

2024

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUMMIT

REFLECTIONS, CONNECTIONS, AND COLLABORATIVE ACTION
IN THE PITTSBURGH AREA

MAY 9, 2024

HOMEWOOD CEC

5:00 - 7:30 pm

MAY 10, 2024

HILL DISTRICT CEC

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

MAY 11, 2024

CENTER OF LIFE, HAZELWOOD

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

BEARING WITNESS, CLAIRTON

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

DEAR EJ SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS,

We are so grateful you are joining us for this first Pittsburgh Environmental Justice Summit: Reflections, Connections, and Collaborative Action. Our vision was to create a space for addressing environmental health disparities, including cancer, due to environmental injustices. Our region has a wealth of like-minded advocates, community members, practitioners, and scholars seeking healthier environments. We are honored to bring them together for a full day symposium to reflect on how we got here, learn what we are currently doing, and discuss how we can collaborate in the future.

As we work together for justice in our environments, we lean on what ancestral and indigenous wisdom has been teaching us for generations: that healing and joy are essential elements of liberation. That is why the summit includes community events for people impacted by environmental harms and/or working to remedy environmental injustices. These events, rooted in healing justice principles, conclude with a closing ceremony designed to bear witness to the slow violence of environmental degradation being perpetuated on our land and all those who call it home.

We want to thank all those who've labored to make today possible, and extend special gratitude to our core committee members, Andre Green and Bela Dugas. Andre and Bela, thank you for helping to bring this vision to life.

Forward together,

Tina Ndoh
University of Pittsburgh
tina.ndoh@pitt.edu

Dani Wilson
Cancer & Environment Network of SWPA
dani@censwpa.org

MAY 9 - HOMEWOOD CEC

5:00 PM

DINNER

5:30 PM

ASASE YE DURU: THE EARTH HAS WEIGHT



LAKEISHA WOLF
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, UJAMAA
COLLECTIVE



SHEBA GITTENS
YOGA ROOTS ON
LOCATION &
UJAMAA COLLECTIVE

6:45 PM

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



MAKE-AND-TAKE CLEANING SUPPLIES
WOMEN FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

FEED THE HOOD



**OPERATION
BETTER BLOCK**

COOKING DEMONSTRATION
CHEF CARLOS



CARLOS THOMAS
DIRECTOR, FEED THE
HOOD, GREEN INITIATIVES
COORDINATOR,
OPERATION BETTER
BLOCK INC



**Cancer
Bridges**

CREATIVE EXPRESSION ACTIVITY
CANCER BRIDGES

MAY 10 - HILL DISTRICT CEC

8:30 AM	COFFEE & LIGHT BREAKFAST
9:00 AM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER
9:45 AM	PANEL ONE REFLECTIONS
10:45 AM	BREAK & REFRESHMENTS
11:00 AM	WARM DATA LAB
12:30 PM	LUNCH
1:15 PM	PANEL TWO CONNECTIONS
2:00 PM	PANEL THREE COLLABORATIVE ACTION
3:30 PM	HILL DISTRICT VACANT LOT TOUR



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DR. SACOBY WILSON

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND,
COLLEGE PARK SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dr. Sacoby Wilson is a Professor with the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health and Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Maryland, College Park School of Public Health, where he directs the Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health. Dr. Wilson has over 20 years of experience as an environmental health scientist in the areas of exposure science, environmental justice, environmental health disparities, community-based participatory research, water quality analysis, air pollution studies, built environment, climate change, community resiliency, and sustainability. He works primarily in partnership with community-based organizations to study and address environmental justice and health issues and translate research to action.

PANEL ONE | REFLECTIONS

WHERE ARE WE? HOW DID WE GET HERE?



MODERATOR: JOYLETTE PORTLOCK, PHD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
SUSTAINABLE PITTSBURGH



JAMIL BEY, PHD

PRESIDENT & CEO,
URBANKIND
INSTITUTE



NATISHA WASHINGTON

COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER, BREATHE
PROJECT



MELANIE MEADE

BLACK APPALACHAIN
COALITION



**TIFFANY L GARY-WEBB,
PHD, MHS**

PROFESSOR OF
EPIDEMIOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF
PITTSBURGH

PANEL TWO | CONNECTIONS

WHO ARE WE? WHAT ARE WE DOING?



MODERATOR: PATRICK SHIREY, PHD

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH



ANA HOFFMAN

PROGRAM
DIRECTOR, CREATE
LAB CARNEGIE
MELLON UNIVERSITY



ASH CHAN

OASIS FARM &
FISHERY



GABRIEL "GABBY" GRAY

PITTSBURGH UNITED



MAYOR NIKOLE NESBY

ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE ORGANIZER,
412 JUSTICE

PANEL THREE | COLLABORATIVE ACTION

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO? HOW DO WE GET THERE?



MODERATOR: SACOBY WILSON

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND, COLLEGE
PARK SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH



CHAVAYSHA CHANEY

MANAGER OF
ADVOCACY & HEALTH
POLICY, WOMEN FOR
A HEALTHY
ENVIRONMENT



JAMIL BEY

DIRECTOR, PITTSBURGH
DEPARTMENT OF CITY
PLANNING



**KAYIEN CONNER, PHD, LSW,
MPH**

UNIVERSITY OF
PITTSBURGH SCHOOL
OF SOCIAL WORK



SALLY WENZEL, MD

CHAIR, UNIVERSITY OF
PITTSBURGH
DEPARTMENT OF
OCCUPATIONAL &
ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH

HILL DISTRICT VACANT LOT TOUR

A TOUR OF VACANT LOTS AND DISCUSSION ABOUT THE
PAST, PRESENT, AND POSSIBLE FUTURES OF WYLIE AVE



STEPHANIE DANGEL

PROFESSOR OF
PRACTICE,
UNIVERSITY OF
PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF LAW



JACQUELIN WALKER, ESQUIRE

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR
OF LAW,
UNIVERSITY OF
PITTSBURGH SCHOOL
OF LAW

MAY 11 - CENTER OF LIFE, HAZELWOOD

10:00 AM

WELCOME & JUICES FROM 1:11

10:15 AM

ENVIRONMENTAL STORYTELLING SESSION



NSAI TEMKO
ACC AMERICORPS
MEMBER
SERVING AT TREE
PITTSBURGH



SHEBA GITTENS
YOGA ROOTS ON
LOCATION &
UJAMAA COLLECTIVE

11:15 AM

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



MAKE-AND-TAKE PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS

CARRIE MCGINNIS



CARRIE MCGINNIS
HAZELWOOD BUSINESS OWNER,
THE BUTTER QUEEN LLC



MAKE-AND-TAKE CLEANING SUPPLIES

WOMEN FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

12:00 PM

WRAP-UP & LUNCH TO-GO

MAY 11 - CLAIRTON

BEARING WITNESS CLOSING CEREMONY

1:00 PM

BEAR WITNESS TO THE SLOW VIOLENCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION ON OUR LAND



ADAM LOBEL, PHD, MDIV
GUIDING TEACHER,
ONE EARTH SANGHA



MELANIE MEADE
CLAIRTON RESIDENT,
BLACK APPALACHAIN
COALITION

WHAT IS BEARING WITNESS?

Bearing witness denotes the process of sharing experiences with others — the goal being to create an environment of acknowledgement.

Bearing witness is not passive. It is the work of active listening, not looking away, and most importantly, responding.

Bearing witness is a way to process an experience, to obtain empathy and support, to acknowledge our emotional load, and to obtain collective healing.

“MAY I ALWAYS HAVE THE COURAGE TO BEAR WITNESS, TO SEE THE OTHERS AS MYSELF AND MYSELF AS THE OTHERS”

— ZEN PEACEMAKERS

LET'S KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

Join the Black Environmental Collective as we convene after the summit to expand upon the insightful discussions and innovative ideas sparked during the EJ Summit's activities and panels!

SCAN HERE



Let's keep the conversation going!

Scan the QR code provided to secure your spot for a post-summit conversation in June.

June 5th, 4:00 - 5:30 PM
June 27th, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Questions? Email Alyssa@urbankind.org



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to the members of the Planning Committee, partner organizations, sponsors, funders, and vendors. Their dedication, invaluable expertise and unwavering guidance contributed greatly to the success of the summit.

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ALYSSA P. LYON, BLACK ENVIRONMENTAL COLLECTIVE

ANDRE GREEN, CANCER & ENVIRONMENT NETWORK OF SWPA

BELA DUGAS, PITT, BSPH STUDENT

DANI WILSON, CANCER & ENVIRONMENT NETWORK OF SWPA

FERNANDO TORMOS-APONTE, PITT, SOCIOLOGY

GABBY YEARWOOD, PITT, CENTER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND RACIAL JUSTICE

GERMAINE GOODEN-PATTERSON, WOMEN FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

JASON BEERY, URBANKIND INSTITUTE

JOYLETTE PORTLOCK, SUSTAINABLE PITTSBURGH

KIYOMI KNOX, DANIELLE SMITH, & COOPER MILLER, CENTER OF LIFE

MATT MEHALIK, BREATHE PROJECT

PATRICK SHIREY, PITT, GEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

RON IDOKO, PITT, CENTER ON RACE AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

TALOR MUSIL, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

TINA NDOH, PITT, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



Cancer Bridges

Every cancer journey is unique.
We are here for you.

Pitt CEC

Community Engagement Centers

SPONSORS AND FUNDERS

We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the remarkable and generous assistance from our sponsors and funders. Their contributions made the summit possible. We could not be more inspired by their generosity, hard work, and dedication to our cause, and we cannot thank them enough for believing in what we do and investing in our collective missions.

OUR SPONSORS AND FUNDERS INCLUDE:

CENTER FOR HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND ENGAGED RESEARCH
HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE
HEINZ ENDOWMENTS
MASCARO CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION
THE PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION

VENDORS

We deeply appreciate our vendors' tireless efforts. Their involvement in the summit was instrumental in creating a memorable experience for all attendees. We are proud to have had their support, and hope to continue these partnerships in the future.

OUR VENDORS INCLUDE:

1:11 JUICE BAR
BROOKE BARRY CHILDCARE
CARES COMMUNITEA CAFE
DYLAMATO'S MARKET
JOHN ALTDORFER PHOTOGRAPHY
ROXANNE'S CATERING

BIOGRAPHIES



ADAM LOBEL, PHD

Adam Lobel, Ph.D, practices at the threshold of ecologies, Buddhist-inspired meditation and philosophy, contemplative education, and psycho-social political change. His work in the world weaves these practices together. Adam is a scholar-practitioner of philosophy and religion, focusing on Dzogchen Tibetan Buddhism and contemporary theory.



ANA HOFFMAN

Ana Hoffman is an intuitive geographer with experience using data-framed storytelling to amplify voices fighting for environmental justice and support policymaking that protects public health and strengthens environmental advocacy. She leads the CREATE Lab air quality program at Carnegie Mellon University.



ASH CHAN

Ash Chan (they/them/theirs/siya) is a community & self-studied educator, cultural organizer, artist, life-long learner, and beginner HERBan farmer. They are passionate about health, healing, and liberation through the frameworks of environmental, reproductive and racial justice, herbalism, intersectional feminism, emergent strategy, community care, and agroecology.



CARLOS THOMAS

Chef Carlos Thomas is an alum of The Best Buy Teen Tech Center in Pittsburgh. Carlos currently mentors at The Teen Tech Center where he works with members to develop educational campaigns about food security in Pittsburgh. He aspires to open a learning center aligned with a commercial kitchen to teach young people about food science.



CARRIE MCGINNIS

Carrie McGinnis is a passionate entrepreneur. At her company, The Butter Queen LLC, Carrie specializes in handmade, organic, and non-toxic personal care products. ensuring community health and safety is at the center of her personal and professional passion.

BIOGRAPHIES



CHAVAYSHA CHANEY

Chavaysha Chaney leads and coordinates various policy and advocacy initiatives and campaigns that address environmental and public health challenges, such as air quality, lead exposure, climate change, and environmental justice. She also works with policymakers, community leaders, health professionals, and media outlets to raise awareness and mobilize action on these issues.



GABRIEL "GABBY" GRAY

Gabby Gray is a Pittsburgh native, longtime community activist, and founding partner of the Extra Concerned Citizens Group in Homewood. Spurred into action by the injustices in her community, Gabby has made environmental reform and people-led solutions her life's work.



JACQUELIN WALKER, ESQUIRE

Jacquelin Walker is a lawyer, organizer of arts experiences, yoga instructor, and advocate for equity in the arts and entertainment sectors, dedicating her career to using the power of storytelling to transform American culture. Her mission is to create agency for missing from American media.



JAMIL BEY, PHD

Dr. Bey stirs critical thinking by facilitating tough conversations around race, equity, and systemic change. In addition to Dr. Bey's role as UrbanKind's visionary, he serves on many boards and councils throughout Pittsburgh to drive real systemic change in policy and programming that affects underserved populations.



JOYLETTE PORTLOCK, PHD

Dr. Joylette Portlock is the Executive Director of Sustainable Pittsburgh, a nonprofit working to empower decision-making that builds a fundamentally equitable, resilient, healthy, and prosperous region. Prior to her role at Sustainable Pittsburgh, Dr. Portlock served as Associate Director of Science and Research at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

BIOGRAPHIES



KAYIEN CONNER, PHD, LSW, MPH

Dr. Kyaien Conner, Ph.D., LSW, MPH is a Full Professor and Endowed Chair at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work where she directs the Center on Race and Social Problems. Dr. Conner's research investigates the factors that influence disparities in health and mental health service utilization and treatment outcomes for racial and ethnic minorities.



LAKEISHA WOLF

As a first-generation Pittsburgher, LaKeisha Wolf has developed her roots across the community working at the intersection of arts and culture, healing and wellness, social entrepreneurship, and community development for over 20 years. She serves as Executive Director of the Hill District based nonprofit cooperative, Ujamaa Collective.



MELANIE MEADE

Melanie Meade is a lifelong resident of the Mon Valley region in the city of Clairton. She has been advocating for justice and accountability against the Clairton Coke Works plant. Melanie is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and Trinity School of Natural Health, promoting light life practices through wellness.



NATISHA WASHINGTON

NaTisha Washington is currently the Communications Manager at the Breathe Project, where she uses her organizing experience and media skills to educate residents on air quality and petrochemical issues. She has also worked as an Environmental Justice Organizer for 412 Justice advocating with community members to improve the quality of their environment.



MAYOR NICKOLE NESBY

With over fourteen years of combined federal legislative and executive branch experience Nickole Nesby incorporates her unique perspectives and expertise as the former Mayor of Duquesne in her environmental justice organizing.

BIOGRAPHIES



NSAI TEMKO

Nsai Temko is an effervescent and earnest storyteller born and raised in Pittsburgh. They graduated as valedictorian from Propel Braddock Hills High School and pursued their Bachelor's degree at Emory University. At university, Nsai designed their major to reflect their intersectional love for storytelling and environmental justice.



PATRICK SHIREY, PHD

Dr. Patrick Shirey is a Certified Ecologist (Ecological Society of America) and Certified Fisheries Professional (American Fisheries Society). He is a Leonard Peters Faculty Fellow in Sustainability with the Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation and serves as an Associate Director with the Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory.



SALLY WENZEL, MD

Dr. Sally Wenzel completed her MD degree at the University of Florida and spent 19 years at National Jewish and the University of Colorado before moving to the University of Pittsburgh. She received numerous awards from the American Thoracic Society and the European Respiratory Society. She is currently Chair for the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh.



SHEBA GITTENS

Sheba Gittens is Co-Director of Yoga Teacher Training with YogaRoots On Location. She is an Arts Educator, Co-creator of Space, Facilitator of Joy, Organizer with Community, and a Weaver of Truth. She received her BA in Africana Studies and a certificate in African Studies from the University of Pittsburgh.



TIFFANY L GARY-WEBB, PHD , MHS

Dr. Gary-Webb Serves As Special Assistant to the Provost for Race & Social Determinants of Equity, Health, and Well-being. She also leads the Race & Health Collaboratory and works across the University of Pittsburgh to implement the other core components of the Race and Social Determinants Initiative.

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