

Author(s): Melissa Chalmers, Gautam Hans, 2011

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Food Production and Distribution

Problems and Policies

Melissa Chalmers & Gautam Hans

SI 575: CI Seminar

Fall 2010

Food and Drink

What did *you* have
for breakfast today?

Food: From Farm...



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ryan pikkel, "scape", Flickr, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/xoxoryan/1750369255/>, CC: BY-NC-SA

A farm in Sonoma County, CA – north of the San Francisco Bay Area.

...to Table



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Steve McFarland, "not-so-shabby chic",
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*Avocado and beet salad, Chez Panisse Café, Berkeley, CA. \$10
Alice Waters, the Chef and Proprietor of Chez Panisse, is widely credited
for pioneering "California cuisine," which focuses on local sourcing,
an example of which can be seen here.*

How Do We Get Our Food?



Getting From A to B

- Separation of Producers and Consumers
- Food vs. “Food”
- Economies of Scale

Getting From A to B

- Legal Regulation
- What Is “Organic”? “Sustainable”? “Local”?
- Encouraging Small Scale Production
- Can laws help – or hurt?

Getting From A to B

- What might be an effective solution?

Repasts, Present & Future

- Jeff McCabe & Lisa Gottlieb
- Ann Arbor Westside home as a resource for community development
- Idea of “community” has changed over time, from feeding neighbors to feeding local farm & food system initiatives

From Selma Café...

- Soule - Eberwhite - Liberty - Madison
- Early days: bring the neighborhood together
- If you build it, who will come?

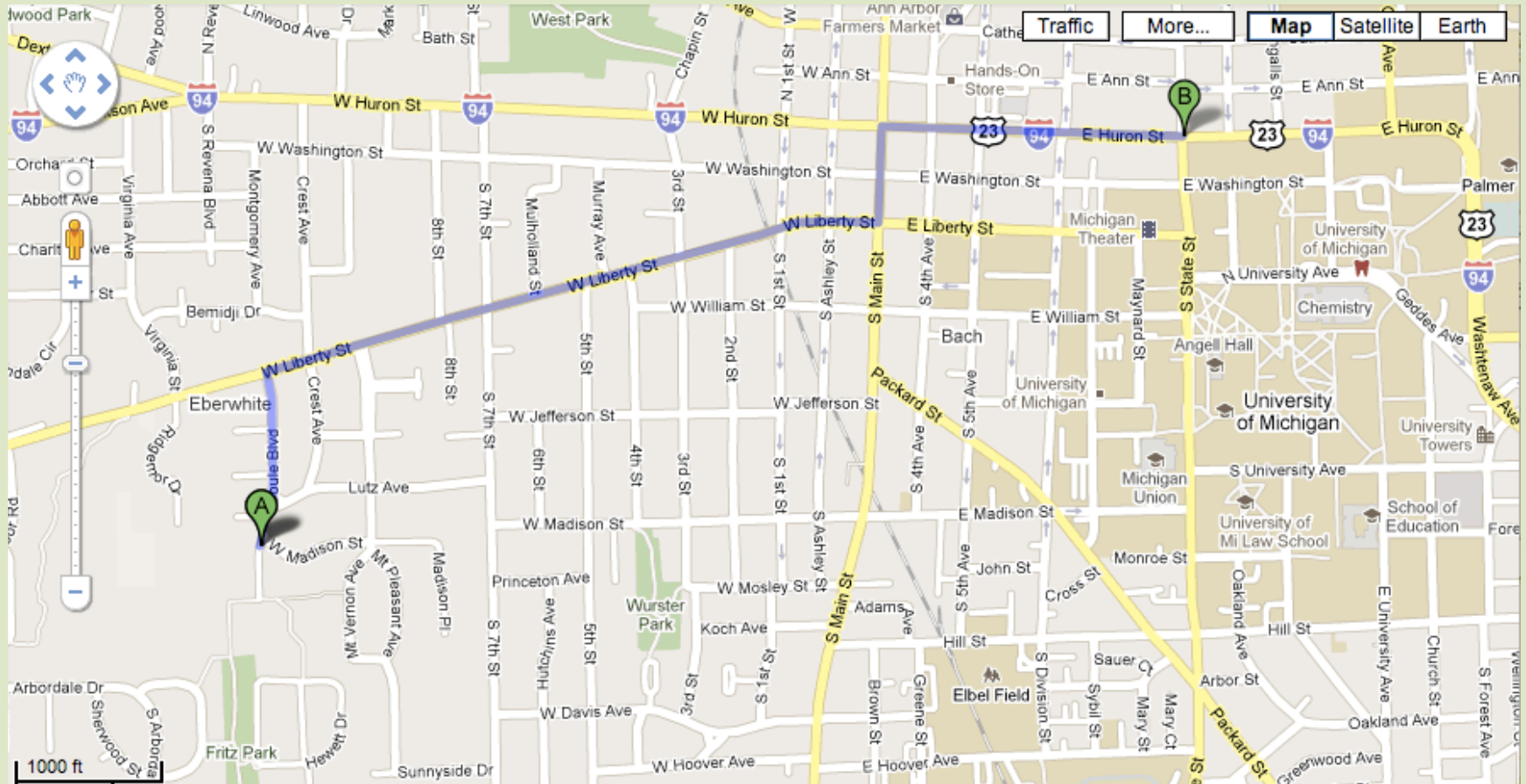
... to Repasts Present...

- Selma as a hub, as a community
- Chefs from local restaurants
- Seasonal ingredients, always locally sourced

... to Repasts Present...

- Fundraising through breakfast
- Up to 170 people every Friday morning
- Year 1: 50 weeks, \$50,000

Selma Café and Community Meals



www.googlemaps.com

07/02/11

Selma Café and Community Meals



Rex Roof, "Selma Cafe Kitchen", Flickr, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/rexroof/3429748684/>, CC: BY 2.0

Selma Café and Community Meals



Selma Café and Community Meals



... to Repasts, Present & Future

- Local food infrastructure development
- Micro-loans
- Small Farms & Small Farmers
- Crowd-sourcing & social media
- Environmental & economic sustainability

One Example: Hoophouses

- Creating four season agriculture in MI
- 20,000+ square feet of food production
- Micro loans to farmers
- Volunteer barn-raising
- From Ann Arbor to Detroit

Community Building and Access

- Who can access food as opposed to “food”?
- Socioeconomic disparities in access
- Food and community & food as community.

Conclusions

- Food has a supply chain confusion
- Not all solutions will be relevant to all communities, but being fiercely local may work for some.
- Where do we go from here?

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