

Nicole A. Taylor

Nicole A. Taylor is the host of the popular radio show Hot Grease. Known for her fresh voice and insightful interviews, Nicole documents the food revolution for a growing national audience, covering everything from food entrepreneurship to urban gardening, and bridging the gap between gourmands, environmentalists, activists, and ordinary people just trying to make healthy choices.

Raised in Athens, Georgia, Nicole got her start as a gourmet candy maker. Today she works with the Brooklyn Food Coalition, fighting to make good, fresh food available to everyone and leading the charge in what she calls the “good food movement.”

Nicole comes from a family of cooks, and she’s has been cooking full meals since age eight. And no wonder—Nicole’s food roots go deep. Her great aunt Bessie Goosbly was a pioneer urban gardener who cooked for politicians and taught Nicole how to poach an egg. Her cousins Tom and Bonnie Gartrell worked as cooks for more than 50 years and turned Nicole on to Julia Child.

After graduating from Clark Atlanta University, Nicole honed her community organizing and project management skills working as a program assistant and program coordinator for the American Cancer Society and Emory University-Office of Community Partnerships.

In 2008, Nicole moved to New York City, where she brought southern charm to the Brooklyn foodie scene. Later, Nicole served on the Host Committee for the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development. Her committee work included leading capacity-building workshops, fostering relationships with organizations like Weeksville Society Heritage Center, Brooklyn Queens Land Trust, Community Vision Council and Grassroots Artists Movement. She also worked as a program manager for New Yorkers for Parks, managing daffodil project plantings in all five boroughs and spearheading their outreach and social media.

In the Fall of 2009, Nicole started her Heritage Radio Network show Hot Grease. Noticing a disconnect between gastronomes and everyday people, Nicole set out to build bridges with her show. Hot Grease has earned its success through the quality and variety of guests and through Nicole’s own charisma and passion as a host. Her guests have included fellow food entrepreneurs, food writer Ramin Ganeshram, Seeds for Haiti founder Bazelais Jean-Baptise, urban gardening veteran Karen Washington, “Hog and Hominy” author Dr. Frederick Douglass Opie, James Beard-nominated food documentarian Liza De Guia, and farmer-foodies Judith Winfrey and Ulla Kjarval.

Nicole currently serves on the 2011 Vandy Awards Benefit Committee, the annual fundraiser for the Urban Justice Center, and works as a member of Food Systems Network NYC, Southern Foodways Alliance, NOFA-NY and Slow Food USA. She’s also a frequent panelist at New York City food events. Nicole is featured in America I Am Pass it Down Cookbook. This special keepsake cookbook preserves African Americans’ collective food history through touching essays, celebratory menus, and over 130 soul-filled and soul-inspired recipes.