

## Chicago Food Tank Summit brings new ideas to the table



Gene Baur, Farm Sanctuary, tasting Jimmy's Vegan Cookies.

BY MIRA TEMKIN

Last month, the first annual 2016 Chicago Food Tank Summit was launched by the Univ. of Chicago Booth School of Business in conjunction with The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. The one-day food and agriculture-focused conference featured more than 35 speakers, including business owners, researchers, policy experts, corporate leaders, visionary thinkers, and other professionals from across the country's food and agricultural landscape.

Several local luminaries such as Rick Bayless of Frontera Grill and Bill Daley of the Chicago Tribune were featured.

The sold-out event was also broadcast on a free live stream sponsored by Organic Valley at FoodTank.com. Following the event, a networking reception hosted by Barilla took place at Eataly.

Here are some of the highlights of the Summit:

Alesha Black, Director of the Global Food and Agriculture Program at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs shared some of the goals and work of the CCGA. "By 2050, we will have at least nine billion people living on the planet, with two billion living in cities," she said. "We need to transform our food system to address these challenges. Conversations that are taking place at summits like this will help us find the best ways to transform our food system."

"This is one of the greatest food cities in the world," said Danielle Nierenberg, Founder and President of Food Tank. "Chicago is cultivating the next generation of entrepreneurs that are making food more affordable and accessible," she said. "We can change the food system from the bottom up," she suggested.

Topics that were covered ranged from future farming, to unusual alliances and collaborations, transparency and the future of food.

Keynote speaker Chef Rick Bayless talked about his passion for Mexican food and culture. He shared that one of the reasons for Mexico's success is their great local agriculture, which he would like to see mirrored in the U.S.

Bayless has developed the Frontera Foundation, a non-profit organization that gives grants and invests in small farmers around the region to enhance the quality of life of people in the area. He strives on being both sustainable, but transparent regarding food sources.

"Food is at the center of building a healthy community," said Harry Rhodes, Executive Director of Growing Home, the first certified organic farm in Chicago. Growing Home successfully produces 30,000 pounds of food on an acre of land. They've trained over 400 people with topics ranging from indoor farming to distribution centers to understanding the food chain.

Another panel addressed real food systems issues, while delivering concrete proposals for these issues. One major challenge is the unfortunate disconnect between reality and



Rob Wing, Eataly Chicago's Executive Chef, shares the stage with FoodTank President, Danielle Nierenberg and Bernard Pollack, FoodTank Chairman of the Board at the post-summit reception. Photo by Noelle Velasco

what labels suggest. "Free Range" is one example of how labels are misinterpreted. Consumers often think these animals permanently roam around outside, when in-

***"Chicago is cultivating the next generation of entrepreneurs that are making food more affordable and accessible," said Danielle Nierenberg. "We can change the food system from the bottom up."***

stead it may mean the chickens roam freely "for only part of the day."

Another key issue is labor. Many farm laborers are really "invisible" in the U.S., working long hours at low wages and often directly exposed to dangerous pesticides.

Concluding, potential food policy chang-

es from the new incoming U.S. administration were discussed. Technologies, such as hydroponics, are changing the landscape and are often more sustainable, as well as organic food production. Shayna Harris of Farmer's Fridge spoke about the many advantages of shortening supply chains and strengthening regional supply chains, giving consumers a better understanding of what's on their plate. Also discussed is the massive exodus of farmers. As she aptly commented, "We rise and fall with the success of rural America."

Food Tank is a global nonprofit founded in Chicago. The next FoodTank Summit is scheduled for Feb. 2, 2017 in Washington, DC. For more information, visit foodtank.com.

## Nine arrests, one broken ankle in Trump protests after election

BY STEVE DAHLMAN  
Loop North News

It arguably could have been worse. One police officer injured a finger and a protester only broke an ankle after jumping from an overpass. Despite crowds downtown estimated by Chicago police at 2,000 in the days following the General Election, police reports from that week describe only nine arrests and minor injuries as a result of protests over the election of Donald Trump as President-elect.

The first arrest was outside Trump International Hotel & Tower happened at 1:15 a.m. Nov. 9, the day after the election. The second arrest near Trump Tower was not until 3 p.m.

Over the next few days, and as late as Nov. 15, demonstrators flooded the streets of River North, at times pushing police officers, knocking over barricades, and engaging in civil disobedience in both the 18th and 1st police districts.

On Nov. 10, there were just two arrests related to the protests, one for reckless conduct in the 400 block of N. State St., one block west of Trump Tower, and an arrest for battery one block east of Trump Tower on Lower Michigan Ave. On Nov. 11 there were two reports of criminal damage and one arrest for criminal trespass.

The last public demonstration that resulted in a police report was at 10 a.m. on Nov. 25, in the 800 block of N. Michigan Ave.

Among the first arrests was one man from outside of Boston, MA, and a man from Norway, Maine.

Samuel Flavin, 21, of Massachusetts, and Miles Laidlaw, 22, of Maine, were arrested outside Trump Tower in the early morning of Nov. 9, along with a 20-year-old woman from Illinois who police did not identify. Flavin, wearing a black shirt over his face, was caught on security video spray painting, in white paint, "F\*\*K TRUMP," on a wall and window at Trump Tower at about 1:15 a.m. When security personnel went outside to confront him and the two others, Flavin ran west across Wabash Ave. and jumped from an overpass onto Kinzie St. below. He broke an ankle and injured both. He was taken by ambulance to Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Laidlaw and the unidentified woman were detained until police arrived, then charged with criminal trespass. Flavin was charged with criminal trespass and criminal damage to property. All three were released on their own recognizance pending court dates.

On the Wabash Ave. Bridge, south of Trump Tower at 9:25 p.m. on Nov. 9, one protestor broke through a metal barricade. The 21-year-old Illinois man, whose name was not released, tried to grab the reins of a mounted police officer.

Robert Galassi took action, says a report, and injured a finger. He was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital for treatment.

Police had set up a line to control what they described as "a massive flowing crowd." A 21-year-old man in the crowd started screaming at police lieutenant Godfrey Cronin.

The man incited the crowd to push forward, says a police report, and when they broke through the police line, a woman fell to the ground and was trampled, though she was apparently able to leave the area before police could find her. As he was arresting the 21-year-old, someone grabbed Lieutenant Cronin's hat and ran off with it.

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