Office of Health Equity Integration Grantee Highlight

SUSU commUNITY farm (SUSU) is an Afro-Indigenous stewarded farm that began in October 2020, when co-founders amber arnold and naomi doe moody took the initiative to address the food access needs in their community in southern Vermont. They recognized that access to fresh, local food was an advantage, and Black, Indigenous, and People of color in Vermont were being disproportionately affected by food shortages and decreasing resources.

SUSU is committed to centering food and land sovereignty through educational opportunities, land-based relationships, and ancestral healing. Their mission is “to co-create a homemade field of love for the next 7 generations through the healing, affirming, and liberation of Black, indigenous, people of color and the allies who ride with us.” One of the many unique things about SUSU is that at the center of their farm, there is a beautiful, sacred circular garden designed to represent the dagara medicine wheel, where each quadrant signifies the five elements: water, fire, mineral, nature, and earth.

Currently, SUSU commUNITY farm is one of the grantees working with the Office of Health Equity Integration at the health department. SUSU offers a number of healing and education programs. For example, through their grant work, they have done things like develop a BIPOC-centered CommUNITY Room to facilitate trauma-informed sessions that support participants’ sense of self-determination, BIPOC-centered voice, resilience, and other life skills needed to thrive in the predominantly white state of Vermont.

To learn more about SUSU, the programs they offer, and the culturally relevant foods they grow, visit: SUSU’s website, their feature article in Seven Days and their interview with Chronicle 5 WCBV.

Image to go with summary: Source of image = Seven Days





Source: https://www.instagram.com/sususcommunityfarm/