

THE OREGON COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS NETWORK
OCFSN.NET

March 13, 2019

Fred Granum, Executive Director
Historic Portland Public Market Foundation
222 SW Washington, Portland, OR 97204

Dear Fred,

I am writing to express my support for the development of the James Beard Public Market (JBPM), and to acknowledge the participation of the Historic Portland Public Market Foundation (HPPMF) in the Oregon Community Food Systems Network (OCFSN).

OCFSN is a statewide collaborative of 53 non-profit organizations with a shared vision that “*All Oregonians thrive with healthy affordable foods from an environmentally and economically resilient regional food system.*” OCFSN provides networking, information sharing, research, training, planning, coordination, evaluation, and communications support to enhance the capacity of participating organizations to achieve their goals. HPPMF has been a member of OCFSN since 2017, and an active participant in OCFSN meetings and workgroups.

OCFSN currently supports five collective action workgroups targeting:

- Access to land for new and expanding small farmers.
- Beginning farmer/rancher resources and training.
- Veggie Rx programming with healthcare providers to address food insecurity/nutrition.
- SNAP match incentive programming to increase low-income families’ access to local food.
- Market development to increase availability of local food in retail and institutional channels.

Under the heading of Market Development, OCFSN members have been involved in research and efforts to develop programs and infrastructure to support local and regional food in communities throughout the state. OCFSN has coordinated workshops for members with managers of food hubs and food business incubators from other states, organized a food supply chain development tour in Southern Oregon, and co-organized a presentation on Oregon food hubs at the recent 2019 OSU Small Farms Conference.

Access to markets is a critical issue for smaller scale farmers and food business owners in Oregon. I believe that the JBPM will be an important outlet and showcase for Oregon food products, and will support local economic development opportunities in rural communities. OCFSN will continue to support HPPMF by facilitating connections with our growing network of members, and by providing opportunities to share information about JBPM through our events and publications.

Sincerely,



Matthew Buck, Network Coordinator: 503-267-4667 or matt@foodalliance.org

