

Diversity Council Annual Report | 2023

Formed in 2021, the Organic Trade Association (OTA)'s **Diversity Council** aims to make a conscious effort to ensure that our successes within the organic movement promote diversity rather than perpetuate social inequalities. Members work to develop practices and processes that embed justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) into the fabric of OTA and the organic movement.

Council Highlights | 2023



Two participants of OTA's Diversity and Entrepreneurship Program achieved organic certification and one participant converted into a paid OTA membership. The Council recruited an additional nine Diversity and Entrepreneurship Program participants.

The Council provided letters of support for two program participants for federal grants that got funded.



The Council funded three coalition partners to attend the OATS Organic Field Crop Course training, provided 38 scholarships to Organic Week and other major industry events, and two internships

Council Priorities | 2024



- Organic certification education
- Training for coalition partners
- Expansion of Diversity and Entrepreneurship program
- Building partnerships that diversify access to capital

COUNCIL MEMBERS



Kellee James (Argus Media) serves as the Chair of the Diversity Council, alongside Carla Balen (Organically Grown Company) as Vice Chair. Stephanie Jerger, OTA's Vice President of Administration, is the staff liaison to lead its work. To join the Diversity Council, please contact Stephanie (sjerger@ota.com).



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