



History of Agricultural Justice Project Governance Stakeholders

1999-2023

Who Gets to Decide & How Decisions are Made is Just as Important as What is Decided

The Agricultural Justice Project (AJP) is committed to democratic principles of leadership and governed by a stakeholder-driven process. We interpret “stakeholders” broadly, to include all those who work in and are fed by the food and agricultural system who shoulder too many of the burdens and enjoy too few of the benefits of how our food system operates.

In the beginning, AJP formed as a collaboration between two groups:

- **family-scale organic farmers** committed to growing and raising food without exploiting people, where were also concerned that their farms struggled to thrive in a food system that was increasingly consolidating power in the hands of a few corporate conglomerates; and
- **immigrant farmworkers** seeking pathways for changing the food system so that they no longer worked in exploitative jobs that exposed them to toxic pesticides and dangerous working conditions to grow food for others, while their own communities lacked access to good food.

AJP has increasingly expanded relationship-building and advocacy work across sectors because the systemic harms and injustices of the food system extend well beyond production on the farm. For this reason, AJP has expanded the categories of governance stakeholder groups over time in order to better address the root causes of injustice and build towards a deeper transformation of the food system. One root cause of injustice is cultural patterns of oppression based on difference (along lines of race, ethnicity, class, immigration and legal status, and so on) that undermine efforts to build solidarity and a broader movement for justice.

Since 2020 our governance stakeholder groups have included: Workers (farmworkers and food system workers throughout the food chain, including apprentices and interns); Local Family and Community Farmers and Ranchers (both urban and rural); Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Family and Community Farmers; Small and Local Cooperative Food Retailer Owners, Managers and Staff; and Food Insecure Individuals, Families, and Communities.

AJP is governed by three committees, who make decisions via consensus: an Advisory Council and a Standards Committee, which are each made up of representatives from the different stakeholder groups, and a Board of Directors that is made up of farmer/rancher and farmworker representatives. A quorum is defined as both a majority AND at least one representative from each stakeholder group. The governing bodies may additionally include individuals with expertise relevant to AJP's work.

Advisory Council Members as of 2023:

[Anita Adalja](#), [Not Our Farm](#), NM, farmworker stakeholder.

Denise Aguero, Independent Organic and FJC Inspector, FL; eater and certification stakeholder.

[Becca Berkey](#), Northeastern University, MA; eater and farm labor justice researcher stakeholder.

[Christina Spach](#), [Food Chain Workers Alliance](#); a coalition of worker-based organizations that advocates for the following stakeholder groups: food chain workers, immigrant workers, women workers, workers of color.

Ernesto Bustos, former Executive Director, [Centro Campesino](#), MN; farmworker advocate.



[Gail Wadsworth](#), former Executive Director of the California Institute of Rural Studies, representing marginalized rural residents of California; farmers and farmworkers. Low wage workers in the food chain.

[Jennifer Taylor](#), Lola's Organic Farm, GA, BIPOC farmer stakeholder.

[Jim Cochran](#), [Swanton Berry Farm](#), CA; farmer stakeholder.

Joy Miller, [Keewaydin Farms](#), WI; farmer stakeholder.

Kathy Peters, [Abundance Cooperative Market](#), NY; retail food co-operative and retail employee stakeholder.

Keith Talbot, Workers Legal Rights Project, NJ; worker advocate.

[Nancy Vail](#), [Pie Ranch](#), CA; farmer stakeholder.

[Nezahualcoyotl Xiuhtecutli](#), [Farmworkers Association of Florida](#), FL; represents farmworker stakeholders.

[Rosalinda Guillen](#), Executive Director, [Community to Community Development](#), WA; a women of color led organization that works to empower under-represented people to bring justice to our food, land and cultural practices and promote community relationships towards self-reliance and human rights for all.

[Tonya Noel Stevens](#), Co-founder, [Flower City Noire Collective](#), NY, BIPOC urban farmer and food insecure experienced stakeholder.

Board of Directors Members as of 2023:

Jessica Culley, general coordinator, [Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas /Farmworker Support Committee \(CATA\)](#), farmworker advocate.

Cali Alexander, representative of [NOFA – NJ](#), small-scale rancher.

Edgar Franx, Washington State Political and Campaign Director at [Familias Unidas por la Justicia](#), farmworker stakeholder.

Elizabeth Henderson, co-founder of AJP, representative of [Northeast Organic Farming Association \(NOFA NY and the Interstate Council\)](#), retired farmer and farmer advocate.

Susan Alan, representative of the [Rural Advancement Foundation International \(RAFI-USA\)](#).

Marty Mesh, co-founder of AJP, retired organic farmer stakeholder.

Michael Sligh, co-founder of AJP, rancher stakeholder.

Founders, Authors, and Contributors to AJP's Stakeholder-Driven Standards & Organizational Processes, Structures, and Policies

The Food Justice Certified (FJC) standards were originally developed by AJP over a four-year period of stakeholder input and are an attempt to codify in concrete terms what making a legitimate claim of “social justice” in organic and sustainable agriculture means. AJP has a standard practice of revising our stakeholder-developed standards document periodically via consensus decision-making. The process is based on the International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labeling's (ISEAL) best practices for standards revisions and typically occurs every five years and takes about 18 months from start to finish.

AJP would like to thank all the stakeholders, Standards Committee, and Advisory Council members who reviewed and provided comments on the standards during the standards revision process that resulted in the various versions of our published standards.



Standards Committee Members for the most recent 2019 Published Standards:

Jim Cochran, [Swanton Berry Farm](#), CA; farmer stakeholder.

Jessica Culley, [Farmworker Support Committee \(CATA\)](#), NJ, a migrant-farmworker founded, membership-based organization; farmworker advocate.

Rosalinda Guillen, [Community to Community](#) (C2C), WA; leadership team member of C2C, a women of color led organization that works to empower under-represented people to bring justice to our food, land and cultural practices and promote community relationships towards self-reliance and human rights for all; farmworker advocate.

Marion McBride, Canada; brand and Canadian organic grower stakeholder.

Joy Miller, [Keewaydin Farms](#), WI; farmer stakeholder.

Tirso Moreno, formerly with the [Farmworkers Association of Florida](#), FL; farmworker stakeholder and advocate.

Kathy Peters, [Abundance Cooperative Market](#), NY; retail food co-operative and retail employee stakeholder.

Nancy Vail, [Pie Ranch](#), CA; farmer stakeholder.

Former Stakeholders in AJP Governance:

Alexis Baden-Mayer, Organic Consumers Association

Sandy Brown, former representative of Swanton Berry Farm, CA

Marty Butts, Syracuse Food Coop, NY, retail food co-op stakeholder.

Nelson Carasquillo, co-founder of AJP, former general coordinator of *Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas* /Farmworker Support Committee (CATA), NJ

Grace Cox, Olympia Food Coop, WA, retail food co-op stakeholder.

Carlos Diaz, *Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas* /Farmworker Support Committee (CATA), NJ, farmworker stakeholder.

Atina Diffley, MN, organic farmer stakeholder.

Jeannie Economos, [Farmworkers Association of Florida](#), FL; farmworker advocate.

Martha Guzman, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, CA

Linda Halley, WI, farmer stakeholder.

Rufus Haucke, Keewaydin Farms, MN, farmer stakeholder.

Ken Hayes, Soil Association, UK

Liz Haywood, Bluff Country Coop, MN retail food co-op stakeholder.

Jack Hedin, Featherstone Farm, WI, farmer stakeholder.

Joann Lo, former co-director, [Food Chain Workers Alliance](#); a coalition of worker-based organizations that advocates for the following stakeholders groups: food chain workers, immigrant workers, women workers, workers of color.

Margaret Krome-Lukens, representative of the [Rural Advancement Foundation International \(RAFI-USA\)](#).

Richard Mandelbaum, *Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas* /Farmworker Support Committee (CATA), NJ, farmworker advocate.

Oscar Mendieta, RENACE, Bolivia, advocate of agroecological agriculture for indigenous, rural, and multi ethnic communities.

Tirso Moreno, former general coordinator, Farmworkers Association of Florida, FL, farmworker stakeholder and advocate

Jose Oliva, former representative of Restaurant Opportunities Center United, restaurant worker advocate.

Suzette Snowcob, Greenfield Coop, NY, retail food co-op stakeholder.

Luis Tlaseca, *Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas* /Farmworker Support Committee (CATA), NJ, farmworker stakeholder.



Chela Vasquez, Pesticide Action Network

Bonnie Wideman, former representative of Midwestern Organic Services Association, WI, certification stakeholder.

Kristen Woodhouse, formerly with Organic Valley, food brand and farmer co-op stakeholder.

Lisa Sass Zaragoza, researcher and farmworker advocate.

Original AJP Founders

Michael Sligh, representing Rural Advancement Foundation International RAFIUSA

Nelson Carrasquillo, representing *Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas* / Farmworker Support Committee CATA

Marty Mesh, representing Quality Certification Services/Florida Organic Growers QCS/FOG

Elizabeth Henderson, representing Peacework Organic Farm and Northeast Organic Farming Association

Oscar Mendieta, representing *Fundacion Renace*

Richard Mandelbaum, representing *Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas* / Farmworker Support Committee CATA