Call for:
Project Evaluator
Short-term Contract (late January to June, 2023)
Submit letter of interest by December 18, 2022

La Semilla Food Center seeks an experienced, skilled, and values-aligned Evaluator to support the work of our organization’s Storytelling Program, which works to increase connection to the Chihuahuan Desert ecosystem, uplift our communities’ inherently healthy food traditions, and shift narratives that shape power. We see the evaluation process as an opportunity to collectively make meaning of our efforts and guide our next steps.

La Semilla Food Center’s mission is to foster a healthy, self-reliant, fair, and sustainable food system in the Paso del Norte region of Southern New Mexico, El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. We do so through six vibrant and land-based programs: La Semilla Community Farm, Edible Education, Farm Fresh, Community Education, Policy and Community Development, and Storytelling. Our work is multifaceted, community-based, and rooted in the values of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. We approach it with creativity, trust in each other, mutual support, accountability, and radical hope in the face of past and present systemic harms.

Project to be Evaluated
The Evaluator will work closely with La Semilla’s Director of Storytelling and Development to co-shape a process and work plan to assess the impact of the Chihuahuan Desert Cultural Fellowship within the region as part of our mission of food systems transformation. This novel fellowship is a hybrid of individual support, regional cultural organizing, and storytelling. Two cohorts of fellows have completed the program, and an additional cohort will convene from February 2023 to May 2023. We encourage interested contractors to learn more about the fellowship. Additionally, contractors may find it useful to review our most recent call for applications, as well as a past informational webinar. (Please note that this webinar also includes information about our agroecology farming fellowship. This Call for Project Evaluator only pertains to our cultural fellowship.)

Project Details & Alignment
The Evaluator will manage and execute evaluation activities, which may include review and analysis of existing qualitative and quantitative data, as well as strategically gathering and
analyzing additional data. We want to know how the cultural fellowship is enhancing the interrelated health of borderland families and natural and social ecologies. What insights are emerging about the project’s three pillars of direct support, regional cultural organizing, and storytelling? How do these insights translate into recommendations for future efforts?

The Evaluator must submit a final report to La Semilla by June 23, 2023. The report length and format are flexible and shall be determined by the contractor in close collaboration with La Semilla.

We are looking for a curious, analytical optimist who will:

- Navigate swiftly within the intersection of foodways, culture, and social justice (some familiarity with food systems work is preferred);
- Respect and value the diverse people, plants, and cultures of the Chihuahuan Desert ecosystem;
- Familiarize themselves with the Storytelling Program and project approach;
- Confidently integrate artistic and creative documentation into the broader narrative of the project;
- Serve as point of contact for the internal team and participating external partners;
- Work closely with La Semilla to shape and finalize the evaluation process and timeline;
- Integrate impartiality while remaining grounded in the values of justice and equity.

Experienced evaluators are encouraged to apply. Qualified applicants from the Paso del Norte region will be given priority, but all are encouraged to apply. If you are applying from outside of the region, you will likely need to visit at least once to directly access and understand the project.

Fluency in Spanish or translation/interpretation planning is preferred. This evaluation project may involve conversations with Spanish speakers as well as the review of some qualitative data in Spanish.

**Deadline to submit a letter of interest is December 18, 2022**. Please include the following in your letter:

1. Brief description of your experience and alignment with this opportunity.
2. Your availability during the project period.
3. Please include anticipated costs and fees associated with your services. An hourly rate is fine, or you can provide a range of service options and associated costs.

We encourage you to include any brief, additional information that gives us a sense of your work and approach, including a resume, bio, and/or link to your website or work samples.

**Submit your letters and any supporting materials to:** rubi@lasemillafoodcenter.org
Promising candidates will be contacted in early January 2023 for initial, virtual (Zoom) conversations. We expect to select a contractor by mid-January and begin working with the contractor around the week of January 23, 2023.