Phat Beets Proposal for Active Membership

Dear Omni Collective:

Phat Beets Produce would like to become an **active** community member instead of simply being a tenant. With that change of status we will come to the delegate meetings and desired working groups as well as general Omni upkeep. We ask that in exchange for this active membership our rent be decreased to $600. We did not previously have the capacity to participate in the Omni Collective fully as we were running at a staff and program deficiency. These past couple of months we have found new ways to improve our capacity and grow in spite of recent changes.

Phat Beets Produce has gone through many highs & lows in the last year. We joined the Self Help Hunger Group and the North Oakland Restorative Justice Council to form the non-profit Oakland Communities United for Equity and Justice. At the same we discovered our joint accountant with the Center for Popular Research, Education and Policy (C-Prep) had been skimming funds from our accounts totaling over $30,000 in 2018. This was a hard hit for us as we were already running at a deficit and close to shutting our doors. We had been with C-Prep for years so we are not sure of the total amount of funding lost. We do however know many of our programs took a hit due to the lack of funds. We are now on the rebound and restructuring our office, operational programs, internal affairs, and trying our best to raise replacement funds. This development has allowed us to really take a step back and look at our capacity and what we have to give and what is sustainable for Phat Beets. We do not have enough money for the rent budgeted in our programs as a considerable amount of our funds have disappeared. The rent decrease will help subsidize any extra hours we pay our staff to attend meetings, any Omni clean-ups, or help with events. We think the best move for us would be to become an active member of the Omni and get involved in making sure we can continue to be a resident in addition to being a contributing member of the collective. Many of our staff members have expressed interest in us an organization joining the collective, so there will be discussions and follow through on our back end with our staff in terms of different working groups and kitchen ideas.

Please consider this proposal in your next meeting and ask as many questions as you’d like to mylan@phatbeetsproduce.org. Thank you for your consideration.