

Vivian Howard | 2019 Annual Meeting Speaker



Vivian Howard

2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 2, 2019
Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Charlotte Convention Center

Sponsorship information:
Susan Gray
704.973.4588
annualmeeting@fftc.org

Born in Deep Run, NC, Vivian Howard's upbringing was steeped in the Southern food traditions of her neighbors. After college, she moved to New York to work in advertising, but soon transitioned to the city's food and restaurant scene, where she honed her culinary skills working in the kitchens of some of New York's most esteemed restaurants.

In 2005, Howard returned to Kinston, NC to open her first award-winning restaurant, Chef & the Farmer, followed by the Boiler Room, also in Kinston, and Benny's Big Time Pizzeria in Wilmington. In the fall of 2018, she will open her fourth restaurant, Handy & Hot in Kinston. Howard and her restaurants have won numerous accolades, including her selection as a five-time James Beard Foundation Award semifinalist for Best Chef: Southeast.

In 2012, Howard and director Cynthia Hill premiered *A Chef's Life*, the award-winning documentary television series celebrating eastern North Carolina food traditions. After five seasons, a Daytime Emmy, Peabody award and James Beard award for Outstanding Personality/Host, the series has segued into a new series that will tell food stories of the American South in the context of global food traditions.

Howard's first cookbook, *Deep Run Roots: Stories and Recipes from My Corner of the South*, was nominated for a James Beard award for the American Cooking category, was named Cookbook of the Year by the International Association of Culinary Professionals, and was selected as the winner of the 2017 Southern Book Prize for the Nonfiction - Cooking category. She is currently working on her second book.

Deeply devoted to her community, Howard has led fundraising efforts to support relief and rebuilding in eastern North Carolina following Hurricane Florence.

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