PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

Richard Ackerman
Director of Climate Equity, Eastside Community Network

Richard (Ricky) Ackerman began working as Eastside Community Network’s (ECN) Green Growth Manager in February 2018 and was recently promoted to Director of Climate Equity. In these roles, Ricky has worked to engage residents in green stormwater infrastructure, air quality issues, and other climate change-related topics. Prior to starting at ECN, Ricky received his master’s in Environmental Policy from the University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources and Environment. As a graduate student, Ricky assisted the student-led group, Sustainability Without Borders, with a water project in Peru as a volunteer coordinator and translator. For Ricky’s master’s capstone, he researched community resilience in six coastal, natural resource dependent Oregon communities through stakeholder interviews. Ricky received his Bachelor of Arts in Government and Philosophy from Centre College in Kentucky. Ricky began his career as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ecuador where he spent three years working on a range of sustainability projects, including waste management outreach for the local government, environmental clubs in high schools, a reforestation initiative, and business development with local reserve owners.
Francisca Acuña
Dove Springs Community Organizer, GAVA

Francisca Acuña has lived in southeast Austin for 23 years. She got involved different issues of the Dove Springs community in 2010, when she had to quit her job to advocate for her son, who has learning disabilities and other health challenges. In 2012, Acuña got involved with Go Austin Vamos Austin (GAVA) as a community leader, and took a Community Health Worker training which provided advocacy skills, self-sufficiency and increased health knowledge. Francisca has also been involved in crime prevention and safety, and has held neighborhood watch meetings in her community. Francisca moved into the role of Community Organizer at GAVA in 2017, where she works to increase access to healthy food and promote physical activity. Later, with the challenges of residents being displaced due to flooding, and Infrastructure issues in her neighborhood, Acuña’s work took on new priorities under “Health and Permanency.” In this area, she builds community power to advocate for flood mitigation and the right to stay in the neighborhoods where residents are most impacted by natural disasters.

Zelalem Adefris
Climate Resilience Director, Catalyst Miami

Zelalem Adefris is the Resilience Director at Catalyst Miami. At Catalyst Miami, Zelalem works to educate Miami-Dade County residents on climate threats, build climate leadership in Miami-Dade County’s low- and middle-income communities, implement programs that strengthen community resilience, and advocate for equitable climate policies. Zelalem’s previous work experiences include environmental justice organizing at the Environmental Justice League of Rhode Island and conducting emergency preparedness research at the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Zelalem holds an MPH in Global Environmental Health from Emory University and a bachelor’s degree in Community Health from Brown University.
Ana Aguirre
Dove Springs resident leader and partner from Flood Mitigation Action Team

Ana Aguirre moved to Austin in 1992, and retired from state employment in April 2015. Ana has been involved in many community issues over the years. While her children were of school age in Dove Springs / Southeast Austin, she volunteered as a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and Campus Advisory Council (CAC) officer and member. Even after her children matriculated out, she continued to serve as a volunteer member of the Mendez Middle School PTA and CAC during the 2016-18 school years. She also served on the Flood Mitigation Task Force and Austin Fire Department Community Risk Reduction Advisory Board immediately following the devastating Halloween Floods in Southeast Austin. Ana continues to advocate for the public’s safety and for city residents. She serves as Immediate Past-Chair of the Southeast Combined Neighborhood Plan Contact Team, and is a member of the City’s Zoning and Platting Commission, one of Austin's key land use commissions.

Shayda Azamian
Policy Coordinator – Climate Programs, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Shayda Azamian is a Policy Coordinator – Climate Programs, based in the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability’s (Leadership Counsel) Fresno office. Shayda’s efforts at Leadership Counsel focus on coordinating community needs and priorities related to air quality and climate resiliency through local, regional, and state policy advocacy. Shayda is from Los Angeles and Alameda Counties, and graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a B.A. in Peace and Conflict Studies. Shayda has a background in public policy, labor research, international relations, community engagement.

Melissa Meehan Baldwin
Program Manager, Florida Clinicians for Climate Action

Melissa Meehan Baldwin has 15 years of experience advocating for climate action in Florida. In 2018, Melissa helped create Florida Clinicians for Climate Action, which engages health professionals to learn about climate-health risks and advocate for solutions. In 2011, Baldwin founded Chase Media Services, a PR consultancy with a focus on sustainability. Chase Media serves clients in the energy and environmental sector. Melissa specializes in media relations, public education, and climate policy.

Previously, Melissa worked for the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Florida Conservation Voters, and Hill + Knowlton Strategies. In 2006, Tampa Bay Business Journal named Melissa a Top “30 Under 30” young professional. Melissa’s passion for climate change dates back to college, where she interned at the Center for Health
and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School. She earned a bachelor’s degree in communications from Boston University in 2004.

**Elliott Bent**  
Communications Director, Institute for Sustainable Communities

Elliott Bent serves as ISC’s Communications Director, managing global implementation of the communications strategy and managing a team providing support to programs. Elliott was previously ISC’s U.S. Communications Officer where he supported day-to-day communications for a wide variety of U.S. projects.

Prior to ISC, Elliott was Manager of Community and Media Affairs at KSE Partners, a government relations and strategic communications practice in Vermont. There he managed issue-based, and traditional communication campaigns for a wide variety of clients on a state, regional and national level. Many of his previous communications projects have dealt with climate change and its impacts as well as resiliency and sustainability – including filming and editing an 80-minute video series about small on-farm biofuel creation in Vermont.

Elliott holds a BA in English from University of King’s College.

**Adriane Bond Harris**  
Advisor, Community Investment for the Center for Community Investment

Adriane Bond Harris is an Advisor, Community Investment for the Center for Community Investment (CCI). Prior to CCI, Adriane was Chief of Staff with the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI), focused primarily on the preservation of healthy housing using innovative, multi-sector financing and a direct services model used in Baltimore, MD and cities across the country. Adriane worked in affordable housing and community development programs for over fifteen years in Metro Nashville-Davidson County, TN, including directing the Mayor’s Office of Housing, focused on countywide housing policy and initiatives. Adriane has direct experience consulting with governments, nonprofit organizations, and small businesses in grant funding and programming through her consulting firm and as a program manager for a local community development financial institution (CDFI). Adriane has a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and a Bachelor of Science from Middle Tennessee State University. Adriane is a proud alumna of CCI’s inaugural class of the Fulcrum Fellows.
Savana Brewer
Community Organizing and Planning Coordinator, Eastside Community Network

Savana Brewer, born and raised in Saginaw, MI, began her work with Eastside Community Network (ECN) as a Wayne State University intern. Upon earning her Master of Social Work degree, she became employed with ECN and currently serves as the Community Organizing and Planning Manager. Savana’s educational background also includes earning a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Oakland University. Savana’s leadership experience has allowed her to serve in the capacity of a motivational speaker and conduct international research on Ghanaian health for the African Democracy Project. Savana has served as an Executive Board member for UAW Local 467 and the Association of Black Social Workers at Wayne State University, and as her local union’s Civil & Human Rights chairperson.

Katie Byerly
Program Officer, The Kresge Foundation

Katie W. Byerly is a program officer at The Kresge Foundation. Katie advances the Health Program’s grantmaking strategies, using cross-disciplinary and community-engaged approaches to promote health equity. Katie joined the foundation in 2016 as the inaugural health philanthropy fellow. Previously, Katie served as managing director of CounterTobacco.org, developing tools and resources for federal, state, and local public health practitioners working to counteract the impact of tobacco product sales and marketing. Katie also worked as a local public health department field assignee through the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Public Health Associate Program. A native of North Carolina, Katie earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
Reverend James Caldwell
Founder and Director, Coalition of Community Organizations

Reverend James Caldwell is a native Houstonian. Reverend Caldwell has been a community advocate and activist for over 15 years and is the founder and director of the Coalition of Community Organizations (COCO), which connects communities to the invaluable resources they need and connects organizations with one another. Aside from serving as the Chair and facilitator for monthly community meetings in both 5th Ward and Kashmere Gardens (North Houston), Reverend Caldwell is also a member of several groups including, Port of Houston Authority Chairman’s Community Advisory Committee, Healthy Port Community Coalition, and Clean Gulf Commerce Coalition. Reverend Caldwell is a graduate of Texas Southern University’s School of Public Affairs. Reverend Caldwell also attended Dallas Theological Seminary and has been an ordained minister for over 28 years. Environmental justice, quality education, financial independence, civil rights, and healthcare are a handful of issues that he is passionate about. He firmly believes that these issues affect everyone, regardless of their age, gender, or religious affiliation.

Andrea Casares, MSC
Development & Evaluation Director, GAVA

Andrea Casares was born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley. She is passionate about working with communities of color to implement evidence-based strategies that address systemic multidimensional poverty, racial inequities, and economic marginalization. Currently, she serves as a Climate Ambassador for the City of Austin, gathering and sharing information about climate issues in her community. Prior to joining GAVA, Andrea served as development director for Austin Region Justice for our Neighbors, a nonprofit law firm that provides free legal services to immigrant families in Central Texas. Andrea earned master’s degrees in Public Policy and Human Development with a focus on Social Protection Financing and Design from the United Nations University - Merit. During the completion of her BA in Political Science and Spanish from the University of Nebraska-Omaha, she was an AmeriCorps member, serving as legal outreach coordinator for Justice for our Neighbors in Omaha, Nebraska.
Stacia Clinton, RDN.
Chief Program Officer, Health Care Without Harm and Practice Greenhealth

Stacia Clinton, RDN, is the Chief Program Officer for the global non-profit organization Health Care Without Harm and U.S.-based membership organization Practice Greenhealth. Previously serving as the National Director for the organization’s Healthy Food in Health Care program, Stacia guided a national staff of experts and network of partners to transform the role of food in healthcare accelerating uptake of procurement, practice and policy transitions to an environmental nutrition approach within the health sector. Prior to working with the organization, Stacia led management of hospital food service and clinical nutrition programs in both small and large scale health care facilities. Stacia brings skills in systems analysis and individual behavior change to the design of programmatic strategy within the organization reaching thousands of health facilities and leaders nationally and speaks internationally on topics related to the intersection of human and environmental health. Stacia is a contributing author to the book Promoting Biodiversity in Food Systems released in 2018 and her commentary has been featured in a diversity of media outlets such as National Public Radio (NPR), Today’s Dietitian, Food Service Director Magazine and Time Magazine.

Gary Cohen
President, Health Care Without Harm

Gary Cohen has been a pioneer in the environmental health movement for more than 30 years, founding Health Care Without Harm, Practice Greenhealth, and Greenhealth Exchange. He serves on several boards, including Health Leads and Coming Clean. A MacArthur Fellow, Cohen has been recognized by the White House, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Skoll Foundation, the Huffington Post, and many more for his efforts to transform the health sector to become environmentally sustainable.

Olivia Collins
Director of Programs, CLEO Institute

Olivia Collins is Director of Programs at the CLEO Institute. In this role, Olivia helps oversee and execute most of CLEO’s outreach programs, as well as the CLEO speakers Network. Olivia also provides climate trainings, to help people understand how climate change impacts their daily lives and what steps they can take to better prepare for future challenges. Olivia has over 15 years of experience in the environmental field from natural building to corporate social responsibility and grassroots community development. Olivia received her bachelor’s degree in Social Justice & Sustainability from San Francisco State University and several years later completed her master’s in Environmental Impact Assessment at Concordia University in Montreal.
**Cara Cook, MS, RN, AHN-BC**  
Climate & Health Program Manager, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Cara Cook, MS, RN, AHN-BC is the Climate & Health Program Manager for the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments. Cara’s work focuses on elevating climate and health as a national priority by engaging nursing organizations and individual nurses in climate and health advocacy, education, and practice change. Cara has experience in critical care nursing, working in both medical and trauma intensive care, and public health nursing. Cara holds a master’s in Community/Public Health Nursing through the University of Maryland. Cara serves on the board of directors of the Maryland Public Health Association.

**Cecil Corbin-Mark**  
Deputy Director of Policy Initiatives, WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Cecil Corbin-Mark is WE ACT for Environmental Justice’s (WE ACT) Deputy Director and Director of Policy Initiatives. Prior to joining WE ACT, Cecil worked for the following: the Bronx County District Attorney, NYS Justice Hon. W. T. Martin, the Mellon Minority Scholars Program and the NY Public Library. Cecil currently serves on the following boards: Center for Environmental Health, Clean and Healthy New York, the Louis E. Burnham Fund, the West Harlem Development Corporation, and Friends of the Earth USA. He was the recipient of the 2010 Earth Day New York Award. Cecil holds a bachelor’s of arts from Hunter College in Political Science and a master’s of philosophy in International Relations from Oxford University in England.

**Matt Cox, Ph.D.**  
Founder and CEO, Greenlink Analytics

Matt Cox, Ph.D., is the founder and CEO of Greenlink Analytics, an energy research and advisory non-profit based in Atlanta, GA. In this role, Matt provides domain expertise for Greenlink’s energy and resource analysis software tools and provides insights on equitable development, clean energy strategies, and system operations in the electric power sector. Matt has authored over 60 scientific publications in energy policy, renewable energy, energy efficiency, economic development and job creation, the social and environmental impacts of energy use, and water policy. Matt's policy recommendations have been adopted by dozens of cities and states, the U.S. government, and 12 other nations.
Mayra Cruz
Climate Resilience Manager, Catalyst Miami

Mayra Cruz joined Catalyst Miami in January 2018 utilizing her knowledge of climate change and its impacts to coordinate the CLEAR (Community Leadership on the Environment, Advocacy, and the Environment) program and build upon existing climate resilience work. Thus far, Mayra has worked on community disaster preparedness initiatives and overseen the spring, summer, and fall sessions of CLEAR. Mayra graduated from Columbia University with a master’s in Public Health in Environmental Health Sciences with a Certificate in Climate and Health.

Lois DeBacker
Managing Director, The Kresge Foundation

Lois DeBacker is a Managing Director at The Kresge Foundation, where she leads the Foundation’s Environment Program, which is focused on helping communities build their resilience in the face of climate change. Lois joined Kresge in February 2008. Lois’ prior experience includes more than 16 years at the C. S. Mott Foundation in a series of Program Department positions of progressive responsibility. Before joining Mott, Lois worked for ten years in Michigan state government in policy development and program management capacities. Lois received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Michigan and a Master of Public Affairs degree from Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

Tony DeFalco
Executive Director, Verde

Tony DeFalco is Executive Director at Verde, a Portland, Oregon-based non-profit working to build environmental wealth in low-income communities. Tony’s expertise in community economic development, environmental protection and sustainability spans 20 years of working locally and nationally in environmental advocacy, coalition building and policy advocacy. Tony holds a master’s degree in Natural Resources Planning from Humboldt State University and a bachelor’s degree in Ethnic Studies from the University of California at Berkeley.
Claudia Des Rosiers
Program Assistant, Institute for Sustainable Communities

Claudia Des Rosiers is a Program Assistant for ISC’s U.S.-based community-led resilience programming. In this role, she provides the program team with administrative, logistical, and programmatic support.

Prior to ISC, Claudia held an administrative position at World Connexion Travel Agency in Miami. She speaks English, French, Haitian Creole, and has extensive academic and volunteer experience in environmental and community-based projects. Claudia holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and Policy from the University of South Florida.

Martha Dina Argüello
Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility-LA

Martha Dina Argüello joined Physicians for Social Responsibility-LA (PSR-LA) in 1998 to launch their pesticide program and became Executive Director in 2008. PSR-LA unites the credible voice of health professionals with the powerful voice of impacted communities to address multiple threats to human health and the environment. PSR-LA provides vision and leadership to many state and local coalitions. Martha is co-founder and co-chair of Californians for a Healthy and Green Economy, Standing Together Against Neighborhood Drilling, and the LA Leap Coalition. Martha is co-chair of Californians for Pesticide Reform. Martha serves on California Air Resources Board’s Global Warming Environmental Justice Advisory Committee and the 617 Implementation working group.

Denise Fairchild, Ph.D.
President and CEO, Emerald Cities Collaborative

Dr. Denise Fairchild is the inaugural President and CEO of Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC), a national non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. with affiliates in major urban centers across the United States. Denise is charged with advancing ECC’s “high road” mission to green our cities, to build resilient local economies and to ensure democratic and inclusive economies in both the process and the outcomes of a new green and healthy economy. Denise focuses on building community-led partnerships with labor, environmental and business organizations to increase energy efficiency, clean energy, sustainable foods and clean water with a focus on the needs and opportunities for low-income and communities of color. Denise has a 40-year track record in innovative programs in sustainable and community economic development, domestically and internationally.
Chandra Farley  
Just Energy Program Director, Partnership for Southern Equity

Chandra joined the Partnership for Southern Equity (PSE) in January 2018 as the Just Energy Director. In this role, Chandra develops local and regional strategies to advance energy equity through coalition building, leadership development and community organizing. Understanding the equity impacts of the sourcing and commodification of power generation is critical for marginalized populations such as black, indigenous and people of color communities and communities with limited incomes. While unfamiliar to many residents, equity-centered energy and utility policies significantly enhance household economic stability and improve the overall quality of air, water and other natural resources that affect our health and well-being. Chandra is a graduate of the EPA’s Environmental Justice Academy and serves on the Board of Directors for Community Movement Builders, Georgia Conservation Voters Education Fund, EarthShare of Georgia and Alabama Interfaith Power & Light.

Jessica Fuentes  
Program Associate, The California Endowment

Jessica Fuentes is a proud Latina immigrant and health advocate. In 2016, Jessica joined The California Endowment’s Healthy California team. In her role as Program Associate, she has led and contributed to several of the foundation’s educational statewide campaigns including: Health4All, #SodaKills, Sons & Brothers, Health Happens in Schools and #ClimateWoke. Climate Woke emerged from a partnership with environmental justice leaders and cultural artists with the goal of changing the narrative about climate justice by centering the stories of low-income communities of color most impacted by climate change. Jessica brings over six years of experience in direct service, community engagement, and advocacy to the work she does today. She is a proud product of the Hayward Unified School District and a first-generation college graduate from the University of California, Berkeley. The barriers she and her family faced in accessing health and higher education opportunities due to their immigration status shaped Jessica into a passionate and vocal leader. In addition to her work at the Endowment, Jessica is also a full-time student working towards a Master of Public Administration from the School of Management at the University of San Francisco.
David Fukuzawa
Managing director – Health Program, The Kresge Foundation

David D. Fukuzawa, managing director of Kresge’s Health Program, has more than 20 years of experience in philanthropy, with a special focus on children and youth. David joined Kresge in 2000 and has served as a program officer and senior program officer. In 2002, David helped develop the Special Opportunities Initiative. The initiative focused on building the capacity of high-impact organizations that reached underserved populations, but were uncompetitive in the foundation’s historic bricks-and-mortar challenge program. David then managed the initiative. David was a program officer at The Skillman Foundation in Detroit from 1990 to 1999 focusing on child and youth health. Before his career in philanthropy, David served as director of human needs at New Detroit, Inc. (NDI), where he was responsible for policy analysis and development, particularly in the areas of welfare reform and health care reform. A Yale University graduate, David also holds a master’s of divinity degree from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and a master of science in administration degree from Central Michigan University. He has published articles about urban issues and population health, including “Achieving Healthy Communities through Community-centered Health Systems” in the Winter 2013 edition of National Civic Review.

Priya Gandhi
Research Associate, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Priya Gandhi joined the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) in 2015 as a research associate in the Research-Evaluation-Learning (REL) Unit. In this role, Priya collaborates with REL leadership and officers to develop and manage research initiatives and evaluations, including two signature research programs, Health Data for Action and Policies for Action, and the Culture of Health Progress Report evaluation. Previously, Priya worked to address health and health care issues in the greater Pittsburgh region during her academic career through multiple channels, including serving as a Jonas Salk Fellow at the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. Priya holds a master’s of Science in Health Care Policy and Management and a bachelor’s of Science in Policy and Management from Carnegie Mellon University, where she served as a Charpie Scholar. Priya also received a Training Certificate in Public Health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
Veronica Garibay
Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

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

Donna Givens
President and CEO, Eastside Community Network

Donna L. Givens serves as President and CEO of Eastside Community Network. She 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 community organizations with the consistent goal of increasing opportunity, building capacity, and fostering growth. Donna formerly served as President of the Youth Development Commission, CEO of Visions Education Development Consortium, LLC, Executive Director of Vanguard CDC, Vice President of Programs, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit and in leadership positions at several other nonprofit organizations. Donna serves on the boards of New Detroit, Inc., Arise Detroit, the Chandler Park Conservancy, the Michigan College Access Network, Pewabic Pottery, and the U of D Mercy Community Development Advisory Board. Donna has earned a master's of Ed Leadership from Wayne State University, bachelor's of arts in Political Science from the University of Michigan and a Certificate of Completion from the Harvard University Summer Leadership Institute.
Shalini Gupta
Consultant

Shalini Gupta is a consultant to the Health & Environmental Funders Network’s Climate, Health, and Equity Project. Shalini has been involved with energy, climate and environmental policy - with a focus on building frontline community capacity - for the past 20 years. Shalini’s work is centered on solutions to our ecological crises that are grounded in people and place; and our economic and social histories. Through her consultancy work, Shalini works with a range of philanthropic, governmental and community-based organizations across the country. Her recent clients include: the Health & Environmental Funders Network (HEFN), Surdna Foundation, National Audubon Society (Washington D.C.), and work with the Providence, RI, Racial and Environmental Justice Committee in creating their landmark municipal Climate Justice Plan. A former governor appointee to the Minnesota Next Generation Energy Board, Shalini has served as co-Chair of the Headwaters Foundation for Justice Board of Directors and on the founding leadership team of the Midwest Environmental Justice Network. Prior to starting her consulting work, Shalini was the co-founder and executive director of the Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy, an environmental justice research and policy organization. Shalini holds a bachelor’s of arts from the University of Chicago and a master’s of engineer management from Yale University.

Nancy Halpern Ibrahim
Executive Director, Esperanza Community Housing

Nancy Halpern Ibrahim has been with Esperanza Community Housing for more than 25 years, and has served as Executive Director since 2006. Nancy was recruited in 1995 as inaugural Director of Health Programs, during which time she developed the model community health leadership program, Promotores de Salud and established the framework for the programs at the intersection of health and housing that characterize much of Esperanza’s work. Nancy's efforts have been central to pioneering environmental health strategies in the region, and to advancing the reputation of Mercado La Paloma, Esperanza’s economic development venue, as a cultural and culinary hub. Nancy received her master’s of Public Health from UCLA, and has worked as a social justice activist in the field of women’s health and development for the past thirty years. Nancy has received several recognitions including, 2015 UCLA Community Service Award for her dedication to improving the health of low-income families in Los Angeles, 2015 Pioneer Woman of the Year Award for Council District 9, from the City of Los Angeles Commission on the Status of Women, and 2006 Helen Rodriguez-Trias Award for Excellence in Community-Based Women’s Health Leadership from the California State Office of Women’s Health.
Sara Hayes
Health and Environment Program Manager, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

Sara Hayes leads the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy's (ACEEE) work related to health and the environment. Her research focuses on the human health impacts of energy efficiency in buildings and on the air quality effects of saving energy. Sara manages the health and environment program and oversees a research team focused on identifying opportunities to use energy efficiency to reduce pollution and improve human health. Sara serves on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Act Advisory Committee. Sara has over 15 years of experience working on policy and regulation related to the implementation of the Clean Air Act in federal rulemakings and in states. Prior to joining ACEEE, Sara worked at a boutique Wall Street law firm. In addition, Sara worked for the Ozone Transport Commission, as a private consultant and at the Community Energy Project weatherizing homes. Sara earned a JD from Fordham Law School, where she was the recipient of the Riker Danzig Environmental Law Award and served on the Fordham Environmental Law Review. Sara is a licensed attorney in the state of New York and earned a bachelor's of arts in environmental studies from Lewis and Clark College.

Cheryl Holder, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine

Dr. Cheryl L. Holder, Fellow in the American College of Physicians, has dedicated her medical career to serving underserved populations. In September 2009, Cheryl joined Florida International University's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine as faculty. Cheryl focuses on teaching the impact of social determinants of health on health outcomes, addressing diversity in health professions through pipeline programs, HIV prevention and health impact of climate change. Cheryl is Director of Green Family Foundation NeighborhoodHELP™ Education and Pipeline Program. After Cheryl's undergraduate education at Princeton University, she completed The George Washington University School of Medicine and Internal Medicine training at Harlem Hospital. In 1987, she moved to Miami-Dade County as a National Health Service Corp Scholar to work with the underserved communities. Cheryl served as Medical Director of Jackson Health System's North Dade Health Center from 1990 to 2009. As Medical Director, Cheryl developed an HIV care and treatment program with funding through the Ryan White Care Act, participated in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institute of Health advisory and programmatic review panels for HIV treatment and vaccine research and for community based participatory research.
Annelise Huber
Program Operations and Information Management Associate, The Kresge Foundation

Annelise Huber is a program operations and information management associate at The Kresge Foundation. Annelise supports the Education and the Environment teams at Kresge. Annelise joined the foundation in 2017. Previously, Annelise served as a consultant at Public Sector Consultants, where she was involved with helping public, private and nonprofit clients make informed, strategic decisions through research, evaluation and data analysis, specializing in energy, environmental, education and economic issues. Annelise has also held positions with the Monroe County Commissioners in Monroe County, Indiana, the National Science Foundation and Clean Water Action. A native of Mason, Michigan, Annelise earned a bachelor’s degree in international relations from Michigan State University and a master’s degree in public affairs from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University.

Katie Huffling, RN, MS, CNM, FAAN
Executive Director, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Katie Huffling is a Certified Nurse-Midwife and is the Executive Director of the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments. Katie works with nurses and nursing organizations on a variety of environmental health issues including climate change, chemical policy, inclusion of environmental health in nursing education, and sustainable healthcare. Katie was an editor of the environmental health e-textbook “Environmental Health in Nursing” that won the 2017 American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year in Environmental Health. Katie was also the recipient of the 2018 Charlotte Brody Award, which recognizes nurses who go beyond everyday nursing endeavors to proactively promote and protect environmental health.

Nancy Huizar
Climate Justice Organizer, Got Green

Nancy Huizar serves as a committee member on Got Green’s Young Leaders campaign from 2016 to 2019. In that role, she worked to create green job pathways for low-income youth of color. Nancy also co-chairs the City of Seattle’s Environmental Justice Committee. Nancy is a south Seattle native with leadership experience in environmental justice. Nancy has experience in research, policy, community organizing, and education and outreach. Nancy holds a degree in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences from the University of Washington.
**Deidre N. Hurse PhD., MPA**
Executive Director, Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance

Deidre Hurse serves as the interim Executive Director of the Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance (MiCHWA). Deidre is currently working on a project focused on training for community health workers serving communities disproportionately impacted by threats of Climate change. Deidre holds a Ph.D. in health and rehabilitation sciences, and a master's degree in public administration. Deidre has worked in health center operations and enabling services and brings over 15 years of experience in the field of HIV/AIDS. Deidre has led initiatives around social determinants of health, inclusion and diversity, and chronic illness, and held a lecturer appointment in the Department of Public Health and Health Sciences at the University of Michigan Flint.

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**Sarita Hudson**
Director of Programs and Development, Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts

Sarita Hudson brings over 25 years of experience managing programs, developing coalitions, and building community capacity on issues including environmental health, climate action and resilience, sexual violence prevention, women’s rights and social justice. As Director of Programs & Development at the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts, Sarita leads the Coalition Building team where her responsibilities include resource development, planning, program development and organizational communications. Sarita currently directs the Health Policy Commission funded Shift Healthy Homes Asthma Program, the Pioneer Valley Asthma Coalition, Springfield Healthy Homes Collaborative and 413Cares online community resource database initiative. In addition, Sarita supervises the Live Well Springfield Coalition to improve health and well-being addressing climate action and resilience, healthy eating, active living, and age/dementia friendly city. Sarita is a member of the Steering and Healthy Housing Committees of the Massachusetts Asthma Action Partnership, the American Lung Association’s Asthma in Adults Leadership Team and is a former Treasurer/ Board Member of Safe Passage. Sarita holds a master’s degree from Harvard Divinity School. Under her leadership, the Pioneer Valley Asthma Coalition was awarded the 2019 EPA Region 1 Environmental Merit Award for Children’s Health.
Saba Ijadi
Climate Justice Coordinator, Fairmount Indigo CDC Collaborative

Saba Ijadi is a Climate Justice Coordinator for the Fairmount Indigo CDC Collaborative in Boston, MA. In this role, Saba assists FICC in conducting community-based planning and advocacy for climate resilience. Saba is motivated by environmental justice. Saba’s early studies in political science and philosophy at the University of New Mexico spurred his curiosity to investigate the relationship between people, justice, economics, and the environment. Following this thread, Saba pursued a master’s of international environmental policy at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, graduating in 2017. Through the master’s International Program, Saba combined his graduate studies with a two year Peace Corps service in the Philippines, where he helped communities of fishers, teachers, and other residents of coastal villages sustainably manage their marine resources and advocate for themselves at a local and regional level. Saba’s career has taken him from the deserts of New Mexico to the islands of Honduras and the shores of California.

Jean-Ann James
Senior Program Associate, The Turner Foundation

Jean-Ann James is a Senior Program Associate as the Turner Foundation. In this role, Jean-Ann helps to implement the Foundation’s programs supporting clean air/energy, urban sustainability, and growing and diversifying the movement. Jean-Ann has a wealth of volunteer and leadership experience with Engineers without Borders, Georgia Tech education programs for high school students, and local nonprofits Atlanta Audubon and Greenhouse Accelerator (a nonprofit green business accelerator). Jean-Ann received her Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology, with a concentration in Sustainable Urban Systems.

Sonal Jessel
Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Sonal Jessel is a Policy and Advocacy Coordinator at WE ACT for Environmental Justice. In this role, Sonal works to advance the organization’s policy agenda at the local, state, regional, and national level, and leads the Northern Manhattan Climate Action (NMCA) Plan. Prior to joining WE ACT, Sonal conducted research in energy insecurity, housing, and public health at Columbia University, and coordinated clinical trials at Weill Cornell Medicine. With roots in California and Connecticut, Sonal has an MPH 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 of art in organismal biology from Pitzer College in California. Sonal’s interest is focused on the intersection of environmental and social justice, health, and policy.
Maria Jolly
Program Officer, CDC Foundation

Maria Jolly is a Program Officer at the CDC Foundation. In this role, Maria conceptualizes, plans, executes, monitors, and closes projects spanning topic areas such as climate and health, global food fortification, birth defects, and public health surveillance. Maria has over six years of program management and research experience domestically as well as across South America, Asia, and Africa. Prior to the CDC Foundation, Maria had professional experience at the United Nations (UN) Foundation, the CDC, Emory University, and Johns Hopkins University. Maria has represented her organization at high-level UN meetings, such as the World Health Organization’s World Health Assembly and the UN’s Climate Change Negotiations. Maria is a trilingual speaker who holds a master’s of science in public health with a focus on environmental health and epidemiology from Emory University and a bachelor’s with distinction in Environmental Science and Policy, with minors in Chemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Notable honors and involvement include U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Green Champion Award, CDC Honor Award for outstanding support and leadership in CDC’s 2014 Ebola epidemic response, Rollins DC Executive Board, and more.

Melissa Jones, MPA
Executive Director, Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative

Melissa Jones, MPA, is the Executive Director of Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII). Melissa is passionate about creating the conditions that increase quality of life and makes life more fair for more people. Melissa’s work focuses on the intersection of social determinants of health, social inequity, and well-being. Melissa is an active community member in Oakland and also serves on the Association of Bay Area Government’s Regional Planning Committee, which advises on regional planning issues. Before joining BARHII, Melissa served as Senior Program Officer at Boston Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), where she launched and ran Boston LISC’s Resilient Communities Resilient Families (RCRF) Initiative. The initiative works to ensure that residents of Boston’s Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan neighborhoods benefit from the rising tide of transit and other public investments. Melissa has additional experience funding and implementing programs focused on community economic development, family financial stability, education, and civic empowerment. Specifically, Melissa has served in youth empowerment organizations, as Program Specialist for the City of Alameda, and as Program Analyst for the City of Oakland’s Oakland Fund for Children and Youth. Early in her career, Melissa served as Director of Professional Development for Partners in School Innovation.
Chris Kabel
Senior Fellow – Executive Office, The Kresge Foundation

Chris M. Kabel is a senior fellow in The Kresge Foundation’s Executive Office. Chris promotes and fosters more effective cross-team work at the foundation, supporting the development of interdisciplinary grantmaking and investment approaches that advance the strategies of multiple Kresge programs. Prior to joining the foundation in 2013, Chris worked for eight years as a senior program officer at the Northwest Health Foundation in Portland, Oregon. Before that, Chris served as a fundraiser for Doernbecher Children’s Hospital and Oregon Health and Science University. Chris earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Southern California and a master’s degree in public health from Portland State University.

Michael Kent
Hazardous Materials Ombudsman, Contra Costa Health Services

Michael Kent has been the Ombudsman for the Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Program for the past 21 years. Michael’s job is to respond to questions and concerns about the activities of that program, and to serve as a resource on environmental pollution issues for county residents. In addition, Michael staffs the County’s Hazardous Materials Commission, an advisory board to the County Board of Supervisors. Michael also provides support to the Public Health Department on issues such as Environmental Justice, air pollution and climate change, and represents the Health Department in regional health and environmental collaboratives. Michael is co-chair of Bay Area Regional Health Inequity Initiative’s Built Environment Committee. Previously, Michael worked for two non-profit environmental advocacy organizations and was a pollution prevention specialist for the Thurston County Health Department in Olympia, Washington. Michael received a bachelor’s of philosophy in interdisciplinary studies from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and a master’s in environmental studies from the Evergreen State College.
Candice Kim
Project Director – Moving Forward Network, Urban and Environmental Policy Institute, Occidental College

Candice Kim is the Project Director of the Moving Forward Network located at UEPI. The network seeks to transform the global trade system by supporting the organizing, advocacy, education and research efforts of partners around the United States towards improving public health, quality of life, environmental integrity, labor conditions and environmental justice. Candice has spent many years supporting community-centered campaigns to reduce dirty diesel pollution from ports and freight transportation in the state of California. Candice draws upon her experience as a community and labor organizer to support community-led statewide and regional coalitions fighting to protect public health. Candice received her master’s of public health from the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California and a bachelor’s in fine art from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Courtney Knapp, AICP
Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning, Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment, Pratt Institute

Courtney Knapp, AICP is an Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning in the Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment at the Pratt Institute. Courtney teaches studios as well as courses in planning methods, main street revitalization, housing, and social planning. Courtney has published about radical planning in the South, anarchist approaches to community planning, community-driven brownfield redevelopment, collaboration with public libraries, and integrating critical autobiographical writing into education and community engagement processes. Courtney’s book, Constructing the Dynamo of Dixie: Race, Urban Planning, and Cosmopolitanism in Chattanooga, Tennessee (University of North Carolina Press, 2018) won the Associated Collegiate Schools of Planning’s (ACSP) 2019 Paul Davidoff Award. Courtney’s current research examines the local planning dimensions of community reentry and integration among formerly incarcerated populations. Courtney is also involved with a second book project, which takes a long view of the planning and placemaking dimensions of racial healing and justice work in Richmond, Virginia. Courtney previously worked in Massachusetts and New York as an affordable housing, economic development, and public space planner, and was an Assistant Professor at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (2014-2018).
**Perla Lara**  
Lead Program Officer, Southwest Boston Community Development Corporation  

Perla Lara is a Program Coordinator who works with youth, resident organizations and committees, and environmental agencies to provide training and employment to Boston’s youth and advocate for environmental policy change. After holding several leadership positions in college, leading groups on international service trips, coordinating campus events with large budgets, and interning as an environmental educator, Perla is an expert in community building, communications, and high-order thinking. Perla holds a bachelor's in sociology and environmental studies from Boston College.

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**Walter Lewis**  
President and CEO, Homewood Children’s Village  

Walter Lewis is the President & CEO of Homewood Children’s Village, where he oversees HCV’s work and partnerships across the cradle to career pipeline. Walter began his journey at HCV as a volunteer. Over the past eight years, he has served at every level of the organization, from part-time after school work, to program management, and later as a director. Prior to joining HCV, Walter spent several years conducting research at Brookhaven National Lab, Wistar Institute, and Carnegie Mellon University. Walter’s research ranged from cancer progression and genomic sequence identification to gene regulation and development. Walter received his B.S. from Cheyney University in computer science and his master’s from Carnegie Mellon University in computational biology.

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**Angelo Logan**  
Policy Director – Moving Forward Network, Urban and Environmental Policy Institute, Occidental College  

Angelo Logan is the Policy Director for the Moving Forward Network out of the Urban & Environmental Policy Institute at Occidental College. For over 20 years, Angelo has been advocating for communities impacted by industrial pollution and the goods movement system in California and across the country. Angelo is the co-founder of the non-profit organization, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice. Angelo serves on multiple boards and advisory committees where he provides his perspective through an environmental justice lens.
Larissa Lopez
Program Coordinator, Institute for Sustainable Communities

Larissa Lopez is a Program Coordinator for ISC’s U.S.-based community-led resilience programming. In this role, Larissa provides project management, administrative, logistical and programmatic support to advance equitable climate resilience outcomes in U.S. communities. Prior to joining ISC, Larissa worked for LEAF Community Arts as Cultural Arts Administrator supporting local music and arts education programming in Asheville, NC and cultural preservation efforts internationally. Previously, Larissa interned for The Nature Conservancy of Central and Western New York as a Conservation Assistant supporting land management and stewardship efforts at the organization’s flagship preserves. Later, she served as an AmeriCorps Member through Conservation Trust for North Carolina at the Balsam Mountain Trust Nature Center in Sylva, NC where she designed, delivered and evaluated environmental education for children and adults.

Larissa is an ongoing collaborator with Artists Designing Evolution (adé PROJECT), a multi-generational, intersectional grassroots cooperative bringing artists of color who call the Southeast home together to actualize equity, spark creative inquiry + reclaim the narrative and we walk with many to design change.

Larissa has a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Sustainability Studies at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Asheville, NC where she resides.

Jaime Love
Senior Program Officer, Institute for Sustainable Communities

Jaime Love is a Senior Program Officer on ISC’s U.S. Program team. In this role, she supports ISC’s work on the Partnership for Resilient Communities program. Prior to ISC, Jaime worked 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 a community-driven project focused on improving health through policy, systems, and environmental change strategies. Jaime is also an Adjunct Instructor in the Health Promotion and Education program at Union Institute & University. She holds a Master of Education in Health Promotion from University of Cincinnati and a Bachelor of Science from Central Michigan University.
Kimberly Lyle
Director of Strategy and Development, Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation

Kimberly R. Lyle is the Director of Strategy and Development at Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation where she oversees strategic planning, resource development, and marketing and communications. Kimberly serves on Dorchester Bay’s senior leadership team. Prior to joining Dorchester Bay and the community development field, Kimberly worked in a variety of sectors, including higher education, financial services, and tech. Kimberly serves on the board of the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations (MACDC). Previously, she served as Vice-chair of the Roxbury Neighborhood Council (RNC) and on the City of Boston’s ONEin3 Advisory Council. Kimberly is a graduate of Rutgers University where she earned a bachelor’s of art degree in Philosophy, and she has completed graduate coursework in social anthropology.

Alyssa Lyon
Sustainable Communities Director, Green Building Alliance

Alyssa Lyon is the Sustainable Communities Director at the Green Building Alliance. Alyssa simultaneously chairs the Licensure and Inspection Review and the Micro-Enterprise Review Loan Committee for the City of Pittsburgh and URA; and holds a board position with the Pittsburgh Chapter of the NAACP and Pittsburgh Black PRIDE. Additionally, Alyssa was recognized as a WHRL Magazine fellow of the 2018 class of 20 in their 20’s Making a Difference within the City of Pittsburgh, PUMP’s 40 Under 40 Honoree and the Incline’s Who’s next in Community Activism, 2019 Pittsburgh Courier Fab 40 Honoree and a 2019 recipient of the Get Involved! Western PA Rising Star Award, presented and sponsored by Allegheny County Councilman Tom Baker. Alyssa graduated with a master’s of public management from Carnegie Mellon University in 2017 and also received a bachelor’s in communications and Africana studies from the University of Pittsburgh in 2012.
Jen Major
Senior Associate/Consultant, Ross Strategic

Jen Major is a Senior Associate and Consultant with Ross Strategic. She has 20 years of experience working on a range of public health issues. At Ross Strategic, Jen works closely with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) on a national surveillance system for environmentally-associated health impacts, including those affected by climate change; she has also supported CDC’s work in injury prevention, asthma, and childhood lead poisoning. Increasingly, Jen has been working with non-governmental and philanthropic organizations targeting resources toward affordable and sustainable housing, energy efficiency, and place-based strategies for increasing social and health equity. Before coming to Ross in 2007, Jen was a senior health policy analyst and evaluator with the U.S. Government Accountability Office, supporting informed congressional decision-making around federal programs and policies. In that role, Jen co-authored 11 “Blue Book” congressional reports and testimonies concerning uncompensated health care costs, vaccine shortages, and preparedness for pandemic influenza. Jen holds a master’s of public health in epidemiology from Yale University.

Marriele Mango
Resilient Power Fellowship Program Associate, Clean Energy Group

Marriele Mango is the Resilient Power Fellowship Program Associate for Clean Energy Group. In that role, Marriele works on initiatives that support the development of solar plus battery storage projects, programs, and policies that benefit under-resourced communities. Marriele is a policy professional with 10+ years of experience in leading renewable energy, energy efficiency, and resilience programs. Prior to Clean Energy Group, Marriele was a fellow with the Marion County Emergency Management Office in Salem, OR, where she focused on developing clean energy strategies for mitigation and emergency response initiatives. Marielle also served as Project Coordinator for a nonprofit energy efficiency program aimed at assisting low-wealth communities and faith-based institutions on Long Island. Marriele holds a master’s in Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management from The New School.
Brittany Marshall, Ph.D.
Program Manager, CDC Foundation

Dr. Brittany Marshall is a Program Manager at the CDC Foundation where she leads a landscape analysis of local health departments to address the impacts of climate change on health within CDC’s National Center for Environmental Health. Prior to, Brittany completed a post-doctoral fellowship in the 2016 class of the CDC Evaluation Fellowship Program. Broadly, Brittany’s practice and research interests include HIV prevention among vulnerable populations, program evaluation, and implementation science. Brittany’s ultimate goal is to build community level monitoring and evaluation capacity to support improved health outcomes produced by HIV evidence-based interventions. Brittany has held leadership positions in public health, most notably the American Public Health Association (APHA). Brittany is currently serving a four-year term on the APHA Executive Board and is the youngest elected board member. Brittany holds a bachelor’s of science in health education from the University of Florida, a master’s of public health from the University of South Florida, and a doctorate of public health from the University of North Texas Health Science Center.

Carolina Martinez
Associate Director of Policy, Environmental Health Coalition

Carolina Martinez is the Associate Director of Policy at Environmental Health Coalition (EHC). Carolina’s work with EHC’s in the Climate Justice Campaign focuses on the San Diego region. Carolina is responsible for working together with residents in low-income communities of color to advocate for climate policies that respect their priorities, improve health, and are consistent with environmental justice principles. Currently, Carolina is working on the equitable implementation of San Diego’s Climate Action Plan. Carolina enjoys working at the intersection of liberation, race, culture, gender, civic engagement, environmental issues, health, and city planning in the struggle for environmental justice. Carolina has a master’s of art in Urban Planning and Latin American Studies.
Craig Martinez, MPH, DrPH  
Senior Program Manager, The California Endowment

Craig Martinez, MPH, DrPH, joined The California Endowment in May 2012 as a program manager tasked with supporting policy and system change efforts to create healthier neighborhoods. Craig’s portfolio focuses on the nexus of health equity and the built environment, namely transportation, housing, open space, and toxin-free communities. Craig began serving on the steering committee of Smart Growth California, a collaborative of statewide funders advocating for equitable, sustainable, and economical development, in 2013. Craig has also been a board member of the Funders’ Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities since 2015, a national funder collaborative dedicated to equitable and sustainable growth and development, and was selected Vice-Chair in 2018. Prior to joining The Endowment, Craig served as Health Policy Advisor in the Majority Health Policy Office of the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee. Craig’s legislative portfolio on the HELP Committee included issues relating to public health, disease prevention, health disparities, mental health, HIV/AIDS, and public health preparedness. Craig received his bachelor’s of science from Stanford University, and holds both a master’s of public health and a doctorate in public health with a focus on child and adolescent health and development from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Catherine Mazzocchi  
Design Strategist and Researcher, WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Catherine Mazzocchi is a design strategist & researcher working to build community power & more equitable futures at WE ACT for Environmental Justice. Through co-design, Catherine activates communities to enact positive change, for today and for future generations’ prosperity and existence. Catherine’s practice places emphasis on equity, justice, & visual storytelling to amplify community–driven missions. Catherine is also a member of WE ACT for Environmental Justice, located in Northern Manhattan, where this summer, she completed WE ACT’s Environmental Health and Justice Leadership Training. Currently, Catherine is WE ACT’s partner in planning and facilitating workshops for their Extreme Heat, Health, and Equity initiative. A New York native, Catherine earned a BFA in Communications Design from Syracuse University and is currently finishing up her MFA in Design for Social Innovation at the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan.
**Matt McKillop**  
Senior Health Policy Researcher and Analyst, Trust for America’s Health  

Matt McKillop is a Senior Health Policy Researcher and Analyst at Trust for America’s Health (TFAH). He manages a project that assesses states’ preparedness for protecting residents from the public health impacts of climate change, serves as lead writer on selected TFAH publications, and helps manage TFAH’s overall research and strategic communications program. Before joining TFAH, Matt managed research on state health and fiscal policy at The Pew Charitable Trusts, including examinations of spending on care for people in prisons and jails, whether and how care quality was monitored, and promising practices for facilitating continued care after incarcerated people were released. Matt also led advocacy and community organizing campaigns for So Others Might Eat, a nonprofit organization that serves poor and homeless residents of the District of Columbia. Matt holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Kalamazoo College and a master’s in public policy from the George Washington University.

**Katharine McLaughlin**  
Communications Officer, The Kresge Foundation  

Katharine McLaughlin is a communications officer at The Kresge Foundation. Katherine provides strategic communications support to the foundation’s Health and Human Services Programs. Katherine 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, Katherine earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism and mass communications and a master’s degree in integrated marketing communications from St. Bonaventure University.

**Rachel McMonagle**  
Climate Change Program Manager, American Public Health Association  

Rachel McMonagle is a Climate Change Program Manager at the American Public Health Association. In this role, she leads efforts to educate and empower public health professionals to act on the connection between climate change, health, and equity. Prior to joining APHA, Rachel supported high risk-high reward research at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and conducted climate resilience research in Ukraine, Costa Rica, and Zambia. Rachel holds a master’s degree in environmental management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where her research focused on climate resilience and adaptation strategies for smallholder farmers in developing countries.
Phyllis Meadows
Senior Fellow – Health Program, The Kresge Foundation

Phyllis Meadows is a Senior Fellow in the Health Program at The Kresge Foundation. In this role, she engages in all levels of grantmaking activity. Since joining The Kresge Foundation in 2009, Phyllis has advised the Health team on the development of its overall strategic direction and provided leadership in the design and implementation of grantmaking initiatives and projects. Phyllis also has coached team members and created linkages to national organizations and experts in the health field. In addition, she regularly reviews grant proposals, aids prospective grantees in preparing funding requests, and provides health-related expertise. Phyllis has led the foundation’s Emerging Leaders and Public Health Program, advises and supports the development of cross-team programming efforts with the Detroit, Environment and Human Services programs. Phyllis is the former associate dean for practice at the University of Michigan’s School of Public Health and clinical professor in health management and policy. Phyllis served as deputy director and then director/public health officer for the city of Detroit. Phyllis serves as adjunct faculty with Wayne State and Oakland University’s Schools of Nursing. Phyllis was selected for the Kellogg International Leadership Program – Group I. After completing the three-year fellowship, she joined the W.K. Kellogg Foundation as a program director.

Oscar Medina
Transportation Justice Policy Advocate, Environmental Health Coalition

Oscar Medina is a transportation justice advocate with the Environmental Health Coalition, where he works to advance local and regional policies that reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from transportation sources. Oscar previously worked at Circulate San Diego, a mobility nonprofit, on active transportation planning projects, and various policy initiatives related to transportation and land use. Before his time at Circulate, Oscar worked in private consulting, where he assisted public agencies in communicating complex land use and transportation plans to the general public. Oscar is passionate about involving new people in planning processes. Oscar holds a bachelor’s in public administration and city planning from San Diego State University.
**Lewis Milford**  
President, Clean Energy Group, Founder, Clean Energy States Alliance  

Lewis Milford is president and founder of Clean Energy Group (CEG) and Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA), two national nonprofit organizations that work with state, federal, and international organizations to promote clean energy technology, policy, finance, and innovation. Lewis is also a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. Lewis works with many public agencies and private investors in the United States and Europe that finance clean energy. Lewis is frequently asked to appear as an expert panelist at energy conferences throughout the United States and Europe. Lewis’ articles on clean energy have appeared in many print and online publications including The New York Times, The Boston Globe, The National Journal, The Huffington Post, and Renewable Energy World. Before founding these two organizations, Lewis was Vice President of Conservation Law Foundation, New England’s leading environmental organization. Prior to that, Lewis was a government prosecutor on the Love Canal hazardous waste case in New York and previously directed the Public Interest Law Clinic at American University Law School where he represented veterans on a range of legal issues, including gaining compensation for their harmful exposure to Agent Orange and nuclear radiation. Lewis has a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center.

**Ansje Miller**  
Executive Director, Health and Environmental Funders Network  

Ansje Miller is the Executive Director of the Health and Environmental Funders Network (HEFN). Throughout Ansje’s 20 plus years in the environmental health, environmental justice and climate fields, she has worked to collectively mobilize with other activists and partners to combat the increasing threats to our health through environmental exposures, and the rising racial and social justice attacks on our communities. Ansje’s organizing efforts, research reports, and popular articles have also led to the creation of numerous policies on toxics and global warming including California’s landmark global warming law AB32, the Green Chemistry Initiative, and won critical health protections in the 2016 update to the Toxic Substances Control Act. Before joining HEFN, Ansje was the Director of Policy and Partnerships for the Center for Environmental Health (CEH) and founded and directed the Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative. Ansje is currently on the Sierra Club National board and has served leadership roles in the Reproductive Health Technologies Project, Healthy Babies Bright Futures, and Safer Chemicals Healthy Families. Ansje has most recently served as policy co-chair of the BizNGO Working Group on Safer Chemicals as well as for the Cancer Free Economy Network.
**Vernice Miller-Travis**  
Executive Vice President, Metropolitan Group

Vernice Miller-Travis is the Executive Vice President of the Metropolitan Group and one of the nation’s leading experts, pioneers and most respected thought leaders on environmental justice, a deeply skilled practitioner in multicultural engagement and organizational development with significant expertise in clean air and water, regulatory systems and environmental and urban planning. Vernice consults for federal and state agencies, foundations and nonprofits. Prior to becoming a consultant, Vernice established the environmental justice program for NRDC and initiated the environmental justice grantmaking portfolio for the Ford Foundation. Vernice has extensive experience working with communities that have undergone economic disinvestment and environmental degradation by facilitating community-based planning and implementing community revitalization and sustainable redevelopment initiatives and projects. Vernice is trained in environmental conflict mediation, alternative dispute resolution, and how to navigate longstanding racial, cultural and economic conflicts. Vernice is the co-founder of WeACT for Environmental Justice and serves on its board, as well as on the boards of Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund, Land Loss Prevention Project, Natural Resources Defense Council’s Action Fund, Patuxent Riverkeeper, and on the advisory boards of the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Green Leadership Trust, Imani Energy, and the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum.

**Esther Min**  
Environmental and Occupational Hygiene Ph.D. Candidate, University of Washington

Esther Min is an Environmental and Occupational Hygiene Ph.D. candidate at the University of Washington. She received her B.S. in Animal Science from the University of California, Davis, and an MPH in Community Health from Touro University, California. She worked for a nonprofit organization to improve access to safe, affordable drinking water for communities across California. She continues her environmental justice work through her graduate studies, identifying and reducing environmental health disparities through community-academic partnerships. As part of her dissertation, she worked with community partners, regional and state agencies to develop a tool called the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map as a way to help identify communities most impacted by environmental justice issues. She is also evaluating drivers of success in a long-standing community-academic partnership in rural Washington state. She plans to continue community-engaged research and teach after her degree.
Mark Mitchell M.D., MPH, FACPM
Associate Professor – Climate Change, Energy, & Environmental Health Equity, George Mason University’s Center for Climate Change Communications

Dr. Mark Mitchell is Associate Professor of Climate Change, Energy, & Environmental Health Equity at George Mason University’s Center for Climate Change Communications. Mitchell co-directs the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Health and Climate Solutions Program Office and is State Liaison for the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health. He also co-chairs the National Medical Association’s Commission on Environmental Health, where he provides environmental health education and advocates on behalf of NMA.

A preventive medicine physician trained in environmental health and health policy, Dr. Mitchell has spent over twenty years working in the public health sector, including as Director of the Hartford, Connecticut Health Department. He is the founder and policy advisor to the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice and has spent fifteen years working with environmental justice communities to prevent and reduce environmentally related disease, as well as to change policies that are detrimental to community health.

He now works with clinicians in Virginia, Florida, Georgia and Wisconsin to help coordinate efforts by physicians and nurses to educate and advocate for reducing the health effects of climate change. He has served on several U.S. EPA and FDA advisory committees and has received a number of awards for his community and environmental health leadership.

Dr. Mitchell earned his medical degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and his master’s of Public Health from The Johns Hopkins University.
Chloe A. Mondesir
Just Health Manager, Partnership for Southern Equity
Chloe A. Mondesir, MSOL, is a Just Health Manager at the Partnership for Southern Equity. Chloe leads programming, management consulting, strategic partnership and capacity building across philanthropic spaces in non-profit and higher education, through entrepreneurship. With strengths in research, relationships, communications, multi-platform writing and speaking, Mondesir successfully creates and sustains progress for diverse populations, equitable missions, and systemic advancement. Recent recognition includes being keynote webinar speaker of the Georgia Public Health Association, completion of the Rockwood Leadership Institute 2019 Kresge Fuel 2.0 Art of Leadership, earning a 2018 Forbes fellowship, and features from VoyageATL.com, SheLeadsAfrica.org, and BlackFemaleFounders.org. Chloe’s professional memberships include the Society for Human Resource Management and the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, in addition to recent projects that include best-selling children’s book, *Take Opportunity*. She holds a bachelor’s and a master’s from Mercer University.

Charles E. Moore, MD
Professor, Emory University School of Medicine
Charles E. Moore, MD, is Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology at Emory University School of Medicine. A board-certified otolaryngologist, Dr. Moore specializes in the surgical treatment of cancers of the head and neck with a focus on craniomaxillofacial and anterior skull base surgery. He treats head and neck cancer patients at Grady Memorial Hospital. Dr. Moore serves as President of the American Association for Cancer Education. He is a member of American Academy of Otolaryngology, Georgia Society of Otolaryngology, National Medical Association, North American Skull Base Society, and Society of Robotic Surgery, among other professional organizations. Dr. Moore has been listed in Academic Keys Who’s Who in Medical Sciences Education, Who's Who for Executives and Professionals, and America’s Top Physicians, and he has received a Triological Society Poster Award for the study, "Adolescent Awareness of Risk Factors Associated with Head and Neck Cancer Versus Lung Cancer." In 2017, he received the Georgia Hospital Association’s Distinguished Service Award.
Richard Moss
Senior Scientist, The Global Change Research Institute.

Richard Moss is currently a Visiting Fellow at Princeton University and Linger Center for Energy and Environment, on leave from the University of Maryland, where he is a senior scientist at the Global Change Research Institute. His research focuses on the interactions of human and natural systems and he has published on scenarios, climate change adaptation, and climate-change-informed decision support. Richard has also worked as director of the coordination process for the U.S. Government’s climate change research and in a variety of non-governmental organizations including the United Nations Foundation and the World Wildlife Fund. While on leave at Princeton, he is establishing a civil society climate change assessment process and conducting research on coastal resilience and other topics.

Seth Mullendore
Vice President and Project Director, Clean Energy Group

Seth Mullendore is vice president and project director for Clean Energy Group, where he serves as manager, analyst, and technical adviser for power systems, solar PV applications, and battery storage projects. Seth works with policymakers and project developers on outreach and coordination of energy storage project development, and he provides research and reporting of energy storage technologies, policies, and supporting market structures. Prior to joining Clean Energy Group, Seth served as a Sustainable Energy Fellow with Union of Concerned Scientists and worked with Maine Clean Communities to help advance clean transportation initiatives in Maine. Seth has participated in a number of academic research projects directly related to renewable energy, energy storage, and energy equity. Seth holds a master’s in Civil & Environmental Engineering from Stanford University, and a bachelor’s in Geosciences from the University of Southern Maine.
**Marcus Mundy**  
Executive Director, Coalition of Communities of Color

Marcus Mundy is the Executive Director of the Coalition for Communities of Color (CCC). Prior to joining CCC, Marcus was Principal at Mundy Consulting LLC, an Oregon state certified minority small business. Marcus’ practice assisted clients in various disciplines including but not limited to: achieving equity, diversity and inclusion in personnel, contracting, supplier diversity, development and administrative areas; and achieving compliance with respect to applicable laws, regulations and accreditation standards for healthcare businesses and others. Prior to his role at Mundy Consulting, Marcus served as the President and CEO of the Urban League of Portland and was the Vice President and Regional Compliance Officer for Kaiser Permanente Northwest. Marcus has served the community through his participation on numerous boards and community advisory positions, including the OHSU Foundation Board, the State Labor Commissioner’s Oregon Council on Civil Rights, the Oregon Community Foundation’s Regional Advisory Initiative, and more. He is also a Senior Fellow in Oregon’s chapter of the American Leadership Forum, the state’s premier leadership training group for over two decades. Marcus attended Howard University in Washington, D.C., receiving his bachelor’s in business administration. Marcus received his MBA from the University of Oregon’s Executive MBA program.

**Michael W. Painter**  
Senior Program Officer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Michael W. Painter is a senior program officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. He is a distinguished physician, attorney and health policy advocate. His work includes identifying cutting edge ideas and investments that could help build a Culture of Health. In 2003-2004, Painter was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellow with the office of Senator William H. Frist, MD, former majority leader. Prior to that, he was the chief of medical staff at the Seattle Indian Health Board, a community health center serving urban American Indians and Alaska Natives. Painter led that clinic’s award-winning diabetes team. He has a clinical faculty appointment with the University of Washington, Department of Family Medicine. Painter earned a JD from Stanford Law School and an MD from the University of Washington. He received his residency training at the Providence Family Medicine Residency in Seattle. He earned a BA in economics and mathematics from Vanderbilt University.
Surili Patel
Director, Center for Climate, Health and Equity
Deputy Director, Center for Public Health Policy, American Public Health Association

Surili Patel is the director of the Center for Climate, Health and Equity. In this role, Surili drives strategic development to bridge the gap between public health programs and sound policies. Surili works to inspire action and advance policy that addresses climate change at the nexus of health equity. As Deputy Director for the Center for Public Health Policy, Surili leads the organization’s most notable environmental health programs, including water safety and security, children’s environmental health, tribal public and environmental health, environmental health messaging, transportation and health, and healthy community design. She applies her role in both Centers to champion diversity and advance health equity and environmental justice while promoting public health Solutions.

Jacqui Patterson, MSW, MPH
Senior Director, Environmental and Climate Program, NAACP

Jacqui Patterson, MSW, MPH is the Senior Director of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program., Prior to this, Jacqui worked with Peace Corps, IMA World Health, and ActionAid International, and she co-founded Women of Color United. Jacqui serves on the Boards of Directors for the Institute of the Black World, the National Black Workers Center, Association of Adaptation Professionals, The River Network, Fresh Coast Capital, and Center for Story Based Strategy and the Steering Committees for Interfaith Moral Action on Climate Change and Center for Earth Ethics as well as serving on the Leadership Circle for the Climate Justice Alliance.

Felicia Perez
Innovation Director, Center for Story-based Strategy

Felicia T. Perez is the Innovation Director at the Center for Story-based Strategy. Her previous organizing experience includes work for United Workers Congress, GetEqual, the ACLU of Southern California, No on Proposition 21 campaign, and Californians for Justice. Felicia holds a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara and an MA in Curriculum and Instruction. She is a published author and co-author of social studies curriculum and in anthologies on teaching and performance. Prior to her work in strategic communications, she taught social studies for twelve years in Los Angeles and was a union chapter chair for UTLA.
Lourdes Pérez-Medina
Climate Justice Policy and Programs Coordinator, UPROSE

Lourdes Pérez-Medina is the Climate Justice Policy and Programs Coordinator at UPROSE, Brooklyn’s oldest Latino community-based organization. Lourdes’ work involves supporting UPROSE’s Sunset Park Climate Justice Center in fostering community resilience and adaptation to climate change through a Just Transitions lens. Before joining the UPROSE team, Lourdes was an ANHD|Morgan Stanley Community Development Fellow at the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition where she worked on the initial planning and development stages of a Community Land Trust in the North Bronx. Lourdes also worked for the Proyecto ENLACE del Caño Martín Peña in San Juan, Puerto Rico on the design and development of home rehabilitation, safety and sustainability guidelines for community residents among other Environmental Justice related projects. Lourdes holds an M.S. in City and Regional Planning from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and a B.A. in Architecture from the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico.

Leonel Lima Ponce
Acting Academic Coordinator, Pratt Institute’s

Leonel Lima Ponce is Acting Academic Coordinator at Pratt Institute’s M.Sc. in Sustainable Environmental Systems (SES), in the Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment. With a focus on sustainable infrastructure, Leonel teaches an international knowledge exchange to Brazil, the SES Demonstration of Professional Competence, interdisciplinary studios, and sustainable design at Pratt. As a Registered Architect in New York, he's managed institutional, restoration and rehabilitation projects. Leonel is a founding member of Operation Resilient Living and Innovation Plus (ORLI+), a participatory research and design consultancy dedicated to the development and implementation of inclusive, climate adaptive and resilient planning, design, and policy processes and projects.
Carmen Llanes Pulido  
Executive Director, GAVA

Carmen Llanes Pulido is a native of Austin, TX and second-generation community organizer working with neighborhoods and organizations in Austin’s Eastern Crescent for the last 15 years. After receiving an interdisciplinary B.A. at the University of Chicago in Environmental Studies with a focus on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and its impact on Mexican communities and international food systems, she returned to Austin to work at home as an environmental justice researcher and organizer for People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources (PODER) in East Austin. She later ran a program at the nonprofit, Marathon Kids called the “Wellness Team Initiative,” which engaged parents and teachers at 18 elementary schools in Austin’s Eastern Crescent to increase fitness and nutrition opportunities in their communities. She chaired the City of Austin’s Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission until July 2019 when she joined the City's Planning Commission during a once-in-a-generation Land Development Code rewrite. She is an inaugural member of Austin’s first Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission which created the single-member city council districts in 2014.

Dori Pynnonen Hopkins, Ph.D  
Evaluation Specialist, Michigan Public Health Institute

Dori Pynnonen Hopkins, Ph.D., is an Evaluation Specialist at Michigan Public Health Institute in Okemos, Michigan. She is an interdisciplinary social scientist with a background in Forestry and expertise dedicated to issues of diversity, specifically those related to gender and race. Dori spent years researching these issues at different scales (community-based to federal and transnational), and taught a variety of courses related to the topic. She now works as an evaluator focused on a wide range of public health initiatives related to gender, race, and the environment. Her strengths reside in working with marginalized populations, including women and racial minorities, on issues related to environmental justice, health and well-being, violence, and improving public participation and decision-making processes. Recently, Pynnonen Hopkins has focused on how these issues intersect at the community level with effects of climate change.
David Queeley
Director of Eco-Innovation, Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation

David Queeley is the Director of Eco-Innovation for the Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation (CSNDC) and oversees CSNDC’s efforts to engage community, set vision and goals, fundraise and plan in order to establish a transformative, multi-faceted, neighborhood scale eco-district model for the Talbot-Norfolk neighborhood of Dorchester, MA, the TNT Eco Innovation District (EID), Boston’s first Eco District. He specializes in helping build vision, capacity, and resulting constituencies for sustainable cities, neighborhoods and initiatives. David’s past positions include: New England Regional Director of The Trust for Public Land’s Parks for People program; Consultant to The Funder’s Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities; Vice President and Senior Planner at New Ecology, Inc.; Vice President for Community and Government Affairs at the Prospect Park Alliance; the first Director of the Mass Audubon Society’s Boston Nature Center; and Senior Planner for the Metropolitan District Commission (now DCR) in Massachusetts.

Kalpana Ramiah, DrPH, MSc, CPH
Vice President of Innovation, Director, Essential Hospitals Institute

Kalpana Ramiah joined America’s Essential Hospitals in 2015 to lead the research and analytics portfolio of Essential Hospitals Institute, the association’s quality and research arm. She has a well-established career in public health and health services research that spans two decades. Ramiah has extensive experience conducting research and managing federally and privately funded technical assistance projects and research programs. She is highly skilled in population health, patient and family engagement, and measures and materials development. Before joining America’s Essential Hospitals, Ramiah was a principal researcher at the American Institute for Research and an assistant research professor in the department of health policy at The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services. She managed several major projects, with responsibility for ensuring quality and consistency of data collection, supervising staff, and developing strong client relationships. Before her academic research work, Ramiah held leadership roles with the Association of Schools of Public Health and West Virginia Smoking Cessation and Reduction in Pregnancy Treatment Dissemination, serving as a manager and deputy director, respectively.
Sameer Ranade
Senior Organizer, Front & Centered

Sameer Ranade is a Senior Organizer at Front & Centered, a coalition focused on advancing racially and economically just solutions to pollution and climate change in Washington State. Sameer strongly believes in public service and environmental health protection. Sameer grew up in Kennewick, WA and boasts extensive work experience in government, advocacy, and elections, having been a staffer in the state and federal legislative branches, on multiple state and federal candidate campaigns, and interning for several environmental organizations. This includes working for U.S. Senator Patty Murray as a Staff Assistant, interning at the White House Council on Environmental Quality under President Barack Obama, and serving as an organizer on President Obama’s 08’ and 12’ election campaigns in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Since 2014, Sameer has worked at the nexus of Washington state climate policy and politics. He was a Climate and Clean Energy Campaign Associate at the Washington Environmental Council for four plus years. In 2016, he ran for an open seat in the Washington State House where he was endorsed by every environmental group. He earned a B.A. in Political Science from WSU and an MPA from UW.

Rip Rapson
President, The Kresge Foundation

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 improve opportunities for people living in America’s cities. Rip 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. Rip 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.
Catherine Ratté
Principal Planner/Manager Land Use/Environment, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Catherine Ratté is a Principal Planner and the Manager of the Land Use/Environment section at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. Catherine is an experienced manager, facilitator and strategic planner, establishing connections and collaborations across disciplines with a focus on sustainability and an emphasis on equity. Catherine’s been with the PVPC for 21 years. Previously, she worked for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the United States Peace Corps in Cameroon and the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Catherine has two master’s degrees in urban and regional planning and social work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an undergraduate degree from Brown University. Catherine specializes in interdisciplinary initiatives focusing on climate action.

Angelica Razo
Texas State Director, Mi Familia Vota

Angelica Razo is the Texas State Director for Mi Familia Vota. Angelica has always been passionate about contributing to advocacy and engagement efforts that lead to sustainable and favorable policy solutions for her community. Angelica first joined Mi Familia Vota in 2017 to lead the organization’s youth leadership program in Houston. Now, as the Texas State Director, her work involves managing state’s operations to increase political representation and power for the Latinx community. Her strong belief in community empowerment motivates her to engage others so they can find their own unique civic role while participating in collective action. Angelica is part of the Houston in Action Steering Committee and co-chairs the Voter Engagement committee with a focus on youth engagement. She attended Rice University and obtained degrees in policy studies and kinesiology. She remains connected to her university by serving on the Society of Latino Alumni at Rice (SOLAR) Board and connecting students to civic engagement opportunities.

Brian Roberson, MPA
Manager of Data Analytics, America’s Essential Hospitals

Brian Roberson is the Manager of Data Analytics at America’s Essential Hospitals and a researcher with the Essential Hospitals Institute. In these roles, Brian seeks to leverage data and innovation to help vulnerable populations meet their social and medical needs. Over the last five years, he has examined how safety-net hospitals are improving the social determinants of health in their communities. His work includes hospital surveys, qualitative interviews, learning networks, and stakeholder forums. A growing focus on climate change’s impact on health has led him to investigate these hospitals’ approach to climate change mitigation and resilience both within their organizations and in their communities.
Bennetta Robinson, PhD
Program Officer, Institute for Sustainable Communities

Bennetta is currently a U.S. Program Officer at ISC where she works across a variety of U.S. geographies to ensure community organizations, institutional partners, and local and regional governments can collaboratively address climate impacts.

Bennetta’s span of research has ranged from analyzing the health effects of abandoned oil and gas wells in communities of color along “Cancer Alley” to simulating the impacts of natural disasters on vulnerable populations, to understanding the challenges of collective bargaining in the southern United States.

Previously, she served as an environmental justice programs manager with One Voice, Inc., a nonprofit based in Jackson, MS where she created, and implemented, the Water Inclusion and Innovation regional pilot project which endeavored to ensure all communities in the Southeast are included in the dialogue regarding the availability and affordability of water resources and to ensure all communities have the capacity to apply for, and receive, innovative financing to support water delivery and treatment particularly as climate variability impacts these services at varying costs.

She completed undergraduate studies at Mississippi State University, graduate studies at Iowa State University, and a doctoral degree in Urban and Regional Planning at Jackson State University.

Robyn Rothman
Climate and Health Policy Manager, Health Care Without Harm

Robyn Rothman, JD, is the Climate and Health Policy Manager at Health Care Without Harm, where she works as part of the U.S. Climate and Health program. Robyn focuses on state policy advocacy and leads the California Health Care Climate Alliance and the Washington Health Care Climate Alliance, two statewide coalitions of hospitals and health systems. In this role, she works with health care leaders to advocate for climate-smart policies and regulations related to clean energy, clean air, and resilient hospitals and communities. Robyn also leads hospital policy engagement in other priority state. Robyn has extensive health policy and coalition building experience, working with diverse stakeholders at the state and federal levels.
Anjleena Kour Sahni  
CPI  

Anjleena Kour Sahni joined CPI in 2017, after graduating from the University of California, San Diego with a degree in International Studies – Political Science. Before joining CPI, she worked as a research assistant for Professor Tom K Wong, focusing on projects related to the executive actions on deferred action for undocumented immigrants, sanctuary jurisdictions, and civic engagement of immigrants and their families.

Alvaro S. Sanchez  
Director, Environmental Equity, The Greenlining Institute  

Alvaro S. Sanchez is an urban planner with extensive experience crafting, implementing and evaluating strategies that leverage private and public investments to deliver community benefits to impacted communities. Alvaro is also the Greenlining Institute’s Director of Environmental Equity. He leads a team that develops policies to improve public health, catalyze economic opportunity, and enrich environmental quality for low-income communities and communities of color by leveraging public resources that address pollution, fight climate change, and help vulnerable communities adapt to a changing environment. Alvaro oversees Greenlining’s climate investment portfolio, including the implementation of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, SB 535 (De Leon, 2012), and AB 1550 (Gomez, 2016), and implementation of Greenlining’s frameworks on equitable and clean mobility, climate adaptation and resilience, and creating an equitable economy.

Summer Sandoval  
Energy Democracy Coordinator, UPROSE  

Summer Sandoval is the Energy Democracy Coordinator at UPROSE, a community-based organization based in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. In this role, Summer supports the organization’s renewable energy developments. Summer is passionate about equitable renewable energy solutions that support a Just Transition. Summer has a bachelor’s in environmental science from New York University and a master’s of science in sustainable environmental systems at Pratt Institute.
Mona Sarfaty
Director, The Medical Society Consortium

Mona Sarfaty, MD, MPH, FAAFP, is the Director of the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health based within the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication. The Consortium is an alliance of 26 medical societies representing 600,000 physicians and 40 affiliated health and human services organizations representing millions of health professionals. The Consortium mission is to inform the public and policymakers about the health harms of climate change and the health benefits of climate solutions. As a family medicine professor and physician for over 30 years, Dr. Sarfaty has engaged in research and teaching focused on primary care, cancer screening, and public policy, including the health effects of climate change. She has lectured at national and regional venues including medical societies, health plans, health departments, professional organizations, and government conferences, and has published articles and book chapters on climate change and health. From 1985-1992, she was Senior Health Policy Advisor to the U.S. Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

Robert Sassor
Vice President, Metropolitan Group

Rob Sassor works for the creative and strategic social change agency Metropolitan Group, and leads their D.C. office. Rob’s career focuses at the intersection of social and environmental causes, with an emphasis on climate change. Sample clients include: partnership development for NASA Earth Science Division to pursue moonshot advances in food security, freshwater availability and natural disaster preparedness and response; co-creation of the public health strategy on climate change with the American Public Health Association; facilitation of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s inaugural climate gathering; and communication technical assistance for grantees of the Ford Foundation, JPB Foundation, Barr Foundation and more.
Elizabeth Sawin, Ph.D.
Co-Founder and Co-Director, Climate Interactive

Dr. Elizabeth Sawin is the Co-Founder and Co-Director of Climate Interactive, a think tank that applies systems analysis to climate change and related issues. A biologist with a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Beth trained in system dynamics and sustainability with Donella Meadows and worked at Sustainability Institute, the research institute founded by Meadows, for 13 years. Beth’s work focuses on helping people find solutions that prevent future climate change, build resilience to unavoidable climate impacts, and provide opportunities to people who need them most. She writes and speaks on this topic to local, national, and international audiences. She is a member of the Council on the Uncertain Human Future, a continuing dialogue on issues of climate change and sustainability among a select group of humanities scholars, writers, artists and climate scientists. Beth’s work also focuses on capacity building – helping leaders achieve bigger impact. She has trained and mentored global sustainability leaders in the Donella Meadows Fellows Program, and provided systems thinking training to both Ashoka and Dalai Lama Fellows. Her most recent writing has been published in Non-Profit Quarterly, and the Stanford Social Innovation Review.

Paul Schramm
Climate Science Team Lead for the Climate and Health Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Paul Schramm is the Climate Science Team Lead for the Climate and Health Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. Paul’s work at the CDC focuses on the human health effects of climate change, including the impacts of heat waves, extreme weather events, and vector-borne disease. Paul coordinates the Climate and Health Program’s science activities and partnerships. He is an author on the Southeast Chapters of the Third and Fourth National Climate Assessments and coordinating lead author of Human Health and Climate Change in the Southeast USA. Paul received a National Center for Environmental Health Honor Award for his work at CDC and a GreenGov Presidential Award for his work on the report “A Human Health Perspective on Climate Change.”
Belén Seara
Senior Community Health Planner, Health Policy and Planning Unit at San Mateo County Health

Belén Seara is a Senior Community Health Planner for the Health Policy and Planning Unit at San Mateo County Health. She oversees Get Healthy San Mateo County Healthy Economy and Healthy Housing efforts to ensure all San Mateo County residents and workers have access to quality jobs, training opportunities, and a place to call home. Belén has over 15 years of experience promoting health equity through multi-sectoral partnerships, community-based research, policy advocacy, community organizing, nonprofit management, and leadership development.

Radiah Shabazz
Communications Officer, Institute for Sustainable Communities

Radiah Shabazz is ISC’s U.S. Program Communications Officer. In this role, she manages the team’s various communications needs and works to enhance ISC’s strategic vision through the development of materials for workshops and peer learning networks. Radiah has a strong background in nonprofit communications and anti-oppressive social work practice—two fields she bridges to enhance equity and inclusion in her work.

Prior to ISC, Radiah worked in the Office of the President at the Ounce of Prevention Fund, a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing early learning opportunities for low-income families. Before that, she spent three years at the National Housing Conference, focused on affordable housing, where she managed the organization’s day to day marketing and communications needs, including content curation, website maintenance, media relations, social media, and newsletters. Radiah has also done extensive work in advocacy and national community organizing, and has experience and expertise in advancing racial equity.

Radiah holds a master’s degree in social work from the University of Chicago’s School of Social Service Administration and a BA in journalism from Howard University.
**Parin Shah**  
Policy Strategist, Climate and Clean Energy Equity Fund's Equity Accelerator.

Parin Shah is the Policy Strategist for the Climate and Clean Energy Equity Fund’s Equity Accelerator. The Accelerator is focused on working with grantee partners to advance policies that materially improve conditions for communities experiencing the causes and effects of climate change. The Accelerator does this by strengthening capacity and leadership among community organizations to drive equitable climate and energy policy. Previously, Parin was at the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) leading up their EJ policy portfolio. At APEN, Parin has advanced equitable energy and climate justice policy – including 100% renewables, air quality legislation, GHG reduction targets and EJ representation on state boards. Prior to APEN he was President of the Commission on the Environment in San Francisco, led a global summit for mayors’ working on urban sustainability with the UN Environment Program and ran a small foundation that supported kitchen table EJ and children’s environmental health groups. Parin began his EJ work by developing habitat restoration projects, food security and job-training programs for formerly incarcerated youth and adults in San Francisco. He began his community work in Tunisia as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

**Ari Simon**  
Vice President, Chief Program and Strategy Officer, The Kresge Foundation

Ari Simon is the Vice President and Chief Program and Strategy Officer at The Kresge Foundation. In this role, Ari oversees The Kresge Foundation’s programs and learning and evaluation departments, and directs the foundations Opportunity Fund. He leads Kresge's efforts to explore new forms of cross-disciplinary and place-based work and to pursue imaginative uses of philanthropic tools, strategies and learning agendas. Ari joined Kresge in January 2013 after five years with McKinsey & Company in Washington, where he focused on social innovation, economic development, and public health. While at McKinsey, Ari was a co-author of “And the Winner is…,” a study of prizes and their role in fostering innovation, and he worked with charitable foundations, nonprofits and governments across the Americas, Europe and Africa on issues of strategy, policy and advocacy, organizational effectiveness and governance. Ari previously worked as a writer and editor for NASA’s Space Shuttle Columbia Accident Report; for the United Nations Independent Inquiry Committee Investigation of the Oil-for-Food Programme; as a volunteer Red Cross paramedic in the Middle East; and as a legal researcher and writer at the Innocence Project and Williams & Connolly LLP. Ari earned a bachelor’s degree in history and science from Harvard College, a master’s of science in biology from Oxford University, and a juris doctorate from Stanford University.
Ascala Sisk
Deputy Director, The Center for Community Investment at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Ascala Sisk is Deputy Director at the Center for Community Investment at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (CCI) where she oversees Center operations and leads the development and implementation of programs designed to help communities harness investment and use land to achieve their social, economic and environmental priorities. Prior to joining CCI, Ascala worked at NeighborWorks America as Vice President of Community Initiatives, where she led the funding and strategic support for urban and rural community development, community building, resident leadership, and healthy equity. Earlier roles at the national nonprofit, KaBOOM! and the City of Providence, RI Department of Art, Culture and Tourism reflect her interests in asset-based community development and advancing the ways that art, culture and play create vibrant, healthy communities. Ascala has a master's in public policy with a specialization in public sector financial management from the University of Maryland, College Park. Her undergraduate degree is in urban studies from Brown University.

Nathaniel Smith
Founder and Chief Equity officer, Partnership for Southern Equity

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. Nathanaiel’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. Nathaniel holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies from Morehouse College and a Master of Science from the New School.
**Jenna Tatum**  
**Director, Building Electrification Initiative**

Jenna Tatum is the Director of the Building Electrification Initiative, a program that provides cities with the knowledge, tools, and resources they need to accelerate the transition of building systems away from fossil fuels and toward high efficiency electric systems. Jenna previously served as a Senior Policy Advisor in the NYC Mayor’s Office of Sustainability, where she oversaw the implementation of New York City’s energy efficiency programs, managed the building sector analysis for the City’s Roadmap to 80x50 report, and led development of the city’s building electrification strategy. Prior to the NYC Mayor’s Office, Jenna served as a staff member in the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and worked on several political campaigns. Jenna holds a master’s of public administration from Columbia University and a bachelor of arts from UCLA.

**Shannah Tharp-Gilliam**  
**Director of the Office of Evaluation, Homewood Children’s Village**

Shannah Tharp-Gilliam, Ph.D. is the Director of the Office of Evaluation at Homewood Children’s Village. She is trained in methodologies and frameworks that include empirical research, community-based participatory research, human-centered design, collective impact, warm data, eco-districts, and systems thinking. Shannah has served in various roles at the Homewood Children’s Village (HCV) since 2011 most recently returning to her original role as the Director of the Office of Evaluation in 2016. Prior to HCV, Shannah was on staff for seven (7) years at RAND Corporation where she was a social science researcher. Outside of work, Shannah serves on the board of Winchester Thurston Academy and was appointed by the Mayor of Pittsburgh to the Board of the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN). She graduated from Georgetown University with a B.S. and earned her doctorate in developmental psychology from the University of Pittsburgh where she also earned a certification in public policy and program evaluation.
Sarita Turner

Director of Inclusive Communities, Institute for Sustainable Communities

Sarita Turner is Director of Inclusive Communities at the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC). In this role, Sarita oversees all of ISC’s U.S.-based community-led resilience programming. Sarita also strengthens the equity and inclusion components of ISC’s other programmatic activity, and is a key advisor to ISC’s leadership on advancing equity and inclusion through all of ISC’s internal systems and practices. Prior to coming to ISC, Sarita spent over seven years in various roles at Oakland-based PolicyLink, where she worked throughout the U.S. to advance data-driven, inclusive community and economic development practices, and also to advance equity focused policies to improve access to economic opportunity. Prior to her work with PolicyLink, Sarita served as executive director of the Minneapolis-based West Broadway Business and Area Coalition, which provides local businesses in the West Broadway Corridor of Minneapolis with technical assistance, business support, and capital improvement resources. A nationally-recognized trainer and speaker on diversity, equity and inclusion, and implicit bias, Sarita sits on the board of the Grounded Solutions Network, which works to connect local affordable housing organizations with national experts to advance affordable housing solutions.

Jennifer Ulloa

Associate Researcher and Health Educator at Mount Sinai’s Department of Population and Health Policy

Jennifer Ulloa is a first-generation New Yorker and Salvadoreña, committed to building power in vibrant communities of color to achieve equity, wellbeing, and joy. As a community-centered researcher, designer, and educator, her work is rooted in the intersection of racial, gender, and language justice. Jennifer has worked with local and global health and education nonprofits to tackle social, economic and environmental factors that are at the root of existing health disparities. Through Equity-Centered Community Design, and principles of Community-Based Participatory Research, Jennifer facilitates the development of community visioning, strategic action, and systems thinking. Jennifer is currently an Associate Researcher and Health Educator at Mount Sinai’s Department of Population and Health Policy where she works with Latinx, African American, and immigrant women in NYC to reduce cancer disparities exacerbated by economic, educational, and language barriers to care. Jennifer is currently a WE ACT partner, planning and facilitating workshops for their Extreme Heat, Health, and Equity initiative. Jennifer has a Bachelor of Arts in human biology, public policy, and studio art from Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College. She is a second year MFA candidate at the School of Visual Arts’ Design for Social Innovation program.
Petra Vallila-Buchman
Senior Associate, Ross Strategic

Petra Vallila-Buchman is a Senior Associate at Ross Strategic and has 15 years of experience working with stakeholders to implement policy, environmental, and system change to improve community health and reduce health inequities. She thrives in an interdisciplinary context and believes equity and social justice are an intrinsic part of the practice of public health. One of her favorite projects was developing and piloting a new approach to neighborhood planning that engaged residents as partners to create a plan that increased access to healthy food, active transportation, and economic opportunity. She has extensive experience conducting qualitative research and evaluation and enjoys knitting together data and stories into a cohesive narrative. Recent evaluation projects with Health Care Without Harm, the Kresge Foundation, and the Colorado Health Foundation explore how to meaningfully engage the community in policy and system change. She is currently facilitating Washington’s Food Policy Forum, which is engaging diverse food system stakeholders to take collective action on fiscal and policy opportunities to improve the food system. Petra holds a master’s of public health from Emory University. Previously, Petra was the Research Manager at Healthy Food America and served as a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Fellow with Public Health – Seattle & King County.

Eriqah R. K. Vincent
Just Energy Portfolio Manager, Partnership for Southern Equity

Eriqah R. K. Vincent is a Just Energy Portfolio Manager at the Partnership for Southern Equity. In this position, Eriqah manages all aspects of the PSE’s Just Energy Portfolio, including the functionality, programmatic work plan, and successful growth of the Just Energy Circle. Her main personal and professional passion is to provide resources and in-depth leadership development to communities of color including, but not limited to, Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Her goal is to advance the presence of people of color in this movement. She previously worked for National Wildlife Federation as the National EcoLeader Coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation; EcoLeaders Program. While at NWF, she managed the program’s recruitment efforts to the new online community and leadership development initiative for youth environmental leaders. She also worked to strengthen local and regional networks of campuses, such as the Georgia Campus Sustainability Network, committed to sustainability by organizing educational events. Eriqah is a graduate of Spelman College with a bachelor’s degree in comparative women’s studies.
Kaniqua Welch
Communications Officer, External Affairs and Communications

Jalonne White-Newsome
Senior Program Officer, The Kresge Foundation

Dr. Jalonne L. White-Newsome is Senior Program Officer at The Kresge Foundation, responsible for the Environment Program’s grant portfolio on Climate Resilient & Equitable Water Systems (CREWS), grantmaking addressing the intersection of climate change and public health, and is a member of the Kresge Operationalizing Racial Equity Team working to address institutional racism in the foundation and beyond. Before joining Kresge in early 2016, Jalonne served as director of federal policy at West Harlem Environmental Action Inc. (WE ACT), where she was involved with leading national campaigns and a 42-member national coalition of environmental justice organizations. Jalonne is an adjunct professor in the Milken Institute School of Public Health at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and continues to engage in research on climate, health and equity. Jalonne is a member of the National Academy of Sciences Board on Environmental Change and Society, and is serving as a lead author for the human health chapter for the 4th National Climate Assessment. Jalonne earned a Ph.D. in environmental health sciences from the University of Michigan School of Public Health; a master’s degree in environmental engineering from Southern Methodist University; and a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from Northwestern University.
Dr. Sacoby Wilson
Associate Professor, Maryland Institute

Dr. Sacoby Wilson is an Associate Professor with the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health and Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health at the University of Maryland-College Park. Dr. Wilson has over 15 years of experience as an environmental health scientist in the areas of exposure science, environmental justice, environmental health disparities, community-engaged research including crowd science and community-based participatory research (CBPR), air pollution studies, built environment, industrial animal production, climate change, and community resiliency. He works primarily in partnership with community-based organizations to study and address environmental justice and health issues and translate research to action. Dr. Wilson is also Director of the Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health (CEEJH) Initiative. CEEJH is focused on providing technical assistance to communities fighting against environmental injustice and environmental health disparities in the DMV region and across the nation including projects in Bladensburg, Maryland, Langley Park, Maryland, Uniontown, Alabama, Charleston, South Carolina, and the Gulf Coast.

Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson
Executive Director, Highlander Research & Education Center

Ash-Lee Woodard Henderson is the Executive Director of the Highlander Research & Education Center. She is the first black woman Executive Director of the Highlander Research & Education Center, a social justice leadership training school and cultural center founded in 1932. Through popular education, language justice, participatory research, cultural work, and intergenerational organizing, they help create spaces — at Highlander and in communities — where people gain knowledge, hope, and courage, expanding their ideas of what is possible. Ash-Lee is a long-time activist working against environmental racism in central and southern Appalachia, and has fought for workers’ rights, racial justice, women and LGBTQIA+ rights, reproductive justice, international human rights, and led-intergenerational social movements across the South. She serves on the governance council of the Southern Movement Assembly and is a nationally recognized leader in the Movement for Black Lives.