All events will be held in the News Conference Room except as noted in the program.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00–8:40 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Continental Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45–8:55 a.m.</td>
<td>Welcoming Remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.–12:10 p.m.</td>
<td>Panel Discussions</td>
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### Morning Sessions

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<td>The Environment Is Where We Live: A Holistic Approach to How We Work Room A</td>
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<td>Placing Environmental Justice in the Larger Civil Rights Movement Room B</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:40 a.m.–12:10 p.m.</td>
<td>Knowing Your Worth</td>
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<td>Living in Multiple Worlds: Community and Environmental Advocacy Room B</td>
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### Lunch

12:20–1:20 p.m.

### Afternoon Workshops

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:30–2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Documenting Your Waterways                                             Room A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Climate Justice East of the Anacostia: Communities Prepared Room B</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:55–4:10 p.m.</td>
<td>Self-Care and Environmental Advocacy                                   Room A</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Knowing Your Worth: A Practical Application                           Room B</td>
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### Report Outs

4:15–5:00 p.m.

### Reception

5:00–6:00 p.m. State Dining Room

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

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<thead>
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<td>Translating the Science: Research and Real-World Applications Room B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:40 a.m.–12:10 p.m.</td>
<td>Faith Communities and Environmental Advocacy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Environmentalists in Your Neighborhood                             Room B</td>
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### Lunch

12:20–1:20 p.m.

### Afternoon Workshops

<table>
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<td>You Are What You Eat: Food Justice and Health Justice in DC Room A</td>
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<td>Youth Engagement Along the Anacostia Room B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:55–4:10 p.m.</td>
<td>Applying Civil Rights Law to Environmental Justice Issues Room A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shaping Your Path: Career and Educational Opportunities in Environmental Studies Room B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Report Outs

4:15–5:00 p.m.

### Networking Event

5:00–6:00 p.m. State Dining Room
The Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum’s Women’s Environmental Leadership initiative was launched in March 2018 with the convening of the Preparing the Next Generation Summit and Women’s Environmental Leadership Community Forum. A national network of women environmental leaders and local next-generation leaders gathered for two days of face-to-face discussions focused on the importance of mentorship, educational and career opportunities, and the multitude of ways in which leadership is enacted. Discussion explored personal and professional journeys, best practices for galvanizing community, organizational, and governmental efforts, reflections on the impacts of community efforts, and next steps in confronting present and future environmental challenges. Additionally, attendees explored issues of particular importance to their neighborhoods and the Anacostia River and formulated action steps to continue their efforts to improve their communities and local waterways.

Thanks to support from the Smithsonian’s American Women’s History Initiative, in addition to the summit, the WEL initiative has been organizing a year of programming and documentation which includes a second summit, a series of oral histories, dinners and discussions, and the publication of Do You Know…?, all of which will highlight the personal and professional journeys of women who have advocated for the health of their communities at the local, national, and international levels.
The WEL initiative emanated from the Urban Waterways Project, a long-term research and educational initiative based upon research on the Anacostia River and its watershed, as well as research examining how people engage with urban rivers in other communities. Formerly the Eastern Branch, the Anacostia River has long been considered one of the nation’s most troubled urban rivers. The watershed covers more than 175 square miles and is one of the nation’s most densely populated. The challenges facing the Anacostia River are problems confronting other rivers in the industrialized world. The project explores the impact of environmental burdens, resource depletion on urban communities, as well as the interplay of environmental and social conditions. The project also examines approaches and solutions on national and international levels through the study of civic oversight, community engagement, and environmental efforts. It has been undertaken by the Anacostia Community Museum with our local and national partners.

The Urban Waterways Project is particularly focused on working with communities on the frontline and those most affected by development and environmental impacts. The project seeks to 1) create cross-disciplinary dialogue among scholars, government officials, organizers, activists, and scientists; 2) elicit first-hand information from residents of local communities; and 3) engage with local residents and other interested parties with ongoing activities that will enable their participation in reclamation, restoration, and appropriate redevelopment of their urban waterways and surrounding communities.

Support for the Urban Waterways Project was made possible by the Smithsonian Consortium for Understanding the American Experience and the Consortium for Understanding and Sustaining a Biodiverse Planet.
Selected Urban Waterways Project Efforts and Engagements

**RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION**

**Onsite Documentation.** Anacostia Community Museum project team members documented how local, traditionally marginalized community members are developing strategies to bring their voices to local decision making. Documentation was conducted in Southeast Washington, DC, and adjacent communities, East London (2012), Los Angeles (2013), Hawai‘i (2013, 2017), Baltimore (2014), Turkey Creek, MS (2014, 2015), and Spartanburg, SC (2016).

**Photographic Documentation.** More than 1,000 photographs have recorded such Anacostia River activities as the installation of Bandalong Trash Trap, Rice Rangers activities, festivals, Anacostia Watershed Society river clean-ups, rowing competitions, and recreational uses of the river. Photographs also include documentation of community-driven efforts in Los Angeles, Hawai‘i, Baltimore, Turkey Creek, MS, and Spartanburg, SC.

**Oral Histories.** Eighty-eight interviews have been conducted with activists, stakeholders, and decision makers about environmental issues in Washington, DC, Baltimore, Spartanburg, SC, the Gulf Coast, Louisville, KY, Los Angeles, O‘ahu, and London.

**NETWORK DEVELOPMENT**

**Urban Waterways Newsletter.** Since 2013, nine quarterly issues have covered the activities and strategies of our community partners in the Urban Waterways network. Topics explored include the impact of history on urban waterways, critical issues facing urban waterways and their communities, community collaboration, green economies, and faith.

**Community Forums.** Over 30 community forums have convened conversations among environmental activists, agency leaders, federal and local government officials, and citizen stakeholders. Among the topics addressed were strategies for improving distressed waterways and waterfronts, citizen science, diversifying the green movement, youth activism, climate justice east of the Anacostia, green jobs, and National Park Service involvement East of the River.

**Urban Waterways Symposium, 2015.** This day-long conference in Washington, DC, assembled a national network of project collaborators from diverse backgrounds and perspectives to exchange experiences and best practices focused on environmental activism and community engagement. The event convened non-profit and community leaders, scholars, and activists, developed national networks, and offered solutions to benefit residents, researchers, and decision makers.
EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Major Exhibition. Based on research by the museum on the history, public use, and attitudes toward the Anacostia River and its watershed and reviews of urban waterway developments in Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Louisville, KY, London, and Shanghai, Reclaiming the Edge: Urban Waterways and Civic Engagement explored various aspects of human interaction with natural resources in an urban setting. The 2012–2013 exhibition looked at densely populated watersheds and rivers as barriers to racial and ethnic integration and examined civic attempts to recover, clean up, re-imagine, and engineer urban rivers for community access and use. Reclaiming the Edge featured 75 objects, 16 artworks, 170 images, and 5 video stations, with original materials produced for the exhibition. Highlights included artworks by Chinese artist Zhang Jian-Jun, Chicano artist Leo Limón, and renowned Anacostia River photographer Bruce McNeil. Independent filmmaker Peter Byck contributed a piece on Louisville’s Waterfront Development Corporation and the Waterfront Park. The exhibition was curated by Gail S. Lowe, PhD. John R. Wennersten, PhD, professor emeritus of the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, served as consulting scholar.

Public Programs. Nearly 40 public workshops, films, fieldtrips, and in-school programming engaged participants in urban waterways issues. Highlights included a three-part photographic expedition on the Anacostia River with photographer Bruce McNeil; a day-long program for teachers featuring a tour of the Reclaiming the Edge exhibition; a visit to the Aquatic Resources Education Center and a water-testing project; a poetry program with Lewis MacAdams, founder of Friends of the Los Angeles River, and United Planning Organization’s youth group; watershed explorations and off-site tours; summer youth educational fieldtrips; and a STEAM-based workshop for teachers and students on “Slick Fish Anatomy.”
8:00–8:40 a.m. **Registration & Continental Breakfast**  
News Conference Room Hallway

8:45–8:55 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks**  
News Conference Room

### MORNING PANEL DISCUSSIONS
*Morning sessions will be recorded.*

9:00–10:30 a.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

#### The Environment Is Where We Live:  
A Holistic Approach to How We Work  
**ROOM A**

Through a discussion of community-led efforts to navigate the environmental impacts of the development of DC’s Buzzard Point community, the panel will explore how multi-sector collaboration can effect change as communities address issues of inequitable environmental burdens and development.

**MODERATOR**  
Kari Fulton, Organizer, Writer, Historian

**PANELISTS**  
C. Anneta Arno, Director, Office of Health & Equity, DC Health  
Rhonda Hamilton, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner and Advocate  
Elgloria Harrison, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, Sustainability and Environmental Sciences, University of the District of Columbia
Placing Environmental Justice in the Larger Civil Rights Movement

ROOM B

Discussions will place environmental justice in the larger context of historical and contemporary justice movements, highlighting the efforts of the movement’s early leaders, frameworks, and best practices.

MODERATOR Vernice Miller-Travis, Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice and Equitable Development, Skeo Solutions

PANELISTS Katherine T. Egland, Chair, NAACP National Board of Directors’ Environmental and Climate Justice Committee
Caroline Farrell, Executive Director, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment (CRPE)

10:40 a.m.–12:10 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Knowing Your Worth

ROOM A

Panelists will share experiences and best practices for embarking on and navigating a career in environmental and community advocacy. The session will serve as a companion to the afternoon workshop Knowing Your Worth: A Practical Application, during which participants will develop personal action plans as they embark on the next steps of their education, career, and/or advocacy.

MODERATOR Adrienne Hollis, Lead Climate Justice Analyst, Union of Concerned Scientists

PANELISTS Leslie G. Fields, Director, Environmental Justice and Community Partnerships, Sierra Club
Irma R. Muñoz, Founder and President, Mujeres de la Tierra
Mamie A. Parker, President, Ma Parker and Associates

Living in Multiple Worlds: Community and Environmental Advocacy

ROOM B

Discussion will explore the experiences of individuals whose work and advocacy transgress constructed boundaries between efforts to advocate for the health of the environment, as it is traditionally defined, and the health of communities. Their efforts and subsequent impacts reflect the inherent intersections of all aspects of advocacy aimed at the founding of health equitable societies.

MODERATOR Malini Ranganathan, Assistant Professor, School of International Service, American University

PANELISTS Susana De Anda, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Community Water Center
Jeaninne Kayembe Oro, Wholistic.art
Tambra Raye Stevenson, Founder and CEO, WANDA: Women Advancing Nutrition Dietetics and Agriculture
12:20–1:20 p.m. **LUNCH**

**AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS**
Afternoon sessions will not be recorded.

1:30–2:45 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**Documenting Your Waterways**
**ROOM A**

This workshop will introduce participants to the many ways that life throughout the Anacostia watershed has been and can continue to be documented. It will also address the stewardship, sense of place, and staying power such documentation provides in the face of rediscovery and redevelopment of the river and its environs.

**WORKSHOP LEADERS**
- **Tracy Perkins**, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Criminology, Howard University
- **Gabrielle Roffe**, Project and Partnership Coordinator, Chesapeake Conservancy

**Climate Justice East of the Anacostia: Communities Prepared**
**ROOM B**

This workshop will engage residents in several specific challenges that communities east of the Anacostia face due to the impacts of climate change. It will also identify the historical roots of those challenges as well as the resources and next steps available to groups and individuals as they address these critical issues.

**WORKSHOP LEADER**
- **Marissa Ramirez**, Community Climate Strategy Manager, Healthy People & Thriving Communities, Natural Resources Defense Council

2:55–4:10 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
Self-Care and Environmental Advocacy

ROOM A

This workshop will help make participants aware of the emotional and physical costs inherent in advocacy, including challenges that face communities (defined in the broadest sense) in the areas of health, equity, and access. Attendees will explore the variety of tools and resources available to ensure their continued health as they move forward in their efforts.

WORKSHOP LEADERS

Alaura Carter, Grassroots Program Coordinator, Climate Speakers Network, The Climate Reality Project

Knowing your Worth: A Practical Application

ROOM B

This workshop serves as a practical application of the discussions from the morning session Knowing Your Worth. Participants will develop personal action plans, as they embark on the next steps of their education, career, and/or advocacy.

WORKSHOP LEADERS

Adrienne Hollis, Lead Climate Justice Analyst, Union of Concerned Scientists
Vernice Miller-Travis, Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice and Equitable Development, Skeo Solutions

4:15–5:00 p.m. REPORT OUTS
Session will be recorded.

5:00–6:00 p.m. RECEPTION
State Dining Room
### MORNING PANEL DISCUSSIONS

**Cultural Practice as Environmental Activism**  
ROOM A

Discussion will highlight cultural practice as a form of environmental activism inherent in communities’ understanding of their place within the natural world. Panelists will provide examples of how daily life serves as a function of stewardship.

**Moderator**  
Pavithra Vasudevan, Assistant Professor, Department of African and African Diaspora Studies, Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, The University of Texas at Austin

**Panelists**  
Beth Collier, Founder and Director, Wild in the City  
Mei Ling Isaacs, Community Cultural Health Planner, ‘Ahahui Mālama I Ka Lōkahi (AML)  
Monique Verdin, Director, The Land Memory Bank & Seed Exchange

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**Translating the Science: Research and Real-World Applications**  
ROOM B

Discussion will explore the challenges and necessity of research that moves beyond the boundaries of academia and organizations to engage the communities whose lives it most reflects and impacts. Panelists will discuss the role service plays in efforts to make their work relatable to the everyday experiences of a variety of stakeholders.

**Moderator**  
Alicia Race, Campaign Coordinator, Union of Concerned Scientists

**Panelists**  
Nicole Hernández Hammer, Project Director, Clean Energy States Alliance  
Shizuka Hsieh, Associate Professor of Chemistry, Trinity Washington University  
Caroline Solomon, Professor of Biology, Gallaudet University
10:40 a.m.–12:10 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**Faith Communities and Environmental Advocacy**

**ROOM A**

Representatives of several faith communities will explore the role of stewardship in the teachings of their faith, how they have applied such teachings to their spiritual practice, and the forms environmental advocacy has taken in their communities.

**MODERATOR**

Shantha Ready Alonso, Executive Director, Creation Justice Ministries

**PANELISTS**

Nana Firman, Muslim Outreach Director, GreenFaith
Dianne Glave, Coordinator of Diversity Development and Inclusion, Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church
Dottie Yunger, Pastor, Solomons United Methodist Church

**The Environmentalists in Your Neighborhood**

**ROOM B**

This panel will introduce attendees to several environmental leaders actively advocating for the Anacostia watershed and its communities. Discussion will explore the personal paths taken to their current work, their various approaches to advocacy, the issues they feel are the most critical to the Anacostia watershed and its people, and steps moving forward.

**MODERATOR**

Kari Fulton, Organizer, Writer, Historian

**PANELISTS**

Akiima Price, Creative Thinker and Doer
Brenda Richardson, President, Chozen Consulting, LLC
Ruby Stemmle, Founder and CEO, ecoLatinos

12:20–1:20 p.m. **LUNCH**

**AFTEERNOON WORKSHOPS**

Afternoon sessions will not be recorded.

1:30–2:45 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**You Are What You Eat: Food Justice and Health Justice in DC**

**ROOM A**

This workshop will examine intersections of food justice and public health by exploring two issues
of critical concern in DC communities. Attendees will develop best practices for the engagement of an impacted group.

**WORKSHOP**

**LEADER**

**Franciel Ikeji**, Nutrition Educator

**Youth Engagement Along the Anacostia**

**ROOM B**

This workshop will introduce participants to best practices that reflect the intersections of mental health, youth engagement, and environmental stewardship.

**WORKSHOP**

**LEADER**

**Akiima Price**, Creative Thinker and Doer

2:55–4:10 p.m.  **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**Applying Civil Rights Law to Environmental Justice Issues**

**ROOM A**

This workshop will provide participants with a civil rights framework through which to understand and address issues of access and equity along the Anacostia River.

**WORKSHOP**

**LEADER**

**Daria Neal**, Attorney

**Shaping Your Path: Career & Educational Opportunities in Environmental Studies**

**ROOM B**

This workshop will introduce participants to the various educational and internship opportunities in the field of environmental studies in the DC metropolitan area. Attendees will develop a list of tools to determine which programs are the best fit for their next steps in environmental studi

**WORKSHOP**

**LEADER**

**Eboni Preston**, Director of Programs, Greening Youth Foundation

4:15–5:00 p.m.  **REPORT OUTS**

Session will be recorded.

5:00–6:00 p.m.  **NETWORKING EVENT**

State Dining Room
Shantha Ready Alonso
Executive Director, Creation Justice Ministries

Shantha Alonso has served as executive director of Creation Justice Ministries since 2015, prioritizing racial-ethnic equity as a driving force for protecting, restoring, and, more rightly, sharing God’s creation. Ms. Alonso’s writing has appeared in The Hill, the Colorado Gazette, The Day, Sojourners, Patheos, and Justice Unbound. She has also been interviewed by NPR, Religion News Service, U.S. Catholic, and various podcasts. Ms. Alonso has arranged countless stakeholder meetings between people of faith and policymakers. She has testified before the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Interior, and the White House Office of Management and Budget.

Ms. Alonso is listed among the 2018 “Grist 50 Fixers.” She is a contributing author to For Such a Time as This: Young Adults on the Future of the Church and A Child Laughs: Prayers of Justice and Hope. She is editor of the anthology Towards a Global Christian Movement for Eco-Justice: Young Voices from North America.

Prior to her time at Creation Justice Ministries, Ms. Alonso worked with the People Improving Communities through Organizing (PICO) network (now known as Faith in Action), the Gamaliel Foundation, and the National Council of Churches USA. She also served as vice chair of the World Student Christian Federation. Ms. Alonso earned master’s degrees in social work and pastoral studies from Washington University in St. Louis and Eden Theological Seminary, respectively. She did her undergraduate work at the University of Notre Dame.

C. Anneta Arno
Director, Office of Health & Equity, DC Health

C. Anneta Arno is an experienced public health professional with a track record in the field of health equity. This includes recognition for work promoting community collaboration to transform views and perspectives related to root causes of health disparities, the integration of health equity concepts into healthcare delivery systems, and racial equity through a public health lens.

Immediately prior to joining the team at DC Health, Dr. Arno served as the division manager for Communicable Disease Prevention & Public Health Preparedness in the Kansas City, MO, Department of Health. From 2011 to early 2015, she served as director of the Center for Health Equity at Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness, and as adjunct faculty at the University of Louisville, School of Public Health and Information Sciences. Dr. Arno holds a PhD in urban planning from the University of Reading, Berkshire, England, and an MPH in healthcare administration from Columbia University.

Dr. Arno’s diverse career experiences in public health, philanthropy, urban planning, and academia, as well as her spirit of collaboration, are leveraged in her leadership of DC Health’s Office of Health Equity (OHE) and service as a critical ambassador for a “health in all policies” approach to improving population health and achieving health equity. She is especially proud of her achievements to date since launching OHE in 2015, including convening the Safer Stronger Advisory Committee (Final Report, 2016); the Buzzard Point Community Health & Safety Study (2016); three cohorts of Healing Futures Fellowship (2016, 2017, 2018); launch of the Mayor’s Commission on Health Equity (2017); and, most recently, publication of the inaugural Health Equity Report: District of Columbia 2018 (February 2019).
Alaura Carter
Grassroots Program Coordinator, The Climate Reality Project

Alaura Carter is a Washington, DC, native who believes you should “warm her heart, not her planet.” She started organizing in 2009 as a student at Florida A&M University, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in public relations with a minor in environmental science in 2012. Ms. Carter believes in the outsourcing of environmental ideas, issues, and solutions and has had the opportunity to work for several non-profits in environmental advocacy, communications, and educational roles.

At The Climate Reality Project, she serves as the grassroots program coordinator for the Climate Speakers Network. In this role she works with communities throughout the U.S. to educate on environmental justice and climate change issues and solutions. Her interest in the natural wonders of the planet developed into a strong passion for environmental justice and climate change education. When trying not to be Captain Planet, she enjoys shopping, live music, watching court shows, and learning more about earth science.

Beth Collier
Founder and Director, Wild in the City

Beth Collier is a nature-based psychotherapist and anthropologist who teaches natural history and woodland living skills in the United Kingdom. Her work explores relationships with people and with nature. As a therapist, Ms. Collier works exclusively in natural settings. She has spent many years theorizing our relationships with nature from an applied psychotherapeutic perspective, developing nature-based psychotherapy as an orientation of practice for ongoing client work. She is currently writing Nature-based Psychotherapy: Exploring Relationships with Ourselves, Others and Nature (Routledge). Ms. Collier provides professional training for psychotherapists and allied professionals on the therapeutic use of nature through the Nature Therapy School.

Ms. Collier is the founder and director of Wild in the City, an organization supporting the well-being of urban residents by offering experiences in bushcraft, natural history, and ecotherapy using the skills of our ancestors to nurture a deeper connection with the natural world.

Ms. Collier has a particular interest in supporting people of color in finding their place in natural settings and creates opportunities for the representation of Black leadership in nature. Her work has produced ethnographies of our intimate, emotional relationships with nature, including the ethnography of disconnection and its impact on the development of cultural attitudes which shun nature; experiences of people of color in nature in UK settings; and white attitudes to Black presence in nature.

Ms. Collier regularly speaks at conferences and seminars on nature and well-being from psychotherapeutic and anthropological perspectives. She is a trustee of the UK’s National Park City Foundation, a role in which she leads work on nature, health, and cities. The Foundation launched London as the world’s first National Park City in summer 2019. Ms. Collier previously worked in the human rights field for 15 years. She was commissioned by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) as an international expert on gender-based persecution and ran a research consultancy documenting conditions in refugee-producing countries.
Susana De Anda
Executive Director and Co-Founder, Community Water Center

Susana De Anda is the executive director and co-founder of the Community Water Center, a non-profit environmental justice organization based in California’s San Joaquin Valley, whose mission is to act as a catalyst for community-driven water solutions through organizing, education, and advocacy. A seasoned community organizer, Ms. De Anda has received numerous awards and recognitions including the James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award (2018), Latino Community Foundation Leading Change Award (2018), White House Champion of Change for Climate Equity (2016), Mark Dubois Award from Friends of the River (2014), “150 Fearless Women in the World” by Newsweek (2012), and “Women on Top—Top Activist” by Marie Claire (2012).

Ms. De Anda’s experience includes planning and organizing positions at the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, the County of Merced Planning Department, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency, and the Santa Barbara non-profit Community Environmental Council. She served for the past few years on the community funding board of the Grassroots Fund through the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment, the Tulare County Water Commission, and the board of directors of the Tulare County United Way. She currently serves on the advisory council for the Water Solutions Network and is a steering committee member on the Water Equity and Climate Resilience Caucus. Ms. De Anda is also a co-founder of the board of Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL). Ms. De Anda earned a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara, while completing a double major in environmental studies and geography.

Katherine T. Egland
Chair, NAACP National Board of Directors’ Environmental and Climate Justice Committee

As chair of the NAACP National Board of Directors’ Environmental and Climate Justice Committee, Katherine T. “Kathy” Egland provides governance and oversight of its widely circulated policy positions, reports, publications, and toolkits. Ms. Egland has advanced the NAACP’s Environmental and Climate Justice strategic agenda from its moral, human rights, social justice, and equity perspective through interviews, trainings, op-eds, lectures, etc., on the national and international levels.

Ms. Egland has a lifetime of advocacy involvement in social justice, human, civil, and women’s rights. As a resident of Gulfport, MS, she is a survivor of one of the worst climate disasters in American history, Hurricane Katrina in 2005; and one of the worst man-made environmental disasters, the BP Deepwater Horizon Gulf Oil Spill, which contaminated the Mississippi Gulf Coast waters in 2010, located less than a quarter mile from her home. She was involved in an NAACP Coal Blooded Campaign to shut down a coal plant located less than four miles from her home. The campaign ended with a landmark Sierra Club settlement that ceased the company’s coal-burning operation in 2015.
Caroline Farrell
Executive Director, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment (CRPE)

Caroline Farrell is the executive director of the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment (CRPE) based in Delano, CA. Since 1999, Ms. Farrell has represented low-income communities and communities of color in the San Joaquin Valley on land-use issues related to dairy development, hazardous waste facilities, ethanol plant siting, and long-range community planning. She sits on the board of directors for Communities for a Better Environment, the Planning and Conservation League, and Act for Women and Girls.


Ms. Farrell graduated from Golden Gate University School of Law with highest honors. She received her BA in political science from Bates College in Lewiston, ME.

Leslie G. Fields
Director, Environmental Justice and Community Partnerships, Sierra Club

Leslie Fields brings over 20 years of federal, state, local, and international environmental justice and environmental law and policy experience to the Sierra Club. Ms. Fields was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the board of directors of the Mickey Leland Urban Air Toxics Research Center. She serves on the boards of the Children’s Environmental Health Network and Empower DC. She also serves on the board of Adeso African Solutions (formerly Horn Relief, an East African natural resources and development organization) and has been an adjunct law professor at Howard University School of Law. Ms. Fields is a graduate of Cornell University and the Georgetown University Law Center.

Nana Firman
Muslim Outreach Director, GreenFaith

Nana Firman’s involvement in encouraging the American Muslim community to practice an eco-lifestyle prompted her to initiate the Green Mosque Project for the Islamic Society of North America. She previously worked with the World Wildlife Fund in Indonesia, directing the green recovery efforts in the wake of the 2018 earthquake and tsunami, and also engaged with Muslim leaders to create climate-resiliency plans. She organized the Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change and later co-founded the Global Muslim Climate Network, which calls on all Muslim nations to transition from fossil-fuel to clean-energy-based development. Ms. Firman was named a White House Champion of Change for Climate Faith Leaders by President Barack Obama.
Kari Fulton  
*Organizer, Writer, Historian*

Kari Fulton is an award-winning environmental and climate justice organizer, writer, and historian. She has worked with various domestic and global coalitions to coordinate campaigns and national conferences, including Power Shift (the largest youth climate summits in the United States) and the 2017 People’s Climate March. Ms. Fulton has trained and engaged students and communities on climate and environmental justice across the United States. She has traveled to Europe, Latin America, and South Africa, attending and reporting on international environmental conferences. Ms. Fulton supports local community organizations as they develop strategies for stronger public health, community empowerment, and environmental policies. Ms. Fulton also has over five years of experience as a professional tour guide of Washington, DC, and has developed community and theme-based tours for corporations, universities, and community organizations. Her work has been featured in various media, including Black Entertainment Television (BET), Teen Vogue, Essence, and Chinese Cable Television America (CCTV). Ms. Fulton is also a mother, bike enthusiast, and a graduate of Howard University. www.checktheweather.net

Dianne Glave  
*Coordinator of Diversity Development and Inclusion, Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church*

Dianne Glave has a PhD in U.S. social history with an emphasis on African American and environmental history. Her publications include *Rooted in the Earth: Reclaiming the African American Environmental Heritage* and *To Love the Wind and the Rain: African Americans and Environmental History*. Her forthcoming book is *Black Eco-theology Through History: The African American Experience* (Routledge).

Dr. Glave is currently the coordinator of diversity development and inclusion in the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church. She is also a part-time lecturer at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and in the history department at Carnegie Mellon University. She has taught many classes, including African American history, the history of African American women, and African American environmental history. Previous to these positions, she served as a local pastor at Crafton United Methodist Church and Ingomar Church, both in Pittsburgh.

Rhonda Hamilton  
*Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner and Advocate*

Rhonda Hamilton received her master’s degree in public administration from Southeastern University in Washington, DC, and a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of the District of Columbia. She works as a community outreach coordinator and patient navigator at Georgetown University’s Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Research. She was raised in Southwest Washington, DC, and has spent the past 14 years working in her Ward 6 community to help residents as an advisory neighborhood commissioner.
Ms. Hamilton is also the president of Syphax Gardens Resident Council, a public housing property, and co-founder of the Near Buzzard’s Point Resilient Action Committee (NeRAC). She actively advocates on behalf of residents, especially those who are low- to moderate-income, to address the environmental issues that have negatively impacted them. She has been working to make sure their health concerns and vital needs are not overlooked during the massive amount of redevelopment taking place in Southwest DC. Ms. Hamilton is determined to bring the environmental justice concerns of her community to the fore so that residents do not continue to suffer in silence from the ill health effects resulting from their exposure to contaminants from Buzzard Point, a massive brownfield site with cement-mixing facilities now under redevelopment.

Nicole Hernández Hammer

*Project Director, Clean Energy States Alliance*

Nicole Hernández Hammer works on low- and moderate-income solar for the Clean Energy States Alliance. She is a climate change expert, sea level rise researcher, and environmental justice advocate.

A Guatemalan immigrant, Ms. Hernández Hammer has worked to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on under-resourced communities across the United States. She served as the climate science and community advocate at the Union of Concerned Scientists, as the Florida field manager for Moms Clean Air Force, and as an environmental blogger for Latina Lista. Before that, she was the assistant director of the Florida Center for Environmental Studies at Florida Atlantic University and coordinated the Florida Climate Institute’s state university consortium. She co-authored a series of technical papers on sea level rise projections, impacts, and preparedness. Her research contributed to the 2014 National Climate Assessment. Her environmental justice activism and initiative on climate change earned her an invitation from First Lady Michelle Obama to be her special guest at the 2015 State of the Union address. She also testified at the 2016 Democratic Party platform hearings.

Ms. Hernández Hammer speaks across the country on climate change and environmental justice issues. Most recently, she presented at the National Hispanic Medical Association Conference and the MIT Cambridge Science Festival. She has done extensive media work and has been featured in National Geographic’s *The Years of Living Dangerously*, Amy Poehler’s Smart Girls, the *New Yorker*, MSNBC, the *Miami Herald*, Telemundo News, Univision.com, the *Huffington Post*, PRI’s *Science Friday*, the *New York Times*, the Washington Post, Grist, NPR, and other major news outlets.
Elgloria Harrison

Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, Sustainability and Environmental Sciences, University of the District of Columbia

Elgloria Harrison is responsible for promoting climate change research initiatives at UDC’s CAUSES program. Dr. Harrison teaches courses in the interdisciplinary general education, urban sustainability, and the professional science master’s curriculum, with a focus on urban sustainability and the intersection of climate change and human health. Dr. Harrison’s recent research interest is determining the perception of climate change, air pollution, and the impact on human health on Washington, DC, residents. She holds a doctor of management in leadership, an MS in health care administration, and a BS in biology.

Adrienne Hollis

Lead Climate Justice Analyst, Union of Concerned Scientists

At the Union of Concerned Scientists, Adrienne Hollis leads the development, design, and implementation of methods for accessing and documenting the health impacts of climate change on communities of color and other traditionally disenfranchised groups. Dr. Hollis works with environmental justice communities to identify priority health concerns related to climate change and other environmental assaults and evaluates climate and energy policy approaches for their ability to effectively address climate change and benefit underserved communities. She develops and implements projects to document health impacts of climate change on communities of color and ensures scientific information from UCS is communicated in a culturally competent and helpful manner to vulnerable populations. As a part of its climate and energy group, she is developing and scoping a new research agenda and strategy on climate and health; evaluating climate and energy policies aimed at reducing exposure to negative health and environmental impacts; and recommending policy approaches to foster inclusiveness and its greater benefits to underserved communities and effectively address climate change.

Dr. Hollis has more than 20 years of extensive experience in the environmental arena as an associate professor in public health, environmental toxicologist, and environmental attorney. Her work is particularly focused on environmental justice, equity, and inclusion and the adverse health effects of environmental exposures and climate change on vulnerable communities. She is a member of numerous organizations and boards, including the EPA’s Clean Air Act Advisory Committee, the National Adaptation Forum’s steering committee (co-chair) and its equity working group, the American Public Health Association’s environment section and environmental justice subcommittee, the Endangered Species Coalition (vice chair and co-general counsel), and the Green Leadership Trust.

Prior to joining UCS, Dr. Hollis served as the director of federal policy at WE ACT for Environmental Justice and taught at the George Washington University Milken School of Public Health and American University’s Washington College of Law.

Dr. Hollis earned a BS in biology from Jackson State University, a PhD in biomedical sciences from Meharry Medical College, and a JD from Rutgers University School of Law. She completed post-doctoral studies at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.
**Shizuka Hsieh**  
*Associate Professor of Chemistry, Trinity Washington University*

Shizuka (Zukes) Hsieh teaches in Trinity Washington University’s College of Arts and Sciences (Trinity’s historic liberal arts women’s college). Her research focus is air-quality monitoring for communities disproportionately burdened by pollution. She has collaborated with the Ivy City and Near Buzzard Point neighborhoods in Washington, DC, and has presented findings at the National Environmental Justice Conference, the American Geophysical Union, and to DC officials. Her background in environmental justice comes from a 2009–2010 AAAS Science and Technology and Policy Fellowship at the U.S. EPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

Previously, Dr. Hsieh was associate professor of chemistry at Smith College and a Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar. At Smith, she mentored 26 undergraduate researchers, half of whom were co-authors in laser spectroscopy and molecular reaction dynamics. She has taught courses in environmental chemistry and pollution with the Associated Kyoto Program in Japan and at Oberlin College. Dr. Hsieh attended Oxford as a Marshall Scholar and holds a DPhil in physical chemistry. She earned her BA in chemistry from Carleton College.

**Franciel Ikeji**  
*Nutrition Educator*

Franciel Ikeji is an experienced nutrition educator and has worked with all ages from pre-kindergarten to older adults in community and academic settings. Currently, she works in child nutrition programs to support infrastructures with the goal of improving children’s lifelong eating and physical activity habits. Ms. Ikeji also works on materials to promote and encourage participation in local school wellness policies and sustaining healthy school environments.

As a founding board member of WANDA: Women Advancing Nutrition Dietetics and Agriculture, she is passionate about the mission to grow a new crop of “food sheroes” from farming, to health in Africa and the Diaspora, to empowering communities. Through education, advocacy, and innovation, she believes we can reclaim our healing food wisdom, restore our health, and return to the strong roots of our heritage.

Ms. Ikeji received her MS from Tufts University, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, RD from Tufts Medical Center-Frances Stern Nutrition Center, and BS in food science and technology and BS in nutritional sciences from Texas A&M University.

**Mei Ling Isaacs**  
*Community Cultural Health Planner, ‘Ahahui Mālama I Ka Lākahi (AML)*

Mei Ling Isaacs is the community cultural health planner for ‘Ahahui Mālama I Ka Lākahi (AML), a community-based, Native Hawaiian restoration and conservation organization located in Hawai’i, on Oahu Island. Its mission is to “practice, promote, and perpetuate a modern native Hawaiian conservation ethic.” Its vision is a “healthy Hawaiian ecosystem nurtured by human communities and serving as a model for local and global resource management.” Kawainui and its wetlands are a keystone of AML’s work, as it is a critical at-risk habitat for many native and threatened life
forms that live there. Most important, Kawainui is ancestral land where Kanaka Maoli (Hawaiian) thrived for hundreds of years prior to European contact. Like the continually gentrifying community of Kawainui, Kanaka Maoli are also at risk.

Prior to AML, Ms. Isaacs administered the institutional review board for Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Care Board, for 10 years and was the executive director of the Native Hawaiian Health Care System for Maui for eight years. Her current position creates opportunities for Hawaiian communities to reconnect with their culture through caring for their precious ancestral land by melding the values and beliefs of ancient Hawaiian culture with that of contemporary science. Her life’s work is dedicated to social justice for not only Native Hawaiians but for all people.

AML has assigned Ms. Isaacs to its innovative initiative, Mahina meets Haumea (Hawaiian female deities), which seeks to elevate the lives of women prisoners transitioning from prison into the community by building partnerships among other women. It also aims to reconnect them with their ancestral lands as a place of mutual healing and restoration, as well as a life-long safe place where they can sustain deeply-rooted cultural identity in a healing, mentoring format.

Vernice Miller-Travis
Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice and Equitable Development, Skeo Solutions

Vernice Miller-Travis has over 30 years of experience in environmental and civil rights policy development and is sought after for her expertise in cross-cultural and environmental conflict mediation and facilitation, multi-stakeholder design and planning, environmental justice, equitable development, brownfields redevelopment, urban river restoration, and community revitalization. Ms. Miller-Travis’s interests have focused on environmental restoration and the inclusion of low-income, people of color, and indigenous communities in environmental decision making at the federal, state, local, and tribal levels.

Prior to joining Skeo Solutions, Ms. Miller-Travis served as director of the Environmental Justice Initiative of the Natural Resources Defense Council, program officer at the Ford Foundation, executive director of Groundwork USA, and co-founder of WE ACT for Environmental Justice. She also serves on the board of directors of Clean Water Action, the North Carolina Land Loss Prevention Project, the Patuxent Riverkeeper, WE ACT for Environmental Justice, and the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum.

Irma R. Muñoz
Founder and President, Mujeres de la Tierra

Irma R. Muñoz is the founder and president of Mujeres de la Tierra, an environmental equity non-profit focused on healing La Madre Tierra and re-defining the traditional “green” dialogue in Los Angeles. Ms. Muñoz firmly believes in the power of one and that community action starts with individual participation. She believes that the families and residents of the neighborhood should have the power and right to lead/own their issues and determine what’s best for them, their families, and their community.
She currently serves on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy board of directors as an appointee of the mayor of Los Angeles and is a governor’s appointee to the Los Angeles County Regional Water Quality Control Board; she currently serves as chair of both. She has held many positions in the public sector. The position she is most proud of is her presidential appointment to the U.S. Small Business Administration in Washington, DC, during the Clinton Administration. Ms. Muñoz earned her BA from the University of California, San Diego, and her JD from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego.

**Daria Neal**

Attorney

Daria Neal supervises a team of attorneys who work with federal agencies to ensure consistent and effective enforcement of civil rights statutes and executive orders that prohibit discrimination in federally conducted and assisted programs and activities, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Additionally, Ms. Neal represents her division on the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice, which was created by Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*.

Ms. Neal currently serves as an adjunct professor at Howard University School of Law teaching seminar courses on environmental justice and on civil rights and the environment. Ms. Neal has published several articles and essays, including “Healthy Schools: A Major Front in the Fight for Environmental Justice” (38 *Environmental Law* 473, 2008) and “Recent Developments in Federal Implementation of Executive Order 12,898 and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964” (57 *Howard Law Journal* 941, 2014).

She previously served as senior counsel for the Environmental Justice Project at the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and as a litigation associate for the firm Jackson Lewis, P.C. Ms. Neal is a proud graduate of Hampton University and received her law degree from the UCLA School of Law.

**Jeaninne Kayembe Oro**

Wholistic.art

Jeannine Kayembe Oro aka (_Oro5_) is a Filipino and Congolese queer-identified woman. In 2010, at age 19, she and 30 other young people along with native North Philadelphia teens co-founded Urban Creators and Life Do Grow urban farm, which became a food, arts, and culture hub in North Philadelphia. Ten years later and after helping raise $1 million for the organization, she’s expanding mediums and making an impact on climate change and racial justice through naturistic soundscapes. As a member of Wholistic.art, she is exploring art as a central tool for movement building, blending sights and sounds from nature, hip hop, and revolutionary women of color to create soundtracks folks can heal, hike, and rage to. It’s her belief that once the environment is safe for Black/Brown women/trans people, it will be safe for all.
**Mamie A. Parker**  
*President, Ma Parker and Associates*

Mamie A. Parker, an executive coach and facilitator in the Washington, DC, area, was inspired by her mother, a maid and sharecropper, along with one of the hit songs by the legendary singer/songwriter Marvin Gaye, to help others and promote clean water and air. At an early age, Dr. Parker’s mother took her fishing and shared life lessons that really helped her when she was the first to integrate her segregated elementary school in Arkansas and become the first African American female chief of staff at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Dr. Parker has worked as a fish and wildlife biologist and executive in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Georgia, Massachusetts, and Washington, DC. She started her career at a Wisconsin fish lab and hatchery and has extensive experience in Clean Water Act permits, ESA, NEPA compliance, NRDA contaminants clean-up projects, invasive species, fish passage, and Farm Bill wetland restoration activities. The governor of Arkansas enshrined her into the Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame, honoring her as the first Arkansan to serve as the head of fisheries in this country. As a Senior Executive Service career employee, the president of the United States awarded her the Presidential Rank Award for her work on building powerful partnerships for the National Fish Habitat Plan, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, and with organizations such as the American Pharmaceutical Association and Walmart, where she promoted a national campaign of smart disposal of medicine and unwanted aquarium fish and plants. The Kellogg Foundation awarded her and the Green Schools Alliance a grant to organize workshops and share the Ma Parker Journey, her life story as a pioneer in conservation, touching the lives of many minority students throughout the world.

Dr. Parker’s work has been featured on NPR’s *Morning Edition* and on the *Steve Harvey Show*, and in Dudley Edmundson’s *The Black and Brown Faces in America’s Wild Places*. Dr. Parker was awarded the American Fisheries Society’s Emmaline Moore Award for personally mentoring over 50 women and people of color in her profession and is a co-author of its book *The Future of Fisheries*.

She is an avid angler and spends her time working in the community as a member of the American Fisheries Society, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Links, Inc., and the Rotary Club of Dunn-Loring.

The governor of Virginia appointed her as a commissioner for the Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries Board where she was recently elected vice chair. Dr. Parker also serves on the board of directors of Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment, Northland College, American University School of Public Affairs, The Nature Conservancy—Virginia Chapter, Student Conservation Association, Ducks Unlimited Conservation Policy Advisory Council, Brown Advisory Sustainable Investment, Marstel-Day Consulting Company, Defenders of Wildlife, Potomac Conservancy, and Chesapeake Conservancy. Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and the Council of World Women Leaders awarded her an Aspen Institute Fellowship, enabling her to work at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy, in the Kingdom of Lesotho, and in Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa.
**Tracy Perkins**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Criminology, Howard University

Tracy Perkins specializes in social inequality, social movements, and the environment through a focus on environmental justice activism. Her book-in-progress, *Movement Matters: Protest, Policy and Three Decades of Environmental Justice Activism*, examines the political evolution of the California environmental justice movement from the 1980s to the mid-2010s. Her previous research focused on women’s pathways into environmental justice activism in California’s San Joaquin Valley. Dr. Perkins has a BA in development studies from the University of California, Berkeley, an MS in community development from the University of California, Davis, and a PhD in sociology from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

A significant part of Dr. Perkins’s work includes documenting environmental justice activism. She does this with oral history, photography, a news feed/archive, and the creation of community and digital archives. These forms of documentation are then shared online, in libraries, or with teachers. She sometimes pairs such documentation with participatory theater, photo exhibits, original writing, and suggestions for how college teachers can use the materials in their classrooms. Examples include *Voices from the Valley: Environmental Justice in California’s San Joaquin Valley*, *In Her Own Words: Remembering Teresa de Anda, Pesticides Activist (1959–2014)*, the Buzzard Point Oral History Project in Washington, DC, and a project-in-development to create a digital archive and multi-media storytelling website on a 1990s-era anti-nuclear waste landfill campaign along the lower Colorado River. tracyperkins.org

**Eboni Preston**  
Director of Programs, Greening Youth Foundation

Eboni Preston is a management professional with a passion and commitment to social, economic, and educational justice. At the Greening Youth Foundation she oversees the organization’s Public School Initiative, Youth Conservation Corps, and Urban Youth Corps departments, including national programs and initiatives in partnership with the U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local municipalities. As a member of the leadership team, she is passionate about her work to nurture the next generation of environmental stewards and leaders.

Ms. Preston came to the Greening Youth Foundation in 2016 after years of extensive work with the NAACP, National Urban League, and Children’s Aid Society. She has a background in non-profit administration, program operations, data management, program evaluation, and workforce development. Ms. Preston holds an MS in social work from Columbia University, a master of public administration from Kennesaw State University, and a BA from Duke University.
Akiima Price
*Creative Thinker and Doer*

Akiima Price links people, places, and programs with stressed, underserved communities. A Washington, DC, native, Ms. Price is a nationally respected thought leader at the intersection of social and environmental issues and the relationship between nature and community well-being. Her innovative programming strategies feature nature as a powerful medium to connect youth, adults, and families in meaningful, positive experiences that affect the way they feel about themselves, their communities, and their parks. From her early career experiences as a National Park Service interpretation ranger at Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Boulder City, NV, to her national work with environmental and social service organizations, Ms. Price has cultivated over 25 years of experience into cutting-edge best practices in trauma-informed environmentalism.

Ms. Price is currently contracted with the National Park Foundation, charged with developing strategies to strengthen Anacostia Park’s programming and external relationships as a critical part of a broader effort to build an innovative friends group between the park and the highly stressed surrounding community.

Alicia Race
*Campaign Coordinator, Union of Concerned Scientists*

At the Union of Concerned Scientists, Alicia Race works closely with activists, experts, and coalition partners to advance national and state-based climate initiatives. She recently participated in a project with rural communities on the Eastern Shore of Maryland to address current and future impacts of sea level rise. Prior to joining UCS, Ms. Race worked as a community choice energy coordinator for the Climate Action Campaign, where she gave presentations and mobilized support for a citywide renewable energy program. Prior to that, she worked for FWD.us, an organization focused on immigration reform, as their Midwest director and Florida coalition coordinator. Ms. Race earned an MA in political science from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a BA in political science and Spanish from Northern Kentucky University.

Marissa Ramirez
*Community Climate Strategy Manager, Healthy People & Thriving Communities, Natural Resources Defense Council*

At the Natural Resources Defense Council in Washington, DC, Marissa Ramirez works with neighbors and local leaders primarily in underserved locations on revitalizing their communities by providing best practices and tools for a more equitable and sustainable future. Ms. Ramirez has a master’s of environmental management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where she focused on urban environmental economics. She also holds a BS in biology from Yale University. Previously, Ms. Ramirez was a science researcher and continues to bring her passion for human and urban health to her professional career.
Malini Ranganathan  
Assistant Professor, School of International Service, American University

In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Malini Ranganathan is a faculty affiliate at American University’s Antiracist Research & Policy Center and a faculty fellow in the Metropolitan Policy Center at AU’s School of Public Affairs. A critical urban geographer by training, Dr. Ranganathan conducts research and focuses her teaching in urban environmental justice and political ecology, with an emphasis on the history and politics of water infrastructure and property regimes, critical race theory, and post-colonial/decolonial theory. Most recently, she has done research on the history of environmental racism and prospects for climate justice east of the Anacostia River in Ward 7’s Kenilworth neighborhood.

Brenda Richardson  
President, Chozen Consulting, LLC

Brenda Richardson is an eco-feminist who has been working on welfare reform, environmental justice, economic development, and health issues for the past 30 years. She currently serves as president of Chozen Consulting, LLC, which focuses on community engagement, facilitation, training, and government relations. She is the principal for “Women Like Us,” an initiative that focuses on design thinking for women.

Formerly, Ms. Richardson was the deputy chief of staff for Councilmember Marion Barry. Ms. Richardson also served as the managing director of the Metropolitan Dialogue, a group of people of faith who met monthly for many years to discuss civic issues in DC. From 1995 to 1996, Ms. Richardson was the director of resident services for the DC Housing Authority, and prior to that was the executive director of the Anacostia/Congress Heights Partnership.

Ms. Richardson is a former board member of the Blue Alley Youth Orchestra and current chair of Georgetown University Hospital’s Lombardi Cancer Center community advisory group. She is a former board member of A Greater Washington, Anacostia Watershed Society, and Congress Heights Main Streets as well as a trustee of the DC Public Library and DC Water. She has a BA in political science from the University of Michigan and a master’s of social work from the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

Gabrielle Roffe  
Project and Partnership Coordinator, Chesapeake Conservancy

At Chesapeake Conservancy, Gabrielle Roffe works closely with the National Park Service to promote stewardship in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. She also leads her organization’s efforts on diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. Prior to joining the Chesapeake Conservancy, Ms. Roffe worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service building urban partnerships and community engagement programs in Kansas City and Denver, as well as with the National Aquarium. Ms. Roffe has expertise in the areas of partnership and capacity building, community engagement, and creative place making through nature and art. She takes a multi-disciplinary approach to
environmental issues and community outreach, blending art and nature to create a sense of space and bring communities together. She has worked with communities to explore and express their connection to nature and their environment through a variety of storytelling mediums including murals, gardens, photovoice, and dance.

Ms. Roffe completed her MS in environmental science at Towson University and her BA at the University of Southern California. She has spent the past 10 years working with non-profits and government agencies to build non-traditional partnerships to connect more diverse audiences to nature and inspire stewardship for the future of the conservation community.

Caroline Solomon
Professor of Biology, Gallaudet University

Caroline Solomon, whose area of research is in aquatic ecology, is currently investigating how nutrient (especially nitrogen) dynamics influences the composition and role of the microbial community in the Anacostia River. Dr. Solomon is also a mentor for many deaf and hard-of-hearing (HoH) students in STEM. Dr. Solomon’s contributions to deaf/HoH STEM education have revolutionized the community and have earned her teaching and education awards from the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography, Gallaudet University, and NPR (“50 Great Teachers”) as well as several features in prominent education media.

Ruby Stemmle
Founder and CEO, ecoLatinos

Under Ruby Stemmle’s leadership, ecoLatinos, a non-profit organization connecting environmental organizations with the Latino community to accomplish a cleaner and greener Chesapeake watershed, is forging alliances that engage and empower Hispanic communities by fostering green stewardship and conservation action. Through collaborations with faith-based and grassroots organizations, ecoLatinos works to adopt public spaces to help restore them and increase individual and collective stewardship of La Madre Tierra. EcoLatinos organizes waterways and trail clean-ups, litter reduction and pollution mitigation campaigns, urban tree plantings and stewardship programs, as well as multi-cultural outreach events and bilingual conservation trainings. In partnerships with local governments and regional environmental organizations, ecoLatinos co-founded the Festival del Rio Anacostia at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park and the Naturally Latinos Conference at the Woodend Mansion in Chevy Chase, MD.

Ms. Stemmle has over 15 years of experience in government relations, public engagement, and inclusive outreach. Prior to ecoLatinos, she worked as executive director of the Maryland Governor’s Commission on Hispanic Affairs, appointments advisor to the Maryland Governor’s Appointments Office, and Hispanic liaison for Prince George’s County and the Washington, DC, Mayor’s Office on Latino Affairs. A native of Colombia, Ms. Stemmle has lived in Cheverly, MD, for 20 years with her husband, Jack, and their son, David.
Tambra Raye Stevenson  
*Founder and CEO, WANDA: Women Advancing Nutrition Dietetics and Agriculture*

Based in Washington, DC, Tambra Raye Stevenson is the founder and CEO of WANDA: Women Advancing Nutrition Dietetics and Agriculture and author of the bilingual children’s series, *Where’s WANDA?*, inspiring girls to become food “sheroes” across Africa and the Diaspora. As a 2014 National Geographic Traveler of the Year, she focuses on reconnecting her food roots to improve health of her community. Appointed by Mayor Muriel Bowser to the DC Food Policy Council, Ms. Stevenson chairs the Food System and Nutrition Education working group. Her work has been highlighted by Forbes, the Washington Post, Voice of America, Food Tank, and National Geographic Traveler magazine. As a Les Dames d’Escoffier International member, she is a contributor to the James Beard Award-winning book *Cooking Gene: A Journey Through African American Culinary History in the Old South*.

The Boren National Security Education scholar holds degrees in nutrition and public health from Tufts Medical School and Oklahoma State University. She formerly held posts in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Executive Office of the DC Mayor working on women’s policy. She secured federal funding for the first-ever Washington Women and Girls Wellness Conference with 250 leaders to set an agenda to improve the health of 50 percent of the city’s residents. Ms. Stevenson also led the development of the first Young Women’s Advisory Committee to support the DC Commission for Women. In addition she holds certificates in social marketing and global health communication from New York University-World Health Organization and University of South Florida School of Public Health. She is a PhD student at American University School of Communication starting this fall with the Game Lab and has volunteered for Games for Change in New York. tambraraye.com

Pavithra Vasudevan  
*Assistant Professor, Department of African and African Diaspora Studies, Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, The University of Texas at Austin*

Pavithra Vasudevan is a critical and feminist geographer concerned with the devaluation of racialized peoples and landscapes in capitalism, and the possibility of abolitional futures through collective struggle. She is currently working on a book, tentatively titled *Toxic Alchemy: Black Life and Death in Racial Capitalism*, which focuses on the racial burden of toxicity in the aluminum company town of Badin, NC.

Dr. Vasudevan is especially interested in creating artistic work that emerges through collaborations with affected communities. Her creative productions include a short film, *Remembering Kearneytown*, that explores life in Warren County, NC, 30 years after the iconic protests against a toxic waste landfill, and *Race and Waste in an Aluminum Town*, a 90-minute ethnographic play documenting the Black enclave of West Badin’s ongoing struggle against aluminum multinational Alcoa Inc. in dealing with occupational and environmental toxicity.

Dr. Vasudevan’s work is deeply informed by her background in community organizing and popular education, as well as lifelong study of movement practices, including Bharata Natyam and Odissi dance forms, the martial art of Aikido, and yoga. Prior to graduate school, Dr. Vasudevan worked in New York for seven years as a professional dancer and youth worker, developing curricula and running programs for young women of color. pavithrasudevan.com
Monique Verdin  
*Director, The Land Memory Bank & Seed Exchange*

For decades Monique Verdin has intimately documented the complex interconnectedness of environment, economics, culture, climate, and change along the Gulf South. She is a citizen and former councilwoman of south Louisiana’s United Houma Nation and is a part of the Another Gulf Is Possible Collaborative core leadership circle of brown (indigenous, Latinx, and desi) women, from Texas to Florida, working to envision just economies, vibrant communities, and sustainable ecologies.

Her indigenous Houma relatives and their lifeways at the ends of the bayous, in the heart of America’s Mississippi River Delta, have been the primary focus of her storytelling practice. Ms. Verdin is the subject/co-writer/co-producer of the documentary *My Louisiana Love*. Her interdisciplinary work has been included in an assortment of environmentally inspired projects, including the multi-platform/performance/eco experience *Cry You One*, as well as the publication *Unfathomable City: A New Orleans Atlas*.

Ms. Verdin is also the director of The Land Memory Bank & Seed Exchange, a series of southeast Louisiana activations sharing native seeds and local knowledge through citizen collaboration, while attempting to build a community record of history and present and seeking sustainable solutions. Ms. Verdin also sits on the board of New Harmony High, a hands-on learning, public open-enrollment high school preparing students for graduation, college careers, and beyond through the lens of coastal restoration and delta preservation.

Dottie Yunger  
*Pastor, Solomons United Methodist Church*

Dottie Yunger is the lead pastor of Solomons United Methodist Church in Solomons, MD. She received her master of divinity and master of theological studies from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. Pastor Dottie’s thesis compared environmental justice themes in the Hebrew Bible to environmental justice issues in the Anacostia watershed. She received a BS in marine science from the University of Maryland.

Pastor Dottie has worked for the Smithsonian Institution, Discovery Channel, and the National Aquarium. For three years, she was the Anacostia Riverkeeper, after which she was the executive director of Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, an interfaith environmental organization in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Recently selected for Earthkeepers, a ministry of the United Methodist Church, Pastor Dottie is a missionary who cares and advocates for local communities and their watersheds. She does so as an aquarist at the Calvert Marine Museum, caring for turtles, otters, and other species of the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay.
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Howard University
Ma Parker and Associates
Mujeres de la Tierra
NAACP
Natural Resources Defense Council
Sierra Club
Skeo Solutions
Solomons United Methodist Church
The Climate Reality Project
The Land Bank & Seed Exchange
The University of Texas at Austin
Trinity Washington University
Union of Concerned Scientists
University of the District of Columbia
WANDA: Women Advancing Nutrition Dietetics and Agriculture
Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church
Wholistic.art
Wild in the City

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The National Education Association
Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative

Photos by Susana Raab
VISION STATEMENT
Urban communities activate their collective power for a more equitable future. We envision healthy neighborhoods that are empowered to work together to solve urgent issues. As a trusted and inclusive center, the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum seeks to inspire communities to take action, and is an incubator for the next generation of civically engaged citizens. By illuminating the intersections of history, culture, and contemporary social issues affecting DC metro area communities, including where they are in flux across urban/suburban boundaries, ACM uses a local lens to tell stories that resonate nationally and globally.

MISSION STATEMENT
Together with local communities, the Anacostia Community Museum illuminates and amplifies our collective power. As our neighborhoods undergo social, economic, and environmental changes that individuals alone cannot address, there is a need for communities to bring together their combined knowledge and strengths. As a museum that convenes people and ideas, ACM documents and preserves communities’ memories, struggles, and successes, and offers a platform where diverse voices and cultures can be heard. We believe that bridging disparate parts of our communities can bring collective action to bear on forging a better future together.

1901 Fort Place SE
Washington, DC 20020
Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed December 25th
FREE ADMISSION
FREE PARKING
Museum parking lot and on-street parking
Accessible to people with disabilities

www.anacostia.si.edu
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202.633.4820
202.287.3183 Fax
For group tours, call 202.633.4870
SECOND WOMEN’S ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

September 13 & 14, 2019
National Education Association Headquarters
Washington, DC