



## Community Food Ketubah

We the membership of Moishe Kavod House Boston, strive to create an institutional food system that reflects our commitment to social justice and community building. The values we extol, along with the texts, culture, and collective historical narrative of our Jewish tradition and our experiences in the broader world serve as a guide to this work. In order to bring this food system into fruition, we commit ourselves to use our institutional purchasing power to respect, engage with, and support local businesses and farmers, our environment, our communities, and our bodies. Through this process, we hope to serve as a model for Jewish communal institutions in Boston and beyond to use their resources, impact, and institutional purchasing power to enact our collective vision.

The following values inform the food system that we envision:

- **Celebration** – Our food and rituals bring joy, gratitude, and meaning and act as a means to develop bonds within our community.
- **Environmental Sustainability** - Our spiritual connection to and scientific knowledge of our habitat compel us to protect it for future generations and ourselves. Use of organic, local, and seasonal ingredients is a way to embrace this responsibility.
- **Financial Solvency** – The institutional food system supports the maintenance of our community’s budget in a way that respects the needs and assets of our individual community members.
- **Fair Labor Practices** – We see and value the human labor that is embedded in our food and strive to incorporate the true cost of this labor into our purchasing decisions, building a world that respects human rights and the collective power of workers.
- **Inclusivity** – We strive to achieve our goals through positive support, being aware, respectful and non judgmental towards the ways that individuals are part of achieving and prioritizing our communal food system.
- **Health** – The food we eat nourishes our bodies, allowing ourselves to thrive, including those with individual health needs.
- **Regional Economy** – The support of regional farmers and businesses allows tangible relationships to grow and flourish, and creates a robust regional economy.
- **Transparency** – We will communicate with each other the changes that are being made in the institutional food system and make its development an open process in which all members are welcome to participate.
- **Kashrut** – We are informed by the evolving Jewish tradition of Kashrut, even as we recognize that our members have a broad range of kashrut practices and values. In particular, we resonate with the rabbis’ arguments around kashrut as a path to health, kindness to animals, and community strength.

**Disclaimer: We recognize that our institutional food purchasing is only one part of a larger effort to transform our food system. We also recognize that as people of relative privilege, it is not enough to make ethical food choices in a vacuum, when other people don't have the resources to even afford healthy food. To address larger issues of food justice, we also need to organize and advocate in partnership with other groups that work on these issues.**

## **Action Commitments**

CoFAB, The Community Food Advisory Board, proposes one year for the following actions. Each year we will renew our commitments and actions to ensure our continued progress in bringing our food in line with the social justice work and culture that Moishe Kavod House embodies and exhibits. These food commitments build upon the “network organizing” or “potluck” principle of our community - that we are enriched by looking to the resources and relationships we have within our community.

### *Physical*

#### **1. Community Staples**

We shall re-envision and re-structure the practical logistics of how food purchasing and consumption happens in the Moishe Kavod community. The Community Staples subteam will work to manifest the aforementioned values in an easy, accessible way for community members: including Shabbat cooks, team leaders, meeting leaders, etc.

#### **2. Fresh, Healthy Food at Community Gatherings**

Major community events, including the annual Membership Retreat and Membership Meeting, shall include fresh, healthy food options, providing a balanced meal or snack.

### *Ritual*

#### **3. Transparency of Food Sourcing**

Celebration and acknowledgement of where our food comes from shall be commonplace at events and gatherings, bringing a *Kavanah* (intention) to our meals. As we are mindful of food choices, we set an example of the food system we work to obtain.

### *Resource*

#### **4. Ethical Food Guide**

An ethical food guide that supports our community in buying food that reflects our values, including a glossary of terms shall be developed. Resources and information compiled on the MKH website will inform community food choices including information about local composting, CSAs, local co-ops, bulk purchasing, etc.

### *Reflection, Commitment, & Continuation*

#### **5. Periodic Audit**

Conduct an ongoing audit of communal food purchases and practices to create a baseline on which we measure our practices and set goals for improvement. These goals, in turn, will hold our community accountable to our food buying choices and use of our communal dollars.

#### **6. Ketubah Renewal**

The Moishe Kavod House Boston Food Ketubah shall be reviewed yearly by the Community Food Advisory Board and the MKH Board.