Our Lives, Our People, Our Communities:
Advancing Climate Resilience for Equity and Opportunity

February 12-14, 2020
Hilton Garden Inn Downtown Atlanta, GA

#Resilience4All
Acknowledgements

Our Lives, Our People, Our Communities: Advancing Climate Resilience for Equity and Opportunity, a Partnership for Resilient Communities convening, was made possible with support from The JPB Foundation.

ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The Partnership for Resilient Communities (PRC) works to transform the national urban climate resilience field by increasing the number of leaders of color in the urban field of practice, by advancing approaches that build the resilience of people and places through influence-building and policy approaches, community education and engagement, and the installation of clean energy and green infrastructure. America’s history of racial discrimination, particularly in land-use planning and community development investment decisions, has directly harmed the climate resilience of historic neighborhoods of color, making these urban communities most vulnerable to climate change. Data clearly shows that communities of color and low-income neighborhoods are disproportionately affected by conditions caused and/or exacerbated by climate change impacts. Historical and current planning and investments decisions have placed these neighborhoods in harm’s way (e.g. near toxic emitters or on floodplains), and denied them core resilience building resources, economic opportunity, and overall quality of life investments. The PRC exists to support communities to build power and economic and environmental resilience that can help reverse these injustices and make communities safer, healthier and more resilient.

ABOUT THE UPPER TEXAS GULF COAST REGIONAL RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

The goal of the Upper Texas Gulf Coast Regional Resilience Initiative (UTRI) is to increase the social, economic, and environmental resilience of the region by fostering equitable, inclusive, cross-sector, regional collaboration, and to develop a framework for community-driven action in nine of the 13 counties in the region. These counties include: Brazoria; Chambers; Fort Bend; Galveston; Harris; Jefferson; Liberty; Montgomery; and Waller.

Through partnerships with the Coalition for Environment, Equity, and Resilience (CEER) and Texas Southern University (TSU) Foundation, the Initiative is drawing from perspectives of local residents, community-based organizations, public and elected officials, and sectoral stakeholders to develop collaborative and coordinated recovery strategies to eliminate the gap between resilience and equity. This work is undergirded and guided by the belief that strong community and neighborhood organizations are the thriving force behind resilient communities; therefore, they must have accessible opportunities to fully participate in influencing and shaping policies and practices that will make themselves and the region socially, economically, and environmentally resilient, especially for communities of color and other vulnerable populations that are proven to be the most vulnerable to natural and man made disasters.
The UTRI promotes resilience by supporting the implementation of place-based approaches in communities of color. Small grants have been awarded to five nonprofit community-based partners, that are led by people of color and serving communities of color, to increase their capacity to either develop neighborhood resilience plans, to integrate disaster recovery and resilience in small business planning, and/or to influence policy to promote the equitable allocation of disaster recovery dollars.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Since 1991, the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) has led more than 120 transformative community-driven sustainability projects in 30 countries including the United States, China, India, and Bangladesh. ISC helps unleash the existing power of local people and institutions to address immediate social, economic, and environmental challenges and opportunities – all while building those on-the-ground solutions into national and international best practices and policy. At the heart of the organization’s approach is results-focused, authentic, and pragmatic engagement with all stakeholders, which unearths locally-driven and equitable solutions to the biggest challenge we face – global climate change. Learn more at sustain.org
Welcome to the Partnership for Resilient Communities (PRC) February 2020 convening: *Our Lives, Our People, Our Communities: Advancing Climate Resilience for Equity and Opportunity!* The overarching purpose of this winter’s PRC peer learning event is to engage partners across the Partnership for Resilient Communities program and the Upper Texas Gulf Coast Regional Resilience Initiative to foster a national network of leaders of color engaged in equitable climate resilience building. To this end, this event offers a collaborative space for local leaders of color, representing 17 organizations from across the U.S. that are engaged in equitable climate solutions. Additionally, teams can learn from one another and other local and national experts to strengthen their work.

In the spirit of ISC’s value of “peer learning,” the convening program offerings are informed by the direct, on-the-ground experiences of community leaders. This approach provides an “authentic” capacity-building experience that is rooted in the overarching value of the PRC — *those that are closest to the issues know what works best.* This event will support networking and relationship building, offer opportunities to share and gain knowledge and expertise, learn from the equitable development and resilience building work happening in Atlanta, foster innovation and energize participants, and be fun! Our hope is that the offerings during this convening will foster and inform equitable community resilience building across the nation.
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Sessions and Plenaries

Power Building: A Necessary Approach to Policy Change
The relationship between planning and policy approaches, and access to thriving communities that offer a great quality of life, economic opportunities and other essential opportunity structures is a critical aspect of solid climate resilience work. Community organizations have a critical role in organizing residents and other stakeholders to advance, and often, demand a seat at planning tables and in informing policy and community investment decisions. This plenary will share best practices and examples of how to put together winning policy campaigns that gain the attention, respect and support of elected and public officials and other key decision-makers through smart organizing strategies.

The Air We Breathe and Climate Justice: What’s One Got to Do with the Other?
Air pollution is one of the most alarming threats to life expectancy and the quality of life overall in communities of color. While the nation, as a whole, has reported lower levels of toxic air exposure, the opposite holds true for many historically African-American communities and, at present, a growing number of Hispanic communities, as the number of breathing-related illnesses and deaths have spiked. In these communities, air pollution is exacerbated by the lack of green infrastructure and their proximity to major road transport, airports, and smokestacks that generate greenhouse gases, and other industrial activities that emit hazardous pollutants. This session will provide an opportunity to exchange knowledge among research and data professionals and local experiences to not only address how air quality is being threatened, but to also explore solutions and strategies to influence policies to reduce toxic air exposure in communities of color.

Bolstering Resilience: Communities Enacting Equitable Infrastructure
Strong infrastructure is a key bedrock of resilient communities. Yet, many People of Color live in neighborhoods that are built on floodplains, have poor drainage design and systems, are connected to grids that often fail, have an insufficient investment of trees and other green infrastructure, and so on. This failing or missing infrastructure makes communities more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. And, due to historical and modern day redlining and other discriminatory investment decisions, communities are unfairly going without these life and resource saving investments. This session will explore community directed infrastructure building approaches designed to advance the direct involvement of people and communities of color in infrastructure building strategies that are making their communities more resilient to climate impacts.

A Briefing: Funders Sharing Perspectives on the Direction of Equity in Climate Change and Equitable Development
The discussion will focus on national trends; current and future opportunities in the climate field of practice; and the policy and equitable development strategies and actions organizations can consider to bring greater resilience and economic opportunities to their local communities. Speakers and participants will explore questions such as: what specific expertise should communities develop? What are funders discussing as their key areas of concern and opportunity? What strategies seem to be yielding the highest impact and results?
Evaluation, Metrics, Data – Starting Now
Identifying metrics, capturing information and learnings, analyzing data, and clearly communicating findings to neighborhood residents, lawmakers, partners, and funders are essential elements of lifting up community needs and assets because it supports smart fundraising strategies. Join this session to learn about evaluation tools, assessment processes and approaches, and strategies to help interpret and share data that can guide you in planning and building support for your community resiliency initiatives, while supporting the advancement of winning policy campaigns.

Using Vacant Spaces to Create Resilient Places
Vacant, abandoned, and blighted properties have severely deteriorated the social, psychological, economic, and environmental integrity of communities of color. Now, urban areas are poised for an opportunity to creatively reimagine the future of these spaces and the role that their transformation can play in the advancement of community prosperity. Learn strategies, resources, and best practices for leveraging your community’s social and economic assets to navigate the legalities and bureaucracy of reclaiming and stewarding vacant spaces to serve your neighborhood’s needs.

Making the Climate Case: A Tale of Two Challenges and Opportunities
The climate field of practice has failed to connect with two key audiences: People of Color and those that are leery of the truth regarding climate change. Polar bears, ice glaciers, and turtles with straws have little to no relatable connection to the priorities and concerns that People of Color are experiencing, and do little to help folks come to terms with the realities of climate change. In this session, participants will gain strategies for building a winning communications plan and narrative that can make clear the connection between climate change and their priorities and concerns.

Managing Emergencies and Disasters: Activating Your Community Network
Resilient communities are only as strong as the relationships of their residents. This strength is often illuminated in times of emergency response. In the face of exacerbating climate change, we expect the occurrence and intensity of natural disasters to continue to increase, and that unfortunately communities of color will continue to be the most affected. This session will explore systems, processes, and social infrastructure needed to keep our neighborhoods safe during emergencies. We will also discuss how the process of establishing emergency preparedness plans can support building and maintaining strong community networks that flourish long before and long after a disaster.

Where's the Money: Making the Case for the Equitable Distribution of Recovery Resources
Climate disasters including hurricanes, wildfires, extreme heat, blizzards, and flooding are occurring more often and more intensely. The question is no longer if disasters will happen but when will they happen. The bigger and more perplexing question that should be explored, however, is, “How do we promote equitable recovery after disasters occur? Without equity in recovery investments, there is no recovery for communities of color and lower-wealth communities. This session will lift up learnings from impacted communities that have and are advocating for justice in the allocation of recovery resources. Recognizing, the disproportionate allocation of state, local, and federal investments has not only widened the gap in resilience, but also placed the burden of recovery on the shoulders of those most harmed.
Site Visit: Equitable Green Impact Zone, Sweet Auburn Historic District
The Sweet Auburn neighborhood is most notable for its role as the home for many of the city's first black-owned businesses and as the bedrock of civil rights organizing decades later. Desegregation, divestment, and the construction of the Downtown Connector ushered in an era of stark decline for Sweet Auburn. As the community development steward for the Sweet Auburn district, the Historic District Development Corporation (HDDC) has conceptualized and is implementing a new initiative—in collaboration with the Partnership for Southern Equity (PSE)—to foster Sweet Auburn’s re-emergence as Atlanta's premier “equity-district.” The project demonstrates economic prosperity for all that is rooted in environmental sustainability, and built upon its unique African American heritage. This tour will lift up a wide range of successes and challenges around community engagement and leadership, housing, financing, gentrification, and the strategic partnerships that were necessary to catalyze the project. Tour includes a peer-sharing “Lunch + Learn” at the newly renovated Haugabrooks site.

Site Visit: Positioning East Point, Georgia, for Prosperity
Located adjacent to southwest Atlanta, the inner-ring suburb of East Point in Fulton County is in transition. With newly-elected local leadership, strategic partnerships, including an equity-anchor, Partnership for Southern Equity (PSE), and new developments, East Point is working to overcome its challenges in wealth distribution, health, and education to become a community of choice instead of a place of last resort. On this tour, we will hear from local community leaders, as well as elected officials, about revitalization through innovative approaches in distributed production aimed to combat food insecurity, leveraging community engagement and involvement to lead a revitalization process that puts people first, streetscape and green space improvements that facilitate walkability and greater access to transportation, affordable housing strategies that tackle gentrification and displacement head-on, and entrepreneurial capacity building institutions that center equitable economic prosperity for the city’s POC business-owners. Tour includes a peer-sharing “Lunch + Learn” at the City Hall’s Council Chambers.
SHAMAR BIBBINS

Shamar A. Bibbins is a Senior Program Officer with The Kresge Foundation’s Environment Program, where her grantmaking supports policies and programs that help communities build resilience in the face of climate change.

She plays a lead role managing Kresge’s Climate Change, Health & Equity Initiative. The national initiative is a partnership between Kresge’s Environment and Health programs to address the intersecting imperatives of accelerating action on climate change and reducing health disparities. Shamar’s grantmaking also supports climate adaptation field building efforts in the U.S. and initiatives that advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in the environmental nonprofit and philanthropic fields.

Shamar joined Kresge in 2014, bringing a history of experience advancing environmental and economic justice in marginalized communities and a commitment to action on climate change.

Shamar earned a bachelor’s degree in science, technology and society from Vassar College and was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to Fukushima University where she researched environmental and social implications of mercury pollution in Japan’s Minamata Bay.

She serves on the Board of Community Wealth Partners, is a Philanthropic Trustee of The Solutions Project, and serves on the steering committee of The Climate and Energy Funders’ Group.

PIERRE JOSEPH

Pierre Joseph is currently an independent philanthropic advisor.

As a grantmaker, Pierre served as a program officer at the Solidago Foundation developing strategy on the climate and inclusive economy portfolios. He is interested in how emerging financing strategies, blended funding streams, and democratized access to capital, can build wealth, expand opportunity, and increase economic mobility in underserved communities throughout the United States.

Prior to joining the Solidago, Pierre worked as a policy analyst at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. At HHS, Pierre staffed the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services where he worked on many issues ranging from two-generation approaches to child poverty, substance use disorder, and linking health systems transformation to the broader social determinants of health. Additionally, he served in roles at the Administration for Children and Families and the White House Rural Council.

Pierre earned his B.A. in political science from Amherst College, with a concentration in urban politics and policy. In 2014 Pierre was named a Harry S. Truman Scholar. He currently serves on the boards of two organizations, Liberation in a Generation and Freefrom.
DR. BAKEYAH NELSON

Dr. Bakeyah Nelson has served as the Executive Director of Air Alliance Houston since March 2017. Prior to working as Executive Director, she worked for Harris County Public Health where she was responsible for leading community health initiatives to reduce environmental inequities where people live, work, learn, and play.

She is the co-founder and Chair of the Coalition for Environment, Equity, and Resilience (CEER) – a coalition of 25 organizations focused on raising awareness between people, place, pollution, and public health. Bakeyah was selected as an Aspen Institute Health Scholar for the 2019 Aspen Ideas Festival and was honored as one of the Texas Organizing Project’s 2018 Community Champions. She is a Senior Fellow of Class XLVI of the American Leadership Forum and was a recipient of the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) Model Practice Award for demonstrating exemplary leadership to advance environmental justice and public health. Bakeyah also founded Community Health Collaborative Consulting in 2015 and offers services to nonprofits and foundations in the areas of community assessment, strategic thinking and planning, and program evaluation.

Bakeyah’s doctorate in public policy, master’s in applied sociology and bachelor’s degree in psychology all come from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

JENNIFER PATRICK

Jennifer Patrick is a Senior Program Officer in the Environment Program at The JPB Foundation. JPB’s mission is to advance opportunity in the US through transformational initiatives that empower those living in poverty, enrich and sustain our environment, and enable pioneering medical research. JPB’s Environment Program enables resilient communities to benefit the health and well-being of low-income and underserved communities. Jen manages the Green Infrastructure portfolio focused on equitably increasing access to parks, stormwater adaptation, and diversifying the field. Jen comes to JPB with years of experience in the environmental nonprofit sector, working to advance community health and empowerment and environmental protection. She has worked with The Climate Group, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and Henry P. Kendall Foundation. Most recently Jen was Director of Strategy at The Trust for Public Land. Jen holds an M.A. in Public Policy from the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University.
NATHANIEL SMITH
Nathaniel Smith serves as Founder and Chief Equity Officer of the Partnership for Southern Equity (PSE), which advances policies and institutional actions that promote racial equity and shared prosperity for all in the growth of metropolitan Atlanta and the American South. Among PSE’s notable accomplishments was the creation of the American South’s first equity mapping and framing tool, the Metro Atlanta Equity Atlas, and co-authoring numerous reports including: “Growing the Future: The Case for Economic Inclusion in Metropolitan Atlanta,” and “Employment Equity: Putting Georgia on the Path to Inclusive Prosperity”. PSE also led a coalition of diverse stakeholders to support a $13 million transit referendum that expanded Atlanta’s metropolitan transit system into a new county for the first time in 45 years.

Nathaniel’s advocacy activities were instrumental in the ratification of a 15 percent set aside of Atlanta Beltline Tax Allocation District (TAD) dollars for the development and maintenance of affordable workforce housing within the Atlanta BeltLine Planning Area – $250 million dollars over the 25-year lifespan of the Atlanta BeltLine TAD.

A child of Civil Rights Movement and Atlanta native, Nathaniel holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies from Morehouse College and a Master of Science from the New School.

Among many his many accomplishments, The Huffington Post honored Nathaniel as one of the eight “Up and Coming Black Leaders in the Climate Movement” in 2017. Nathaniel was also named to the Grist 50 by Grist Magazine in 2018 and designated one of the 100 “Most Influential Georgians” by Georgia Trend Magazine in 2018 and 2019.

SCOT SPENCER
Scot Spencer leads The Annie E. Casey Foundation’s work in advancing community-focused policies, practices and strategies that increase opportunities for children, families, and the places where they live and foster their success. Scot also coordinates Casey’s local advocacy efforts in Baltimore.

Before taking on these roles, Scot managed Casey’s investments in East Baltimore, where the Foundation seeks to strengthen community and economic development in a historic, low-income neighborhood next door to the Johns Hopkins University medical campus. He previously was a transportation specialist at the Environmental Defense Fund, where he focused on state-level smart-growth policy and Commuter Choice, a local tax incentive for people who use transit. He also served as deputy director for Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition and worked for several years in private architectural practice, community development and university relations in upstate New York.

Scot serves on a number of local and national boards, including The Funders’ Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, and the Orton Family Foundation. He was the founding chair of the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities and served as co-chair of the Opportunity Collaborative, Baltimore’s regional plan development through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Sustainable Communities Initiative.
TENÉ TRAYLOR

Tené Traylor joined the Kendeda Fund as a Fund Advisor in March 2016 and oversees the Fund’s Atlanta program.

Prior to joining the Fund, Tené was a senior program officer at the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. For ten years, she led their community development and neighborhood transformation grant making, including the Neighborhood Fund. Tené launched several programs and initiatives for the Community Foundation, helping identify, develop, and steward collaborative relationships and resources to amplify the importance of place-based philanthropy, equity, and civic leadership.

A proud Atlanta native, Tené has spent her career in the nonprofit and philanthropic sector, spending nearly six years at United Way for Greater Atlanta, before moving to The Zeist Foundation, Inc.

Tené holds a Master of Public Administration degree with a concentration in public policy and nonprofit administration from the University of Georgia, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Georgia State University.

DR. AKILAH WATKINS-BUTLER

Dr. Akilah Watkins-Butler is the President and CEO of the Center for Community Progress. She has more than two decades of experience working on economic development, community capacity building, and built environment issues that disproportionally impact low-income communities.

Prior to joining Community Progress, Akilah led the national anti-poverty, place-based portfolio at the Center for the Study of Social Policy in collaboration with the Obama Administration. She previously served as Director of National Partnerships at NeighborWorks America where she implemented a national public health and housing initiative for over 4,000 low-to-moderate income families, as Deputy Director of Leadership for Healthy Communities, a national program office of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, as a community organizer, and in philanthropy supporting communities of color build capacity to control their economic and social futures.

Akilah received the prestigious Ford Foundation Fellowship in 2009 to complete her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Illinois. She also holds an undergraduate degree at Empire State College in New York State and two graduate degrees from Southern New Hampshire University. She currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the Grounded Solutions Network.
JENNIFER WATSON ROBERTS

Jennifer Watson Roberts is the Director of ecoAmerica's Path to Positive Communities Program, which builds public support and political will for climate solutions in America's cities. She is a former Mayor of Charlotte and a lifelong champion of issues related to education and equality. She is the first person to be elected to serve as both Chairman of the Mecklenburg County Commission and later as Mayor of Charlotte.

Jennifer has advocated for clean air and water and for environmental justice for decades. As a County Commissioner, she championed a Park and Rec Master Plan, supported energy reduction and conservation in government operations, and headed a Clean Air Works initiative to reduce carbon emissions in area businesses. She signed the Mayor's Climate Pledge and introduced a Clean Energy Resolution for the City of Charlotte.

She has worked as a diplomat for the U.S. State Department, as an international banker, and as an adjunct professor at UNC-Charlotte. She has a B.A. and two master's degrees, serves on many nonprofit boards, and has received numerous community awards.

DR. JALONNE L. WHITE-NEWSOME

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). Jalonne also is a core team member of Kresge’s Climate Change, Health & Equity Initiative, supporting grantmaking across the public health sector.

Before joining Kresge in early 2016, Jalonne served as director of federal policy at West Harlem Environmental Action Inc. (WE ACT). She is an adjunct professor at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Jalonne was a lead author for the human health chapter of the 4th National Climate Assessment. She provides leadership on various boards, including the National Academy of Sciences Board on Environmental Change and Society, and the Health & Environmental Funders Network Steering Committee.

A native of Detroit, Jalonne earned a Ph.D. in environmental health sciences from the University of Michigan School of Public Health; a master's degree in environmental engineering from Southern Methodist University; and a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Northwestern University. Jalonne has recently been recognized by Who's Who in America, The Environmental Management Association's Environmental Achievement Award, the Michigan League of Conservation Voters and is a 2017 PLACES Fellow alum with The Funders’ Network.
Community-led Resilience
2019-2020 Planning Phase Cohort

Partnership for Resilient Communities
Grantees

- Power52 Foundation Baltimore, MD
- The People’s Justice Council Birmingham, AL
- Garfield Park Community Council Chicago, IL
- Eastside Community Network Detroit, MI
- La Mujer Obrera El Paso, TX
- Walnut Way Conservation Corp. Milwaukee, WI
- Healthy Community Services New Orleans, LA
- Asian Pacific Environmental Network Oakland, CA; Richmond, CA
- Operation Better Block Pittsburgh, PA
- Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative (VEJC) Richmond, VA
- California Indian Museum and Cultural Center Santa Rosa, CA
- We Stay/Nos Quedamos Inc. The Bronx, NY

Upper Texas Gulf Coast Regional Resilience Initiative Partners

- Westry Mouton Project Beaumont, TX
- Fort Bend Houston Super Neighborhood 41 Council Fort Bend County, TX
- Talent Yield Coalition, Inc. Harris County, TX
- Coalition of Community Organizations Houston, TX
- Coalition for Environment, Equity, and Resilience Houston, TX
- Emancipation Economic Development Council Houston, TX
- Texas Southern University Foundation Houston, TX
- West Street Recovery Houston, TX
The Community-based Partners

Partnership for Resilient Communities

- Asian Pacific Environmental Network
- California Indian Museum & Cultural Center
- Eastside Community Network
- Garfield Park Community Council
- Healthy Community Services
- La Mujer Obrera
- Operation Better Block
- The People's Justice Council
- Power52 Foundation
- Walnut Way Conservation Corp.
- We Stay / Nos Quedamos, Inc.
- Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative
Richmond, CA; Oakland, CA
Project: Power to the Frontlines: Climate Resilience via Community-Governed Solar Projects

Founded in 1993, Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) has been fighting—and winning—struggles for environmental justice and economic opportunity for over 25 years. APEN is nationally recognized for its commitment to developing the leadership and power of poor and working-class Asian immigrants and refugees in California. Based in Oakland and Richmond, APEN is guided by a dedicated grassroots membership of predominantly monolingual Chinese, Mien, and Khmu speakers and youth members. APEN also has the capacity to reach 60,000-90,000 Asian Americans annually throughout California to inform them about critical policy issues and get feedback on their concerns and priorities in order to ensure their voices are heard at the ballot box and in the halls of the Legislature. As a PRC partner, APEN will develop a plan to create a resilience hub at the RYSE Commons in Richmond that includes plans for installation of solar panels and battery storage and for these assets to be governed and designed by a youth advisory council. APEN also works to mobilize residents and decision-makers in support of policies that build community resilience, lower energy costs and prevent displacement.

Partners: RYSE Center

Convening Participants:
- Vivian Huang, Deputy Director, Asian Pacific Environmental Network
- Dan Reilly, Director of Innovation, RYSE
- Megan Zapanta, Richmond Organizing Director, Asian Pacific Environmental Network
Santa Rosa, CA  
**Project:** Resilient Native Generations

Since its founding at the Presidio of San Francisco in 1991 and incorporation as a nonprofit in 1996, California Indian Museum & Cultural Center (CIMCC) has worked continuously to inform and educate the public about the living cultures of California Indians. CIMCC uses collections, interactive multi-media and an issues-based, inquiry-driven interpretive approach to implement their mission to educate the public about the history, cultures and contemporary life of California Indians and honor their contributions to civilization. With a 24,000 square foot facility in Santa Rosa, California and online spaces, CIMCC is a “cultural home” for Native people and a “civic space” for the public. CIMCC presents information about California tribes and Native people that is grounded in tribal scholarship and animated by Native perspectives and stories.

Through stories relaying the facts, events, memories and emotions that occurred over time, CIMCC’s audiences more fully connect with what has happened to Native people in California and better perceive how Native communities have endured. Far from being a static representation of tribal cultures focused on a past and tragic history, CIMCC emphasizes the nexus between California Indian living cultures and tribal influence on Western society, past, present and future. CIMCC strives to illuminate the collective and local experiences that have shaped tribal communities into the sovereign nations they are today and promote dialogue about issues of importance to American Indians and everyone.

CIMCC’s project plans to organize Native people in Santa Rosa to establish community-articulated climate resilience priorities, and advocate for these priorities to be included in the updated Santa Rosa Climate Action Plan. CIMCC will also expand its climate emergency management plans by installing solar panels and battery storage on the property to transform it into an emergency resilience hub, and increasing residents’ emergency preparedness and access to resources during and after climate events.

**Partners:** National Indian Justice Center

**Convening Participants:**
- **Christina Inong**, Program Manager, The California Indian Museum & Cultural Center
- **Laura Mendoza**, Program Coordinator, The California Indian Museum & Cultural Center
- **Vanessa Nava**, Media Specialist, The California Indian Museum & Cultural Center
EASTSIDE COMMUNITY NETWORK

Detroit, MI  
**Project:** LEAP Resilience

Eastside Community Network (ECN) has been spearheading community development on Detroit’s Lower Eastside for over 30 years. ECN works with partners on Detroit’s Lower Eastside to drive lasting, positive change in our neighborhoods. This positive transformation is achieved through resident engagement, multi-sector collaborations, advocacy, leadership development and innovative approaches to land development. ECN envisions the Lower Eastside of Detroit as a community of choice where residents can live, work, play and thrive including safe and inclusive neighborhoods with a strong sense of identity and ownership amongst residents, blue and green infrastructure and Naturescapes, neighborhood connectivity, a strong economy with job and career opportunities for local residents, improved transportation options, and access to resources that promote healthy lifestyles for youth, families and visitors. ECN’s PRC project will expand the organization’s existing Lower Eastside Action Plan (LEAP) mobilizing residents and community stakeholders to advocate for energy and water policies that increase climate resiliency on Detroit’s Lower Eastside, and help them access sustainability training and funding opportunities. Their project will also include: the development of a resilience hub that will include installation of green infrastructure, LED lighting, low flow plumbing, water harvesting, solar installations, and geothermal upgrades on community churches and nonprofits; and a resiliency hub initiative to help churches and nonprofits turn their properties in hubs. The resilience hub developed by ECN will be used as an educational demonstration site for residents.

**Partners:**
- Detroit Health Department
- Great Lakes Environmental Law Center
- Elevate Energy
- Detroit Office of Sustainability
- University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy
- Poverty Solutions – University of Michigan
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- Greening of Detroit
- Data Driven Detroit
- What About Us Inc.
- Bailey Park Project
- McDougal-Hunt Neighborhood Association
- Sierra Club
- Detroit Greenways Coalition

**Convening Participants:**
- **Richard Ackerman**, Director of Climate Equity, Eastside Community Network
- **Savana Brewer**, Community Organizing and Planning Coordinator, Eastside Community Network
- **Donna Givens**, President/CEO, Eastside Community Network
- **Michelle Jackson**, Climate Equity Organizer, Eastside Community Network
The Garfield Park Community Council (GPCC) is a community-building organization made up of dedicated residents and allies working together to develop leaders and create opportunities and programs that build a vital Garfield Park community. GPCC focuses on four resident-defined priorities on Chicago’s West Side: housing, wellness, business development, and resident leadership. Under its Wellness Initiative, the GPCC strives to enhance and expand the Garfield Park Garden Network and Neighborhood Market and to increase neighborhood sustainability and bring health and wellness resources to the community. The GPCC’s business development efforts work to revitalize the neighborhood’s neglected business corridors through an integrated approach of public safety improvements, attention to troubled businesses, and work with potential property developers/business owners. In the area of housing, the GPCC provides ongoing counseling assistance to homeowners, property managers and tenants in crisis, facilitates the City of Chicago Micro Market Recovery Program (MMRP), and works with city-wide housing justice groups to advocate for policies that prevent displacement due to gentrification and disinvestment. Finally, the resident leadership priority area is integrated into all program areas and conducts outreach to community members to understand the issues impacting residents and provides support to train residents to lead and organize short-term campaigns.

The Garfield Park Resilience Project will engage residents to develop plans for a community solar program to increase access to affordable energy, and an eco-orchard and stormwater infrastructure project along Garfield Park’s Fifth Avenue “Resilient Corridor.” The project will also include resident climate resilience education, and grassroots organizing to ensure that community benefits and opportunities for community ownership are included in new development projects like “Garfield Green” - a project that will create energy efficient, affordable housing for local residents. Through the Garfield Park Resilience Project, the GPCC will make resident leadership an essential component of climate solutions on the West Side of Chicago and beyond.

**Partners:**
- Center for Neighborhood Technology
- City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development
- Elevated Chicago
- Enterprise Community Partners
- Metropolitan Planning Council
- NeighborSpace
- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

**Convening Participants:**
- **Theron Hawk**, Community Organizer, Garfield Park Community Council
- **Angela Taylor**, Wellness Coordinator, Garfield Park Community Council
- **Mike Tomas**, Executive Director, Garfield Park Community Council
- **Laura Wetter**, Development and Communications Director, Garfield Park Community Council
HEALTHY COMMUNITY SERVICES

New Orleans, LA
Project: Water Wise 7th Ward; Water Wise Treme; Water Wise Upper 9th Ward

Healthy Community Services (HCS) is committed to educating vulnerable communities with the knowledge to make informed decisions concerning resilient sustainable lifestyles and nutritional needs by creating access to healthy food choices; leading healthy lifestyles inclusive of safe homes, workplaces & neighborhoods; and promoting the incorporation of sustainable green infrastructure alternatives into everyday living. Integrity and commitment are paramount to providing a successful, healthy service to those we serve. HCS works in collaboration with Water Wise Gulf South and the Greater Tremé Consortium on the Water Wise Tremé and Water Wise 7th Ward Initiative. This initiative provides residents and business owners with an understanding of urban storm water management techniques, how the drainage system of New Orleans works, improving the water quality of Lake Pontchartrain as wells as how green infrastructure reduces subsidence by increasing the water table levels.

This year the collaboration is adding an additional neighborhood, the Upper 9th Ward, which is a traditional working class neighborhood bounded by Franklin Avenue, St. Claude Avenue, Desire Parkway and the Industrial Canal. The Bunny Friend Neighborhood Association has been active in the recovery of this neighborhood after Hurricane Katrina. Similar to Treme and 7th Ward, it is plagued by flooding but suffers from more blight as there is a higher density of vacant lots. As part of their PRC project, Healthy Community Services will develop a plan to train Treme, 7th Ward, and Upper 9th Ward residents to understand climate resilience issues, design green infrastructure plans, map priority sites for infrastructure installation, and construct the stormwater management and green infrastructure installations. HCS will document this work in “Lookbooks” that will be used to advocate for support from the local government and elected officials to continue building climate resilience in the community.

Partners:
- Greater Treme Consortium
- Dana Brown & Associates
- Water Wise Gulf South
- Bunny Friend Neighborhood Association

Convening Participants:
- Cheryl Austin, Executive Director, Greater Treme Consortium
- Dana Brown, President, Dana Brown & Associates, Inc.
- Angela Chalk, Executive Director, Healthy Community Services
- Katherine Prevost, President, Bunny Friend Neighborhood Association
- Jeffrey Supak, Community Outreach Director, Water Wise Gulf South
LA MUJER OBRERA

El Paso, TX

Project: Planning for Community-led Climate Resilience in the Chamizal

La Mujer Obrera's (LMO) mission is to develop and use their creative capacity to express the dignity and diversity of their Mexican heritage, from indigenous Mesoamerican roots to contemporary expressions, and to develop and celebrate their community through economic development, community building, community health and civic engagement. Their work is focused in El Paso's Chamizal neighborhood, where they employ a two-tiered organizing strategy of defense and regeneration. Through Familias Unidas del Chamizal, LMO defends against discriminatory practices and work on solving major problems in environmental health, education, housing, and basic quality of life. Through Proyecto Verde, LMO regenerates community health by building on the neighborhood's existing knowledge-base and practice related to ancestral food traditions (food growing and traditional food recipes) and traditional arts and creative expression. Their work is grounded in the belief that we are a part of nature and part of a lineage of earth-based cultural practices and wisdoms that are key to restoring balance and health not only to our community, but to the soil, plants, insects, and animals with whom we share the earth. This is why their resistance work is multifaceted and interconnected: resisting by organizing against injustice and by building alternative systems that nourish our community.

LMO's PRC project will involve: working with residents and researchers to develop the Chamizal Community Plan for Climate Resilience; use resident expertise to design and install green infrastructure at the Chamizal Community Garden; teach residents to self-install similar GI in their own backyard gardens; and work with researchers and the community to compile data that can be used to increase emergency preparedness in the community and advocate for improved regional climate resilience policies.

Convening Participants:

• **Hilda Garcia**, Lead Organizer, La Mujer Obrera
• **Guillermo Glenn**, Volunteer Organizer, La Mujer Obrera
• **Katherine Villegas**, Lead Organizer, La Mujer Obrera
OPERATION BETTER BLOCK

Pittsburgh, PA  
Project: Homewood's Community Environmental Plan

The mission of Operation Better Block, Inc. (OBB) is to strategize, organize and mobilize, block by block, to benefit the Homewood Community. OBB does this by providing technical and community development assistance to Block Associations in self-help projects and self-sufficiency initiatives; Fostering youth development through self-awareness, career exploration, and community volunteering; Participating in housing development efforts to construct new housing units; Supporting public and private investments to stimulate economic development; and Building partnerships with others to promote community sustainability.

In 2014-2015, OBB developed the Cluster Vision Plan that not only outlines the existing conditions of the Homewood area, but also shows future plans for Homewood based on residents’ input. The resulting information for the plans was consolidated and inserted into an in-house database that now provides OBB and residents with information about programs, properties, and upcoming events in the Homewood area. Currently OBB has been a lead community engagement organization for local projects and development. Their cluster plan is the official land use plan for the city’s comprehensive plan for Homewood and will be updated in the upcoming year. OBB has received funding from many funders including Federal Home Loan Banking to do many more residential developments in the area for residents with lower income looking to be homeowners. Through developing their PRC project, OBB will mobilize residents and decision-makers with a simplified version of their five-year strategic plan to increase climate resilience in the neighborhood; install green infrastructure and stormwater management in the Homewood neighborhood; and train youth in their Junior Green Corps to install and maintain the installations.

Partners:
- Homewood Children’s Village
- Tree Pittsburgh
- Nine Mile Run Watershed Association
- University of Pittsburgh

Convening Participants:
- Mike Hiller, Assistant Director, Nine Mile Run Watershed Association
- Christian McClendon, Program and Project Coordinator, Operation Better Block
- Shannah Tharp-Gilliam, Director of Research and Evaluation, Homewood Children's Village
- Benjamin Walker, Program Coordinator, Homewood Children's Village
- NaTisha Washington, Green Initiative Coordinator, Operation Better Block
THE PEOPLE’S JUSTICE COUNCIL

Birmingham, AL
Project: Moving Birmingham Beyond “Dynamite Hill” and Toxic City

The People’s Justice Council (PJC) is a faith-based group of public theologians from various faith traditions who operate at the intersectionality of justice through interdisciplinary methods that engage and equip communities with the tools to fight for justice at the policy level. The PJC envisions a just world one corner at a time – a world that is equitable and sustainable, with a just economy, that is harmonious with people, planet over profit. Among their partnerships and programs is The People’s Justice Academy, providing tools for building power from the grassroots up through training and organizing; their Faith and Justice Education Program, raising awareness about local environmental justice issues and; Alabama Interfaith Power & Light (AIPL) whose mission it is to be faithful stewards of Creation by responding to Climate Change through the promotion of environmental justice, energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy from a faith perspective.

As a PRC partner, The People’s Justice Council’s planning activities will focus on the implementation of a community-driven strategy to increase climate resilience in six Birmingham neighborhoods through home weatherization, rain garden installation, and community solar farm development. The plan will include resident training to assess community energy needs, understand energy efficiency solutions, and advocate for policy changes to lower energy costs and promote clean energy in the community.

Partners:
• Alabama Interfaith Power & Light
• Partnership for Southern Equity
• Georgia Interfaith Power and Light
• Georgia WAND
• We Own It Fellowship
• Gasp, Inc.
• Energy Alabama

Convening Participants:
• Kyle Crider, Program Coordinator, Alabama Interfaith Power & Light
• Michael Malcom, Executive Director, The People's Justice Council
• Laura Quattrochi, Administrator, The People's Justice Council
POWER52 FOUNDATION

Baltimore, MD
Project: Green City

Power52 Foundation’s mission is to break the cycle of poverty, unemployment, underemployment, and incarceration in our urban communities across the nation through economic empowerment and clean energy access. Power52’s core values are: integrity, trustworthiness, a measurable impact, equal opportunity and inclusiveness. With partial grant funding from the Institute for Sustainable Communities, Power52 launched their Energy Professional Training program in March 2017 bringing workforce development, resiliency, and clean energy solutions to low- and medium-income communities with Living Classrooms providing wraparound services to the training participants. In addition, Power52 converted three of Living Classrooms community centers into resiliency hubs, offering disaster relief support to their neighboring communities. Since the fall of 2017, Power52 Foundation has established two Power52 Energy Institute’s delivering the Energy Professional Training Program providing their own in-house case management and wraparound services broadening their footprint to service underserved at-risk individuals throughout the state.

As a PRC partner, Power52 will develop a plan to employ returning citizens and other under-employed community members by building “Green City” – an interactive renewable energy demonstration site and learning space. In emergencies, Green City will provide local residents access to solar electricity, water, radios, two-way radios, and charging stations and serve as an Emergency Information Center (EIC). The site will be used to educate residents about climate impacts and resilience as well as prepare them to advocate for green jobs and policies that bolster the economic and physical resilience of their communities.

Partners:
- City of Baltimore
- Maryland Department of Transportation
- Power52 Energy Solutions
- Baltimore City Parks and Recreation

Convening Participants:
- Barbara Ebel, Board Member, Power52 Foundation
- Charles Kees, Business Development Manager, Power52 Foundation
- Alonzo Reed, Graduate, Power52 Foundation
- Cherie Wallace, President/CEO, Power52 Foundation
Milwaukee, WI
Project: Envisioning The Upstream Greening of Lindsay Heights

Walnut Way Conservation Corp. is a resident-led neighborhood organization in north side Milwaukee's Lindsay Heights neighborhood that is committed to sustaining an economically diverse community through civic engagement, environmental stewardship, and creating venues for prosperity. Chartered by neighborhood residents in 2000, Walnut Way challenges the cycle of poverty by engaging, educating, and employing community members to take leadership roles in comprehensive revitalization strategies. Walnut Way works from strengths-based programming and is called to a vision of abundance. Since its purposeful beginnings, Walnut Way has reclaimed its neighborhood, driven out crime, and created a close-knit neighborhood of compassionate and involved residents.

Walnut Way operates: a vibrant community center offering unique, holistic wellness programs; a community-driven and cooperatively funded commercial development, the Innovation and Wellness Commons; an innovative workforce development program, Blue Skies Landscaping; the Growing Youth Leadership summer teen internship program which engages teens in urban agriculture, education, leadership development, and job training.

Walnut Way's PRC project will train and hire community residents on the significance solar, and installation of green infrastructure through their Blue Skies Landscaping program. In addition to providing workforce training and jobs, a key part of the training will help mitigate flooding in Milwaukee's Lindsay Heights neighborhood through the design and installation of stormwater diversion and management systems on five acres of impermeable land. The installation sites will also be used to educate residents on climate resilience and prepare residents to advocate for policies that promote resiliency without displacement in their community.

Partners:
- Reflow Milwaukee
- Running Rebels
- Cream City Conservation Corps
- Social Development Commission

Convening Participants:
- **Antonio Butts**, Executive Director, Walnut Way Conservation Corp.
- **Sarah Eichhorn**, Environmental Stewardship Operations Coordinator, Walnut Way Conservation Corp.
WE STAY/NOS QUEDAMOS, INC.

New York, NY
Project: Neighborhood Resiliency Masterplan for Melrose Commons

We Stay/Nos Quedamos, Inc. (Nos Quedamos), is a bicultural/bilingual organization established in 1993 by a coalition of residents and businesspersons who have remained part of the Melrose Commons community and became equal partners with NYC in the area’s redevelopment. Their goal is to develop an economically productive, sustainable, and healthy community. This vision is one that respects, supports and involves the existing community in the formulation of plans and policies that address the issues of housing, open space, community renewal and its sustainability. This is vital for the continued growth of Melrose Commons, the Bronx and its role in the regional economy, which fosters cohesion, growth, and responsibility. Over the last two decades the efforts of Nos Quedamos has led to various highly funded projects within the Melrose Commons area resulting in the construction of approximately 2,000 units of co-owned affordable “green” housing, approximately 1 million square feet of commercial space and 15,000 new residents in the area. In addition to their efforts in affordable housing and commercial revitalization, Nos Quedamos has been central to facilitating direct services to approximately 34,000 clients annually, advocating for the preservation of open space, environmental health and community wellness, providing low cost Internet access for the residents of Melrose and installing a set of photovoltaic panels at three regional community gardens to provide each garden with power for lighting, utility needs and WiFi access.

Their PRC project will equip residents to advocate for climate resilient place-making policies that promote equity, sustainability and social cohesion in the Melrose Commons neighborhood. The plan also includes the installation of solar panels, rain gardens, enhanced lighting and WiFi in three community gardens.

Partners: Hester Street

Convening Participants:
- Jessica Clemente, Chief Executive Officer, We Stay/Nos Quedamos, Inc.
- Cinthia De La Rosa, Project Manager, Hester Street
- Anita E. John, Director, Finance & Administration, We Stay/Nos Quedamos, Inc.
- Edwin Pagan, Director, Communications, We Stay/Nos Quedamos, Inc.
Richmond, VA

Project: Partnering for a Resilient Petersburg

The mission of the Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative (VEJC) is to build the health and wealth of communities of color, low-income communities, and communities overburdened by pollution in Virginia by reducing the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards through educating, mobilizing, and helping to unleash the power of grassroots organizations and individuals to speak for themselves and through building an alliance to advocate for equitable policies and practices. VEJC has worked extensively with frontline communities to oppose and stave off threats of Dominion Energy’s Atlantic Coast Pipeline which proposes to place a 54,000 horsepower compressor station in the historically African American Freedman settled Union Hill community of Buckingham County, VA. In addition, VEJC stands with residents of Pine Grove, another historically African American community, that is being threatened by the placement of a mega landfill on top of burial grounds of former enslaved Africans and in the backyard of Pine Grove Elementary School, a Rosenwald School of historic significance that was built by Blacks to provide access to education to Black children.

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

Partners:
- Morua Power
- United Parents Against Lead (UPAL)

Convening Participants:
- Della Hamlin, Finance Director, United Parents Against Lead (UPAL)
- Katherine Morua, CEO, Morua Power
- Steve Shabazz, Principal Trainer, United Parents Against Lead (UPAL)
- Queen Shabazz, Founder, CEO, United Parents Against Lead (UPAL)
The Community-based Partners

Upper Texas Gulf Coast Regional Resilience Initiative Partners and Profiles

- Coalition for Environment, Equity, and Resilience - leadership team
- Coalition of Community Organizations
- Emancipation Economic Development Council
- Fort Bend Houston Super Neighborhood 41 Council
- Talent Yield Coalition, Inc.
- Texas Southern University Foundation - leadership team
- West Street Recovery
- Westry Mouton Project
COALITION FOR ENVIRONMENT, EQUITY, AND RESILIENCE (CEER)

Houston, TX
Project: Upper Texas Gulf Coast Regional Resilience Initiative (UTRI) Community Engagement & Outreach Partner

The Coalition for Environment, Equity & Resilience (CEER) is a collaboration of more than 24 nonprofit organizations. From issues of affordable housing, to transparency in how emergency management dollars are being spent, CEER continues to drive community voices into the post-Hurricane Harvey decision-making process to promote equity and resilience. CEER serves on UTRI’s leadership team, advises on the overall project approach and leads community organizing and advocacy within the nine-county project geography. In support of the UTRI Initiative, CEER is leading a series of town halls to gather solutions on how to address the region’s equitable resilience and recovery needs. The town halls mobilize impacted residents, community leaders, public and elected officials and other community stakeholders across the project geography.

Convening Participants:
• Teresa Davis, Director of Government Affairs & Community Engagement, Coalition for Environment, Equity & Resilience (CEER)
• Iris Gonzalez, Coalition Director, Coalition for Environment, Equity & Resilience (CEER)
• Brittnay Jenkins, Regional Disaster Recovery Resilience Community Organizer, Coalition for Environment, Equity & Resilience (CEER)
• Julia Orduna, Community Navigator – Disaster Recovery, Texas Housers

COALITION OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Houston, TX
Project: Bridging the Gaps, Building Resilience

The Coalition of Community Organizations (COCO) originated in 2008 after members from several community organizations, faith-based institutions, and residents from Houston and surrounding areas began organizing efforts to ensure the interests of local communities are represented at the city, state, and national levels. Since its inception, COCO has rallied to promote environmental justice in Houston's historic Fifth Ward community. COCO has been involved in disaster recovery and is on the forefront of identifying funding sources for community members who are seeking recovery assistance from Hurricane Harvey since 2017. Through its network, COCO is building an organizing model to demand accountability and transparency from local and state officials to provide equitable disaster recovery dollars for vulnerable populations.

Convening Participants:
• Rev. James Caldwell, Chair and Founding Director, Coalition of Community Organizations
• Mustaffa Carroll, Board Member, Coalition of Community Organizations
• Minnie Wolridge, Coalition of Community Organizations
EMANCIPATION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Houston, TX

**Project:** Emancipation Avenue Social, Economic and Environmental Sustainability Plan

The Emancipation Economic Development Council (EEDC) is a collaborative of faith-based, not-for-profit and community development organizations, businesses, local government, and other stakeholders. Formed in 2015, EEDC's mission is to inspire hope and to contribute to the revitalization and preservation of Houston's historic Third Ward by addressing disinvestment, population decline, and loss of economic vitality. EEDC's UTRI project will support small businesses in the Third Ward that are facing both environmental stressors from climate change and economic stressors from gentrification by developing a Third Ward Social, Economic and Environmental Sustainability Plan. The plan will focus on disaster preparation, equitable allocation of recovery resources, and post storm clean-up and repair services. EEDC will also ensure the distribution of information on how to access recovery resources for businesses and residents.

**Convening Participants:**
- **Deepak Doshi**, Local Small-Business Owner, Doshi House
- **Alicia Neal**, Emancipation Avenue Main Street Manager, Emancipation Economic Development Council
- **Jocelyn Williams**, Business Development Specialist, Emancipation Economic Development Council

FORT BEND HOUSTON SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD 41 COUNCIL

Houston, TX (Fort Bend County)

**Project:** Mobilizing for Action: Establishing a Community Air Monitoring Network in Super Neighborhood 41 Communities

Fort Bend Houston Super Neighborhood 41 Council (FBHSN41) is comprised of multiple civic clubs, 20 homeowners’ associations, and religious institutions. The City of Houston recognized FBHSN41 as a Super Neighborhood in 2002 with the intent to encourage greater community connectedness and involvement and to hyper-localize problem solving initiatives. In 2019, the Fort Bend Houston Super Neighborhood 41 was recognized as one of ten Super Neighborhoods to take part in the City of Houston’s Complete Communities Initiative which is a partnership between the City and historically divested communities to enhance affordable homes, create jobs, maintain parks, improve infrastructure and amenities. Under the UTRI, FBHSN41 will establish a pilot community-based air monitoring network to assess and alert residents of air contaminants that are exacerbating breathing related illnesses and deaths throughout the community.

**Convening Participants:**
- **Mike Ballare**, Environmental Committee Treasurer, Fort Bend Houston Super Neighborhood 41 Council
- **Regina Gardner**, Assistant Secretary, Fort Bend Houston Super Neighborhood 41 Council
- **Donna Thomas**, Vice President, Fort Bend Houston Super Neighborhood 41 Council
TALENT YIELD COALITION, INC.

Unincorporated areas in Harris County, TX (McNair, Barrett Station, Baytown, Channelview, Galena Park, North Shore, Anahuac, Winnie, Hankamer, Huffman)

Project: Disaster Recovery Advocacy Program (DRAP)

Talent Yield Coalition provides disaster recovery support services to aid its clients including youth and the elderly experiencing illiteracy, poverty, homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction, disabilities, unemployment and age-related factors and who were affected by Hurricane Harvey, Tropical Storm Imelda, and the San Jacinto River Waste Pits (a Superfund Site), and now find themselves in more distressed situations than ever before. Through the UTRI, the Talent Yield Coalition will develop a Disaster Recovery Advocacy Program (DRAP) to target low-income communities of color that have experienced undue barriers in receiving disaster recovery services. This program is designed to help fulfill unmet needs to hurricane victims across numerous zip codes by supporting them through every phase of the disaster recovery assistance process. Talent Yield Coalition's long-term goal is to shift the approach of federal disaster aid from its current reactive “cookie-cutter” structure to a proactive and adaptable design that equitably prioritizes communities of color and low-income individuals.

Convening Participants:

• Christina Dickerson, Community Worker, Talent Yield Coalition, Inc.
• Ramonia Dirden-Williams, Program Manager, Talent Yield Coalition, Inc.
• Eddie Williams, Executive Director, Talent Yield Coalition, Inc.

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY (TSU) FOUNDATION

Houston, TX

Project: Upper Texas Gulf Coast Regional Resilience Initiative (UTRI) Research & Data Partner

Texas Southern University (TSU), one of the largest historically black universities in the nation, through its Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs serves as a leader in advancing environmentally healthy, sustainable communities. Faculty members from TSU's Urban Planning and Environmental Policy Department serve on UTRI's leadership team as the lead research and data partner. In addition to faculty and staff, the TSU team includes Department of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy graduate students. The TSU team is assessing the economic, environmental, and social vulnerabilities of the Upper Texas Gulf Coast region by advising the overall research and data needs of the project and by capturing the perspectives and experiences of community, institutional and sectoral stakeholders through interviews and through the data analysis and geospatial mapping, TSU is working to create a holistic snapshot of the resiliency needs of the nine-county UTRI geography using an equity focused research approach.

Convening Participants:

• Earthea Nance, PhD Associate Professor, Texas Southern University
WEST STREET RECOVERY

Houston, TX

Project: Northeast Action Collective Leadership Development: Disaster Recovery Gaps Analysis and Organizing Project

West Street Recovery (WSR) was formed in 2017 during Hurricane Harvey by a group of community members who came together to perform water rescues, distribute food and water, and meet the needs of survivor families. Since Harvey, WSR has grown into a worker-directed disaster recovery organization which seeks to engage the home repair sector and elected officials to advance equitable recovery. WSR's mission is to connect communities to the resources they need, not only to rebuild their homes, but also to become more resilient, secure, and powerful places. Through the UTRI, WSR will continue to work alongside the Northeast Action Collective, to organize for drainage and flood infrastructure in Northeast Houston; intensify community research to identify gaps between intended disaster recovery programs and the lived outcomes for residents; and to support residents as they advocate for more equitable disaster recovery program administration. Under the UTRI, WSR will formalize learned lessons on how disaster recovery plays out in practice to support residents in their efforts to demand fair treatment from both state officials and the home repair sector.

Convening Participants:
- Barbara Herndon, Case Management Assistant, West Street Recovery
- Ben Hirsch, Partnerships Manager, West Street Recovery
- Jade Flores, Community Organizer/Case Management, West Street Recovery
- Myrtala Tristan, Community Organizer Assistant, West Street Recovery

WESTRY MOUTON PROJECT

Beaumont, TX

Project: The Family Resiliency Conference

Westry Mouton Project was established in 2016 as a vehicle to serve under-resourced youth in Jefferson County by informing, educating, and eliminating barriers to their physical, emotional, and mental development with the goal of increasing the resiliency of family units. Under the UTRI, WMP is developing a Family Resiliency Conference to convene and to educate the community on key components required for resiliency and recovery in the aftermath of hurricanes and floods. The conference will focus on three tenets of recovery: systematic teachings of safety measures and evacuation readiness/planning; approaches to reduce mental stress and health-related problems that can manifest during natural disasters; and trainings on financial literacy to help minimize dependency on FEMA assistance and other temporary disaster relief funds.

Convening Participants:
- Carla Galo, Project Administrator, Westry Mouton Project
- Micheal Redix, Event Financial Coordinator, Westry Mouton Project
- Gayla Young, Founder, Westry Mouton Project
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