



Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative Grantee Convening
June 14 – 16, 2017 | Detroit, MI
Westin Book Cadillac Hotel

Participant Biographies



Genesis Abreu

Bilingual Community Organizer- WE ACT for Environmental Justice

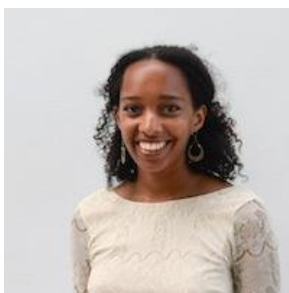
As the Bilingual Community Organizer, Genesis is tasked with strengthening the WE ACT membership by recruiting more Spanish-speaking residents in Northern Manhattan. She hopes to continue to collaborate in local efforts in confronting environmental injustices in her community. Prior to working at WE ACT, Genesis was awarded a Fulbright Research Grant to study the impacts of climate change in agricultural practices in Quechua indigenous communities in Peru.



Steve Adams

Director - Urban Resilience- Institute for Sustainable Communities

As the Director of Urban Resilience at the Institute for Sustainable Communities, Steve works to identify, catalyze and scale break-through opportunities to advance urban sustainability and resilience. Since leaving government in 2009, Steve has led community-based and sector-based adaptation projects in Oregon, helped catalyze the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact as a model for metro-regional scale climate governance and co-founded the American Society of Adaptation Professionals to serve as a community of practice for professionals working in various sub-fields of climate adaptation. From 2007-2009, Steve served as an energy and climate change policy advisor to Florida Governor Charlie Crist. Previously, he served in a number of roles at Florida's Department of Environmental Protection. In 2002-2003, he served as Senior Advisor to U.S. EPA Administrator Christie Todd Whitman's Environmental Indicators Initiative.



Zelalem Adefris

Climate Resilience Program Manager- Catalyst Miami

Zelalem Adefris is the Climate Resilience Program Manager at Catalyst Miami. She holds an MPH in Global Environmental Health from Emory University and a BA in Community Health at Brown University. Her previous work experiences include environmental justice organizing and public health emergency preparedness research. At Catalyst Miami, Zelalem works to educate Miami-Dade County residents on the local impacts of climate change, connect climate change to other social justice initiatives, implement programs that strengthen the resilience of communities, and advocate for policies that call for climate action.



Sabine Aronowsky

Turning the Tide Coordinator- Fifth Avenue Committee

Sabine Aronowsky is a community and media activist, and life-long resident of Gowanus and Park Slope, Brooklyn and has served on the US EPA's Community Advisory Group (CAG) in Gowanus since its inception in 2010, when the Gowanus Canal became listed as a Superfund site. Sabine has been passionate about environmental, climate and social justice issues, equity and resiliency since Katrina, when she took leave from her New York employment to assist as a responder and organizer in New Orleans and Baton Rouge to help locate missing persons, rescue pets and eventually rebuild homes. She holds a MPA from Baruch College, CUNY, and received Baruch's Susan Ponce de Leon Scholarship for commitment to affordable housing and community development.

Sabine joined Fifth Avenue Committee (FAC) in 2013 as the Campaign Manager for the South Brooklyn Accountable Development Initiative (SBADI). SBADI engages low income residents in local public processes to ensure accountability by government and private sector actors to assure that South Brooklyn neighborhoods are more affordable, inclusive, equitable and resilient. As part of the Kresge Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative, Sabine is stewarding the Turning the Tide (T3) collaborative for local public housing residents to thrive in a changing climate.



Colin Bailey

Executive Director and Managing Attorney- The Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

Colin Bailey is the Executive Director of the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW). As an accomplished social justice attorney, Colin leads and supports EJCW's statewide policy agenda, local and regional programs, outreach and education activities, and member organizations. Building upon California's historic adoption, last year, of the Human Right to Water as state policy, EJCW now supports the grassroots effort to implement this mandate statewide.



Kristin Baja

Regional Resilience Officer- Urban Sustainability Directors Network

Kristin Baja is the Regional Resilience Officer with the Urban Sustainability Directors Network. Her work is focused on development of a strategic support process that helps local governments to understand, plan for, and implement solutions to mitigate and adapt to future climate impacts. She works with local governments to integrate climate change, equity and resiliency into their daily work and coordinate climate resilience projects and programs within the Mid-Atlantic region. She also identifies critical opportunities through local, regional, and state governance to advance true risk reduction and resilience enhancing progress.



Debolina Banerjee

Climate Justice Policy Analyst- Puget Sound Sage

Debolina is Climate Justice Policy Analyst at Puget Sound Sage. Her responsibilities include research-based analysis of climate policies, campaign support on climate justice issues, and building power within Sage's local and statewide climate coalitions.

She has research experience in transit-oriented development, the environmental impacts of unorganized industries and project management for real estate development. In addition, Debolina has extensive experience working with grassroots activists and marginalized communities in India organizing for social justice around food, sustainable agriculture, clean environment, community development and women's empowerment.

Before joining Puget Sound Sage, Debolina was with InterIm CDA researching the impact of the receding affordable housing stock and increasing risk of displacement faced by the immigrant and refugee communities of Seattle's International District. She holds a Master's degree in Applied Environmental Studies in Planning from the University of Waterloo and a Master's Degree in City Planning from the Indian Institute of Technology



Aaron Bartley

Executive Director- PUSH Buffalo

Aaron Bartley is the co-founder of People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH Buffalo), which mobilizes residents to create sustainable neighborhoods with quality affordable housing, green jobs and next generation infrastructure. In 2011, PUSH's Green Development Zone, which combines green housing, job training, stormwater management and urban agriculture in a district on Buffalo's West Side, was named the winner of the global Sustainable Housing competition sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation, the Brazilian Ministry of Cities and HUD. Aaron grew up in Buffalo and attended Buffalo Public Schools. He is a graduate of Swarthmore College and Harvard Law School, where he co-founded the Harvard Living Wage Campaign, which resulted in \$10 million in annual wage and benefit increases for the low-income campus workers it represented.



Eddie Bautista

Executive Director- New York City Environmental Justice Alliance

Eddie Bautista is the Executive Director of the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA), a network of community-based organizations of color advocating for the empowerment of environmentally overburdened neighborhoods. Eddie's accomplishments include: helping pass a NYS law protecting EJ communities from increased emissions from power plant sitings; launching the Waterfront Justice Project, NYC's first citywide community resiliency campaign; co-convening the Sandy Regional Assembly, which prepared the first grassroots Sandy resiliency plan; and co-facilitating the Host Committee for the 2014 People's Climate March. Previously, Eddie served as Director of the NYC Mayor's Office of City Legislative Affairs, where he spearheaded passage of several landmark laws, and Director of Community Planning for NY Lawyers for the Public Interest, where he organized coalitions blocking the siting of polluting infrastructure. An award winning urban planner and community organizer interviewed by local and national media, several books feature Eddie's work, including *The Battle for Gotham: New York in the Shadow of Robert Moses and Jane Jacobs*, (2010); and *Noxious New York: The Racial Politics of Urban Health and Environmental Justice*, (2006). Eddie is a Visiting Professor at Pratt Institute's Graduate Programs for Sustainable Planning and Development. (For more about NYC-EJA, visit www.NYC-EJA.org.)



Shamar Bibbins

Program Officer- The Kresge Foundation

Shamar Bibbins serves as a program officer for Environment at The Kresge Foundation, where her grantmaking supports policies and programs that help communities build resilience in the face of climate change.

Shamar manages the Environment Program's Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative. That initiative supports community-based nonprofit organizations seeking to influence local and regional climate resilience planning, policy development and implementation while reflecting the priorities and needs of low-income people. She also contributes to the development and implementation of program strategies.



Alma Blackwell

Housing Rights Organizer- APEN

Alma first joined Causa Justa as a member in 2008 where she continued her involvement as a member leader throughout the years and becoming a staff member in 2011. Alma, who graduated with a BS in Biological Sciences from UC Irvine, discovered that science did not feed her soul as much as working with community members in the fight for social justice. In her role as a housing rights organizer she advocates strongly for the rights of tenants who are learning to use their own voices, as well as building up the leadership of our member base. Alma has traveled to Tunisia with the Grassroots Global Justice Alliance representing CJJC as a delegate at the World Social Forum. Says Alma, "I learned that no matter where you go in the world there are people fighting in their communities against injustices and for fundamental human rights — housing, food, land, clean air and water." She adds, "This organization transformed me."



Karen Blondel

T3 Organizer- Fifth Ave. Committee

Karen Blondel joined FAC in summer 2016 as the Fifth Avenue Committee (FAC) Turning the Tide (T3) Community Organizer. Karen is a long-standing environmental justice advocate and Red Hook public housing resident. She is responsible for conducting community outreach and facilitating T3 Leadership Development Workshops and Tours, alongside advocating for social, economic and environmental justice for South Brooklyn Public Housing residents. Karen is also an Engineer's Assistant with Computer-Aided Drafting & Design certification.



Laureen Boles

State Director- NJ EJ Alliance

Laureen Boles is the State Director for the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, whose scope of work includes four priority areas: (1) local, state, and national policy development, (2) targeted campaigns and organizing, (3) advocacy, (4) training and technical assistance. In 2016 NJEJA and its partners, Ironbound Community Corporation and Clean Water Action, received the Resource Efficiency award from PlanSmartNJ.

Ms. Boles' background also includes 30 years of sustainable community development experience at the City of Philadelphia, where she directed the design, implementation, operation, and maintenance phases of the city's inaugural Storm Water Management Program, resulting in the nomination of the program for an Environmental Protection Agency Excellence Award.

As a member of EPA's National Advisory Committee on Environmental Policy and Technology, Laureen contributed to the publication, "Citizen Science: Environmental Protection Belongs to the Public". The recommendations are supported by multiple case studies of citizen scientists from environmental justice communities working with local, state and federal government to improve protection of the environment and human health.

Laureen earned her B.S. in Civil Engineering from Howard University and her M.S. in City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania.



Gabriela Boscio Santos

Climate Program Manager, NOAH

Gabriela Boscio is the Climate Program Manager at the Neighborhood of Affordable Housing in East Boston. Her background is in climate, sustainability, and resilience. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, she is bilingual in Spanish/English. Prior to working at NOAH, she worked at Second Nature, a national nonprofit focused on climate leadership within the Higher Education sector. She has a Master's in Strategic Leadership Towards Sustainability from the Blekinge Institute of Technology in Sweden and a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Studies from Northland College in Ashland, WI.



Katharine Burgess

Senior Director, Urban Resilience- Urban Land Institute

Katharine Burgess leads the Urban Land Institute's Urban Resilience Program. ULI's Urban Resilience program works to leverage ULI's global network to help communities prepare for increased climate risk and make wise investments in infrastructure, development and building design. An urban planner with twelve years of experience, she has practiced in the US, UK and Germany, with global project work across the US, Europe and Asia. She began her career managing post-Katrina hurricane recovery charrettes commissioned by the States of Louisiana and Mississippi and the City of New Orleans. Since then, her projects have included a range of large-scale, mixed-use masterplanning initiatives designed to encourage pedestrian activity and integrate green infrastructure, including campus plans, downtown revitalization plans, urban extensions and a new town for 10,000 people in Scotland. Her research work has included landscape performance research for the Landscape Architecture Foundation, as well as international urban policy research for the Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship program. Ms. Burgess holds an MSc in Regional and Urban Planning from the London School of Economics and a BA from Williams College.



Bianca M. Butts

Manager of Climate Resiliency and Sustainability, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress

Bianca M. Butts is a native Clevelander who studied finance at Ohio University and received her MBA from Cleveland State University with a focus on Sustainable Business Practices. She is committed to neighborhood development practices, entrepreneurship, and developing social enterprising solutions to urban dilemmas. As a Greater Buckeye resident, she has immersed herself in community engagement practices with Neighborhood Connections. As an entrepreneur, she was compelled to create UJIMA Re-fresh, llc. cold pressed juice and healthy café to combat food deserts in Cleveland's urban core. As a professional, she has dedicated her efforts to nonprofit management, community engagement, outcomes development, and the creation of models incorporating feedback loops with constituents. Bianca is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Incorporated, a board member of East End Neighborhood House, consistent volunteer with Neighborhood Connections, Edwin's Leadership Institute, and numerous resident led community initiatives. She loves all things Cleveland and all things that edify and enhance the Greater Buckeye neighborhood.

**Alison Cassady**

Director of Domestic Energy Policy- Center for American Progress

Alison Cassady is the Director of Domestic Energy and Environment Policy at the Center for American Progress. Cassady joined the organization after working as a senior professional staff member for Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) on the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee and Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Before beginning her time in the House, Cassady was research director for Environment America and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

**Matt Chadsey**

Executive Director- Earth Economics

Matt Chadsey has over 30 years of experience navigating the interface between critical environmental issues, a balanced economy, and truly resilient communities. Matt's career has spanned challenges from global ozone depletion to estuary protection and wetland restoration. He has extensive experience as a management consultant helping businesses find innovative, practical solutions. Since joining Earth Economics in 2014, Matt has led our community resilience and benefit-cost programs. In 2016, Matt assumed the role of Executive Director. He pioneered our engagement as a Platform Partner with the 100 Resilient Cities Initiative, providing ecosystem services valuations and consulting for participating cities worldwide. Matt provided training and consultation for over 300 participants in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's National Resilience Academies. He has also helped clients value their natural resources to improve planning and governance in Washington, California, Arizona, and Texas. The goal of this work is to identify and value the enormous unrealized contribution that the environment provides to the local economy and communities. A healthy environment is critical to community resilience and equity.



Cecil Corbin-Mark

Deputy Director, WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Cecil Corbin-Mark is WE ACT for Environmental Justice's (WE ACT) Deputy Director and Director of Policy Initiatives. He holds a BA from Hunter College in Political Science and a M. Phil. in International Relations from Oxford University in England. Prior to joining WE ACT, Cecil worked for the following: the Bronx County District Attorney, NYS Justice Hon. W. T. Martin, the Mellon Minority Scholars Program and the NY Public Library.

He currently serves on the following boards: Center for Environmental Health, Clean and Healthy New York, the Louis E. Burnham Fund, the West Harlem Development Corporation, and Friends of the Earth USA. He was the recipient of the 2010 Earth Day New York Award.

Cecil is a father, a pilot and lives in the Hamilton Heights section of West Harlem in NYC, his family's home for almost 90 years. He comes from a family that was actively engaged in the Civil Rights movement. His great uncle and aunt Louis E., and Dorothy Burnham moved from Harlem to Birmingham, AL to launch the Southern Negro Youth Congress and his cousin represented professor and Civil Rights activist, Angela Y. Davis, in her trial for kidnapping, murder and conspiracy.



Drew Curtis

Director of Community Development & Environmental Justice- Ironbound Community Corporation

Drew Curtis serves as Director of Community Development and Environmental Justice at Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC), where he oversees a staff of fifteen working on community organizing, public policy advocacy, neighborhood planning & revitalization, urban agriculture, economic empowerment & development, and affordable housing initiatives. All of this work is grounded in principles of justice and equity. He comes to ICC from the Bergen County Division of Community Development, where he coordinated economic development projects and oversaw compliance with federal regulations in the areas of fair housing, labor standards, and the environment. Before then, Drew worked for several youth development and community-based nonprofits in New York City and Paterson, NJ. Drew holds a Master of Science in Urban Policy Analysis and Management from Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy at the New School University. He also sits on the board of the Essex Community Land Trust, which has the mission of keeping housing perpetually affordable.



Nikita Daryanani

Policy Coordinator- Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Nikita Daryanani is a Policy Coordinator with Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability in the San Joaquin Valley. She was raised in Orange County and received her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Davis, with a major in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning. Nikita has experience in climate change education and helps lead Leadership Counsel's local climate justice campaigns. She advocates on the state level to elevate regional and local priorities on policies related to climate, transportation equity, and land use.



Michelle de la Uz

Executive Director- Fifth Avenue Committee/Turning the Tide

Michelle de la Uz, ED, Fifth Avenue Committee, Inc., with 25 years' experience in public/community service, oversees the organization's mission and programs serving 5,500+ low/moderate-income people. Michelle was Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez' first Director of Constituent Services, recipient of Ford Foundation's Leadership for Changing World award, serves on LISC's National Board, the NYHC, and ANHD. She was appointed April 2012 by Bill de Blasio to NYC Planning Commission and reappointed by Public Advocate Tish James in 2016. An alumna of Connecticut College, Columbia University and Harvard Kennedy School's Executive Program, Michelle lives in Brooklyn with husband and daughter.



Beto De León

Environmental Health Coordinator- Southwest Worker's Union

Beto De León currently is the Environmental Health Coordinator for Southwest Worker's Union - Centro por la Justicia. They are a queer indigenous organizer based out of San Antonio, TX. Their focus is protection of land, water and communities along the southern Rio Grande with a special focus on preserving the food and medicine traditions of South Texas.



Melissa Deas

Institute Associate- Georgetown Climate Center

Melissa Deas is an institute associate at the Georgetown Climate Center (GCC), where she brings an array of technical knowledge on climate adaptation and a background in consensus building. Melissa focuses primarily on climate equity and the development of online adaptation tools (including GCC's Adaptation Clearinghouse and State Progress Tracker). Prior to joining the Climate Center, she worked with the Union of Concerned Scientists as a policy associate and served as the Lead on Cal-Adapt Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement for the California Energy Commission. While in graduate school, she was named the Lawrence Susskind Fellow at the Consensus Building Institute. As part of this fellowship she focused on collaborative adaptation planning and evaluated the policy successes and challenges faced by recipients of HUD's Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants. She also assisted the City and County of San Francisco with their post-disaster interim housing framework and serving as a monitor of the Rapid Repairs Program initiated by New York City following Superstorm Sandy. Melissa earned a Master's in City Planning from MIT and holds a B.A. in Sociology from Harvard College, summa cum laude.



Lois DeBacker

Managing Director- The Kresge Foundation

Lois DeBacker is a Managing Director at The Kresge Foundation where she leads the Foundation's Environment Program, which is focused on helping communities build their resilience in the face of climate change. Lois joined the Kresge staff in February 2008.

Lois' prior experience includes more than 16 years of service at the C. S. Mott Foundation in a series of Program Department positions of progressive responsibility, including the role of Associate Vice President-Programs. Before joining the C. S. Mott Foundation, Lois worked for ten years in Michigan state government in both policy development and program management capacities. Lois received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Michigan and a Master of Public Affairs degree from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Her graduate work focused on urban and domestic policy.

Lois is the recipient of the 2015 Nicholas P. Bollman Award from the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities. She serves on the External Advisory Board of the University of Michigan's Graham Environmental Sustainability Institute and as the secretary of the board of directors of the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center.



Mabel Diaz

Community Organizer- Southwest Worker's Union

Mabel is a queer, non-binary community organizer dedicated to empowering folks to mobilize for change. She has worked on a variety of campaigns, from Obamas reelection campaign in 2012, to organizing communities around the Affordable Care Act. Currently she works with Planned Parenthood Texas Votes, where her focus is reproductive and sexual health advocacy and dreams of a world where folks will not have to struggle to seek affordable and compassionate care.



Luisa Diaz de Leon

Program Manager- El Puente

I'm originally from Chihuahua, Mexico. I have a bachelor's degree in Marketing & Finance from the University of Texas at El Paso and a certification as a Building Analyst from the Building Performance Institute. I worked in El Paso, Texas in the marketing research field and currently work at El Puente as the Program Manager of the Green Jobs-Green New York program.



Felipe Escobar

Community Organizer- Pacoima Beautiful

Felipe Escobar is a Community Organizer at Pacoima Beautiful. Felipe believes in the power of community members to create long-term positive changes through education, advocacy and organizing to make the Northeast Valley a healthier, safer and more sustainable place to live in. Felipe graduated from California State University, Northridge (CSUN) with a degree in Political Science. In his free time, Felipe enjoys trail running and watching his favorite soccer team, Real Madrid.



Denise G. Fairchild

President/CEO- Emerald Cities Collaborative

Denise Fairchild is the inaugural President of Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC), a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C. with affiliates in major urban centers across the US. Dr. Fairchild was recruited in 2010 to launch ECC, a coalition of labor, business and community-based organizations organized to accelerate the growth and distributive benefits of the emerging green economy. With operations in 10 metro regions, these local coalitions provide solutions to greening our cities, building resilient local economies and ensuring equity inclusion.

In 1995 she founded and directed the Community and Economic Development (CED) Department at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College, as well as an affiliated non-profit community development research and technical assistance organization, CDTech. She helped launch the Regional Economic Development Institute (REDI), an initiative of Los Angeles Trade Technical College to provide inner city residents with career and technical education for high growth/high demand jobs in the L.A. region, with a focus on the green economy. From 1989-1995 she served as executive director of LISC-LA helping to build-out the region's community development industry creating non-profit housing, jobs and businesses that improved the health and environments of LA's low-income, communities of color throughout the US.



Caroline Farrell

Executive Director- Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment

Caroline Farrell is the Executive Director of the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment (CRPE) and is based in Delano, CA. Since 1999, Caroline has worked with low income communities and communities of color throughout the country, but particularly in California's San Joaquin Valley. Caroline has represented communities on issues related to dairy development, hazardous waste facilities, and long-range community planning. She sits on the Board of Directors for Communities for a Better Environment, the Planning and Conservation League, and Act for Women and Girls. She co-authored with Luke Cole Structural Racism, Structural Pollution and the Need for a New Paradigm for the Washington University Journal of Law & Policy and authored, SB 115: California's Response to Environmental Justice- Process over Substance, for the Golden Gate Environmental Law Journal, A Just Transition: Lessons Learned from the Environmental Justice Movement for the Duke Forum for Law & Social Change, and Markets Alone Can't Produce Social Justice for the Environmental Law Institute's Debate on the Morality of Market Mechanisms. Caroline graduated from Golden Gate University School of Law in 1999 with Highest Honors. She received her B.A. in Political Science from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine.



Garrett Fitzgerald

Strategic Partnerships Advisor- Urban Sustainability Directors Network

Garrett Fitzgerald is the Strategic Partnerships Advisor for the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN), a peer network of local government sustainability directors from more than 160 cities across the U.S. and Canada. Garrett supports USDN in strategic planning, organizing collaborative activities, and engaging external partners to help USDN members advance their work. He is based in Washington DC. Garrett previously served five years as Sustainability Program Manager for the City of Oakland, CA, and before that as Programs Director for ICLEI-USA. He is a board member of STAR Communities and a past Fellow and Leadership Grant Recipient of the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation.



Juan Flores

Community Organizer- Leadership Counsel

Juan Flores, has been an organizer for the past 6 years and has lead the work against fracking in the Central Valley of California, and most recently has ben leading work against mega dairies. Juan works with different communities throughout Kern County not only organizing them but developing leaders that can fight to better up their communities.



Radhika Fox

CEO- US Water Alliance

Radhika Fox is the Chief Executive Officer of the US Water Alliance, a national nonprofit organization advancing policies and programs that build a sustainable water future for all. The Alliance educates the nation on the value of water, accelerates the adoption of one water policies and programs, and celebrates innovation in water management. In addition to her leadership at the US Water Alliance, Radhika serves on the board of PolicyLink, a national non-profit focused on creating sustainable communities of opportunity that allow everyone to participate and prosper. She also currently serves as a Health Equity Fellow at PolicyLink, as a part of a cohort of innovative and influential leaders from various sectors to engage with and advance systemic solutions for health equity. Radhika has over 20 years of experience in developing policies, programs, and issue-based advocacy campaigns. Radhika previously directed the policy and government affairs agenda for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. She holds a B.A. from Columbia University and a Masters in City and Regional Planning from the University of California at Berkeley where she was a HUD Community Development Fellow.



Isaac Garcia

Member- Southwest Worker's Union

I'm a queer organizer in San Antonio Texas. Currently, I'm working alongside a coalition of organizations to combat anti transgender legislation during our legislative session. In the past, I have worked around reproductive justice, specifically in the Latinx community, which I continue to do so today. I am part of a musical collective El Tallercito De Son, Son Jarocho music, that provides free programming to the community in an effort to preserve indigenous music through community building. I am also the founder of a project titled Vegans Del Barrio, which works to bring awareness to traditional and indigenous vegan recipes and workshops free of cost to the community, in an effort to combat food injustice, and food deserts in vulnerable communities. I also work alongside Southwest Workers Union around community environmental justice work.

I have a bachelor's degree in journalism and subsequently worked as a reporter for several years along the Texas/Mexico border, where I covered general assignments, police and the courts.



Veronica Garibay

Co-Director- Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Veronica Garibay is the Co-Founder and Co-Director of Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability. Based in the agriculturally rich San Joaquin and East Coachella Valleys, Leadership Counsel works alongside the most impacted communities to advocate for sound policy and eradicate injustice to secure equal access to opportunity regardless of wealth, race, income, and place. Areas of focus include land use, natural resources, environmental justice, municipal services, civil rights and government transparency. Ms. Garibay leads the organizations efforts to ensure equitable land use planning and investment policies, access to basic services such as safe and affordable drinking water and waste water service, and public transit and active travel. Veronica also leads the organization's climate justice regional and state wide advocacy efforts. Her work has also focused on developing and maintaining meaningful community engagement in land use and investment decisions at the state, regional and local levels. Veronica holds a B.A in Law and Society and Psychology from UC Santa Barbara and a Master of Public Administration from California State University, Fresno.



Phil R. Giffie

Executive Director- NOAH

NOAH was formed 30 years ago to provide access to quality affordable/workforce housing, civil rights for diverse members of our changing peninsular neighborhood of 40,000 and environmental justice opportunities for our Green deprived community. Phil is a founder of NOAH. Phil lived in East Boston for nearly 30 years but now lives 25 miles west of the City with his wife, Dr. Nancy O'Hare and son, Justin. I am proud to have been nurtured nearly my whole adult life by the people and struggles of our wonderful community. We are energized now to be participating in one of the major social, cultural and economic issues of the day - Climate Change. We are grateful to Kresge for this important and unique opportunity.



Noah Ginsburg

Director, Here Comes Solar- Solar One

Noah joined Solar One in 2016, where he directs the Here Comes Solar program that seeks to spur the adoption of solar within NYC's under-served market segments. From 2009-2011 Noah was a Solar Ombudsman at the City University of New York, working with the City to identify and address barriers to solar in NYC. In 2011 Noah moved to California to work as data analyst and technologist with leading solar startups including Sungevity, Sunrun and most recently OnGrid. While in California Noah volunteered as a Team Leader on more than 40 solar installations with GRID Alternatives, a non-profit solar installer that serves low-income homeowners, and earned his NABCEP PV installation certification in 2014. Noah is passionate about clean energy and the equitable distribution of its benefits within our society. Originally from Michigan, Noah moved to NYC in 2006 to complete a year of Americorps service, working as a mentor and tutor at a middle school in East Harlem. He completed his undergraduate degree in Renewable Energy at Hunter College and currently lives with his family in Washington Heights.



Alexander Gleason

Policy Associate- New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Alex Gleason is the Policy Associate for the New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO. Collaborating with colleagues at the CLC and affiliated organizations, Alex works to advocate for effective policies aimed at 'lifting the floor,' and growing the economy from the bottom-up, middle-out for all workers. In addition to his work at the Central Labor Council, Alex is an adjunct faculty member at SUNY Empire State College's Harry Van Arsdale Center and the CUNY College of Technology. He is also a part-time faculty member at Lang, the undergraduate liberal arts college at The New School. Alex was born and raised year-round on Cape Cod, and currently resides in Brooklyn.



Rosa Gonzalez

Associate- Movement Strategy Center

With more 15 years of experience in popular education and transformative facilitation, Rosa is dedicated to a thriving culture of participation where communities come together to solve social, environmental, and economic challenges. Rosa is the Director of Applied Practice at Movement Strategy Center and leads MSC's Community Climate Solutions program, advancing transformative resilience strategies that accelerate the emerging transition to a regenerative and interconnected world. She has designed and directed programs for The Building Healthy Communities Initiative, The Alliance for Climate Education, Green For All, and the Partnership for Immigrant Leadership and Action. Through her own project, Facilitating Power, she has partnered with dozens of organizations, agencies, and community leaders to develop participatory approaches to building community resilience and grassroots power. Rosa has a gift for accessing the core values at the heart of any effort and weaving shared narratives that unify groups around big vision and concrete practices. She is also a visual and performing artist and student of Vedic wisdom, committed to the lessons of our ancestors - to bring balance - with all our relations.



Laura Gracia-Santiago

Youth Organizer- Communities for a Better Environment

Laura Gracia is the queer daughter of Mexican immigrant parents. Currently she is the Richmond Youth Organizer for Communities for a Better Environment (CBE). She works alongside young people to spread awareness about environmental justice, build leadership development amongst young people of color, and build people power. Prior to working with CBE she worked with Physicians for a Social Responsibility (PSR) where she developed a social media campaign to explain the health impacts climate change poses, "Climate Change Makes Me Sick". In Watsonville, CA she also worked in preparing young Latinx immigrants to be college-bound. She holds a bachelors degree in art and environmental studies from the University of California- Santa Cruz.



Kyra Greene

Executive Director- Center on Policy Initiatives

Kyra Greene, PhD is the Executive Director at the Center on Policy Initiatives. CPI is a research and advocacy institute dedicated to fighting for good jobs, vibrant communities and a strong, equitable public sector for the benefit of families throughout San Diego County. Dr. Greene has previously held positions at CPI as a research and policy analyst focusing on municipal budgets and public infrastructure projects and as Deputy Director of Policy and Programs. Dr. Greene earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from Stanford University. She also holds a B.A. in Social Sciences from Bard College at Simon's Rock. Kyra's past research has focused on social movement messaging/framing, legislative processes, and public policies affecting the lives of people of color and people with disabilities.



Lara Hansen

Chief Scientist and Executive Director- EcoAdapt

Lara thinks climate change is everybody's problem and she wishes someone would bother to do something about it. Her desire for action led her to co-create EcoAdapt, where she serves as Chief Scientist and Executive Director. She has written books and papers on climate change adaptation, and co-created an engaged stakeholder process to help individuals, organizations and communities create adaptation strategies applicable to their work. Because she's an optimist she assumes we'll get our acts together on climate change -who would want the alternative. Learn more about EcoAdapt's work and team at www.EcoAdapt.org.



David M. Harris

Volunteer- Environmental Health Coalition

David Harris is a volunteer with San Diego 350. Over a 15 year career in city government, he was involved in public financing for affordable housing and community development. He managed HUD programs including HOPWA, HOME and CDBG. Previously, David worked on development of supportive housing projects, including transitional housing for homeless families and service enriched housing for people with special needs. He began his career as a consumer and environmental advocate, working with Environmental Health Coalition and CalPIRG. David is a proud banana slug with a BA in Community Studies from UC, Santa Cruz.



Hodan Hassan

Climate Justice Organizer- Got Green

Hodan is joining the Got Green family with a background in labor and political organizing. Hodan began organizing last summer with the Washington Bus as a Washington Bus Fellow where she learned all the skills of political organizer. She then moved on to work as a Campus Organizer with the Bus for fall 2014 where she worked with students from 6 college/university campuses on civic engagement on campus. After leaving the Bus she did a brief stint as a labor organizer. Even though Hodan has only been organizing professionally for about 2 years, she became a racial justice activist during her first college class. In her lifetime she wants to have a real impact on the world and advance the fight toward collective liberation, and black liberation in particular. Outside of the work, she is a huge fan of TV shows, her current favorites are Arrow, Bones and Black-ish.



Annel Hernandez

Resiliency Planner- New York City Environmental Justice Alliance

Annel Hernandez is the Resiliency Planner for the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance. She currently works on both city and statewide climate policy issues, focusing on local advocacy ranging from equitable investment in coastal protections to solar energy on public buildings. She also works on various coalition campaigns to push for more aggressive climate legislation – with equity as a central focus. Previously, as Research Assistant with the Urban Climate Change Research Network at Columbia University’s Earth Institute, she collaborated with scholars, experts, and advocates on pushing forward new climate change resources for cities. Annel also worked in the NYC Mayor’s Office as Social Innovation Fund Advisor managing the program implementation of a multi-city initiative focused on economic opportunity programs, and was also a NYC Urban Fellow. Annel received an MPA in Energy and Environment from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs, where she also worked as a Teaching Assistant at the Earth Institute and a Research Assistant at the Institute of Latin American Studies. She received her BA in Political Science and Latin American & Latino Studies from Fordham University.



Alan Hipólito

Executive Director- Verde

Alan Hipólito has been Executive Director of Verde since 2005. Per its mission statement, “Verde serves communities by building environmental wealth through social enterprise, outreach and advocacy.” Alan was born in New Orleans, Louisiana in the United States. His mother is from New Orleans, his father is from Tamazunchale, San Luis Potosi in Mexico, and he speaks Spanish and English.

Bryan Hogle



Program Officer/Detroit- The Kresge Foundation

Bryan P. Hogle is a program officer with The Kresge Foundation's Detroit Program. He joined Kresge in September 2013, serving as a fellow in the Executive Office and transitioned to the program staff in June 2014. Before that, he worked with the consulting firm McKinsey & Company in Detroit for two years.

Bryan earned a master's degree in business administration and a master of science degree from the University of Michigan in 2011. As a graduate student at the Erb Institute, he did a consulting project for a socially focused division of the cement company Cemex in Mexico and worked at Turtlerock Greentech LLC, an Ann Arbor-based consulting firm focused on sustainable transportation and renewable energy.

He is using his business background to advance the Detroit Program team's efforts to strengthen city neighborhoods by fostering sustainability, expanding economic opportunity and stabilizing property values and tax base.

Bryan holds an undergraduate degree from Michigan State University and served five years as an officer in the U.S. Navy, in communications on the USS Mahan and in the Reactor Electrical division on the USS Ronald Reagan.



Taj James

Executive Director- Movement Strategy Center

Taj James is the founder and Executive Director of Movement Strategy Center. Since 2001, putting forth the question "How do we weave together the strands of the progressive community into a progressive movement capable of winning lasting policy and social change?"

In his decade of leadership with MSC, Taj has been proud to help launch and support new alliances such as Strong Families and the Climate Justice Alignment. Taj has also played a key role in building new funding collaboratives and strategies to increase investment in grassroots organizing and alliance building. These initiatives include California Fund for Youth Organizing, Move to End Violence, California Alliance for Boys and Men of Color, and Building Healthy Communities.

Before launching MSC, Taj served as the Director of Youth Policy and Development at Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, where he organized around issues facing children, youth and families.

Taj has provided leadership for many non-profits and philanthropic institutions such as The Praxis Project, Youth United For Community Action, the Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing and the California Fund for Youth Organizing. Taj has written extensively on the topics of movement building, organizational change, and on the role of youth in social change.



Stephanie Johnson

Program Coordinator- Kresge Foundation

Stephanie Johnson is Program Coordinator at The Kresge Foundation. She supports program strategy and learning and evaluation at Kresge. She joined the foundation in 2017. Previously she was a fellow for Venture For America, where she worked with start-ups in Cincinnati, OH as part of revitalization efforts of the city.

During the fellowship, she held positions of Global Operations Lead at GoSun Stove and Marketing and Operations Specialist at EDIS Group. During her career, she has been exploring the intersection between social impact and business.

Stephanie is a native of the Eastern Shore, and grew up on a small farm in Denton, Maryland. She earned a bachelor's degree in Economics and Management from University of Pennsylvania: The Wharton School of Business.



Jill Johnson

Program Team Assistant- The Kresge Foundation

Jill Johnson is a program team assistant at Kresge where she works with the Environment Program.

In that role, she coordinates meetings and travel, and communication with the team's many partners. It's all about getting people where they need to be with the resources they need, she says. Jill also fields queries from Kresge-funded organizations and handles logistics with other units within the foundation.

Jill joined Kresge in 2009 after 19 years at an auto industry company where she worked with human resources, communications and engineering.

A native of Michigan, she is an outdoor enthusiast who snowshoes, waterskis and enjoys paddleboarding.



Tessa Kaneene

Senior Program Officer- Institute for Sustainable Communities

Tessa brings over a decade of experience in urban design, policy and development, with a strong focus on community organizing. She has worked on urban policy for the cities of San Francisco, New York, Detroit and Rio de Janeiro, with extensive experience working on affordable housing, equitable economic development, community engagement, and resiliency planning. Tessa has worked on green building projects in Barcelona and San Francisco, and for community organizations in Chicago and Guatemala.

Tessa earned her Master's in Urban Planning from Harvard University and her Bachelor's in Architecture from Princeton University.



Cathleen Kelly

Senior Fellow- Center for American Progress

Cathleen Kelly is a Senior Fellow with the Energy and Environment team at the Center for American Progress. She specializes in international and U.S. climate mitigation, preparedness, resilience, and sustainable development policy. Kelly served in the Obama administration at the White House Council on Environmental Quality, where she led a 20-plus-agency task force to develop a national climate resilience strategy. This strategy helped form the basis of the climate-preparedness pillar of President Barack Obama's Climate Action Plan. Kelly also helped formulate the Obama administration's positions on international sustainable development and climate policy issues.

Previously, Kelly directed the Climate & Energy Program at The German Marshall Fund of the United States, where she led a highly acclaimed paper series and events on climate and clean energy policy that drew the world's top energy and climate policy players. She also held policy director and senior policy adviser positions at The Nature Conservancy and the Center for Clean Air Policy and was a professor of international and environmental policy at the Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, or SAIS.



Aurash Khawarзад

Director of Policy and Strategy- Center for Social Inclusion

Aurash Khawarзад is an urban planner working and living in New York City. His practice is focused on advancing the principles of social and environmental justice within the practice of urban redevelopment.

He currently works as the Director of Policy and Strategy at the Center for Social Inclusion and as a Lecturer on urban planning at The New School and the City University of New York. Recent projects include the Northern Manhattan Climate Action Plan, Waycount, a tool for community-based transportation planning, and the redevelopment of the 135th Street Marine Waste Transfer Station in Harlem, NYC, among others.



Tim Larson

President- Ross Strategic

Tim Larson is a member of the CRUO evaluation team. His recent work has focused on working with foundations to connect measurement, evaluation, and learning systems with strategy to accelerate and deepen impact in areas such as climate change mitigation and resilience. He has also worked with government and philanthropy to develop strong grantee peer exchange networks that accelerate learning and strategy and program implementation, and to build cross-sector partnerships. Tim has expertise in areas including air quality management, climate change mitigation and resiliency initiatives, clean energy and energy efficiency, land and water sustainability, transportation, community economic development, and impact investing. Over the past few years, Tim has worked for clients including the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Ford Foundation, the Mitchell Foundation, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the ClimateWorks Foundation, the Energy Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the United Nations International Labor Organization. Tim has a graduate degree in environmental policy and urban and regional planning from Princeton University and an undergraduate degree in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania. Tim is based in Austin, Texas.



Danielle Lewald

Project Consultant- Florida Institute for Health Innovation

Danielle Lewald serves as a Project Consultant for the Florida Institute for Health Innovation (FIHI), helping to support a joint climate resilience initiative between FIHI, Catalyst Miami and Urban Impact Lab to engage more health professionals in climate resilience efforts aimed at improving health outcomes for South Floridians, particularly those in low-income and underserved populations, in the face of climate change. She brings more than four years of marketing and public relations experience in the healthcare industry. As Marketing and Public Relations Manager with Adventist HealthCare in Gaithersburg, Maryland, Danielle worked closely with their Center for Health Equity and Wellness, and hospital entities, where she developed integrated, award-winning marketing campaigns, collaborated with community partners to organize and promote health events, and successfully managed internal and external communications projects. She is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree with a focus in Social Marketing at the University of South Florida.



Paul Lumley

Executive Director- Native American Youth & Family Center

Paul Lumley is the Executive Director for the Native American Youth and Family Center and is a citizen of the Yakama Nation. He recently came to NAYA Family Center after being the Executive Director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC). He worked there from 1987-2004 under several capacities. He returned to CRITFC after 5 years in Washington DC to begin his tenure as executive director in 2009. Mr. Lumley has an extensive history working with Northwest Tribes on salmon issues, particularly in the Columbia River Basin.



Jill Mangaliman

Executive Director- Got Green

Jill is a queer Filipino-American community organizer, born and raised in Seattle. Thanks to Federal Pell Grants, Jill graduated from the UW as a student of Human Geography. For 6 years they organized in local and national campaigns involving health care equity, immigrant rights and protecting social services. In 2009 they joined Got Green as part of the City Weatherization program. Here, they stepped into leadership, from founding board member to lead organizer, and played an instrumental role in the formation and strategy of the Food Access Team. They became the Executive Director in 2014 after a 2-year leadership transition. In their spare time, they enjoy singing karaoke, cooking, and making things.
Pronouns: They



Allison Mannos

Repower LA Campaign Director- LAANE

Allison is the Director of the RePower LA campaign. She previously was Communications Specialist on several campaigns including RePower LA, ShopWell LA, Raise the Wage, Construction Careers, and Don't Waste LA. Allison is interested in finding multidisciplinary policy oriented solutions to alleviate urban poverty and environmental problems in communities of color. She previously worked for the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition as their Urban Strategy Director on City of Los Angeles related campaigns, policy, and communications. In 2008, she co-founded and was the Program Manager for the award winning City of Lights Program, which advocated, organized, and educated Latina/o, low-income cyclists in Central, South, and East Los Angeles (now Multicultural Communities for Mobility). She also had interned for AFT1521 as a Student Organizer, focusing on community college/labor alliances. She graduated from UCLA in 2010 with a B.A. in Asian-American Studies and Urban Planning and also was a co-founding member of CicLAvia. An LA native, Allison has never owned a car, loves LA history, reading fiction, riding her bike and taking transit, and being a vegetarian foodie.



Kely Markley

Environment Program Summer Fellow- The Kresge Foundation

Kely Markley is a Summer Fellow with the Kresge Foundation's Environment Program. Kely has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Mississippi and is currently enrolled at the University of Michigan where she plans to graduate with a Masters in Natural Resources and Environment in 2018.



Carolina Martinez

Associate Director of Policy- Environmental Health Coalition

Carolina Martinez is an Associate Director of Policy at Environmental Health Coalition (EHC). Martinez' work with EHC's in the Climate Justice Campaign focuses on the San Diego region. She is responsible for supporting residents in low-income communities of color advocate for climate policies that respect their priorities, improve health, and are consistent with environmental justice principles. Currently, she is working on the equitable implementation of San Diego's Climate Action Plan, and overseeing the implementation of a comprehensive community plan in National City that includes phasing polluting industries out of a residential neighborhood and creating open space. Carolina has an M.A. in Urban Planning and an M.A. in Latin American Studies. Her work experience includes environmental justice policy advocacy in Oxnard, California, collaborating with community groups in Orange County on cultural and social justice campaigns, and researching international labor rights.

Carolina enjoys working at the intersection of race, culture, gender, civic engagement, environmental issues, health, and city planning in the struggle for environmental justice. She spends her free time learning to play Son Jarocho and dance Bomba.



Cecilia Martinez

Director of Research Programs, Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy

Dr. Cecilia Martinez is the co-founder and Director of Research Programs at the Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy (CEED). Dr. Martinez previously held positions as Associate Research Professor in the College of Earth, Ocean and Environment at the University of Delaware. She has led a variety of projects to address sustainable development at the local and international levels. Her research is focused on the development of energy and environmental strategies that promote equitable and sustainable policies. Dr. Martinez has also worked with a range of organizations from local grassroots groups to international organizations engaging in the promotion of sound environmental policy and environmental justice.

**Laurie Mazur**

Urban Resilience Editor- Island Press

As Island Press' Urban Resilience Editor, Laurie focuses on the intersection of climate adaptation, sustainability and social justice. She works with Kresge grantees and others to co-create articles, blog posts and op-eds—and to place that content in appropriate news outlets. (A compilation of that published work is available [here](#).) Laurie is the author/editor of three books; her writing has appeared in The New York Times, The Nation, The Los Angeles Times, The Guardian and many other publications. She lives just outside Washington, DC with her husband and teenage sons.

**Catherine McBride**

Director of Community Building- Red Hook Initiative

As the Director of Community Building at Red Hook Initiative, Catherine McBride manages projects that work towards agency goals of facilitating authentic participation in community life, building social capital, and creating institutional change in Red Hook. This is achieved through training and community organizing with youth and adults. Catherine has a Bachelors in Social Work from New York University and a Masters in Social Work from Hunter College.

**Lizzetta McConnell**

President- NAACP Mobile Branch 5044

Lizzetta McConnell is a resident of Mobile, Alabama where she is the President Mobile County NAACP branch. She is a very passionate, energetic, free spirited, family oriented person. She enjoys community organizing and advocating.



Hugh McDiarmid

Communications Officer/Environment- The Kresge Foundation

Hugh C. McDiarmid is a communications officer at The Kresge Foundation where he supports internal and external communications efforts for the Environment Program among other key Kresge initiatives.

He worked as a Michigan journalist for 22 years including a decade at the Detroit Free Press, reporting extensively on environmental issues. He directed communications efforts for the nonprofit Michigan Environmental Council for eight years, and most recently oversaw outreach for the Great Lakes (Windsor) Office of the International Joint Commission, which provides guidance to the U.S. and Canadian governments on boundary-waters issues.

Hugh has earned numerous journalism awards, including the John B. Oakes Award for Distinguished Environmental Journalism in 2004 for a collaborative series on childhood lead poisoning in Michigan.

He lives in Farmington with his wife, Karen. He graduated from Albion College with a bachelor's degree in English.



Camilo Mejia

Networks Director- Catalyst Miami

Camilo Mejia

Networks Director

Camilo's background as a peace and immigrant rights activist is what originally led him to Catalyst Miami. His current work revolves around convening spaces for social justice organizations to build collective power in order to obtain collective gains. Camilo is the author of an Iraq war memoir that details his journey from enthusiastic infantryman to conscientious objector. He lives in Coconut Grove with his teenage daughter Samantha.



Jeanette Mitchell

Climate Organizer- Clean Water Action

Jeanette is a Climate Organizer helping to implement Clean Water Action's Newark Resiliency Action Plan. Jeanette conducts sustained community outreach and coordinate project's South Ward Committee, facilitates collaborative efforts between project partners, residents, organizations, public officials and entities to work together towards concrete solutions, developing and implementing climate resiliency plans that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help Newark residents adjust to the impacts of climate change; coordinates organizational and programmatic events; researches pertinent climate resiliency policies and implementation strategies; and recruits participants and organize/conduct environmental justice, leadership and other trainings.



Kevin Moore

Climate Coordinator- New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA)

Mr. Moore has 20 years of experience in urban environmental restoration, environmental justice, education and advocacy issues involving land use, air and water. This experience stems from his project oversight and management of a nationally recognized urban lake restoration project for the Weequahic Park Association, Inc. in Newark, NJ. In addition, he has been engaged in for-profit contracting, focused on advocacy, education and funding for open space, food security and minority participation in technical careers. He is committed to give voice to environmental justice and address the disparities found in underserved communities.

Mr. Moore's public outreach and advocacy work has been comprehensive and he is an acknowledged advocate for the urban environment in parks, urban natural resource management, open space and environmental justice, promoting their "triple bottom line" benefits. He has facilitated and participated in a myriad of participatory community-based civic initiatives and research. Furthermore, he has been interviewed on television, radio and print, while participating on numerous expert panels and works with those on the statewide and national level, who all agree in the promotion and importance of our environment, most particularly, opportunities in our urban centers and first ring suburbs to enhance the quality of life, protecting the health of their residents through equitable and sustainable development.

Kevin has served multiple terms as a member and Parliamentarian for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Environmental Justice Advisory Council. Former Chair of the Livability and Environment Committee for the Together North Jersey Regional Sustainability Plan. He is a former member of the Board of Trustees for the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), former multiple terms as a trustee for the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP) and the City Parks Alliance (CPA), both of which are national urban park advocacy organizations. He is a Leadership Newark Fellow (Class of 2003) and founding Chair of the Watershed Management Area 7 Steering Committee.

Kevin studied Architecture at Hampton University and Policy and Watershed Management at Rutgers University, Cook College.



Tyler Nickerson

Director of Investments and State Strategy- The Solutions Project

Tyler Nickerson has nearly a decade of respected leadership on the frontier of social change by integrating expertise in philanthropy, strategic communications, and public policy. Tyler serves as the Director of Investments and State Strategy at The Solutions Project – a cultural campaigning, grantmaking, and big thinking initiative that is accelerating the transition towards 100% clean energy for 100% of people. Previously, Tyler served as a Program Manager at the Dyer-Ives Foundation, and Founder & CEO of Motu Communications, which supported clients in strategic communications, public affairs, program design, and evaluation. He has also led a community-based organization responding to the Foreclosure Crisis, successfully advocated for stronger state housing policies, consulted on more than 20 electoral campaigns, and is co-founder of City Built Brewing in Grand Rapids, Michigan. His work has been featured in national media outlets such as The New York Times, The Guardian, Forbes, Associated Press, CBS, Huffington Post, NPR, and more. Tyler holds a Bachelor's Degree with Honors from Grand Valley State University and Master's Degree in Public Administration at Penn State. He serves as Co-Chair of the Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy Washington, D.C. Chapter, and on the Andrew Goodman Foundation's Millennial Advisory Council.



Aidil Oscariz

VP of Policy and Advocacy- Catalyst Miami

Aidil Oscariz currently serves as the Vice President of Policy and Advocacy at Catalyst Miami. In this capacity, she oversees the organization's network building and advocacy efforts. She connects Catalyst Miami's leadership development programs' participants to opportunities for civic engagement. Previously, Aidil worked for and served as a consultant to various non-profit organizations and community groups working with vulnerable and underserved populations. In this role, she worked with organizational and community leaders to build capacity and collective power, as well as address the immediate needs of residents through direct services and cultural and academic programming. For six years, Aidil worked for Americans for Immigrant Justice, where she represented and advocated on behalf of immigrants, including unaccompanied children, and oversaw the pro bono program. Aidil holds a Master's degree in Comparative Sociology from Florida International University and a JD from Fordham University. In 2009, her research was published in Churches and Charity in the Immigrant City: Religion, Immigration, and Civic Engagement in Miami.



Angela Park

Consultant- Angela Park Consulting

Angela Park is an independent consultant, researcher, and writer dedicated to making social justice and equity hallmarks of progressive advocacy, policymaking, philanthropy, and business. She helps mission-driven organizations embed social justice and equity throughout their work, bringing nearly three decades of experience on sustainable development policy, environmental justice, equity and diversity, and organizational and leadership development. As a consultant, she has worked with nonprofits, coalitions, foundations, philanthropic networks, governmental agencies at all levels, educational institutions, and companies, especially B-corps, across the consumer products, banking, technology, retail, communications, insurance, and utilities industries.

She researched and wrote *Equity in Sustainability* (2014) and *Everybody's Movement: Environmental Justice and Climate Change* (2009) and her work has been published by *The Diversity Factor*, *Grist*, and *Yale University* and featured in *Audubon*.

Previously, Angela worked at The White House in both terms of the Clinton-Gore administration, managing sustainable communities policy and constituency engagement at the President's Council on Sustainable Development. She coordinated state-level sustainable development initiatives at the Center for Policy Alternatives, focusing on legislation to promote renewable energy, public transportation, energy efficiency, and environmental justice. Angela co-founded and served as deputy director of the Environmental Leadership Program.



Jacqui Patterson

Director, Environmental and Climate Justice Program- NAACP

Jacqueline Patterson is the Director of the NAACP Environmental & Climate Justice Program and coordinator & co-founder of Women of Color United. Jacqui Patterson has worked as a researcher, advocate and activist on women's rights, violence against women, HIV&AIDS, racial justice, economic justice, emergency response, and environmental and climate justice. Patterson's publications/articles include: "Equity in Resilience Building for Climate Adaptation: An Indicators Document" "Jobs vs Health: An Unnecessary Dilemma", "Climate Change is a Civil Rights Issue", "Disasters, Climate Change Uproot Women of Color"; "And the People Shall Lead: Centralizing Frontline Community Leadership in the Movement Towards a Sustainable Planet"; and book chapter, "Equity in Disasters: Civil and Human Rights Challenges in the Context of Emergency Events" in *Building Community Resilience Post-Disaster*. Patterson holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University. She currently serves on the Steering Committee for Interfaith Moral Action on Climate, Advisory Board for Center for Earth Ethics as well as on the Boards of Directors for the Institute of the Black World, Center for Story Based Strategy, GRID Alternatives, and the US Climate Action Network.



Danny R. Peralta

Executive Managing Director- The Point CDC

Danny R. Peralta was born and raised in New York City. Shortly after he graduated with a Bachelors of Arts and Science from NYU's School of Education in 2000 he began his work as a youth educator and community developer. In 2002, while searching to expand upon his love for reality, art and storytelling, he formally began attending black and white photography workshops at ICP @ THE POINT in the South Bronx. In 2009, he came back to THE POINT as Director of Arts and Education, and in the fall of 2015, became the Executive Managing Director of THE POINT CDC, leading revitalization efforts in the South Bronx. He was awarded the Jocelyn Benzakin Fellowship (2005) for concerned photography by the International Center of Photography, the En Foco Photo Legacy Award (2016) as well as the Mel King MIT CoLab Community Fellowship (2016). He currently lives in NYC with his wife and two sons, who inspire his every endeavor.



Cara Pike

Executive Director- Climate Access

Cara Pike is the founder and director of Climate Access, a nonprofit focused on building political and public support for climate solutions through its learning network for nonprofit and government leaders, pilot projects that test new engagement approaches, and communication research and strategy consulting services. Her work includes creation of the Preparation Frame: A Guide for Understanding and Engaging Around Climate Impacts; the Ecological Roadmap, a values-based approach to building support for environmental protection; Climate Communications Behavior Change – A Guide for Practitioners, and other widely used publications and toolkits. Cara regularly advises government agencies and nonprofit organizations. Clients have included the City of Boston, Ocean Science Trust, Union of Concerned Scientists, Province of Alberta, and others.



Kimberly Powe

Interim Executive Director- Puget Sound Sage

Kim is the Interim Executive Director at Puget Sound Sage. Kim has a true love of people and is a passionate champion for justice. She knows that success is not a zero-sum game and that true sustainability is not achieved when it is at the expense of others. She has a passion for working where sustainability and economic development intersect, which is often where people of color and low-wage communities converge.

Kim brings 18 years of experience in public service and grassroots developments spanning youth and adult economic development, racial equity, sustainability and climate justice, food justice, health equity, affordable housing, restorative justice and international development. Most recently, Kim served as the Director Social Equity and Inclusion for a local environmental organization and as the Director of Sustainability for Multnomah County.

Kim holds a Master's in Business Administration in Sustainable Business from the Bainbridge Graduate Institute (now Presidio Graduate School) in Seattle, a Master's of Urban Studies, Community Development, from Portland State University, and two bachelor's degrees from Georgetown University. Kim has had the privilege to be Larry and Lynn Powe's daughter, live on four continents, marry a wonderful partner and have a daily teacher in her daughter.



Julie Quiroz

Director of Future Narrative- Movement Strategy Center

Julie Quiroz is Director of Future Narrative for Movement Strategy Center and a proud member of a powerful community of people and organizations who are co-creating a future that we can step into with our children and their children. Julie serves on the leadership team for MSC's Transitions Initiative which is nurturing whole people and whole communities to transition from a world of domination and extraction to a world of regeneration, resilience, and interdependence. Julie heads up #LoveWithPower which invites everyone everywhere to take bold action grounded in fierce love.



Nick Rajkovich

Assistant Professor- University at Buffalo

Nicholas B. Rajkovich, PhD, AIA is an Assistant Professor in the School of Architecture and Planning at the University at Buffalo. He is one of the partners of Cleveland Neighborhood Progress on their Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative that is working with four neighborhoods of Cleveland, Ohio. At the University at Buffalo, Nick teaches courses on sustainable design, climate resilience, and building technology. He also conducts research on the impact so climate change on cities in the Great Lakes Region.

Prior to earning a PhD in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Michigan, he was a Senior Program Engineer in the Pacific Gas & Electric Company Customer Energy Efficiency Department. Nick also taught at Cornell University and practiced as an architect at Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architecture and Engineering. He has a Master of Architecture from the University of Oregon and a Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University.



Andres Ramirez

Campaign Manager- SCOPE (a partner of LAANE)

As the first generation son of Salvadorian migrants, Andres Ramirez was born and raised in South Los Angeles and attended the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). While at UCLA, Mr. Ramirez chaired many university-wide organizations that focused on community organizing, activism, and social justice. He has led multiple efforts in South LA as the Community Organizer for Community Healthy Councils, TRUST South LA, Strategic Actions for a Just Economy, Community Coalition, Coalition LA, and as a Public Ally. He is currently the Campaign Manager at SCOPE Los Angeles. SCOPE advocates for economic development, local jobs, and equitable distribution of resources to South LA. Ramirez has committed his life and career to social justice.



Amee Raval

Policy and Research Associate- APEN

Amee Raval is a Policy and Research Associate at the Asian Pacific Environmental Network, an environmental justice non-profit that empowers Asian American immigrant and refugee communities across California through grassroots organizing, voter engagement, and policy advocacy. Through her role at APEN, she offers a health equity lens to climate and energy issues with particular attention to the cumulative impacts of climate change on disadvantaged communities. She recently graduated with an M.S. in Environmental Health Sciences from UC Berkeley School of Public Health. Her past research and advocacy has focused on the environmental and occupational health impacts of extreme heat and rising temperatures due to climate change on vulnerable communities. She worked with the Natural Resources Defense Council's India program to support the implementation of a coalition-based, city-level climate adaptation plan in Ahmedabad, Gujarat as well as scaling efforts to other states and regions in India. The project was driven by a collaborative, community-based approach led involving public health scientists, municipal and state government staff, medical professionals, meteorologists, and community workers.



Chera Reid

Director, Strategic Learning, Research, and Evaluation- The Kresge Foundation

Chera D. Reid serves as director of strategic learning, research and evaluation for The Kresge Foundation.

Before joining Kresge in 2013, Chera worked in program development at MDRC, a national nonpartisan education and social policy research organization that works to improve programs and policies affecting the poor. At MDRC, she co-authored a brief on college match for low-income students. Chera previously held leadership positions at New York Needs You and the Phillips Academy Institute for Recruitment of Teachers; both are programs that expand educational and career opportunities for low-income and students of color. Chera has taught at LaGuardia Community College and New York University.

Chera earned a bachelor's degree in English and African American Studies at the University of Virginia, as well as a master's degree and a Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Michigan and New York University, respectively. In 2011, she received the K. Patricia Cross Award for Future Leaders in Higher Education from the Association of American Colleges and Universities. Chera serves on the Postsecondary Access and Attainment steering committee at Grantmakers for Education.



Dan Rizza

Strategic Relations Liaison, Program on Sea Level Rise- Climate Central

Dan Rizza serves as Strategic Relations Liaison for Climate Central's Program on Sea Level Rise, based in Princeton, NJ. Dan leads outreach efforts and manages the roll-out of Surging Seas sea level rise and coastal flood risk web tools. Previous to working at Climate Central, he worked at the Climate Policy Center of Clean Air-Cool Planet where he managed sea level rise mapping initiatives, researched public attitudes on sea level rise, and advised Congressional Committees on sea level rise and climate hearings. He is a co-author of "An Energy Future Transformed: The Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E)" and was a member of the team contracted by the Department of Energy to advise and support the start-up of ARPA-E. Dan earned his MA at Georgetown University's Graduate School of Foreign Service and his BA at Colby College.



Erica Robinson

Director of Community Building &Engagment- Famicos Foundation via Cleveland Neighborhood Progress

Erica Robinson the Director of Community Building and Engagement at Famicos Foundation, the Community Development Corporation (CDC) for the Glenville Neighborhood. She leads the greening initiatives for Famicos Foundation and the Glenville neighborhood. In collaboration with community partners and stakeholders she has created four community gardens, distributed 400 rain barrels, 300 compost bins, repurposed over 90 vacant lots, 3 rain gardens, 80 backyard gardens and have assisted several residents create community gardens. She teaches youth at MRW elementary school how to grow food each summer and supplies their families with the produce.

She is responsible for bringing in over 300k in grant funding to her organization which includes grants to begin recycling programs in four of their multifamily buildings; her goal is to implement programs in each multifamily building in ward 9. These efforts led to her film debut "Transforming Waste to Wealth" which was featured at the 2014 International film festival. Additionally, she became one of the first graduating Master Recyclers at Cuyahoga Solid Waste District Master Recycling program. She was awarded by the City of Cleveland's Office of Sustainability the "Up and Coming Sustainability Hero" award. Her efforts led to her organization becoming a NeighborWorks America Green Designated Organization.



Julia Roos

Consultant- Spark Policy Institute

Julia Roos is a consultant with Spark Policy Institute, The Kresge Foundation's evaluation partner for the Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative. Ms. Roos brings experience with environmental and community health evaluations to her role as Project Manager at Spark Policy Institute. Her background includes experience in examining and understanding human health effects of environmental exposures and identifying and evaluating community and population health impacts and disparities.



Rob Sanders

Senior Finance Director- Clean Energy Group

As Senior Finance Director for Clean Energy Group, Rob provides analysis and designs and promotes finance strategies to engage multifamily affordable housing developers, municipalities and other project developers in community resilient power. With over twenty-five years of experience in community development and energy-related commercial finance, Rob Sanders has deep expertise in designing, implementing and evaluating financing programs, financial products and related services in the areas of clean energy and sustainable community development. Rob was formerly the Managing Director of Energy Finance for The Reinvestment Fund, serving as Fund Manager for the Sustainable Development Fund, a \$32 million fund created by the Pennsylvania PUC to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as TRF Fund Manager for the Pennsylvania Green Energy Loan Fund and the Philadelphia metropolitan area EnergyWorks Loan Fund. As lead for all energy investing, he made loans, leases, equity investments and performance-based grant incentives. Rob holds an MCP from the University of California at Berkeley and a B.A. from Stanford University.



Vivian Satterfield

Deputy Director- OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon

Vivian is second-generation bilingual Chinese American, born and raised in inner city Chicago. She believes in the power of organizing, the efficacy of people-centered public policy, and the therapeutic benefits of a long bike ride. Vivian is currently the Deputy Director at OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon, where she's helped bring grassroots-led campaigns and coalition efforts around issues such as lifting Oregon's 17-year long ban on inclusionary zoning, and the extensions of transfer times on TriMet, to success.



Annabel Short

Deputy Director- ALIGN

Annabel Short is the Deputy Director of ALIGN. She supports the Executive Director on ALIGN's strategy and its implementation, and oversees ALIGN's research and communications. Prior to joining ALIGN in April 2017, Annabel was Deputy Director of Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, an international non-profit. She managed the Centre's labor rights program and its regional Asia and Middle East programs, as well as serving on the senior management team. In 2015 she established the Centre's program on Climate Justice. Annabel has significant experience designing, fundraising for and executing successful projects to strengthen the rights of workers and local communities affected by business activities. Originally from the UK, Annabel moved to New York City in 2007 and is passionate about driving change at the city level. In 2011 she interviewed 52 people in her neighborhood for her blog "30th Ave – A Year in the Life of a Street". Annabel has an MSc in International Development from University of London, MA in Spanish and French from Edinburgh University, and postgraduate diploma in periodical journalism from City University (London). She lives in Astoria, Queens with her husband and their two sons.



Maritza Silva-Farrell

Executive Director- ALIGN

Maritza Silva-Farrell is the Executive Director of ALIGN. For the past seven years she has served as the Deputy Director and Campaign Director, as well as the coordinator of Real Affordability for All, the largest affordable housing coalition in the City. During her time at ALIGN, Maritza played a critical role in the Caring Across Generations campaign. She originally joined ALIGN to prevent Walmart from developing in East New York, leading a four-year fight that successfully halted the company's plans and brought a union supermarket to the neighborhood. Previously, Maritza worked with the Long Island Progressive Coalition to coordinate the Yes, In My Back Yard (YIMBY) campaign, increasing affordable housing throughout the entire island. A native of Ecuador, Maritza earned her BA in journalism from the Central University of Ecuador and later completed a BA degree in communications from SUNY Old Westbury, where she organized with the New York Public Interest Research Group and United Students Against Sweatshops. She has also worked with Long Island Jobs with Justice on issues related to youth, labor, and immigrant rights where she combined her passion for documentaries, journalism and activism by producing short workers' rights documentaries.



Deborah Swerdlow

State Strategies Manager- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

As State Strategies Manager at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Deborah Swerdlow supports state partner education and outreach on federal issues that impact low- and moderate-income families, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the federal Earned Income Tax Credit and low-income portion of the Child Tax Credit. Before coming to CBPP in April 2015, Swerdlow spent nearly three years as the Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator at the American Association of University Women (AAUW), where she developed, executed, and evaluated grassroots campaigns around AAUW's federal policy priorities and supported the state-level work of AAUW state affiliates and local branches. Swerdlow previously worked at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), first as a legislative assistant focused on women's issues, health care, disability rights, and judicial nominations and then as a program associate focused primarily on the RAC's high school social justice trainings. Swerdlow holds bachelor's degrees in journalism and Middle Eastern studies from the University of Florida and a master's in public administration from George Washington University.



Diane Takvorian

Executive Director- Environmental Health Coalition

Diane Takvorian has led the struggle for social & environmental justice for over 30 years. She is the Executive Director and co-founder of Environmental Health Coalition, an environmental justice organization in the San Diego/Tijuana region that works to protect public health & the environment threatened by toxic pollution. In 2009, President Obama appointed her to the Joint Public Advisory Committee for the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. In 2008 Diane received the James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award for her "creative and inspirational leadership benefiting the people of California". In 2016, Diane was appointed to the California Air Resources Board. She holds a Master's degree in Social Work with an emphasis on public policy and community organizing.



Maggie Tallmadge

Environmental Justice Manager- The Coalition of Communities of Color

Maggie Tallmadge is the Environmental Justice Manager at the Coalition of Communities of Color. Formed in 2001, CCC is an alliance of culturally-specific community based organizations with representation from the following communities of color: African, African American, Asian, Latino, Native American, Pacific Islander, and Slavic. The CCC supports a collective racial justice effort to improve outcomes for communities of color through policy analysis and advocacy, culturally-appropriate data and research, and leadership development in communities of color. The Coalition of Communities of Color's mission is to address the socioeconomic disparities, institutional racism, and inequity of services experienced by our families, children and communities; and to organize our communities for collective action resulting in social change to obtain self-determination, wellness, justice and prosperity.



Makani Themba

Chief Strategist- Higher Ground Change Strategies

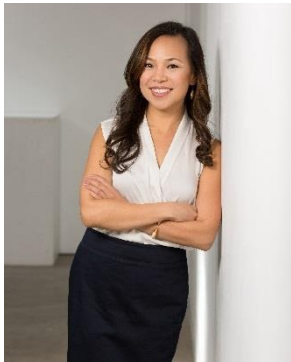
Makani Themba is Chief Strategist at Higher Ground Change Strategies based in Jackson, Mississippi. A social justice innovator and pioneer in the field of change communications and narrative strategy, she has spent more than 20 years supporting organizations, coalitions and philanthropic institutions in developing high impact change initiatives. Higher Ground Change Strategies is her newest project, which she describes as “a place where change makers can get the support they need to take their work to the next level.” Higher Ground helps partners integrate authentic engagement, systems analysis, change communications and more for powerful, vision-based change.



Angela Tovar

Director of Community Development- The Point

Angela Tovar has worked as a community planner, advocate and non-profit manager for over 12 years. She currently serves as the Director of Community Development for The POINT CDC, a non-profit organization located in the South Bronx. In her current position, Angela oversees community partnerships, advocacy and environmental justice efforts including the advancement of a community-based climate resiliency plan: The South Bronx Community Resiliency Agenda. Prior to her work at The POINT CDC, Angela spent 4 years at Sustainable South Bronx as the Director of Policy and Research where she managed the organization's policy and community greening programs. Angela has also worked as a Research Fellow for The Center for Community Planning and Development at Hunter College and served as a Senior Manager of Corporate Volunteerism for Chicago Cares, where she coordinated large-scale, city-wide volunteer events. Angela's passion for social and environmental justice stems from her experience growing up on the industrial waterfront of Lake Michigan on Chicago's south side. She holds a B.A. in Urban Studies from the College of Charleston and a Masters degree in Urban Planning from Hunter College.



Vien Truong

Director- Green For All

Vien Truong is one of the country's foremost policy experts and strategists on building an equitable green economy. She leads Green For All, a national initiative that puts communities of color at the forefront of the climate movement and equality at the center of environmental solutions. Vien has developed numerous energy, environmental, transportation, and economic policies and programs at the state, federal and local levels. She has advised on billions of dollars in public investments for energy and community development programs - including helping to create the biggest fund in history for low income communities. A first-generation resident of Oakland, Vien recently received the White House Champion of Change award for her work on climate equity. Vien has also received numerous congressional, state, regional and local awards for her work advocating on behalf of those most vulnerable to climate change.



Stephanie Tsai

Research & Policy Analyst- LAANE

Stephanie joined LAANE on the RePower LA team in 2016 after completing her Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree at UCLA. While in planning school, she worked with fellow students and faculty members to advocate for the urban planning curriculum and pedagogies to include more marginalized voices and critical perspectives. She created a new course in the department titled Abolitionist Planning to explore the roles of planning in contributing to mass incarceration and policing, the roles of planning in changing these systems and structures, and to imagine alternatives -- planning for abolition. Before graduate school, Stephanie worked on state and local policy and political campaigns in the San Francisco Bay Area.



Marian Urquilla

Consultant- Strategy Lift

Marian Urquilla is a consultant working in the areas of strategy development, leadership development and coaching in the social sector. Recent and current clients include the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Center for Community Investment, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. In her consultant role, Marian has helped launch large-scale philanthropic initiatives in diverse program areas, including climate resilience and community health, and has designed national leadership programs focused on diversifying non-profit sector talent pipelines and strengthening educational partnerships.



Hilari Varnadore

Executive Director- STAR Communities

Hilari Varnadore serves as Executive Director for STAR Communities, a national nonprofit that works to evaluate, improve and certify sustainable communities. Hilari has served in this role since 2011. Previously, she worked in the County Manager's Office for Frederick County, Maryland as the county's first Sustainability Director. Across her career, she has worked at the local, state and federal level and has extensive experience in the nonprofit sector. Hilari has a BS in Environmental Policy from Unity College of Maine and a MA in Geography emphasis Community Planning from Northern Arizona University.



Melinda Vega

Community Engagement Coordinator - NOAH

Melinda Vega is a Latina 28 years age born in Chicago, IL but has been a long time resident of Chelsea Ma. Currently, Melinda is a mother, Community Engagement Coordinator in Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, and pursuing her degree in Psychology. Formerly she was an Elected School Committee Member for the City of Chelsea.

Melinda has worked in numerous organizations where she has been able to follow her passion for Social and Environmental Justice, Youth Empowerment and Undoing Racism.

As the Community Engagement Coordinator she will be working on the Climate Care project, coordinating their youth program as well as empowering residents to develop leadership skills to become decision makers in issues affecting their community to create a better quality of life.



Kim Vermeer

President – Urban Habitat Initiatives Inc.

Kimberly Vermeer is a well-respected green building and sustainability expert. She is President of Urban Habitat Initiatives Inc., a consulting practice focused on advancing sustainability and climate resilience, especially in multifamily and affordable housing. She offers strategic and tactical consulting to multifamily housing developers to coordinate energy conservation, healthy housing and green building in their projects and to direct project certification through LEED for Homes or Enterprise Green Communities. Increasingly, she is working with clients to incorporate climate resilience into their planning and projects. Her background includes housing finance, policy and development. Ms. Vermeer is LEED AP Homes accredited. UHI is a Massachusetts-certified Woman Business Enterprise (WBE).



Linda Warren

Sr. Vice-President of Placemaking- Cleveland Neighborhood Progress

Linda Warren is currently the Senior Vice-President of Placemaking for Cleveland Neighborhood Progress (CNP), a non-profit intermediary supporting the redevelopment of Cleveland's neighborhoods. Ms. Warren oversees a staff of nine, whose Placemaking work includes real estate development and lending, vacant land reclamation, climate resiliency and sustainability, public art, neighborhood marketing and community planning.

Prior to joining CNP, Ms. Warren was the Director of Community Development for the City of Cleveland, responsible for administering the City's annual \$40 million of federal consolidated grant funding and for advancing the City's neighborhood development agenda and related initiatives. She began her professional career in community development as the founding director of the Citizens to Bring Broadway Back, the precursor to Slavic Village Development, a neighborhood organization involved in community organizing, housing and retail development.

Ms. Warren has a bachelor's degree in Social Work, a master's degree in Business Administration, a certificate in real estate development finance from the National Development Council and attended Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government's Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government as a Fannie Mae Fellow in 1996. In March 2009, she became accredited as a LEED AP.



John Washington

Director of Organizaing- PUSH Buffalo

John Washington is Director of Organizing for PUSH Buffalo. Before coming into his work around Social Justice he spent 10 years as a professional debt collector and collection manager working on Credit Card Debt, Student Loan Debt and Pay Day Loan Debt. John became active in the Occupy Movement quitting his job in collections to work toward social and economic justice. Over the past few years John has lead powerful work around Anti-Gentrification and Energy Democracy Campaigns with PUSH Buffalo and other local allies. These campaigns center around the Just Transition Framework of diverting resources to build a regenerative economy in Buffalo New York a City going through rapid gentrification.



Cary Watters

Community Engagement Manager- Native American Youth & Family Center

Cary Watters is a member of the Tlingit Tribe, and is a lifelong member of the Portland Urban Indian Community. The Native American Youth & Family Center instilled in her a passion for culturally grounded community building from the moment she became engaged as a youth in 2001. She worked on various civic engagement projects through NAYA's Portland Youth & Elders Council until she came into her current position as Community Engagement Manager in 2013. Cary holds a dual Bachelor of Arts & Science degree from the Evergreen State College with a focus on Natural Resource Science & Public Policy. She worked for Portland City Commissioner Amanda Fritz from 2009-2011. In 2013 Cary achieved a Master of Urban & Regional Planning degree from Portland State University with a focus on Environmental Planning.

As NAYA's Community Engagement Manager, Cary facilitates leadership development, community building and advocacy. She builds capacity in our leaders to support them in their self-defined leadership, and to connect them to meaningful opportunities to contribute to public processes on issues that most impact the Portland Urban Indian Community. Cary enjoys working cross-culturally with other members of Portland's Climate Justice Collaborative on transportation, anti-displacement, green infrastructure and disaster resilience.



Jalonne White-Newsome Jalonne L. White-Newsome

Senior Program Officer- The Kresge Foundation

Jalonne White-Newsome is senior program officer at The Kresge Foundation, responsible for the Environment Program's grant portfolio on Climate Resilient & Equitable Water Systems. Jalonne also leads the foundation's work addressing the intersection of climate change and public health. Before joining Kresge in early 2016, Jalonne served as director of federal policy at West Harlem Environmental Action Inc. (WE ACT). Her work helped ensure that the concerns of low-income communities of color were integrated into federal policy, particularly on clean air, climate change and health issues. She is an adjunct professor at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and continues to engage in research on climate, health and equity. A native of Detroit, Jalonne earned a Ph.D. in environmental health sciences from the University of Michigan School of Public Health; a master's degree in environmental engineering, and a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Northwestern University. She serves on the board of US Climate Action Network, and is a steering committee member of the Health Environmental Funder's Network. Jalonne is a 2017 PLACES Fellow with the The Funders Network and was recognized by Grist Magazine as "The 50 People You'll Be Talking About in 2016."



Alvina Wong

Lead Community Organizer- APEN

Alvina Wong is the lead organizer at Asian Pacific Environmental Network's Oakland Organizing Project. In her role, she fights the displacement of low-income and working-class Chinese immigrants and secures opportunities for clean, quality and sustainable jobs for immigrant families. She has led campaigns to stop evictions of SRO tenants, win community benefits to preserve Oakland Chinatown, and build the leadership of impacted immigrants to fight for environmental justice.

Recognizing the role policies can play to protect the most impacted and vulnerable communities, she leads her team to continue intergenerational organizing towards building power and community governance at the neighborhood, city, and regional levels, ensuring the leadership of local communities. Alvina began organizing in the Chinese immigrant community as an Eva Lowe Fellow at Chinese Progressive Association, SF and prior to this, she spent eight years developing and organizing young people around education, incarceration and violence prevention.



Elizabeth Yeampierre

Executive Director- UPROSE

Elizabeth Yeampierre is an internationally recognized Puerto Rican environmental and climate justice leader of African and Indigenous ancestry born and raised in New York City. She is Executive Director of UPROSE, Brooklyn's oldest Latino community based organization. Her award winning vision for an inter-generational, multi-cultural and community led organization is the driving force behind UPROSE. She is a long-time advocate and trailblazer for community organizing around just, sustainable development, environmental justice and community-led climate adaptation and just transitions. In 2014 & 2017 Ms. Yeampierre was part of the leadership of the People's Climate March Mobilization – a march of over 400,000 people. Elizabeth was the First Latina Chair of the US EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council and was the opening speaker at the first White House Forum on Environmental Justice under President Obama.



Camilo Sol Zamora

Co-Director of Housing, Land & Development- APEN

Camilo Sol Zamora is a 1st generation trans, Nicaraguan immigrant and with roots in San Francisco where he was raised. He first began doing community work in the Mission District in San Francisco by providing direct services, doing outreach, and facilitating summer and after school programs for Latino immigrant youth. Camilo joined Causa Justa :: Just Cause (CJJC) in 2009 to organize Black & Latino communities in Oakland & San Francisco and coordinated the organization's first Tenant Rights Clinic in Oakland to help support and empower low-income tenants fight against displacement. Camilo currently resides in Oakland and is the new Co-Director of Housing, Land & Development team.