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Executive Bio

Gibron Jones

Founder of HOSCO SHIFT 501c3

HOSCO is a Community Economic Development Corporation

Since 2010, Gibron has worked through his company HOSCO, in St. Louis to address food access problems; nutritional education and improving economic conditions through locally produced foods and products. Gibron has been building, developing and teaching aquaponics and workforce development since 2012. Gibron has trained directly under Will Allen of Growing Power a internationally known grower and leader in urban agriculture, aquaponic food production and system development. After working to build several systems with Growing Power in Kansas City and at Growing Power located in Milwaukee, HOSCO was formed to create similar processes here in St. Louis. In 2014 Gibron was hired as the lead consultants for the St. Louis Science Center's \$7.5 million agricultural exhibit "Grow."

For Grow, Gibron consulted on the entire exhibit while simultaneously working to design and build a 22' x 48' greenhouse onsite complete with a 24' x 4' double bunk bed aquaponic and floating raft system capable of producing 24,000 lbs. of produce per year. The system holds a total of 7,500 gallons of water and is maintained at a fish to water ratio of 1:3 being 1 fish to every 3 gallons of water. The Grow exhibit receives thousands of visitors weekly.

Since 2011, Gibron has operated a season-long educational apprenticeship program that educates and trains participants in sustainable agriculture from seed to market, his Progressive Food Cooperative Apprenticeship engages in every aspect of operating the small farm – from seed propagation in greenhouses to transplanting, weeding, harvesting and selling. Apprentices learn soil fertility principles, organic pest and disease management, proper harvest and post-harvest handling techniques, direct marketing, and CSA operations.

Gibron is currently working on the North Sarah Food Hub ("NCFH"). NCFH is a \$1.2 million dollar shared use kitchen on North Sarah Avenue. NSFH serves as a place for community members to make products in a licensed kitchen. In partnership with Missouri Foundation of Health, City of St Louis, St Louis County and a number of other organizations. Gibron will also train and educate students and apprentices in agriculture, plant based culinary and developing value added packaged food products through HOSCO's existing WIOA and Department of Labor Apprenticeship

Gibron is also Co-Founder of Confluence and HOSCO Farms a 240 acre organic farm facility, a second commercial processing kitchen larger than NSFH and Copia, a grocery delivery operation that will deliver food directly to homes.