

2019 Mayor's Award for Sustainability

Social/Quality of Life Category

THE CARROT SEED KITCHEN CO.

The Sustainability Awards recognize excellence in sustainable practices demonstrated by local businesses, organizations, and individuals, while promoting a culture of resiliency. Award winners contribute to a more sustainable city by embracing and promoting an approach to business and daily living that balances environmental responsibility, economic prosperity, and community equity.

The Social/Quality of Life Category recognizes projects and programs that focus on sustainability and social benefits help ensure that all

Brookings residents gain from quality of life improvements, through programs such as education, food security, affordable housing or health and wellness.

As a relatively new business, the Carrot Seed Kitchen Co. has already made an impact in Brookings! Owner Kirsten Gjesdal is actively involved in the community, serving on the Board of the Brookings Farmers Market, hosting Neighborhood CleanUp days and serving on the Board of the Brookings Food Co-Op Startup. She employs a staff of 5 and has already expanded the store once, choosing to remodel an existing building downtown rather than build new. The Carrot Seed promotes local foods through carrying local foods products in the store as well as its educational programming. This has included cooking classes, farm visits, make-and-take events and gardening classes. In addition they sell many products that help community members live more sustainably, such as silicone sandwich bags and reusable produce bags. They also offer "pop-up markets" for local entrepreneurs to support start-up businesses. Kirsten's business has been a great addition to Brookings and we look forward to watching the Carrot Seed grow into the future!

