

— C O L O R A D O —  
**FOOD SUMMIT**  
— DENVER, COLORADO —

Session title: World Cafe

Note Taker: Derek Lowstuter

Main points of each pitch:

1. Letisha Steele - Executive Director of Denver food Rescue  
Denver Food Rescue annually redistributes 700,000 pounds of fresh food to over twenty food equity partners. Approximately 10% of this food is composted or thrown out due to cosmetic blemishes or recipient unfamiliarity with the food provided. The “Inverted L” area loosely traces I-25 and I-70 and represents underserved communities impacted by past and present inequities. The pitch is to have a commercial kitchen and education space in this area to process produce into value-added products that otherwise would have been composted; thereby decreasing food waste and improving food security.
2. Dr. Kelly Gehlhoff - Founder of Perpetual Harvest LLC in Pueblo, CO  
Farm to School program pitch to hire a consultant to assist with creation of a learning collaborative. This consultant will provide direction and create connections on controlled environment food production in hydroponic and aquaponic systems, and help students develop plans for food enterprises.
3. Audrey Snyder - Co-founder of ReKaivery food hub in Fort Collins, CO  
The pitch is to install local food vending machines at bus stops and co-locate no cost food box pickup lockers nearby.
4. Morgan Schmehl - Project Coordinator of Civic Canopy in Denver, CO  
The pitch is to increase Civic Canopy’s capacity to ensure
  - “Individual people and organizations have the capacity, skills, and relationships to lead collaborative efforts.
  - Strong coalitions across Colorado and beyond are actively mobilized and achieving shared results through inclusion, dialogue, action, and learning.
  - Networks are connected to one another and supported by structures that enable collective action at scale.”

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5. Brandi Adakai - Community Center Director at Rocky Mountain SER (Service Employment Redevelopment) in Pueblo, CO  
RMSEER serves Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande, Mineral and Alamosa counties and wants to expand its Early Childhood Education, Workforce Development, and Youth and Community Service programs. The foundation of this expansion is to increase RMSEER's capacity to provide non-traditional educational opportunities - especially around equitable food systems
6. Dean Vidal - Co-owner of Brightwood Farm in Hermosa, CO  
Proposes drafting a letter to CO Senator Bennet expressing support for improving the ability of schools to purchase local, healthy produce as part of the recently approved Proposition FF - Healthy School Meals for All. Colorado voters approved the ballot measure providing free meals for all public school students, however, reimbursements to schools must be increased to better reflect the costs of providing healthy meals to students.
7. Meighen Lovelace - Mountain Harvest Consulting in Avon, CO  
The pitch is to improve implementation of Proposition FF now that it has been passed by CO voters. Stakeholders need to continue supporting "affordable" school meals so that the program can sustainably improve conditions for growers, school staff, and students - everyone in the school ecosystem.
8. Andrea Poole - SNAP Program Initiatives Supervisor with CO Department of Human Services  
The pitch was to support increases to SNAP benefits and to increase the federal poverty level income threshold to make more people eligible for federal assistance programs.
9. Rebecca Boone - School Nutrition Unit, CO Department of Education  
A local foods pilot program at the Department of Education had its funding increased to \$9.5 million. Efficiently and equitably distributing this money to school districts will be challenging. Assistance was requested to determine how best to distribute this funding in light of Proposition FF being passed by CO voters.
10. Shawn Gardner - Regional Food System Partnership Manager, Valley Food Partnership  
Farm data is valuable and farmers should be the beneficiaries of that data if it is commercialized. Regional farm system information regarding crop production, supply, and demand could be aggregated and commercialized.