good, sustainable jobs for hard-to-place employees. BetterLife Growers will leverage the purchasing power of education and medical institutions, produce distributors and grocery stores to buy its produce. Ellen is one of the founders of Food Well Alliance, which exists to unite the local food movement to build a healthier food system together. She has more than 30 years of experience in corporate and investment banking and is the board chair of Georgia Organics.

Alice Rolls • Executive Director, Georgia Organics

Alice Rolls has devoted her entire professional career to environmental causes, working for 28 years in the nonprofit arena, lending her expertise to the development of three organizations. In 2004, Alice became the Executive Director of Georgia Organics, a nonprofit organization working to connect organic food from Georgia farms to Georgia families. Prior to this position, Alice was executive director of Earth Share of Georgia, an organization she founded in 1992 and which has since grown to support over 60 environmental organizations. She also worked for six years establishing and developing The Nature Conservancy’s Georgia Chapter. She is a 1987 graduate of the University of Virginia with a degree in biology and environmental sciences and a 2004 graduate of the Governor’s Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership. In her spare time, Alice can be found tending her edible garden and backyard chickens, transporting herself by bike around town, or foraging for mushrooms in undisclosed locations.
We are grateful to the following Georgia organizations for providing support to GGA:

- The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation
- Callaway Foundation, Inc.
- Fuller E. Callaway Foundation
- Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
- Cox Enterprises
- Cox Foundation
- Healthcare Georgia Foundation
- J. Bulow Campbell Foundation
- Pittulloch Foundation
- Healthcare Georgia Foundation
- SMUMC Foundation
- SunTrust
- Tull Charitable Foundation
- The Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation
- Williams Family Foundation of Georgia
LEADERSHIP

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GGA Annual Meeting Planning Committee

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John Lanier, Executive Director, Ray C. Anderson Foundation, Atlanta
Lisa Medellin, Senior Program Officer, Healthcare Georgia Foundation, Atlanta
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