RISING IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

“THEY TRIED TO BURY US, BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW WE WERE SEEDS”

Partnership for Resilient Communities Virtual Convening
April 28-29, 2021

#RESILIENCE4ALL
Rising in the Face of Adversity: They Tried to Bury Us, but They Didn’t Know We Were Seeds, a Partnership for Resilient Communities convening was made possible with support from The JPB Foundation.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Since 1991, the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) has led more than 121 transformative community-driven sustainability projects in 31 countries including the United States, China, India, and Bangladesh. ISC helps unleash the existing power of local people and institutions to address immediate social, economic, and environmental challenges and opportunities – all while building those on-the-ground solutions into national and international best practices and policy. At the heart of the organization’s approach is results-focused, authentic, and pragmatic engagement with all stakeholders, which uneartns locally-driven and equitable solutions to the biggest challenge we face – global climate change. Learn more at sustain.org
INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Institute for Sustainable Communities’ (ISC) Partnership for Resilient Communities 2021 Virtual Convening, *Rising in the Face of Adversity: They Tried to Bury Us, but They Didn't Know We Were Seeds.* This convening represents our commitment to connecting leaders of color in the climate space, engaging them with one another and other thought leaders, and watching the strategies and renewed outlooks that pour forth. The more we learn from one another, the more we can share ideas, capacity-building strategies, and community engagement strategies that hold impactful outcomes for communities of color nationwide.

This year's convening is a peer-learning space for PRC partners to share successes, build capacity to elevate climate-resilient programs, and learn about emerging climate equity issues. While this year's convening is virtual, the space will be elevating, activating, and inspiring — true to PRC. We look forward to the powerful conversations that are bound to occur when so many leaders of color share a room and create space for community, dialogue, and innovation.

ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The Partnership for Resilient Communities (PRC) brings together leaders of color from community-based organizations around the country who are prioritizing climate resilience and creating equitable climate solutions. The goal of PRC is to amplify and support leaders of color who are prioritizing urban climate resilience by driving truly equitable solutions that center the needs of communities of color. PRC is here to support partners as they build their communities’ influence, advance policy approaches, deliver community education, foster community engagement, and bring clean energy and green infrastructure to their communities. Climate resilience and racial equity are inextricably linked. Time and again we’ve seen communities of color bear the burden of loss during extreme weather events. Communities of color are the slowest to recover following these disasters—if they ever recover at all—as they simultaneously reckon with everyday life.

The only way to achieve true resilience and ensure communities of color rendered most vulnerable to climate change are proactively prepared is to ensure that communities possess the tools and capacity to address their needs. To do this, we must amplify the work and experiences of those who are closest to the problems—leaders of color who are doing work on the ground—to ensure that they are included in the decision-making processes that foster solutions. Through the PRC, we are supporting these efforts by ensuring leaders of color are equipped with the resources and capacity needs they require to be successful, pushing for more leaders of color in the field of climate resilience and building a national network of Climate Leaders of Color who can collaborate and share experiences as they uplift, protect and build up their individual communities.
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CREATING A COMMUNITY-BASED CLIMATE RESILIENCE MOVEMENT

PRC PARTNERS IN ACTION
Asian Pacific Environmental Network’s (APEN) mission is to ensure all people have a right to a clean and healthy environment in which their communities can live, work, learn, play, and thrive. Towards this vision, APEN brings together a collective voice to develop an alternative agenda for environmental, social, and economic justice. APEN holds this vision of environmental justice for all people. Its work focuses on Asian immigrant and refugee communities.

Last year, as wildfires and blackouts swept across California, young people spearheaded mass mobilizations for climate justice. In places like Richmond, CA, young people of color have a long history of organizing to stop big oil companies, like Chevron, from poisoning our air so that families can thrive. Pollution from dirty oil and gas doesn’t just impact our neighborhoods, it threatens every neighborhood by destabilizing our climate and intensifying extreme weather like droughts, floods, hurricanes, and typhoons. It exacerbates the injustices that already exist because the communities with the fewest resources to prepare for and recover from these disasters are the first and worst hit.

RYSE Commons
To advance a just transition, APEN and RYSE are supporting the creation of this youth-led resilience hub that will develop local community power and leadership for a just transition, serve as a focal point for community-building, social connection, and services, promote renewable energy and sustainability, and power our neighborhoods during times of disasters. RYSE Commons is a 45,000 square foot campus currently under development that will create space for the type of healing, performance, personal development, play, art, innovation, and development of micro-enterprises that young people want and need for their health and well-being in the community.

APEN is working with Richmond youth to lead a transition away from an extractive economy based on profit and pollution and toward local, healthy, and life-sustaining economies that benefit everyone. Many of our community allies and members do not have ownership of land or buildings that could host solar or are unable to afford solar when they do have a site. This collaboration represents a major opportunity to build a model representing our vision of just transition and the shift to a regenerative, thriving future.
California Indian Museum and Cultural Center (CIMCC) is organizing Native people in Santa Rosa to establish community-articulated climate resilience priorities, and advocating for these priorities to be included in the updated Santa Rosa Climate Action Plan. CIMCC is also working to expand its climate emergency management plans by installing solar panels and battery storage on the property to transform it into an emergency resilience hub, and increasing residents’ emergency preparedness and access to resources during and after climate events.

Driven by improving infrastructure and resources for tribal communities, CIMCC works in its ancestral territory to ensure that it stewards native homelands and cares for cultural resources. CIMCC addresses the need to mitigate climate change and its impact on the indigenous community and cultural resources. Wildfires have taken a physical and mental toll on the indigenous community members. They know that cultural education is a means of restoring physical and mental health but it can not be achieved without cultural resources and care for native land. CIMCC’s hope is that indigenous people regain control and meaningful partnership in the care and health of tribal homelands.

**Why is it critical that people of color lead and/or engage in climate resilience-building efforts?**

People of color understand the past and the impact that colonization has on people and the environment. We have historically been disenfranchised. Despite these experiences, cultural values drive them to continue to fight for families and communities. They understand that the environment is not a source for extraction and abuse and it can not sustain this continued path. BIPOC can offer new strategies and ideas based on lived experiences and hope for the future.
For over 36 years the Eastside Community Network (formerly Warren Conner Development Coalition) has worked tirelessly to develop programs and resources that center the needs of east side residents and amplify their voices with respect to the development of their communities. Eastside Community Network develops people, places, and plans for sustainable growth on Detroit's east side.

Eastside Community Network (ECN) is mobilizing residents and community stakeholders to advocate for energy and water policies that increase climate resiliency on Detroit's lower east side, and help them access sustainability training and funding opportunities. Its work includes the development of a resilience hub that will include the installation of green infrastructure, LED lighting, low flow plumbing, water harvesting, solar installations, and geothermal upgrades on community churches and nonprofits; and a resiliency hub initiative to help churches and nonprofits turn their properties into hubs.

**Why is it critical that people of color lead and/or engage in climate resilience-building efforts?**

Communities of color have faced a disproportionate amount of environmental harm/pollution and will experience the worst consequences of climate change if things continue on the current path. BIPOC individuals are also underrepresented in the environmental and climate field and at many of the large organizations and agencies building climate plans. The past and current inequities perpetrated on BIPOC communities through environmental and other disparities will continue if representatives of those communities are not at the table and active participants as we plan for the future with climate change. Diverse voices are needed to account for diverse needs and to ensure that the bold strategies taken to move forward in response to climate change also build toward an equitable future without certain communities experiencing disproportionate harms.
The Garfield Park Community Council (GPCC) is a community-building organization made up of dedicated residents and allies working together to develop leaders and create opportunities and programs that build a vital Garfield Park community.

GPCC engages residents to develop plans for a community solar program to increase access to affordable energy, and an eco-orchard and stormwater infrastructure project along the Garfield Park “Resilience Corridor.” GPCC’s project includes resident climate-resilience education and grassroots organizing to ensure community benefits are included in community development projects including “Chicago Green” — a project that will produce energy-efficient, affordable housing for local residents.

GPCC is addressing the need for improved health outcomes, housing affordability, and neighborhood stability in Garfield Park on the West Side of Chicago. To address these needs, GPCC is promoting energy efficiency, including solar installation, sustainable food access, and green space solutions. Additionally, GPCC is working to reduce the risk of displacement for long-term residents by engaging with community planning efforts.

Why is it critical that people of color lead and/or engage in climate resilience-building efforts?

People of color should be engaged in decision-making processes for climate resilience projects to ensure that more equitable, culturally appropriate goals and strategies are set and implemented. New developments should engage community members in order to build support from the individuals who will be most impacted. Climate resilience projects could consider shared or collective ownership models in order to build trust and longevity in a community, with the potential added benefit of closing the racial wealth gap by offering BIPOC individuals an opportunity to build equity.
Healthy Community Services (HCS) works in collaboration with Water Wise Gulf South, Bunny Friend Neighborhood Association, and the Greater Tremé Consortium on the Water Wise Tremé and Water Wise 7th Ward Initiative in New Orleans, LA. This initiative provides residents and business owners in Treme, 7th Ward, and the Upper 9th Ward with an understanding of urban stormwater management techniques, how the drainage system of New Orleans works, improving the water quality of Lake Pontchartrain as well as how green infrastructure reduces subsidence by increasing the water table levels. HCS is also documenting their work in “Lookbooks” that will be used to advocate for support from the local government and elected officials to continue building climate resilience in the community.

The HCS Team and Partners have been motivated by the lack of information Black people have when discussing climate change and the environment. Environmental issues are rarely talked about in communities of color, and they would like to see that change. Since collaborating with Water Wise Gulf South, the team has increased awareness of green infrastructure and the effects it has on combating health hazards due to climate change and green solutions to reduce flooding. The team is also motivated by the need to address flooding in the Gulf South by utilizing nature-based solutions, especially in communities that experience chronic flooding issues due to bad development practices and environmental racism.

Why is it critical that people of color lead and/or engage in climate resilience building efforts?

The HCS team and partners believe Black people should become more involved because only 5% of philanthropy grant dollars go to BIPOC organizations. A complete flip of the grantmaking process needs to occur or the work we do in BIPOC communities will continue to lag behind other communities. It is especially important for BIPOC communities to become and stay involved particularly because of the health hazards that affect Black people more adversely than others, which is due to climate change and where Black people live.
LA MUJER OBRERA
El Paso, TX | www.mujerobrera.org

La Mujer Obrera (LMO) is a local independent organization dedicated to creating communities defined by women. LMO was founded in 1981 by women who were both garment workers and Chicana activists. LMO's experience showed them that as women, they must implement their own ideas and strategies for their community. La Mujer Obrera has developed its organizing strategies based on the following basic human rights: employment, housing, education, nutrition, health, peace, and political liberty.

LMO works with residents and researchers to develop the Chamizal Community Plan for Climate Resilience. It is using resident expertise to design and install green infrastructure at the Chamizal Community Garden; teaching residents to self-install similar green infrastructure (GI) in their own backyard gardens and working with researchers and the community to compile data that can be used to increase emergency preparedness and advocate for improved regional climate resilience policies.

LMO is also working to build a community that can defend itself from individuals that make decisions that go against the well-being of the Chamizal residents, especially the women and children. They work together to address environmental concerns, displacement of families, public education needs for the Mexican immigrant children as well as work to develop a sustainable infrastructure that addresses climate change. They also work to develop women’s leadership in the Chamizal.

Why is it critical that people of color lead and/or engage in climate resilience-building efforts?

Communities of color are the ones that are most likely to be surrounded by different sources of pollution, they tend to be the dumping grounds. Communities of color also tend to have poor health due to not having the necessary resources to have preventive health care, so they are also more prone to experience/ develop more severe problems due to exposure. Information is of the utmost importance and keeping us uninformed allows for the exploitation of our people and spaces.

LMO believes that if it is able to develop a process within the community that allows/ encourages the collective efforts of residents, which would include women, elders, children, then it will allow for future generations to see themselves as a community. BIPOC would have a practice already established that would allow for these generations to be part of the process from the beginning. Encouraging the acceptance of everyone’s participation, and recognizing it as an important part of how BIPOC struggle and work is key to being able to have a sustainable community in the future.
Nos Quedamos (NQ) began its work in 1992 when New York City proposed the Melrose Urban Commons Renewal Area, which designated 30 blocks in Melrose to be developed for middle-income New Yorkers. This site, however, was already home to roughly 6,000 low-income Melrose residents. Outraged by the injustice of their displacement, the local community banded together to create the Nos Quedamos/We Stay Committee in 1993. This Committee drafted and passed an alternative proposal, the Melrose Commons Urban Renewal Plan, resulting in the development of affordable housing for Melrose families and seniors, including townhouses, multi-family rentals, co-ops, condominiums, and various commercial and community facility spaces, including a medical group, pharmacy, supermarket, and restaurant.

Empowered by its high-profile success, NQ serves as a leader in community-driven development and a critical support hub for Melrose residents, assisting with a variety of economic and social issues. NQ's recent successes include engaging, organizing, and educating tenants around larger issues of affordable housing by helping to form tenant leadership teams; collaborating with artists, arts and culture organizations, and related stakeholders to preserve and amplify the cultural DNA of the South Bronx by creating a comprehensive map of cultural assets in Melrose and Morrisania; and forming the Asociación Huerto y Cultura, a coalition of seven Melrose community gardens that work together to support the preservation of open space and community resilience.

Why is it critical that people of color lead and/or engage in climate resilience-building efforts?

NQ is built on the idea that communities can only thrive through self-determination, and BIPOC communities that are disproportionately affected by environmental and climate injustice must drive the solutions that lead to change. NQ's hope moving forward is to harness its decades of community-led sustainable development work, and bring that legacy into the current moment to represent a growing, diverse population, cultivate their full engagement in self-determination, and meet the emerging challenges of a new generation of residents through a holistic, comprehensive plan of action that can be used to push policy recommendations forward and galvanize the Melrose community.
Power52 Foundation's mission is to break the cycle of poverty, unemployment, underemployment, and incarceration in our urban communities across the nation through economic empowerment and clean energy access. Currently, Power52 provides employment training for at-risk adults, returning citizens, and underserved individuals living in Baltimore City and surrounding counties that prepares participants for careers in the solar industry as well as other green job opportunities.

Power52's goal for its community is to help a traditionally underserved population remove barriers to robust participation in society. Power52 knows that an employment track is only one of the many things that must be done. Even with good jobs and a career path, there are major societal changes that have to happen in order to achieve racial justice. But without those jobs, no change is possible. Power52 strives to create career ladders because, without them, BIPOC employees run the risk of being warehoused in low-wage jobs. Its entire program is dedicated to ensuring racial justice by providing real economic mobility. It is not enough to recruit, train and place minority workers. They now need to accelerate their progress into leadership positions in the clean & renewable energy sector.

Why is it critical that people of color lead and/or engage in climate resilience-building efforts?

Power52 strives to bolster community awareness in an effort to foster social and economic empowerment as it pertains to jobs, financial savings, and emergency assistance brought forth through access to clean and renewable energy.

The rapidly growing clean & renewable energy sector now employs over 250,000 Americans. The National Solar Jobs Census 2018 found that of the more than 242,000 solar workers nationwide, women represented 26.3% of the solar workforce, while gender non-binary employees comprised 1.4%. Hispanic or Latino workers represented 16.9% of the workforce, Asian workers represented 8.5%, and black or African American workers comprised 7.6%. Power52 feels these job opportunities should be accessible to everyone.

Power52’s approach is innovative in addressing the renewable energy industry’s workforce challenges because the organization taps into a population that is in need of work but also has many barriers to employment that provides a living wage and opportunities for upward mobility.
The Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative (VEJC) was created in 2015 when four organizations (The Southeast CARE Coalition, Appalachian Voices, the Federal Policy Office of WE ACT for Environmental Justice, and New Virginia Majority) saw the need for statewide coordination to support Virginia organizations addressing environmental justice issues.

VEJC is working to increase climate resiliency in The Heights neighborhood by transforming the historic Beaux Twenty building into a community solar resiliency hub, offering solar photovoltaic training and certification in solar panel assembly and installation to residents, and providing community emergency response training. Residents are being trained to maintain and operate the hub, receive continuous climate resiliency training, and connect with communities that have incorporated the resiliency hub model.

As a statewide collaboration of 40 organizations, VEJC works alongside residents of impacted communities dealing with sea-level rise, mega landfills, gas pipelines, flooding, lead poisoning, and a multitude of other life-threatening issues. Community needs are to be cognizant of and tap into the existing power that they have. While there is still a need for living-wage employment opportunities, access to health care, safe affordable housing, and even access to quality education those needs are superseded by the constant denial of the basic right to breathe, to live, to exist without fear of harm.

**Why is it critical that people of color lead and/or engage in climate resilience-building efforts?**

VEJC believes it is absolutely necessary that Black Indigenous People of Color, low to moderate-income people, people living on the frontline, in fenceline communities, and in sacrifice zones be involved in all aspects of climate justice work; in all phases, from planning through implementation. Without the voices of the community, the job doesn't get adequately done and issues don't get adequately addressed. BIPOC involvement ensures that our communities are not left by the wayside and are not an afterthought. BIPOC involvement is important to ensure that resources are in place and allocated where needed for preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery.

The work that VEJC does today lays a foundation for future activists, environmentalists, advocates, justice warriors, and as they have been named Solutionaires. They are optimistic that future generations will shed the fear that sometimes crippled the BIPOC community to the point of immobility and while BIPOC may fear for their safety, they are proud of their courage and their fearlessness, and their boldness to demand change NOW!
Walnut Way is training and hiring community residents on the significance and installation of green infrastructure through their Blue Skies Landscaping program. In addition to providing workforce training and jobs, a key part of the training helps mitigate flooding in Milwaukee’s Lindsay Heights neighborhood through the design and installation of stormwater diversion and management systems on 5 acres of impermeable land. The installation sites are also used to educate residents on climate resilience and prepare residents to advocate for policies that promote resiliency without displacement in their community.

Walnut Way’s Blue Skies Landscaping is known as a “triple-bottom-line social enterprise” focused on jobs, revenue generation, and environmental impact which offers a full range of landscape, environmental and green infrastructure services in the greater Milwaukee area. The program provides job training and employment for individuals who have traditionally faced employment barriers and those seeking to build skills in a growing trade.

Walnut Way believes in working in partnership with residents to secure resources, create spaces, and provide platforms for residents’ voices and leadership to thrive by leveraging their gifts and talents. Walnut Way is also working to increase collective impact and social cohesion, to lead to the employment of hundreds of people and the development of dozens of leaders. Walnut way envisions itself as an economically self-sustained organization with cross-sector governance structures that create equitable opportunity for everyone and is both environmentally and socially progressive especially for Blacks and other people of color.

*Why is it critical that people of color lead and/or engage in climate resilience-building efforts?*

Beyond emergencies, It is critical that in any community there is neighborhood-level knowledge, skill, and expertise in the climate field because being climate resilient has a quantifiable value. It is like a commodity; it is tradeable and a currency. From the knowledge of being energy efficient to the ability to harvest the sun, ground, or water at any scale to absorb, produce and/or control energy is an amazing ability.
HOPIN USER SUPPORT

You must use the email address that you used to register in order to access the event. We recommend using a web browser to participate in the convening. If you are unable to use a web browser, Hopin does have a mobile app for use. The Hopin mobile app is available on iOS and Android. More information and directions can be found by using this link.

Additionally, if you've never used Hopin before, these informational materials will help you navigate the site:

- Using Hopin as an attendee tutorials
- How to use Hopin as an attendee video
- Attendee Troubleshooting

After reviewing these informational materials, if you are still experiencing technical difficulties during the convening, please contact Angel Eason, aeason@sustain.org.
CONVENING AGENDA

Please note: Times are listed in Eastern Daylight Time

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021

11:30-11:50 am  Welcome Addresses
Institute for Sustainable Communities & The JPB Foundation

11:50 am-12:50 pm  We the People: Playing the Long Game and the Possibility of Us
Keynote Presentation by Dr. Carolyn Finney

12:50-1:00 pm  Break

1:00-2:30 pm  Concurrent Sessions

1. Clean Energy and the Evolution of Community Resilience Hubs
   What is a community resilience hub? Why are they needed and how do they work? Learn from the experts who will share best practices on how to develop a community resilience hub as a resource to community emergency response. From collaborations to the technical components local leaders will share successes, opportunities, things they wish to know along the way, and the tools necessary to create and activate a community resilience hub.

2. The Rising Biden/ Harris Agenda: Influencing Equitable Climate Policy
   A much-needed new and diverse administration is advancing racial equity as a centering component of its agenda. This includes fostering equity while addressing the impacts of climate change. This panel will discuss key learnings and perspectives on the policies and resources of the Biden-Harris climate agenda, including the "American Rescue Plan," what this may mean for communities of color and their organizations, and to discuss strategies for prioritizing equitable climate policy in their work.

3. It's Getting Hot In Here!
   Black and Brown people die more often due to heat-related illness. This is not only a climate change issue, this is a racism issue. Addressing the intersection of climate change and racism is the only pathway to identifying and advancing viable strategies. This session will explore proven on-the-ground solutions that incorporate policies to address infrastructure, approaches with utilities, and more in addressing urban heat island effects.

4. Is That Datapoint Racist? Interactive Experiential Workshop
   Using data disaggregated by race, income and geography is a powerful and necessary aspect of designing and advancing effective equitable climate policy. But beware, disaggregated data, misinterpreted can foster the opposite outcome. This session will explore the effective use of data to support leaders of color with the data tools they need to make strong cases for their communities-- as well as how to spot and dismantle the often racist common use of data.
2:30-3:30 pm  Lunch Break  
*Don't forget to order your lunch through DoorDash*

3:30-5:00 pm  **Affinity Spaces for People of Color and White People (Separately)**  
1. Addressing and Healing from Racism and Trauma in Communities of Color with Sam Simmons
2. Community Conversation for White Allies

5:00-5:15 pm  Break

5:15-6:30 pm  **Social Hour**  
Networking mixer, Paint & Sip

**THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021**

11:30 am-12:30 pm  **Themed Discussions on Climate Resilience Topics**  
4 Breakout Rooms: Same Topics

12:30-1:45 pm  **Concurrent Sessions**  
1. **Climate Impacts in Occupied and Displaced Lands: Rising Up to Address Climate Injustices**  
   Join a conversation on how communities are striving to become energy sovereign.  
   This session will explore actionable strategies communities are taking to address climate injustices on sovereign and occupied lands.

2. **Planting the Seeds of Narratives to Grow your Communications- Interactive Experiential Workshop**

3. **The Role of Foundations in Equitable Climate Resiliency**  
   In the U.S. Foundations are paying closer and closer attention to the intersection of climate change and racial inequities. However, those who are closest to the issues, often do not have the opportunity to dialogue directly with foundation leaders about their community's needs and the solutions. In this session, participants and the panelists will share perspectives of how foundations can support Black and Brown organizations in their resiliency efforts; and foundation leaders will offer perspectives on how communities can themselves have fundraising success.

1:45-1:55 pm  Break
Concurrent Sessions

1. Water, People, and Policy
   Water is a foundational source of life and a natural resource that should be available to everyone. Instead, water has become a commodity-based product, resulting in tremendous racial, economic, and health injustices for those most vulnerable to climate change. This session will explore local and national actions taken by local and national advocates to advance policy solutions to ensure water is accessible to all.

2. What the Health? The Intersecting Roots of Health, Climate, and Equity
   For people of color, climate change is a major exacerbator of health inequities. People of color have been placed in close proximity to landfills, refineries, highways, and other toxic polluters; and their communities have been built on floodplains and in flood zones. These same communities have been denied essential infrastructure that could mitigate flooding and lessen the impacts of toxic emissions. Join this conversation on how climate, health, and inequities are intertwined in communities of color and how PRC partners are developing strategies to address climate-based health inequities.

3. Clean & Green: The Rising Climate Economy
   Black and Brown people bear the brunt of climate disasters and environmental injustices. The physical, mental, and emotional health and economic condition of people of color is disproportionately disrupted; and due to systemic racism, these communities are already starting out at an economic deficit. While the climate economy is expanding, it is imperative that those who are hurt the worst benefit. This session will feature PRC partners and other local and national strategies that are leveraging funds and engagement to push forth an equitable green economy.

4. The Next Generation of Climate Resiliency Professionals
   Growing a leadership bridge means a bright and promising future for all! The role of leaders of color in ensuring we are preparing our youth to take the helm is essential. This session will feature local leaders of color sharing about their youth outreach, education, and leadership development approaches and how they are engaging and preparing youth and young adults to pursue careers in the clean and green sector.

3:10-3:35 pm
Lunch
*Order lunch and please continue to eat lunch during the Keynote*

3:35-4:35 pm
Climate Change: Birthed By Injustice
Keynote Presentation by Elizabeth Yeampierre

4:35-5:15 pm
Team Discussion Time
Breakout Discussions for PRC Partner Teams

5:15- 5:30 pm
Closing Remarks
Institute for Sustainable Communities
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

DR. CAROLYN FINNEY
Dr. Carolyn Finney is a storyteller, author, and cultural geographer. She is deeply interested in issues related to identity, difference, creativity, and resilience. Carolyn is grounded in both artistic and intellectual ways of knowing. She pursued an acting career for eleven years, but five years of backpacking trips through Africa and Asia and living in Nepal changed the course of her life. Motivated by these experiences, Carolyn returned to school after a 15-year absence to complete a B.A., M.A. (gender and environmental issues in Kenya and Nepal), and a Ph.D. (where she was a Fulbright and a Canon National Science Scholar Fellow). Along with public speaking, writing, media engagements, consulting & teaching, she served on the U.S. National Parks Advisory Board for eight years. Her first book, Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors was released in 2014. Recent publications include Self-Evident: Reflections on the Invisibility of Black Bodies in Environmental Histories (BESIDE Magazine, Montreal Spring 2020), and The Perils of Being Black in Public: We are all Christian Cooper and George Floyd (The Guardian, June 3rd, 2020).

ELIZABETH YEAMPIERRE
Elizabeth Yeampierre is an internationally recognized Puerto Rican attorney and environmental and climate justice leader of African and Indigenous ancestry born and raised in New York City. A national leader in the climate justice movement, Elizabeth is the co-chair of the Climate Justice Alliance. She is Executive Director of UPROSE, Brooklyn's oldest Latino community-based organization. Her award-winning vision for an intergenerational, multicultural, and community-led organization is the driving force behind UPROSE. She is a long-time advocate and trailblazer for community organizing around just, sustainable development, environmental justice and community-led climate adaptation, and community resiliency in Sunset Park. Prior to assuming the Executive Director position at UPROSE, Ms. Yeampierre was the Director of Legal Education and Training at the Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund, Director of Legal Services for the American Indian law Alliance and Dean of Puerto Rican Student Affairs at Yale University. She holds a BA from Fordham University, a law degree from Northeastern University. In 2015, Ms. Yeampierre was part of the leadership of the People's Climate March Mobilization - a march of over 400,000 people. She played a major role in ensuring the frontline was made up of young people of color, and successfully proposed the adoption of the Jemez principles for democratic organizing which have since become the road map to building just relationships in the climate movement. Elizabeth was the first Latina Chair of the US EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. She worked diligently to ensure that environmental justice was incorporated into EPA rulemaking and integrated into all federal agencies. Her most recent effort led to the creation of a US EPA NEJAC workgroup dedicated to developing recommendations for resilience from storm surges for industrial waterfront communities.
RICKY ACKERMAN
Ricky Ackerman currently serves as the Director of Climate Equity at Eastside Community Network (ECN) in Detroit. While at ECN, Ricky has worked to engage residents around green stormwater infrastructure, air quality issues, resilience hubs, and other climate equity topics. Prior to starting at ECN, he received his master’s in Environmental Policy from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment. For his master’s capstone, he researched community resilience in six coastal, natural resource-dependent Oregon communities through stakeholder interviews.

LORENA ANDRADE
Lorena Andrade is a civil rights and labor activist from El Paso, Texas. Ms. Andrade was born in Los Angeles, California, and attended the University of Minnesota, where she became involved with Chicano activism. In El Paso, she has been an advocate for labor and founded the organization La Mujer Obrera, The Working Woman, to support women affected by NAFTA.

KALILA BARNETT
Kalila Barnett joined the Barr Foundation as the Climate Resilience Program Officer in 2018. Kalila has over a decade of experience in community organizing around affordable housing, land development, and environmental justice. She served as the Executive Director at Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE) for eight years. Before joining ACE in 2009, she worked as a Senior Organizer at Community Labor United. Kalila has a Bachelor's degree from Bates College, where she studied American Studies and Spanish, and a Master of Public Policy from the Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning School at Tufts University.

SHAMAR BIBBINS
Shamar Bibbins serves as a senior 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 Kresge's Climate Change, Health & Equity Initiative (CCHE).
CHERIE BROOKS
Cherie Brooks is Visionary Co-Founder, President & CEO of Power52 Foundation (Power52, Inc). Under Cherie's guidance and vision, Power52 Foundation launched its first Private Career School in 2017, Power52 Energy Institute Baltimore City. The Institute's curriculum is accredited by the National Center for Construction, Education, and Research (NCCER). Power52 Energy Institute is the first clean energy private career school in the State of Maryland to be approved by The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). Power52 Foundation is one of two non-profits to ever receive approval from the Maryland Higher Education Commission to own and operate a private career school in the State of Maryland. Mrs. Brooks has obtained her Master Trainer credentials from NCCER as well. Training programs are currently offered in both Howard and Baltimore Counties with future programs being developed in the British Virgin Island, Florida, and Arizona.

ANTONIO BUTTS
Antonio Butts is Executive Director of Walnut Way Conservation Corp. Antonio is a catalytic leader who is passionate about transforming economically excluded communities into neighborhoods of health and prosperity. Antonio's career is marked by his collaborative leadership style and ability to create social enterprise for economic and social impact. With an entrepreneurial zeal, Antonio has spurred improvements in the financial, social, and environmental well-being of Milwaukee's neighborhoods through social enterprise and strategic initiatives. Antonio is also known for his turnaround experience in both community and economic development which involved crisis management, capital restructuring, employee engagement, and realigning non-profit organizations for growth.

CARLOS CLAUSSELL
Carlos Claussell is a Senior Program Officer on ISC's U.S. Program team. In this role, he supports the team's community-led resilience work, focusing on the advancement of equity for BIPOC communities through community-led planning and strategy implementation. An Environmental Leadership Program Senior Fellow, Carlos has worked as a project manager, engineer, and urban designer for public transportation and water infrastructure projects in Philadelphia, and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Prior to joining ISC, Carlos served as an Urban Conservation Project Manager for The Nature Conservancy North America's Cities Network, implementing green stormwater infrastructure projects with a triple bottom line approach in Philadelphia.

JESSICA CLEMENTE
Jessica Clemente has been leading We Stay/Nos Quedamos as its Chief Executive Officer since 2011. As someone who grew up in the South Bronx and who fought for environmental justice alongside Yolanda Garcia (the founder of Nos Quedamos), she is honored to be leading this local organization with its legacy of community-led planning and development. To be able to shape the future through a community vision and see the results of what true people power can achieve is a daily inspiration and driving force for Jessica. Her career has been spent at the intersection of public health, urban planning, and social/environmental justice. She has a Master's of Urban Planning from the New York University Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and a Bachelor's in Environmental Science from SUNY Purchase College.
Lois DeBacker serves as managing director of The Kresge Foundation’s Environment Program, which focuses on helping communities build resilience in the face of climate change. She joined the foundation in February 2008. Lois’ experience includes more than 16 years at the C.S. Mott Foundation in a series of positions of progressive responsibility, including the role of Associate Vice President- Programs. Before joining the Mott Foundation, Lois worked for 10 years in the Michigan state government in both policy-development and program-management capacities.

Ali Dirul is the co-founder of Ryter Cooperative Industries (RCI), a project management firm that specializes in designing and implementing renewable energy solutions for local businesses and communities, based in Detroit, Michigan. Ali is the Chief Executive Officer of RCI.

Breanna Edwards is a Communications Officer for U.S. Programs at ISC. An expert in communications, Breanna has worked the past 8 years in the news industry, including 5 years as a news writer and then the breaking news editor at TheRoot.com. Prior to joining ISC, Breanna spent two years as the news and politics editor at Essence Magazine. Breanna received her Bachelor of Arts in Communication: Print Journalism from American University, Washington D.C.

Cheyenne Flores is the Climate Resiliency Fellow for the Philadelphia Office of Sustainability. Cheye leads neighborhood-based climate resiliency efforts, specifically focusing on energy and heat equity. Some of her current and past work includes implementation of Beat the Heat Hunting Park: A Community Heat Relief Plan, and The Philadelphia Energy Burden Focus Groups. In addition, Cheye supports municipal climate resiliency efforts for the Office of Sustainability.

Veronica Garibay immigrated from Michoacan, Mexico, at a young age with her family. 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 of Arts 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. Veronica earned a Master of Public Administration from Fresno State. 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.
DONNA GIVENS DAVIDSON
Donna Givens Davidson has over 30 years of nonprofit leadership experience in areas of youth and family development, community economic development, community partnerships, and community education. Over the years, she has developed and implemented demonstration programs and worked in partnership with a number of youth-serving organizations with the consistent goal of increasing opportunity, building capacity, and fostering growth.

Now serving as President and CEO of Eastside Community Network, Ms. Givens Davidson formerly served as President of the Youth Development Commission, CEO of Visions Education Development Consortium, LLC, Executive Director of Vanguard CDC, Vice President Programs, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit and in leadership positions at several other nonprofit organizations.

IRIS GONZALEZ
Iris Gonzalez has served as the Coalition Director for CEER since November 2018. Iris has over 10 years of experience in program development, program management, coalition building, grant-making, fundraising, and community engagement.

VIVIAN HUANG
Vivian Huang is from a Chinese immigrant family and fights for justice for immigrant communities. Currently, she is Deputy Director for Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), organizing with immigrants and refugees to develop collective power and leadership for a thriving economy. In this solidarity economy work, Vivian is also part of Cooperation Richmond, REAL People’s Fund, and Grassroots Asians Rising. Prior to working at APEN, Vivian spent a decade pushing for policy, legislation, and budget funding for immigrants, communities of color, migrant farmworkers, and women, including being a mentor for the Women’s Policy Institute. Vivian loves supporting leadership development for herself and others through training with the School of Unity and Liberation (SOUL), advising AYPAL: Building API Community Power, participating in somatics, and formerly teaching public health policy at San Francisco State University.

CHRISTINA TLATILPA INONG
Christina Tlatilpa Inong has been a member of the CIMCC team since 2016. As an Indigenous social worker, she is dedicated to the health and wellness of Indigenous communities. Christina is Nahua, Tlaxcaltec and Purepecha.
SONIA JOSHI
Sonia Joshi is Associate Director of U.S. Programs at ISC. Sonia works with leaders of color, community organizations, and local and regional governments to prioritize and infuse racial equity into climate resilience. She works primarily on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Health and Climate Solutions (HCS) initiative and the Partnership for Resilient Communities (PRC). Before joining ISC, Sonia worked as the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Program Manager for the School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS) at the University of Michigan, where she facilitated dialogues across social identities, privilege, race, and power. Prior to her time at SEAS, Sonia spent nine years as Program Manager and Outreach Coordinator in a joint position between the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network and the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory managing the multi-state NOAA Center of Excellence for Great Lakes and Human Health.

CHARLES KEES
Charles Kees has supported Business Development at Power52 since 2018, implementing new employment partnerships and initiatives. Charles is an experienced career development specialist with years of experience in the higher education sector as well as working with individuals from historically marginalized communities in finding employment. At Power52, Charles is responsible for facilitating employment opportunities, job readiness skills building, employer network onboarding, and ensuring trainees are able to properly market themselves to employer partners to receive new career opportunities.

CHARLES LANIER
Charles Lanier is the Executive Director of the Hunting Park Neighborhood Advisory Committee, Inc. He is responsible for the administration of the agency operations, providing community services and ongoing community economic development of the Hunting Park community, as well as responsible for revitalizing the Hunting Park Community Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Lanier specializes in housing, previously employed at the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) and having established the Housing Association Information Program for the Housing Association of Delaware Valley and the Germantown Settlement Housing Counseling Services for Germantown/Greater Germantown Housing Development Corporation. He serves on many boards including Board President for the Strawberry Mansion Neighborhood Action Center, Inc. and Board Member, Friends of East Park.

KATHERINE LEE
Katherine Lee is from Richmond, CA, born from a family of first-generation Mien refugees. In elementary school, she began to attend APEN member meetings, as well as rallies and protests against the Chevron Refinery. This early participation in direct action is what fostered her passion and commitment to social and environmental justice. Throughout her teenage years, she continued to pursue her passion by taking on leadership roles for various civic engagement opportunities. A few of her past experiences to highlight include: Lead Phone Banker for Power California’s Summer 2019 Program, Team Lead for APEN Action’s 2018 Civic Engagement Program, and Lead Signature Gatherer for Richmond Kids First. She is proud to say that she is now the Richmond Youth Organizer at Asian Pacific Environmental Network.
MONICA LEWIS-PATRICK

Monica Lewis-Patrick is an educator, entrepreneur, and human rights activist/advocate. Along with the other four founders of We the People of Detroit (WPD), she, with the leadership of volunteers and community experts, placed herself and WPD at the forefront of the water justice struggle in Michigan, across the country, and globally. Lewis-Patrick is known throughout the environmental justice community as The Water Warrior. She is actively engaged in the struggle for access to safe, affordable water for all under-resourced communities. She currently serves as a member of several organizations, boards, and committees dedicated to the advancement of water equity, including the National Water Affordability Table, All About Water/Freshwater Future - Subcommittee, PolicyLink- Water Energy Resource Caucus (WERC), Michigan Water Unity Table, End Water Poverty, Healing Our Waters/Equity Advocacy and Action Committee, and D-REM.org. In October of 2015, she was named to the World Water Justice Council. In 2019 she was appointed to the International Joint Commission (IJC) Great Lakes Water Quality Advisory Board, and she received an appointment to the Michigan Advisory Council on Environmental Justice by Gov. Whitmer.

NICOLE LIM

Nicole Lim has earned advanced degrees from the University of California at Berkeley and the University of San Francisco School of Law. She is Pomo and has worked for the National Indian Justice Center and the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center (CIMCC) since 1996. As Executive Director of the CIMCC, she works to develop exhibits, educational programs, and curricular resources that represent Native American perspectives. She founded the Tribal Youth Ambassadors program in 2010 the program received the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award from the President's Committee on Arts and Humanities in 2016. She co-edited On Indian Ground: California, the first in a series of books that focus on best practices for K-12 educators of Native students. Nicole served as the Vice President of the California Association of Museums (CAM) and formerly co-chaired CAM's Government Relations committee. She also serves as the Secretary for the National Tribal GIS program and is a member of the Native American Advisory Committee to the University of California Office of the President.

JAIME LOVE

Jaime Love is ISC's Director of U.S. Programs. She supports the overall management, program implementation, and business development of the U.S. program. She also helps lead the design and implementation of equitable capacity-building, technical assistance, and peer-learning approaches. Jaime is a strong advocate for equity-led approaches and public health, with her focus on supporting community needs and solutions. Prior to ISC, Jaime worked in philanthropy with Interact for Health where she developed and managed grant portfolios in healthy and active living, and led the foundation's work on equity, diversity, and inclusion. In her previous experience at Hamilton County Public Health, she created and managed community-driven approaches to improving health through policy, systems, and environmental change strategies.
ARTURO A. MASSOL-DEYÁ

Arturo A. Massol-Deyá is from the mountainous area of Puerto Rico in the municipality of Adjuntas where his parents Alexis Massol and Tintí Deyá founded the community-based organization Casa Pueblo. Massol-Deyá grew up in this project and has chaired its Board of Directors since 2007. A graduate of the public school system (1986) and the University of Puerto Rico (1990), he obtained his doctoral degree from the Center for Microbial Ecology at Michigan State University in 1994. Since then he has been a faculty member at the Department of Biology of the University of Puerto Rico.

TATEWIN MEANS

Tatewin Means is the Executive Director at Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation. Means is an Indigenous woman from the Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota, Oglala Lakota, and Inhanktonwan nations in South Dakota. Means grew up on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and later received her Bachelor of Science degree from Stanford University. After returning to her home on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Tatewin worked for Oglala Lakota College as the Environmental Lab Manager for the Lakota Institute for Science and Technology. Tatewin then went to law school and received her JD with a concentration in Human Rights Law from the University of Minnesota Law School. A longtime advocate for human rights, survivors, children, and families, Tatewin served as the Attorney General for the Oglala Sioux Tribe on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota from 2012-2017. In 2015, Means was sworn in as the Deputy States Attorney for Oglala Lakota County, a state county within the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation boundaries, to prosecute non-Indian offenders for victimless and wholly non-Indian offenses committed on the reservation. This inter-jurisdiction agreement is the first-of-its-kind collaboration between Tribal and State sovereigns—it protects victims of all crimes regardless of the racial status of the offender while also strengthening the Tribe's sovereignty.

JENNIFER PATRICK

Jennifer Patrick is a Senior Program Officer in the Environment Program at The JPB Foundation. JPB’s mission is to advance opportunity in the US through transformational initiatives that empower those living in poverty, enrich and sustain our environment, and enable pioneering medical research. JPB’s Environment Program enables resilient communities to benefit the health and well-being of low-income communities and underserved communities of color. Jen manages the Green Infrastructure portfolio focused on equitably increasing access to parks, stormwater adaptation, and diversifying the field. Jen comes to JPB with years of experience in the environmental nonprofit sector, working to advance community health and empowerment and environmental protection. She has worked with The Climate Group, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and Henry P. Kendall Foundation. Most recently Jen was Director of Strategy at The Trust for Public Land. Jen holds an M.A. in Public Policy from the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University.
**KALIMA ROSE**

Kalima Rose co-chairs the national Water Equity and Climate Resilience Caucus with the Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy. The Caucus brings together over 100 frontline, regional and national organizations working to address the threats of toxic, unaffordable, and climate-driven flooding, drought, and sea-level rise; and turning back fossil fuel pipelines that threaten indigenous and all communities’ waters and climate. The Caucus advances federal policy solutions to invest new infrastructure in the most impacted environmental justice communities, ensure BIPOC project priorities are advanced, and that BIPOC workers and firms can design, build, operate and maintain the infrastructure of water-safe futures.

**MARIE SCHAEFER**

Marie Schaefer is a transdisciplinary scientist whose work focuses on braiding Indigenous knowledge and scientific knowledge using community-based participatory approaches to understand how collaborations between knowledge systems can contribute to sustainable futures. Dr. Schaefer is currently a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Community Sustainability at Michigan State University on the MICARES (Michigan Community Anishinaabe Renewable Energy Sovereignty) project. This project works with Michigan communities, including Tribal nations, to explore the opportunities and create tools to overcome barriers to renewable energy in their community or nation. Dr. Schaefer has worked with Tribes across the United States and is of Anishinaabe (Odawa) and European settler descent.

**QUEEN ZAKIA SHABAZZ**

Queen Zakia Shabazz is coordinator of the Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative, based in Richmond. Queen is also an author and the founder and executive director of United Parents Against Lead (UPAL). UPAL was founded in 1996 upon Zakia learning that her son had been poisoned by lead. Shabazz is an advocate for children’s health and social justice. At UPAL, her duties include leadership, training management, publishing educational and awareness programs, and inspiring community action against toxins. She has a BS in business administration and is completing an MBA program at Averett University. Shabazz is an author and contributing writer to the Virginia Defender newspaper.

**SAM SIMMONS**

Sam Simmons has over 31-years’ experience as an alcohol and drug counselor and behavioral consultant specializing in culturally sensitive trauma-informed strategies and working with African American males and their families. He received the 2016 Healing the Hidden Wounds of Racial Trauma award and the Black Tear Drop Award for his vision and leadership in culturally sensitive trauma-informed work in the community and around the country. In 2018 Sam received the Public Health Hero Award for his innovative, and culturally specific trauma-informed work from the City of Minneapolis. Sam is co-host of “Voices” radio show on KMOJ FM that addresses issues important to the urban community. Sam is co-creator of a conference called “Groundbreaking and Visionary”.
NATHANIEL SMITH
Nathaniel Smith serves as Founder and Chief Equity Officer of the Partnership for Southern Equity (PSE), which advances policies and institutional actions that promote racial equity and shared prosperity for all in the growth of metropolitan Atlanta and the American South. Among PSE’s notable accomplishments was the creation of the American South’s first equity mapping and framing tool, the Metro Atlanta Equity Atlas, and co-authoring numerous reports including: “Growing the Future: The Case for Economic Inclusion in Metropolitan Atlanta”, and “Employment Equity: Putting Georgia on the Path to Inclusive Prosperity”. PSE also led a coalition of diverse stakeholders to support a $13 million transit referendum that expanded Atlanta’s metropolitan transit system into a new county for the first time in 45 years. Smith’s advocacy activities were instrumental in the ratification of a 15 percent set aside of Atlanta Beltline Tax Allocation District (TAD) dollars for the development and maintenance of affordable workforce housing within the Atlanta BeltLine Planning Area - $250 million dollars over the 25-year lifespan of the Atlanta BeltLine TAD. A child of the Civil Rights Movement and an Atlanta native, Smith holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies from Morehouse College and a Master of Science from the New School.

PATRICIA SMITH
Patricia Smith joined The Funders Network in 2018, bringing with her a wealth of expertise in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. As president and CEO, Pat provides oversight and direction to its operations and programs, guiding TFN through key milestones during a pivotal moment in our history, including the development of a new strategic and racial equity framework that will govern TFN's future direction through 2025. Pat's vision is to help create courageous philanthropic leadership that is engaged, equipped, and emboldened to tackle the defining issues of our era — namely pervasive racial, economic, and environmental injustices — and committed to bringing about a just society. Pat is formerly a senior policy advisor for the Reinvestment Fund, a national leader working to revitalize low-income communities through the strategic and innovative use of capital, data, and partnerships. She led the Reinvestment Fund's efforts to improve access to healthier foods in underserved urban and rural communities and helped secure over $243 million in federal funding for that work. She is a member of the Association of Black Foundation Executives.

ANGELA TAYLOR
Angela Taylor is the Garfield Park Community Council Wellness Coordinator, focusing on the Garfield Park Garden Network, the Garfield Park Neighborhood Market, youth interns, and integrated wellness activities. Angela is one of the founders of the Garden Network, a board member of the Chicago Community Gardeners Association, and, with her family, manages the award-winning Fulton Street Vegetable and Flower Garden. Angela is a retiree from the Illinois Department of Human Services and a lifelong resident of the community.
SARITA TURNER
Sarita Turner has committed her life to bringing attention and resources to addressing the impacts of institutional racism and the disinvestment of people and neighborhoods of color. Sarita has worked in various organizational types including local and community-based nonprofits, national intermediaries, and local, state, and federal government. Over the life of her career, Sarita has worked in various roles providing direct services and advancing policy advocacy, community organizing, and equitable development approaches. Sarita has worked nationally advancing data-driven, inclusive community and economic development practices and has managed programs influencing $200 million+ in federal resources.

HILDA VILLEGAS
Hilda Villegas has been part of La Mujer Obrera for almost 18 years, working under Familias Unidas del Chamizal. Hilda is helping Barrio Chamizal, the neighborhood where she grew up, keep its schools open, address environmental hazards, and secure vital resources such as fresh food for the underserved community. Her knowledge will help her neighbors continue to lift up their neighborhood for many years to come.

DR. JALONNE L. WHITE-NEWSOME
Dr. Jalonne L. White-Newsome is the founder of Empowering a Green Environment and Economy, LLC, a strategic consulting firm, with the mission to develop solutions centered around people to create resilient and healthy communities. A life-long learner and advocate, she serves her clients with forward-thinking and intersectional approaches to tackling issues such as climate change, public health, environmental injustice, and advancing racial equity within institutions. Jalonne has multi-sector experience having worked in environmental philanthropy, state government, non-profit, grassroots, academia and private industry. Most notably, she created and implemented the transformational Climate Resilient and Equitable Water Systems (CREWS) Initiative at the Kresge Foundation as a Senior Program Officer; she was the first Director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice's federal policy office in Washington, DC; and, her doctoral research illuminated the impact of climate change & extreme heat on the low-income, elderly in Detroit, and is still referenced to drive public health interventions. A native of Detroit, Jalonne earned a Ph.D. in environmental health sciences from the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

DeANDRE WIGGINS
DeAndre Wiggins is the Director of Workforce Development at Power52. DeAndre is an impassioned, responsible, and distinguished Human Services worker who is team and detail-oriented, as well, a resource for special interest populations in and around Maryland. His experience includes groundbreaking work with low- or no-income fathers, children in need of assistance, developmentally and intellectually disabled adults, and children and families in Early Head Start. He has advocated for the provision of better services and policy that seeks to truly address the needs of Baltimore's families throughout his career. He operates with integrity and his exemplary supervisory, advocacy, counseling, and referral skills make him an excellent ombudsman for providing and linking services to the people who need them most.
LAKESHIA WRIGHT

Lakeshia Wright is a Senior Program Officer working on ISC’s community-led resilience programs, including the Partnership for Resilient Communities as well as other projects focused on community-led efforts led by local leaders. Lakeshia is an accomplished city planner and data analyst whose work has influenced public policy in the Chicago region for the last decade. Lakeshia joins ISC after serving the nation’s second-largest public transit system as a Strategic Planner and project manager focused on community impact and access. While working for a regional consortium of public officials in south suburban Chicago, Lakeshia implemented initiatives to address the aftermath of the Great Recession and foreclosure crisis in communities of color and low-income communities through the creation of equitable approaches and outcomes.
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