

## DEBBIE HILLMAN

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## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

2011-present *Democracy consultant* (self-employed)

—Public policy strategy, communications, networking, grassroots organizing, coalition building, events  
—Interlocking issues: food & farm systems, local economies, climate mitigation & resilience, monetary & banking reform, women's public authority, Complete Streets, antisemitism, racism, affordable housing, spirituality, public health, civic engagement, emergency preparedness, adult effectiveness, living skills  
—All levels: neighborhood, municipal, county, state, regional, national, global

2009-2011 *Content expert, resourcing*

*Northwestern University*, School of Education and Social Policy. Master of Science in Learning and Organizational Change (MSLOC) (2009)

— 2009-10 Foundations Class (Local food procurement for schools)

— 2010-11 Foundations Class and Practicums (Illinois farm-to-schoolchildren supply chain)

2008-2010 *Co-coordinator, Illinois Local & Organic Food & Farm Task Force*

Staffed 2-year, 32-member state Task Force. Organized monthly meetings, 8 committees, 18 listening sessions, report writing, legislation (writing, passage, signing). Built public awareness. Facilitated transition to permanent Illinois Local Food, Farms & Jobs Council. Produced the Illinois Local Food, Farms & Jobs Plan, contained in a 48-page report: *Local Food, Farms, and Jobs: Growing the Illinois Economy* (<https://foodfarmsdemocracy.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/FoodFarmsJobsreport.pdf>).

1981-2006 *Gardener* (self-employed)

—Residential gardens: Hands-on design, installation, woodworking, hardscape, maintenance.

—Subcontractor on special projects: Golf course plantings (Westmoreland Country Club), Shakespeare garden maintenance (New Trier High School), etc.

1984-89 *Apprentice cabinet-maker* (Grant Woodworks - Evanston, IL)

1980-85 *Artist* (dried flower arrangements, pictures)

1972-83 *Editor, typist, writer* (self-employed)

## **EDUCATION**

1968-72 *Philosophy* - George Washington University

1951-present *Continuing education and self-learning*

Soils, horticulture, agriculture, ecology, food systems, human culture and organization, economics, community development, policy-making, democracy, grant-writing, entrepreneurship, spirituality

**GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP** (unpaid community investment)

2003-2010 *Network for Evanston's Future* (climate resilience): Steering Committee member

2005–2014 *Evanston Food Policy Council*: Co-founder, chairperson

Co-founded and/or facilitated:

— The Talking Farm (urban farm): Founding board member (2006-10), Advisory Board member (2010)

— Edible Acre at Evanston Township High School (working farm)

— West End Market, Friends of the Evanston Markets (farmers markets)

— SAGE: Schools are Gardening in Evanston (school garden coordinator support group)

— PTA Councils Healthy Community Task Force

— 30+ educational programs (film, cooking, growing)

— Policy (backyard chicken ordinance, City strategic plan, climate action plan, Child Nutrition Act)

2007-2010 *Illinois Local Food and Farms Coalition*: Co-founder, coordinator

Policy development (concept, writing, advocacy) Illinois Food, Farms, and Jobs Acts. Resourcing: legislative updates, local food and farm systems groups, communities of practice, web and print resources, "go to" people, effective projects and models. Coalition building: networking, communications, outreach.

## **CURRENT PROJECTS** (2022)

### **Organizations**

*Alliance For Just Money* (U.S. organization working on democratization of money)

Member, Legislative Action Committee

— drafting strategy for re-introduction American Monetary Reform Act to Congress

— drafting anti-antisemitism policy

— presentation to Maternal Gift Economy Movement

*International Monetary Reform Movement*

Committee member, Human Rights Complaint re obstacles to implementing UN International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights ICESCR (money as a survival need)

*Wild Onion Market* (new food co-op in Chicago)

Food Politics Corner (monthly newsletter item)

### **Independent blogging, social media, networking to promote:**

*Reigniting the Women's Liberation Movement*

National political convention (Sept. 23-25, 2022, Washington, DC)

Women's Declaration International-USA

*Women's Declaration* (sex-based rights)

Women's Declaration International (UK)

*Regeneration Midwest*

12-state food and farm coalition

hosted by Organic Consumers Assn.

*Miscellaneous topics*

#WomensPublicAuthority

#FundedSovereignty

#EvanstonIL Pop-up Newsletter

Local Food Infrastructure: A menu of climate tactics

Public banks

Sovereign money

#CompleteStreets

*Miscellaneous organizations — EVANSTON based*

Citizens Greener Evanston

American Monetary Institute

Evanston Grows, Edible Evanston, Edible Acre at ETHS, Evanston Food Exchange, SAGE (school gardens)

Evanston Development Cooperative

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian

Evanston RoundTable

Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse

*Miscellaneous organizations based elsewhere*

Public Banking Institute (Sonoma, CA)

Women's Liberation Radio News (Madison, WI)

Participatory Budgeting Project (Oakland, CA & Brooklyn, NY)

TERF & Tranny Alliance, Heterodrx podcast (Urbana, IL)

Move to Amend (Sacramento, CA)

Illinois Stewardship Alliance (Springfield, IL)

Maternal Gift Economy Movement (Austin, TX)

Spinifex Press (Australia)

Ecology Democracy Network (Minneapolis, MN)

*Miscellaneous artists, journalists, activists, small businesses, etc.*

Too many to name individually

## **FOOD & FARM SYSTEMS**

### **Projects 2006-2011**

Evanston, Chicago, Cook County, Chicago Metro, Illinois, Midwest

As a result of my leadership with the Evanston Food Policy Council and the Illinois Local Food and Farms Coalition, I was invited to be part of numerous projects, primarily as a content expert, speaker, committee member, etc. Food system work was new and there was not much funding for this new field. Funding issues were exacerbated in 2008 when the Fair Food Foundation suddenly shut down, a casualty of the Bernie Madoff ponzi scheme. This foundation, based in Michigan, had been funding many Midwest food projects, all of which lost their funding overnight.

### **2011**

*Cook County Department of Public Health:* Member, Food Systems Steering Committee (2011)

### **2010**

*Illinois Public Health Association:* Member, Food & Nutrition Section (2010)

Organize forums and statewide membership to link public health officials with sustainable food systems practitioners around policy

*League of Women Voters* (Glenview, IL chapter).

Food and water policy guidance to state and national conventions (2010)

*Oakton Community College:*

Faculty development workshops on healthy food systems connected to help faculty create student service learning projects (2010)

*Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management.*

Social Entrepreneurship in Health and Wellness Challenge (2010-11): improving healthy food access in food deserts. Mentor & expert advisor.

*Real Food Challenge:* Midwest Summit (2010). Held at Northwestern University.

Resourcing, networking, general brainstorming

*Adlai Stevenson Center on Democracy* (2010).

Events planning in conjunction with visit by Elaine Weiss, author of *Fruits of Victory: Woman's Land Army of America in the Great War*

*McHenry County College, Bioneers*

Planning for Symposium, "Food: How it's all Connected" (2010)

*DePaul University.* "Food and Politics" class:

Gauge awareness of Illinois Food, Farms, & Jobs Act (2010)

*Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity:* Member, Leadership Council (2010)

### **2009**

*State of Illinois.* Various departments, offices, staff (2009-10)

*Illinois Local Food, Farms, and Jobs Council.* Resources, networking, analysis

*Illinois Department of Corrections.* Resources on skills training during incarceration and re-entry

*Office of the Governor, Sustainability Policy.* Policy and project updates, award recommendations

*Green Government Council.* Local food procurement, food scrap composting

*Illinois Department of Agriculture - Chicago office.* Resourcing, networking

*USDA FNS* (Midwest Office) Good Greens:

Broaden coalition, find projects aligned with FNS mission (2009-14)

*Center of Excellence in the Elimination of Disparities* (CEED Chicago@UIC):

Member, Food Equity Policy Committee (2009-11)

Urban Farm Tours for targeted groups (legislators, funders, government staff)

Workshop for planners and urban farmers (in partnership with American Planning Association)

Data collection on access to local food (Chicago, Chicago area, Illinois)

*Shawnash Institute* (2009)

Community food assessment for social service agencies

High school curricula: food systems, career paths in local farm and food economy

*Loyola University, CUERP.* Advanced Food Systems class (2009-10)

*Illinois Farm to School Working Group:* Member, coordinating committee (2009-10)

*Fresh Food Fund:* Member, Sen. Jacqueline Collins' advisory team (2009-10)

*Fresh Taste.* Issues and trends identified by Illinois Local & Organic Food & Farm Task Force (2009)

*WCPT Radio.* "Growing Local" campaign and Mike Nowak show (2009)

*Hull House Assn., Place Matters* (Joint Center for Political & Economic Studies): Member (2009)

## **2006-08**

*Illinois Farmers Market Network*: Member, Planning Committee (2008)

*Hull House Re-thinking Soup Kitchen*. Potential speakers (2008-10)

*Chicago Food Policy Advisory Committee*: Member, Steering Committee (2008-10)

*Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning*: Member - Food Systems Advisory Committee (2008-09)

*The Land Connection*: Board member, board president (2006-08)

## **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS** (representative sample)

*American Corn Growers Association* annual conference (2007)

*Chicago Botanic Garden "World Environment Day"*: Urban Agriculture Symposium (2009)

*Chicago Food Summit* (2008)

*"Fresh" the Movie* - Chicago premiere (2010)

*Glenview Farmers Market "Green Table"* (2009, 2010)

*Green Festival* - Chicago (2008)

*Green Town* - Lake County (2010)

*Heartland Bioneers* - Carbondale (2007)

*Illinois Dietetics Association* (Fall 2009, Spring 2010)

*Illinois Food Summit* (2008)

*Loyola University*, Food Systems class (2009, 2010)

*Roosevelt University*, Writing Social Justice class (2009, 2010)

*Slow Food USA* - Governors Forum (Chicago, 2007)

*University of Illinois Chicago*, Food Systems class (2009)

## **MEDIA APPEARANCES**

March 2007. "Avila Chicago Making a Difference" CAN-TV. The Talking Farm - urban farm

September 22, 2007. "Live from the Heartland Cafe" radio show: local, state, federal initiatives

October 4, 2007. "Compost Pile" radio show. WORT-FM, Madison, Wisconsin. Food policy

November 2008. "Humble Strength" (5 min. video about D. Hillman as a food activist).

March 6, 2009. "Live from the Heartland Cafe" radio show. Illinois food policy.

May 2009. "Rooted in Austin" - Mike Nowak Show live, WCPT Radio. Food, urban farming, community

January 26, 2010. Agriinnovations #74: The Edible Acre Project (high school working farm)

March 31, 2010. "Farm and Fiddle" radio show. KOPN (Columbia, MO). Illinois food policy

May 2010. "Growing in Austin" - Mike Nowak Show live. WCPT Radio. Food, urban farming, community

August 17, 2010. Revision Street (blog by Anne Elizabeth Moore) [www.wbez.org](http://www.wbez.org)