

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION



Grantee Convening | May 2-4, 2016

Participant Biographies



Steve Adams

Director - Resilient Cities & Regions, Institute for Sustainable Communities

As the Director of Resilient Cities & Regions, Steve leads ISC's climate change adaptation & resilience programming to build the capacity of local leaders in addressing the impacts of global climate change. Since leaving government in 2009, Steve has led projects in the Pacific Northwest, New England and the Intermountain West, and helped catalyze the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact as a model for regional scale adaptation. He is a co-founder of the American Society of Adaptation Professionals to serve as a community of practice for practitioners working in various sub-fields of climate adaptation. From 2007-2009, Steve served as an energy and policy advisor to Florida Governor Charlie Crist and as Staff Director for the Governor's Action Team on Energy and Climate Change. Previously, he served in a number of roles at Florida's Department of Environmental Protection. In 2002-2003, he served at the U.S. EPA as Senior Advisor to Administrator Christie Todd Whitman's Environmental Indicators Initiative.



Zelalem Adefris

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 will work to address the climate resilience needs and priorities of Miami's low-income communities by building capacity, developing networks, and changing policy.



Nwamaka Agbo

Next Economy Innovation Fellow, Movement Strategy Center

Nwamaka is excited to bring over 10 years of experience in working on social and economic justice issues and campaigns that help support the sustainable and equitable development of thriving and prosperous communities as the Innovation Fellow for the Movement Strategy Center. As the Director of Programs at EcoDistricts, Nwamaka was responsible for leading Target Cities – a pilot program designed to support 11 innovative neighborhoods in 9 cities across North America in applying the EcoDistricts Global Protocol to help accelerate and achieve their district-scale sustainability goals. As the Director of Programs at Transform Finance, Nwamaka helped to design and launch the inaugural Transform Finance Institute for Social Justice leaders. Nwamaka worked at the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights for over six years in a range of positions spanning from Policy Director, to Campaign Director and Deputy Director. She graduated from UC Davis with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and African American Studies and holds a Master's of Public Administration specializing in Financial Management from San Francisco State University.



Deirdre F. Aherne

Organizational Member, WEACT for Environmental Justice
Grantee Affiliation: WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Deirdre Aherne (Dee) has been a volunteer at WE ACT since 2013 and was an active member of the northern Manhattan climate coalition that mobilized Uptown for the People's Climate March in September 2014. She was a volunteer facilitator for the community consultation process of the Northern Manhattan Climate Action Plan and is now a member of the WE ACT energy working group. In addition, Dee serves on the ad-hoc committee that is developing a Members' Planning Committee, designed to facilitate more active Members' engagement with WE ACT activities and campaigns.



Kirsten Andrews-Schwind

Resilient Communities Initiative Coordinator, Rooted in Resilience/ Bay Localize

Kirsten Andrews-Schwind launched and coordinates the Resilient Communities Initiative (RCI), a coalition of 11 Bay Area social justice groups developing a national model for grassroots community leadership for equity in resilience planning. Member organizations are Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), Breakthrough Communities, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW), Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice, North Bay Organizing Project, Movement Generation, Rooted in Resilience (RCI host organization), ShoreUp Marin, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP), and Youth United for Community Action (YUCA).

Kirsten co-founded Rooted in Resilience (formerly Bay Localize) in 2006 as one of the very first organizations to focus on climate adaptation with a multiracial equity focus. Kirsten authored the Community Resilience Toolkit, used for climate adaptation planning in 46 states and more than 30 countries. Her work has also won an award from the American Planning Association's California Chapter. Kirsten serves on the Equity Committee for the California Adaptation Forum. Kirsten fights climate change by promoting clean energy, co-founding the Local Clean Energy Alliance to develop local control of energy systems. Kirsten holds a BA in Economics and an MS in Natural Resources Management and Environmental Justice, and is fluent in Spanish.



Sabine Aronowsky

Turning the Tide Coordinator, Fifth Avenue Committee

Sabine Aronowsky holds a MPA from Baruch College, CUNY, and received Baruch's Susan Ponce de Leon Scholarship for commitment to affordable housing and community development. She is a community and media activist, 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.

Sabine joined Fifth Avenue Committee (FAC) in 2013 as the Campaign Manager for the South Brooklyn Accountable Development Initiative (SBADI). SBADI engages low- and moderate-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, and is stewarding the Turning the Tide (T3) collaborative for local public housing residents to thrive in a changing climate as part of the Kresge Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative.



Irvans Augustin

Co-Founder, Urban Impact Lab
Grantee Affiliation: Catalyst Miami

Irvans Augustin Founding Partner As Creative Interventions & Implementation Lead at Urban Impact Lab, his work is driven by his deep understanding of the intersection between creativity, innovation, and the human experience. Irvans combines a people-centered toolkit with his multi-faceted experience to create empowered designs and experiences with measurable results for Urban Impact Lab's clients and partners. Urban Impact Lab Is a Miami based civic innovation firm. UI Lab introduces and prototypes ideas and innovations that make cities better. That's why we partner with private organizations and public agencies to develop people-focused, urban innovations that make cities more enjoyable, communities stronger, and people happier.



Magdalena Ayed

Community Organizer, Neighborhood of Affordable Housing

I am Community Orgainzer at NOAH in East Boston working on many projects, initiatives and programs on socio-environmental issues in East Boston, from airport to climate and post-industrial impacts to advocating on waterfront accessibility & water quality to climate & urban resiliency to cross-cultural neighborhood community-building and engagement. Working and living in the same neighborhood allows me to spend almost all my time working directly on grassroots-level projects with local residents and to advocate under a comprehensive and successful Community Engagement and Inclusion platform developed by our team at Community-Building & Environment, NOAH. The ClimateCARE project, a cutting edge urban resiliency program that we have been developing for the last 2 years is an incredibly exciting project that I am involved in that will allow us to build resiliency at the community level as well as form strategic cross-sector partnerships at the municipal, state and regional level to address resiliency at multiple scales in East Boston.



David Batker

Executive Director, Earth Economics

David Batker is a renowned expert in Ecological Economics and an acclaimed speaker, leader, educator, and advocate. Dave co-founded Earth Economics to improve investment locally and globally to secure ecological health, sustainable economies, and prosperity. His work has been quoted in over 300 newspaper, radio, and television stories. His projects span over 40 countries and 35 US states. David's path-breaking studies show natural systems' value for providing food, water, flood risk reduction, climate stabilization, recreation, and other benefits. His pragmatic work has been used to establish the value of watersheds for providing water, by FEMA to estimate the value of floodplains for flood risk reduction, and to establish funding mechanisms for maintaining natural capital. David is working with the Earth Economics team on a practical web-based tool to establish consistent values for nature's benefits and new funding mechanisms for conservation.



Eddie Bautista

Executive Director, New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
Grantee Affiliation: The Point

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 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.)



Gretchen Beesing

CEO, Catalyst Miami

CEO of Catalyst Miami since November 2013, Gretchen began her Catalyst career in 2007 with the Parent Leadership Training Institute. Before stepping into the CEO role, she directed Catalyst Miami's civic leadership and advocacy programs for over five years.

Gretchen's areas of interest include storytelling for social change and the unique role of service providers in the fight for social justice. Gretchen serves on the Board of Directors for the South Florida Community Development Coalition and the South Florida Community Reinvestment Alliance. She participates on the National Human Services Assembly's Advisory Council on Financial Stability, JPMorgan Chase's Community Advisory Board (Florida), the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade's Community Advisory Council, and the University of Miami's Office of Civic and Community Engagement Task Force. Gretchen is a 2015 American Express NGEN Fellow.

Gretchen is a licensed clinical social worker and has several years of experience as a psychotherapist. She received her MSW from New York University and her BA from Kalamazoo College.



Aner Ben Ami

Managing Director, Pi Investments

Aner manages impact investments at Pi Investments, a Family Office dedicated to generating positive social and environmental impact across its portfolio, leading an effort to transition all the assets toward values-aligned investments. Pi Investments is a founding member of Transform Finance, and Aner sits on the board of Transform Finance. Primary areas of interest include natural resource conservation, local community building, sustainable food/agriculture and international development.

Prior to Pi Investments, Aner was a Project Leader at the Boston Consulting Group, where he worked with clients in the energy, water and transportation sectors. Previously, he advised leading cleantech players in Israel and served as an Intelligence Officer in the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces). Aner holds an MBA with honors from the Kellogg School of Management and a BA in Economics and History (magna cum laude) from Tel Aviv University. Aner is passionate about re-defining the role of business and finance and believes investment capital can catalyze a transition to a more just and sustainable economic system. He is working to develop new approaches and investment structures to better align with values-driven businesses and support long-term sustainable outcomes.



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 plays a lead role in managing 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.

Shamar joined Kresge in 2014, bringing a history of engagement in environmental efforts and a commitment to action on climate change. She previously served as the director of national partnerships at Green For All, a national nonprofit dedicated to building a green economy strong enough to lift people out of poverty.

Shamar earned a bachelor's degree in science, technology and society from Vassar College and received a Fulbright Fellowship to Fukushima University where she conducted research on environmental social movements in Japan.



Jessica Boehland

Senior Program Officer, The Kresge Foundation

Jessica Boehland works as a Senior Program Officer on the Kresge Foundation's Environment team. She supports the foundation's work on climate change resilience with an emphasis on energy efficiency and energy resilience. Prior to joining Kresge in 2008, Jessica served as managing editor of Environmental Building News and editor of GreenSource magazine. Her writing has appeared in these and numerous other publications. Jessica earned a Master's degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where she focused on climate change and climate justice.



Lauren Boles

State Director, NJ EJ Alliance

Grantee Affiliation: Ironbound Community Corporation

Lauren Boles is the Director of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, a statewide alliance of organizations and individuals committed to the creation of healthy, sustainable and just communities.

Ms. Boles' background also includes sustainable community development experience as a civil engineer and environmental planner at the City of Philadelphia. During her tenure she directed the city's inaugural Storm Water Management Program, including the creation of new ordinances, procedures, and policies. Lauren's academic experience includes teaching positions at the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, and Cheyney University. With the Philadelphia City Planning Commission as clients, her students developed neighborhood plans for several communities in Philadelphia. Lauren has also consulted with the American Institute of Architects on neighborhood plans for New Orleans, Louisiana and Augusta, Georgia.

As a member of the National Environmental Justice Leadership Forum on Climate Change Lauren was invited to present comments on the President's Climate Change Plan, specifically with regard to the intersection of clean energy and environmental justice.

Lauren earned her Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Howard University and her Master's degree in City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania.



Lexi Brewer

Sustainable Development Program Manager, Futurewise

Lexi Brewer is the Sustainable Development Program Manager at Futurewise, and serves on projects related to sustainability, climate policy and climate justice. Her current projects include developing the Seattle Climate Equity Atlas, which will present the equity implications of climate change through maps and graphics. Lexi holds an M.S. from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment, where she studied climate adaptation. She is interested in on-the-ground, holistic adaptation efforts that are accountable to the community.



JocCole Burton

Chief Collaborations Officer, EcoDistricts

JC Burton has more than 15 years experience leveraging her private and public sector experience through leadership roles in the sustainability, construction and development sector practices, along with impactful food access and community development. As EcoDistricts' first Chief Collaborations Office, JC responsible for leading the organization's programmatic initiatives focuses on advancing exemplar district-scale sustainable developments. Consistently integrating social justice, equity and cultural competencies, she leads municipal strategies and policies; strategic project support and leadership training. Previously, JC was Chief Executive for the Woodline Solutions group of companies, which assists clients with efficient management of capital improvement projects. JC has received more than a dozen industry awards and honors. She also has penned several published articles, most relating to sustainability. JC holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from University of California, Berkley, and a Certificate in Finance from Georgia State University.



Agustin Cabrera

Community Organizer, LAANE

Agustin joined LAANE as a community organizer for the RePower LA campaign in January 2016. Before joining LAANE, Agustin was a lead organizer at SEIU-UHW, where he spent over three years organizing socio-economically diverse groups of hospital workers across California. Prior to that, he mobilized students at Cal Poly Pomona to advocate for the end of violence against women through educational programs on sexual assault and domestic violence. In his spare time, Agustin loves cooking, live theater and exploring the beautiful City of Los Angeles.



Mike Chattom

General Manager, The Community Legal Resource Center
Grantee Affiliation: LAANE

Mr. Michael Chattom began his formal educational journey in the Compton Unified School District. He then attended Compton College, and has a Bachelor of Science degree from Woodbury University. Mr. Chattom has numerous certificates in management and civic engagement from California State University, Los Angeles. He also has a certificate from the Pat Brown Institute of Public Affairs. Mr. Chattom is currently serving as the general manager for The Community Legal Research Center. Prior to this position, he held various public and private sector positions. For the past five years, Mr. Chattom has been a coalition member of RePower L.A., which advocates for expanded energy efficiency and clean energy investment at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Mr. Chattom has two children: Michelle, 31 and Briana, 26. He attends and serves as the Director of Prison Ministries at Leap of Faith Community Baptist Church in Inglewood, California. Mr. Chattom believes "Injustice anywhere is Injustice everywhere."



Daisy Chung

Campaign Director, ALIGN

Daisy Chung is a Campaign Director at ALIGN, focusing on the Climate Works for All campaign, which brings together community, environmental justice, and labor partners to achieve equitable climate policies in NYC. Daisy works to develop the campaign's vision, planning, and strategy in collaboration with our coalition partners. Prior to joining ALIGN, Daisy was the executive director of the Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York (ROC-NY), a membership based workers center dedicated to improving working conditions in the restaurant industry. At ROC-NY, Daisy oversaw organizing and policy campaigns that provided increased protections across the industry's workforce, developed core leadership training and other member education programs, and formed diverse alliances that strengthened worker-led organizing efforts.



Elena Conte

Director of Policy, Pratt Center for Community Development
Grantee Affiliation: Fifth Avenue Committee

Elena oversees Pratt Center's policy initiatives, from the development and delivery of policy research and reports, to the creation of processes with local partners that demystify policy concepts. She advances strategic and collaborative advocacy campaigns that link the Center's practice of technical assistance with community-based partners to policy. She also serves as a lead organizer, facilitator and urban planner on projects that advance policies and projects improving equity in housing and the environment. Elena focuses on the intersections of land use, accountable development, sustainability, housing, and transportation equity issues, including advancing the plan to transform the Sheridan Expressway corridor. Previously, Elena led solid waste, energy and urban forestry efforts at Sustainable South Bronx. A lifelong New Yorker, Elena holds a MS in City and Regional Planning from Pratt Institute and dual BAs, in Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity and Spanish, from Stanford University. She is a Senior Fellow with the Environmental Leadership Program and a Coro Immigrant Civic Leadership Program participant, as well as an adjunct professor at the CUNY Murphy Institute's School of Professional Studies.



Cecil Corbin-Mark

Deputy Director/ Director of Policy, 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, economic empowerment & development, affordable housing, neighborhood planning & revitalization, and environmental initiatives. He has over ten years of experience with community-based organizations and in the public sector, where he working in community development. 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.



Michelle de la Uz

Executive Director, Fifth Avenue Committee/Turning the Tide

Michelle de la Uz became Executive Director of Fifth Avenue Committee, Inc. (FAC) in January 2004, after serving as Co-Chair on FAC's Board of Directors. She has over 25 years of experience in public & community service. Michelle oversees the organization's mission & comprehensive programs serving over 5,500 low- & moderate-income people; a budget of nearly \$6 million & several nonprofit affiliate corporations with annual budgets of over \$6 million, assets over \$120 million, & a housing development pipeline of nearly 1,000 units..

Prior to leading FAC, she was Program Director for the Center for Urban Community Services in Washington Heights & Harlem, overseeing social services in supportive housing for 400 low-income tenants. From 1995-99, Michelle was U.S.

Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez' first Director of Constituent Services & directed her South Brooklyn District Office. She was active in advancing transportation, environmental justice, immigration reform, & employment policy initiatives. Michelle is the first in her working-class immigrant family to graduate from college, is a product of bi-lingual education, & recipient of the Ford Foundation's Leadership for a Changing World award.

Michelle serves on the Board of Directors of the LISC, the NY Housing Conference, the New York City Planning Commission.



Lois DeBacker

Managing Director, Environment Program, 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 Kresge in February 2008.

Lois' prior experience includes more than 16 years at the C. S. Mott Foundation in a series of Program Department positions of progressive responsibility. Before joining Mott, Lois worked for ten years in Michigan state government in 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 has served on a variety of nonprofit boards.



Caroline Farrell

Executive Director, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment

Grantee Affiliation: Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

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.



Denise Fairchild

President/CEO, Emerald Cities Collaborative

Denise Fairchild is President/CEO of Emerald Cities Collaborative, a national nonprofit organization committed to building high-road -sustainable, just and resilient - economies with a focus on making low income communities of color greener, healthier and economically prosperous.

Dr. President brings more than 40 years of experience and advanced training in sustainable development.



Garrett Fitzgerald

Strategic Partnerships Advisor, Urban Sustainability Directors Network

Garrett Fitzgerald serves as the Strategic Partnerships Advisor for the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN), a peer learning network for local government sustainability directors and staff. Garrett supports USDN in strategic planning, organizing collaborative activities, and engaging external partners to help USDN members advance their work. He previously managed the City of Oakland's Sustainable Oakland program for five years where he formed an inter-departmental sustainability team, led development of Oakland's Energy and Climate Action Plan, and spearheaded a variety of sustainable city projects. Garrett is a board member of STAR Communities and a past Fellow and Leadership Grant Recipient of the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation. He previously served as the Director of Programs for the U.S. offices of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, as well as roles in consulting and with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Garrett holds a Master's degree in Energy and Resources from the University of California, Berkeley, where he studied community sustainability performance management.



Kamalah Fletcher

Senior Advisor, Catalyst Miami

Kamalah Fletcher brings 20 years of skills and experience in various levels Nonprofit Management & Leadership from the grassroots to the grasstops. In her role as Senior Advisor for Catalyst Miami, she has been an important leader for their work in network weaving, nonprofit consulting/capacity building, grass-roots leadership development, prosperity and community-based climate resilience.



Kim Foreman

Executive Director, Environmental Health Watch

Grantee Affiliation: Cleveland Neighborhood Progress

Kim Foreman Graduated from Case Western Reserve University in 2001 with a degree in Sociology (honors), and a minor in chemistry. As the Executive Director for Environmental Health Watch in Cleveland, Kim has focused on Environmental Justice issues and adverse outcomes of environmental exposures both indoors and outdoors, that disproportionately impact poor and minority communities. She has developed, implemented and managed various local, direct service on the ground grassroots projects, worked on national projects, spoken at local and national conventions, has recently been interviewed by the Plain Dealer (Toxic Neglect Lead Series) and New York Times. Her major projects include: Youth Farmers Leadership Program; Easy Does It Cooking Classes I and II; Green Houses and Greenhouses Project; Neighborhood Leadership for Environmental Health Project; Race, Food & Justice Conference 2013/2014/2016; Case Western Reserve University Prevention Research Center Fellow; Invest In Children Research Project; Urban Mold & Moisture Research Project; Tenants for Healthy Housing Project; Cockroach Allergen Reduction Research Project. In 2013 Kim completed the Deep Green and Healthy Homes-Occupant Interview Study for the Case Western Reserve Prevention Research Center PEER Research Fellows Program. Kim is a licensed lead risk assessor, Roots of Success instructor and Cuyahoga Place Matters Team member.



Dionne Foster

Policy Analyst, Puget Sound Sage

Dionne Foster is the Policy & Research Analyst at Puget Sound Sage. She is passionate about using community-powered research to inform policy decisions and support social movements. Dionne is responsible for advancing Sage's climate work. Prior to joining Sage, Dionne worked at Got Green where she began the climate justice research project. She is also the co-author of the King County Determinants of Equity Report. Dionne has also worked at the University of Washington and the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut.



Analisa Freitas

Campaign Lead, Faith in New York
Grantee Affiliation: ALIGN

Analisa Freitas was born in Lima, Peru, adopted at two months old, and raised in California's Central Valley. Analisa earned her Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Studies at Sarah Lawrence College and Lehman College in New York. During her junior year, she returned to her birth country to study sociology and anthropology at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú in Lima. Based on a revived connection to the natural environment in her biological family's hometown, Analisa has since focused her efforts on developing environmental outreach, education, and leadership opportunities for Latinos from the grassroots to the grasstops as a Community Organizer for the Tuolumne River Trust, a regional watershed organization; as the East Coast Coordinator of Latino Outdoors, an outings and excursion network; and Project Coordinator of Voces Verdes, a national Latino grasstops advocacy program under the Natural Resources Defense Council's Center for Policy Advocacy. In addition to her current role as the Bronx organizer and Climate Justice Campaign Lead for Faith in New York, she is a Senior Fellow of the Environmental Leadership Program and a Natural Leader for the Children & Nature Network's Natural Leader Network.



Vicente Garcia

Program Manager, Movement Strategy Center

Vicente Garcia brings over a decade of experience in non-profit and movement building work. Currently he is a Program Manager at Movement Strategy Center where he supports the work of the Transitions Initiative and Community Climate Solutions team. Prior to this, he served as the first Program Director of Juntos, a program of Conservation Voters New Mexico Education Fund and the League of Conservation Voters where he launched a program to work with Latino communities in New Mexico around climate justice and renewable energy.



Veronica Garibay-Gonzalez

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 organization's 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.



Rahwa Ghirmatzion

Deputy Director, People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH Buffalo)

Rahwa Ghirmatzion is the Deputy Director of PUSH Buffalo, a local membership-based community organization that combines green affordable housing construction, community-based renewable energy projects, housing weatherization, green jobs training, green infrastructure and vacant land restoration projects toward the goal of creating pathways to employment for neighborhood residents while, reducing our carbon footprint. Born in Asmera, Eritrea in the middle of a civil war, she came to WNY at the age of 8 by way of Sudan as a refugee. She was educated in Buffalo Public Schools and then the University at Buffalo. In addition to her work at PUSH Buffalo, Rahwa serves as one of the directors of Ujima Company, Inc. (aka Ujima Theatre) a political and activist theatre company now in it's 37th year. She is also a Community Health Worker and Trainer for the Community Health Worker Network of Buffalo.



Anthony Giancatarino

Director of Policy and Strategy, Center for Social Inclusion

Anthony Giancatarino directs the Food Equity and Energy Democracy programs at CSI. Anthony's work focuses on collaborating with grassroots leaders and national policy advocates to build policy strategies that create racial equity within both the food and climate movements. Within the food equity work, Anthony has facilitated and participated in multiple policy and strategy workshops, including CSI's recent Food Leaders Institute which focused on short-term policy opportunities in local/regional food systems. Within the Energy Democracy work, Anthony has published a series of research reports and case studies elevating the work of communities of color to become owners and decision-makers in the renewable energy economy and identifying policy opportunities for building a more equitable renewable energy economy.



Phil Giffie

Executive Director, Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH)

NOAH has become a regional CDC serving Greater Boston. Phil has been with NOAH since 1987 and was a homeowner in East Boston for 27 years. I am proud of our great staff and Board. East Boston is a diverse Environmental Justice community which is beginning to be flooded by gentrification. Climate Change/Community Resiliency partnerships are key to preserving our vulnerable, peninsular community. We very much appreciate Kresge's critical investment!!



Alex Gleason

Policy Associate, New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Grantee Affiliation: ALIGN

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, where he teaches labor studies. He has also served as 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.



Amy Goldsmith

NJ State Director, Clean Water Fund
Grantee Affiliation: Ironbound Community Corporation

Oversee all NJ water, toxics, sprawl & land use, sustainability, energy, environmental and climate justice (EJ), Newark-based youth leadership & training, and state-wide civic engagement reaching its 150,000 members
Has served in leadership roles in many organizations and coalitions including Coalition for Affordable Housing and the Environment, Fairness Alliance, and NJ Working Family Alliance. Currently, Chair Coalition for Healthy Ports, governor-appointed member of NJ Clean Water Council and on the Board of NJ Work Environment Council.

From 1994-1997, served as the National Coordinator for the Public Health Institute's (PHI) Jobs and Environment Training Consortium. Until 2002, on National Just Transition Alliance Curriculum Writing Team and Training Logistics Coordinator – bridging communication and organizing gap between workers, community and environmental justice leaders.

Prior to joining NJ staff in mid-1992, directed New England programs for 7 years. Before joining New England staff in 1985, served as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Nuclear Referendum Committee, which focused on radioactive waste management and nuclear power plant safety issues.

B.S. in Land Use Planning from the University of Minnesota. Served for three years as a research scientist in Entomology Department. Awarded NJ Governor's 2004 Environmental Achievement Award.



Rosa Gonzalez

Associate, Movement Strategy Center

Rosa is dedicated to cultivating a thriving culture of participation where communities come together to solve social, environmental, and economic challenges. Through her project, Facilitating Power, she partners with organizations, agencies, and community leaders to develop facilitative leadership approaches to building community resilience and grassroots power. Rosa is an associate of the Movement Strategy Center facilitating the Community Climate Solutions team and participating in MSC's Transitions Initiative. She also currently serves as Director of Capacity Building at the ACTION Council of Monterey County where she provides training and coaching to grassroots groups building health equity through culturally-rooted youth leadership and resident engagement in East Salinas. She is a visual and performing artist, popular education practitioner, and student of Vedic wisdom, committed to the lessons of our ancestors-- to bring balance-- with all our relations.



Jessica Goodheart

RePower LA Project Director, LAANE

Jessica Goodheart is the director of the RePower LA project at the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy, a non-profit organization that builds coalitions in support of good jobs, healthy communities and a clean environment. Working with a broad coalition of labor, environmental and community organizations, she led a successful campaign to persuade the nation's largest municipally-owned utility to more than double its investment in energy efficiency programs, including those that serve struggling customers and create good, career path jobs. Jessica has also served as LAANE's Research Director, authoring numerous studies. Before joining LAANE in 1997, she managed a U.S. EPA-funded project that evaluated a non-toxic alternative to professional dry cleaning. She has also worked as a union organizer, a teacher's aide and a park ranger.



Margaret Gordon

Co-Exec Director, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project
Grantee Affiliation: Resilient Communities Initiative (RCI)

The child of labor organizers, Margaret Gordon is a lifelong community advocate. With 11 grandchildren, Miss Margaret knows clearly why the fight for climate justice is so important. Ms. Gordon's reach as an advocate for social and environmental justice reaches far beyond her own neighborhood, "between the three freeways." She was appointed to the California Goods Movement Working Group by Gov. Schwarzenegger, is the only West Oakland resident to serve on the Oakland Port Commission, and in 2010 she received the national Purpose Prize awarded to only ten people each year for their dedication to bringing about positive social change in the second half of life.



Jessica Grannis

Adaptation Program Manager, Georgetown Climate Center

Jessica Grannis is the Adaptation Program Manager for the Georgetown Climate Center and is a staff attorney and adjunct professor at the Harrison Institute for Public Law, at Georgetown University Law Center. Ms. Grannis oversees staff and student research and analysis of federal, state and local adaptation efforts. Her recent publications include an Adaptation Tool Kit for Sea Level Rise (2012) and a book chapter on Coastal Retreat in the Law of Climate Change: U.S. and International Aspects (2012, with Peter Byrne). Prior to joining the Harrison Institute, she was staff counsel for the California State Coastal Conservancy and the Ocean Protection Council. She holds a B.A. in history from the University of Chicago; a J.D. , Cum Laude, from University of California Hastings College of the Law; and a L.L.M, with honors, from Georgetown Law.



Kyra Greene

Research and Policy Analyst, Center on Policy Initiatives
Grantee Affiliation: Environmental Health Coalition

Kyra R. Greene is a research and policy analyst at the Center on Policy Initiatives. She leads CPI's work on responsible use of municipal budgets, equitable investments in public infrastructure and racial justice focused policy. Before joining CPI, Dr. Greene was an Assistant Professor of Sociology at San Diego State University where she taught courses on socioeconomic inequality, race and qualitative research methods. Dr. Greene's academic research focused on social movement messaging/framing, legislative processes and public policies affecting the lives of people of color and people with disabilities. 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.



Lara Hansen

Chief Scientist and Executive Director, EcoAdapt

Lara (Chief Scientist and Executive Director, EcoAdapt) 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 with a team of similarly inclined folks in 2008. She is co-author and editor of one of the earliest texts on the issue of adaptation to climate change, *Buying Time: A User's Manual for Building Resistance and Resilience to Climate Change in Natural Systems*, as well as co-author of one of the newest books on adaptation, *Climate Savvy: Adapting Conservation and Resource Management to a Changing World*. Her team also created an engaged stakeholder process (first known as Climate Camp; now known as Awareness to Action Workshops) to help everyone create adaptation strategies applicable to their work. She serves on the unfairly maligned, vitally important Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, is a Switzer Environmental Fellow and a United States Environmental Protection Agency Bronze Medalist.



Hodan Hassan

Climate Justice Organizer, Got Green
Grantee Affiliation: Puget Sound Sage

Hodan Hassan is the Climate Justice Organizer for Got Green where she develops community leadership, represents Got Green in local alliances, and is working on creating a campaign narrative on climate, displacement and gentrification. Hodan began her journey as a Washington Bus Fellow where she learned all the skills of a political organizer. She then moved on to work as a Campus Organizer with the Bus where she worked with students from six universities on campus civic engagement. Even though Hodan has only been organizing professionally for about two 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 Got Green, she organizes with a Black-led organizing group called the Seattle Black Book Club. Hodan graduated from the University of Washington in 2014 with a BA in Political Science.



Michael Higgins, Jr.

Community Organizer, Fifth Avenue Committee
Grantee Affiliation: Fifth Avenue Committee

Michael Higgins Jr. is a member turned organizer at FUREE, Families United for Racial and Economic Equality. A native of Fort Greene, Michael then joined the Accountable Development campaign, before engaging more deeply in work around public housing. He now does organizing within FUREE members around environmental justice, civic participation and further inclusion of public housing in the greater housing justice movement in New York City.



Alan Hipólito

Executive Director, Verde

Alan Hipólito works for Verde, an Oregon nonprofit corporation. Since 2005, Verde has brought new environmental assets to low-income and people of color communities, involved community members in design and implementation of these assets, and ensured assets provided direct economic benefits to low-income people and people of color. Alan was born in New Orleans, LA, his father is from Tamazunchale, San Luis Potosi, Mexico and his mother is from New Orleans.



Jessica Hitt

Scientist and CAKE Program Manager, EcoAdapt

Jessica Hitt is a Scientist at EcoAdapt and manages the Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE) Program in addition to providing research and programmatic support to a broad range of projects and efforts. She is currently a Content Editor for CAKE and supports the State of Adaptation program by developing adaptation examples and materials. Jessica is also the creator and project manager of the EcoAdapt-Allianz Foundation Youth Climate Change Initiative, which engaged youth in Washington, DC on climate change issues through an integrated educational program that focused on personal community level climate change action and civic engagement.

Prior to joining the EcoAdapt team, she worked in the Climate Change Program at the World Wildlife Fund. During her time at WWF, she was part of a team that planned, taught and coordinated the WWF-Allianz Southeast Climate Witness Program, which involved 24 students who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Jessica graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara with a degree in Environmental Science. Jessica currently lives in Los Angeles, CA and enjoys traveling, reading, spending time with family and friends, the beach, and eating (especially Mexican food).



Diane Ives

Fund Advisor, Kendeda Fund

Diane Ives has worked with The Kendeda Fund since 2003, and currently serves as the fund advisor for the People, Place, and Planet program.

Diane has also worked with the Tides Foundation, Beldon Fund, Putnam Foundation, and the Enlyst Fund. Her experiences include national programs that advance environmental and economic sustainability; locally based community development efforts; international programs that support communities and ecosystems; and state-level efforts to support strategic environmental policymaking. Throughout her career Diane has served in varying capacities for and with foundations, including as a board member, executive director, program officer, grants manager, and consultant. Diane is a graduate of Yale University with a bachelor's degree in English Literature. She served as a community development Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali, West Africa, from 1983 to 1985.



Taj James

Executive Director, Movement Strategy Center

Taj James is the founder, Executive Director, and a Board Member of Movement Strategy Center. Taj launched MSC in 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?” For over a decade, Taj and MSC have served as a consistent source of social change innovation and leadership.



Jill Johnson

Program Team Assistant, The Kresge Foundation

Jill A. 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 paddleboard.



Tina Johnson

Organizational Member, WEACT for Environmental Justice
Grantee Affiliation: WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Tina Johnson is an active member of her community. She is currently A Tenant Leader in General Grant Houses a New York City Housing Authority Building. She is also an active WEACT Member/Leader for 1 Year and counting. She participated in our community workshops and helped in the creation of the Northern Manhattan Climate Resiliency plan. As a Presbyterian Elder at West End Presbyterian church she holds the position of Chairperson of the Christian Education committee for the last year and a half. She is also serving as a board member at large of the Sanitation Coalition. With a focus on empowering her community members in the area of healthier neighborhoods. She has joined forces with several community initiatives to assist in creating a healthier environment for her community.



Cathleen Kelly

Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress

Cathleen Kelly is a Senior Fellow at 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. Previously, Kelly held director positions at The German Marshall Fund of the United State, the Nature Conservancy and the Center for Clean Air Policy.



Aurash Khawarзад

Policy Coordinator, WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Aurash Khawarзад is an urban planner working and living in New York City. His practice is focused on the democratization of urban development. He currently works as a Policy Coordinator at We Act for Environmental Justice and as a Lecturer on urban planning at The New School. 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, among others.



Unyong Kim

Owner, Stress Burner Yoga

With a background in a Socratic liberal arts education at St. John's College, and the contemplative traditions of Buddhism at Naropa University with a Masters in Clinical Psychology, Unyong's love of working with people has included counseling, education, conflict resolution, teaching yoga and meditation, leadership training on issues of prejudice and inter-group conflict resolution, as well as training trainers on these issues. She loves making tough topics easy to access for all and to help turbo-charge change-makers with the small but significant changes that give the "biggest bang for the buck."

Unyong offers a new paradigm for self care that is quick, elegant and fun, teaching daily habits, that are easy to integrate, that make well-being central and prevent burn-out for busy healers, educators, activists and leaders who often have little time for self-care.



Joyce Lane

Public Policy Team Co-Chair (Volunteer), SanDiego350
Grantee Affiliation: Environmental Health Coalition

Joyce Lane is Co-Chair of the Public Policy Team of SanDiego350, a non-profit volunteer organization with over 6,000 members throughout San Diego County. She has been involved with SanDiego350 since 2014, helping to organize events and mobilize volunteers to advocate for a variety of environmental issues. She has been responsible for media outreach, writing letters and speaking to elected officials at the local and state level in support of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Most recently, Joyce has advocated for environmental justice issues related to the City of San Diego's Climate Action Plan and has urged greater action by the San Diego Regional Association of Governments (SANDAG) to adopt a more progressive and just Regional Transportation Plan.



Tim Larson

President, Ross Strategic

Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative Developmental Evaluation Team

Tim Larson is the President of Ross Strategic, a 30-person consulting firm with offices in Austin and Seattle that works with government, philanthropy, NGOs, and other partners to address complex environmental and social issues. Tim is a member of the Developmental Evaluation team supporting the Kresge Foundation's Climate Resilience & Urban Opportunity program. Tim has expertise in process improvement; strategy development; measurement, learning, and evaluation; strategic communications; and group facilitation and collaborative process support. Tim has substantive expertise in areas including climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, land and water conservation, transportation, community economic development, and impact investing. Tim works for diverse clients including U.S. EPA, U.S. DOE, the Hewlett Foundation, the Mitchell Foundation, and the U.N. International Labor Organization.



Diana Lopez

Executive Director, Southwest Workers Union – Centro por la Justicia

Diana Lopez is the Executive Director of the Southwest Workers' Union. Using pro active approaches her organizing has led successful strategic campaigns targeting environmental clean-up, economic revitalization, healthcare and energy policy including the development of The Roots of Change Coperativa. Lopez began working with the Southwest Workers' Union as a high school intern. It was while conducting a health study in neighborhoods near two of San Antonio's six military bases that she made the connection between birth defects, cancer and other health problems associated with pollution from military installations. Lopez decided not to join the Air Force and instead work towards creating health, safe alternative spaces for young people. Lopez won the 2009 Brower Youth Award from Earth Island Institute and the Urban Renewal Award for her community organizing and for promoting food sovereignty, premised on the belief that people have the right to decide what to eat and that food should be healthy and accessible to everyone in the community.



Monique Lopez

Senior Planner & Policy Advocate, Environmental Health Coalition

As a Senior Planner and Policy Advocate with the Environmental Health Coalition, Monique works to promote a more sustainable and equitable regional transportation network that advances public transit and bike/pedestrian infrastructure projects in overburdened communities. Working with residents she has been able to help secure over \$120 million in transit and active transportation investment in environmental justice communities in San Diego. Previously, Monique worked on air quality policy issues in environmental justice communities in both Los Angeles and Imperial County with the Coalition for Clean Air and the American Lung Association. She co-authored a ballot initiative, which passed by 68% of county voters, to prohibit the importation and disposal of sewage sludge in Imperial County, and helped to coordinate a successful grassroots political campaign. Monique has a Master's degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon and a Master's in Political Science from California State University- Long Beach. She earned her B.A. in History and Political Science from Vanguard University. Monique is a proud urban cyclist who loves working with her hands on projects in her home and her community.



Jewlya Lynn

CEO, Spark Policy Institute

Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative Developmental Evaluation Team

Dr. Jewlya Lynn is the CEO and founder of Spark Policy Institute, where she leads an interdisciplinary team that develops innovative, research-based approaches to solve complex societal problems. She is experienced in working in communities, has a deep understanding of policy and politics, and provides extensive expertise in working across public and private sectors. Her work at Spark focuses on a wide variety of society's most pressing and difficult-to-solve issues, from healthcare reform to environmental challenges to cyber infrastructure.

In addition to supporting and catalyzing change in many different arenas, Dr. Lynn has a passion for developing, adapting, and refining tools, processes, and frameworks, in order to make complex work less abstract and more hands on. These include widely-used tools for evaluation, adaptive planning, strategic learning, systems change and facilitation (many of which can be found on www.sparkpolicy.com/tools).

Nile Malloy

Senior Manager, Neighborhood Funders Group



Nile K. Malloy recently joined the staff of the Neighborhood Funders Group (NFG) as the Senior Manager of the Democratizing Development Program.

Before joining NFG, he worked for eight years as the Northern California Program Director at Communities for a Better Environment managing campaigns and programs on climate adaptation, clean energy, environmental justice, and local economic development projects.

He is also a Climate Equity Strategist and Consultant working with the California Local Government Commission, Eco-Adapt and other non-profits on equity related strategies. He is also on the steering and program planning committees of the California and National Adaptation Forums.

He is a former steering committee member of the Oakland Climate Action Coalition, Climate Justice Alliance, Richmond Environmental Justice Coalition and Bay Area Resilience Initiative. He has served on the Bay Area Rapid Transit Title VI Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Cumulative Impacts Working Group and the board of Bay Localize working to build a more equitable and resilient Bay Area. He holds a degree from University of Michigan, and an M.A. in Social and Cultural Anthropology with a focus on local and global economic development.

Jill Mangaliman

Executive Director, Got Green

Grantee Affiliation: Puget Sound Sage



Jill is a queer Filipino-American community organizer and writer from Seattle and prefers gender neutral pronouns. 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 instrumental in the formation and strategy of the Food Access Team. In 2014, they became the Executive Director of Got Green. They are a member of Gabriela Seattle and winner of the 2013 Social Change Reporting Award for The Seattle Globalist. In their spare time, they enjoy singing karaoke and making things.

Chris Marchi

Director of Community Building and Environment, Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH)



As a lifelong resident, public servant, volunteer activist, educator and community organizer, Chris has spent over 30 years working for environmental and social justice in East Boston.

At NOAH, Chris works to create quality community engagement and inclusion on environmental issues for which residents are often not well positioned.

Chris' Kresge-funded team at NOAH is innovating an equitable resiliency planning model that seeks to leverage community priorities into action at the regional, community and household scales.



Sarene Marshall

Executive Director, Center for Sustainability, Urban Land Institute

Sarene Marshall oversees ULI's activities in the areas of climate change, energy, sustainability, and resilience, including the Greenprint Center for Building Performance and the Urban Resilience Program. Through the work of Greenprint and the Urban Resilience Program, the Sustainability Center provides leadership and support to ULI's 37,000 members – land use and real estate professionals across North America, Europe and Asia – to invest in improving building energy performance and increase portfolio resilience while reducing risks due to the changing climate.

Sarene came to ULI from The Nature Conservancy, where she led efforts to reduce the organization's environmental footprint by managing carbon, waste, water, and recycling. Previously, she served as managing director for TNC's global Climate Change program and led change management, globalization and strategic planning projects on behalf of TNC's executive team.

Prior to her twelve years at TNC, she held positions with Mercer Management Consulting (now Oliver Wyman), a subsidiary of Marsh & McLennan Companies, and the World Wildlife Fund.



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). 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. She is also on the leadership team for the national EJ and Science Initiative. Most recently she co-authored a chapter on environmental justice and climate resiliency with Dr. Nicky Sheats. She is working on a manuscript on environmental justice and climate change and among her other publications is the co-edited volume *Environmental Justice: Discourses in International Political Economy* which includes some of her work on North American Indigenous peoples and the challenge of forging a common agenda of indigenous rights, justice and sustainability..



Laurie Mazur

Urban Resilience Editor, Island Press

Laurie Mazur is the editor for the Island Press Urban Resilience Project, which explores resilience in the era of climate change with a focus on equity and sustainability. Laurie has written extensively about environment, health and social justice issues. She is the editor of *A Pivotal Moment: Population, Justice and the Environmental Challenge* (Island Press, 2009) and *Beyond the Numbers: A Reader on Population, Consumption and the Environment* (Island Press, 1994). With Michael Jacobson, she co-authored *Marketing Madness: a Survival Guide to a Consumer Society* (Westview Press, 1995).



Hugh McDiarmid

Communications Officer/Environment, The Kresge Foundation

Hugh C. McDiarmid Jr. 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.



Deborah Meehan

Executive Director, Leadership Learning Community

Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative Peer-Learning Team

Deborah Meehan, LLC's Executive Director and founder, built a vibrant learning network of over 8,000 people who run, fund and study leadership development. LLC promotes models that are more inclusive, networked and collective; and likely to contribute to systemic change and social justice. Deborah has over 20 years of experience in the leadership development field and created a consulting services arm of LLC that fosters network development, conducts evaluations of leadership programs, produces leadership scans and makes program design recommendations on behalf of a broad range of small, large, regional, state and prominent national foundations. Deborah and a team from the Leadership Learning Community will draw on their experience as a successful learning network to foster peer learning among grantees of the Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative.



Lew Milford

President, Clean Energy Group

Lewis Milford is president and founder of Clean Energy Group and founder of the Clean Energy States Alliance, two national nonprofit organizations that work with state, federal, and international organizations to promote clean energy technology, policy, finance, and innovation. Mr. Milford directs the Clean Energy Finance Project (www.cleanegroup.org/ceg-projects/clean-energy-finance/) and the Resilient Power Project (www.resilient-power.org) as well as other projects involving offshore wind and renewable power. Mr. Milford is also a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. He works with many public agencies and private investors in the United States and Europe that finance clean energy.

Prior to founding CEG in 1998, Mr. Milford was a vice president of the Conservation Law Foundation, where he conducted litigation and advocacy relating to a variety of energy and environmental issues, and testified before numerous legislative and regulatory agencies. Mr. Milford was a New York assistant attorney general representing the state of New York in the Love Canal hazardous waste case, a law professor and director of the public interest law clinic at American University in Washington, DC, where he represented Vietnam War veterans harmed by Agent Orange in federal court and before Congress.



Michael Molina

Community Resiliency Coordinator, Ironbound Community Corporation

Michael is a Community Resiliency Coordinator at Ironbound Community Corporation. He received his B.A. in Cultural Anthropology from Rutgers University - New Brunswick Campus. He began using anthropological methods to assist vulnerable populations facing a variety of equity and justice issues including fieldwork in Cochabamba, Bolivia post-Water War. A Newark native, Michael has used his experience to assist his local community in identifying the best resources for recovery, develop disaster preparedness efforts, and continue to advocate for resiliency measures in a frontline community full of environmental and climate justice issues.



Kiara Nagel

Consultant, Leadership Learning Community

Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative Peer-Learning Team

Kiara Nagel delivers training, facilitation, and consulting services to foster collaboration, grow healthy organizations, and support equitable community development. At the core of her diverse body of work is a dedication to ensuring those most affected are directly engaged in decision-making about how their places can be shaped, understood and represented. Kiara has contributed to many local, national and international initiatives focused on social justice and transformational change and trained and supported organizers, educators, and young people to be more effective and creative in their work. Her own active consulting practice borrows from process design and facilitation, strategy, organizational and leadership development, and sustainable social change principles. Kiara's work often strives to create the conditions for practitioners to play, learn and reflect, and act strategically and collectively.



Christopher Neidl

Director, Here Comes Solar, Solar One

Chris Neidl is the founding director of Here Comes Solar, a non-profit initiative that facilitates solar adoption in high potential, high barrier segments of New York City's residential market (herecomessolar.nyc) through site aggregation and competitive solicitation approaches. Since launching in late 2014, HCS has facilitated roughly 1.5 MW of new solar contracts in the single-family, multi-family and affordable housing segments.

During his twelve-year career in the renewable energy sector Chris has played diverse roles as a residential solar installer in Northern California; an educator and policy advocate in New York City, and as an off-grid energy project manager and advisor in South Asia, Afghanistan and Sub-Saharan Africa. Chris currently lives in Brooklyn, New York with his wife Reena and two Sons Som and Haroun.



Simran Noor

Vice President for Policy and Programs, Center for Social Inclusion

Simran Noor, Vice President of Policy & Programs at Center for Social Inclusion, is a key senior level manager who works directly with the President and Senior Vice President, providing programmatic leadership through the management and coordination of all program staff, strategy development, program management, organizational networking, alliance building, and relationship management. In this role, Simran's primary responsibilities include programmatic strategy, planning, implementation, staffing, and evaluation.

In her role, Simran leads CSI's Program team who, in turn, ensure the delivery and impact of CSI's programs. Simran designed and facilitated dozens of workshops in collaboration with national and local community and government groups focused on applying a structural race analysis as well as specific policy issues including transparency and accountability, transportation, food and health equity. Simran has written and commented for a variety of media including the Detroit Free Press, The Times-Picayune, and City Limits Magazine. She also has been a featured panelist on MSNBC's Melissa Harris-Perry. Simran holds a dual bachelor's degree in American Studies and Political Science from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and a dual master's degree in Public Administration and Social Policy from the University of Pennsylvania.



Tom Osdoba

Vice President, Enterprise Community Partners

Tom leads Enterprise Community Partner's work to advance sustainable development standards for housing, neighborhood-scale infrastructure, and pursuing innovative capital platforms for low-income communities. Tom is a social entrepreneur with 25 years advancing sustainability, and building and managing green organizations and communities. From 2008-2012, Tom operated TAO Strategies, a consultancy focused on sustainability strategies, social enterprise and new business development, working with cities around the country to make their energy systems cleaner and more efficient. He was the first managing director of the University of Oregon's Center for Sustainable Business, an MBA training program. Tom was the sustainable economic development manager for Portland, OR, and created a framework and business development strategies for a sustainable regional economy, focused on clean, renewable energy, green building, and regional food systems. His work created Clean Energy Works and the New Energy Cities partnership to help cities pursue energy efficiency and clean energy strategies. Tom also served as sustainability director for Vancouver, B.C., and led initiatives for climate protection, green building and development, economic development strategy, including initiatives for neighborhood-scale clean energy systems and community engagement on energy and climate change.



Juan Camilo Osorio

Director of Research, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance
Grantee Affiliation: The Point

Juan Camilo Osorio is NYC-EJA's Director of Research, where he conceptualizes research and policy to support advocacy strategies for all campaigns in NYC-EJA's agenda. He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Pratt Institute's Graduate Programs for Sustainable Planning and Development (PSPD), introducing graduate students to qualitative and quantitative urban planning research. Before joining NYC-EJA, he was a Senior Planner and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst at The Municipal Art Society Planning Center, where he used spatial information to support research and advocacy on community-based planning, urban design and historic preservation. Before moving to New York, he worked with the Massachusetts Fair Housing Center, a non-profit agency based in Holyoke, Massachusetts, using GIS to study systematic and procedural impediments to fair housing in the central and western regions of that State. He received a master's degree in regional planning from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a professional degree in architecture from the National University of Colombia, Bogotá.



Veronica Padilla

Executive Director, Pacoima Beautiful
Grantee Affiliation: LAANE

Veronica joined Pacoima Beautiful as Deputy Director in April 2010 and became the Executive Director in July 2013. Veronica graduated from UCLA with a BA in Geography/Environmental Studies in 2003 and in 2006 received a MA in Urban Planning from UCLA. Her experience includes private sector and non-profit work including environmental consulting, and GIS mapping. She is also a Los Angeles City Planning Commissioner. As an Urban Planner, Veronica works to develop a community of leaders. Her goal is to improve the welfare of people by creating equitable, healthy, and safer communities now and for the future.



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 and policymaking. She brings nearly three decades of experience on sustainable development policy, environmental justice, equity and diversity, and organizational and leadership development to her partnerships with nonprofit and philanthropic organizations. Angela has testified before Congress and state legislatures, provides keynotes at progressive and philanthropic conferences, and guest lectures at colleges across the United States. She researched and wrote *Equity in Sustainability* (2014) and *Everybody's Movement: Environmental Justice and Climate Change* (2009); 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 where she was the longest-serving staff member. 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. She recently concluded a major energy retrofit and renewable energy installation with her family at their home in Vermont.



Johanna Partin

Director, Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance, Urban Sustainability Directors Network

Johanna Partin is Director of the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance at the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN). Prior to joining USDN in January 2015, Johanna served as North America Regional Director for the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group. Prior to that, Johanna served as Senior Policy Advisor on Environment to San Francisco Mayors Gavin Newsom and Ed Lee, where she developed and implemented policy on sustainable energy, climate, transportation, green building and other programs promoting sustainability in San Francisco. Ms. Partin also served on the Board of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and is a Faculty Member for the Climate Leadership Academy. Previously, Ms. Partin worked as Renewable Energy Program Manager at the San Francisco Department of Environment, and as Program Manager for international clean energy programs at Winrock International. Ms. Partin has 23 years' experience in the fields of climate change, renewable energy, microfinance, sustainable development and gender equity, and has worked both locally and in more than 15 countries around the world. Johanna has a Master's degree in Energy & Environmental Policy from the University of Delaware and a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and Anthropology from UC Santa Barbara.



Jacqui Patterson

Director, Environmental and Climate Justice Program, NAACP

Currently the NAACP Director of Environmental and Climate Justice, Jacqui Patterson, MSW, MPH, has served as a trainer, organizer, researcher, and policy analyst on international and domestic issues including women's rights, HIV&AIDS, violence against women, racial justice, economic justice, and environmental and climate justice. Patterson authored multiple articles including: "Jobs vs Health: An Unnecessary Dilemma"; "Energy Democracy, Black Lives Matter, and the NAACP Advocacy Agenda", "Climate Change is a Civil Rights Issue", "And the People Shall Lead: Centralizing Frontline Community Leadership" and more. She serves on the Boards of Directors for Center for Story Based Strategy, Institute of the Black World, GRID Alternatives, and US Climate Action Network, as well as on Steering Committees for Interfaith Moral Action on Climate and Advisory Board for Center for Earth Ethics.



Danny R. Peralta

Executive Managing Director, THE POINT CDC

Danny R Peralta was born in the Bronx and was raised in the Inwood section of upper Manhattan. Shortly after he graduated with a Bachelors of Arts and Science from NYU's School of Education in 2000 he began his work as both a youth and community developer and concerned photographer. In 2002, he formally began attending black and white photography workshops at ICP @ THE POINT to much artistic success. In 2009, he went back to THE POINT to work as Director of Arts and Education managing a portfolio of programs as diverse as visual arts to teen leadership and activism. In the fall of 2015 became the Executive Managing Director of the agency, further solidifying his desire to work towards a more equitable New York City. All his creative and professional projects are closely tied to his community revitalization work in Hunts Point, and highlight the interconnectedness between culture and resiliency.



Dawn Phillips

Co-Director of Programs, Causa Justa :: Just Cause
Grantee Affiliation: APEN

Dawn Phillips has been an organizer engaged in a range of social, economic and environmental justice organizations and fights in the Bay Area and nationally for almost 25 years. He is currently the Co-Director of Programs at Causa Justa :: Just Cause, a Bay Area membership organization focused on community development, housing and immigrant justice issues. CJJC builds grassroots power and community leadership through rights-based services, policy campaigns, civic engagement, direct action and movement building. Dawn leads the local, regional and national policy campaign work for the organization and was lead author on CJJC's report "Development Without Displacement: Resisting Gentrification in the Bay Area". He has also authored several articles on topics ranging from equitable development, to organizing and movement building.



Cara Pike

Executive Director, Climate Access c/o The Foundation for National Progress

Cara Pike is the founder and Executive Director of Climate Access, a nonprofit focused on building decision maker and public support for climate action by increasing the communication and engagement capacity of leaders from nonprofits, government and academia. Cara creates tools, training programs, and outreach strategies that reframe environmental debates, promote inclusion from a broad range of stakeholders; and ultimately lead to adoption of new policies, and shifts in behaviors.



Abigail Ramirez

Policy Advocate, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Abigail Ramirez is a Policy Advocate with the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability in the San Joaquin Valley. She is from Salinas, California, born to newly immigrated parents from Mexico. Abigail graduated from San Francisco State University with a B.A. in Political Science and Spanish. She also obtained an M.S. in Social Policy from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice. Her efforts before joining Leadership Counsel include immigration policy advocacy and community organizing abroad. Abigail currently leads community organizing and advocacy on issues of transportation equity and sustainable land use in the northern San Joaquin Valley. She also coordinates regional climate justice advocacy efforts in the region.



Byron Ramos Gudiel

Executive Director, Communities for a Better Environment

Over the last 20 years of community organizing, Byron Ramos Gudiel, has had the pleasure of struggling and working with activists and organizers throughout the country in service of racial, educational, environmental and economic justice. He has also worked to expand immigrant and worker rights in our communities. While serving as Director of The Coalition for Educational Justice (CEJ), Byron worked with staff, members and allies to improve the educational experience and environment of young people of color in Los Angeles and throughout California. Later, as the Director of Organizing at the Sierra Club, Byron led organizing efforts throughout the country to challenge the extraction, export and burning of fossil fuels, protect and create access to public lands, protect endangered species, and promote clean and renewable energy development. During his time at Sierra Club, he worked with members, staff, and allies to demand that people in low-income communities and communities of color have access to clean and renewable energy industry jobs and careers.



Ari Sahagun

Consultant (Network Analyst), Leadership Learning Community
Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative Peer-Learning Team

Ari Sahagun has strong experience in environmental justice work and a depth of experience in working with grassroots groups to make technology approachable and accessible. She is proficient in social network analysis software and is the lead on developing a communications ecosystem to support this project and in designing and implementing our Social Network Analysis. Her background with environmental justice organizations will give her an appreciation of context in developing our tools and in helping people adopt new technologies.



Rebecca Saldaña

Executive Director, Puget Sound Sage

Rebecca is the Executive Director of Puget Sound Sage. She builds powerful partnerships and a strong foundation for staff to lead winning campaigns for good jobs, affordable housing, clean and healthy environment, and strong communities where all families can thrive. Previously, she led Sage's equitable development and community benefits program and organized the South Communities for Racial/Regional Equity.

Rebecca brings 16 years of experience in public speaking and coalition organizing across faith, labor and community sectors for worker and immigrant advocacy, food justice, women's rights, racial equity, civic engagement, affordable housing, transit equity and equitable development. Before joining Sage, Rebecca served as the Community Liaison for Congressman Jim McDermott. She also was an organizer with SEIU Local 6, the United Farm Workers, and Oregon's farmworker union, PCUN. Rebecca serves on the boards of Fair Work Center, the Alliance for Clean Energy & Jobs, and the National Partnership for Working Families.

This Seattle Chicana, born of Mexican and Germanic roots, holds leadership certificates from the Harvard Kennedy School and the National Hispana Leadership Institute. Rebecca graduated from Seattle University in 1999. She loves playing softball, dancing, reading, and camping alone and with her talented husband and children.



Vivian Satterfield

Deputy Director, OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon
Grantee Affiliation: NAYA

Vivian is the only child of an immigrant Chinese mother from Taiwan and an army veteran from Missouri. She grew up in a working class neighborhood of Chicago and graduated with a BA in Sociology from DePaul University. Moving to Portland sight unseen in 2008, Vivian found meaningful work at ROSE CDC, working alongside community organizers and tenants to create safe, affordable places to raise a family in Outer Southeast Portland neighborhoods. She left ROSE to join OPAL as the Deputy Director in 2012, where she helped bring Bus Riders Unite's Campaign for a Fair Transfer to victory, and advances OPAL's mission in advocating for inclusionary housing, climate resilience, transportation alternatives, and green spaces. Like many community members that she organizes alongside, Vivian lives her life at the intersection of race and class, as well as transportation and housing.



Terry Schwarz

Director, Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, Kent State University
Grantee Affiliation: Cleveland Neighborhood Progress

Terry Schwarz, AICP is the director of Kent State University's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative. Her work at the CUDC includes neighborhood and campus planning, commercial and residential design guidelines, and ecological strategies for vacant land reuse. Terry launched the CUDC's Shrinking Cities Institute in 2005 in an effort to understand and address the implications of population decline and large-scale urban vacancy in Northeast Ohio. As an outgrowth of the Shrinking Cities Institute, she established Pop Up City, a temporary use initiative for vacant and underutilized sites in Cleveland. She teaches in the graduate design curriculum for the Kent State University College of Architecture and Environmental Design.



Parin Shah

Senior Strategist, APEN

Parin leads up and advances APEN's environmental justice policy and communications portfolio. Prior to APEN, Parin was with Green For All where he worked with cities and counties across the US on environmental equity policies. In 2004, he founded the Urban Accords Institute, which in 2005 co-hosted the UN World Environment Day in San Francisco out of which was developed the Urban Environmental Accords – a road map for creating green cities. From 2000-04 as the President of the Commission on the Environment for the City and County of San Francisco, he co-authored ground-breaking legislation on climate change, environmental justice, wetlands conservation and restoration, zero waste, green buildings as well as food security. Parin has also developed and managed habitat restoration projects, horticultural education and job-training programs for formerly incarcerated youth and adults in San Francisco. He began his community work in Tunisia as a Peace Corps Volunteer where he led community development projects, taught, and supported the organization of a local women's weaving cooperative.



Madeline Stano

Staff Attorney, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment
Grantee Affiliation: Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Madeline Stano is an environmental justice attorney with the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment in Delano and Oakland, CA. Her litigation focus areas include climate change, and the intersection of environmental and racial justice. She offers technical assistance to residents living with oil and gas development in the heart of California's oil and agricultural industry-Kern County. She is admitted to practice law in California, is published in the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law with a piece on her clients in the Native Village of Kivalina entitled Fighting for Home in the Melting Arctic and has appeared as a fracking legal expert on Al Jazeera America numerous times.



Chad Stephens

Climate Resiliency/Urban Greening Coordinator, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress

Chad Stephens is the Climate Resiliency/Urban Greening Coordinator at Cleveland Neighborhood Progress. Mission: We will not be satisfied until all Cleveland residents are living in a Neighborhood that meets their needs. This is how we measure Progress.

Chad is a member of the NAACP Cleveland branch and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. With the fraternity, he serves as the graduate chaplain for the undergraduate chapter at Cleveland State. He has also done volunteer work for many other organizations in Cleveland and around the country. Has initiated community programs such as Speak Up, which encourages youth to practice public speaking, about social, political, and community awareness through poetry.

Chad Stephens lives in Cleveland, OH, in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood with his dog Ty. When not working, Chad enjoys nature, fishing, and composing music.



Ben Strauss

VP for Sea Level and Climate Impacts, Climate Central

Dr. Benjamin Strauss serves as Vice President for Sea Level and Climate Impacts at Climate Central. He is a national authority on sea level rise and architect of the SurgingSeas.org local coastal flood risk tool. Strauss has testified before the U.S. Senate, and his scientific research has won repeated coverage in leading national and local news outlets.



Diane Takvorian

Executive Director, Environmental Health Coalition

Diane Takvorian has led the struggle for social and environmental justice for over 30 years. She is Executive Director and co-founder of Environmental Health Coalition (EHC), an environmental justice organization based in the San Diego/Tijuana region. Founded in 1980, EHC works to protect public health and the environment threatened by toxic pollution through efforts that create a just society.

EHC's community organizing and policy advocacy work with disenfranchised communities have eliminated many health risks and enabled thousands of residents to develop into community leaders. Diane has served on international, national, state, and regional advisory boards. 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." Takvorian is also a cofounder of the California Environmental Justice Alliance.

Diane holds a Masters degree in Social Work with an emphasis on public policy and community organizing.



Maggie Tallmadge

Environmental Justice Manager, Coalition of Communities of Color
Grantee Affiliation: Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA)

Maggie is the Environmental Justice Manager at Coalition of Communities of Color. She serves on the City of Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission, is a member of the Native American Youth and Family Center's Community Leaders Council, and a participant in Oregon LEAD: Native American Leadership Development Program. She is a Citizen of the Cherokee Nation.



Anthony Thomas

Political & Legislative Director, New York City Central Labor Council, AFL CIO
Grantee Affiliation: ALIGN

Anthony Thomas currently serves as the Political & Legislative Director for the New York City Central Labor Council, AFL CIO which serves 1.3 million union members from 300 different union affiliates.

His previous experience in the labor movement includes serving as the NYS Legislative Coordinator for SEIU Local 32BJ where he lobbied the New York City Council, state legislature, executive offices, and state agencies. As Chicago Political Director for the SEIU Illinois Council he managed campaigns, trained union staff, and lobbied the Chicago City Council and County Commissioners. Additionally, he has managed citywide campaigns in New York and San Francisco, as well as state and federal campaigns around the country. He has previously worked as a consultant for pro labor political candidates and campaigns with Integrated Political Management.

Anthony began working in politics and government in Missouri and subsequently managed campaigns for the state democratic party. In 2004 he managed elections for the Missouri House Democrats and eventually served as the Chief of Staff to the Executive Director of the Missouri Democratic Party.



Mychal Tetteh

CEO, Community Cycling Center
Grantee Affiliation: Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA)

Before serving as the CEO at the Community Cycling Center, Mychal Tetteh helped launch the non-profit grocery store Village Market in New Columbia. After over a decade working in his hometown on innovative solutions to societal challenges, Mychal has developed a unique perspective on the what's possible in the plural sector.



Makani Themba

Chief Strategist, Higher Ground Change Strategies

Makani Themba is Chief Strategist at Higher Ground Change Strategies based in Detroit, Michigan. 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.



Maria Torres

President & COO, The Point Community Development Corporation

In September of 1994, Ms. Torres along with Paul Lipson, Mildred Ruiz, and Steven Sapp founded The Point Community Development Corporation. THE POINT is a non-profit organization dedicated to youth development and the cultural and economic revitalization of the Hunts Point section of the South Bronx. We work with our neighbors, to celebrate the life and art of our community, an area traditionally defined solely in terms of its poverty, crime rate, poor schools, and sub-standard housing. We believe the area’s residents, their talent and aspirations, are The Point’s greatest assets. Our mission is to encourage the arts, local enterprise, responsible ecology, and “self-investment” in the Hunts Point community. In 2011, Ms. Torres was given The President’s Award by the Women’s Caucus for Art, named one of the 25 Most Influential Women by the Bronx Times and honored by the Audubon Society at their Fall Roost. Currently, Ms. Torres is the President and Chief Operations Officer as well as Chair of the Economic and Municipal Services Committee for Community Board 2.



Arturo Trejo

Environmental Justice Organizer, Southwest Workers Union - Centro por la Justicia

Arturo Trejo, Environmental Justice Organizer, is a non-conformist queer Xicana, born in El Paso, TX border to Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua. During Arturo’s youth they committed their time to organize, and volunteer the Food Not Bombs in El Paso chapter, which is a decentralized global grassroots activism. In San Antonio, Trejo began volunteering and participating with Fuerza Unida, San Anto Cultural Arts and Southwest Workers Union. Arturo is currently the Environmental Justice Organizer at Southwest Workers Union. Their work is based on community resilience and resistance around industrial facilities such as the Calumet Refinery, Eagle Ford Shale Fracking and Port San Antonio. Trejo is committed to bringing awareness of the injustices around air, water, and land due to neglect by local officials. “As student and working-class my connection to my community is important. Recognizing the interculturalismo and its characteristics grounds me to San Antonio, the realities of economic disparity, environmental racism, environmental injustice, and climate change percolate into daily struggles of state violence, immigration injustice, domestic violence, worker rights and youth.



Sarah Treuhaft

Director of Equitable Growth Initiatives, PolicyLink

Sarah Treuhaft is Director of Equitable Growth Initiatives at PolicyLink, a national research and action institute advancing economic and social equity. She coordinates the organization's work on demographic change and the economy, collaborating with local and national partners on research and action projects that aim to build a more equitable economy. She leads the All-In Cities initiative as well as the research partnership between PolicyLink and the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity at the University of Southern California which maintains the National Equity Atlas data and policy tool. She holds master's degrees in city planning and international and area studies from the University of California, Berkeley.



Marian Urquilla

Consultant, Strategy Lift

Marian Urquilla is a consultant working in the areas of strategy development, collective impact, leadership development and coaching in the social sector. A seasoned facilitator and leadership coach, Marian is also a member of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Results Based Leadership Faculty. From 2008 to 2012, Marian served as Director of Program Strategies at Living Cities, a national philanthropic collaborative. At Living Cities, she led the organization's programmatic efforts, and she managed the Integration Initiative, a five-region, \$75-80 million program to connect low-income people to regional opportunities. Prior to her work at Living Cities, Ms. Urquilla worked for over a decade at the local level in Washington, DC. There, she co-founded the Columbia Heights/Shaw Family Support Collaborative where she served as executive director for 12 years. During her tenure, Ms. Urquilla helped spearhead the citywide implementation of family group decision-making and launched a youth violence prevention partnership that dramatically lowered Latino youth homicide rates in the District of Columbia, and she served as a senior consulting advisor to the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Children, Youth, Families and Elders.



Hilari Varnadore

Executive Director, STAR Communities

Hilari Varnadore has served as the executive director of STAR Communities since 2011. Previously, she was the sustainability director for Frederick County, MD. She was serving in the role of principal planner at the County when she was appointed to be a technical advisor for the STAR Community Rating System's built environment goal area. She also participated in the Urban Sustainability Directors Network in that timeframe of 2008-2011.

Hilari holds a Master's of Arts degree from Northern Arizona University in Rural Geography and a Bachelor's of Science degree from Unity College of Maine in Environmental Policy. She is a 13th generation Marylander and is active in PTA, youth soccer and Girl Scouts.



Kim Vermeer

President, Urban Habitat Initiatives Inc.

Grantee Affiliation: Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH)

Kimberly Vermeer is an experienced sustainability practitioner, with a special focus in the multifamily affordable housing sector. Since founding her company, Urban Habitat Initiatives Inc., she has worked with community development corporations and other affordable housing developers to leverage programs and resources to achieve their goals for high performance housing. She leads the effort to certify projects as green, using the LEED BD+C: Multifamily Midrise and Enterprise Green Communities programs. Recently, her work has expanded to the neighborhood scale, as her clients look to certify large-scale development using the LEED ND program. Prior to founding Urban Habitat Initiatives, Kim worked in affordable housing finance. She was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Kingdom of Tonga. She received her B.S. in Arts and Design from MIT, and a Masters Degree in policy and planning from the Harvard Kennedy School.



Linda Warren

Senior Vice President, 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. Over the past ten years, CNP and its subsidiaries have invested over \$35 million in community organizations and their development agendas, creating 3,500 housing units and over 1,500,000 sq. ft. of retail/industrial space.

Prior to joining CNP, Ms. Warren was the Director of Community Development for the City of Cleveland. Her real estate development experience began in 1988 when she served as the Housing Director for the Stockyard Area Development Association, a Cleveland Housing Network member group where she administered the Lease/Purchase and Homeward Programs in the Stockyard and Clark-Fulton neighborhoods, and then as the Development Director for Southwest Development Partnership, where she developed several multi-family low-income tax credit projects in the Stockyard and Brooklyn Centre neighborhoods.

Ms. Warren has a bachelor's degree in Social Work and a master's degree in Business Administration, both from Cleveland State University.



Cary Watters

Community Engagement Manager, Native American Youth & Family Center

Cary Watters is the Community Engagement Manager at the Native American Youth & Family Center (NAYA or NAYA Family Center) in Portland, Oregon. As a member of the Tlingit Tribe (Raven/Dog Salmon Clan), she grew up as a member of the Portland Urban Indian Community. Cary has over 13 years of education and experience in culturally-specific solutions, natural resource sciences, public policy, and community planning fueled by an overarching passion for equity and justice that heals land and people, hand in hand. Since 2013, her role at NAYA has supported emerging Native leaders throughout Oregon in building leadership skills, fostering a supportive network, and plugging leaders into strategic leadership opportunities. Through her advocacy and cross-cultural partnership-building, NAYA has bolstered and advanced a regional equity agenda that builds our communities' visibility and holds decision-makers accountable. Cary holds a Master of Urban & Regional Planning degree (Focus: Environment) from Portland State University, as well as an undergraduate dual degree in Natural Resource Sciences & Public Policy from the Evergreen State College.



Jalonne 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 sustainable water resources management in a changing climate. 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), where she was involved with leading national campaigns and a 42-member national coalition of environmental justice organizations. She is a lecturer at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and an adjunct professor at Kettering University in Flint, Michigan. She 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 from Southern Methodist University; and a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Northwestern University. She currently serves on the board of US Climate Action Network and was recognized by Grist Magazine as "The 50 People You'll Be Talking About in 2016."



Elizabeth Yeampierre

Executive Director, UPROSE

Elizabeth Yeampierre is a Puerto Rican attorney and environmental justice leader of African and Indigenous ancestry born and raised in New York City. Her award winning vision for an inter-generational, multi-cultural and community led organizing is the driving force behind UPROSE, Brooklyn's oldest Latino community based organization. She is a long-time advocate and trailblazer for community organizing around just, sustainable development, environmental justice and community-led climate adaptation and community resiliency in Sunset Park. Ms. Yeampierre has been featured by many media outlets and most recently featured in Vogue as 1 of 13 women leading on climate change throughout the world. Ms. Yeampierre speaks about climate justice at local, national and international forums including Sage Paris 2015 and the White House Forum on Environmental Justice.



Miya Yoshitani

Executive Director, Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Miya has an extensive background in community organizing and environmental justice. In her early twenties she was the director of the largest student environmental network in the US, the Student Environmental Action Coalition. Miya was a participant in the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit in 1991, and was on the drafting committee of the original Principles of Environmental Justice. Miya first joined the APEN staff in the mid-90's as a youth organizer.

Miya now serves as APEN's Executive Director and is proudly supporting APEN to be a leading force for transforming the energy economy in CA and for climate justice for all communities. As ED, she works with fellow APEN trailblazing staff, leaders and board, to propel the organization to a new level of power and effectiveness through deep transformation from the personal to the political. The fight to abate the climate catastrophe is at a crossroads of opportunity, and APEN, with Miya at the helm is ready to answer the call in this movement moment and continue its 23 year winning streak as one of the most unique organizations in the country explicitly developing the leadership and power of low-income Asian American immigrant and refugee communities.



Odin Zackman

Principal, DIG IN

Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative Peer-Learning Team

Odin Zackman is the founder of DIG IN, a firm dedicated to catalyzing sustainability and social change initiatives. Working nationally with communities, organizations, and collaboratives to provide training, leadership development, facilitation, and conflict resolution, Odin has also worked as an environmental advocate, community organizer, and educator. He is part of the Leadership Learning Community team supporting peer learning for the CR-UO initiative.