

Virtual Workshop: Food as a Public Work
November 17, 2022
10-11am Pacific / 1-2pm Eastern

Featured Speaker Biography

Pantaleon Florez III (he/him)

Owner and Operator, Maseualkualli Farms

Pantaleon Florez III is a no-till, no fossil fuel cultivating fruit and herb farmer, educator, and agricultural researcher based in Lawrence, Kansas. His farm is called Maseualkualli Farms, which means *The Peoples' Farms* in Nahuatl. Cultivation on the farm focuses on Mexica/Chichimecan crops such as pipiche, papalotl, yauhtli, izote, jicama, and nopalli. He is also breeding and locally adapting maize from his great grandparents' homelands of Guanajuato, Mexico utilizing ancestral



Mexica cultivation methodologies (SARE Publication: FNC19-1161). His current work focuses on building equity in agriculture, developing new food systems to end food apartheid in the US, and establishing food as a public work via the Peoples' Century Farm project. *Learn more at: <https://www.masefarm.org>.*

Ronda Alexander (Moderator)

Director of National Partnerships

Vital Village Networks at Boston Medical Center

Ronda Alexander is a native Detroitter dedicated to working with communities to reach their desired goals by aligning and leveraging their resources. Ronda joins us from the United Way for Southeastern Michigan where she served as the Director of Corporate and Community Alignment on the organization's College and



Career Pathways team. In her role at United Way Ronda worked to help external corporate partners find meaningful ways to engage with both students and educators; as well as worked across teams within the organization to align and leverage resources. Prior to joining United Way Ronda worked on the premier education initiative of Ford Motor Company Fund – Ford Next Generation (Ford NGL) for nine years. While at Ford Fund Ronda served a variety of roles including Professional Development/Technical Assistance Specialist and Program Manager for STEM initiatives. In all of her roles with Ford Fund Ronda worked with and supported multiple communities across the country as they worked to transform their communities through education.