“What is Food Sovereignty?”

Food First, an internationally recognized policy and activist institute broadly defines food sovereignty as “the right of peoples to democratically control or determine the shape of their food system, and to produce sufficient and healthy food in culturally appropriate and ecologically sustainable ways in and near their territory.”

“Mission, Vision & Values”

**Mission**
Dreaming Out Loud, Inc.’s mission is to create economic opportunity within DC metropolitan region’s marginalized communities, by building a healthy equitable food system.

**Vision**
DOL is rebuilding urban, community-based food systems through cooperative social enterprise: increasing access to healthy food, improving community health, supporting entrepreneurs and cooperatives from low-income communities; and creating opportunities for at-risk residents to earn sustainable, family-supporting wages and build wealth.

**Values**
We believe that all communities deserve equal access to fresh, healthy food choices, but that achieving this requires moving beyond the “access” paradigm to a focus on community self-determination and food sovereignty. This means that control of the food resources and food system assets that serve the community - including land and water, food-related enterprises, and the capital and labor that go into the food system - must rest with the community members themselves, not with outside entities who claim to know what our neighborhoods need or deserve. We work to create an integrated pipeline to jobs, economic opportunity, and community wealth-building that advances racial equity.

“In 2020, we faced the confluence of dual pandemics—”

“white supremacy, America’s longest running malady, and the continued degradation of the notion of the public commons, or collective responsibility to one another — each exacerbating the other with the onset of COVID-19. Like no time before, these sicknesses unfolded live and in living color, exposing the unseen that had always existed in front of our eyes.”

Christopher Bradshaw
Founder and Executive Director
**How to Get Involved!**

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