

METROPOLITAN FARMS



Keynote Address

BENJAMIN KANT

Founder/CEO

Friday, March 31 at 7:30pm

Wojcik Conference Center

Room W120

Benjamin Kant is Founder and CEO of Metropolitan Farms, a 10,000 square foot facility built on a former parking lot on the west side of Chicago. Its mission is to grow fresh food in the city where it is eaten to support a healthier, more secure, and environmentally-sustainable food system. Metropolitan Farms uses commercial-scale aquaponic technology in a controlled-environment greenhouse to grow fresh produce and fish the year round. The fish create the nutrients for the produce in a natural and sustainable cycle. Metropolitan Farms sells fresh produce and fish through multiple channels to local markets and seeks to advance design and operations of commercial aquaponics.

Metropolitan Farms demonstrates how biological technologies can bring the natural world closer to the urban one. With a deep affinity for aquatic creatures and plants, Ben is a dreamer and doer who relishes building Metropolitan Farms and turning his vision into reality. Benjamin has a background in finance and management and degrees from the University of Illinois at Chicago, the University of St. Andrews, and Brandeis University. He is also LEED AP certified.

Metropolitan Farms sells Saturday tours of their greenhouse and will offer one on April 1, the closing day of the conference.

Tour starts at 3 pm and is available by advance reservation through the Metropolitan Farms website or at a reduced rate through Groupon or Goldstar. Tour is limited to 30 participants; a second tour may be opened if there is enough interest.

metro-farms.com