### **LFS 350- Group 12 Proposal**

**Introduction:**

Vancouver is a city with high living cost and greatly diverse population. It can be difficult for families with low income and food insecurity, and those that do not speak English well to find food assets (LFS350, 2017). Vancouver Food Asset Map (VFAM) is a tool that targets this problem via displaying places where people can grow, prepare, share, buy, receive, and learn about food in the city of Vancouver. It is created by Vancouver Coastal Health, a regional health authority that provides a full range of health care services (Vancouver Coastal Health, 2014). University of British Columbia (UBC) is located in the north of Vancouver and is a large community with more than 66000 people (UBC, 2016). Although organizations such as UBC food bank, an on-campus food bank that is dedicated to helping UBC students, targets food insecurity problem in the community, food insecurity is often underestimated in an university setting (AMS Foodbank, 2017). The aim of our project is to contribute to the on-going development of VFAM by reviewing, collecting and updating food assets data on the UBC campus and endowment lands and trailing the map with UBC food bank.

**Significance**

Food justice, as defined by Gottlieb and Joshi, exists when “the benefits and risks of how food is grown and processed, transported, distributed, and consumed are shared equitably (Gottlieb and Joshi, 2010).”

Indeed, food insecurity has been a global issue. Yet, an alternative way to approach this problem is through a local-based perspective. Community food security is defined as “a situation in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes self-reliance and social justice (Hamm and Bellows, 2003).” Through achieving community food security, people can build a food culture in the community and therefore create an impact in a global level (Ground, 2001)

Food insecurity is a provincial problem. A report by the BC Center for Disease Control shows that 11.8% population in British Columbia could be considered food insecure (Vancouver Coastal Health, 2016). Food insecurity is also a local problem. **Contradict to popular belief, a significantly large percentage of university students are experiencing food insecurity.** A 2016 cross-campus study shows that 39% of the 4000 surveyed students reported experiencing some form of food insecurity. UBC is no exception. A report shows that 45% of the 138 surveyed UBC undergraduate students was classified as food insecure (Rideout, 2017)**.**

Food Asset Map is an efficient tool that targets community food insecurity. A report by Food Secure Canada points out that "food system mapping encourages a vision of locally-based food self-reliance” (Ground, 2001). It supports food insecure community members by providing community food assets location. The map also brings attention to us how unequally distributed these assets are within the city, and what we need to do to improve the situation and to achieve self-reliance in the community.

The project will be utilizing asset-based community development , which shifts from the traditional needs-based approach to one that focuses on the strengths in the community.

Although previous food assets data collection groups have identified some food assets around UBC, the information around this area has never been thoroughly collected as a complete and detailed database. Our group will fill in the gap of the unidentified food assets around UBC.

**Objectives + Inquiry Questions**

1. To collect and update data on food assets on the UBC campus and the endowment lands; review and fill in the information for current assets to ensure that they are correct and consistent

2. Trailing Vancouver Food Asset Map with community members and community partner in UBC, such as UBC food bank, to obtain feedback and recommendation on their experience of using the map for further improvement.

**Question:**

1. Is the information in Vancouver Food Asset Map around UBC up- to- date?
2. How can individuals that experiencing food insecurity utilize the UBC food asset map   
   efficiently?
3. How do we further improve the food asset map around UBC?

**Methods**

All members of our group completed the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS 2) certification prior to data collection. We have reviewed literature researches to understand the relationship between food security and the community, and how food asset map could help solving food insecurity, specifically for people involved in the campus life of UBC

Data collection

we will review current food asset available in the UBC campus and its endowment lands. Meanwhile, we will also try to obtain a list of retail food companies who have a business permit to operate in the UBC Endowment Lands. We will be collecting data for all the food assets available around campus and the UBC Endowment Lands, through online research, phone communication, and in person visits if necessary. We will then compare the list with the current available assets, and further assessing the gaps between these two information.

We will contact the agencies or members of the assets by sending E-mails in a provided format, which include consent forms, food asset map instructions and glossary. After we get the permission, we will gather more detailed information, such as their business hours and meal prices of the assets through online research, email and phone. We can also collect information through interviews and questionnaires. Finally, we will put all information together to trail those food assets and fill in the gaps on the map.

Analysis

We will record all the useful information we get and analyze the advantages and limitation of the food assets towards community members, both qualitatively and quantitatively. Then, we will put it on the existing map through excel, to provide a useful tool for community members, and to further solve food insecurity in the community.

We will also refer to the inquiry questions and the objectives of this project as our guide to locate the best food assets for community members to meet their needs.

### **Budget**

We will allocate $10 for photocopying consent forms, glossary, and community forms to gather all the feedback from community members. We will spend another $10 to buy candies for those who participated.

### **References**

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