Using Food and Story to Reclaim Rural Health Equity

Carlton Turner
Lead Artist / Director
Mississippi Center for Cultural Production
“It belonged to US!”

-Mom
Loss of approximately 14,000,000 acres of Black-owned rural land.

-Federation of Southern Cooperatives
Mississippi Center for Cultural Production

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED DESIGN

Sipp Culture is partnering with the Gulf Coast Community Design Studio (GCCDS) to engage the community across the 39175 ZIP code. The 18-month community-engaged design process will inform the development of the Main Street Cultural Center, White Oak Artist's Residency and 17 Acres Greenspace.

CULTURAL PRODUCTION

Cultural products, including but not limited to food, agriculture products, live performance, and digital media (film, photography, audio) will be made available to a consumer base spanning from local to global.

We will also explore the impact of green industry on rural economies and prepare our young people for next generation design infrastructures.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Sipp Culture advocates for broadband internet access. By creating more access to digital infrastructure, our community will have a better sense of the points of entry into the agricultural economy, including access to the global marketplace.

Affordable access will also increase online educational, skills development, and employment opportunities for rural residents.

“[That’s] why I want to change Mississippi. You don’t run away from problems - you just face them.”

Fannie Lou Hamer 1917 - 1968
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CULTURAL PRODUCTION
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Main Street Cultural Center
- White Oak Artists' Residency
- 17 acre green space

Distances:
- 10 min walk
- 6 min walk
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

White Oak artist residence
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Main Street Cultural Center
“Reimagining Food Access to Build Community Health and Agency in Utica, MS”

• What are the agricultural and food histories, stories, and structures of Utica, Mississippi?
• How does engagement in local storytelling and local histories impact Utica residents’ sense of possibility towards healthy and sustainable food futures?