As past New Partners conferences have highlighted, communities across the country are recognizing food systems as critical elements of efforts to promote healthy, equitable and resilient places. The most innovative and promising strategies involve partnerships to bridge gaps: they align community-based initiatives with local and regional policies and plans; they engage local residents and businesses in designing systems that best serve them; and they understand food access and affordability are components of economic growth as well as public health.

Featuring local and national leaders, the workshop agenda will include a mix of general and small group sessions exploring the food and smart-growth nexus through policy and practice perspectives on food justice, land use, production, infrastructure, economic development and public health.

Pre-registration and a $25 fee are required. A hosted networking reception for participants will follow the workshop (6:00-8:00 pm).

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Register at NewPartners.org

Bonus Networking Session

Thursday, February 11, 8:30-9:45 a.m.

Thursday morning, grab your coffee and join a bonus session open to all New Partners attendees and featuring representatives of collaborative networks working to grow accessible, economically viable and healthy food systems for communities across Oregon. You’ll hear from networks operating at different scales and in different stages of development, each with their own unique intentions, strengths and challenges. Consider how their lessons learned around organizing frameworks, community engagement and measurement strategies may be applicable to smart-growth initiatives in other contexts.

“Growing Farm and Food Businesses” Tour

Thursday, Feb. 11, 1:30-5:30 p.m.

Hop on the bus for a mobile workshop touring sites of local food projects. This tour will explore how food-system development efforts at different scales are increasing food access and supporting entrepreneurship in historically disadvantaged urban neighborhoods. Participants will visit with three sites in Southeast Portland where organizations are addressing food-system challenges through urban farming, community kitchen business incubators, specialty retail and development of a food processing/distribution hub.

Preregistration and a $38 fee are required.