THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP!

#EJDISRUPTDESIGN

PHASE 3 MANIFEST RETREAT 6: GRATITUDE REPORT

JANUARY 18-21, 2023
ON THE UNCEDED TERRITORY OF THE TONGVA PEOPLES- LONG BEACH, CA
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Crystal Clarity
EJ Fellowship sticker

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Community Health and Wealth, Everyone!

In solidarity, we collectively acknowledge that what is now called Long Beach, is the original unceded territory of the Tongva peoples who are actively fighting for land back, liberation, and healing of all people.

On behalf of Ripe for Creative Disruption: An Environmental Justice Movement Fellowship (EJMF), thank you for your leadership, solidarity, and creative energy during Phase 3 Manifest, Retreat 6 on the unceded territory of the Tongva peoples- Long Beach, CA, January 18-21, 2023.

The EJMF Community left with a renewed vision of what is possible when climate solutions are generated, rooted in, and led by the community. Thank you for grounding us and inspiring EJ Leaders to manifest and design decolonized and interdependent futures.

Phase 3’s theme of fire symbolizes a significant catalyst to encourage the EJ Leaders to release fear and let new possibilities manifest. We understand that fire releases what is no longer working and builds new life. Just like Jessa Calderon said, “It takes courage to keep it all balanced. When the water is unbalanced, the land is unbalanced.”

It is important to nurture our relationship with the land and the people caring for it, and to empower leaders on the ground who are championing wins in their communities.

And just like the way fire gives new life, it takes community, care and the utmost attention to keep new manifestations alive. Studies demonstrate that leaders learn best when feedback comes from trusted and respected peers. We formed that community of peers together.

Five Technical Coaches from the EJ, philanthropic, Indigenous, and Black Power movements across Turtle Island offered their leadership and expertise in this phase of the EJ Fellowship. Many of which are staying on to coach into the future #EJDisruptDesign.

With that, we want to say thank you for continuing to inspire and design the Environmental justice futures we all need.

In unity,
Angela Mahecha, Program Director,
Ripe for Creative Disruption: An Environmental Justice Movement Fellowship
Gratitude to Laura Som, Community Host from The MAYE Center for welcoming us at The Growing Experience, a community farm that cultivates the community’s relationship to land and food.

Special shoutout to Taylor Thomas, EJ Fellow and Community Host from East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice for helping bridge connections with the local community in Long Beach, CA.

Thank you to Jessa Calderon and Angela Mooney D’Arcy, Community Hosts from Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples for grounding us and sharing the efforts they are leading to defend the land and its people.

Gratitude to Laura Som, Community Host from The MAYE Center for welcoming us at The Growing Experience, a community farm that cultivates the community’s relationship to land and food.

"Sometimes you have to understand that the community right now may not be ready for what you’re building. But you’re building it for the ANCESTORS and for FUTURE GENERATIONS." - Tongva elder

Angela Mooney D’Arcy, Community Host, Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples shares a quote on building for future generations.

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TOXIC TOUR IN LONG BEACH, CA

How might we change toxic zones into thriving neighborhoods filled with life and opportunities?

Background Photo Credits to Rep. Sheila Babauta, EJ Fellow, and Precinct 4, CNMI House of Representatives; Our Common Wealth 670

Live industrial activity near popular franchises in one of the EJ Communities in Long Beach, CA.

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TOXIC TOUR BY TAYLOR THOMAS

From refineries steps away from homes to the industrial railroad across a playground and new development threatening to displace current residents, Taylor Thomas, EJ Fellow and Community Host, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, led a toxic tour to showcase how their vigilant community disrupts polluting industries and leads activities to better the community’s health and quality of life.

THE URBAN FOREST

EJ Fellows Moñeeka De Oro, Micronesia Climate Change Alliance; Dwaign Tyndal, Alternatives for Community and Environment and Valerie Amor, Emerald Cities Collaborative indulge in The Urban Forest, stationed alongside affordable housing units, during the Toxic Tour in Long Beach, CA. Fellows connected with the herbs, flowers, and fruit harvests in the area, surrounded by the smell of calamansi.

EJ Fellows Melissa Miles, NJ Environmental Justice Alliance and Alice Sung, Emerald Cities Collaborative during the Toxic Tour in Long Beach, CA.
The MAYE Center, a stop on the Toxic Tour, is located across the street from affordable housing units near overburdening toxic facilities. It provides green space and healing services. Currently, the center is fighting against demolition threats.

Here’s How You Can Help:
Send in letters of support to protect The Growing Experience as a community farm and ecology center to Laura Som: laura@themayecenter.org

Dr. Qasimah Boston, EJ Fellow, Tallahassee Food Network, found a sense of commonality with the agricultural practice at the MAYE Center, where urban farming connects people with Mother Earth and culture.
"EVERYWHERE IS A MULTICULTURAL CITY BUT FINDING OUT WHAT ARE THE FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE PEOPLE GETTING THERE IS VERY IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND."

-TAYLOR THOMAS, EJ FELLOW, EAST YARD COMMUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.
Much love to the East Yards and Liberty Hill Community for connecting with the EJMF Community during our stay in Long Beach, CA. May we continue to nurture relationships and re-ignite energy to disrupt and manifest big wins with our peoples.

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PHASE 3 RETREAT 6
PURPOSE & PROGRESS

WHAT'S OUR POP? (PURPOSE, OUTCOME, PROCESS)

Purpose:
- Co-learn and experiment with methods to make design ideas tangible

By the end of the retreat, Fellows will have:
- Developed new skills in bias to action and failing fast
- Created new iterations of their ideas based on rapid prototypes and peer feedback
- Drafted a Blueprint for prototyping with their communities

Process:
- Core Group assessment of Collective Leadership + Purpose
- Somatic Spiritual Land, Water Practice
- Practice with prototyping tools

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TECHNICAL COACHES ROLL CALL

Bineshi Albert, EJ Fellowship Advisory Board Member, Climate Justice Alliance

Helen Chin, Technical Coach, Communities First Fund

Jihan Gearon, EJ Fellowship Advisory Board Member and Indigenous Feminist, Painter, Writer, Organizer, Leader

Marion Gee, Technical Coach, Climate Justice Alliance

Jacqui Patterson, EJ Fellowship Advisory Board Member, The Chisholm Legacy Project

Special shoutout to Christian San Nicolas, Peer Influencer, Micronesia Climate Change Alliance and Justyn Diaz, Communities First Fund for providing additional support during the retreat.

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TECHNICAL COACHES IN ACTION

Technical Coaches Marion Gee, Climate Justice Alliance; Jacqui Patterson, The Chisholm Legacy Project; Helen Chin, Communities First Fund and Dr. Ana Baptista, Tishman Environment and Design Center work with Fellows to map prototyping assumptions across a journey map to the future.

EJ Fellows from Left to Right
Teron McGrew, Alice Sung, and Valerie Amor, EJ Fellows, Emerald Cities Collaborative

EJ FELLOWSHIP ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

From Left to Right
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FEEDBACK LOOPS

EJ Fellows and Technical Coaches from Left to Right during a Prototype Storyboard Presentation


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Manifest Canvas Template - EJ Fellows used to design their prototypes adapted by Teri Brezner, EJMF Team, from Rapid Prototyping Tool developed by Sarah Fathallah

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CORE GROUPS

SHOUTOUT

EJ FELLOWS AT PHASE 3 MANIFEST RETREAT 6

Background Photo of EJ Fellows at Weaver Meeting around the fire

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LEMMAI LOVES
Cami Egurrola and Moñeka De Oro, Micronesia Climate Change Alliance; Rep. Sheila Babauta, Our Common Wealth 670; Jasmine Flores-Cantrell, Micronesia Climate Change Alliance

LAS JOTAS
Julio Morales, Y No Había Luz; Jésus Vázquez, Organización Boricua; Juan Rosario, AMANECER 2025
SANKOFA SOULS

Dr. Qasimah Boston, Tallahassee Food Network; Rachel Jefferson, Groundwork Northeast Revitalization Group; Melissa Miles, NJ Environmental Justice Alliance; Taylor Thomas, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

BRIDGERS

Valerie Amor, Alice Sung and Teron McGrew, Emerald Cities Collaborative

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TEAM WON AND CLIMATE AUNTIES JOIN TOGETHER AS ONE GROUP

Kailea Frederick, NDN Collective; Maria Lopez-Nuñez, Ironbound Community Corporation; Dwaing Tyndal, Alternatives for Community and Environment; Jade Begay, NDN Collective; Rahwa Ghirmatzion, PUSH Buffalo rock their manifest shirts following their announcement to combine core groups.

Not pictured: Miya Yoshitani, Asian Pacific Environmental Network.

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SHAREABLE MATERIALS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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Click each tile to view and repost.
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THANK YOU!

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