

**Kenneth A. Meter**  
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**CROSSROADS RESOURCE CENTER** **Minneapolis, MN**  
Since 1995 **President** (*Principal executive officer*)

- Managed entrepreneurial nonprofit with international impact.

### Key accomplishments

- Recognized as one of most experienced food-system analysts in U.S., integrating market analysis, systems thinking, quantitative time-series data, and first-hand interviews.
- First proponent of local foods as an economic development strategy, since 1974.
- This analysis and consulting fostered 144 farm and food networks in 41 states, 2 provinces, and 4 Native nations; His studies serve as critical tools for local food-system planning & investment.
- Author, *Building Community Food Webs* (Island Press, 2021).
- Also published by Routledge UK, Springer, American Evaluation Association, and Berghahn Press UK.
- Cited in *New York Times*, *Mother Jones*; featured in HBO food documentary.
- Co-editor, *Sustainable Food System Assessment: Lessons from Global Practice*. Scholarly anthology published by Routledge UK (2019). Wrote chapter on complex adaptive food systems.
- National review-panel manager & advisor, USDA Community Food Projects (2003-10; 2017; 2019).
- Co-author of USDA-AMS Toolkit on economic impact analysis for local foods (2015).
- Consultant to Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) “Real Deal” project devising measures that protect integrity of marketing of “local” food (2014).
- Made 600 presentations since January, 2007, including keynote covering U.S. farm economy at international conference on Agriculture in an Urbanizing Society at University of Wageningen, the Netherlands (2012); presentation on regional investment at Slow Food's Terra Madre in Torino, Italy (2006), sessions on sustainability planning and local foods at American Planning Association annual meeting (2011, 2016), International Economic Development Council (2013, 2014, 2015, 2020), and regular appearances at major national food conferences in U.S. (See [www.crcworks.org/presentations.pdf](http://www.crcworks.org/presentations.pdf) for full list).
- Wrote six statewide assessments of food industries that deepened local implementation activities: \$9.85 million local foods investment plan for South Carolina; also Hawai'i, Alaska, Mississippi, Indiana, Ohio, & Minnesota.
- Served as consultant to private development firms, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Environmental Protection Agency, American Planning Association, Indiana State Department of Health, Provincial Health Services of British Columbia, Blue Cross Blue Shield Minnesota Center for Prevention, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Stanford University, Ecotrust, Bioneers, J.W. McConnell Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Northwest Area Foundation, etc.
- Facilitated business development in inner-city neighborhoods, including Latino Mercado.
- Created groundbreaking “Neighborhood Income Statement and Balance Sheet” studies.
- Holds international experience in 13 nations.
- Highly trusted in work with low-income, rural, ethnic and international communities.
- Served as contributing editor to *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development*, 2010-2015. Wrote regular column, “Metrics in the Field.”

## Experience

### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

St. Paul, MN

2003 - 2004 Visiting Faculty in Applied Economics

- Taught Economic History of U.S. Agriculture to undergraduate students.

### HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Cambridge, MA

2002 Economics Instructor

- Taught Principles of Microeconomics to mid-career professionals in the graduate program in Public Administration, Kennedy School of Government.

### INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST

Minneapolis, MN

2001-present Reporter covering urban poverty, regional and international agribusiness, 1979-1995 corporate financial news

- Investigative journalism, editing, photography, creative writing, book reviews, business management, fundraising, consulting, project administration and related work.
- Published by Reuters, Pacific News Service, St. Paul *Pioneer Press*, Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Des Moines Register*, *Anchorage Daily News*, Madison *Capital Times*, *Ag-Week*, *Successful Farming*, *Catholic Rural Life*, *The Farmer*, *Corporate Report*, *Neighborhood Works*, *American Land Forum*, many others.
- Filed first-hand reports from Cuba, Japan, Philippines, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Germany, France, Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, Portugal, Nicaragua.
- Taught European politics & society, local community studies at Metro State University.
- Taught reporting at University of Minnesota, 1991-1992.

## Awards

- Public Service Fellow, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (1999).
- Finalist, Bush Foundation Leadership Fellowship (1999) — four-state competition.
- National Short-list Artist, “Artists & Communities: America Creates for the Millennium,” Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation (1999).
- Twin Cities Neighborhood and Community Press Association awards (1992, 1990) for “Best Feature,” “Best Series,” and “Best Investigative Report” for coverage of poverty.

## Boards & Other Leadership

- Member, International Economic Development Council (2015-present)
- Member, American Evaluation Assoc. Systems Technical Interest Group (2005 – 2011; 2022 to present).
- Associate, Human Systems Dynamics Institute, Minneapolis.
- City of Richfield (Minnesota) Planning Commission, (1998-1999).

## Education

- MPA Harvard Kennedy School, public administration.
- MA Boston University, history.
- BA Swarthmore College, chemistry.

## Other Skills & Activities

- Fluent German; moderate French; basic Spanish & Portuguese.
- Eight of my poems were set to music by Minneapolis composer R.F. Palmer.
- Choral singer including chamber choir, Oratorio Society of Minnesota. Wrote concert program notes, theatrical narrations, translated German poetry (1991 to 2016).