



FARMING WHILE BLACK: UPROOTING RACISM, SEEDING SOVEREIGNTY

Tuesday, October 16, 2018, 7 PM – 8:30 PM, The Vault at the Palace International,
1104 Broad Street, Durham, NC, 27705



SPEAKER:
Amani Olugbala

SPEAKER BIO:

Amani Olugbala, Assistant Director of Programs at Soul Fire Farm, is a storyteller and food justice advocate with over 15 years of experience in youth education and community outreach. Amani's early work with the Natural Leaders, Brother Yusuf and the Youth Ed Venture Network underscored the necessity of reintroduction to land as a source of healing and power for those who have been historically and systematically disconnected. Amani awoke a personal connection to seed while directing YO!, a youth-centered urban garden program in Albany, NY. At Soul Fire Farm's Black and Latinx Farmer Immersion, Amani further cultivated the tools to sustain this connection and share it with others.

PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION:

Some of our most cherished sustainable farming practices - from organic agriculture to the farm cooperative and the CSA - have roots in African wisdom. Yet discrimination and violence against African-American farmers has led to their decline from 14% of all growers in 1920 to less than 2% today, with a corresponding loss of over 14 million acres of land. Black communities also suffer disproportionately from illnesses related to lack of access to fresh food and healthy natural ecosystems. Soul Fire Farm is committed to ending racism and injustice in our food system and is part of a global network of farmers working to increase farmland stewardship by people of color, restore Afro-indigenous farming practices, and end food apartheid. With the new book *Farming While Black*, Soul Fire Farm extends that work by offering the first comprehensive manual for African-heritage people to reclaim their rightful place of dignified agency in the food system. Join us to learn how you too can be part of the movement for food sovereignty and help build a food system based on justice, dignity, and abundance for all members of our community.

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