



Slow Food St. Louis
P.O. Box 430052
St. Louis, MO 63143-0152
www.slowfoodstl.org

2016- Biodiversity Farmer Grant Application

About Slow Food St. Louis

Slow Food USA is a non-profit, member-supported organization that was founded in 1989 to counteract fast food and fast life, the disappearance of local food traditions and people's dwindling interest in the food they eat, where it comes from, how it tastes, and how our food choices affect the rest of the world. Slow Food is good, clean, and fair food. We believe that the food we eat should taste good, that it should be produced in a clean way that does not harm the environment, animal welfare, or our health, and that food producers should receive fair compensation for their work.

Farmer/Producer Grants

Slow Food St. Louis has awarded approximately \$67,000 to over 50 farmers since 2009 supporting the cultivation of hundreds of different heirloom varieties and heritage breeds. We are committed to allocating at least 25% of our funding to support producers selling in food deserts.

We are offering grant money to further support biodiversity in the St. Louis (and surrounding area) food system. We are now accepting grant applications for the 2016 growing season. Grant award amounts will be between the amounts of \$200 to \$1,000; however, the grant committee reserves the right to offer funding above these amounts.

Heirloom varieties are defined as a horticultural variety that has survived for several generations and is not used in large-scale agriculture. Many varieties are listed with the Slow Food Ark of Taste, Seed Savers and Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds. Heritage breeds are traditional livestock breeds that date back several generations, before the drastic reduction of breed variety caused by the rise of industrial agriculture.

Grant Application Information

Please complete the application questions on this form or you may use the on-line form at <https://goo.gl/zYjuee> (this is a google-doc form). If you have questions, email kat@slowfoodstl.org or call (314) 229-3042. Applicants will be selected annually and can only be selected to participate once per year. However, applicants who were awarded previous funding are eligible to apply again the following year. Selection priority will be given to applications that:

1. *Have clear identifiable goals supporting biodiversity.*

2. *Cultivate varieties or breeds that are on the Ark of Taste OR will submit said varieties or breeds for entry into the Ark of Taste.*
3. *Introduce a NEW product/variety into the St. Louis market that will be sold at a farmers market, CSA, grocer, or restaurant.*
4. *Include the goal of creating a niche market for the farmer/producer (applicant).*
5. *Will maintain these varieties and breeds using sustainable farming methods.*
6. *Completed your grant review from 2015 (applies only to grant recipients from 2014; if you have not turned this in, we will still accept it with your application).*

Please Note: Due to the multitude of heirloom tomato varieties that are already present in the marketplace, we will not be giving grants for tomatoes in 2016. Also, please do not include labor costs in your grant application.

Eligibility

We welcome applications from current farmers, producers, individuals interested in getting into farming, those with experience with heirlooms and heritage breeds as well as those without. Applicants who have received grant funding from any source in excess of \$15,000 in the past two years will be asked to fill out additional questions regarding budget and funding. In such cases we will consider prioritizing need for funding, food desert locations, serving lower income customers, creativity of project, etc.

Additional Requirements

All grant recipients will be expected to present their project experience and/or do a tasting event featuring the product at a Slow Food meeting if requested. Finally, we will require photos and an update including a report containing a summary of expenses, success of harvest, where products were sold, etc. We would like to feature each successful applicant in a Slow Spotlight blog post on our website.

Please note: All grant recipients must provide a written acknowledgement/receipt to Slow Food St. Louis within 30 days of receiving a grant. A completed application is not an agreement to honor your request.

Application Deadline

While we will continue to accept applications throughout the year, our grant selection committee will make decisions on grant awards in early February, 2016. To be considered for 2016, please submit your application by January 31, 2016.

Application Form: Please write legibly in print or cursive.

Farm/Organization Name:

Applicant First Name:

Applicant Last Name:

Mailing Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Applicant Phone Number (required):

Second Phone:

Farm Address (if different from above):

County (where farm/property is located):

Applicant Email:

1. List what varieties you are interested in growing or breeds you are interested in breeding/raising with this Project:

2. Briefly describe your interest and research on this vegetable/fruit/animal including the source you will likely purchase from:

3. Comment on how you plan to introduce and promote this product to the local marketplace:

4. What records do you intend to keep for this project?

Requirements for Grant Recipients: We request that all grant recipients chronicle their experience such as growing challenges, conditions, weight brought to market, cost, profit, etc. and share this information with Slow Food St. Louis.

5. If you receive partial funding for your project will you still complete it?

Yes

No

6. If you receive partial funding for your project, what would change about it?

Nothing

Number of Varieties

Number of Units

Other (describe):

7. Short Project Description/Title:

8. Size of Farm (acres) _____

9. Is the Farm/Property Owned or Rented?

Owned by Applicant

Rented by Applicant

Other (describe):

10. Have you previously received a Slow Food Grant?
 Yes
 No
11. Project Category: Livestock, Grain, Fruit, Nut or Vegetable?
 Livestock (poultry, cattle, hogs, etc)
 Grain
 Fruit
 Nut
 Vegetable
 Fungi (mushrooms)
 Other (describe):
12. Number of breeds and/or varieties involved in project: _____
13. How many Ark of Taste Varieties/Breeds are involved in Project? _____
14. How many native species/breeds are involved in Project? _____
15. How does your project support biodiversity? (Soil life, water quality, pollinators, wildlife, etc.)
16. Is this a new product to be introduced into an existing market? Please explain.

17. Describe your farming/production methods. (Certified organic, biodynamic, conventional, etc.)

18. Do you sell in a food desert?

Yes

No

Other (explain):

19. What are your long-term plans for this variety(ies)/breed(s)?

20. Amount Requested: \$_____

21. What's your Website? (if you have one): _____

22. What's your Twitter username? (if you have one): _____

Thank you for applying. Please return your completed application and any supporting documentation you wish to share to:

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