

Tishman Environment
and Design Center

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



CO-DIRECTORS' MESSAGE



This has been a stressful and difficult year, on campus and around the world. We have seen many of the world's inequalities laid bare as the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the globe. COVID-related deaths and economic fallout from the pandemic are felt unequally, with low-income and communities of Color bearing the brunt. Meanwhile the climate crisis continues to grow in urgency as we are witnessing increasingly dangerous droughts, wildfires, heat waves, and storms. Again, poor communities and

communities of Color are most vulnerable to these events and have the fewest resources to recover. The intersectionality between racial, economic and environmental justice is undeniable and central to the work the Tishman Center does on campus and around the nation. While the roots of American racism run deep and are multidimensional, the Tishman Center is hopeful that as we continue to raise and discuss it, even in uncomfortable conversations, we will move towards a more equitable and just society.

In this very difficult year, Tishman Center has remained stalwart in pursuing our mission to advance environmental and climate justice in intersectional and transdisciplinary ways. We continued working with our partners, allies, and campus community through public and campus events, collaborative community-based research, and movement building support. This past academic year, we engaged over 2,000 participants in a series of exciting, virtual events discussing these issues and more, including our annual Earth Week series.

Ripe for Creative Disruption: An Environmental Justice Movement Fellowship, launched its group application this past Summer under the leadership of our new Fellowship Director and national climate justice leader Angela Mahecha and co-founders Dr. Sujatha Jesudasan and Dr. Ana Baptista. The Fellowship is being developed in coordination with the EJ Movement and will support the capacity of leaders nationwide to design, scale, and implement innovative strategies to advance systemic solutions to the urgent crises of climate change and inequality. Four to eight groups of EJ leaders will be invited to participate in the fellowship this fall.

The Tishman Center has been active in helping craft equitable climate policies including working with the Equitable and Just National Climate Platform on recommendations for the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative which requires 40% of federal climate-related investments go to EJ communities. Finally, Ana and I have been named panelists for the New York City Panel on Climate Change (NPCC) 2023 report. Now more than ever, our work as a university center is crucial to supporting communities on campus and across the nation. We must support each other moving forward and in that find the strength and hope we need to bring about real change. We look forward to working with you and our allies to advance climate justice on campus and beyond.

ANA BAPTISTA

Co-Director, Tishman Environment and Design Center
Assistant Professor at The New School

JOEL TOWERS

Co-Director, Tishman Environment and Design Center
University Professor at The New School

MISSION

THE TISHMAN ENVIRONMENT AND DESIGN CENTER INTEGRATES BOLD DESIGN, POLICY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE APPROACHES TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.

VISION

WE ARE A COLLABORATIVE RESOURCE CENTER AND CONVENOR FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GROUPS, DESIGNERS, POLICY MAKERS, STUDENTS AND FACULTY THAT SUPPORTS AND ADVANCES BOLD ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE ACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JEMEZ PRINCIPLES FOR DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZING. WE WILL ADVANCE MORE EQUITABLE AND JUST SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY AND WE WILL BE LEADERS IN THE FIGHT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE!

IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR CURRENT THREE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN, THE CENTER'S ACTIVITIES ARE ORGANIZED WITHIN TWO GOALS:

STRATEGIC GOALS

1.

SERVE AS A RESOURCE CENTER AND HUB FOR MOVEMENT BUILDING AND CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ) RESEARCH, DESIGN AND INTER-DISCIPLINARY PRACTICE.

2.

MOBILIZE STUDENTS, STAFF, FACULTY AND OUR BROADER COMMUNITY TO TAKE ACTION ON THE ROOT CAUSES OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND CONCOMITANT SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICES.

2020 - 2021 ACTION

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CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This year, the Tishman Center supported student and faculty scholarship by awarding **eight student-designed projects a total of \$12,000 and five faculty projects \$14,500** for work related to sustainability, climate, and environmental justice.

We welcomed our first **Aronson Fellow**, Daniela Lam, an AAS Interior Design student researching the use of Tiny Houses for affordable housing and disaster relief activities.

We hosted and/or sponsored **sixteen events for 2,246 attendees and approximately 85 speakers** from across the world.

STUDENT AWARDS

The Tishman Environment and Design Center supports innovative, interdisciplinary projects designed by New School students developing projects or initiatives on environmental and climate justice or sustainability. In 2020-2021, eight student projects received grants totaling \$12,000:



KAN MO MOM ÀDDUNA? (WHO OWNS THE WORLD?)

Devin Hentz

Parsons, MA Fashion Studies '22

Kan Mo Mom Adduna aims to interrupt imperialist roots in Senegal through fashion activism by reclaiming the means of creative production of cotton textiles. Devin focused on artisanal and traditional methods of processing raw cotton into thread.



INDIGENOUS NATIONS ON TURTLE ISLAND (UNITED STATES) IN REDISCOVERING AND REBUILDING REGENERATIVE FOOD SYSTEMS FOR TRIBAL FOOD

Ashley Lituma

Eugene Lang, BA Global Studies '21

For this project, a series of interviews was conducted with Indigenous people across Turtle Island who use traditional, regenerative food systems to reclaim tribal food sovereignty and focused on Nations most vulnerable to food scarcity and climate change.



YOUR MATING CALL IS IMPORTANT TO US: A SONIC APOTHECARY FOR SYNANTHROPES

Maria Dominguez, Hannah Rose Fox, Anjali Nair, and Miriam Young
Parsons, MFA Transdisciplinary Design '21

This project created a library of soundscapes that reclaim auditory peace in the city. It is an audiovisual speculative fiction – a group of vigilantes, the Resounders, who believe urban landscapes can be healed through various sonic prescriptions.



A LUTA CONTINUA DIALOGUES: THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

Anya Isabel Andrews
Eugene Lang & New School For Social Research,
BA Sociology '21 & MA Liberal Studies '22

The project interviewed a total of 6 people from the African Diaspora for a 2 hour environmental justice episode of the web series “A Luta Continua Dialogues: The Struggle Continues” and the following episode with the Haki Compost Collective. The episode focused on shifting the mainstream narrative around organized action for climate change to one that both addresses systemic barriers to climate justice and centers BIPOC environmental knowledge, healing, innovation, and preservation practices.



FAITHFULLY SUSTAINABLE

Zainab Koli
Milano, MS Environmental Policy & Sustainability
Management '22

This project aims to create a non-profit community organization whose mission is to bridge Islam with environmental, climate, and social justice by equipping Muslim Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) with the educational and financial resources needed to develop their own sustainable communities.



MAPPING TOOL TO TRACK WASTE FLOWS TO INCINERATORS ON LONG ISLAND IN NEW YORK

Gabrielle Houston

Milano, MS Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management '21

This project created a mapping tool to help local communities of color fight municipal solid waste incinerators that disrupt their neighborhoods, pollute the air they breathe, and diminish their quality of life. This tool was developed in partnership with [GAIA](#).



SLOW MOVEMENT: A MUSICAL EXPLORATION OF TEMPO IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY

Bergamot Quartet: Ledah Finck, Sarah Thomas, Amy Tan, and Irene Han

Mannes, Graduate String Quartet in Residence '22

The project is a sonic and visual concert experience that interweaves contemporary and experimental music with multimedia social commentary. It reckons with the pace of “fast fashion” through the lens of the string quartet by tracing the path and challenges of making sustainable choices as clothing consumers and as a musical ensemble.



FOOD SOVEREIGNTY LAND PROJECTS

Kaija Xiao and Genesis Abreau

Milano, MS Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management '21

This project focused on queer land projects that support, uplift, and facilitate food sovereignty that center counter-hegemonic queer liberation, Indigenous land rematriation, and decolonization of the food system in the northeast occupied “New York State”.

ARNOLD & SHEILA ARONSON FELLOWSHIP & ARCHIVE



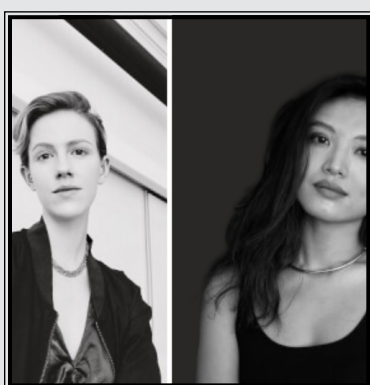
This academic year, the Tishman Center welcomed its first Aronson Fellow, Daniela Lam, an AAS Interior Design student. The Arnold and Sheila Aronson Fellowship supports student learning around sustainability and environmental justice and is made possible by founding gifts from the Aronson family, Ralph Lauren and the Ralph Lauren Foundation, Andrew Rosen, and a matching gift from a Parsons parent and Board member.

Daniela is currently working with the center on our campus programming in addition to producing her own research on tiny houses. Daniela is mentored by Assistant Director Mike Harrington. She moderated one of our Earth Week events, Curriculum of the Anthropocene. In coming years, the Center will host multiple Aronson Fellows who will have opportunities for experiential learning around sustainability and EJ, help advance the mission of the Center, and work with us to co-create an archival collection centered on climate solutions and environmental justice.

The Aronson Fellowship and Archive will serve as a lasting legacy for Arnold Aronson's enthusiasm for educating the next generation of sustainability leaders at The New School.

FACULTY GRANTS

The Tishman Environment and Design Center supports innovative, interdisciplinary research designed by New School faculty with a core focus on social justice, climate change, and urban systems. In 2020-2021, five faculty projects received grants totaling \$14,500:

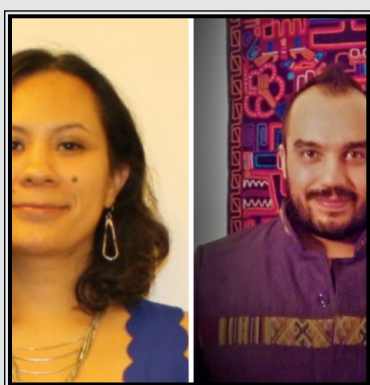


SUPPORTING MICROBIAL BIODIVERSITY THROUGH FERMENTATION

Shuyi Cao, Parsons, Lecturer

Remina Greenfield, Parsons, Lecturer

The project aims to create a prototype of metabolic machines as a solution for food waste, through microbial fermentation using non-alcoholic fermented honey and mead. This project has potential applications including biodiversity study, food study, urban microbial community research, antibiotic and preservative research, immune and gut health. Shuyi and Remina collaborated with biotech company Kingdom Supercultures, art, design, & tech incubator NEW INC, and meadmaker Raphel Lyon of Honey's in Brooklyn. The outcomes will be presented as research documentation, food product prototypes and culminate in an exhibition with a public experiential food event in Fall 2021.



DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY-CENTERED CURRICULUM ON LAND BASED EDUCATION FOR INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND THE DECOLONIZATION OF SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT

Leonardo Figueroa Helland, Milano, Assoc Professor

Abigail Perez Aguilera, Adult Bachelor's, Lecturer

The project aims to develop an outdoor classroom that highlights Indigenous knowledge regarding sustainable land management. Leonardo and Abigail collaborated with non-profit CycleX that owns 5 acres of land in Andes, NY and offered it for the project's use. Through this research, they plan to develop a database of resources that can be shared with BIPOC community members as well as create a network of northeast regional partner Indigenous, diasporic-Indigenous, and other BIPOC knowledge holders, organizations, and actors who will have a direct role in shaping, leading, and accessing this land-based knowledge.



DREAM GARDEN IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

Beau Rhee, Parsons, Lecturer

The project focused on creating an art garden on a 7,000 sq ft non-buildable Long Island lot. The intent is to question the human relationship to land during the Anthropocene. Two zones were developed that reflect important ecology: mycelium & fungi (mushroom) and pollinator (flowers). This project is a continuation of “Sustainable Systems”, a course Beau taught wherein she asked students to design a dream garden while considering social and environmental justice. The garden serves as a powerful hands-on teaching

a rarity for our urban campus. Beau plans to continue working with students on this garden.



MINDFULNESS IN SACRED ECOLOGIES

Latha Poonamallee, Milano, Associate Professor

Cotter Christian, Parsons, Assistant Professor

The intent of the project is to further develop the graduate course “Mindfulness in Sacred Ecologies” as an interactive Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality experience. Latha and Cotter partnered with the New School’s virtual reality XReality Center. The project outcomes are a scalable AR/VR model, videos about topics related to environmental psychology, and meditation videos. The AR/VR models would explore significant physical

locations/ecologies such as the Great Barrier Reef, Grand Canyon, Amazon, and Outer space through 3D immersive activities and practice. Latha intends to use these models to teach this course in Fall 2021.



SUPERFUNDING EDUCATION WITH NYC SUPERFUND SITES

Davida Smyth, Eugene Lang, Associate Professor

This project focuses on creating educational material regarding viral, microbial and microplastic contaminants in three polluted NYC water bodies: Newtown Creek, Greenwood Cemetery and the Gowanus Canal. Newtown Creek is an EPA designated Superfund Site. These superfund sites could superfund educational opportunities that connect social and environmental justice issues related to contaminated water to the ongoing

sustainability work in Smyth Laboratory. New School students will learn about socioeconomic issues like gentrification and food insecurity as well as have an opportunity to mentor high school students and community members on sustainability literacy.

EVENTS AND CAMPUS PROGRAMMING

The Tishman Center continued to host public engagement events throughout Academic Year 2020-2021 virtually. This allowed us to host events with speakers and viewers from across the country and around the world. We hosted and/or sponsored sixteen events attended by 2,246 attendees with approximately 85 speakers.

EARTH WEEK

COMMUNITIES BEYOND CRISIS SERIES

CLIMATE WEEK

RADICAL REIMAGININGS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

BLACK, QUEER, AND GREEN

SACRIFICE ZONES VIRTUAL SCREENING

RESILIENCE ROUNDTABLE: RE-IMAGINING THE CITY IN THE AGE OF CORONAVIRUS

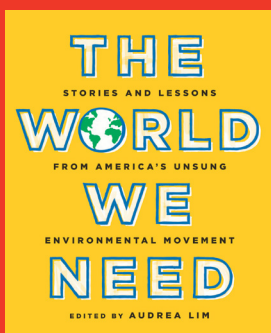
FOOD AND POWER SERIES

SUSTAINABLE TEXTILES: BUILDING BACK BETTER AND GREENER

EARTH WEEK

“WHEN THE DOORS OPEN FOR CHANGE, YOU HAVE TO JUST WALK THROUGH.”

-DR. JOHNSON



In 2021, the Tishman Center offered our Earth Week celebration virtually with the theme, “Transitions Toward Climate Justice” and featured a Keynote conversation between Dr. Mia White, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, and Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, co-editor of *All We Can Save*. We were pleased to center the voices of women who have been pushing for climate justice throughout their careers and were gracious enough to share their insights on the struggles they face, why they do the work they do and how others can contribute to climate justice work.

Earth Week began with a panel about the role of climate change in shaping university curriculum moderated by Aronson Fellow and Parsons student Daniela Lam and included Tishman Center Affiliated Faculty members Leonardo Figueroa Helland, Mindy Fullilove, Arta Yazdanseta and Tishman Center Director Joel Towers.

Our other events featured a preview book launch of *The World We Need* with Tishman Center Associate Director Dr. Ana Baptista and Environmental Justice Movement Fellowship Director Angela Mahecha along with Speakers Eric Enos of Ka’ala Farm and Arturo Massol Deya of Puebla de Adjuntas. The launch was moderated by journalist and New School Alum Andrea Lim. The final Earth Week event was the last part in our semester-long Communities Beyond Crisis speaker series with the Pratt Institute, titled *Nourishing Communities of Life: Indigenous Resurgence beyond Syndemic Violence & Earth Crisis*. This session was moderated by Tishman Center Affiliated Faculty Leonardo Figueroa Helland along with Angela Martinez of Amazon Watch and included:

- Kichwa People of Sarayaku, Kawsak Sacha/Living Forest (Ecuador)—represented by José Gualinga
- ASPROCIG, Association of Indigenous and Afrodescendant Fishermen and Peasants for the Community Development of the Bajo Sinú (Colombia)—represented by Juan José Lopez Negrete (Zenue and Afro-descendant) and Mileida Correa (Zenue)
- EDUCA, A.C., Services for an Alternative Education, and Communal Alternatives for the Defense of Territory (Mexico)—represented by Neftalí Reyes Mendez and Angélica Castro Rodríguez (Zapotec and Mixtec of Oaxaca)
- NEFOC, Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust (Turtle Island/USA)—represented by Stephanie Morningstar (Kanien’kehá:ka, Wakeniáhten)

We had an estimated 402 attendees for all Earth Week events, including those that watched the events through our [Youtube channel](#). This was a 175% increase in attendance from the previous year’s Earth Week programming, which was attended by 146 people.

COMMUNITIES BEYOND CRISIS SERIES



The Tishman Center partnered with EPSM Chair Leonardo Figueroa Helland, Professor Juan Camilo Osorio, from the Pratt Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment (GCPE), and the student-led Pratt Disaster Resilience Network (PDRN) on a speaker series dedicated to addressing disaster recovery and planning from the perspectives of communities most vulnerable. One learning from this series is that government agencies and service providers are too far removed from the worst effects so communities create and implement solutions themselves.

The four events were:

- [Participatory Action Research as a Transformative Pathway](#) with [Dayna Cunningham](#), Director of the MIT CoLab
- [Agroecology and Food Sovereignty](#) in Puerto Rico with [Organization Boricua](#)
- Grassroots Women Leaders' Contributions in Disaster Situations with [Josephine Castillo](#) the national coordinator of a network of over 200 organizations in the Philippines
- Nourishing Communities of Life: Indigenous Resurgence Beyond Syndemic Violence & Earth Crisis with José Gualinga representing the Kichwa People of Sarayaku, Kawsak Sacha/Living Forest (Ecuador), Juan José López Negrete (Zenu and Afro-descendant) and Mileida Correa (Zenu) representing ASPROCIG, Association of Indigenous and Afrodescendant Fishermen and Peasants for the Community Development of the Bajo Sinú (Colombia), Neftalí Reyes Mendez and Angélica Castro Rodríguez representing EDUCA, A.C., Services for an Alternative Education, and Communal Alternatives for the Defense of Territory (Mexico) and Stephanie Morningstar representing NEFOC, Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust

402 attendees joined the series. We hope to continue this partnership and develop more programming and academic collaboration in future sessions. All of the available sessions can be [viewed here](#).

Thursday 03/18
3:30-5:00PM EDT

CRISIS

Dayna Cunningham
Executive Director of the MIT CoLab

Participatory Action Research as a Transformative Pathway for Progressive Planning & Policy Making



04/01 Agroecology and Food Sovereignty Following Disaster
3:30-5PM EDT

04/08 The Movement for Black Lives Against Racist Disaster Recovery Practices
3:30-5PM EDT

RSVP required:
<https://event.newschool.edu/communitiesbeyondcrisis>

A partnership between Pratt Institute Professor Juan Camilo Osorio from the Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment (GCPE), the Pratt Disaster Resilience Network (PDRN), The New School Professor Leonardo Figueroa Helland, the Indigeneity and Decolonization Initiative of the Tishman Environment and Design Center (TEDC), and by the Environmental Policy and Sustainability

Thursday 04/01
3:30-5:00PM EDT

BEYOND CRISIS

Agroecology and Food Sovereignty Following Disaster

Magha García Medina, Ana Elisa Pérez Quintero, Eida Guadalupe Carraquillo



03/18 Participatory Action Research as a Transformative Pathway for Progressive Planning & Policy Making
3:30-5PM EDT

04/08 The Movement for Black Lives Against Racist Disaster Recovery Practices
3:30-5PM EDT

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Thursday 04/15
6:00-7:30PM EDT

BEYOND CRISIS

Josephine Castillo
Founding leader of Solidarity of Oppressed Filipino People Inc. (SOFP)

Grassroots Women Leaders' Contribution in Disaster Situations



03/18 Participatory Action Research as a Transformative Pathway for Progressive Planning & Policy Making
3:30-5PM EDT

04/01 Agroecology and Food Sovereignty Following Disaster
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A partnership between Pratt Institute Professor Juan Camilo Osorio from the Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment (GCPE), the Pratt Disaster Resilience Network (PDRN), The Tishman Environment and Design Center, The Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management program, and Professor Leonardo Figueroa Helland at The New School



SUSTAINABLE TEXTILES: BUILDING BACK BETTER AND GREENER - FINANCIAL TOOLS & ALTERNATIVE BUSINESS MODELS

March 2020

84 attendees

This event, developed in conjunction with the Consulate General of Denmark in New York, featured a discussion about the global textile industry moderated by Tishman Center Director Joel Towers and featuring Leila Surratt of Partnering for Green Growth (P4G), Tuyen Nguyen of International Finance Corporation, Simone Colombo of fashion retailer OVS and Shujaat Alavi of Danish Company Novozymes. Introductions were given by Danish Climate Ambassador Tomas Anker Christensen and Consul General of Denmark in New York Berit Basse.

RADICAL REIMAGINATIONS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Summer 2020

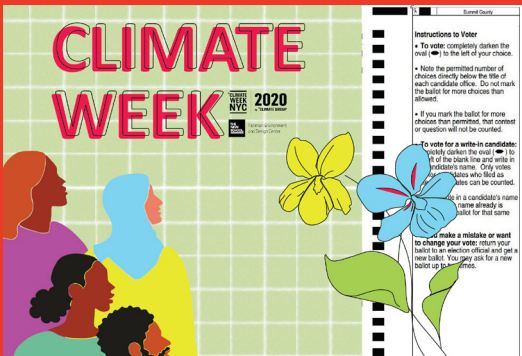
140 attendees



“Relationships are at the root of everything we do in the Environmental Justice Movement. To be in a space where we’re able to be vulnerable, learn, and share culture, strategies, joy, and failures with one another – that is what true partnership and movement building looks like.”

Monica Atkins, organizing director at the Climate Justice Alliance

In Summer 2020, the Tishman Center, in collaboration with Dr. Sujatha Jesudason Professor of Professional Practice in Management, hosted [Radical Reimaginings for Climate Justice](#). Over the course of [five virtual conversations](#), eleven leaders and scholars from the environmental and social justice movements and philanthropy, and over 140 attendees explored strategies for how to advance disruptive climate justice strategies. Topics included just transition, lessons from the Black Lives Matter movement, transnational scales of change, and how to build new resources to support risky, innovative strategies. Speakers emphasized the need for intersectional, people-centered strategies and the importance of being rooted in relationships and accountability. This series was part of the development of the [Environmental Justice Movement Fellowship](#).

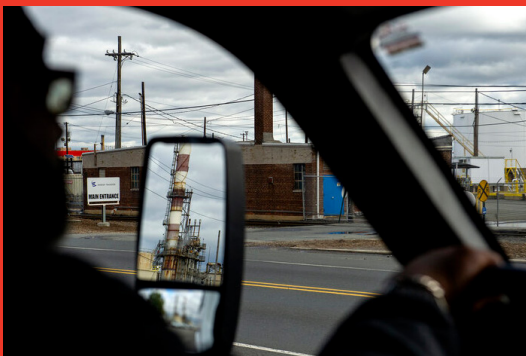


CLIMATE WEEK

Sept 22-24, 2020

520 attendees

The Tishman Center co-hosted three events during Climate Week in partnership with the Urban Systems Lab (USL), New York City Panel on Climate Change (NPCC), and Environmental Advocates of NY featuring discussions about campaigns for state climate amendments, environmental justice in municipal government, and the use of mapping tools in climate planning. Featured speakers included Peggy Shepard of WEACTION for Environmental Justice, Eddie Bautista from the New York Environmental Justice Alliance (NYEJA), and multiple members of the USL. These events brought together 520 attendees over three days.



SACRIFICE ZONES VIRTUAL SCREENING

September 2020

We co-hosted a virtual screening of the film, Sacrifice Zones with producer Talking Eyes Media which focuses on environmental justice issues in Newark, New Jersey.

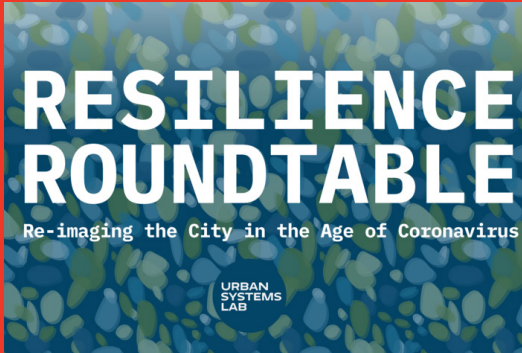


BLACK, QUEER, AND GREEN

October 2020

70 attendees

Developed by student group BIPOC Earth, this event featured a conversation between TNS Alum and Tishman Center Advisory Committee Member, Taylor Morton, along with panelists Vic Barret, a climate justice activist that is involved with many youth organizing groups, and scholar Zuri Arman. The event was moderated by Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management graduate Gabrielle Houston (Spring '21). The event highlighted the intersectionality between race, gender, and sexuality within the climate movement.

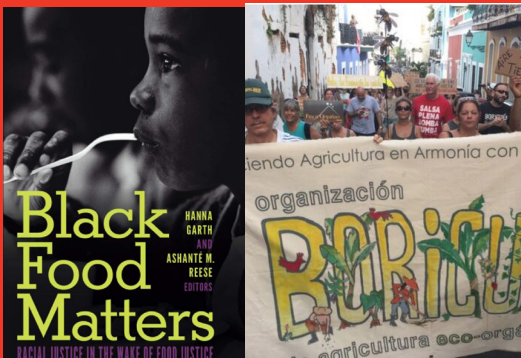


RESILIENCE ROUNDTABLE: RE-IMAGINING THE CITY IN THE AGE OF CORONAVIRUS

December 2020

133 attendees

Co-hosted with the Urban Systems Lab and featured Tishman Center Assistant Director Mike Harrington, a virtual roundtable discussing the US response to COVID-19 and inequities that were exacerbated by it. Other panelists include USL Director Timon McPhearson New School lecturers Anastassia Fisyak and Alan McGowan and Design Researcher and Architect Jimmy Pan.



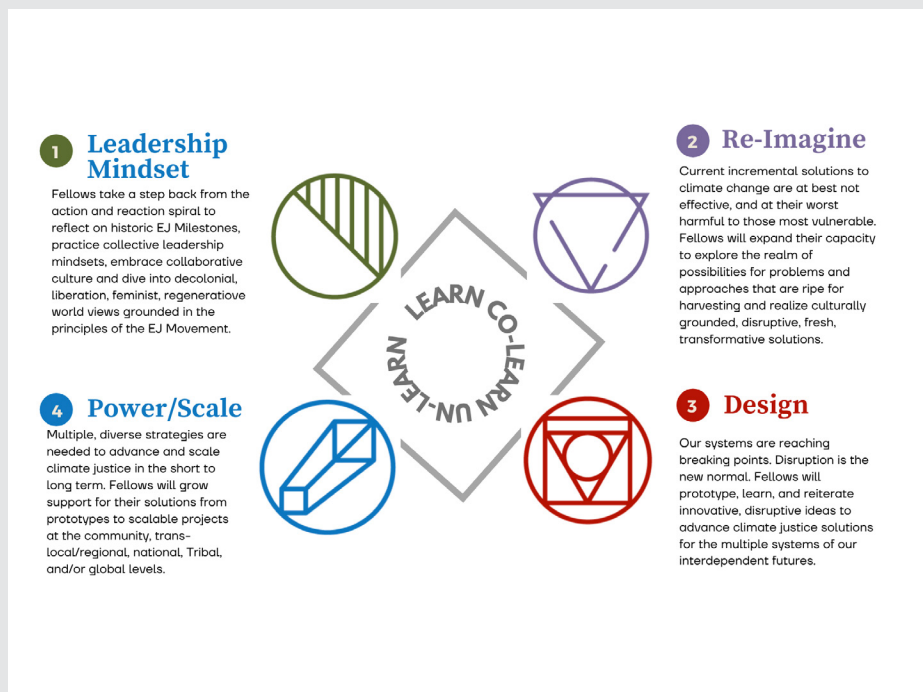
FOOD AND POWER SERIES

February 2021-April 2021

430+ attendees

Affiliated Faculty Member Kristin Reynolds organized and co-hosted a series of events centered on conversations about race, food, justice, and the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS). The series generated deep discussions around the intersection between food policy and justice.

RIPE FOR CREATIVE DISRUPTION: AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIP



This past year, the Tishman Center, in collaboration with the Dr. Sujatha Jesudason Professor of Professional Practice in Management, made significant progress towards the launch of [Ripe for Creative Disruption: An Environmental Justice Movement Fellowship \(EJMF\)](#). The EJMF will support and grow the capacity of movement leaders to design innovative and disruptive strategies that advance a transformative climate justice agenda on a local, Tribal, national and global scale.

EJ FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Applications opened this summer inviting groups of 2-4 EJ leaders to apply to participate in the pilot two-year fellowship. We received 50 applications.

[EJ is Non-Negotiable vlog](#), featuring BIPOC, women EJ leaders from around the country, received 1000 views.

Twenty EJ leaders joined the EJMF team in a generative space centered on the core question of: How can the EJMF Fellowship contribute to a learning community to amplify and build power for the long term, together, in ways we could not do alone?

In 2020, we welcomed Marouh Hussein, as Program Manager and in 2021, we welcomed [Angela Mahecha](#), previously the executive director of the Climate Justice Alliance, as the new Program Director, and Patricia Cortado as the Program and Communications Associate.

EJ IS NON-NEGOTIABLE

“Indigenous people have the solutions and the traditional ecological knowledge to address climate justice. There needs to be a paradigm shift from the white patriarchal dominion that has been misusing and mismanaging our water and our cultural resources for far too long. We must shift to an Indigenous worldview in order for us to create solutions and mitigate climate change.”

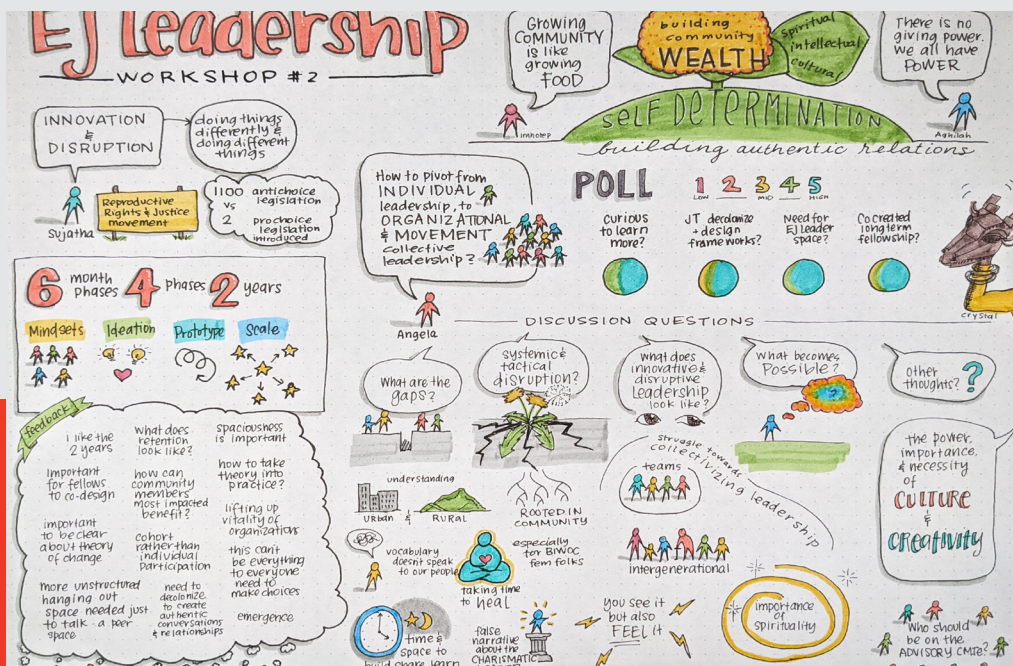
- Julia Bernal, Alliance Director, Pueblo Action Alliance, featured in the “EJ is Non-negotiable” vlog



In early 2021, the EJMF team released a video blog and social media campaign centered around the theme, “[EJ is Non-negotiable](#).” The vlog, which has received over 1000 views, features BIPOC, women EJ leaders from around the country, and Turtle Island describing how they are advancing a just transition and disrupting the status quo.

FELLOWSHIP DESIGN WORKSHOPS:

In Spring 2021, twenty EJ leaders joined the EJMF team in a generative space centered on the core question of: How can the EJMF Fellowship contribute to a learning community to amplify and build power for the long term, together, in ways we could not do alone? Leaders resonated with the process of applying idea generation, prototyping, and scaling to transformative solutions already being designed by EJ leaders and being in co-learning spaces where they can incorporate lessons learned from cumulative advances and failures.



EXPANDING OUR TEAM AND PARTNERSHIPS:

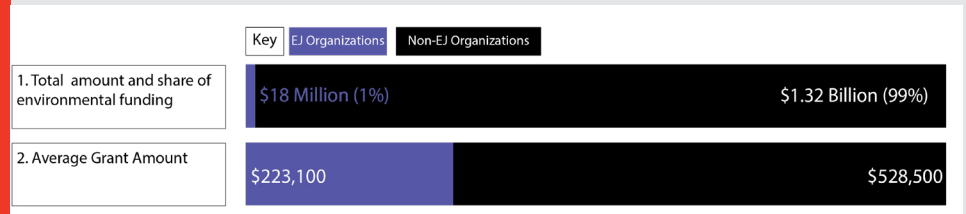
The EJMF staff and partnerships grew this past year. In January 2020, we welcomed Marouh Hussein as Program Manager and in 2021, we welcomed Angela Mahecha, previously the executive director of the Climate Justice Alliance, as the new Program Director, and Patricia Cortado as the Program and Communications Associate. Fellowship co-founders, Dr. Ana Baptista and Dr. Sujatha Jesudason, continue to provide thought leadership to the fellowship's development. The Fellowship also welcomed its inaugural advisory committee made up of seven EJ leaders who will provide guidance to the fellowship's development.

RESEARCH AND EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS HIGHLIGHTS

Co-produced and published **five collaborative research** projects focused on issues such as waste, equity in philanthropy, policies for environmental justice communities and equitable climate policies.

Worked closely with **eight partner organizations** at local, regional and federal levels.

Six student research assistants worked with the Tishman Center and our EJ partners gaining real world experience in the EJ and environmental movements.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & PHILANTHROPY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALIGNMENT

In 2020, [Building Equity and Alignment for Environmental Justice \(BEA-I\)](#) collaborated with the Tishman Center to conduct an assessment of the misalignment between the environmental justice (EJ) and philanthropic sectors in the Gulf South and Midwest regions of the US.

The study, released April 2020, confirmed that environmental grantmakers are largely granting to mainstream environmental organizations (99%) with just a tiny fraction going to EJ organizations (1%). The study also found significant areas of [opportunities](#) to address these funding disparities. Findings from the report were used to support the [Climate Justice Funders Pledge](#) call to action to increase funding to EJ organizations, with more than a dozen major philanthropies pledging increased funding to the grassroots. The BEA-I members also successfully used the report’s findings to secure funding for the newly formed Chicago Environmental Justice Network.

PARTNERS:

- [Building Equity & Alignment for Environmental Justice](#)
- [Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy](#)
- [Little Village Environmental Justice Org](#)

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EQUITABLE & JUST NATIONAL CLIMATE PLATFORM: JUSTICE40 RECOMMENDATIONS

“We are excited to see the Biden administration’s commitment to environmental justice. These recommendations will help turn words into investments in the communities that need them most. Environmental justice communities across the nation are bearing the brunt of health-harming pollution, the deadly COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate crisis. It’s time that the federal government took ambitious action to correct this legacy of injustice.”

- Dr. Ana Baptista

The Equitable & Just National Climate Platform was developed beginning in 2018 by a group of Environmental Justice and national group advocates and aims to build trust and collaboration between the EJ movement and national green organizations, develop national climate policy that groups can jointly support, and identify pathways for inclusive national policy development. The Tishman Center is happy to be an inaugural signatory of the Platform and Dr. Ana Baptista is a Platform co-author.

In 2021, the Platform, the Tishman Center, and the Center for American Progress, along with EJ advocates and national environmental organizations released our [recommendations](#) for how the Biden-Harris Administration can effectively implement their commitment of delivering 40 percent of climate investments to disadvantaged communities. Recommendations were developed in collaboration with EJ leaders and advocates from around the country during two virtual convening sessions.

“The Justice40 Initiative has the potential to deliver positive benefits to environmental justice communities. However, we must all work very hard to ensure that these benefits are tangible and that they go to the communities that need them the most.”



DR. NICKY SHEATS ON JUSTICE 40

PARTNERS:

[Equitable and Just National Climate Platform](#)
[Center for American Progress](#)

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DEFINING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES FOR POLICY

The Tishman Center gathered and reviewed state and federal definitions of environmental justice communities for EJ advocates, academics, and policymakers to use in the development of legal and policy definitions of EJ communities. As the associated problems of environmental racism and cumulative impacts are increasingly taken up by policymakers, there is a growing need to codify these terms. A [definitions chart](#) and [interactive map](#) were released on our website and the team is submitting a journal article for publication on the findings. This research helped inform the implementation of the landmark [New Jersey Environmental Justice Law \(S232\)](#), specifically the law's definition of an overburdened community defined according to a set of socio-demographic indicators and to work undertaken by the Policy Workgroup of the Equitable and Just National Climate Platform.

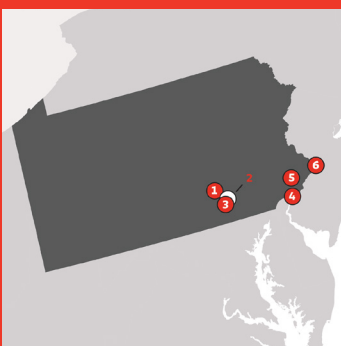
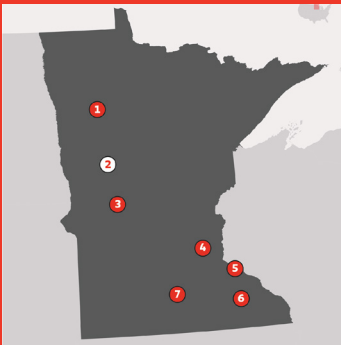
As part of our effort to continue impacting policy development, we partnered with the Vermont Law School's Environmental Justice Clinic and others to develop and launch a website catalog of all EJ laws and policies. The site is intended for use by EJ advocates, researchers, academics, and policymakers. The site is expected to be launched in 2022.

PARTNERS:

[EJ Clinic](#) at Vermont Law School
 Environmental Law Clinic at University of TX, Austin
 Lone Star Legal Aid
 American University
 University of California, Hastings College of Law
 Conservation Law Foundation
[Dr. Nicky Sheats](#)

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MSW INCINERATORS: FACT SHEETS FOR FIVE STATES

The Tishman Center compiled state-specific reports for the five states with the highest number of municipal solid waste incinerators -- [Florida](#), [New York](#), [Minnesota](#), [Massachusetts](#), and [Pennsylvania](#) -- that highlight the human and ecological impacts of waste incineration.

Across these five states, over 2.3 million residents live within three miles of these incinerators, resulting in constant exposure to significant toxic pollutants. Waste incineration is linked to both health-harming air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and is a significant environmental justice issue. The research on waste incinerators has been cited extensively in local and national media outlets and used by advocates to advance their local zero waste and anti-incineration campaigns in places such as Baltimore, Los Angeles, Newark and Detroit.

PARTNERS:

[GAIA](#)

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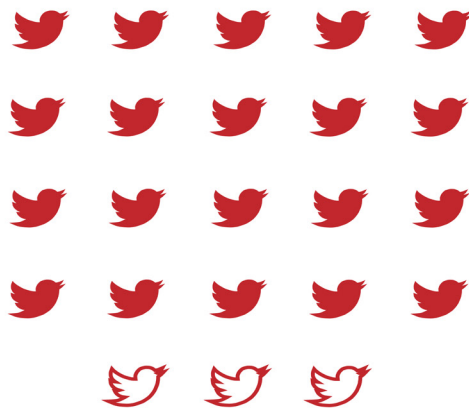
NEW YORK CITY PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Two members of the Tishman Center will be part of the New York City Panel on Climate Change 2023 Report: Professor Joel Towers and Dr. Ana Baptista. Joel is serving as one of the NPCC co-chairs and Ana is co-chairing the equity working group.

UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS:

- Defining Environmental Justice Communities in Environmental Justice Policies (to be submitted to journal)
- Landscape Assessment of the US Environmental Justice Movement: Transformative Strategies for Climate Justice (submitted to peer-reviewed journal June 2021)
- Mandatory Emissions Reductions and Climate Mitigation in the Power Sector: Multi-State Case Study Environmental Justice Analysis (to be released Fall 2021)


SOCIAL MEDIA STATS



 100 followers
 100 NEW followers

Twitter

2297 followers
in 2021

 **14%**
in the past year (+293)

YouTube



SOCIAL MEDIA STATS

Mentions in the media
about the Tishman Center

39
2019-2020

45
2020-2021

↑ **15%**
in the past year (+6)



Angela Mahecha's
TED Talk

1.088MM

Views on YouTube



Instagram

100

100

100

100

100



tishmancenter

Tishman Center has 500 new
followers in 2020 to 2021



THANK YOU

The Tishman Center is proud to be supported by and work in partnership with a strong group of funders, university leaders, Environmental Justice leaders, activists, and organizations, faculty and students from across campus, and other allies in the movement for climate action and justice.

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