



**FEEST** MAKING JUSTICE IRRESISTIBLY DELICIOUS

2018–2019

## SCHOOL YEAR REPORT

FEEST youth leaders build power to improve the health of their schools and communities.

### A YEAR IN REVIEW

**Expanding the Fam:** This school year we welcomed two new schools to the FEEST fam: Rainier Beach High School in South Seattle and Tye High School in Seatac. That's a total of 30 youth leaders this year!

**Collective Power:** FEEST youth leaders spoke with hundreds of students about their experiences with school food and presented their findings to district administrators.

**Joy in the Kitchen:** Students (and a few teachers) shared family recipes, formed new bonds at the dinner table, and celebrated their love of great food.

**School Food Wins:** Our campaign grew from having six recipes on the Highline district menu to winning one culturally relevant item implemented every week. We're also building momentum in Seattle Public Schools with new food projects to launch next year.

### OUR SCHOOLS

#### Seattle Public Schools

Chief Sealth International High School  
Rainier Beach High School

#### Highline Public Schools

Evergreen High School  
Tye High School



Above: Listening session with students at Chief Sealth High School and SPS Nutrition Services Director Aaron Smith



Below: Dinner at Rainier Beach High School

"We know what we need and we know how to get there, we just need support from adults, and we need to be given the trust to make a difference."  
 – Cristina, FEEST youth leader



## BUILDING YOUTH POWER

FEEST youth leaders collected over 550 surveys and spoke with over 140 students at school listening sessions. Here's what we learned:

Approximately **1 in 4 students skip school lunch** every day, usually because of poor food quality.

About **5 in 6 students don't feel full** after eating school lunch and don't feel they're getting a full meal.

73% of students said **more variety and fresher food** would make them eat school lunch more often.

Youth are in the lead at FEEST because change is not effective unless those most impacted by health inequities are the decision makers. Youth leaders presented their data to Nutrition Services Directors in both Seattle and Highline school districts this past Spring and asked for concrete changes to the school food systems (see below).

As a result, this year Highline Public Schools began implementing our request to serve one culturally relevant food item every week, including student favorites like Vietnamese bahn mi and Caribbean chicken.

## SPREADING RADICAL JOY

Youth-led dinners are a place for young people to envision their school as a place to enjoy great food that nourishes their bodies and hearts. Our work seeks to radically change our community's relationship to food from one that is often fast and convenient to one that is transformative and healing.

This year, FEEST hosted 33 dinners across four schools with about 360 young people. Students shared their family recipes for hearty soups, Black soul food, chicken curry, and shrimp pasta. We also had deep discussions around the dinner table about food insecurity, gender dynamics, healthy eating, and how racism has impacted our relationship to cultural foods.

In May, we held our largest ever Make Food Make Fam community dinner with over 90 community members from ages 7 to 70. FEEST youth leaders led cooking teams and shared their proudest moments from the school year.



## BEHIND OUR NEW TAGLINE

### OUR INSPIRATION

We take inspiration from Toni Cade Bambara, who said that *"The role of the artist is to make the revolution irresistible."* We recognize the ways that a creative imagination can craft bold new visions of the future.

### OUR WORK

*Making Justice Irresistibly Delicious*

At FEEST, we infuse creativity and joy into everything we do. Our infectious community culture makes our movement for justice enticing, accessible, and, of course, delicious.

SAYING  
GOODBYE  
TO LISA



This past Spring, we said our goodbyes to former FEEST Executive Director Lisa Chen. After four great years, Lisa is off to new adventures and has left a powerful legacy of fierce organizing and radical joy at FEEST. Development & Operations Director Becca Meredith has stepped into the Interim Executive Director role while we conduct a national search for our next visionary leader.

## SUPPORT FEEST YOUTH LEADERS

Your support makes this rad work possible! Make a gift today using the envelope provided or visit us online at [www.feestseattle.org](http://www.feestseattle.org).



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### CONTACT FEEST

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Celebrating another ground-breaking year for youth-led food justice!



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## YOUTH TO THE FRONT

"When I attended my first FEEST dinner, I saw fellow students stepping into leadership and wanted to be part of that. Being a part of decision making makes me feel like I am a part of something greater than myself."

— Tin Chau, Chief Sealth High School



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