

americaslatinoecofestival.org

AMERICAS LATINO ECO FESTIVAL XIII

Because advocates must come together

Oct 22, 2023 to Apr 22, 2024

April, Thursday 11, 2024 @ CSU SPUR HYDRO. Denver, Colorado.

Tree Equity Summit & Workshop



A program of:



AFC+A
AMERICAS for CONSERVATION
+ the ARTS

afcanatura.org

Co presented by:



With the support of:



PROGRAM A

Estimados Colegas de AFC+A, CREA Results & Promotores Verdes!

Las organizaciones hermanas [Américas por la Conservación y las Artes](#) (2008) y [CREA Results](#) (2005) se alegran de poder darles la bienvenida a este junte histórico el jueves 11 de Abril en el CSU SPUR, Confluence Theater. En este encuentro de ciudades y comunidades sanas, conservación, salud pública y justicia ambiental queremos asegurarnos de que su experiencia y contribuciones estén representadas en esta reunión intersesional de diversas perspectivas para el avance de la silvicultura urbana guiada por la equidad y la justicia climática. Más allá de estar muy agradecidos, todo el equipo de base de [Americas por la Conservation + las Artes](#) (AFC+A) y [Crea Results](#) -CREA Resultados se siente profundamente honrado por la buena disposición de los líderes de todo el país que con tan poco tiempo de antelación se unen a nosotros para la edición XIII del Festival Ecológico de las Américas.

El programa de un día está lleno a un grado casi irracional, pero parece que requiere eso, esta reunión: una mesa sobrecargada de buena voluntad ante una llamada urgente. El cambio climático está aquí y las soluciones ancladas en la naturaleza son el camino para que las economías y las comunidades prosperen frente a las adversidades climáticas que se nos avecinan. Los servicios de salud que brinda la naturaleza y las artes han sido ignorados por nuestros gobiernos y nuestros sistemas sociales durante demasiado tiempo.

La última década ha generado datos irrefutables cuantificando la pérdida de vida y la quebrada economía que proviene de esta ignorancia. Esta ciencia también ha mostrado los beneficios extraordinarios que resultan de forjar ciudades verdes y sanas para todos. El histórico billón de dólares de la Ley de Reducción de la Inflación (IRA) que acaba de lanzarse para apoyar la silvicultura urbana no tiene precedente y es una bendición. Queremos creer que los próximos cinco años no van a replicar las desigualdades sistémicas, sino que nos unirán de maneras que no hemos sido testigos en los últimos tiempos. Esto nos llena de esperanza.

Y es por eso que aquí en AFC+A y CREA Resultados nos comprometemos a albergar esta Cumbre del Árbol Generoso cada año durante los próximos cinco años de nuestro trabajo con la ciudad de Denver y los recursos del IRA. También nos comprometemos a documentar este junte anual de diversas voces en una serie de libros publicada por nuestro brazo editorial sin fines de lucro, MVPpress; una antología por año a partir de 2025 que comenzará con nuestra Cumbre este próximo 11 de abril de 2024.

Onward!

Irene Vilar | Zuza Bohley, [AFC+A](#) & Fernando Pineda, [CREA Results](#)

Dear Colegas of AFC+A, CREA Results & Promotores Verdes!

As a valued partner and stakeholder in the workspace of healthy cities and healthy communities, conservation, public health, environmental justice, and tree equity, the Denver Latino founded and led organizations [Americas for Conservation and the Arts](#) (b.2008) and [CREA Results](#) (b.2005) would like to welcome you to our XIII Americas Latino Eco Festival (ALEF) Tree Equity Summit on April 11, 2024, CSU SPUR, Confluence Theater .

Our entire grassroots team is deeply moved by the kind readiness of crucial leaders across the country joining us in such little time. This solidarity has helped generate a most inspiring convening of diverse voices and perspectives.

The one day agenda is packed to an almost unreasonable degree, yet it seems to require that, this gathering: an overcrowded table bursting with good will for an urgent call. Climate Change is here and nature based solutions are the pathways for economies and communities to thrive in the face of adversities. The health services of nature-and the arts-have for too long been ignored by our governments and our social systems.

The last decade has generated irrefutable data quantifying the loss of life and of revenues that comes from this ignorance. The unprecedented 1 billion in Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) just released to support urban forestry is momentous and a blessing. We want to believe the next five years are not going to replicate systemic inequities but are instead bound to bring us together in ways we have not come together in recent times. This fills us with hope.

And this is why here at AFC+A we are committing to hosting this "Tree Equity Summit" each year for the next five years of our IRA tree equity work & documenting this annual gathering of diverse national and international voices in a book series housed in our non profit publishing arm, MVPress; one anthology per year starting in 2025 which you will kick off with your coming together on April 11, 2024.

Onward!

Irene Vilar | Zuza Bohley, AFC+A & Fernando Pineda, CREA Results

**Tree Equity Summit & Workshop:
A one-day convening hosted by Latinos and bringing
together a diverse coalition to share their testimonies
on how best to advance tree equity in urban forestry
through a climate justice lens.**

Program - ALEF 2024 - April 11

8:30 - 8:45 Land Acknowledgement & Blessing "The Giving Tree Installation"

Andrea Yoloteotl. Chief Executive Director - Harvest of All First Nations

8:45 - 8:55 "Eco Poetics" Grounding.

Forrest Gander. Pulitzer Prize Winning Poet, Novelist, Essays, and Translator

8:55 - 9:10 Opening Remarks and Welcome

Tariana Navas Nieves. Director of Cultural Affairs - City and County of Denver
Irene Vilar & Fernando Pineda. Founder, AFC+A| CEO, Crea Results

9:10 - 9:25 Nuestra Familia Awards

Presented by [Zuza Bohley](#), AFC+A Deputy Director & Chief Programs Officer
[Cristobal Flores Perez](#), Promotor Verde, CTPI Brigade Leader - Nuestro Hermano
[Maria Guadalupe Cardoza Perez](#), Promotora Verde- Nuestra Hermana
[Berenice Garcia Tellez](#), Buildings Equity Administrator, City and County of Denver,
Monarca Group, President - Nuestra Hermana
[Ana Romero](#), Promotora Verde- Nuestra Cultura
[James Wieser](#), Promotor Verde-Nuestra Cultura
[Brad Paterson](#), City & County of Denver-Nuestro Hermano
[Ricardo Gambetta](#), City of Aurora-Nuestro Hermano
[Mayor Mike Koffman](#), City of Aurora-Nuestro Padrino
[Gabriel Nagel](#), EPA EJ Youth Council-Nuestro Hijo
[Linda Garcia](#), Goldman Environmental Prize-Nuestra Madre
[Hop Hopkins](#), WildEarth Guardians-Nuestro Hermano

9:25 - 9:30 Governor Jared Polis Welcome Address (VIDEO)

Introduced by [Nita Gonzalez](#). Principal of Nuevo Amanecer, LLC and President/CEO of Escuela Tlatelolco Centro de Estudio
[Jared Polis](#). Colorado Governor

9:30 - 10:00 Keynote Dialogo

[Elizabeth Babcock](#), Moderator. Director - City and County of Denver's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency
[Mike Johnston](#), City of Denver Mayor
[Gil Peñalosa](#), Founder - 80 Cities and Cities for Everyone

10:00 - 10:20 "Tree Talk" Keynotes

[Mark Magaña](#), Founder, Greenlatinos
[Dana Coelho](#), Urban & Community Forestry Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service

10:20 - 10:45 - "Tree Talk" Dialogo

[Ean Tafoya](#), Moderator (VIRTUAL Welcome by [Nausheen Iqbal](#), Assistant Director USFS Urban and Community Forestry) Colorado State Director, Greenlatinos & Co-Chair Colorado Environmental Justice Action Taskforce
[Eileen Garcia](#), Director of Strategic Partnerships & Operations - TreePeople
[Gabriella Paez](#), Phylli Tree Plan | Education and Community Manager - Esperanza| Environmental Justice Advisory Commissioner - City of Philadelphia

10:45 - 10:55 "Tree Talk" Keynote

[Jane Gilbert](#), (VIRTUAL). Chief Heat Officer - Miami-Dade County

10:55 - 11:15 "Tree Talk" Keynote

[Florence Williams](#), Award winning nature science bestselling author, The Nature Fix

11:15 - 11:30 "Tree Talk" Dialogo (VIRTUAL)

[Matilda van den Bosch](#), Senior Researcher - Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) and at the Biocities Facility of the European Forest Institute (EFI)
[Yujuan Chen](#), Associate Professor - Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at Tennessee State University

Program - ALEF 2024 - April 11

11:30 - 11:50 "Tree Talk" I Keynote + Q&A

[Lidia Soto-Harmon](#), President & Chief Executive Officer - Student Conservation Association (SCA)

11:50 - 12:00 "Tree Talk" (VIRTUAL)

[Gabriel Nagel](#), (Nuestro Hijo Award). Inaugural Chairperson - 1st EPA National Environmental Youth Advisory Council-Chief Executive Officer of Light CO2 Graduate Denver East High School

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch. Xantrucho - Chef Sandoval. Latin inspired cuisine

12:00 - 12:30 (Promotores Verdes Photo Show VIDEO)

12:00 - 12:10 Promotores Verdes Legacy 2014-2024

[Zuza Bohley](#), Deputy Director and Chief Programs Officer AFC+A

12:10 - 12:50 Lunch Keynotes (VIRTUAL)

[Nadina Galle](#), Ecological Engineer, National Geographic Explorer, and bestselling author, *The Nature of Our Cities*

[Jared Hanley](#), CEO and Founder - NatureQuant/NatureDose

[Michel Gelobter](#), Executive Director - Yale Center for Environmental Justice

[Dr. Vivek Shandas](#), Sustaining Urban Places Research Lab, Portland State University

12:50-1:00 Lunch Keynote

[Bob Hopkins](#), "Racism is Killing the Planet" Social Movement Strategist, CEO WildEarth Guardians

1:05 - 1:35 "Tree Talk" + Q&A

[Ernesto Herrera Guerra](#), President - Mesoamerican Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN- Reforestamos Mexico

1:35 1:45 "Tree Talk" (VIRTUAL)

[Tamberly Conway](#), Founder/CEO - Conservation Conexions, LLC

1:45 - 2:15 "Tree Talk" Dialogo

[Jorge Figueroa](#), Moderator. Environmental Justice Manager - City and County of Denver's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency (CASR)

[Dana Karcher](#), Project Developer - Davey Resource Group

[Paul Johnson](#), Vice President, Urban and Community Forestry and Career Pathways - Sustainable Forestry Initiative

2:15 - 2:35 "Tree Talk" (VIRTUAL)

[Benita Hussain](#), Tree Equity Chief Program Officer - American Forests

[Edith De Guzman](#), Director and Co-Founder - L.A. Urban Cooling Collaborative

2:35 - 2:55 "Tree Talk" Dialogo (VIRTUAL)

[Cecilia Martinez](#), Chief of Environmental and Climate Justice. - Bezos Earth Fund

[Tamara Toles O'Laughlin](#), President and Chief Executive Officer - Environmental Grantmakers Association and Founder of Climate Critical

3:00 - 3:20 Keynote (VIRTUAL)

[Dr. Qing Li](#), World Foremost Expert in Forest Medicine and Immunology - Nippon Medical School, Tokyo

3:20 - 4:05 Keynote Speaker

[Gil Peñalosa](#), Founder - 80 Cities and Cities for Everyone

4:05 - 4:50 Gil Peñalosa Master Class Workshop

[Dana Coelho](#), Facilitator. Urban & Community Forestry Program Manager - U.S. Forest Service

4:50 - 5:00 Final Remarks

[Fernando Pineda](#), CEO and Founder - CREA Results/CREA Resultados- Public Health and Community Engagement Expert-Co Founder of Promotores Verdes



Ana Romero
Promotora Verde
Forest Bathing Guide

Since she was a child, **Ana Romero** has been committed to care and preserve the environment, guided by her parents. Her parents were health promoters and through their knowledge and experience Ana grew up with love and gratitude for the divine nature. Since she was a child, Ana Romero has been committed to care and preserve the environment, guided by her parents. Her parents were health promoters and through their knowledge and experience Ana grew up with love and gratitude for the divine nature. Ana, is a social communicator and teacher of traditional dances from her Quechua-speaking country. She promoted traditional cultural events such as fairs and festivals, at a national and international level. In 2019 he joined Promotores Verdes, where she has been actively participating, assuming leadership with various activities of socio-environmental impact, she grows vegetables and fruits and a variety of flowers in her community garden plot in Littleton, providing for pollinators, other living beings and, therefore, to our ecosystem. As an environmental activist, leader in Promotores Verdes and as a Certified Guide for Forest and Nature Therapy, she has been raising awareness with the Latino community and older adults, creating reconnection strategies with Mother Nature. Her work strengthens environmental health and human health and incorporates her ancestral knowledge of the Andean Cosmovision. In addition, Ana was instrumental in expanding the Promotores Verdes vision and program Peru, working closely with her sister Jesy, who works with children and young people from different rural communities, creating great social impact.



Andrea Yoloteoti
CED Harvest of
All First Nations

Andrea Yoloteoti. Founder, Chief Executive Director, and Chair of the Board. Likes continue creating opportunities for reparations towards Indigenous and BIPOC communities. Andrea currently a senior undergraduate working to obtain the Environmental Studies at Naropa University, focused on environmental and social justice on behalf of our planet. Additionally, after graduation she will have a minor in Peace Studies, and Food Justice. She is originally Indigenous from Mexico, and she has become passionate about creating social justice and equity for people. She is the Chief Executive Director, and Founder the non-profit Harvest of All First Nations (HAFN), which is focused on Indigenous-led reparations, repatriation & Earth based Decolonization for the benefit of BIPOC peoples for cultural enrichment & health equity .HAFN was able to host the first annual Corn Festival in Boulder County, focused on Land Back, Indigenous leadership and regenerative agriculture. My cultural, ceremonial and ongoing community background has helped me to offer an opportunity for generation healing for the next generations including my children. It is a great opportunity to be able to express and present more about of HAFN, so new ways of governance models within the non- profit world and societies could be modeled to help break patriarchal systems. "



Benita Hussain
Tree Equity CPO
American Forests

As its Tree Equity Chief Program Officer, **Benita Hussain** oversees all aspects of American Forests' Tree Equity efforts to ensure to advance equitable tree canopy cover in 100 cities by 2030. Prior to joining American Forests, Hussain was the director of the 10 Minute Walk, a national campaign aimed at expanding parks and green spaces across 300 U.S. cities, which was named as a 2020 Fast Company World Changing Idea under her leadership. In addition to holding a senior position at the Wildlife Conservation Society, Hussain was an environmental policy advisor to Mayor Mike Bloomberg, for whom she helped shape his global agenda on urban climate action, and to late-Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, for whom she created the award-winning climate campaign Greenovate Boston. A former lawyer at Morrison & Foerster, she holds degrees from Cornell University and Fordham University School of Law. She and her writing have been featured in The New York Times, The Hill, CityLab, Fast Company, The Boston Globe, among others, and she recently sat on the Boards of the Environmental Leadership Program and Colorado State's Salazar Center for North American Conservation.



Berenice Garcia Tellez
Buildings Equity City & Co. of Denver
Monarca Group

Berenice Garcia Tellez is a passionate and visionary leader who has dedicated her career to advancing equity and sustainability in the public and private sectors. With more than 10 years of experience in environmental engineering, climate action, and Latino economic development, she has a proven track record of delivering impactful and innovative solutions that benefit diverse communities and organizations. As the President and Co-Founder of Monarca Group, she provides multicultural triple bottom-line solutions that help partners engage and communicate effectively with underserved populations. She also leads the compliance assistance of Denver's building performance and decarbonization policies for equity-priority buildings as the Buildings Equity Administrator at the City and County of Denver. Berenice is a recognized advocate and expert in her field, having received multiple honors and publications for her work. She is driven by her mission to create a more inclusive and resilient future for all.



Bradley Paterson
Denver's ClimateAction,
Sustainability and Resiliency

During his 24 years with CCS, **Brad Paterson** has designed and managed fundraising campaigns that have raised more than \$1.5 billion for our client partners. He is thought leader in the religious sector and a mentor to hundreds of current and former CCS employees. With an expertise in the management of large, volunteer led, multi-organizational campaigns, Brad is a strategist, an educator, a partner, a mentor, and a storyteller. He will partner with your organization to help you build an experience that transitions your vision into reality. Brad leads the Catholic Service Team in the Central US and is instrumental in the planning and management of projects for our Catholic client partners. Brad received his B.A. from Indiana University. He resides in Austin, Texas, where he completed his second campaign for the Diocese of Austin in 2019."



Cecilia Martinez
Environmental and Climate Justice
Bezos Earth Fund

Dr. **Cecilia Martinez** is the Chief of Environmental and Climate Justice. Cecilia joined the Earth Fund after serving as the Senior Director for Environmental Justice at the White House Council on Environmental Quality in the Biden Administration. In this role, she helped to establish a whole of government approach to equitable climate and environmental policy. Before this, Cecilia served as the Executive Director of the Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy where she helped launch the Equitable and Just Climate Forum. She has directed numerous projects at the local, state, and national levels. She received her B.S. from Stanford University, MPA from New Mexico State University, and Ph.D. from the University of Delaware."



Cristobal Flores
Promotor Verde
Planting Brigade

Cristobal Flores Ramirez was born in a small town in the city of Guanajuato, Mexico called Guadalupe de Jalpa. He is the second born child of nine siblings. Like many immigrants today, his parents came to the United States of America looking for a better life: the American Dream. Cristobal learned that life is not just a bed of roses; He has learned that challenges and hardships are an integral element of life. And even though it is not an easy road he has been able to build a good life for his family. His parents brought Cristobal to Denver at the age of five. He completed his education from elementary to high school in Commerce City, CO and considers himself to be a Coloradan native. Growing up in a culturally rich environment that taught him to appreciate family, traditions, diversity, inclusion and community. His thirst for knowledge continues. Over the years he has acquired skills and wisdom in various areas and topics, including landscaping and urban community forestry, that not only benefit him personally but also his family and community. Cristobal aspires to use his skills and knowledge to further environmental health and conservation. He continues to promote the importance of taking care of our nature's challenges with empathy and expertise, improving our communities by planting one tree at a time."



Dana Coelho
Manager U.S.F.S.

Dana Coelho is a national program manager with the US Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program focused on the successful and equitable investment of Inflation Reduction Act funding in communities across the country. She has 16 years of experience in urban forestry and conservation working at the national, regional, state, and local level with the US Forest Service, Colorado State Forest Service, and Metro Denver Nature Alliance. On any given day, you'll find her walking her dog in Lakewood's Belmar park, playing in the dirt, over-explaining scientific concepts to her kids, and/or road-tripping with family and friends.



Dana Karcher
Davey Resource Group

Dana Karcher, Project Developer with the Davey Resource Group, has a demonstrated history of working with municipalities, non-profit organizations, and utilities supporting them in managing their green infrastructure. She is a connector of those that believe that trees and the benefits that they provide make stronger, healthier, and better communities. She is an inspiring speaker that convinces audiences that a well managed and equitable community forest connects people to nature for the benefit of all humankind.



Ean Tafoya
Greenlatinos . CO Environmental
Justice Action Taskforce

Ean Tafoya is active in Denver Public Affairs, Colorado Public Policy, and Federal Environmental Policy. He has worked for three branches of local government, worked at three levels of American government, run for Denver City Council, and has directed many local and state political races. Currently, he serves as the Colorado State Director for GreenLatinos. Ean has received recognition for his work from the Denver Regional Council of Governments, the Denver Regional Air Quality Council, named a River Hero by the National River Network, and was recently elected the Co-Chair of the Colorado Environmental Justice Action Taskforce. He loves to dance whether it be at a concert or in politics! As Mr. Denver, a local music DJ and radio host, he uses the media to uplift locals in the community. Follow Ean @believeEan on all platforms. Ean is a water protector that holds a B.A. in Political Science with a Minor in Native American Studies, a Water Studies Certificate, & Early Childhood Education Certificate from Metropolitan State University of Denver as well as a Horticultural Therapy Certificate for Colorado State University.



Edith De Guzman
Director Los Angeles
Urban Cooling
Collaborative

Edith de Guzman is an interdisciplinary researcher, practitioner, educator, and consultant working with diverse audiences to understand and address the impacts of climate change in under-represented communities. She is a Cooperative Extension specialist with the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation, where her work investigates best practices for the sustainable transformation of the Los Angeles region and beyond in the areas of water management, climate adaptation, heat mitigation, and urban forestry. From 2014 to 2020, Edith served as Director of Research at Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization TreePeople. Edith co-founded and directs the Los Angeles Urban Cooling Collaborative, a multisectoral partnership working to alleviate the public health risks of extreme heat. Edith earned a PhD at the UCLA Institute of the Environment & Sustainability, where she conducted applied, interdisciplinary research on climate adaptation and climate health equity using community-based methods. Edith also earned a master's in urban planning and a bachelor's degree in history and art history, both from UCLA. When not working or studying, she can be found hiking, playing guitar, or creating art exhibitions that explore the human connection to the environment.



Eileen Garcia
TreePeople
Partnerships & Ops

Eileen Garcia serves as Director of Strategic Partnerships & Operations for TreePeople's Community Forestry Department. She earned a B.S. in Environmental Science and Policy and formal education in Native American Studies and Geology from Humboldt State University. Before joining TreePeople, Eileen worked in collaboration with Blue Lake Rancheria tribal members on the installation of alternative energy solutions and the cultivation of native foods, initiatives aimed at strengthening community resilience in the face of climate change. In 2017, she joined TreePeople's Forestry Department, where she managed urban tree planting projects throughout Los Angeles County. Eileen currently leverages her hands-on experience in community forestry to strengthen department operations and foster collaborative partnerships that aligns with TreePeople's mission.



Elizabeth Babcock
Denver's Climate Action,
Sustainability,
and Resiliency

Elizabeth (Liz) Babcock is a visionary leader at the forefront of Denver's climate action initiatives. As the Executive Director of the City and County of Denver's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency (CASR), Babcock brings more than two decades of expertise to her role. Her mission is clear: to transform Denver into a equitable, resilient, sustainable city that stands strong against the challenges of climate change. With a profound commitment to environmental stewardship, Liz is entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing and expanding Denver's climate action initiatives. Her primary goal is to eliminate 100% of Denver's greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. Liz's strategic vision extends beyond mitigation; she focuses on helping the city adapt to the changing climate, ensuring that Denver's communities are not just surviving but thriving in the face of environmental challenges. She has a particular passion for working with and for underserved communities. Liz's experience includes over 20 years

of managing collaborative and transformational projects. She played a pivotal role in the development of Denver's climate office and the implementation of programs under the Climate Protection Fund. Her diverse portfolio encompasses energy, electrified mobility, building decarbonization, workforce development, and environmental justice. Liz's expertise has been instrumental in securing multimillion-dollar grants, such as the Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge, the Denver Energy Challenge, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, and a significant \$5 million grant from the U.S. Forest Service for CASR's Equitable Community Tree Planting Initiative, bringing much-needed shade to Denver's heat-vulnerable neighborhoods. In previous roles, she worked with universities around the world to advance sustainability and civic engagement through the Talloires Network and community engagement through the Civic Knowledge Project at the University of Chicago. Liz holds a Bachelor of Arts degree with highest honors from the University of Florida and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Chicago. Elizabeth brings more than 25 years of professional experience working on environmental and climate issues both as an engineer and lawyer. In her current role, Liz serves as Senior Policy Counsel at the U.S. Green Building Council, a global environmental nonprofit best known for LEED, the world's most widely used green building rating program. She provides strategic green building law and policy guidance and direction across the international, federal, state and local spectrum, and her work focuses on connecting building policy to climate mitigation and adaptation. Liz has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Stanford University and a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, and recently completed the Sustainable Capitalism & ESG Online course from Berkeley Law Executive Education"



Ernesto Herrera Guerra
IUCN
Mesoamerican Committee
Reforestamos Mexico

Ernesto Herrera holds an industrial engineering degree from Universidad Iberoamericana and has a master's in environmental management from the University of Waikato, in New Zealand. In the public sector, he served as the Technical Secretary for the General Directorate of Radio and Television Systems at the Ministry of Communications and Transport. In the private sector, Ernesto worked in the plastic injection, refrigeration, and food industries. In the nonprofit sector, Ernesto Herrera has been the general director of Reforestamos México, A.C. since its inception in 2002. He currently chairs the Mesoamerican Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN. Ernesto serves on the board of directors and advisory councils of other civil society organizations working in favor of trees, the sustainable management of natural resources, the development of rural enterprises, and digitalization in Mexico. Ernesto is part of the global network of Responsible Leaders of the BMW Foundation and was recognized as one of the 30 sustainable minds by Forbes Mexico in 2023. Ernesto is interested in developing multisectoral alliances in Mexico and Latin America to ensure transparency, legality, accountability, and sustainability in land management, as well as in the utilization of forest and fishery resources.



Falco
Artist Director AFC+A

Carlos Alejandro Chang Falco was born in Cuba in 1965 and works in the field of illustration, graphic design and graphic humor earning awards at national and international competitions. He collaborates with the UNICEF and has published print and digital media in Cuba and other countries such as France, USA, Netherlands, Spain, Japan, Turkey, Germany, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Mexico and Portugal among others. He has also published 5 children's books and his drawings have been published in Courier International, Cuban magazine The Jiribilla and the satirical newspaper Palante.



Fernando Pineda
CREA Results
Co Founder
Promotores Verdes

Fernando Pineda-Reyes. Executive director and founder of Community + Research + Education + Awareness = Results (CREA Results), a social enterprise of Community Health Workers (CHWs)/Promotores de Salud (PdS) advancing health equity, environmental stewardship, and workforce development. He has implemented and supported hundreds of programs to address health disparities through the state of Colorado, México, and Puerto Rico where he helped design and launch the first Puerto Rico Public Health Trust Office of Community Engagement. As a director of community mobilization for the Vector Control Unit for the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust, Pineda-Reyes led post-Hurricane Maria recovery efforts through a CHWs/PdS model. Pineda-Reyes has served on many boards, such as the Early Childhood Leadership Council, Head Start Policy Council, Metro Caring, CASA Soccer Club, Colorado Rapids Youth Soccer Club, the Collaborative School Committee at Ana Marie Sandoval and Denver Center for International Studies in Denver Public Schools, the American Public Health Association /Governing Council, the National Steering Committee for Promotores de Salud (part of Health and Human Services/Office of Minority Health), and the Partnership of Academicians and Communities for Translation for the Colorado Clinical Science Institute. He was also a member of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences Taskforce. He currently serves on the boards of Sheridan Health Services, the National Parent Leadership Institute, and The Junkyard Social Club. He is the current Chair of the Board for the American Mexican Association. Fernando has dual degrees in clinical biochemistry and pharmaceutical chemistry from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). He is a Leadership Denver Class of 2017 Fellow as well as a Community Resource Center Leadership Development Program and Regional Institute of Health and Environmental Leadership (RIHEL) Fellow. He received the 2022 Water Hero Award from the Colorado Water Conservation Board."



Florence Williams
Nature science bestselling author
The Nature Fix

Florence William's latest book, Heartbreak: A Personal and Scientific Journey, won the 2023 PEN/E.O. Wilson Award for Literary Science Writing and is called "show-stopping" and "courageous" by Publisher's Weekly. Her 2017 book, The Nature Fix, was an Audible bestseller and was named a top summer read by J.P. Morgan. She was the writer and host of two Gracie-Award-winning Audible Original series, as well as the writer and voice behind numerous episodes for Outside Magazine's podcast. The Wall Street Journal calls her writing "droll and crisp," which makes her feel like a pastry. Her public speaking includes keynotes at Google, the Smithsonian, the Seattle Zoo, the Aspen Ideas Festival and many other corporate, academic and nonprofit venues. A fellow at the Center for Humans and Nature and a visiting scholar at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., Florence's work focuses on the environment, health and science. A former Scripps Fellow at the Center of Environmental Journalism at the University of Colorado, she has received many awards, including a 2023 PEN America book award, two National Magazine Award

nominations, six magazine awards from the American Society of Journalists and Authors, and the John Hersey Prize at Yale. Her work has been anthologized in numerous books, including *Outside 25*, *the New Montana Story*, *How the West Was Warmed* and *Best American Science and Nature Writing 2008*. Florence serves on the board of SEVERAL non-profits, including the Trust for Public Land, Writers on the Range, and the Ted Scripps Fellowship in Environmental Journalism. She lives in DENVER. Florence Williams is a journalist, author, and podcaster. Her first book, *BREASTS: A Natural and Unnatural History* received the Los Angeles Times Book Prize in science and technology and the 2013 Audie in general nonfiction. *The Nature Fix* was an Audible bestseller and was named a top summer read by J.P Morgan. Her latest book, *Heartbreak*, was called “show-stopping” and “courageous” by *Publisher’s Weekly* and won the 2023 PEN AMERICA award for literary science writing. She is a contributing editor at *Outside Magazine* and a freelance writer for the *New York Times* and numerous other publications. A fellow at the Center for Humans and Nature and a visiting scholar at George Washington University, Florence’s work focuses on the environment, health and science. A certified forest-bathing guide and experienced workshop leader, Florence loves leading groups through both short and multi-day nature-immersive experiences and watching the transformation, connection, and healing that result.



Forrest Gander
Pulitzer Prize Winning
Poet, Novelist, Essays,
and Translator

Born in the mojave desert in barstow, california, **Forrest Gander** grew up in virginia. He spent significant years in san francisco, dolores hidalgo (mexico), eureka springs, and providence. With the late poet cd wright, he has a son, the artist brecht wright gander. Forrest holds degrees in both geology and english literature. He lives now in northern california with his wife, the artist ashwini bhat. Gander’s book *Be With* was awarded the 2019 Pulitzer Prize. Concerned with the way we are revised and translated in encounters with the foreign, his book *Core Samples from the World* was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Gander has collaborated frequently with other artists including photographers Sally Mann, Graciela Iturbide, Raymond Meeks, and Lucas Foglia, glass artist Michael Rogers, ceramic artists Rick Hirsch and Ashwini Bhat, artists Ann Hamilton, Tjibbe Hooghiemstra, dancers Eiko & Koma, and musicians Vic Chesnutt and Brady Earnhart, among others. The author of numerous other books of poetry, including *Redstart: An Ecological Poetics and Science & Steepleflower*, Gander also writes novels (*As a Friend; The Trace*), essays (*A Faithful Existence*) and translates. Recent translations include *It Must Be a Misunderstanding* by Coral Bracho, *Names and Rivers* by Shuri Kido, and *Then Come Back: the Lost Neruda Poems*. His most recent anthologies are *Pinholes in the Night: Essential Poems from Latin American* (selected by Raúl Zurita) and *Panic Cure: Poems from Spain for the 21st Century*. Gander’s books have been translated and published in more than a dozen other languages. He is a United States Artists Rockefeller Fellow and has received fellowships from The National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim, Whiting, and Howard Foundations. In 2011, he was awarded the Library of Congress Witter Bynner Fellowship. Gander was the Briggs-Copeland poet at Harvard University before becoming The Adele Kellenberg Seaver Professor of Literary Arts and Comparative Literature at Brown University where he taught courses such as *Poetry & Ethics*, *EcoPoetics*, *Latin American Death Trip*, and *Translation Theory & Practice*. He is an Emeritus Chancellor for the Academy for the Academy of American Poets and is an elected member of The Academy of Arts & Sciences. Gander co-edited *Lost Roads* Publishers with CD Wright for twenty years, soliciting, editing, and publishing books by more than thirty writers, including Michael Harper, Kamau Brathwaite, Arthur Sze, Fanny Howe, Frances Mayes, Steve Stern, Zuleyka Benitez, and René Char."



Gabriel Nagel
Inaugural Chairperson
Environmental Youth Advisory
CEO of Light CO2

Gabriel Nagel is an accomplished youth climate justice activist and community organizer. He is the founder and CEO of the nonprofit Light CO2, which launched a carbon footprint tracking app, curated a collection of youth-written articles, and planted 10,000+ trees. Gabriel is also the founder and co-leader of the DPS Students for Climate Action team, which developed an environmental justice policy passed across 200 schools, impacting 92,000 students. The policy is one of the first among all US school districts to address social and climate justice. He serves on Denver’s Sustainability Advisory Council and as the United Nations Association’s Climate Action Ambassador, where he drafted the first UN Youth Declaration of Human Rights. In addition to being featured on NPR twice, he spoke at NYC Climate Week and met with Vice-President Kamala Harris to discuss climate anxiety. He is honored with the President’s Environmental Youth Award."



Gabriella Paez
Philly Tree Plan
Environmental Justice
City of Philadelphia

Gabriella Paez is a community organizer and activist who has dedicated her professional life to encouraging individuals in underserved communities to be changemakers. Gabriella, originally from the Dominican Republic, has called Philadelphia her home for the last 15 years. She holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from Eastern University and a master’s in non-profit leadership from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice. Gabriella served as the Education and Community Development Coordinator at Esperanza, a local non-profit, for six years. In her role at Esperanza, she developed and led programs aimed at the revitalization of Hunting Park in North Philadelphia, with a special focus on protecting and enhancing open spaces and the environment. She currently serves on the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society’s Board of Directors, is a PHS Tree Tenders Advisory Committee member, is part of the Community Voices Committee helping guide the Philly Tree Plan, and is a Commissioner on Philadelphia’s first-ever Environmental Justice Advisory Commission. Gabriella recently returned to Esperanza to work on revitalizing its Commercial Corridors with a special focus on greening initiatives. Gabriella’s work has been recognized with multiple awards including Activist of the Year by SustainPHL, the Rising Star Award by the Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations, Tree of Fame by TreePhilly, the Award of Merit by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and 40 under 40 by Al Dia News Media.



Gil Peñalosa
Founder - 8 80 Cities
and Cities for Everyone

Award winning green urbanist **Gil (Guillermo) Penalosa** (Colombia & Canada) is the Founder and Chair of the internationally recognized Canadian non-profit organization 8 80 Cities, founder of Cities for Everyone, and academic chair at the Norman Foster Institute for Sustainable Cities, as well as Expert Advisor to the International Society for Urban Health. He also runs Gil Penalosa & Associates. Gil was elected twice as chair of World Urban Parks. He holds an

MBA from UCLA's Anderson School of Management, received a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the Faculty of Urban Planning at Swedish SLU. In 2023 Gil was selected by Identity Review in 15 Thought Leaders in Sustainable City Development and voted to Planetizen's Top 100 Most Influential Contemporary Urbanists, at #13.



Hop Hopkins
Director at
WildEarth Guardians

Hop Hopkins has been organizing for over twenty-five years at the intersections of race, class, gender, and the environment. Before serving as Executive Director at WildEarth Guardians, Hop led organizational transformation at the Sierra Club, worked with LA River Keepers, and helped start an outdoor education school for children. He is a social movement strategist and scholar and has been a leader in movements from HIV/AIDS to anti-globalization, food sovereignty, anti-displacement, and clean energy transition. He began his career as a grassroots environmental justice community organizer in Seattle, Portland, and Los Angeles. Born in Dallas, Texas, Hop received his bachelor's degree from New College of California as a graduate in the Culture, Ecology, and Sustainable Communities program with a focus on natural building. He has earned a certificate of completion from the Leadership, Organizing and Action Program at Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Executive Education, and a certificate in the Art of Leadership at the Rockwood Leadership Institute. He earned his Master's Degree in Urban Sustainability at Antioch University, Los Angeles, where he also served as a Climate Justice Fellow and adjunct professor. He sits on the Los Angeles Food Policy Council's Leadership Circle, is a Board Trustee at the Midland School, and has served on the boards of the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice, Western States Center, and People's College of Law. Hop was a certified arborist, has earned a Permaculture Design Certificate, is a master gardener, and was certified as a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainer. He and his wife of twenty years homeschool their daughters on an urban homestead inhabited by their pet Australian Cattle Dogs, chickens, honey bees, fruit trees, and multiple compost piles.



Irene Vilar
Founder, AFC+A
CEO, Crea Results

Irene Vilar is a Guggenheim award author and justice worker combining over three decades of non profit work in the publishing and conservation workspace. She is the Puerto Rican founder of the Colorado based environmental nonprofit Americas for Conservation + the Arts 501c3, connecting communities to the health services of nature and the arts. She has launched numerous education-driven initiatives including the publishing house Mandel Vilar Press, dedicated to advancing diversity in the book industry; the annual Americas Latino Eco Festival, dedicated to growing an inclusive conservation workspace; and Promotores Verdes (winner of the 2018 CAEE Innovative Program Award & 2020 SHIFT Award), powering a culture of outdoor recreation, conservation, and public health. Vilar is the recipient of the City of Denver Office of Sustainability Community Builder 2016 Love This Place Award as well as the 2017 Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Arts & Culture Imagine 2020. She is also a former member of the founding advisory council of the Colorado Office of Outdoor Recreation and served four years in the advisory council of the City of Denver Office of Sustainability. She has been an active public speaker for multicultural and environmental literacy. Since the publishing of her first book in 1996 Vilar has worked as a story finder as much as a storyteller helping publish underrepresented voices in the US. Her books have been translated into six languages and have won the 2000 Mind Book of the Year Award, the 2010 IPPY Gold Medal for Best Memoir/Autobiography, and the 12th Latino Book Award for Best Women's Issues. Her writings explore generational and national trauma and have been featured in numerous interdisciplinary doctoral dissertations, academic books, and higher academic course adoptions. As of 2023, her books have been cited in two hundred and twenty-nine dissertations and forty-two books. Vilar, the proud mother of two Colorado born teenage daughters, has crossed the Gulf Stream current fifty-two times and is an avid long-distance hiker in love with Colorado fourteeners.



James Wieser
Promotor Verde
Mycologist

James Wieser is a self-educated Experimental, Speculative and Theoretical Mycologist & Integrated Natural Systems Engineer. Publishes Carbon Negative Agriculture.com, Carbon Negative Forestry.com, the 2nd Agricultural Revolution.com & the 2nd Enlightenment.com. Director of the Center for Experimental and Theoretical Integrated Mycology, Denver (CETIM-Denver). He is a leading edge researcher in the introduction of mushrooms & associated organisms into our suburban habitat, working with 95 species of fungi in 2024. Specializing in the creation of customized mycelium (aka; mutualistic partners to human beings) for multiple applications, in particular, for the advancement of Carbon Negative Agriculture/ Forestry. Using mushrooms (the "brains" & administrators of the rhizosphere) in an Aggregated Organism System and biomimetics to sequester CO2 in the soil to create nutrient dense food rather than air pollution as nature intended.

He is developing techniques that allow mushrooms to pre-adapt to the habitat into which they will be introduced, allowing for non-sterile propagation techniques. That means that anyone can create a habitat for mushrooms at home, utilize the mushrooms in enhancing the fertility of your soil by sequestering nutrients and harvest mushrooms for eating/medicinal purposes. It's called "Natural Literacy", how an individual can understand, own and implement the solutions to climate change & a sustainable future.



Jane Gilbert
Chief Heat Officer
Miami-Dade Count

Jane Gilbert is the chief heat officer for Miami-Dade County. She leads heat resilience strategy development to address the increasing risks to human health, lives, and livelihoods associated with extreme heat. Previously, Gilbert was a consultant and managed The Miami Foundation's civic leadership agenda on sea level rise. Prior to this, she was the City of Miami's chief resilience officer, responsible for climate and urban resilience strategy development and implementation. Earlier in her career, Gilbert headed Wells Fargo's philanthropy and community affairs in South Florida and was the founding executive director for the nonprofits Dream in Green and Arts for Learning/Miami.



Jared Hanley
CEO NatureQuan
NatureDose

Jared Hanley is a co-founder and CEO of NatureQuant, a research and technology firm building tools to assess and promote nature exposure. Prior to founding NatureQuant, Jared used data science and machine learning techniques and provided advisory services in finance, energy, and real estate applications. He is a published author and speaker on ERISA laws and plans. He has a B.A. in Economics and a B.A. in Cognitive Science, both from Yale University. He is a

FINRA-registered securities principal and a Chartered Financial Analyst. Jared lives with his wife and two kids in Eugene, OR. He is a former professional adventure racer and avid mountain athlete. "



Jorge Figueroa
Environmental Justice
Denver's Office CASR

Jorge Figueroa is the Community Partnerships Administrator of Denver's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency (CASR). He develops and implements engagement-related policies, projects and strategies to ensure CASR's programs and projects are well aligned with the priorities and aspirations of Denver's under resourced and environmental justice communities. Jorge is also the co-chair of the governor's and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB); and the liaison and manager of the City and County of Denver's Environmental Justice Standing Committee. Prior to joining CASR, Jorge was co-founder and former Director of El Laboratorio, a climate and social justice innovation laboratory and accelerator anchored in social capital. He also worked as a Senior Water Policy Analyst with Western Resource Advocates for 8 years, and as Research Faculty and Project Associate with CU Law School and the Governors Climate and Forests (GCF) Task Force. Jorge was a Fulbright Scholar on Climate and Community Forestry Innovation with the India Institute of Science. He graduated from the Elisabeth Haub School of Law's Environmental Law Program and the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.



Lidia Soto-Harmon
Student Conservation
Association (SCA)

Lidia Soto-Harmon serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Student Conservation Association (SCA), the largest provider of hands-on environmental conservation programs for youth and adults in the nation. Last year, the SCA engaged more than 2,000 youth and young adults in hands-on environmental conservation programs who collectively provided nearly 1 million hours of service at federal, state, and local parks and natural areas. SCA participants increase the nation's climate resiliency, reduce wildfire risks, enhance equity and environmental justice, strengthen urban communities, implement historic preservation initiatives and retire backlogged maintenance projects. Prior to joining the SCA, Soto-Harmon was the CEO of the Girl Scouts of the Nation's Capital, the largest council in the country for the past 13 years, serving over 76,000 members in the Greater Washington region. During her almost 19-year tenure at the Girl Scouts, she also served as Chief Operating Officer for six years. She was directly responsible for building a compelling strategy to successfully expand access for girls across the region, transforming programs, creating experiences in the outdoors, and engaging communities to support and expand youth development. Before joining the Girl Scouts, Soto-Harmon served as Senior Vice President of Community Development for First Book, a national children's literacy organization dedicated to getting new books into the hands of children from low-income families. She also previously served as Deputy Director of the President's Interagency Council on Women at the U.S. Department of State and Senior Director for the Fannie Mae Foundation's Targeted Outreach Department. She currently serves as Chair and Trustee of Migration Policy Institute, Executive Committee member for the Booz Allen Foundation, Board Member for First Book – a national Children's literacy organization, Chair of the Advisory Council for the master's in public administration at the Schar School of Public Policy and Government and is an Adjunct Faculty member at George Mason University. This summer, Soto-Harmon completed several SCA site visits. She traveled to Alaska to visit SCA members in action, including the SCA's Women Wildland Fire Crew and Sled Dog Kennel Interns, both stationed at Denali National Park. She learned how to cold-start a chainsaw and traveled 1,001 miles to visit SCA program participants across the state. Soto-Harmon holds a master's in public administration from George Mason University and has participated in various Executive Leadership Programs at Harvard, Stanford and the Center for Creative Leadership. She has a bachelor's in arts from George Mason University. She is also a member of the International Women's Forum, the Washington Business Journal Women Who Mean Business, and Leadership Greater Washington Class of 2007. Soto-Harmon is married and has two fantastic bilingual adult children.



Linda Garcia
Policy and Outreach
Washington State
Goldman Environmental Prize

Linda Garcia is a passionate and dedicated advocate for those living in overburdened and marginalized communities and has devoted much of her career supporting and serving the most vulnerable families. As the Policy and Outreach Director at the Washington State Community Action Partnership, she continues to work tirelessly to promote equitable policies that serve to help families struggling in poverty and to make ends meet. Linda has an impressive background in legislative work and non-profit advocacy, and it is this fierce commitment to both that led to her being honored in 2019 with the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize. Throughout her career, she has been an influential champion in advancing social, economic, racial, and environmental justice, and her strong legislative background has enabled her to make a real difference in the lives of countless people. Her belief that all social concerns should be met with equitable solutions drives her to continue her purposeful journey. She looks forward to the day where all humans are treated fairly, and with compassion.



Ma. Guadalupe Cardoza P
Promotora Verde
Dacono EJ Leader

Ma. Guadalupe Cardoza, Lupita is Mexican, from Durango. She was born in a province with farms and cattle. She has 9 children between the ages of 3 and 23 and is an amazing community leader in Lafayette and more recently also in Dacono. She is always willing to help when someone is in need or when something needs to get done. She has been a Promotora Verde for the past 6 years and received volunteer awards from Sister Carmen in Lafayette and from Wildlands Restoration Volunteers last year. Lupita enjoys the beauty of the natural world and likes to take care of parks, green spaces and neighborhoods. She organized park and river bank clean ups and became a bilingual conservation leader with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers. She considers her work and commitment a small gesture that demonstrates her appreciation in return for what the earth provides for us every day. By being with Promotores Verdes she understands that when you serve nature, it serves you, supports your health and wellbeing. Lupita loves trees. Spending time in nature and serving Mother Nature leads her to have hope for our future generations. In terms of ecological restoration she believes that together we make a difference.



Mark Magaña
Founder - GreenLatinos

Mark Magaña is the Founding President & CEO of GreenLatinos, a National network of Latino environmental and conservation advocates. Mark is the first Latino to have served as senior staff at both the White House and in Congressional leadership – as Special Assistant to President Clinton for White House Legislative Affairs and Senior Policy Advisor to the House Democratic Caucus Vice-Chair Robert Menendez. Mark also served as a Presidentially appointed Congressional Liaison at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as Legislative Assistant to Congressional Representative Jim McDermott (D-WA), as a Federal Legislative Representative for the City of Los Angeles, and as a Research Assistant for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO). As an early supporter of Senator Obama's Presidential Campaign, in February of 2007, Mark founded the National Latinos for Obama. Through Latinos for Obama, he helped build a national grassroots organization and mobilization effort. Originally from Los Angeles, Mark lived in Washington, DC for 30 years and just recently moved to Boulder, CO with his wife and young children, where he serves on the boards of the League of Conservation Voters, Green 2.0, and the Children's Environmental Health Network."



Matilda van den Bosch
Barcelona Institute for
Global Health
European Forest Institute

Matilda van den Bosch is a trained physician with a PhD in landscape planning and public health. Currently, she is a senior researcher at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), Spain and at the Biocities Facility of the European Forest Institute (EFI), Rome, Italy. She is also an adjunct professor at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, jointly appointed by the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Forestry. Her interdisciplinary research is situated at the nexus of ecosystem health and human health, within the context of Planetary Health. She has worked as a consultant to, for example, the WHO, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) on topics like urban green space indicators for public health and policy priorities for protecting health for both humans and the environment. She was the primary editor of the first textbook on the topic of nature and public health, published by the Oxford University Press in 2018.



Michael Johnston
City of Denver Mayor

Michael Christopher Johnston is an American educator and politician serving as the 46th and current mayor of Denver, Colorado. A member of the Democratic Party, he won the 2023 Denver mayoral election, defeating Kelly Brough in the June 6 runoff election. Johnston first entered politics when he served in the Colorado Senate, representing the 33rd district from 2009 to 2017. He was a candidate for governor of Colorado in 2018, losing in the primary to Jared Polis, who went on to win the general election. He was also a candidate for the U.S. Senate in 2020, before withdrawing from the race in September 2019.



Michael Harold Coffman
City of Aurora Mayor

Michael Harold Coffman grew up in Aurora, attended Aurora Public Schools, graduated from the University of Colorado, and completed the Senior Executive Program for State and Local Government at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is a combat veteran with service in both the U.S. Army and the Marine Corps and was an Aurora small-business owner for 17 years. Coffman served in the State House of Representatives, State Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives, in addition to being elected Colorado State Treasurer and Secretary of State. Coffman was first elected to serve as mayor of Aurora in November 2019 and re-elected in 2023."



Michel Gelobter
Yale Center for
Environmental Justice

Dr. Michel Gelobter is a lifelong environmental advocate, policy analyst, and entrepreneur, with decades of noteworthy achievement in the private, public, government and non-profit sectors. Renowned for his innovative leadership in the climate change, energy, and social justice fields, he was most recently the CEO of Cooler, Inc., and Managing Director of Reflective Earth, a non-profit focused on using albedo to mitigate and to adapt to climate change. He authored *Lean Startups for Social Change: The Revolutionary Path to Big Impact* in 2016. Dr. Gelobter earned his MS & Ph.D. at UC Berkeley's Energy & Resources Group. His dissertation broke new ground as the first in the field of environmental justice. Subsequently, he founded a number of organizations focused on climate justice, oceans and natural resource protection, as well as power building for marginalized communities across the U.S. Shortly after earning his Ph.D., Dr. Gelobter served as the initial Director of Columbia University's Program on Environmental Policy in its School of International and Public Affairs. Gelobter's government service has included stints as a Congressional Black Caucus Fellow, as staff with the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee, as Director of Environmental Quality for the City of New York, and as Senior Advisor to the Administrator of the US E.P.A. In 2006, Gelobter helped originate and design the world's first, economy-wide climate legislation (California's AB32) and subsequently founded the first consumer-facing climate software company. Dr. Gelobter comes to Yale from the San Francisco Bay Area, where he presently serves as a Board member of CERES, New Energy Nexus, and as co-chair of the Green Leadership Trust. He is a senior advisor at Google X, an avid backpacker, and, most importantly, the (very proud) father of Marco, Nathan, and Troy.



Dr. Nadina Galle
Ecological Engineer,
National Geo Explorer
Bestselling author.

Nadina Galle, Ph.D., is a Dutch-Canadian ecological engineer, technologist, keynote speaker, and podcast host renowned for her groundbreaking work on the 'Internet of Nature' (IoN). Featured in BBC Earth documentaries and esteemed publications like *National Geographic* and *Newsweek*, she received a Fulbright scholarship for research at MIT's Senseable City Lab, where she still holds a research affiliation. Recognized as one of *Forbes*' 30 under 30, she's currently a 2024 *National Geographic Explorer*, studying IoN integration in Latin American cities. Her debut book, "THE NATURE OF OUR CITIES," publishes on June 18, 2024.



Nausheen Iqbal
Assistant Director
USFS Urban and
Community Forestry

Nausheen Iqbal is acting as the Assistant Director of Urban and Community Forestry Program in the USDA Forest Service's State, Private & Tribal Forestry office in Washington, DC. Her work focuses on national program management of the Urban and Community Forestry Program, which delivers nature-based solutions to create resilient and equitable spaces for urban communities. Nausheen has served as Deputy Director for Forests and Equity at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Prior to the Forest Service, she was a consultant with the World Bank's

Global Water Practice on transboundary waters management, worked on water security issues at the Woodrow Wilson Center, and disaster and flood management at WWF-USA. Nausheen has an MA in Global Environmental Policy from American University as well as a JD from New York University School of Law.



Nita Gonzales
Nuevo Amanecer, LLC
Escuela Tlatelolco
Centro de Estudio

Nita Gonzales Principal of Nuevo Amanecer, LLC, of Denver, Colorado, is a noted community member, educator, and nationally recognized leader for educational and community justice and equality. As President/CEO of Escuela Tlatelolco Centro de Estudios, a nationally recognized model for Chicano/Mexicano and indigenous education, Nita was the individual primarily responsible for fundraising to provide scholarships for over 8,000 students. Her professional experience ranges from managing program budgets of up to \$2,500,000 yearly with responsibility for revenue generation and expenditure decisions to developing and implementing curricula and an educational delivery system for Metro-Denver Chicano/Mexicano/Indigenous students and families. Gonzales is an experienced Project/Program Manager or Coordinator who can manage from initiation to completion. She can utilize data to make strategic decisions that result in improved performances and outcomes. Ms. Gonzales has extensive experience writing successful corporate and foundation grants, as well as state and federal government grants. Nita brings an open, creative mind and unique, dynamic ideas to each nonprofit partner she works with. With a wide, rich variety of hands-on fundraising and nonprofit management experience, Nita honed her skills with several nonprofits in the Metro Denver area. Nita discovers how each nonprofit's mission can be best carried out. She gains a deep understanding of what needs to happen—and how—for an organization to reach its full potential. What sets her apart from many consultants is that she doesn't simply create a plan for organizations to follow—she works with each client until the necessary work is being successfully implemented. Ms. Gonzales received her Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Masters in Education from Antioch University, Yellow Springs, Ohio.



Paul Johnson
Sustainable Forestry Init.
Community Forestry
Career Pathways

Paul Johnson leads SFI's efforts to enhance the sustainability of urban forestry through the SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard. He is an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Board Certified Master Arborist, Municipal Specialist, and is Tree Risk Assessment, Texas Oak Wilt, and Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualified. He is also a Society of American Foresters Certified Forester. Paul has been recognized as a True Professional of Arboriculture by ISA and received the Leah MacSwords Current Achievement Award for Communications from NASF. He is Past President of the ISA Board of Directors and he graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in Forestry. He has been a state urban and community forestry program leader, radio talk show host, newspaper columnist, university extension horticulturist, university adjunct instructor, and plant healthcare specialist. Paul believes that #TreesAreKey to healthier, happier, safer communities.



Dr. Qing Li
Forest Medicine
and Immunology - Nippon
Medical School, Tokyo

Dr. Qing Li (MD, PhD) graduated from Shanxi Medical University in China and got PhD degree from Kagoshima University in Japan. He has studied at Stanford University School of Medicine. He is a clinical professor at Nippon Medical School, President of the Japanese Society of Forest Medicine, Director of the Forest Therapy Society, Vice-President and Secretary General of International Society of Nature and Forest Medicine. Prof. Li is the world's foremost expert in forest medicine and immunology. He has received Society Award from the Japanese Society for Hygiene in Forest Medicine in 2022 and University Award from Nippon Medical School in Forest Medicine in 2011. Some people study medicine. Some people study forest. Dr. Li studies forest medicine to find out all the ways in which walking in the forest can improve our well-being. He started the forest medicine research (Shinrin-yoku/Forest bathing/Forest therapy) from 2004 and has published many articles in scientific journals and books in forest medicine. His book: Shinrin-yoku has been translated into 26 languages. Forest was ranked in the bestseller list in the US in 2018.



Ricardo Gambetta
International and
Immigrant Affairs
City of Aurora

Ricardo Gambetta, Manager of International and Immigrant Affairs | City of Aurora. Gambetta is a recognized expert and international consultant in the areas of immigration policy, immigrant integration and international programs. He has a strong executive experience in public and non-profit sectors. Currently, he serves as Manager of International and Immigrant Affairs at the City of Aurora. Previously, Gambetta served as an Immigrant Integration Manager at the National Immigrant Forum, Director of Immigration Services and International Affairs at the U.S. Committee of Refugees and Immigrants, and Director of Immigrant Integration at the National League of Cities, Washington D.C. Also, he served as a Immigration Policy Advisor to the Governor of Indiana, Director of Latino and International Affairs at the Office of the Mayor in Indianapolis and Television and Radio News Anchor in Indiana. Gambetta holds a B.A. in Sociology and has participated in specialized trainings in the areas of municipal management, foreign affairs and immigration policy in Europe, Asia, Canada, Latin America and the U.S. Gambetta is the author of more than twenty-five policy reports and publications in the area of immigrant integration and international programs.



Tamara Toles O'Laughlin
Environmental
Grantmakers Assoc.
Climate Critical

Tamara Toles O'Laughlin is an environmentalist focused on equity, access and community. She develops skill building programs and creates multimedia campaigns to dismantle privilege and increase opportunities for vulnerable populations to access healthy air, clean energy and a toxic free economy at the local, regional and national level. Tamara casts a wide net in service to the environmental community. She leads the Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA) as its CEO and President. EGA represents over 200 foundations globally, holding approximately \$200 billion in assets and giving more than \$2 billion annually to environmental causes. She is the founder of Climate Critical, a visionary new organization supporting the development of the next generation of climate leaders. Tamara drives mission critical work and organizational investments to build a multiracial, multi-generational climate movement that is ready to hold leaders accountable to the long view of justice. Among her advisory roles, Tamara serves as an advisor to the Yale Center for Environmental Justice, is a foundation trustee and Director of several non profit Boards including of Friends of the Earth, Climate Refugees and Generation Green.

She is a senior advisor to the Green Leadership Trust. Previously, she served as the North America Director at 350.org and 350 Action as the leader of programming. Before 350, Tamara was the executive director of the Maryland Environmental Health Network (MdEHN), in Baltimore, Maryland. As its leader she promoted the elimination of environmental threats to human health through facilitation of coalitions led by community and supported by health practitioners and environmental advocates. Highlights at MdEHN include conception and development of an environmental justice digest of statewide policy through the lenses of equity, access, and justice. The digest was a resource for state legislators alongside a groundbreaking educational web series on human health and environmental impacts on issues ranging from community solar, to transportation and natural gas infrastructure. The series amplified the perspectives of community members in regional policy. As a state policy leader, Tamara cultivated groundswell support for legislation to include health impact assessments as standard at the Public Service Commission and co-founded the Healthy Green Maryland Amendment Initiative to define healthy communities and provide generational protections against disproportionate climate impacts within the Maryland constitution. Tamara was the chief architect of the Baltimore City Climate Resolution, which passed in the City Council unanimously in response to the US withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accords. Tamara's public service has included chairing the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments: Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee, where she advocated for meaningful engagement and responsive public resources. Additionally, she was chairwoman of the Board of Women's Voices for the Earth, which supports science-based advocacy to give voice to women fighting to protect their health from toxic chemicals. Tamara has over two decades of cross sector environmental experience. Prior to moving to the non-profit sector, she held several positions in state and local government including employment with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, the Maryland Energy Administration and District Department of Energy and Environment in Washington, DC, among others. Tamara had the honor of serving as the Senior Law Clerk to the Honorable Douglas A. Brady, and his predecessor, Senior Sitting Judge Julio A. Brady (deceased) at the Superior Court of the US Virgin Islands on St. Croix. Tamara developed an early aptitude for environment and justice issues through internships with the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation, The Environmental Protection Agency, the Center on Race, Poverty and Environment, Natural Resources Defense Council. Tamara is a long range thinker. She is committed to environmental advocacy in support of the poor and chronically under-served. Over her lifetime she has worked relentlessly to promote equity in environmental protection and enforcement. Her work has paid particular attention to community mobilization, opportunity access, and reduction of health disparities. Tamara's career goal is to remain a lifelong learner, bridge builder, and an approachable thought leader. Her hobbies include travel, yoga, slowly reading books about energy, politics, and neuroscience, and writing about civil society.



Tamberly Conway
Conservation Conexions, LLC

Dr. Tamberly Conway, Founder and CEO of Conservation Conexions, serves as a global conservation, diversity and partnership consultant, Certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guide, Certified Forest Therapy Trails, Spaces and Places Consultant, International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist and an international speaker. Tamberly served as a Conservation Education Specialist and Partnerships, Diversity, and Inclusion Specialist for 12 years with the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) Conservation Education Program in Texas and Washington, D.C. During her tenure she advanced diversity engagement in urban and community forestry settings. Areas of practice included: relationships between nature exposure and health; correlations between forest health and human health; conservation education and community empowerment, with a strong focus upon Latino communities in the US and Latin America. Many of these efforts resulted in implementation of urban food forests, urban gardens, education around urban tree canopy benefits, and empowering youth and community leaders to advance this work in their own communities. During her tenure with the USFS, she worked to propel Forest Therapy within the agency and among diverse communities through health and nature collaborations and led the implementation of the first-ever bilingual Association of Nature and Forest Therapy (ANFT) guide training in collaboration with numerous diverse partner organizations. Tamberly left the USFS in January 2020 to pursue a new Nature and Forest Immersion path, as she believes Nature and Forest Therapy is a powerful mechanism to create relationships between humans and the more-than-human world, thereby supporting the health of people and the planet. She continues to throttle forward with the concept and actions around integrating relational and therapeutic forest and nature immersion as a mechanism to support the care, tending, and nurturing of humans, the more-than-human world, forests, and other ecosystems.



Tariana Navas Nieves
Denver's Director of
Cultural Affairs

Tariana Navas-Nieves is the Director of Cultural Affairs for the City and County of Denver. Navas-Nieves has over 23 years of experience in non-profit management, museum work, community building through the arts, and communications, most recently as Public Information Manager for the Gold Line commuter rail transit line, part of the largest transportation project in the US. She also served as Curator of Hispanic and Native American Art at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center during their 25-million-dollar expansion project. As Director of Cultural Affairs, Navas-Nieves oversees the city's Public Art, Cultural Programs, Create Denver, Scientific and Cultural Facilities District Tier III (tax district funding), and the Arts Education Fund. She is also the Venue Director for the McNichols Building. The Public Art Division includes the 1% for Public Art and the Urban Arts Fund, a graffiti prevention and youth development initiative. The Events Department is responsible for citywide programs such as the Five Points Jazz Festival. Through Create Denver, she directs programs that develop Denver's art districts, and creative businesses in the city. Navas-Nieves is responsible for the SCFD Tier III funding working with City Council and the Denver County Cultural Council. She oversees Arts Education programs supporting youth and teachers. She works to implement IMAGINE 2020, Denver's first cultural plan since 1989. She also leads the Diversity, Inclusion and Equity initiative for the city agency. Navas-Nieves serves on multiple boards and advisory groups including but not limited to the Mayor's Latino Commission, Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Arts & Diversity Task Force, the Denver Art Museum's Latino Audience Alliance, and many others. She was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Navas-Nieves has over 23 years of experience in non-profit management, museum work, community building through the arts, and

communications, most recently as Public Information Manager for the Gold Line commuter rail transit line, part of the largest transportation project in the US. She also served as Curator of Hispanic and Native American Art at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center during their 25-million-dollar expansion project.

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Vivek Shandas
Sustaining Urban Places
Research Lab.
Professor - Portland SU

Vivek Shandas is a researcher, entrepreneur, and over the past 20 years, has been providing guidance to diverse organizations for managing urban landscapes for public health, social justice, and economic prosperity. He has published over 100 scientific journal articles, five books, and is a well-known speaker on topics of environmental justice, urban heat, air quality, urban forests, climate change, and public policy. As part of his ongoing projects, his work has been highlighted by The New York Times, Scientific American, Guardian, National Geographic, and dozens of other national and international media outlets. In 2023 he was appointed by the US Secretary of Agriculture to serve on the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council. He serves as a professor of geography at Portland State University, and is the Founder and current advisor to CAPA Strategies, a global consulting firm that supports community adaptation to a warming planet. This presentation will highlight the long legacies of colonialism and highlight current day implications of advancing tree equity in historically marginalized neighborhoods.



Yujuan Chen
Agricultural and
Environmental Sciences
Tennessee S.U.

Dr. Yujuan Chen has a long-standing interest in urban ecosystems and her work is mainly focusing on urban forestry, urban soils, and stormwater management. She co-authored the first global Guidelines on Urban and Peri-urban Forestry, which aims to optimize the contribution of forests and trees to sustainable urban development. She also initiated and led the "Healthy Soils for Healthy Communities Initiative" to study the potential of healthy soils in building climate resilience and healthy communities in Los Angeles. Prior to joining Tennessee State University, Dr. Chen held a range of positions with TreePeople, University of Southern California, Virginia Tech, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and New Jersey State Forestry Services. "



Zuza Bohley
AFCA+A
Deputy Director
Ch. Programs Officer

Zuza Bohley was born and raised in former East Germany during the Cold War, into a family of Pacifists. Her name was Suse but when she was "sold" as a political prisoner to West Germany at age 14 it was changed to Susanne. She now uses Zuza to make it easier for English speakers to pronounce her name correctly. Zuza explains that "political prisoners" were traded for currency to stimulate the East German economy—she was traded for 50,000 Deutsche Marks. With the help of Amnesty International, the family was on the list to be traded and they were transferred to West Berlin. Zuza received her college degree from the Free University in Berlin, in Germanic languages, philosophy, and art history. She was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study linguistics and anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin. Zuza received a master's degree in 1988 and moved to Boulder, Colorado in 1990. With her skill in several languages (she studied 16 different languages), she speaks daily German, English, and Spanish. Zuza has taught for more than 20 years in private and bilingual schools, while also volunteering in numerous Colorado nonprofits including Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, Intercambio de Comunidades, Friendship City Projects and the Parent Engagement Network. Zuza is interested in community outreach and empowerment and enjoys working with youth. Zuza joined the UNA Boulder County board in 2011 and in June 2014 she was elected to be the regional representative for the United Nations Association of the Rocky Mountain region.

AMERICAS LATINO ECO FESTIVAL XIII

Oct 22, 2023 to Apr 22, 2024

Denver APRIL Closing Events

The Giving Tree

Advancing Equal Access to the Health, Climate and Economic Benefits of Trees.

Thursday 11 @ CSU SPUR HYDRO
Tree Equity Summit & Workshop
 w/ Award winning urbanist Gil Penalosa

Monday 22 @ MCA Holiday Theatre
The Giving Tree Community Earth Day
 Artist Exhibits, Eco Shorts, Storytelling, Book Fair, Tiny Tots Inside The Orchestra
 Pre Concert La Dame Blanche
 Cuban Roots Master Workshop
Festival Closure Concert (7:30 \$25)
La Dame Blanche

Details, updates and more at americaslatinoecofestival.org

A program of:



Co presented by:



Because advocates must come together

April • Thursday 11 @ CSU SPUR HYDRO Tree Equity Summit & Workshop: A one-day convening hosted by Latinos and bringing together a diverse coalition to share their testimonies on how best to advance tree equity in urban forestry through a climate justice lens.

 Ana Romero Promotora Verde Forest Bathing Guide	 Andrea Yoloteotl CED Harvest of All First Nations	 Benita Hussain Tree Equity CPO American Forests	 Berenice Garcia Tellez Buildings Equity City & Co. of Denver Monarca Group	 Bradley Paterson Denver's Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency	 Cecilia Martinez Environmental and Climate Justice Bezos Earth Fund	 Cristobal Flores Promotor Verde Planting Brigade	 Dana Coelho Manager U.S.F.S.	 Dana Karcher Davey Resource Group	 Ean Tafuya Greenlatinos CO Environmental Justice Action Taskforce	 Edith De Guzman Director Los Angeles Urban Cooling Collaborative	 Eileen Garcia TreePeople Partnerships & Ops
 Elizabeth Babcock Denver's Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency	 Falco Artist Director AFC+A	 Ernesto Herrera Guerra IUCN Mesamerican Committee Reforestamos Mexico	 Fernando Pineda CREA Results Co Founder Promotores Verdes	 Florence Williams Nature science bestselling author, The Nature Fix	 Forrest Gander Pulitzer Prize Winning Poet, Novelist, Essays, and Translator	 Gabriel Nagel Inaugural Chairperson Environmental Youth Advisory CEO of Light CO2	 Gabiella Paez Philly Tree Plan Environmental Justice City of Philadelphia	 Gil Penalosa Presenter - Speaker Founder - 800 Cities and Cities for Everyone	 Hop Hopkins Award recipient Director at WildEarth Guardians	 Irene Vilar Presenter Founder, AFC+A CEO, Crea Results	 Jane Gilbert Presenter Chief Heat Officer Miami-Dade Count
 James Wieser Promotor Verde Mycologist	 Jared Hantley CEO NatureQuan NatureDose	 Jared Polis Colorado Governor Businessman, and philanthropist	 Jorge Figueroa Environmental Justice Denver's Office CASR	 Lidia Soto-Harmon Student Conservation Association (SCA)	 Linda Garcia Policy and Outreach Washington State Goldman Environmental Prize	 Ma. Guadalupe Cardoza P Promotora Verde Daccono EI Leader	 Matilda van den Bosch Barcelona Institute for Global Health European Forest Institute	 Mark Magaña Presenter Founder - Greenlatinos	 Michael Johnston City of Denver Mayor	 Michael Harold Coffman City of Aurora Mayor	 Michel Gelobter Yale Center for Environmental Justice
 Dr. Nadina Galle Ecological Engineer, National Geo Explorer Bestselling author.	 Nausheen Iqbal Assistant Director USFS Urban and Community Forestry	 Nita Gonzalez Nuevo Amanecer, LLC Escuela Tlatelolco Centro de Estudio	 Paul Johnson Sustainable Forestry Init. Career Pathways	 Dr. Qing Li Forest Medicine and Immunology - Nippon Medical School, Tokyo	 Ricardo Gambetta International and Immigrant Affairs City of Aurora	 Tamara Toles O'Laughlin Environmental Grantmakers Assoc. Climate Critical	 Tamberly Conway Conservation Conexions, LLC	 Tariana Navas Nieves Denver's Director of Cultural Affairs	 Vivek Shandas Sustaining Urban Places Research Lab. Professor - Portland SU	 Yujuan Chen Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Tennessee S.U.	 Zuza Bohley AFC+A Deputy Director Ch. Program Officer

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Country of Honor:
 Colombia
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 Promotores Verdes

Free Registration at Eventbrite



April • Monday 22 @ MCA Holiday Theatre

Community Earth Day

Artist Exhibits, Eco Shorts, Storytelling, Book Fair,
 Tiny Tots Inside The Orchestra
 Pre Concert La Dame Blanche, Cuban Roots Master Workshop

APRIL Monday 22-7:30pm
 MCA DENVER HOLIDAY THEATER
 2644 W 32nd Ave. Highlands

La Dame Blanche
Festival Closure Concert (\$25)

Eventbrite tickets

With her explosive mix of hip hop, cumbia, dancehall and reggae, the Cuban singer, flautist and percussionist Yaita Ramos Rodriguez, aka La Dame Blanche delivers a powerful and compelling sound which summons the spirits.