

## **Fact Sheet - Meacham Urban Farm – Encore Lot #1 – 1134 E. Scott St., Tampa, FL**

**Owner of Lot 1** – Hillsborough County School District – 2.1 acre parcel leased to the Tampa Housing Authority (THA) for \$1/year under a 5 year renewable lease; THA leased the land to the Meacham Urban Farm for same

**Farmers** - Joe Dalessio, Kristin Beauvois, and Travis Malloy

[www.meachamfarm.com](http://www.meachamfarm.com)

Meacham Urban Farm will be a high-yielding, bio-intensive farm accessible to the surrounding Tampa neighborhoods. The goal of the owners is to inspire community engagement in the local food system and instill a commitment to organic, healthy, environmentally conscious farming. The farm opened December 2020, a grand opening occurred February 2021.

The farm is most beneficial in the community as Encore is still a food insecure community void of local healthy affordable food available. The farm is a way of introducing healthy, easily available, nutrition to the community while the Central Park Development Group continues to attract a mainstay quality grocer. It allows Encore residents to see the potential in growing their own fresh fruits and vegetables, literally on their balconies. There are such great partnerships across so many sectors in Tampa, and together, they have joined forces to bring this farm to the community.

### **Development Costs**

- ***\$350,000 hard costs - Construction of the farm and the educational program funded with the Housing and Urban Development Choice Neighborhood Program funds awarded to the Tampa Housing Authority for the build out of Encore overall site***
- ***\$375,000 soft costs – Program development and training. Production of all associated education materials funded with Housing and Urban Development Choice Neighborhood Program funds awarded to the Tampa Housing Authority for the build out of Encore overall site (see Encore Fact Sheet)***

### **Farm Facts**

- ***The 2.1 acre farm houses three greenhouses (30' wide x 100' long) and a farm store providing dairy, meat and vegetables, the store also has a produce cleaning station and educational facility***
- ***60,000 pounds - Current projected seasonal produce volume for 2021***
- ***30 dozen eggs per week produced by the farm free range chickens***
- ***11 month growing season - Farmers are looking to extend growing season to 12 months***
- ***2 beehives with beekeeper on the farm to harvest honey – educational program***
- ***Native pollinators all across the farm***
- ***50 dwarf banana trees currently planted with the goal of planting 100 1Q2021 (each banana bunch will weigh approximately 40lbs.)***
- ***30 fruit trellises and fruit trees – pear trees and small fruit trees and bushes***
- ***Full spectrum produce products – more than 40 varieties of vegetables and herbs currently planted and expansion continues (see website)***
- ***All in ground farming, mineral based organic farming***
- ***Composting***
- ***Linking farm to table through job training programs – In partnership with the Hillsborough County School District (HCSD) Adult Education Division providing cooking classes, training programs for healthy food choices, hospitality and chef training***

- ***An educational program developed by the Tampa Housing Authority and in place for the HCSD grades K-12 students who will be bussed to the farm on a regular schedule to participate in healthy food educational programs***
- ***Memberships are available - Through the Community Supported Agriculture member program, members (individuals, families, wholesale and retail) can pre purchase produce at discounted rates***
- ***Food Stamps – The Meacham Farm will incorporate an optional Florida state program, “Fresh Access Bucks”, which will subsidize 100% of the value of the food stamp coupon presented (ie. \$25 food stamp coupon equals \$50 worth of fresh produce from the farm)***
- ***Work-share program – Farmers will hire Section 3 persons and pay them a \$10 hourly rate or workers can choose to be compensated with produce at 130% the hourly rate. Work assignments are all focused on education***
- ***A new 300 space city parking lot directly across from farm***
- ***Bicycle racks and public parking available at the Encore site***
- ***Walking distance from downtown and directly across the road from the Encore residential buildings***
- ***Tampa Downtown Partnership providing free transportation around downtown and farm***

## ***Farmer Information***

### **JOE DALESSIO**

Joe developed a passion for farming early on. He studied Enviro Microbiology and Geology. Soon after graduation, he began pursuing a career cultivating local produce in the Bay area.

Joe is head farmer and vegetables are his thing... got a question on soil composition, farming practices or pests, he's your guy.

You can find him in the field or deep in the books reading up on plant varieties, farming practices, and farm efficiency.

Along with Kristin, he owns and operates a one acre, organic farm in Lutz, Florida, Black Finger Farm. Find them at local markets around the greater Tampa Bay area. Click below to find out more...

Favorite Vegetable: Beets! (“natures candy”)

### **KRISTIN BEAUVOIS**

Dissatisfied with the accessibility to local produce in the Tampa area, Kristin joined Joe 4 years ago to start Black Finger Farm - to help share the magic of fresh vegetables to nourish body and spirit.

She's your go-to girl for all questions CSA! You'll find her in the fields, behind the scenes, and at the farm store.

A “wearer of many hats” she also studied Painting and Arts in Medicine at the University of Florida and has developed a career using visual arts therapeutically in the clinical setting. Her artwork can be viewed on her website...

Favorite Vegetable: Butternut Squash “(try it on pizza!”)

## **TRAVIS MALLOY**

Travis has lived in the Tampa area for 20 years. He started small family farm, TrailBale, just east of Tampa - with 20% vision and 80% determination.

In the past few years, the Malloy's turned half-jungle, half-parking lot into a food-producing environment! Trail Bale Farm raises animals in the most natural, humane, environmentally beneficial manner. The herds and flocks are frequently moved and all animals receive organic feed, and are not medicated.

You can find him in the fields on the tractor, moving livestock at TrailBale, or spearheading the education initiative at Meacham.

Favorite Vegetable: Chicken ("ha, just kidding!") All time fav is Broccoli!