



NBFJA'S GLOSSARY OF BLACK FOOD MOVEMENT TERMS

TERM	DEFINITION
Black Land and Power	The Black Land and Power coalition, coordinated by the National Black Food and Justice Alliance, is a strategic alignment of Black land institutions and organizations around the U.S. working to deepen collective strategy towards regional and national Black land retention, protection, and recovery.
Campaign	A campaign is a concerted and focused effort to organize a community around a specific target or goal. Collectively, community members and organizers build power to create strategic, time-bound initiatives. In the context of the Alliance, campaigns shift the paradigm around the value and importance of land, collectivism, and sovereignty in communities, in order to combat any threats (likely from corporate superpowers) to them.
Collective Governance	Collective governance challenges the capitalist, hierarchical leadership system by centering group leadership over individualism. When governing collectively, members of a given body or organization make decisions together, share power, and move for the good of the collective as a whole. While individual ideas are still valued here, this model of leadership ensures the ideas and needs of every member are met in a way that mutually benefits the collective.
Cooperative Model	The cooperative model is an ancestral strategy by the Black community to galvanize collective economic power in the face of structural economic barriers. In food justice, co-op building and cooperative economics allow for broad ownership of businesses and broad collective advancement, whereby community members and organizations build infrastructure, gain control of retail markets and food supply chains, and holistically benefit directly from their efforts. The model is rooted in values of democratic participation, solidarity, and mutual aid.
Food Apartheid	Food apartheid entails the systematic destruction of Black self-determination to control our food (including land, resource theft, and discrimination), a hyper-saturation of destructive foods and predatory marketing, and a blatantly discriminatory corporate controlled food system that results in our communities suffering from some of the highest rates of heart disease and diabetes of all times. Many tend to use the term "food desert," however food apartheid is a much more accurate representation of the structural racialized inequities perpetuated through our current system.

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Food Justice	Food justice is a process whereby communities most impacted and exploited by our current corporate controlled, extractive agricultural system shift power to re-shape, re-define and provide indigenous, community-based solutions to accessing and controlling food that are humanizing, fair, healthy, accessible, racially equitable, environmentally sound, and just.
Food Sovereignty	Food sovereignty entails a shift away from the corporate agricultural system and towards our own governance of our own food systems. It is about our right to healthy food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, with the right to define and ultimately control our own food and agriculture systems. Shifting from an exclusively rights-based framework to one of governance puts the needs of those who work and consume at all points of the food chain at the center rather than the demands of corporations and markets.
Jackson-Kush Plan	The Jackson-Kush or J-K Plan was an initiative to build a base of autonomous power in Jackson, Mississippi and the Black Belt South. It worked toward the attainment of Black self-determination and the democratic transformation of the economy. Through Cooperation Jackson, the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, and the provisional government of the Republic of New Afrika, the Jackson-Kush Plan practiced solidarity and cooperative economics, built People's Assemblies, and organized a network of progressive political candidates to build Black power and sovereignty over land stewardship, retail and supply chains, and the socio-political climate in the communities of the Black Belt South.
Land Stewardship	Land stewardship contrasts capitalist models of "owning" land, whereby the resources of the land are often exploited and extracted, and the land is left harmed by human interaction. Instead, land stewardship necessitates deep care for and relationship with the land, regardless of its ownership, cultivation, and protection from those who may harm it. While the Alliance refers to land stewardship primarily in the contexts of farming and farmland, land stewardship can broadly apply to any lands.
Land Trusts	(Community) land trusts are often nonprofit, community-based organizations designed to ensure a community can steward and protect land from outside investment and development. While the trust owns the land, homeowners and stewards are free to lease areas of the land for personal or communal use. Trusts not only ensure that home ownership and renting remain affordable, but grant communities sovereignty over how the land is maintained, sustained, and transitioned.

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Liberated Zones	<p>Liberated Zones, a term most recently popularized by Baba Ed Whitfield in his 2018 article “What must we do to be free? On the building of Liberated Zones,” are the result of a concerted effort to remove land off of the speculative market and build zones of sovereign community building. In Liberated Zones, community members build freedom, sustainably make and/or find food, develop people as the carriers and creators of productivity, culture, wisdom, and technology, evolve life beyond birth, survival, and death, and collectively and determinedly defend what they have made.</p>
Mis-Education	<p>Mis-Education describes the disenfranchising effect the American education system has on Black communities. By not learning about Black history, culture, and our legacy of freedom fighting, we are hindered in our imaginations for Black liberation. In order to keep a people suppressed, they have to be disconnected from their history and culture. In establishing this concept, Dr. Carter G. Woodson said, “Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.”</p>
Policy	<p>Policies are laws, bills, legislative agendas, and the rules of the land. The NBFJA recognizes the harmful impact policy continues to have on Black communities through legislative attempts to cyphen our revolutionary potential. While policy is held within the reformist, liberal paradigm, and thus will ultimately not provide liberation for Black communities, we ignore the State at our own peril.</p>
Political Organizing	<p>Political organizing describes the process of galvanizing political power and connections to enact legislation that is created by and supports Black farmers and food sovereignty movements. While NBFJA prioritizes sovereign institution building, there is a need for a specific political response to combat the history of anti-Black policy and legislation targeting Black communities.</p>
Resource Building	<p>As opposed to the often paternalistic manner of philanthropy, resource building mobilizes resources within and for communities with no barriers or restrictions. Communities should have the power to determine how and where resources are used at their discretion. In the context of the Alliance, resource building extends beyond monetary resources, and also provides training, political education, tools, human capital and resources, technical assistance, and connections to vast organized networks of support.</p>

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The (Resource) Commons	<p>In theory, the Commons refer to the notion of not privatizing nor competing for resources, whereby land, water, and air are equally shared by all. In practice, the process of actualizing equitable access to the Commons, via the creation of a Resource Commons, entails removing land and farmland from the speculative market. All need access to land to live, work, play, and create goods for one another. Once land is obtained, sovereign, self-sustaining communities can be built, founded upon mutual protection, mutual labor, mutual aid, and mutual reward. In the Resource Commons, for Black communities especially, regenerative livelihoods are restored and maintained.</p>
Self Determination	<p>Self-determination is the ability of a nation or people to have capacity for change from within their own communities, rather than seeking to 'get a seat at the table.' Self-determined communities are self-reliant and rely on their own base of power, instead of inserting themselves into the existing problematic, capitalistic, and white supremacist power structures. A revolutionary definition of self-determination must include the power of an oppressed and exploited people to independently develop its cultural, political, and economic system free from foreign domination and outside influence. Without power, and more specifically political power, self-determination cannot be realized.</p>
Self-Determining Food Economies	<p>Centering the principles of self-determination in building our collective power, we work to reclaim our economies within the food system. We understand the need to radically shift from a white dominant power paradigm that is dependent on the extraction of Black wealth and labor for the purpose of resourcing a corporatized food system. Instead, we build towards one of Black ownership over all parts of our labor, businesses, and systems of monetization including the utilization of alternative economies including but not limited to cooperatives and shared economies.</p>
The Tragedy of the Commons	<p>When a community shares a common resource like a pasture owned by one and all, and if each farmer, motivated by enlightened self-interest, grazes their land and animals as much as possible to get the maximum benefit from this shared resource, other farmers will do the same. They will overgraze the commons until no grass is left, and eventually, fall prey to rent-seeking and land ownership attitudes. By practicing collective care, governance, mutual support, and building cooperative relationships, this tragedy is overcome via regenerative means.</p>
Work Groups	<p>The work groups are comprised of membership and staff to sustain the work of the two pillars of NBFJA: self-determining food economies and Black Land and Power. Collectively, they work towards building more expansive and deeper forms of Black land autonomy and self-determination from various localities, regions, and communities across the United States.</p>