

# Alphington Community Food Hub

## Scope of works – Urban Agriculture Facilitator

April 2018

**Sustain: The Australian Food Network** is seeking applications from suitably qualified individuals for the position of Urban Agriculture Facilitator (consultancy contract) at the Alphington Community Food Hub.

### Background

A collaboration between Sustain and Melbourne Farmers Markets, supported by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, the Alphington Community Food Hub will be a place for everyone to connect to a healthy and flourishing local food system.

In the face of continued downwards pressure on prices from the supermarket duopoly, the Food Hub will provide small-to-mid sized producers with access to larger markets to increase their viability. It is also a place for individuals and groups to learn new food skills as well as to grow, share, buy, cook and make healthy, fair food.

Features of the Alphington Community Food Hub will include an accredited weekly farmers market, commercial kitchen, co-working offices, farmers' depot, aggregation and distribution network, marketing and branding services, urban agriculture, and a workshop and events space.

The Food Hub will be established at Melbourne Innovation Centre, directly opposite Alphington train station, and will kick off operations in June 2018. We are looking for a dynamic, highly organised and self-motivated individual with strong networks in the hospitality and food sector and demonstrated project management experience. Experience in start-ups and social enterprise are highly desirable.

With this project, we want to drive the creation of a collaborative multi-functional, multi-stakeholder exemplar site of a sustainable, healthy, and fair food system in Melbourne and Victoria. We aim to establish a transformative economic and social model for food distribution that can be adapted and replicated across Victoria and nationally, sustaining waves of positive food system change for decades to come. Like other pioneering initiatives such as CERES, it will provide inspiration for organisations and communities around the country. We hope its success will strengthen the case to local, state and federal governments, as well as the impact investor sector, for the potential of these emerging and innovative models to tackle the root causes of the food system crisis. Our goal is to contribute to the creation of an enabling rather than an inhibiting policy and regulatory environment.

The start-up phase of the Alphington Community Food Hub has been financed with a two-year Innovation Grant from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

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### **Project philosophy**

This initiative has been funded as a *Collective Impact* project, with Sustain as the *anchor* or *backbone* organisation, working together with MFM and multiple other key partners around a shared vision for change to achieve powerful results. Collective Impact requires collaborative working amongst all partners with five conditions for success:

- **A common agenda / shared vision for change**
- **Shared measurement systems** – documenting how we will measure and report on success
- **Mutually reinforcing activities** – each partner does what they do well to support and coordinate with each other within the agreed overarching plan
- **Continuous communication** – building trust, confidence and joint working
- **Backbone support organisation** – to coordinate the project as a whole and the multiple relationships within it

### **Purpose of the Urban Agriculture Facilitator Role**

The role of the Urban Agriculture Facilitator is to work with the Project Coordinator, the Food Hub Manager, Business Development Manager and the MFM leadership team to develop and implement the Urban Agriculture strategy for the site. The aim of this strategy is that there will be a diverse mix of urban agriculture activities and stakeholders involved including vocational training, commercial operations, social justice initiatives and community / volunteering activities.

### **Key deliverables**

- Review the draft Urban Agriculture Strategy to explore how the mix of urban agriculture activities can be partly or wholly self-sustaining by May 2020, and develop a budget with that aim in mind
- Develop a strong alignment with the City of Darebin 'Urban Agriculture Production Strategy 2014-2018' and any subsequent iterations of that Strategy
- Oversee and manage, together with the Project Director and the MFM leadership team, the purchase and installation of the urban agriculture infrastructure, including managing and reporting on the infrastructure budget of up to \$35,000
- Work with staff / managers from Melbourne Polytechnic to incorporate a strong vocational training element into the utilisation of the urban agriculture infrastructure
- Work with community and NFP stakeholders to incorporate a volunteer utilisation of the urban agriculture infrastructure, including a strong focus on social inclusion and social justice
- Identify opportunities / potential partners for commercial utilisation of part of the urban agriculture infrastructure (e.g. a plant / seedling nursery)
- Work with the Project Director, the MFM leadership team, and the Food Hub Manager to implement the commercial utilisation of part of the urban agriculture infrastructure

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- Identify mechanisms (e.g. citizen science) for urban agriculture stakeholders to create baselines and document outcomes (e.g. yields, varieties grown)
- Document and report on progress and milestones according to the agreed shared measurement systems and project indicators of success

### **Knowledge, skills and experience sought**

We are seeking an experienced, creative and confident individual with extensive (minimum 5 years+) experience and a proven track record of success across the following areas:

- Urban food production including new technologies / appropriate-scale infrastructure
- Composting / waste management
- Stakeholder engagement and partnership management
- Report writing
- Research / knowledge of multi-functional and multi-beneficial nature of urban agriculture
- Knowledge of, experience with and passion for working in the food systems/social change space

### **Place of work**

It is expected that this role will involve a combination of meetings, remote working and hands-on at the Alphington urban agriculture site. A hot desk will be available at MFM Alphington office as required.

### **Payment**

This role is funded at \$16,500 over two years, commencing 15 May 2018. Our aim is to seek additional funding to expand and continue the role and the time allocation available.

### **To apply for this position**

Send your CV (two references) with a cover letter setting out your interest in the project, how your experience meets the criteria above and how you would propose to achieve the deliverables to Nick Rose, Executive Director of Sustain: The Australian Food Network, by 24 April 2018:

[nick@sustainaustralia.org](mailto:nick@sustainaustralia.org)

Sustain: The Australian Food Network is committed to the provision of equal employment opportunities for all members of the community, regardless of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, age or ethnicity.

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