

# CONSERVATION CORRIDOR

Food Security. Food Justice. Food Sovereignty



Conservation Corridor is a new addition to the Folklife Festival as part of this year's Cultural Focus—Lagom: Not too much, not too little...just right! As the world faces threat of climate catastrophe, it's important for us to explore and pay attention to the ways that people use traditional practices to cultivate food while working with nature to improve resiliency for our entire ecosystem.

Most importantly, this new element brings attention to the human rights injustices that are part and parcel of the struggle for food security, food justice, and food sovereignty!

To quote the international farmers association, La Via Campesina, "Food Sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems."

For thousands of years, people have lived in balance with their ecosystems. Their folk arts, crafts, and stories have embedded within them the lessons and teachings to achieve and sustain that balance.

Humankind has achieved many things, and ambition has skewed us out of that balance. While good and healthy food is a most fundamental human right, the large scale enterprise of its production has removed that staple from a significant portion of the worlds population. Moreover, that ambition has spiraled us into further calamity as monocrops, pesticides, and synthetic fertilizers contribute to climate change, air and water pollution, and depleted soil fertility.

Part of last year's Cultural Focus was to reclaim the word Folk. There are groups of folx in our communities around the world who are reclaiming traditional food practices and giving the power of how food is grown back to the people who eat it, not the big businesses that profit from its macro production.

Conservation Corridor continues NW Folklife's exploration of the Folk vocation, bringing the people, communities, organizations, and cooperatives who are actively engaging in techniques that promote bio-diversity, support sustainable & healthy food production, and give strength to the cause of food justice, security, and sovereignty.