



MEET SHAUNTRICE MARTIN

A True DYNAMO!!

Shauntrice Martin is the director and founder of #FeedTheWest, a Louisville food justice program. She's also the owner of Black Market KY, a health-focused grocery store dedicated to addressing food insecurity in west Louisville, and she has recently been named the Speed Art Museum's first Artist-in-Residence!

See a problem? Find a solution!

During Summer 2020's protests against police killings of Breonna Taylor and David McAtee, the Kroger grocery in Louisville's West End, without warning, boarded up their doors. This left area residents--many who don't own cars-- with no place to buy fresh food. Martin was among the protesters and said she saw elderly people getting off TARC buses at the grocery only to find it closed. She and a group of other Black women swung into action. Overnight, they created #FeedtheWest. This grassroots program began raising money and food donations. They enlisted hundreds of volunteers. Soon, they were giving out free groceries to those who needed them.

Realizing this was a short-term solution to food instability, she decided to open a Black owned grocery in the West End. With a background in finance as a loan officer and after studying food apartheid and its impact on communities in Belize, Mexico, Trinidad & Tobago, and throughout the United States, she opened Black Market, KY in January with these guiding principles:

--keep it **customer focused**. Even in a neighborhood that's poor and predominantly Black, customers can access good food, including fresh fruits, vegetables, and organic options--without the heavy police presence often found in Black neighborhood corporate grocery stores. Also, in support of community members' health, they won't sell cigarettes or alcohol.

--work for **corporate responsibility**. They'll hire local Black residents and pay them a decent wage while calling on corporations to pay and treat employees better as well as invest more in the communities where they make their money.

--connect with local **Black farmers**. She intends to have at least 60% of the store's goods provided by Black farmers and vendors.

As **Artist-in-Residence at the Speed Museum**, Martin plans to "explore the depth of the Black imagination and how it has been expressed from generation to generation through photography, poetry, writing, and painting." She and The Speed will organize a series of workshops for local artists as part of the residency program. Though the workshops and the 8-week program will be open to anyone, Martin said her focus will be Black female artists.

Martin has earned numerous awards including 2019 Louisville Forty Under 40, The Coalition of Black Excellence Impact Award, and a *Silicon Valley Business Journal* 2017 Woman of Influence.

In this terrific, lively interview, she details the process of fighting for food justice in Louisville and talks about **how white people can contribute to anti-racism efforts**.

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=941878999650547&ref=watch_permalink

**Please continue donating to #FeedtheWest!