

ACHFN Speakers Bureau

Speaker Biography

African & Caribbean
Heritage
FOOD NETWORK

Dawn Dublin

CO-FOUNDER



"True food sovereignty begins in our communities - when people have the power to grow, share, and celebrate the foods that connect them to their heritage."

Dawn Dublin is a strategist, practitioner and change-maker at the intersection of food sovereignty, decolonial practice and cultural placemaking. Her conviction: those most impacted by exclusionary systems must lead their redesign - toward liberation, not inclusion.

Biography

Dawn Dublin is a strategist, practitioner and change-maker working at the intersection of food sovereignty, decolonial practice and cultural placemaking. Her work is grounded in a single conviction: that those most impacted by exclusionary systems must lead their redesign - toward liberation, not merely inclusion.

At the African & Caribbean Heritage Food Network, Dawn co-designs strategy through a decolonial lens, centring heritage foodways as sites of memory, resistance and sovereignty. As Co-Director of Black Butterfly, she co-developed Dark Matters, the first Afrocentric mental health service in Sussex, and Joyful Roots, the first Black food sovereignty programme in the region. Joyful Roots ethically sourced organic produce from local farms and regional wholesalers, distributing approximately 12,000 bags of culturally appropriate food and feeding directly into the local economy before transitioning into a community food co-op and bulk-buying scheme.

Through her social change agency, Unveiled, Dawn developed a practice of cultural reforestation - an Afrocentric practice of reclaiming neglected spaces for cultural, economic and environmental life. During the pandemic, she secured five long-term empty sites, bringing over 50,000 square feet into community use and supporting more than 300 enterprises.

Dawn contributes to food justice and transformative change dialogues nationally and internationally, including with UN food agencies. She is a skilled facilitator and storyteller with a particular interest in the heritage food stories that carry identity and belonging across diasporas - a love of travel and language-learning that keeps those connections alive.

Her work is animated by three verbs: to be, to have, to do. Identity, belonging and purpose: the essential ingredients for true freedom.

Areas of Expertise

- Decolonial Practice
- Creative Placemaking & Cultural Reforestation
- Programme Design & Facilitation
- Spatial Reimagining
- Storytelling

Speaking Formats

- Keynote
- Panel
- Fireside
- Workshop

Selected Engagements

- Healthy Food, Healthy Planet Forum - Facilitator
- Oxford Real Farming Conference - Panel Speaker
- The Gathering Table Summit - Facilitator