



Dear Friends:

What's more important than food? We were taught in school and by our parents that food, clothing, shelter – I'd throw in family and friends – are the necessities of life.

Because of the wealth of our city and our nation, government officials and community leaders have mostly been able to take food for granted. Yes, from food stamps to food pantries, critical programs for fighting hunger and malnutrition have long been part of New York City's landscape. But the subject of food has not had the same call on urban policymakers as, for example, transportation or crime or schools.

That's changing and changing fast. And not just because of the effect of the financial crisis on New York City's economy and budget.

Name the challenge on the horizon for New York City today – energy, sustainability, affordability, public health, jobs, neighborhood preservation, the pressures of globalization – and just below the surface of each subject, you'll find food policy playing a central role.

That's why I hope you'll be able to attend our conference. I urge you to join me and dozens of the City's most dedicated leaders on food policy. By devoting your time, energy, and insights, you can help us begin the urgent work of creating a highly visible, practical, and innovative food policy for New York that puts our great city at the front of this debate, where it belongs.

Sincerely,

  
Scott M. Stringer

## The Politics of Food: New York's Next Policy Challenge

### Registration

8:30 AM - 9:15 AM

### Morning Session

9:15 AM - 10:30 AM

### Welcome

Lee Bollinger

*President Columbia University*

### Remarks

Hon. Scott M. Stringer

*Manhattan Borough President*

### Featured Speakers

Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg

*Mayor, City of New York*

Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockman

*President, United Nations General Assembly*

Maya Wiley

*Director, Center for Social Inclusion*

### Presentation

Thomas Forster

*New School Food Studies Program Faculty*

### Breakout Sessions

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

### Lunch

12:15 PM - 1:30 PM

### Afternoon Plenary Session

Reports from Breakout Sessions

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Special Thanks to Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, Earth Institute, Urban Design Lab and the Office of Environmental Stewardship for generously underwriting this conference.

Manhattan Borough President's Office  
1 Centre Street, 19th Floor  
New York, NY 10007  
Harlem State Office Building  
163 West 125th Street, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10027



Manhattan Borough President  
**SCOTT M. STRINGER**

In partnership with

Columbia University's  
School of International & Public Affairs  
Earth Institute, Urban Design Lab  
Office of Environmental Stewardship

Present:

**THE  
POLITICS  
OF FOOD**



*A Conference on New York's  
Next Policy Challenge*

November 19, 2008

8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Columbia University

Alfred Lerner Hall

W. 115<sup>th</sup> Street & Broadway

Featured Speakers:

**Michael R. Bloomberg**

*Mayor, City of New York*

**Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockman**

*President, United Nations General Assembly*

**Maya Wiley**

*Director, Center for Social Inclusion*

A conference for food experts, policy makers, activists, advocates, parents, farmers, environmentalists, nutritionists, educators, urban planners, urban designers, and government, community, business and civic leaders to create an innovative and unified framework for food policy in New York City.

For more details, reading materials and for on-line registration, go to [www.sipa.columbia.edu/food](http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/food).

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Food Bank For New York City  
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Just Food  
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NY Industrial Retention Network/Food From New York  
Oxfam Action Corps NYC  
Slow Food NYC  
Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture  
UJA Federation of New York  
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1500  
West Side Campaign Against Hunger  
What's on Your Plate Film Project  
Yorkville Common Pantry



Michael R. Bloomberg is the 108th Mayor of the City of New York. Elected to office in 2001, in his first term, Mayor Bloomberg cut crime; created jobs; unleashed a boom of affordable housing; implemented ambitious public health strategies, including the successful ban on smoking in restaurants and bars; gained control of the nation's largest school district; and improved the efficiency of government. In 2005, he was re-elected by a diverse coalition of support. In his second term, while balancing the budget and driving unemployment to a record low, Mayor Bloomberg has taken on a number of new challenges. He launched an innovative program to combat poverty. He's undertaken a far-reaching campaign to fight global warming. And as co-founder of a bipartisan coalition of more than 200 mayors from every region of the country, he is working to keep illegal guns out of the hands of criminals and off city streets. Michael Bloomberg began a small start-up company called Bloomberg LP in 1981. Today, Bloomberg LP has over 250,000 subscribers to its financial news and information service. Headquartered in New York City, the company has 9,500 employees in more than 130 cities worldwide.



Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann was elected President of the 63rd session of the United Nations General Assembly on June 4, 2008. A veteran statesman, politician, community leader and a priest, Father d'Escoto served for over a decade as the Republic of Nicaragua's Minister of Foreign Affairs, and is currently Senior Advisor on Foreign Affairs, with the rank of Minister, to President Daniel Ortega Saavedra. Born in Los Angeles in 1933, Father Miguel spent his childhood years in Nicaragua, but returned to the United States where he attended St. Mary's College in California and Manhattan College in New York. He obtained a Masters of Science from Columbia University's School of Journalism in 1962.



Maya Wiley is the Founder and Director of the Center for Social Inclusion, a national policy advocacy organization working to dismantle structural racism. Ms. Wiley graduated from Columbia University School of Law in 1989 and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Dartmouth College in 1986. Ms. Wiley was a senior advisor on race and poverty to the Director of U.S. Programs of the Open Society Institute. She currently serves as Vice Chair of the Tides Network Board.

## Breakout Sessions

For a full description of Breakout Sessions go to [www.sipa.columbia.edu/food](http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/food)

### Session #1

*From Field to Market: A Blueprint for Food Distribution in New York City*

### Session #2

*Finding Healthy Food: Supermarkets, Farmers Markets, Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs) and Food Deserts*

### Session #3

*The Importance of Nutrition Education*

### Session #4

*Urban Farming: What Does It Look Like? What Makes It Work?*

### Session #5

*How Schools, Hospitals, and Other Institutions Can Serve Healthier Meals*

### Session #6

*Recession's Consequences for the Food Safety Net*

### Session #7

*The Urban Food Agenda: Shaping City, State, and Federal Policy*

Columbia University is wheelchair accessible.

If you would like to request special assistance in order to participate or have any other questions please call 212.669.4451 or email [conference@manhattanbp.org](mailto:conference@manhattanbp.org).

We will try to accommodate requests.



## Conference Registration Form

Please print

(You can also register on-line at [www.sipa.columbia.edu/food](http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/food))

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Breakout Session Selection

(Please select one session only)

- Session #1** *Food Distribution Blueprint*  
 **Session #2** *Finding Healthy Food*  
 **Session #3** *Nutrition Education*  
 **Session #4** *Urban Farming*  
 **Session #5** *Serving Healthier Meals*  
 **Session #6** *Food Safety Net*  
 **Session #7** *Urban Food Agenda*

Please return your completed form:

**Via mail:** Politics of Food Conference  
Manhattan Borough President's Office  
1 Centre Street, 19th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

**Via Fax:** 212.669.4305

**Via Email:** [conference@manhattanbp.org](mailto:conference@manhattanbp.org)