

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION



Spring 2023 Grantee Convening

Centering Racial Justice and Health Equity: The Power of Communities to Shift Climate Policy and Practice

April 17-19, 2023

Kimpton Alma San Diego, San Diego, CA

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This guide was developed for The Kresge Foundation's Climate Change, Health & Equity grantee convening, "*Centering Racial Justice and Health Equity: The Power of Communities to Shift Climate Policy and Practice*," held April 17-19, 2023 in San Diego, California. This event and program guide were also made possible via CCHE Peer Learning Support Coordination provided by the People's Climate Innovation Center team: Esme Hic, Jaime Love, Radiah Shabazz, Nyasha Sprow, and Corrine Van Hook Turner.

ABOUT THE CLIMATE CHANGE, HEALTH AND EQUITY INITIATIVE

In 2018, The Kresge Foundation's Environment and Health Programs launched the CCHE initiative to accelerate action on climate change and equitably reduce health disparities. To date, the Foundation has invested more than \$22 million in the initiative, which is structured with three distinct but aligned strategies. Each strategy targets different actors in the CCHE ecosystem, including health care institutions, health care and public health practitioners, and community-based organizations. The strategies intend to build capacity in the health care and public health sectors to promote equitable climate-resilience in their operations and practices, support health care and public health practitioners to mobilize for sector-wide adoption of practices that center community-level impacts of climate change and equitable climate resilience advocacy, and strengthen community-based leadership to advance equitable policies at the local, regional, and state level that advance climate resilience and reduce health risks in low-wealth communities and community of color.

ABOUT THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

The Kresge Foundation is a private, national foundation that works to expand opportunities in America's cities through grantmaking and social investing in arts and culture, education, environment, health, human services and community development, nationally and in Detroit, Fresno, Memphis and New Orleans. In collaboration with our partners, we help create pathways for people with low incomes to improve their life circumstances and join the economic mainstream. Kresge's Environment Program focuses on helping cities combat and adapt to climate change while advancing racial and economic justice. Kresge's Health

Program works to build equity-focused systems of health that create opportunities for all people to achieve well-being. Both our Environment and Health programs view their work through a racial equity lens and share a vision of achieving equitable outcomes in low-wealth, urban communities. For more information, please visit kresge.org.

ABOUT PEOPLE’S CLIMATE INNOVATION CENTER

People’s Climate Innovation Center (Climate Innovation), a fiscally sponsored project of Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs and network partner of Movement Strategy Center, works nationally to build capacity for and deploy community-driven solutions to climate change rooted in racial justice. Despite deep roots, historic, and present realities of racism and oppression, we know the depth and breadth of communities’ expertise and assets far surpass the vulnerabilities placed upon them. Through innovative program design, leadership development, capacity-building, training and facilitation, we support these frontline communities—along with governments, institutions and funders—in their work to ensure a more beautiful, just, and sustainable world. Our staff brings expertise in program design and facilitation, training, planning, strategic communications, and evaluation, which is all in service to our community-driven framework and commitment to moving resources and power to meet the needs and priorities of frontline communities. Climate Innovation offers a whole-systems approach to movement building by elevating solutions that are community-driven, interconnected, and that intervene at multiple levels to shift and subvert traditional top-down planning to be accountable to and led by those who most closely experience climate injustices. Learn more at climateinnovation.net.



WELCOME LETTER

Greetings CCHE Community!

We are thrilled to welcome you to San Diego, California for the Climate Change, Health & Equity initiative's 2023 Spring Convening, **Centering Racial Justice and Health Equity: The Power of Communities to Shift Climate Policy and Practice**. Our intention for this time is to bring initiative grantees and partners together to reconnect with one another and to share more about the powerful work taking place at the intersection of climate change, health and equity. It has been three years since we last gathered in person, so we want to spend time engaging and reconnecting, meeting new cohort members and celebrating all of the amazing work of the CCHE community.

We chose the convening theme because it speaks to the critical time we are in and the unwavering need to amplify community-driven solutions to complex climate challenges. We know that the solutions to these challenges exist within communities, with leaders just like you, who are working diligently to drive policy and action. We also know that our work is interconnected, with real change happening when we find ways to collaborate and work alongside other sectors to ensure we advance community-driven solutions.

The principles of community, health equity and racial justice are sprinkled into everything we have planned for our convening. We hope that the experience will deepen your collaboration and connections with others and inspire you as we all continue to navigate and persevere in these unprecedented times.

At the convening, you can look forward to robust keynotes, breakout sessions, networking opportunities and site visits. And of course, it would not be a CCHE convening without some fun built in! So you can expect opportunities to engage and explore all that beautiful San Diego has to offer as well.

In this booklet, you'll find the program agenda, participant bios and headshots, details about the CCHE cohort, a list of eateries and things to do in the surrounding area, and a full convening participant list. For any questions or support needed during the convening please check in with us at the registration table or email Marva McKnight at marva.mcknight@specialdevents.com.

We look forward to this time together and welcome you to San Diego!

In Community,

The Kresge Foundation
People's Climate Innovation Center

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Monday, April 17

- 5:00 p.m.** Convening Registration/COVID safety screening check in
- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.** Welcome Reception
- 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** Welcome Dinner

Tuesday, April 18

- 7:00 - 9:00 a.m.** Convening Registration/COVID safety screening check in
- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.** Opening Plenary: *Making Policy Move: The Importance of Storytelling in Moving Climate Agendas*
- 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.** Break
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Concurrent Breakouts
- **Session A:** *Are You Ready for Your Closeup?: News Media and Camera-Readiness Workshop*
 - **Session B:** *The Art of Narrative Change: From Data to Action*
 - **Session C:** *Not Your Traditional Policy Approach - Grassroots Redefining Healthy Communities*
- 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.** Lunch
- 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.** Learning Tours
- Environmental Justice, Gentrification, & Reclaiming our Communities
 - Transit & Inclusive Economies
 - Food for Power
 - The Border, Climate Change, and People on the Move
- 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.** Offsite Dinner at Bali Hai

Wednesday, April 19

- 7:00 - 9:00 a.m.** Convening Registration/COVID safety screening check in
- 7:30 - 8:15 a.m.** Breakfast
- 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.** Concurrent Breakouts
- **Session A:** *What's Your Policy Game? Strategy That Works to Move Climate Policy*
 - **Session B:** *Track That! Developing Climate and Health Equity Metrics to Inform Policy Strategy*
 - **Session C:** *Building Partnerships That Last: Advancing Climate Justice at the State and Local Levels*
 - **Session D:** *Mapping Our Ecosystem: Assessing the Strengths and Assets in our Communities Toward Aligned, Collective Action*
- 10:00 - 10:15 a.m.** Break
- 10:15 - 11:45 a.m.** Story to Strategy: *Exploring How Our Stories Inspire Key Actions*
- 11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Boxed Lunch Pick Up
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.** Lunch & Closing Keynote + Panel: *The Power of Communities to Move Policy in Action: Leveraging Federal Opportunities*
- 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.** Reflection and Feedback Session: *I appreciate, I wish, I wonder*
- 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.** Transportation Assistance to Airport
- 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.** Optional Programming
- Networking space
 - Advisory Committee meeting
 - Let's Talk Social: Speed Round Edition

COVID-19 POLICY

Mask Requirement: All participants will be required to wear procedure (a.k.a. surgical) masks with at least 3 layers of fabric, KN95, KF94s, or N95 masks during the event. Cloth masks and gaiters will not be accepted as facial coverings. Individuals may choose to wear cloth masks over the mask listed above. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

Masks must be worn at all times in any public convening room (both on-site and off-site when indoors), except while actively eating/drinking. Masks must cover both the mouth and nose. We ask that participants honor the requests of others to wear masks and/or maintain physical distancing. All presenters will be required to present with masks on and use the microphones provided to amplify sound. Individuals who have a documented disability or sincerely held religious belief that precludes the wearing of a mask may request a modification to mask policies.

Individuals who have any of the symptoms below or are unwell should not attend the convening. Individuals who develop one or more of the symptoms below during the convening, should cease their participation in the event.

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Health Screening and Reducing the Spread: All participants will be required to complete a rapid PCR test or COVID-19 Antigen at registration and prior to participating in convenings activities. In addition, Kresge recommends that all participants screen themselves daily for symptoms. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Individuals who have any COVID-19 symptoms or are unwell should not attend the convening. Prior to arrival, all participants will be required to complete a rapid PCR test or COVID-19 Antigen test within 24-hrs of their arrival at the event.

Antigen tests (rapid tests) for each attendee and staff will be provided for each day of the event. Attendees agree to test daily and share results at the beginning of each day to allow for additional communication with participants. Participants will be provided with different colored wristbands for each day of the conference after they share a negative test result at registration. There will be a discrete COVID testing area with a point person on site.

Physical Distancing: The convening planning team has made every effort to provide physically distant seating and event space set-up to allow individuals who wish to physically distance themselves while in sessions to do so comfortably. Additionally, to help attendees communicate their level of comfort in interacting with one another, we will provide color-coded stickers to all onsite attendees.

Red – Greet From 6 Feet

Yellow – Elbows Only

Green – Handshakes and Hi-fives

Participant Waiver: The convening planning team has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 at the April 2023 Annual Convening; however, we cannot guarantee that attendees will not become infected with COVID-19.

Participants agree to abide by the preventative requirements, understand these requirements are subject to change, voluntarily assume the risk that may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by attending the convening; and understand that Kresge will not be responsible for covering costs incurred, including but not limited to airfare changes and additional hotel isolation bookings, as a result of being exposed to or infected by COVID-19 in connection with their attendance at the convening.

If you test positive for COVID, please stay in your hotel room and notify the planning team immediately. You may contact Marva McKnight at 770-286-3916 or marva.mcknight@specialdevents.com. We will make arrangements to ensure you receive meals, medication and other needs, and support you in traveling home.

CONVENING PARTICIPANTS



Ucha Abbah is passionate about how marginalized communities build social and economic power to access healthy environments, access healthy food, and prepare for the impacts of climate change. They were born and raised in Dallas, Texas, and earned a bachelor's degree in human rights and environmental studies at Southern Methodist University. They received their master's degree in urban and environmental planning from the University of Virginia.



Ricky Ackerman has been working at Eastside Community Network since February 2018 and currently serves as the Chief Sustainability Officer. While at ECN, Ricky has worked to engage residents around green stormwater infrastructure, air quality issues, resilience hubs, and other climate change-related topics. Prior to starting at ECN, he received his master's degree in environmental policy from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment. He received his bachelor's degree in government and philosophy from Centre College in Kentucky. He began his career as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ecuador where he spent three years working on a range of sustainability projects.



Frances Acuna has lived in Southeast Austin for 23 years and has been an active community advocate since 2010. In 2012, Frances got involved with GAVA as a community leader and is a Texas State Certified Community Health Worker. She worked with fellow community members serving as first responders during the October 2013 and 2015 floods in Dove Springs. Frances joined GAVA as a Community Organizer in 2017, where she has worked to increase access to healthy food and physical activity. Since then, her work has been focused on health and permanency, building community power for flood mitigation and the right to stay in neighborhoods where residents are most impacted by natural disasters and social disparities.



Zelalem Adefris is the Deputy CEO of Catalyst Miami, where she oversees the implementation of the organization's critical programs, policy agenda, and strategic plan. Zelalem joined Catalyst Miami in 2016, first directing the organization's climate justice work. She holds a Master of Public Health degree in global environmental health from Emory University and a bachelor's degree in community health from Brown University. In addition to her role at Catalyst Miami, Zelalem serves as a co-chair of the Miami Climate Alliance and as a philanthropic trustee of The Solutions Project.



Calain Alexander started as the first Finance and Operations Director with OPAL in August 2022 and is a systems-streamliner, puzzle-solver and storyteller.



Dr. Mustafa Santiago Ali is the Executive Vice President of Conservation and Justice for the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), former Interim Chief of Programs at the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), Instructor at American University and is the Founder and CEO of Revitalization Strategies. He also serves as a commissioner for The American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS). Before joining NWF, Mustafa was the Senior Vice President for the Hip Hop Caucus (HHC), a national nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that connects the Hip Hop community to the civic process. Prior to joining the HHC, Mustafa worked for 22 years at the Environmental Protection Agency and 2 years on Capitol Hill working for Congressman John Conyers, chairman of the Judiciary Committee.



Martha Arguello has been part of the Los Angeles social justice community for over 45 years working as an organizer, health educator and coalition builder. She joined PSR-LA in 1999 and became Executive Director in November 2007. She is the Co-Chair of Standing Together Against Neighborhood Drilling, Chair of Californians for A Health And Green Economy, and founded the LA Leap Coalition that successfully created the office of Climate Emergency Mobilization in the City of Los Angeles. She is currently the Co-Chair of CARBs EJ advisory Committee on AB 32.



Kendra Beaver is the Climate Justice Coordinator for the Fairmount Indigo CDC Collaborative (FICC), an umbrella organization of three Boston-based community development corporations: Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation, Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation, and Southwest Boston Community Development Corporation. FICC works to bring climate justice and health equity to the environmental justice communities united by the Fairmount Rail Line via policy advocacy and community organizing. Kendra holds a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Dickinson College. Prior to joining FICC, Kendra worked in Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts for philanthropic, urban agriculture, sustainability in higher education, regional government, and watershed conservation organizations. Kendra is a proud resident of the Dorchester neighborhood in Boston and serves on the board of the St. Mark's Area Civic Association. She is also a member-owner of the Dorchester Food Co-op and a mentor in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts program.



Shamar A. Bibbins is a senior program officer with The Kresge Foundation's Environment Program, where her grantmaking supports policies and programs that help cities combat and adapt to climate change while advancing racial and economic justice. She plays a lead role managing Kresge's Climate Change, Health & Equity Initiative. Shamar joined Kresge in 2014, bringing a history of experience advancing environmental and economic justice in marginalized communities and a commitment to action on climate change. She earned a bachelor's degree in science, technology, and society from Vassar College with a concentration in environmental law and policy and received a Fulbright Fellowship to Fukushima University in Japan where she researched environmental justice implications surrounding historic mercury contamination in Japan's Minamata Bay. She serves on the Board of Community Wealth Partners; is a Philanthropic Trustee of The Solutions Project; serves on the steering committee of The Climate and Energy Funders' Group and is an advisory board member of The Rallying Cry.



Brandon Black is a proud Cincinnati and founder of Drawnversation, a visual facilitation practice featuring real-time scribing, experience engineering, and graphic design services. His work aims to glorify the stories of partners through visuals that are eye-catching, engaging and everlasting.



Kalila Booker-Cassano is the Director of Programs at the Health and Environmental Funders Network. Kalila leads the design, execution, and evaluation of HEFN's programs, and supports HEFN's outreach and communications with members and in the broader philanthropic sector. For over five years, Kalila has worked in the philanthropic space as the Program Officer at the Henry P. Kendall Foundation, overseeing their food systems grantmaking program. She has also served as a member of the Food Solutions New England Network Team and on the board of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders. Prior to her work in philanthropy, Kalila was a nutrition educator at Allergic to Salad in New York City. She graduated from Williams College with a bachelor's degree in history and German.



Natalia Brown serves as the climate justice program manager at Catalyst Miami, a power-building economic justice organization. She works to cultivate shared accountability, equitable access to clean electricity, participatory governance and health equity at the frontlines.



Erica Browne is a program officer with the Health Program at The Kresge Foundation, supporting the team's commitment to racial equity, community health ecosystems and investments that advance health equity.



Robyn N. Bussey, Just Health Director, provides leadership of the Partnership for Southern Equity's health equity portfolio. Robyn received her master's degrees in business administration and health administration from Georgia State University.



Agustin Cabrera currently serves as the Policy Director at SCOPE. They have years of experience developing strategic leadership development programs that center clean energy, equity and good jobs. Agustin leads a city-wide coalition that successfully advocates for scalable community solar programs and career path opportunities for low-income communities of color at the LADWP.



Gillian (Gill) Capper is the Program Manager at the American Public Health Association's Center for Climate, Health, and Equity. Her work focuses on implementing APHA's climate and health equity activities, as well as program development and management. She is a public health professional who supports the protection of both people and the planet. She holds a Master of Public Health degree in environmental health from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health.



Katherine Catalano is the Deputy Director of the Center for Climate, Health, and Equity at the American Public Health Association. Katherine is a communicator, strategic planner and leader with a decade of experience in climate policy, advocacy, and education across sectors and audiences with a particular focus on centering justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in every aspect of the climate movement.



Carmen Cavezza is a foreign medical graduate who has experience working to educate and engage communities around health equity. Carmen worked with epilepsy patients in Corpus Christi and along the Southern border of Texas. She relocated to Houston from California, where she worked for community health centers in risk management, patient relations and conflict management. Prior to emigrating to the U.S., she worked as a physician in community health centers in Mexico in primary and public health.



Angelica Chavez Duckworth is Greenlink's Director of Community Initiatives, centering a community-driven, data-informed orientation. She ensures that research and policy design is equitable by enabling co-creative processes with communities.



Debra Clark is a North Carolina native with a Sierra Leonean twist and a heart for serving people. She is a Metropolitan Group director working on digital strategy—reaching diverse, intercultural and global audiences with her work. Debra’s role reflects her knack for developing and implementing media and influencer strategy, social media marketing plans and digital campaigns, elements that are most often at the core of Metropolitan Group’s change agent role in the world. Her areas of expertise include: social listening, content strategy and marketing, social advertising, and community management. Debra has a master’s degree in public relations and strategic communications from Georgetown University and a bachelor’s degree in public relations from North Carolina State University.



Abbie Cohen is the Just Health Research Consultant at the Partnership for Southern Equity.



Cara Cook is a public health nurse and the Director of Programs with the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments.



Jenna Cramer brings extensive experience in green building, sustainable development, and climate solutions, including an almost 15-year tenure at Green Building Alliance (GBA) where she currently serves as the President and CEO. Jenna leads GBA’s strategic vision to positively transform the world through the built environment to create a healthy, just, and sustainable future for everyone. She guides the organization’s impactful and award-winning programs throughout the region and creates transformative partnerships across the country and world that have a meaningful impact on climate, health, equity, and economic vitality. She works collaboratively across diverse sectors and communities and prioritizes people, human health, climate, compassion, and justice in all endeavors. A Pittsburgh native, Jenna received her bachelor’s degree in environmental studies and public policy analysis at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and is a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) and Living Future-accredited professional.



Lois DeBacker is Managing Director of the Environment Program at The Kresge Foundation. The program is focused on helping cities combat and adapt to climate change while advancing racial and economic justice. 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 10 years in Michigan state government in policy development and program management capacities. Lois received a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Michigan and a Master of Public Affairs degree from Princeton University’s School of Public and International Affairs.



Shanda Demorest is a nurse by background and elevates the human health aspects of climate change to build a more equitable and sustainable health sector.



Beatrice Dewberry has been with Way Finders since 2016. She leads the Community Building & Engagement team and AmeriCorps VISTA members in Springfield and Holyoke; assists with the acquisition of grants and funds; and works with partners and neighborhood-based organizations to develop community action plans that promote wellness and neighborhood revitalization. She is a member of Baystate's Community Benefits Advisory Council, the Regional Advisory Council, and the MassUp Steering Committee. Before joining Way Finders, Beatrice served as the community engagement and marketing director for the Mason Square Health Task Force. She also worked previously as a marketing consultant for Holyoke Community College and a news reporter for The Republican, a daily newspaper based in Springfield.



Jessie B. Doody is an associate with the Ross Strategic CCHE initiative evaluation team. She is based in Bellingham, Washington.



Jeanne DuBois is an executive director from Southwest Boston CDC and a member of the Fairmount Indigo CDC collaborative in Boston. Dorchester Bay EDC and Southwest Boston CDC have become well known for their commitment to climate resiliency and the integration of climate change initiatives with community development and transit.



Enrique De La Cruz is a San Diego/Tijuana region Chicano who joined EHC's team in October 2022. Enrique grew up in the neighborhood of Logan Heights in the 80s and 90s. Like many other residents of urban neighborhoods of that era, the lack of services, and dire social and economic challenges, coupled with systemic abandonment really helped to shape Enrique's understanding of society. Enrique began to learn about social and political movements in his late teens and became involved in community, youth, and labor organizing in San Diego. Enrique cut his organizing teeth in 2000, organizing with folks across the state, against a juvenile injustice initiative called Proposition 21.



Elizabeth Frentzel has more than 25 years of program development, grants management, and research and evaluation efforts focused on performance improvement, health equity, building climate resilience and mitigating climate change.



Veronica Garibay-Gonzalez immigrated with her family from Michoacan, Mexico, at a young age. She grew up in the small farmworker city of Parlier in Fresno County. As a first-generation college student, Veronica attended the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she earned a bachelor's degree in both psychology and law and society. Upon graduation, Veronica joined the California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.'s Community Equity Initiative as the program's first Community Worker. As co-founder and co-director of Leadership Counsel, Veronica leads the team in advocating for sound policy to ensure equal access to opportunity for all Californians. Veronica earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Fresno State.



Steve Gelb is transportation team co-lead at SanDiego350, a member of the San Diego Transportation Equity Working Group and sits on the City of San Diego's Mobility Board. His SD350 team catalyzes support for the San Diego region's (SANDAG) initiative to prioritize communities of concern as it reduces automobile vehicles miles traveled and induces modeshift to transit, cycling and walking.



Kyle Geoffroy is the Online Marketing Manager for the Island Press Urban Resilience Project, which works toward a greener, fairer future through the creation and publication of original short-form writing with Kresge grantees.



Sheila Glenn began her professional career in health care administration with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, serving in various roles from membership and billing clerk, customer service representative and senior trainer, to supervisor and marketing account service representative before retiring with more than 15 years experience to work in education. Having a love for helping others, she began her pedagogical experience as a Computer Business Teacher (K-12), Social Studies (6-8), School Leader and Learning Management Systems Administrator serving K-12P populations.



Laura Gracia-Santiago is a queer Latinx from Los Angeles, CA. Currently, she is the Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Enhancement (CARE) Coordinator at Communities for a Better Environment. She brings deep organizing experience from her previous role as the Richmond Youth Organizer, where she developed CBE's Richmond Youth for Environmental Justice Program. In the past she canvassed for Planned Parenthood, tutored youth in Watsonville, CA, led a transportation at UCSC, and coordinated a social media campaign with Physicians for Social Responsibility that highlighted the health impacts caused by climate change. She has a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and art from the University of California-Santa Cruz. In 2021, Laura began her legal apprenticeship with CBE under the CA Law Office Study Program. She will be taking the First-Year Law Students Exam in 2023.



Nancy Halpern Ibrahim has been part of Esperanza Community Housing in South Central Los Angeles for 28 years, and has served as Executive Director since 2006. Joining Esperanza's staff as the founding Director of Health Programs, she developed the model community health leadership program, Promotores de Salud, which to date has graduated over 630 bilingual women and men, and developed cadres of leaders working to address issues of health access, housing habitability and environmental justice. As Director of Health Programs, she established the framework for programs at the intersection of health and housing that characterize much of Esperanza's work. Her efforts have been central to pioneering environmental health strategies and responsible land use policies in the region, and to advancing the importance of Mercado La Paloma as a local economic development venue and a cultural and culinary hub. Nancy has worked as a social justice activist in the field of women's health and development for the past 39 years. She received her Master of Public Health degree from UCLA.



Samantha Hamilton manages the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts Live Well Springfield Coalition. Through this initiative, she leads the Climate Change and Health Equity Initiative which engages policy and advocacy to create strategies that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve health outcomes for those of marginalized communities based in cities and towns directly impacted by climate change, and dismantle systemic racism. Hamilton is also a co-founder of A Queen's Narrative. A personal enrichment program for women and girls of color, A Queen's Narrative uses narrative power and storytelling as methods of harnessing self-empowerment and self-awareness. A two-time alumna from American International College, Hamilton earned her bachelor's degree in business management and a master's degree in counseling psychology from the Springfield-based institution. Samantha is the recipient of the 2021 Business West 40 under 40 Award and is a published author.



Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson is an Affrilachian (Black Appalachian) woman from the working class, born and raised in Southeast Tennessee. She is the first Black woman to serve as Co-Executive Director of the Highlander Research & Education Center in New Market, TN. As a member of multiple leadership teams in the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL), Ash-Lee has thrown down on the Vision for Black Lives and the BREATHE Act. Ash-Lee has served on the governance council of the Southern Movement Assembly, the advisory committee of the National Bailout Collective, and is an active leader of The Frontline. She is a long-time activist who has done work in movements fighting for workers, for reproductive justice, for LGBTQUIA+ folks, for environmental justice, and more.



Alejandra Hernandez is the Environment Fellow at The Kresge Foundation. She supports the Environment Program's strategy to help cities combat and adapt to climate change, while advancing racial justice. She is also a member of the foundation's Climate Change, Health & Equity (CCHE) initiative, a national partnership with health institutions, health practitioners, and community advocates advancing equitable climate action. She joined the foundation in 2021. Previously, Alejandra served as a conservation policy associate with the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, where she supported policies and programming for a more sustainable and resilient food and agriculture system. She has also held several positions with the John Bartkowski Department of Environmental Health at the Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Alejandra earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Dallas and a master's degree from the Yale School of the Environment.



Belen Hernandez is the Policy Advocate at Mid-City CAN. She grew up in San Diego and graduated from the University of California San Diego. She works on local and state campaigns to promote access to public transportation, parks, and public safety.



Esmeralda Hic works as the Collaborative Partnerships Program Coordinator at the People's Climate Innovation Center. She strives to center the vision and goals of frontline communities in the co-development of climate solutions with national partners and community based organizations. She was raised in the ancestral homelands of the Cahuilla (Qawishpa Cahuillangnah) people, located in the Coachella Valley of Southern California. Her experiences growing up in her hometown shaped her passion and care for the planet and people and continue to drive her fight for climate and economic justice. Esme graduated with a bachelor's degree in earth system science and a bachelor's degree in Chicana/Latina studies from the University of California, Irvine in 2020. Following her undergraduate career, she was a RAY Clean Energy Fellow based at the Institute for Market Transformation where she worked to shift traditional practices for energy efficiency policy development into community centered and led processes.



Cheryl Holder is the former Associate Professor and Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity and Community Initiatives at Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and extends her leadership efforts to several medical and climate change-focused organizations. She is president of Florida State Medical Association, Founder and Co-Chair of Florida Clinicians for Climate Action and Co-chair of Miami Dade Heat Health Task Force. Most recently, her TED Talk “The link between climate change, health and poverty.” garnered more than 250,000 views.



Dr. Katie Huffling is a Certified Nurse-Midwife and the Executive Director of the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE). With ANHE, Dr. Huffling works with nurses and nursing organizations on a variety of environmental health issues, such as climate change.



Toshihiko Ishihara joined the SanDiego350 in 2018 as a climate change advocate with a primary focus on reducing the GHG emissions from transportation. Toshihiko has been working on Transportation Justice along with other members of the SDTEWG for the last 4 years.



Sonal Jessel is the Director of Policy at WE ACT for Environmental Justice. She leads the New York policy team and is responsible for advancing the organization’s policy agenda at the local, state, and national levels. In addition to leading the Northern Manhattan Climate Action (NMCA) Plan, Sonal works with local, city, and state leaders to advance policy changes that improve environmental health and advances a just transition. She was also appointed to the New York State Climate Justice Working Group. Prior to joining WE ACT, she conducted research in energy insecurity, housing, and public health at Columbia University. Sonal has a Master of Public health degree in population and family health with a concentration in climate and health from Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, and a bachelor’s degree in organismal biology from Pitzer College.



Melissa Jones is the Executive Director, BARHII (the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative) and Founder of the National Racial Health Justice Center. A globally-trained administrator and social entrepreneur, Melissa leverages equity innovation to create conditions for health. In 2015, Melissa was named the executive director of BARHII. Under her leadership, BARHII has been an essential health voice to help pass groundbreaking legislation that has saved tens of thousands of lives and improved the health of communities impacted by systemic inequities--including expanded paid sick leave, statewide rent-gouging rules, pandemic-related eviction prohibitions, and climate justice programs. In her first two years at BARHII, she trained more than 1,500 California officials on Adaptive Leadership for Racial Equity. During the pandemic, she launched an equity officer in emergency response model that has been scaled by the California Department of Health across California. A local leader who takes inspiration from her global training, she has served as an Atlantic Fellow for Racial Equity, a Fulcrum Fellow with the Center for Community Investment, and a doctoral candidate with the United Nations Executive Doctorate Program in Governance at Maastricht University in the Netherlands. She brings more than 20 years of experience in city government, community development, and youth services to BARHII from roles at the Boston Local Initiative Support Corporation, the City of Oakland's Oakland Fund for Children and Youth, and the City of Alameda. Melissa also led youth power programs at an Oakland community center and managed school improvement efforts through AmeriCorps programs in the San Francisco Unified, San Jose Unified, and Oak Grove Unified school districts.



Chris Kabel is a senior fellow with the Health program at The Kresge Foundation.



Neha Kasalkar is an experienced health care professional with more than four years of experience in health care finance. She is the Operations and Finance Manager at Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance. She holds a Master of Business Administration from Roosevelt University in Chicago, IL. She also holds an advanced certification in business economics, business finance and business analysis from Harvard Business School. She is an active member of the One Health Campaign and World Health Organization promoting the importance of smart and effective policies and programs while laying the spotlight on community health workers who play an active role in the day to day lives of vulnerable populations.



Samer Khan is with the Ross Strategic team, the evaluation partner for the CCHE initiative. Samer's background is in public health and she lives in Los Angeles.



Anita Kumar holds almost a decade of work at the intersection of place and racial health equity. Prior to coming to BARHII, Anita worked at an Oakland-based community development corporation, where she oversaw their work to advance place-based health equity through multi-sector, multi-disciplinary neighborhood collaboratives.



Betsy Lawton is a deputy director at the Network for Public Health Law's Northern Region office, where she works on a variety of public health law issues, bringing a community lawyering perspective to her work on climate change, health equity, broadband access, and rural public health. Before joining the Network, Betsy spent over a decade working to improve water quality and represented a broad range of individuals and communities facing water pollution problems. Betsy received her Juris Doctorate, and a Certificate of Environmental Law from the University of Wisconsin Law School and her bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Notre Dame.



Walter Lewis is the President and CEO of Homewood Children's Village, where he oversees HCV's work and partnerships across the cradle to career pipeline. Walter currently resides in the Homewood community with his wife and their four children.



Tressa Liba, MSW, MPA, CCHW serves as Executive Director for Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance (MiCHWA). Tressa is a seasoned community health worker with more than 18 years in the community health profession having trained and supervised teams in the Pathways Community Hub Model and maintains her own CHW certification through MiCHWA. As Executive Director, she is responsible for the overall planning, implementation, administration, and management of MiCHWA's programs, services, policies, fiscal resources and supervises its staff.



Bomba Liberté was founded in 2011 by San Diego bomberxs who have been studying and practicing bomba since the early 2000s. In gratitude to ancestral knowledges and to their many teachers, Bomba Liberté works to give continued life to and learn from the many lessons offered by oldest music and dance tradition from the archipelago of Puerto Rico. Through performances and workshops, this group educates about Afro-Puerto Rican history and culture while also learning about links between culture, artistry and personal expression. Liberté is the French word for "liberty" and appears across the repertoire of traditional bomba songs reminding us of the influence of radical abolitionism from the neighboring French Antilles and of the collective struggle to be free in the face of racism and colonialism. "Bomba Liberté" refers to the way that bomba has and continues to be used as a way to liberate ourselves from historical and daily struggles. It also calls upon a shared history with other Afro-Caribeñxs and diasporic peoples, reminding us of how music and dance travel with the bodies that move across diaspora. To practice bomba in California is a daily reminder of this process.



Carmen Llanes is a second-generation community organizer from Austin raised in the environmental justice movement and proud to be organizing for health equity in her hometown. She is privileged to work with a team of community organizers focused on not only climate resilience but also food justice, early childhood and family health equity, and anti-displacement.



Jaime Love provides leadership, strategy and support to People's Climate Innovation Center programs that advance approaches to community-driven planning and movement building, while centering racial equity and whole-systems solutions. Jaime has more than 20 years of experience in a variety of spaces including public health, philanthropy, and climate resilience, with a deep focus on racial justice and health equity. Her work in the public health sector cultivated opportunities for direct community organizing and advocacy work in communities with disproportionate health impacts and enhanced her leadership in philanthropy and the nonprofit sectors around racial equity and climate justice. Her expertise ranges from program development and leadership, equity and policy advocacy, to communications and outreach.



William Lyons has served as Senior Manager of Programs, Social Determinants of Health at Legacy Community Health since January 2019. He is a LCSW and supervisor with more than a decade of experience across fields; including case management, clinical mental health services, community organizing, financial coaching, and non-profit management. In his current role at Legacy, he primarily supports the professional development of student interns as emerging healthcare professionals across disciplines. He serves on a few workgroups such as Community Voice with the Health Equity Collective, Accountable Community of Health of Greater Northside, and Coalition for Environment Equity & Resilience. In addition, he is a therapist providing services to youth individually and in a therapy group for Queer youth experiencing anxiety, depression, and gender dysphoria.



Evelyn Maldonado received a bachelor's degree in environmental science and policy with a concentration in land use from the University of Maryland. She currently works as a Program Associate for the American Public Health Association's Center for Climate, Health and Equity where she leads and supports projects focused on climate and health education.



Carolina Martinez works together with residents in low-income communities of color to advocate for climate and land use policies that respect their priorities, improve health, and are consistent with environmental justice principles. Currently, she is working on a community-led effort to transform San Diego's transit system into one that feeds the region's livelihoods, reduces air pollution, and threads communities together via the San Diego Transportation Equity Working Group and the 10 Transit Lifelines.



Nayamin Martinez is a proud Mexican immigrant who has called the Central Valley of California home for 23 years. Nayamin works to advance environmental justice and health equity in the Central Valley.



Andrealis Martinez Padilla is a passionate Climate Justice Community Organizer from Puerto Rico. Andrealis is in the process of earning a bachelor's degree in communications from Bay Path University.



Laurie Mazur is Island Press' Urban Resilience Editor. She focuses on the intersection of climate adaptation, sustainability and social justice. She works with Kresge grantees and others to co-create articles and op-eds—and to place that content in appropriate news outlets. Laurie is the author/editor of three books; her writing has appeared in The New York Times, The Nation, The Los Angeles Times, The Guardian and many other publications.



Kate McLaughlin is a communications officer at The Kresge Foundation. She provides strategic communications support to the foundation's Health and Human Services Programs. Kate joined the foundation in 2019. Previously, she served as communications director at the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York, where she led the foundation's strategic communications, public and media relations efforts. Earlier in her career, Kate managed public and media relations at SUNY Erie Community College and was editor of the Cheektowaga Bee newspaper. A native of Buffalo, New York, she earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and mass communications and a master's degree in integrated marketing communications from St. Bonaventure University.



Phyllis Meadows is a Senior Fellow with the Kresge Foundation who has the responsibility of working to inform and develop programs involving public health, community health and strategies to advance health equity.



Emmie Mediate supports the health care sector in tackling climate mitigation and resilience while advancing equitable, climate-smart policy. Emmie has a background in public health and worked previously at the CDC Foundation, Planned Parenthood, and the American Flood Coalition. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and master's degrees from the University of Oxford, where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar.



Vernice Miller-Travis has been deeply engaged in building the field of environmental justice since 1987. Vernice is the co-founder of WEACTION for Environmental Justice and also a delegate and a member of the drafting committee of the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit that wrote the Principles of Environmental Justice. Her policy advocacy has focused on the nexus of racial and residential discrimination, land use and zoning and environmental injustice.



Mark Mitchell M.D., MPH is Associate Professor of Climate Change, Energy, & Environmental Health Equity at George Mason University, where he is Founder and Director of the Climate and Health Equity Fellowship, a leadership development program for physicians of color to help diversify the climate and health movement to advance equitable climate solutions. He also co-chairs the National Medical Association's Commission on Environmental Health, and co-chairs the Governor's Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council.



John Moon is Senior Vice President Sustainability Philanthropy Leader at Wells Fargo where he leads grant-making to scale sustainable finance toward an equitable climate transition. He has extensive public and private sector experience, focused on the intersection of racial equity, investments, climate, and health including work at the Federal Reserve, Living Cities, Municipal Government, and Fleetbank. A core focus has been how the built environment/communities are key levers to produce transformative change that improves economic mobility, resilience, and reduced inequality.



Meli Morales joined Environmental Health Coalition in 2022 with 10 years of experience in grassroots organizing, electoral work and community-based policy at the intersections of racial equity, disability advocacy and land justice.



Dominique Navarro currently serves as the Operations Director for the Environmental Health Coalition. As a member of the Leadership Team, Dominique oversees strategic planning, organizational operations, personnel management, coalition development, fundraising, and community partnerships.



Claudia Navarro is the Co-Executive Director at WeCount!, a South Dade-based worker's center. In her role, she's been working to uplift the working conditions of domestic workers, day laborers, and agriculture workers in South Florida. Her work has included developing leaders, engaging in policy advocacy, and expanding immigrant workers' rights via local partnerships. She has worked primarily on issues around extreme heat, wage theft, labor trafficking, and sexual harassment and abuse. She graduated from Florida International University with a bachelor's degree in women and gender studies in 2018 and a second bachelor's degree in economics in 2021.



Tú-Uyên Nguyen has lived in Austin for 13 years after earning a bachelor's degree in classics, Latin, and Asian American Studies, followed by a master's degree in Asian Studies with a concentration in South Asia.



Keara O'Laughlin is a native San Diegan committed to creating positive change locally through equitable policy. Keara earned her Master of Public Policy from the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and holds a bachelor's degree in public health from UC Berkeley. Before joining CPI, she consulted for the Hope Street Margolis Family Center in Downtown LA, where she conducted a community needs assessment and program evaluation to provide recommendations on how to best meet the needs of low-income families in the community. At CPI, she supports campaign and research work on local budgeting, land use, transportation, environmental justice, worker rights, and housing policy issues.



Na'Taki Osborne Jelks is an Assistant Professor of Environmental & Health Sciences at Spelman College. She is also the manager for Community and Leadership Development Programs for the National Wildlife Federation and chair of the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, an organization committed to ensuring environmental justice in southwest and northwest Atlanta's African-American neighborhoods. An environmental engineer by training, Na'Taki is committed to being a social change engineer. In addition to her role at NWF, Na'Taki is a Senior Fellow with the Environmental Leadership Program, and is co-founder of the Center for Environmental Public Awareness, a public interest, nonprofit consulting organization that develops environmental education and leadership development training for community groups working to achieve environmental justice nationwide as well as diversity training and coaching for environmental non-profit organizations. Na'Taki is an alumna of Spelman College, and studied civil and environmental engineering at Georgia Tech through a dual-degree program. She earned her master's of public health in environmental and occupational health from Emory University.



Lisa Patel is a pediatrician at Stanford and the Executive Director for the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health. She is also an environmental scientist and previously worked at the Environmental Protection Agency.



Alison Perencevich is a Program Director at Grantmakers In Health, responsible for behavioral health, environmental health, climate, and health equity programs. Prior to joining GIH, Alison was a Legislative Assistant with the American Academy of Pediatrics Department of Federal Affairs, where she coordinated federal policy strategies on a range of child and adolescent health issues. Previously she was a Program Coordinator at the Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health at the University of California, San Francisco. Alison holds a bachelor's degree in neuroscience from Middlebury College and a Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.



Rusty Polsgrove works full time as an environmental justice advocate in Springfield, MA while finishing an undergraduate degree in engineering and art.



Amy Powers has over 12 years of experience in supervising and managing staff and teams, working across large nonprofits and smaller community based organizations. She brings leadership experience in the areas of public policy and advocacy, food justice, community and civic engagement, and school-based and youth programming. Amy is experienced in implementing policies and practices that build effective teams, improve organizational culture, and promote greater equity and inclusion of community members' perspectives. As a leader, Amy brings her whole self, including her lived experience, culture, heart, and passion to build and cultivate programs with love, trust, and care. She is committed to shared leadership and fostering a workplace culture of direct communication, support, and accountability.



Jesse Ramirez is currently the Community Engagement Manager for the Transportation & Planning Program at City Heights CDC. He works together with residents to create and advocate to reverse decades of environmental racism in the community of City Heights.



Rip Rapson has served as president and CEO of The Kresge Foundation since 2006, transforming it from a foundation that funded building projects to one that seeks to build and strengthen pathways to opportunity for people with low incomes living in America's cities, including in its hometown of Detroit. He previously served as president of the McKnight Foundation in Minneapolis, where he led early childhood development efforts, created a regional public-private-philanthropic economic development organization, and enhanced environmental protections along the Mississippi River. He earlier served as the deputy mayor of Minneapolis, with responsibility for designing a \$400 million neighborhood revitalization program, revamping the municipal budgeting process and elevating the city's commitment to children and families.



Lovinia Reynolds is a Black environmentalist passionate about a just transition to renewable energy who has dedicated her studies and career to understanding how energy and environmental policy can work to undo the systematic oppression of marginalized communities. At UPROSE she works on issues related to energy. Prior to working at UPROSE, she worked with BlueHub Capital, the Environmental Law Institute, and DC Ward 6 Mutual Aid. She is continually learning and holds a bachelor's and master's degree in environmental management with a focus on energy.



Felicia Richard has advocated for affordable home ownership in communities of color in the state of Massachusetts for more than 20 years.



Meghan Richards is a Community Resilience Manager with Eastside Community Network's Climate Equity team.



Raymond Robinson has worked with child-serving organizations for nearly 25 years. He is a driven, passionate, social justice advocate currently serving as Director of Partnerships and Community Engagement at the Homewood Children's Village.



Isabel Sanchez joined Coalition of Communities of Color in 2022 as the Climate and Health Coordinator, where they support the work of CCC's environmental justice program by building CCC's role in addressing the health impacts of climate change.



Jonathan Santos is a Just Health Research Consultant at the Partnership for Southern Equity.



Rob Sassor is driven to help inspire intersectional solutions. Rob focuses on serving health, public health and social justice groups in finding their authentic path for advancing climate solutions. This includes work with philanthropies like The Kresge Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and JPB Foundation; networks like the American Public Health Association; health institutions like Stanford Healthcare; and NGOs like Interfaith Power & Light. Rob is based in Washington, D.C.



Paul Schramm is the Climate Science Team Lead at CDC. He works with communities on the health impacts of climate change.



Radiah Shabazz is the Director of Communications at People's Climate Innovation Center. She brings nearly a decade of experience in nonprofit strategic communications, anti-oppressive practice, racial justice, and organizational change. Radiah has uniquely bridged her strategic communications expertise and anti-oppressive social work training to implement and advise on communications strategies that broaden the generation and dissemination of content that elevates the intersection of racial justice with climate change, education, health, and affordable housing. She is passionate about using radical and transformative communications strategies to advance racial equity and justice, and cultivate Black liberation. Her previous experience includes work at Grounded Solutions Network, the Institute for Sustainable Communities, Start Early, On Earth Peace and the National Housing Conference. Radiah has also supported Social Justice Fund NW as a communications consultant, providing strategic oversight, infrastructure and messaging support. Based in Chicago, Radiah holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Howard University and a master's degree in social work from the University of Chicago.



Caleb Smith is a Cecil Corbin-Mark Fellow at WE ACT for Environmental Justice, working with its New York Policy team. They are a recent graduate from Columbia University's Master of Public Administration in Environmental Science and Policy program. Previously Caleb served as a Special Assistant to the Mayor in Oakland, where they worked to address illegal dumping and helped implement community-led projects to serve local environmental justice communities funded by the Transformative Climate Communities planning and implementation grants.



Erin Stanley is the Director of Climate Equity at Eastside Community Network. In addition to this role, Erin is also a doctoral candidate in social work and anthropology studying how systemic dispossession impacts our relationships to place and how we go about repairing those relationships.



Makani Themba is an author, organizer, and strategist around change communications, community centered policy development, and organizing to build power.



Stefania Tomaskovic, Ph.D., serves as Coalition Director for the Coalition for Environment, Equity, and Resilience. She believes that a strong, resilient Texas is possible: one where every person can access safe, affordable housing, where every neighborhood has healthy air, water, and soil, and where our economy is strengthened by meaningful work opportunities that support healthy livelihoods without doing harm to each other or the environment.



Randy Torres-Van Vleck is a San Diego-based leader with 15 years of experience in the fields of urban planning, public policy, multi-modal transportation, outdoor adventures, social equity, organizing and advocacy, and environmental justice. He works as the Director of Policy & Planning at City Heights Community Development Corporation. He collaborates with City Heights residents to envision the community they want to live in, works to have that vision represented in plans and policies, builds collective power with historically excluded communities, and then utilizes organizing and advocacy to implement those plans and policies. Randy has played a leadership role in securing \$300+ million in sustainable infrastructure and initiatives such as the SR-15 Commuter Bikeway, the Centerline Rapid 235, and Youth Opportunity Transit Passes. Randy co-founded Los Cruzadores Transborder Bike Rides from San Diego to Tijuana, he advised the “Save Skateworld” campaign which preserved San Diego county’s last remaining roller rink, and he was recently appointed to the new Interagency Equity Advisory Committee to inform the work of three State of California transportation agencies – Caltrans, California Transportation Commission, and CalSTA. Randy graduated from UC San Diego with a bachelor’s degree in sociology. In 2020, he earned a Master of Public Affairs degree from UC Berkeley’s Goldman School of Public Policy. He is currently pursuing a Kumeyaay Studies Certificate from Kumeyaay Community College.



Monica Valdes Lupi, JD, MPH, is the Managing Director for the Health Program. With more than 20 years of experience in public health, Monica leads efforts to build equity-focused systems of health that create opportunities for all people to achieve well-being. She collaborates with other Kresge teams on efforts to lead with equity and racial justice as they partner with communities to ensure access to safe and affordable housing, equitable food systems, safe communities, and economic opportunities. Previously, Monica led the Boston Public Health Commission, the local health department for the City of Boston and served as the Deputy Commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. She also worked at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) as the first Chief Program Officer for Health Systems Transformation at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO).



Petra Vallila-Buchman has 15 years of experience in public health providing facilitation, strategy, and evaluation support to diverse government and non-government entities. Petra’s first job in public health as a community health educator in New York City sparked her passion for understanding and changing systems to advance equity.



Corrine Van Hook Turner leads the overall vision and strategy for the People’s Climate Innovation Center and its programs, bringing a lens of racial equity and transformative movement building. Corrine convenes and cultivates creative leadership within climate justice and deep democracy ecosystems toward a shared vision for a Just Transition to a world of interdependence, resilience, and regeneration. Corrine’s more than 20 years of experience are deeply immersed in movements advancing social, economic, environmental and racial justice. As a former IDEAL Scholar (Initiative for Diversity in Education and Leadership), she witnessed and continues to nurture the compelling impact of investing in youth and disenfranchised communities of color so that leadership reflects the diversity it seeks to serve. Since then she has continued to develop her leadership working with the Rockwood Leadership Institute, Greater New Beginnings Youth Services, Oakland Climate Action Coalition, and contracting with various organizations. Corrine was the former Co-Director of Rooted in Resilience (formerly Bay Localize), a grassroots organization working to catalyze a movement for more equitable, resilient communities. She currently serves on the steering committee of the California Trade Justice Coalition (CTJC) and board of New Buildings Institute (NBI). She holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley.



Kieshaun White is a youth environmental justice advocate from Fresno, California.



Dr. Kimberly Williams is a program manager with the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health with support and administrative management for one of the first climate and health equity fellowship programs for physicians of color in the country. Kimberly enjoys alliance-building with and education of physicians, physician associations, health care professionals, hospital system leadership, community and business leaders, policy makers and industry partners, to reach common goals. Kimberly collaborates with for-profit and non-profit organizations to identify opportunities that amplify the importance of social and environmental justice, increase diversity in health care professions, and support health equity. Kimberly also works for the National Medical Association’s southeast region.



Sacoby Wilson is an environmental health scientist and environmental justice researcher, scholar, and advocate. He directs the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health (CEEJH) and his mission is to use INpowerment science and liberation science to help communities impacted by environmental, climate and energy injustices.



Chikako Yamauchi is a Strategic Learning and Evaluation Officer at The Kresge Foundation, where she helps connect learning with action to enliven the Foundation's values. She synthesizes insights within and outside the foundation, guides third-party equitable evaluations, and provides thought partnership to program and practice teams developing and refining strategies. Before joining Kresge, Chikako led a team designing and facilitating a learning consortium that brought together funders, public agencies, and nonprofit leaders to better support community capacity strengthening across Los Angeles County. Chikako previously served as Research and Evaluation Manager on a team that co-designed and co-facilitated community innovation labs in multiple U.S. cities. Her background also includes a career in the arts and an academic path through qualitative research to a terminal degree.



Emi Yoko-Young is committed to fighting for our collective liberation through multiracial solidarity, a regenerative economy, and organizing for the abolition of harmful institutions and a future of self-determination. Through her role as the Manager of Policy and Advocacy at Race Forward, Emi facilitates and supports grassroots collectives in centering racial justice in their organizing work and creating a community-centered policy process. This primarily involves nerding out over creating project management systems that are values-aligned and that leverage power for equitable decision-making. Emi holds a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Washington in the Community-Oriented Public Health Practice program.



Deyanira Zavala is a leader in bringing equity-focused investments to communities across the nation and has been a catalyst for economic mobility particularly within Latino and immigrant communities. In 2023, Deyanira was named Managing Director for Equitable Recovery for the National Equitable Recovery Alliance at BARHII. Her work has focused on leadership development, access to capital, equitable development and community power building. Deyanira's leadership journey includes serving as a voice for equity through her work with Mile High Connects, a coalition building a resilient Denver metro region. She forged partnerships between the public and private sector and community residents to bring equitable policy and programs to life as an advocate for tenant protections, developing affordable mobility options, and advocating for equitable city planning policies.



Megan Zeigler is Vice President of Relationships and Development for the Green Building Alliance. Megan focuses on sustainable community development and regional clean energy solutions. Megan has worked in academia, local government, and non-profit sectors in her career as well as being a small business owner. This cross section of experience enables her to see the integral collaboration needed to create and implement impactful policy change. Megan holds a master's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Georgia and a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Warren Wilson College.

CCHE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson

Co-Executive Director
Highlander Research and Education Center

Dr. Cheryl Holder

President, Florida State Medical Association, Founder and Co-Chair of Florida Clinicians for Climate Action and Co-chair of Miami Dade Heat Health Task Force

Carolina Martinez

Climate Justice Director
Environmental Health Coalition

Elizabeth (Beth) Sawin, Ph.D.

Founder and Director
Multisolving Institute

Paul Schramm, MS, MPH

Health Scientist
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Paul Tarini

Senior Program Officer
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Sacoby Wilson, Ph.D., MS

Associate Professor & Director, Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health
Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health, University of Maryland School of Public Health

CCHE INITIATIVE TEAM

The Kresge Foundation Team

Shamar Bibbins

Senior Program Officer, Environment Program

Erica Browne

Program Officer, Health Program

Lois R. DeBacker

Managing Director Environment Program

Monica Valdes Lupi

Managing Director, Health Program

Alejandra M. Hernandez

Environment Fellow

Chris M. Kabel

Senior Fellow, Health Program

Phyllis D. Meadows

Senior Fellow, Detroit Program

Kate McLaughlin

Communications Officer

Chikako Yamauchi

Strategic Learning and Evaluation Officer

People's Climate Innovation Center Team

Esme Hic

Collaborative Partnerships Coordinator

Jaime Love

Director of Programs

Radiyah Shabazz

Director of Communications

Nyasha Sprow

Digital Communications Assistant

Corrine Van Hook Turner

Director

Ross Strategic Team

Petra Vallila-Buchman

Evaluation Consultant

Jessie Doody

Associate

Samer Khan

Associate

Jennifer Major

Evaluation Consultant

Metropolitan Group Team

Debra Clark

Director

Vernice Miller-Travis

Executive Vice President

Surili Patel

Vice President

Rob Sassor

Vice President

EXPERIENCE SAN DIEGO

Courtesy of The San Diego Tourism Authority

[San Diego's Year-Round Whale-Watching](#)

Experience the magic of migrating whales year-round! There are tons of ways to enjoy these magnificent creatures off the coast of San Diego.

[LaJolla Cove](#)

Visit La Jolla Cove. Ranked No. 9 in Tripadvisor's Best Beaches Awards for 2022.

[San Diego's Embarcadero](#)

Stroll along San Diego's Embarcadero for hours of free entertainment, shopping and more. And don't miss the numerous public artworks — including the towering and playful "Embracing Peace," which sits just south of the massive USS Midway Museum. It's all part of The Wonderfront, San Diego's "largest attraction," with 27 miles of bayside parks, marinas, shops, restaurants, promenades and bikeways.

[Gaslamp Quarter](#)

As one of San Diego's premier shopping, dining, and nightlife destinations, the Gaslamp Quarter is home to the region's most diverse restaurants, retailers, and entertainment venues. With more than 100 restaurants and entertainment venues, and more than 80 boutiques, spas and salons, fine art galleries, and artisan shops.

[San Diego Piers](#)

The San Diego Piers comprise 70 miles of spectacular coastline and beaches. Experience fishing, walking, seeing the sites, and catching spectacular sunsets.

[Chicano Park](#)

Check out the 80+ murals of Chicano Park, a National Landmark and home to the largest collection of outdoor Chicano murals.



POC OWNED/OPERATED EATERIES

Black-owned Restaurants:

[Rhythm's Chicken & Waffles - Website & Instagram](#)

Address: 1136 Garnet Ave, San Diego, CA, 92109

Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Fri and Sat: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sun: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

San Diego's first chicken and waffles spot, opened in 2018. Black-owned beachside, popular brunch spot, only 4 blocks from Pacific Beach.

[Louisiana Purchase - Website & Instagram](#)

Address: 2305 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92104

Hours: Mon and Tues: Closed, Wed-Thurs: 3 - 9 p.m., Fri: 3 p.m. - 12 a.m., LP Supper Club from 9 p.m. - 12 a.m. with limited food menu, cocktails, and bottle service. Sat: 2 - 10 p.m., Sun: 12 - 8 p.m.

“Conveniently set on Louisiana Street in North Park, our design of this intimate cocktail restaurant was inspired by the charm and character of New Orleans, with creative touches of personal effects giving guests the feeling of warmth, community and fun...Chef Quinton Austin relocated to SD from NOLA for the opening of this restaurant, bringing with him an exciting wealth of knowledge and experience in the culinary melting pot that defines southern cuisine. Amongst his noteworthy creations thus far are his savory Alligator Andouille Cheesecake. The restaurant also yields a must-visit cocktail bar encompassing all the flair of New Orleans, while avoiding the sugary hurricanes and hand grenades found on Bourbon Street. Instead, we focus on quality and craftsmanship, with modern plays on classics like our house Voo Doo Carre and Praline Old Fashion, in addition to a rotating cocktail menu and seasonal potions.”

[Bowlegged BBQ - Website & Instagram](#)

Address: 4255 Market St, San Diego, CA 92102

Hours: Wed-Sun: 11 a.m. - Sell out

Black, family-owned business run by three siblings, a sister - the head cook, a business, behind the scenes brother and the namesake, Bowlegged. Warm energy, delicious food and good reviews.

Felix's BBQ with Soul - [Website](#) & [Instagram](#)

Address: 3613 Ocean Ranch, Oceanside, CA

Hours: Mon-Thurs: 11 a.m - 9 p.m., Fri-Sat: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sun: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. (potentially updated new hours to be closed Sat/Sun)

Black-owned, "Owner Felix Berry, originally from Alabama, serves up sweet potato Belgian waffles, chicken fried steak, and apple-cinnamon pancakes for breakfast, along with a whole host of classic barbeque favorites on the lunch/dinner menu. "Barbeque is what we do. Soul food is who we are, is the motto that Felix claims, and you will see him in the restaurant more often than not chatting with his customers and making sure the southern hospitality is as sweet as their sweet tea!"

Streetcar Merchants - [Website](#) & [Instagram](#)

Address: 4002 30th Street, San Diego, CA, 92104

Hours: Closed Tues. Mon, Wed and Thurs: 4 - 10 p.m., Fri and Sat: 4 - 11 p.m., Sun: 12 - 9 p.m.

Black family-owned & operated out of North Park, EST in 2013, "StreetCar Merchants of Fried Chicken, Waffles & Beer (PAYE) is a counter service restaurant serving an all-day menu of brunch, lunch, and supper. We specialize in cuisine from the Southern United States. You will find classic southern dishes and Louisiana favorites." Trendy looking, with beer & cocktails!

Breakfast B*tch - [Website](#) & [Instagram](#)

Address: 3825 Fifth Ave, San Diego, CA 92103

Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Fri: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sat and Sun: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Established by Owner Derrell Hustona in Hillcrest, and operated by San Diego's baddest b*tches. Breakfast B*tch's menu is full of light, yummy bites, and the restaurant's energy is positive, fun, and modern vibes. Company also.. "offer[s] significant discounts to minority franchisees, providing multiple revenue streams throughout our business."

Rock Steady Jamaican Restaurant - [Website](#) & [Instagram](#)

Address: 2820 Market St, San Diego, CA 92102

Hours: Mon-Thurs and Sat: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Fri: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sun: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

"At Rock Steady Jamaican Restaurant they serve all of our island favorites like Curried Chicken, Jamaican Patties, Jerk Wings, Soup, and even a fusion Jamaican Southern Fried Chicken, and you can even order online for carryout."

Latinx-owned Restaurants:

[Mystic Mocha - Website & Instagram](#)

Address: 2105 Mission Ave. San Diego, CA 92116

Hours: Breakfast/Brunch served: Thurs-Tues Happy Hour: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., Thurs-Mon: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Wed.

Latinx owned, Located in University Heights, Mystic Mocha is an urban oasis cultivating health and community through whole foods, peaceful atmosphere and friendly service. Working toward total organic certification in CA!

[Azucar - Website & Instagram](#)

Address: 4820 Newport Ave, San Diego, CA 92107

Hours: Mon-Fri: 7 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat and Sun: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The concept is simple: half traditional Cuban, half French patisserie, all good San Diego vibes. Opened by owner and head pastry chef Vivian Hernandez-Jackson, the daughter of two Cuban immigrants, Azúcar is a collection of family and classic Cubano recipes.

[Barrio Dogg - Website & Instagram](#)

Address: 334 Logan Ave., San Diego, CA 92113

Hours: Mon-Sun: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Owned by Latinx Chef, born in Tijuana, Mexico, “Just a few blocks past the colorful murals of Chicano Park, in the heart of San Diego’s Barrio Logan neighborhood, Barrio Dogg is the place where lowrider culture, street art, and gourmet hot dogs come together to create a one-of-a-kind dining experience. It’s a delicious twist on the Tijuana-style hot dog – bacon-wrapped bundles of joy sold on street carts throughout Baja California.”

[Puesto - Website & Instagram](#)

Address: 789 West Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101 (619) 233-8880 & 5010 Mission Center Road, San Diego, CA 92108 (619) 333-2167

Hours: Sun-Thurs: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., Fri and Sat: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

“Puesto is family-owned and operated by first generation Mexican American brothers Eric, Alan and Alex Adler, alongside their cousins Isidoro and Moy Lombrozo and founding chef and partner Luisteen Gonzalez. Puesto provides an innovative and contemporary approach to authentic Mexican cuisine. Sourcing its ingredients locally and regionally, the restaurant has earned national acclaim for its Mexico City-inspired tacos. Puesto has been featured by media outlets nationally and internationally, some of which include National Geographic, Huffington Post, Refinery 29, MSN, Insider, Zagat, Eater, Food and Wine, LA Times and the Michelin Guide.”

¡SALUD! - [Website](#) & [Instagram](#)

Address: 2196 Logan Ave, San Diego, Ca, 92113

Hours: Mon: Closed, Tues-Fri: 11 a.m. - 8 pm., Sat: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sun: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Chicano owned, ¡SALUD! is pure Southern California from the tattoo inspired murals to the pinstripe car hoods on the walls. The restaurant's menu pays homage to the street food of Northern Mexico and has traditional roots but with its own Chicano flare. The tacos of ¡SALUD! have been featured on the Travel Channel, Washington Post, The New York Times & LA Times!

Empanada Kitchen - [Website](#) & [Instagram](#)

Address: Downtown - 819 C St., San Diego, and North Park 2855 El Cajon Blvd. Sute 3, San Diego, CA.

Hours: Downtown: Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sat: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sun: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.; North Park: Mon-Wed: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Thurs-Sat: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sun: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Happily Baked | Handmade, Argentine-style Empanadas, with Vegan options

Asian-owned, Pacific Islander & Native Hawaiian owned Restaurants:

Lotus Garden - [Website](#)

Address: 4007 Euclid Ave, San Diego, CA 92105

Hours: Mon: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m., Tues: Closed, Wed-Sun: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Located in a traditional neighborhood in City Heights, this restaurant in City serves Chinese and Vietnamese dishes, asian owned and operated.

Azuki Sushi - [Website](#) & [Instagram](#)

Address: 2321 5th Ave, San Diego, CA 92101

Hours: Mon-Thurs: 5 - 10 p.m., Fri-Sun: 4 - 10 p.m. – Reservations recommended

“We have been providing a modern approach to the rich traditions of Japanese cooking for over 10 years. We pride ourselves in our charming and boutique setting. We offer a warm and inviting atmosphere for those wishing to indulge in our culinary delights...As in Japan, the menu is based on the seasons, savoring the peak flavor of the ingredients. Our outstanding chefs deliver the fundamentals of Japanese cuisine, respecting the individual ingredients' natural flavors...” Geared toward sustainable sourcing for all fish and ingredients

[Cloak & Petal - Website & Instagram](#)

Address: 1953 India Street San Diego, CA,

Hours: Mon-Thurs: 4 - 10 p.m., Fri: 4 - 11:30 p.m., Sat: 2 - 11:30 p.m., Sun: 2 - 10 p.m.

Japanese owned and minority operated, trendy underground bar, with gorgeous specialty cocktails and fresh sushi options. “Feast on authentic Japanese sushi, appetizers, small plates and drinks with family and friends in spaces we’ve thoughtfully created.”

[Leilani - Website & Instagram](#)

Address: 5109 Cass Street, San Diego, CA 92109

Hours: Breakfast and Lunch everyday 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Pacific Islander owned, “Leilani’s café was created in 2002 by Leilani and her family. When we first started we were just a simple coffee shop with coffee, bagels and pastries. Now we have 50+ outdoor patio seats and 10 indoor seats and 35 different menu options.” Beautiful space with island vibes, tons of outdoor seating, traditional Hawaiian & Pacific Islander dishes. “Spreading Aloha, one plate at a time.”

[Chris Ono Grinds - Website & Instagram](#)

Address: 4506 30th Street San Diego, CA 92116

Hours: Mon-Tues: Closed, Wed-Sun: 11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Pacific islander owned: “I’m Chris. I was born in Hilo but spent most of my youth on Oahu and Kaua’i. After moving to the mainland I eventually started selling kalua pork and huli huli chicken with my now wife, Alexis, at local farmer’s markets. Shortly after, catering requests started coming in and we realized it was time to open a restaurant; which we did in 2011.” Offering coffee and traditional pupus, island dishes, dine in or take out.

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The Kresge Foundation
The Kimpton Alma San Diego
Special D Events - Event Coordination
Simply Images Photography
Bali Hai Restaurant
Drawnversation - Graphic Recording
Bomba Liberte - Entertainment
Metropolitan Shuttle - Transportation
Environmental Health Coalition team - Program Planning
Julie Corrales - Spoken Word Artist

Learning Tour Speakers:

Esperanza Gonzalez	Elly Brown
Randy Torres-Van Vleck	Sona Desai
Tuere Fa'aola	Ellee Igoe
Briseyda Cisneros	Alejandro Amador
Belen Hernandez-Garcia	Meagan Openshaw
Carolina Martinez	Paulina Olvera Cáñez
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