



# The Food and Agriculture Literacy Center at Mykawa Farm

**Our Vision** is for The Food and Agriculture Literacy Center at Mykawa Farm to serve as an experiential learning environment that helps Houston ISD students, families and the larger Houston community develop more than a consumer relationship with food



**Our Work to date:** Despite our lack of infrastructure, we have created pop-up field trip experiences and hosted over 3,000 students! Students on field trips engage in hands-on learning activities that connect them to careers in agriculture (horticulture and entomology), nutrition, culinary arts, and environmental science.



*Chef Brittany hosting a food demonstration with a student participant.*



*Farmer Matt leading an agriculture lecture with students through rows of crops at Mykawa Farm.*



*Elementary students posing in front of painted shipping container at Mykawa Farm.*



*High school students harvesting carrots at Mykawa Farm.*

**Our Need:** To adequately serve Houston ISD students and community members, we need following:

- Areas that are accessible to all visitors, regardless of physical ability.
- Restrooms designed for students.
- Electricity for lights and cooking equipment.
- Sinks for washing harvested produce.
- A cold holding area for harvested produce.
- A perimeter fence to keep students safe from unwanted visitors of all species.
- A climate-controlled, enclosed space for lessons to continue during harsh weather.
- Indoor and outdoor demonstration kitchen areas.

**Our Plan:** The Food and Agriculture Literacy Center sits on the 6.5-acre site of the historic 100-year-old Mykawa School. Structural engineers and architects have determined the exterior walls of the school building are structurally sound, and the building can be renovated to a classroom space for culinary, nutrition, and horticulture education for students and community members.



### Our Farming Values

We practice regenerative agriculture. We protect, improve, and restore the health of the soil. We manage our water usage for maximum efficiency. We plant diverse crops and practice crop rotation. We compost plant and food waste to return nutrients and beneficial organisms to the soil. Regenerative agriculture reduces our need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

### Our Education Values

We believe education should be experiential, meaningful, and fun. We strive to connect agriculture, nutrition and culinary education to science, technology, engineering, art, and math with hands-on and critical thinking activities. We believe in equipping people with self-efficacy skills needed to achieve lasting individual and generational longevity and well-being. Through agriculture, nutrition, and culinary education we hope to cultivate knowledge, skills, and a genuine interest in and reverence for food.

### Our Good Food Values

Good food is simple, wholesome, and accessible.  
 Good food is flavorful, colorful, fresh, diverse, educational, and made with seasonal ingredients.  
 Good food delights the five senses, brings people together and makes them smile.  
 Good food nourishes students and supports their academic achievements.



**Call to Action:** We need your funding to help us **cultivate a safe, inspirational place to plant our seeds!** The Food and Agriculture Literacy Center needs this funding to make the property secure and suitable for field trips, work-study programs and community classes and events. Renovating the school building to a demonstration kitchen, science lab and office will enable us to better serve students and the larger Houston community.

We invite you to join us in making our Food and Agriculture Literacy Center a destination for HISD students and their families.



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