Food Justice, Faith, and Climate Change Forum
February 10-12, 2016
Co-sponsored by UA Center for Regional Food Studies, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Southwest Center, Institute of the Environment, and Department of Religious Studies and Classics; with the City of Tucson, Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, Edible Baja Arizona, and the Pima County Interfaith Civic Education Organization

First public educational launch of Tucson as a UNESCO City of Gastronomy
A two day interfaith forum at the University of Arizona, ENR2 Building. Plenaries held in Haury Lecture Hall (S107), with breakout sessions in S225, S215, and the Bannister Tree-Ring Building, room 110.

Note: Every talk and panel will be preceded by 3-4 minutes of silent reflection, contemplation, or prayer. The speaker or the panel moderator may have the prerogative to cut her or his session short in order to guide a reflection or meditation in her or his tradition as well.

Wednesday, February 10, 7 pm, Food Justice Mini Film Festival at The Loft Cinema (3233 E. Speedway Blvd): feature film The Harvest and short films Man in the Maze, Forked, and Food Ministries in Tucson, AZ. Films followed by panel discussion with Jose Oliva and Don Bustos, with moderator TBA. This event is free to conference pre-registrants, others pay at the door.

Thursday February 11: Climate Change and Faith-Based Responses
9:00 am: Blessings and greetings: Gary Nabhan, University of Arizona, moderator.

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild; Kevin Courtney, Director, Pima County Interfaith Civic Education Organization, with Deacon Leah Sandwell-Weiss, St. Phillip’s in the Hills Episcopal Church.

9:20-10:05 am: Franciscan Sister Joan Brown, Partnership for Earth Spirituality and New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light. “Laudato Si’ and Climate Justice in the Southwest.”

10:50-11:00 am: Break

11:00-12:00 pm: Panel: “Climate Change and Faith,” moderated by Doug Bland, Arizona Interfaith Power and Light; with Sister Joan Brown, Fred Bahnson, Dr. Katie Hirschboeck, Catholic Climate Ambassador and University of Arizona Professor; and Dr. Octaviana Trujillo, founding chair, Applied Indigenous Studies, Northern Arizona University.

12:00-1:20 pm: Lunch break

1:20-3:00 pm: Breakout “listening” sessions for interfaith dialogues: What are we currently doing?

Laudato Si and Faith-Based Responses (Bannister 110): Katie Hirschboeck, moderator and participant; Rhett Engelking, Franciscan Action Network; Father David Denny, Executive Co-Director, Desert Foundation, Cross International Catholic Outreach; Tessa Bielecki, Executive Co-Director, Desert Foundation and Colorado College.

Cross-Cultural and Tribal Responses to Climate Justice (S215): Laura Monti, Prescott College, moderator, with Nikki Cooley, Senior Program Coordinator at Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP); Sterling Johnson and Nina Sajovec Altschul, Ajo Center for Sustainable Agriculture; Roberto Nutlouis, Green Economy Coordinators and Black Mesa Water Coalition.

Interfaith Power and Light: Greening Our Places of Worship (S225): Doug Bland, Arizona Interfaith Power and Light, moderator; Sister Joan Brown; Patti Sills-Trausch, Franciscan Renewal Center; Amos Smith, UCC Church of the Painted Hills.

Local Food Literacy for Immigrants and Climate Change Refugees in Urban Areas (S107): Barbara Eiswerth, moderator and participant, with Jillian Robinson, New Roots Coordinator, International Rescue Committee; Iskashitaa Refugee Network participants.

3:00-3:15 pm: Break
3:15-4:15 pm: What do we need to do next? Dialogue/Listening Session moderated by Kristy Nabhan-Warren, Chair, Department of Religious Studies, University of Iowa, in Haury Lecture Hall (S107).

5:00 pm: Possible receptions or small group dinners hosted by various constituencies, by invitation from community groups.

Friday February 12: Food Justice and Faith-Based Responses

8:45 am: Welcome and silent meditation about teachings of first day

9:00 am: Plenaries moderated by Gary Nabhan and welcomes by special guests

9:10-9:45 am: Veronica Kyle, Chicago Outreach Director, Faith in Place, an affiliate of Interfaith Power and Light: “Facilitating Deeper Conversations on Faith, Food, Race and the Environment, then Putting our Values into Practice.”

9:45-10:20 am: Don Bustos, New Mexico Organic Farmer of the Year and American Friends Service Committee Director of New Farmers Program: “Farmworkers to Farmers: Empowering Those who Bring us our Daily Bread”

10:20-10:30 am: Break

10:30-11:05 am: Jose Oliva, Co-Director, Food Chain Worker’s Alliance: “Taking Care of All the People in the Food Chain: The Role of Faith-Based Communities.”

11:05-11:40 am: Teresa Mares, University of Vermont Anthropology and Transdisciplinary Research Initiative in Food Systems: “Justice for Farmworkers across Borders.”

11:40 am-12:15 pm: Panel: “Food Justice: Policy and Practice” moderated by Robert Ojeda: panelists will include Kathleen Crowley Schwartzman, University of Arizona Department of Sociology, author of The Chicken Trail; Veronica Kyle, Teresa Mares, Jose Oliva, and Barbara Eiswerth, founder, Iskashitaa Refugee Network.

12:15-1:30 pm: Lunch break

1:30-2:45 pm: Breakout sessions
Growing a Future: Tucson’s Community Projects for Food Justice (S107): Nick Henry, Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, moderator, with Dora Martinez, Flowers and Bullets; Nelda Ruiz, Tierra y Libertad; Francisca Cruz, Santa Cruz Neighborhood Association; Patricia Arteaga, Casa San Juan/St. John’s Catholic Church; Chet Phillips, Compost Cats.

Involving Youth in Food Justice (S215): Rhett Engelking, Franciscan Action Network and the Living School, moderator and presentor; Laura Monti, Borderland Habitat Restoration Network founder; Roberto Nutlouis, Black Mesa Water Coalition; Moses Thompson, University of Arizona TUSD Schoolyard; Morgan Apicella, University of Arizona Community and School Garden Workshop.

University Collaborations on Food and Faith (S225): Kristy Nabhan-Warren, moderator and participant; Fred Bahnson; Teresa Mares.

Seed Libraries and Other Strategies for Providing Better Access to Fresh Food Diversity in Food Deserts (Bannister 110): Belle Starr, Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance Co-Director, moderator; with Bill McDorman, Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance Co-Director, Justine Hernandez, Pima County Public Libraries; Matthew Kost, Native Seeds/SEARCH.

2:45 pm-3:00 pm: Break

3:00 pm-4:30 pm: Building Collaborations for Next Steps? Dialogue/Listening Session on Next Steps, moderated by Robert Ojeda.