



**GrowNYC Announces MHANY Management, Inc as Microhub Partner for USDA AMS Local Food Promotion Program**

*This partnership will increase food access in the South Bronx by driving demand for local food grown by BIPOC farmers*

**NEW YORK, NY - November 15, 2023** - Today, GrowNYC joined MHANY Management, Inc. to announce a microhub partnership for the project “Diversifying the Next Generation of Suppliers and Buyers.” This funding was provided by the USDA AMS Local Food Promotion Program to develop, coordinate and expand local and regional food businesses, and increase access to regionally produced agricultural products in the South Bronx from BIPOC farmers.

“We are dedicated to promoting equitable food systems and are building partnerships with organizations who will anchor wholesale buyers in underserved communities. Our new distribution facility, New York State Regional Food Hub “The Hub,” is nearing completion in Hunts Point, South Bronx,” said Marcel Van Ooyen, CEO & President of GrowNYC. “When opened, the new facility will dramatically increase GrowNYC’s operating capacity and increase the volume, quality, and variety of local, nutrient dense, affordable produce to underserved neighborhoods.”

Subaward funding will support microhub partner MHANY Management, Inc. with capacity building, promoting the use of seasonal and local foods sourced from participating GrowNYC farm partners, and achieving long-term program viability.

“Our deep roots in the South Bronx and dedication to community upliftment, notably through programs like the food box initiative, puts MHANY in the ideal position to partner with GrowNYC. MHANY is committed to fighting food insecurity and promoting more sustainable food systems; the South Bronx Microhub partnership with GrowNYC offers us an opportunity to extend our impact through long-lasting, locally-focused initiatives,” said Ismene Speliotis, Executive Director of MHANY.

MHANY is joining a network of hub partners, including GrowNYC’s Central Brooklyn Microhub partner, Brooklyn Packers, to increase wholesale distribution of products grown by GrowNYC Farmer Assistance program participants and historically disadvantaged farmers in GrowNYC’s Greenmarket and Wholesale network to institutions, nonprofit organizations, and food businesses throughout New York City.

The majority of food consumed in NYC is purchased through wholesale channels, and NYC’s market potential for wholesale local food is enormous. However, beginning and small-scale BIPOC farmers face numerous barriers to these sales opportunities. Focusing on BIPOC producers in GrowNYC’s network, this project will pair technical assistance in food safety and financial planning offered by GrowNYC Farmer

Assistance and aggregation, distribution, and increased market access via GrowNYC's Food Hub.

"We recognize the historical food, health, environmental, and economic inequities that the South Bronx faces, and we are committed to addressing these disparities. We sought a partner organization who will work with us to build a community-driven food access programming initiative serving and prioritizing the South Bronx," said Corinna Lee Director of GrowNYC Wholesale. "We are thrilled to bring MHANY on board to increase access to culturally rooted farm fresh products to the communities that need them most."

GrowNYC currently serves more than 300 wholesale buyers, including food businesses, institutions, and nonprofit programs including United Way, In God's Name We Deliver, and others. The Hub represents a significant milestone in GrowNYC's ongoing efforts to bolster and protect NYC's foodshed to meet its two-part mission: regional farm viability and equitable access to locally-grown foods for all New Yorkers. The Hub project is entering the final stages of development and is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2024.

Learn more at: <https://www.grownycfoodhub.com/>

### **About GrowNYC**

Founded in 1970, GrowNYC is a hands-on nonprofit which improves NYC's quality of life through environmental programs that empower all New Yorkers with equitable access to fresh, locally grown food, neighborhood green spaces, opportunities to reduce waste, and care for the environment.

### **MHANY Management, Inc.**

MHANY Management, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization committed to increasing affordable housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents of New York City.

### **Note to editors:**

If you're interested in covering this story please contact Andrina Sanchez

[asanchez@grownyc.org](mailto:asanchez@grownyc.org)