



Fact Sheet

As of 11/5/25

Cafe Sankofa Cooperative

2323 South Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13205

SYRACUSE, N.Y., Oct. 2025 – A small nonprofit with a big mission, Cafe Sankofa has redefined what a community space can be.

Mission

Cafe Sankofa is a Black-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit that supports, educates, and empowers Syracuse's Southside community through healthy food, wellness education, and cultural enrichment. Guided by community engagement and collaboration, it works to promote health equity for all.

Vision

To create a future where every Southside resident has inclusive access to nutritious food, wellness programs, and health education, regardless of ethnicity or socioeconomic status.

History

- Founded in Syracuse's Sankofa District to reimagine the former Eat to Live Food Cooperative as a sustainable, community-owned space for health and culture
- Created a safe, accessible hub offering wellness resources, healthy food education, community markets, maternal health programs, literacy initiatives and cultural engagement
- Started by supporting local entrepreneurs, birth workers, artists and educators with a focus on Black-owned businesses and Black-led social programs
- Formally incorporated as a nonprofit in 2020 to strengthen service to South Side families most impacted by food insecurity, poverty and economic disparities with replacement of the board
- Inherited title and debt issues tied to the former co-op and secured full legal ownership of the building and a tax trust agreement with the city
- Today, operating as a growing Black-owned and community-led wellness hub expanding food access, health equity and cultural programming for South Side residents

Services

- **Cafe and Community Space:** Operated by local businesses and available to host workshops, lectures, exercise classes, and wellness events with discounts for members.
- **FoodSense:** A Food co-op where those in need get monthly access to a box of staple food items for their family priced at \$20.50.
- **Current Partnerships:**
 - **Central New York Food Bank** – Partnered on food share programs providing fresh produce and essential groceries to South Side residents.
 - **Sankofa Reproductive Health & Healing Center:** Provides reproductive health resources, workshops, and educational support.
 - **Brunch n Bible Study:** Provides a monthly faith-based group open to women of all walks to equip them with spiritual tools and practices that can be applied to their self-care routines and spiritual exploration processes.
- **Past Partnerships:**
 - **Liberty Resources** – Joint efforts supporting community health outreach and accessibility.
 - **Village Birth International, Doula 4aQueen, and zenG Yoga** – Collaborative programs offering culturally reflective pregnancy, postpartum, and reproductive care.

Community Impact

- Expands access to healthy food and wellness education in Syracuse's Southside.
- Serves as one of the city's only Black-owned and led nonprofits.
- Promotes equity, health awareness, and financially inclusive community engagement by eliminating traditional barriers to entry, such as high costs.

Leadership & Board of Directors

President: Sequoia Kemp

Vice President: Jaznea Brumfield

Board Members: Derek Galloway, Chanell Pickard, Jaynelle Nixon, Khija Rockett, Chelsea Turner, Linda Briggs, Courtney Williams, Jo Benett

Media Contact

Jack Spies

(917) 597-0647

jsspies@syr.edu

Hill Communications

General Contact

Email: sankofacafe5@gmail.com

Instagram: [@cafesankofacoop](https://www.instagram.com/cafesankofacoop)

Facebook: Cafe Sankofa Inc.

Website: cafesankofacoop.com