



PARTNERSHIP FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

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

Hilton Garden Inn Downtown | Atlanta, GA  
275 Baker St NW, Atlanta, GA 30313  
February 12 - 14, 2020

## AGENDA

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### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12 | DAY 1

6:00 – 9:00 PM

#### Networking Reception

*Pascal's Restaurant and Event Space - 180 Northside Dr SW, Atlanta, GA 30313*

Join us for an evening of celebration and conversation! An open bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

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### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13 | DAY 2

7:00 – 8:30 AM

#### Breakfast

*Room: City View Dining Room  
Coat Rack: Oceanic Ballroom Pre-Function, 4th Floor*

Pick up your breakfast vouchers for the City View Dining Room at the hotel front desk when you check-in for your room reservation.

8:00 – 8:45 AM

#### Convening Check-In

*Room: Oceanic Ballroom Pre-Function, 4th Floor*

Pick up your nametag (if you did not receive it at the reception) and convening resources. Make sure you are signed up for a site visit.

8:45 – 9:00 AM

#### Opening Ceremony

*Room: Oceanic Ballroom AB, 4th Floor*

Join us in recognizing, respecting and honoring the land we are gathered on and the Indigenous Peoples past and present who have stewarded this land throughout generations.

*Christina Inong, Program Manager, California Indian Museum and Cultural Center*

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## DAY 2 CONTINUED

9:00 – 9:10 AM

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

*Room: Oceanic Ballroom AB, 4th Floor*

The aim of *Our Lives, Our People, Our Communities: Advancing Climate Resilience for Equity and Opportunity* 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. Representatives from The JPB Foundation and the Institute for Sustainable Communities set the stage for why this work is so important now more than ever.

*Jennifer Patrick, Senior Program Officer, The JPB Foundation*

*Sarita Turner, Director of Inclusive Communities, Institute for Sustainable Communities*

9:10 – 10:30 AM

### Power Building: A Necessary Approach to Policy Change

*Room: Oceanic Ballroom AB, 4th Floor*

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.

**Keynote Speaker:** Nathaniel Smith, *Chief Equity Officer, Partnership for Southern Equity*

**Panelist:**

*Vivian Huang, Deputy Director, Asian Pacific Environmental Network*

*Mike Tomas, Executive Director, Garfield Park Community Council*

*NaTisha Washington, Green Initiative Coordinator, Operation Better Block*

**Moderator:** Nathaniel Smith

10:30 – 10:45 AM

### Break/Transition/Snacks

*Room: Oceanic Ballroom Pre-Function, 4th Floor*

10:45 – 11:00 AM

### Site Visits - Get On Your Bus

#### **DRESS FOR THE WEATHER, WEAR WALKING SHOES**

*Lobby*

**Option A:** Equitable Green Impact Zone, Sweet Auburn Historic District

**Option B:** Positioning East Point, Georgia, for Prosperity

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## DAY 2 CONTINUED

### 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM Concurrent Site Visits with Lunch + Learn

- **Option A: 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, 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.

**Guides/Presenters:**

Cheneé Joseph, Executive Director, *Historic District Development Corporation*

Tsedey Betru, *Just Opportunity Director, Partnership for Southern Equity*

Suzanne Burnes, *Just Growth Director, Partnership for Southern Equity*

Chloe Mondesir, *Just Health Manager, Partnership for Southern Equity*

Eriqah Vincent, *Just Energy Manager, Partnership for Southern Equity*

**Lunch + Learn Moderator:**

Donna Givens, *President/CEO, Eastside Community Network*

- **Option B: Positioning East Point, Georgia, for Prosperity**

Located adjacent to south west Atlanta in Fulton County, Georgia, the inner-ring suburb of East Point 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.

**Guides/Presenters:**

Thomas Calloway, *Councilmember, East Point, GA*

Karen Rene', *Councilmember, East Point, GA and Vice-President for the NAACP Atlanta/Fulton County Branch*

Deana Holiday Ingraham, *Mayor, East Point, GA*

Reynaldo Holmes, *Community Leader, East Point, GA*

**Lunch + Learn Moderator:**

Bennetta Robinson, *Program Officer, Institute for Sustainable Communities*

### 1:30 – 1:45 PM Break/Transition

Coat Rack: Oceanic Ballroom Pre-Function, 4th Floor

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## DAY 2 CONTINUED

### 1:45 – 3:15 PM Concurrent Breakout Sessions: Actuating Our Places, Our People, Our Land

- **Bolstering Resilience: Communities Enacting Equitable Infrastructure**

*Room: Pacific I*

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.

**Moderator:** Dr. Jalonnie L. White-Newsome, *Senior Program Officer, Kresge Foundation*

**Presenters:**

Antonio Butts, *Executive Director, Walnut Way Conservation Corp.*

Angela Chalk, *Executive Director, Healthy Community Services*

- **Managing Emergencies and Disasters: Activating Your Community Network**

*Room: Pacific II*

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 unfortunately that 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.

**Moderator:** Katherine Morua, *CEO, Morua Power (Virginia Environmental Justice Collaborative)*

**Presenters:**

Jade Flores, *Community Organizer/Case Management, West Street Recovery*

Charles Kees, *Business Development Manager, Power52 Foundation*

Alicia Neal, *Deputy Director/Emancipation Avenue Main Street Manager, Emancipation Economic Development Council*

Eddie Williams, *Executive Director, Talent Yield Coalition, Inc.*

- **Using Vacant Spaces to Create Resilient Places**

*Room: Atlantic I*

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.

**Moderator:** Dr. Akilah Watkins-Butler, *President and CEO, Center for Community Progress*

**Presenters:**

Richard Ackerman, *Director of Climate Equity, Eastside Community Network*

Dana Brown, *President, Dana Brown & Associates, Inc. (Healthy Community Services)*

Jessica Clemente, *Chief Executive Officer, We Stay/Nos Quedamos, Inc.*

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## DAY 2 CONTINUED

3:15 – 3:30 PM

### Break/Transition/Snacks

*Room: Oceanic Ballroom Pre-Function, 4th Floor*

3:30 – 5:15 PM

### A Briefing; Funders Sharing Perspective On the Direction of Equity In Climate Change and Equitable Development

*Room: Oceanic Ballroom AB, 4th Floor*

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?

**Moderator:** Sarita Turner, *Director of Inclusive Communities, Institute for Sustainable Communities*

**Presenters:**

Shamar A. Bibbins, *Senior Program Officer, The Kresge Foundation*

Pierre Joseph, *Independent Philanthropic Advisor*

Jennifer Patrick, *Senior Program Officer, The JPB Foundation*

Scot Spencer, *Associate Director, Advocacy and Influence, The Annie E. Casey Foundation*

Tené Traylor, *Fund Advisor, The Kendeda Fund*

5:15 – 6:00 PM

### Teams Reflections and Closing Remarks

*Room: Oceanic Ballroom AB, 4th Floor*

**Moderator:** Jaime Love, *Senior Program Officer, Institute for Sustainable Communities*

### Dinner On Your Own

*List of POC-owned area restaurants available.*

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## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14 | DAY 3

7:00 – 8:30 AM

### Breakfast

*Room: City View Dining Room*

*Coat Rack: Oceanic Ballroom Pre-Function, 4th Floor*

*Front Desk: Hotel Check-Out*

*Luggage Storage: Oceanic C, 4th Floor*

Pick up your breakfast vouchers for the City View Dining Room at the hotel front desk when you check-in for your room reservation.

8:30 – 10:30 AM

### Evaluation, Metrics, Data - Starting Now

*Room: Oceanic Ballroom AB, 4th Floor*

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 resilience initiatives, while supporting the advancement of winning policy campaigns.

**Bakeyah Nelson, PhD, Executive Director, Air Alliance Houston**

10:30 – 10:45 AM

### Break/Transition/Snacks

*Room: Oceanic Ballroom Pre-Function, 4th Floor*

*Front Desk: Hotel Check-Out If You Have Not Done So Already*

### 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM Concurrent Breakout Sessions: Making the Climate-Equity Connection

- **The Air We Breathe and Climate Justice; What's One Got to Do with the Other?**

*Room: Pacific I*

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.

**Moderator:** Bakeyah Nelson, PhD, Executive Director, Air Alliance Houston

**Presenters:**

Hilda Garcia, Lead Organizer, La Mujer Obrera

Michael Malcom, Executive Director, The People's Justice Council

Donna Thomas, Vice President, Fort Bend Super Neighborhood 41 Council

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## DAY 3 CONTINUED

- **Where's the Money: Making the Case for the Equitable Distribution of Recovery Resources**

*Room: Pacific II*

Climate disasters including hurricanes, wildfires, extreme heat, blizzards and flooding are occurring more often and more intensely. The question no longer is 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.

**Moderator:** Dr. Earthea Nance, PhD, *Associate Professor, Texas Southern University*

**Presenters:**

Jessica Clemente, *Chief Executive Officer, We Stay/Nos Quedamos, Inc.*

Iris Gonzalez, *Coalition Director, Coalition for Environment, Equity & Resilience*

Christina Inong, *Program Manager, California Indian Museum and Cultural Center*

- **Making the Climate Case: A Tale of Two Challenges and Opportunities**

*Room: Atlantic I*

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.

**Moderator:** Radiah Shabazz, *Communications Officer, Institute for Sustainable Communities*

**Presenter:** Jennifer Watson Roberts, *Director of Path to Positive Communities Program, ecoAmerica*

12:15 – 1:00 PM

### Networking Lunch

*Lunch Served: Oceanic Ballroom Pre-Function, 4th Floor*

*Dining: Oceanic Ballroom AB, 4th Floor*

1:00 – 3:00 PM

### Teams Reflections and Closing Remarks

*Room: Oceanic Ballroom AB, 4th Floor*

**Moderator:** Bennetta Robinson, *Program Officer, Institute for Sustainable Communities*

3:00 PM

### Convening Ends