

# UC Berkeley Foodscape Map

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### Introduction

Since 2015, the **“Building Equitable and Inclusive Food Systems at UC Berkeley”** project has brought together over 150 collaborators to help bridge the gaps between our campus food system and the communities it serves. With support from the UC Global Food Initiative, this past year I served as the **Equity and Inclusion Mapping Fellow** for this project.

### Project Goals

The democratically-produced, dynamic **UC Berkeley Foodscape Map** aims to reveal barriers in food-related learning and practice for marginalized community members, and highlight opportunities to overcome these obstacles. I worked as part of a much large team on synthesizing and visualizing data for two main components, each a new iteration of work started by last year’s team: the **Campus Food Players** diagram and the interactive **Geographic Map**.

### Materials and Methods

We decided early on to use technical solutions that were as accessible as possible. We set out to find methods that would be open-source and free to use, relatively straightforward for non-expert programmers to update in the future, and resilient against obsolescence (the previous geographic map lost features when the web mapping company it was built in changed their platform). We ended up using widely available JavaScript libraries with good documentation: **Leaflet.js** for the geographic map, and **Treant.js** for the Campus Food Players diagram. The geographic basemap was lightly modified from a template in **Mapbox Studio**, a free design platform. Typefaces, colors, and logos come from UC Berkeley’s official style guides where possible.

### Results and Outcomes

Both diagrams were presented at a public town hall presentation in April 2018 as part of the broader Foodscape Map project, and are viewable on the **Berkeley Food Institute** site: <http://food.berkeley.edu/foodscape/map/>

The interactive **Campus Food Players** diagram to the right shows Berkeley’s “foodscape” of academic units, student leadership groups, service units, and facilities, organized by reporting structure, letting you see at a glance how decisions and funding flow through the system.

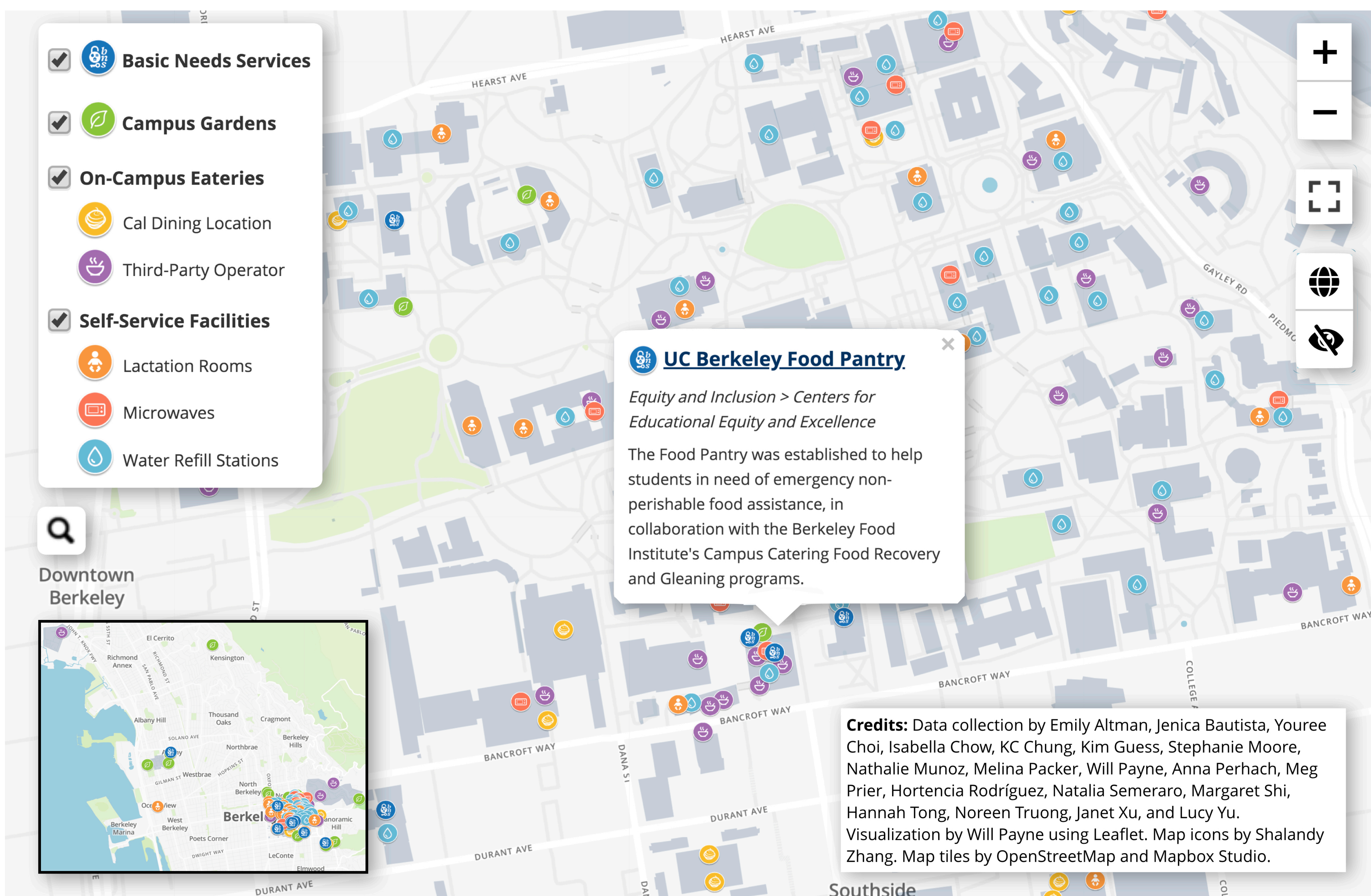
The **Geographic Map** below shows the locations of the most important food-related services and facilities at UC Berkeley in a series of layers made up of clickable icons and pop-ups with additional information, from crucial Basic Needs Services like the UC Berkeley Food Pantry, to campus gardens, eateries, and self-service facilities (water refill stations, microwaves, and lactation rooms) inside campus buildings.

### Conclusions

By assembling and visualizing data about food at UC Berkeley, we were supporting a broader effort to provide policy recommendations for the **“Building Equitable and Inclusive Food Systems”** project, from identifying areas where more self-service facilities are needed to documenting a troubling trend towards privatization of dining concessions on campus.

There were limitations to the methods we used, particularly in representing complex relationships that cut across schools, colleges, and departments. Note the many food-related collaborations throughout the UC system not visualized here, like the **UC Global Food Initiative**, the **UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources**, and the **Nutrition Policy Institute**.

### Campus Food Players



### Future Goals

At the town hall meeting presenting these two diagrams to the community, we invited input to help us continue to improve these maps and have them reflect the diversity of the foodscape at UC Berkeley. Pending the availability of funding, in future semesters we may incorporate this feedback, add additional layers of data and additional functionality to the **Geographic Map**, flesh out the **Campus Food Players** diagram with narrative spotlight sections on key decision-makers and groups on campus, among other improvements.

### Acknowledgements

See **credits** on the **Geographic Map** to the left, and additional thanks to the following people (in alphabetical order):

- Angelina Amezcua, *Campus Food Players Data Collection*
- Jessie Bruce, *Nutrition Intern, ASUC Student Union*
- Adam Calo, *Environmental Science, Policy, and Management PhD Candidate*
- Rosalie Fanshel, *Berkeley Food Institute*
- Kim Guess, *University Health Services*
- Nina Ichikawa, *Berkeley Food Institute*
- Alastair Iles, *Berkeley Food Institute*
- Samantha Lubow, *CalDining*
- Eve McGlynn, *Geography PhD Student*
- Meg Prier, *UCB Basic Needs Committee/Berkeley Food Institute*
- Dennis Uyat, *Campus Food Players Data Collection & Visualization*
- Shalandy Zhang, *Geographic Map Icon Designer*