

“Making the Case for Participatory Grantmaking & Shared Gifting Circles”

November 1, 2018

11:45am-1:00pm

CFN Webinar Featuring:

Noelle Harden, University of Minnesota Extension, harde073@umn.edu

Jamie Bain, University of Minnesota Extension, jbain@umn.edu

Bart Westdijk, New England Grassroots Environment Fund, bart@grassrootsfund.org

Noelle Harden has worked on food systems change in Minnesota for the last six years as an educator with University of Minnesota Extension. Across all of her work, she seeks to disrupt systems that perpetuate inequity. To that end, Noelle has championed the implementation of participatory grantmaking as a strategy to build transformative relationships and disrupt the centralization of money and power that precludes systemic change in many contexts, including food and agriculture. Noelle's educational background is in geography, agroecology and sustainable food production. She has also farmed, started a mobile chicken processing business, and is currently co-chair of her community's food policy council.

Jamie Bain is a natural connector and collaborator, working on food justice through networks at the University of Minnesota Extension. Jamie believes that through authenticity, imagination, playfulness, and deep connectivity we can find the solution to life's wicked problems together. She recognizes her inherent power as a cis-gendered, heterosexual, white female working for a large academic institution and living on land taken from the Dakota people in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Jamie uses her power to push for restorative justice within the white dominant circles she has the privilege of being invited into. She also listens and feels for common ground with communities and organizations who want to co-create a food system that is meant to nourish everyone. Jamie has an undergraduate degree in nutrition, a Master's degree in public health, and is a lifelong learner in the areas of joy and love.

Bart Westdijk comes to the Grassroots Fund from the Netherlands and now lives on the shore of Lake Champlain in Burlington, VT. He serves as Director of Operations for the Grassroots Fund focusing on a variety of tasks including strategic program development, fundraising, Grow grant program review, Local Food-related research, and network participation. His main focus has been on the participatory process, ensuring protocols and practices throughout the organization center equity. Bart served as board president for the VT Community Garden Network from 2007 to 2012 and is currently involved with a start-up collaborative brew pub and in engaging in conversations to launch permablitzes with a particular focus on class, privilege and equity around Chittenden County, VT.