

Good at gardening? There's a spot for your veggies at the Community Aggregation and Distribution Table

Written by Shaina Brassard, West Broadway Coalition
Wednesday, 11 September 2013 15:22



Are you a North Minneapolis resident growing your own fruits and vegetables? If you, or someone that you know has extra bounty to share, there's an innovative resource available to help you earn money while sharing your produce with the local community. The Community Aggregation and Distribution Table is a resource at the West Broadway Farmers Market staffed by West Broadway Coalition employee Matthew McGlory, a licensed and insured farmers market vendor and reseller. By bringing their fresh goods to the table for McGlory to sell on their behalf, local growers can sell their produce without spending on overhead costs like insurance, market tent, table, signage and merchandising gear.

For Northside growers that find themselves with too many tomatoes and wondering if they might share their bounty with their neighbors while making some extra money, working with the Community Ag. Table is as easy as following these simple steps:



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How to get started:

1. Contact Matthew McGlory via e-mail (matthew@westbroadway.org) or phone (612.353.5178).
2. Talk with McGlory about what you want to sell, including type and quantity of produce, and when.
3. Drop off goods to the table at the Camden Farmers Market (4400 Osseo Rd, Thursdays, 3pm—7pm) or the West Broadway Farmers Market (900 West Broadway, Fridays, 3pm-7pm).
4. On site, McGlory assists you with pricing and display. You stay at the market or leave.
5. McGlory sells your produce on your behalf.
6. You collect 100% of the sales.

McGlory, a proud Northsider himself with a Masters in Advocacy and Political Leadership from the University of Minnesota-Duluth, brings a friendly, positive energy to the Community Ag. Table. The table also serves as a licensed reseller of non-local fruits and vegetables, so market visitors can always buy foods like bananas, avocados and pineapples along with locally grown veggies.

Growers dropping off to the Camden Farmers Market on Thursday can choose to have any leftovers sold the following day at the West Broadway Farmers Market. McGlory can also distribute Community Ag. Table goods to corner stores and restaurants like Avenue Eatery.

The idea behind the Community Ag. Table is to support the local food system by keeping Northside-produced food and money spent on food within the Northside community and economy. The Community Ag. Table increases access to healthy, locally produced food and serves as a low-risk business incubator for growers. The coordination of the Community Ag. Table by the West Broadway Coalition, which operates the West Broadway Farmers Market, is part of the Fresh Corners project led by Appetite for Change and supported by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota's Center for Prevention.

Mosezel Dixon, owner of Dixon's Garden, got his start selling his collard greens at the Community Ag. Table last year. Dixon is now a full vendor and famous at the West Broadway Farmers Market for his beautiful bundles of collards, green tomatoes and red tomatoes, which he grows at his home garden on Queen Ave N. He originally approached market staff in 2012 because he had way more vegetables than he could eat. Selling at the Community Ag. Table gave him a chance to see if he could make a business of what had always been a favorite pastime.

Community Ag. Table customers can pay with cash and EBT at both the West Broadway and Camden farmers markets.

Contact Matthew McGlory at the West Broadway Coalition with questions:
612.353.5178 or matthew@westbroadway.org .

West Broadway Farmers Market
900 West Broadway (at Emerson Ave N)
Fridays, 3:00-7:00pm
June 21st- October 11

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Westbroadwaymarket.org

Camden Farmers Market
Thursdays, 3pm—7pm
4400 Osseo Rd (44th & Penn Ave N)
July 11th- October 3rd
facebook.com/CamdenFarmersMarketMpls