

Source: Detroit Institute of Arts, http://www.dia.org/portrait_studio/wall.html#



Alvin, D-Town Farm, 2013 (printed 2014)

“First of all, the reason that I got involved with this is because of my suspicions that urban agriculture has a tremendous effect or will have and can have a tremendous effect on curbing urban violence. So, I wanted to get the experience to see if this was actually true and also to get the experience of farming so I can learn to grow my own food. And I also believe that much of the problems we are having with our children, our kids, our young people in society is because they are not eating brain food, green food, red food, orange food, yellow food, colorful, rainbow-colored food. Not, as they call it—what is it, beige foods or colorless. That white bread doesn’t have any energy to feed your brain. Mickey-D’s ain’t doing it. But I do feel and believe that there can be a change, and it’s going to take our young people to wake up and get this vision. And so we’ve got to get them involved in it, which is a great thing going on now. You’ve got forty-something farms in DPS schools now. That’s great. That—I’m happy to hear that. Keep going; because as I said that once they get their hands in that soil they’ll be less violent. Because you don’t take life out when you’re bringing life in. When you—when you’re in charge, when your mission and your job is to create life, you’re not taking life. You’re creating life. So, you know, as these kids go through school and learn the farming and stuff that’s one of the greatest, the best things I’ve—that could ever happen, you know?”