



WOMEN'S CONGRESS

for Future Generations

VIEN TRUONG

MAKING THE CASE FOR A JUST TRANSITION

ROWEN WHITE

CULTIVATION ABUNDANCE: REVITALIZING INDIGENOUS ECONOMIES THROUGH RE-MATRIATION OF SEEDS

DR. DORCETA TAYLOR

WHY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MATTERS TO EVERYONE

CAROLYN RAFFENSPERGER

HOW CAN WE PROTECT WHAT WE LOVE IN TODAY'S POLITICAL CLIMATE?

WHEN

November 3-5th

WHERE

**Earle Brown Heritage Center
6155 Earle Brown Drive
Brooklyn Center, Minnesota 55430
United States**





Vien Truong

Vien Truong is one of the country's foremost policy experts and strategists on building an equitable green economy. She leads Green For All, a national initiative that puts communities of color at the forefront of the climate movement and equality at the center of environmental solutions. Vien passionately extends her life story into the very foundation of her incredible work. The youngest child of 11 in a refugee family from Vietnam, Truong's formative years were spent in West Oakland, one of the poorest and most polluted communities of California. Now, as the award-winning CEO of DreamCorps and leader of Green For All, Vien has dedicated her life to building an inclusive green economy and creating strong, resilient, and healthy neighborhoods in order to empower the most vulnerable members of our society. She has developed numerous energy, environmental, transportation, and economic policies and programs at the state, federal and local levels as well as advised on billions of dollars in public investments for energy and community development programs - including helping to create the biggest fund in history for low-income communities.

"I decided to dedicate my life to alleviating poverty and building the beloved communities that Dr. Martin Luther King envisioned."



Rowen White

Rowen White is a seed saver, farmer, and educator from the Mohawk community of Akwesasne. A cultivator of an extensive collection of rare northeast Native seeds and the co-founder of the Sierra Seeds Cooperative, Rowen works to combine practical, hands-on skills with indigenous knowledge and reverence in order to cultivate seed stewardship and local seed systems. This system extends the education and tradition of seed keeping to the local community in order to create a lasting contribution of seed and food sovereignty.

"By saving these seeds, we re-engage with a powerful lineage of Seed Keepers. I honor this responsibility from the center of my heart, and hope to share with you the deep, heart-opening aspects of these Seed Keeper traditions. Using an indigenous ecology of education via story, handiwork, and connection to place, we rekindle a connection to our ancient traditions. Writing ourselves back into the story of the sacred dance between humans and plants that is dynamic, evolutionary, and resilient."



Dr. Dorceta Taylor

One of the country's leading researchers on the Environmental Justice Movement, Professor Taylor's research interests include urban agriculture, food access, and food insecurity; institutional diversity; analysis of the composition of the environmental workforce; social movement analysis; environmental justice; leisure and natural resource use; poverty; and race, gender, and ethnic relations. Beginning with her childhood in rural Jamaica and spanning her entire career, Dr. Taylor's aspirations and renowned accomplishments have consistently deconstructed barriers to environmental injustice. The first woman to graduate with a PhD from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Science (while simultaneously earning her doctorate in Sociology) and award-winning author of numerous publications, Dr. Taylor has worked passionately to educate and extend environmental justice and equity to all.

"I might be here for a larger purpose...and that purpose is not about whether someone believes my work is any good, or whether or not they think I'm qualified. That's really sort of irrelevant. The question is, how do I open the door for other people? How can I use what I've learned to help others?"



Carolyn Raffensperger

Carolyn was raised in the central Midwest and largely influenced by the tall grass prairie and the large river systems that define that landscape. Her education – indeed her life – is driven by questions posed by the circumstances of the day.

An archaeologist and anthropologist by training, Carolyn began her work in the desert Southwest. One of the themes of that training was a deep grounding in the scientific method and the philosophy of science. This training later proved valuable in exploring the decision-making tool of the precautionary principle. Another theme that runs through anthropology and archaeology is that cultures all have to solve some of the same environmental problems: How do you live in a place and not destroy it? How do you say no to things that threaten precious places? How do you evaluate the consequences to the future?

Understanding the ethical dimension of the precautionary principle took her on a journey to a deep understanding of the rights of future generations and our responsibilities to them. During the mid-2000s she saw a trend that women's voices were excluded from policy arenas. As a response to this trend, Carolyn co-convened the first Women's Congress for Future Generations that was held in 2012 in Moab, UT and the second Women's Congress in 2014 in Minneapolis, MN.

Carolyn is executive director of the Science & Environmental Health Network. As an environmental lawyer, she has a knack for discovering and distilling game-changing principles in law and policy. Throughout her years at SEHN, as part of SEHN's mission to equip grassroots groups with legal and scientific tools, Carolyn has provided legal analysis and legal ideas to struggles in various communities. Most recently she's been a member of the Steering Team of the Bakken Pipeline Resistance Coalition actively resisting the Dakota Access Pipeline.

"I do this work with the Future First Women's Congress because I hope to look future generations in the eye and say 'we did everything we could to give you a sporting chance. We did everything we could to tend the Tree of Life on your behalf.'"