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NEVER BEFORE has the work of the Tishman Center been more urgently needed. With record global temperatures, continued struggles for environmental justice, and growing political uncertainty, our mission and community-centered approach are uniquely suited to meet this consequential moment. The Tishman Center’s accomplishments in 2023 underline the impact of our organization and highlight our dedication to equitable and justice-centered principles.
WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

The Tishman Center is a collaborative community of practice that leverages research, policy, and design in accordance with the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing. We bring together research and action to tackle the root causes of climate and environmental injustice and commit to change in higher education practices within and beyond The New School.

Our approach — organized under three program areas: the EJ Movement Fellowship; action-based research and advocacy; and university sustainability & engagement — is guided by a critical, collaborative, and action-based perspective that connects with the leadership of EJ partners and practitioners on the ground and the leading edge of innovation. We are committed to advancing regenerative, transformative climate and environmental solutions.

This approach disrupts the extractive, transactional model that has informed so much of the history of academic-community partnerships. Together with our partners, we are building a better model of university-community partnerships, one that we believe is replicable and scalable across higher education and the intermediary sector.

We envision a future of environmental justice — a world that is free from racism, in balance with nature, with care and respect for all beings.
MOMENTUM IN 2023

In 2023, our growing team focused on our deep ecosystem of relationships across four critical sectors — academia, environmental and climate justice, philanthropy, and government. We deepened connections, moved resources to the movement, impacted policy, and advanced climate solutions. Since the Biden–Harris Administration, the Tishman Center has contributed research and community support for Justice40, the Inflation Reduction Act, the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

In January 2024, the Tishman Center’s commitment to convening culminated in the Centering Justice Symposium, where we hosted 120 participants representing EJ organizations, academic institutions, philanthropic organizations, and key federal governmental agencies—bringing together a cross-section of representatives whose work intersects with environment justice. The two-and-a-half-day event foregrounded EJ community voices to codify the role that EJ and climate justice-focused university centers should play in advancing environmental justice — particularly in this historic moment of federal EJ and climate-focused investments. As part of the symposium, we created an online Resource Kit & Materials for Equitable Partnerships and we have committed to grow and share these vital resources. Symposium participants called for continued collaboration and convening, and the Tishman Environment and Design Center has stepped forward to ensure these powerful initiatives and convenings continue.

The Tishman Center was invited to join UNITE–EJ, a coalition of partners led by the Climate Justice Alliance, which was awarded $50 million by EPA to serve as a National Grantmaker for Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program. The Tishman Center is excited to join the coalition and will provide program evaluation, tracking, and reporting to support the Western US (EPA Regions 8–10). This grant and others were proposed during the BluePrint Section of the Frontlines Communities First Federal Funding Design Lab, co–hosted by our EJ Fellowship in January 2023 in Washington, D.C.
2023 IN NUMBERS

✓ **$3 BILLION**
Earmarked for EJ communities from Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grants

✓ **$100 MILLION**
In Federal funding leveraged by EJ/CJ organizations through the EPA Thriving Communities Program

✓ **$4 MILLION**
In philanthropic funds activated

✓ **$124,000**
In grants to support student and faculty research

✓ **1200**
Students and community members engaged via events

✓ **8**
Action-based research reports, recommendations, and comments on power sector pollution, cumulative impacts, “carbon management,” and Federal funding for environmental justice

✓ **7**
Climate solutions developed and scaled through our EJ Fellowship
**EJ DISRUPT DESIGN FELLOWSHIP**

The Tishman Center’s [Environmental Justice Movement Fellowship (EJMF)](https://www.tishmancenter.org/ej-design-fellowship) pilot cohort of 20 fellows, representing 18 frontline organizations, completed their fellowship in October 2023. The EJ Fellowship’s multi-organizational core group design and relationship-based model amplified the program’s reach — resulting in the introduction of design tools and leadership mindsets to over 350 participating organizations, as part of a growing EJ Design Network. By investing in innovation, we’ve established new infrastructure that strengthens the EJ movement’s ability to coordinate, respond, and design. The EJ Fellowship’s impact includes $100 million in federal funding leveraged by EJ Fellowship partners, seven community-powered climate solutions scaled, and $4 million in philanthropic funding activated.

**Creation of an Agile, Responsive, 350+ Participant EJ Design Network:**

The EJ Fellowship has become an organizing space for leaders to respond and pivot to emerging social and political contexts, whether it is disaster recovery, federal funding, or global climate negotiations. Fellows participated in the New School’s Climate Week NYC series, developed in collaboration with our campus engagement and research teams, two years in a row. Fellows’ involvement explicitly centers frontline voices at this strategic climate convening where EJ voices have been on the margins for past 15 years. In 2023, EJ fellow Maria Lopez-Nuñez, from [Ironbound Community Corporation](https://www.ironboundcc.org/), was a featured speaker on the Tishman Center’s keynote panel, “[Ensuring Federal Funding Goes to Environmental Justice Communities](https://www.tishmancenter.org/ej-design-fellowship),” and EJ fellow Melissa Miles, from [New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance](https://njeja.org/), led a webinar on “[Mandatory Emissions Reductions: Centering Environmental Justice in Climate Policy](https://www.tishmancenter.org/ej-design-fellowship).” Fellowship design tools and leadership mindsets have been introduced to over 350 participating organizations through events like these and more as part of a growing EJ Disrupt Design Network. This growing network of philanthropic and other social movement organizations enables the EJ movement to mobilize resources and activate collaborations quickly and effectively to respond to emerging opportunities while building lasting relationships for continued movement power.
7 Scalable Community-Powered Solutions:

The EJ Fellowship’s inaugural cohort prototyped over 25 climate solutions rooted in 300+ ideas that emerged through an iterative design process with their communities. The solutions reflect a model of social innovation that reimagines, disrupts, and activates power to scale up, out, and deep within systems, institutions, and relationships.

SCALING UP:

**The EJ Agency:** Pushing forward policies at the intersections of Just Transition, housing, environment, and communities. This frontline-led think tank is currently advising 12 to 18 cities, in partnership with national organizations, on how to integrate community groups into a winning strategy for equitable governance at the municipal level. Three of the fellows in this project also served on the [White House EJ Advisory Council](#), which provided them influence at local, national, and tribal levels.

**Building Regional Power:** Using power mapping to leap from neighborhood transportation equity planning to multi-sector leadership, ACE — a legacy EJ, housing, and racial equity organization in Roxbury, Massachusetts — received $50m to partner on grantmaking in EPA Region 1 under the Thriving Communities program.

SCALING OUT:

**Making Waves 2 Summit and Multi-Island Amut Ceremonies:** Convening 105 local to global leaders in a traditional CHamoru ceremony to co-develop a [People’s Declaration for Peace and Unity](#) in the Pacific, which was presented at UN COP 28. [Micronesia Climate Change Alliance](#) raised $150,000 from the EJ Fellowship’s allied funder network to hold the event. They also held Amut (medicine) Walks across four of the Mariana Islands to promote Traditional Ecological Knowledge and intergenerational unity that disrupts colonial borders at a time when China and the United States are polarizing the region and military operations continue to cause pollution, displacement, and fear.

**Simulation Collaborative Prototype:** Using joy and culture, three distinct organizations from Puerto Rico are uplifting narratives of self-sufficiency and climate resilience in a reality shaped by exploitation, colonization, failing government, and multiple climate disasters. [AMANESER 2025](#), [Organización Boricúa](#), and [Y No Había Luz](#) hold one–day simulations that mix art, puppetry, song, energy, and food sovereignty into popular festivals and gatherings to energize the imagination of a collective base of youth, elders, rural/urban communities, and workers to position people for a new way of governance.

SCALING DEEP:

**Creative Scholarship:** In light of the recent Maui wildfires, using a power analysis lens to publish a book on community-led just recovery efforts that prepares communities to activate their own power and networks to prepare for and recover from natural disasters.

**Soft Landings Coaching:** Providing early–career peer coaching to Black leaders and directors to learn skills and mindsets that address burnout early and build stronger relationships, leaders, and organizations, assuring that we build support systems for Black leaders, especially Black women, to succeed in leadership positions.

**Teranga:** Leading climate justice trips to Senegal with EJ organizations to uncover the sources of Black burnout, with staff and leaders alike, and build stronger connections across the African diaspora. The trips introduce Black leaders to ancestral ways of coping and gratitude.
$100 Million Leveraged by EJ Fellowship Network Partners in EPA Regional Thriving Communities Grants:

The pilot cohort coincided with a historic moment of federal funding available under the Biden Administration. The EJ Fellowship’s already established network presented an opportunity to mobilize EJ organizations quickly to direct the use and distribution of these funds to ensure they reach frontline communities. The Fellowship was instrumental in co-convening a Federal Funding Strategy Lab in March 2023, which resulted in five organizations associated with the fellowship applying for multiple $50 million regional pass-through grants from the Environmental Protection Agency. Of those lab participants, the Climate Justice Alliance (CJA) was awarded $50 million to establish the UNITE-EJ coalition and serve as a national grantmaker supporting EPA Regions 8–10. The coalition includes the Tishman Center and two Fellowship organizations, The Chisholm Legacy Project and NDN Collective. Another lab participant, Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE-EJ), led by EJ Fellow Dwaign Tyndal, and its regional partners were awarded $50 million as regional grantmakers for Region 1. The EJ Fellowship’s emergent and agile partnership with Communities First Fund provided the needed infrastructure for EJ organizations to scale quickly to apply for federal funding opportunities.

$4 Million in EJ Funding Activated with Philanthropy:

Building on the Tishman Center’s established philanthropic relationships and reputation as a trusted movement support organization, the Fellowship dedicated time throughout the pilot to bridge grassroots organizations and philanthropy and to position EJ leaders as strategists, designers, and decision-makers, not solely implementers, regarding climate solutions. Our multi-pronged resource mobilization strategy resulted in over $4 million given to EJ leaders, organizations, and communities directly or through the EJ Fellowship network. As a result of a partnership with Communities First Fund (CFF), 11 fellows received a total of $1.5 million in direct funding from CFF and leveraged these funds to raise another $1.5 million. Additionally, the EJ Fellowship directly moved over $1 million to frontline EJ communities via our three levels of resourcing and intentional partnerships with frontline businesses, creatives, healers, and more. Additionally, our community-partnership retreat model enabled us to resource frontline communities directly. During the 2021–2023 cohort, the Fellowship was hosted by 36 community organizations, 20 key contributors and artists, and 30 ceremony keepers and cultural workers who held virtual and community-based retreats in Miami, Long Beach, Puerto Rico, and the Mariana Islands.
The pilot cohort has provided strong proof of concept for an EJ–centered design fellowship and network. Movement leaders remain eager for collective leadership and innovation opportunities. In particular, design and respected communities of practice are crucial to senior-level leaders who are often navigating complex systemic problems on multiple levels and seeking a space to strategize among peers and technical advisers.

The EJ Fellowship’s application for the 2024–2026 cohort received 65 applications representing 231 leaders from 27 U.S. States and 2 U.S. Territories. The 2024–2026 cohort will launch in June 2024 with an expanded EJ Design Network model and active alumni community.

2021–2023 Fellows from left to right: Dr. P Qasimah Boston, Miya Yoshitani, Valerie Amor, Alice Sung, Cami D. Egurola, Dwaign Tyndal, Jade Begay, Jasmine Flores–Cantrell, Jesús Vázquez, Juan Rosario, Julio Morales, Kailea Loften, María López–Nuñez, Melissa Miles, Moñeka de Oro, Rachel Jefferson, Rahwa Ghirmatzion, Sheila Babauta, Taylor Thomas, Teron McGrew

Illustrations by Loisse Ledres, a visual artist and community organizer in movement spaces
Graphic Notes by Crystal Clarity, an Artist, Illustrator, Printmaker, Art Director, Dream Weaver, and Visual Strategist for movement moments. Learn more about Crystal’s work [here](#).
Our approach to research and advocacy is guided by a critical, collaborative, and action-based perspective that connects with the leadership of EJ partners and practitioners on the ground and at the leading edge of innovation. Our research and advocacy arm is designed to work towards policies and actions that can deliver justice to Communities of Color, low-income communities, and communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Highlights for 2023 include:

**Mandatory Emissions Reductions for Climate Mitigation in the Power Sector:**

In September 2023, we released the *Mandatory Emissions Reductions for Climate Mitigation in the Power Sector* report with our partners and hosted a webinar to disseminate the key findings. This whitepaper lays out a framework for mandatory emissions reduction policies in the power sector co-located in EJ communities. The study explores the policy in three state case studies: New Jersey, Minnesota, and Delaware.

**Comments on EPA’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions Rule:**

We submitted joint comments on the EPA’s proposed rule to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector. The Tishman Center helped lead and co-author comments on the EPA’s proposed New Source Performance Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From New, Modified, and Reconstructed Fossil Fuel–Fired Electric Generating Units Rule. The unique contribution of these comments lies in their focus on analyzing the environmental justice implications of the proposal. Subsequent briefings with EPA officials suggested that these comments formed the basis of critical adjustments to the rule as a direct response to the comment letter. These comments were developed with the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, the Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy, and Dr. Nicky Sheats of the John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy and Research at Kean University. Eighteen EJ organizations and nine allied organizations co-signed and submitted the comments on August 8, 2023 and presented at a joint press conference with other national environmental justice leaders.
Equitable and Just National Climate Forum:

As part of the Equitable and Just National Climate Forum (EJNCF), which includes environmental justice and national environmental group advocates, the Tishman Center has provided thought leadership on climate change advocacy and policy at the federal level. With the EJNCP, we regularly engage with White House officials on the ongoing implementation of Justice 40 and EJ-related Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) investments. Our involvement this year included providing feedback to the White House Council on Environmental Quality on its Environmental Justice Scorecard in November 2022 and meeting with White House staff in May 2023 to discuss Justice 40 implementation. The Center staff also helped to develop the EJNCF’s online searchable FundingFinder tool for Justice40 funding opportunities.

EPA Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grants:

$3 billion is going to EJ communities from the Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grants Program, following recommendations provided by Dr. Ana Baptista during an Equitable and Just National Climate Forum (EJNCF) meeting with legislative staff around Build Back Better. The meeting was part EJNCF’s effort to ensure federal funding is directed toward environmental justice in an intentional way.

EJ Thriving Communities Grant Makers Program:

The Tishman Center gathered and prepared comments on the EPA’s newly established EJ Thriving Communities Grant Makers Program in collaboration with Communities First Fund, which was co-signed and submitted by 16 organizations in April 2023. These comments reflect the priority areas of investment and mechanisms for the effective allocation of funding under this program.

UPROSE Partnership Offshore Wind Supply Chain, Operation, and Maintenance Activities:

The Tishman Center shared research with Brooklyn–based EJ partner UPROSE and created three custom infographics to depict the offshore wind supply chain, operation and maintenance activities, and strategies to generate supplementary economic activities to benefit local host communities. These graphics and research will help UPROSE engage community members and negotiate with other sectors to ensure the Sunset Park community benefits from offshore wind development.
Environmental Justice State-by-State Portal:

The Tishman Center was a critical collaborator on the Environmental Justice State-by-State portal, a law library hosted by the University of Vermont Law School, which launched in July 2023. Our work on the cumulative impacts and definitions of EJ communities comprises two of the five portals on the site. This work can also be viewed on our Research and Publications page.

New York City Panel on Climate Change (NPCC):

Center Co-Directors, Joel Towers and Dr. Ana Baptista, are members of the 4th New York City Panel on Climate Change (NPCC). Joel Towers serves as a co-chair of the full panel, and Dr. Baptista serves as a co-chair of the Equity Workgroup. NPCC, which is mandated by Local Law (LL42, NYC), is a 20-member independent body appointed by the Mayor of New York City to synthesize scientific information on climate change and advise City policymakers on local resiliency and adaptation strategies to protect against climate risks. The final report is set to be publicly released in April 2024.

NYC Town + Gown Climate Vulnerability, Impact, and Adaptation:

Professors Joel Towers, Tishman Center Co-Director, and Dr. Timon McPhearson, Director of the Urban Systems Lab, co-led a team of interdisciplinary researchers from Arcadis, Columbia University, Cornell University, City University of New York, Drexel University, Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, NASA/GISS, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Population Council, Sarah Lawrence College, Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay (SRIJB), Stevens Institute of Technology, The New School, and The USDA Forest Service to carry out a $2.5M Climate Vulnerability, Impact, and Adaptation Analysis (VIA) for New York City. Working with the Mayor’s Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ) and partners across multiple city agencies, VIA developed new knowledge in four key areas: climate risk projections and compound or sequential hazards; climate-related extreme heavy rainfall; the economics and demographics of climate-related mortality and morbidity; and climate-related coastal flood vulnerability.
MOVEMENT SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Tishman Center provided time-sensitive technical assistance on several requests throughout the year. Tishman Center leaders and researchers actively engage with federal and state policymakers and community-based advocates to help advance climate justice goals.

Our Co-Director, Dr. Ana Baptista, was appointed to the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council’s (WHEJAC) Carbon Management Workgroup and helped prepare a carbon management and environmental justice report with recommendations for the Council on Environmental Quality and related federal agencies. Our Research Director, Dr. Yukyan Lam, was also appointed as an external expert to the WHEJAC’s Environmental Justice Scorecard Workgroup and helped prepare its December 2023 recommendations on the administration’s EJ Scorecard version 1.0.

In April 2023, Dr. Baptista represented the Center at the historic signing of President Biden’s Environmental Justice Executive Order 14096, Revitalizing Our Nation’s Commitment to Environmental Justice for All, at the White House.

The Tishman Center’s research team from left to right: Dr. Jennifer S. Ramirez, Senior Research Analyst; Drake Reed, Project Manager; Anna Yulsman, Research Analyst; and Dr. Yukyan Lam, Research Director and Senior Scientist.
Dr. Baptista was invited as a representative of the Center to attend two high-level White House briefings. The first was with Vice President Kamala Harris and the Director of the National Economic Council about the Inflation Reduction Act’s economic opportunities for environmental justice communities. The second was with the Council for Environmental Quality staff and Ali Zaidi, the White House National Climate Advisor, about strategies for strengthening environmental justice and clean energy economy opportunities.

Tishman Center staff, in partnership with the Communities First Fund’s Infrastructure Alliance, provided technical assistance to EJ and CJ community-based organizations to facilitate the flow of federal resources. Center staff was responsible for co-hosting several regional and national meetings with EJ leaders from December 2022 – March 2023 to better understand the barriers, challenges, and opportunities for accessing federal funding through the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

We consulted with partners in New Mexico, Minnesota, Detroit, Chicago, Oregon, California, Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island about policy and legislative approaches to advance environmental justice and cumulative impact policies.
WE ARE COMMITTED to mobilizing students, faculty, staff, and the broader university community to take action on the root causes of the climate crisis, environmental racism, and social injustices. We do this by training, supporting, and mentoring the next generation of environmental leaders, focusing on students from marginalized backgrounds and EJ communities. Additionally, we engage the campus, surrounding community, and EJ partners through various programming, emphasizing our annual Climate Week and Earth Month series.

We worked closely with New School facilities and dining departments to bring composting back to the campus and to educate students and visitors of the university’s dining hall on waste stream systems. The Tishman Center played a pivotal role in facilitating the re-design of waste signage and collaborated across departments to research waste disposal behavior across countries, as 40% of the students at The New School are international students. We prioritized a process that would be culturally sensitive and relevant to our diverse community.

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

Arnold and Sheila Aronson Fellowship:

The Tishman Center supports student-led scholarships on climate, environmental, and justice-based projects through an endowed fund, the *Arnold and Sheila Aronson Fellowship*. In the 2022–2023 academic year, two students were awarded grants and participated in mentoring opportunities with New School faculty and Tishman Center staff.

Dana Duarte Hernandez partnered with groups in the Bronx that were directly impacted by the War on Drugs. Ms. Hernandez worked with policymakers and lawmakers in Brazil, Mexico, and her native Colombia to bring wider attention to drug laws in those countries, which are soon to be legislated. You can view an interview with her [here](#).

Kier Blake’s project was a collaboration between youth, academics, and community members to discuss how to decolonize environmental education. They also organized events during Earth Month to bring people together in community spaces and build solidarity. You can view a presentation of their project [here](#).
Additional Student Scholarship Support:

The Tishman Center supports student research with additional scholarships and grants that cover expenses for projects related to global environmental justice issues. Ten students were awarded $10,000 in the past year for six projects. Students worked on a diverse range of topics, from sustainability initiatives in Chinatown, NY, to housing and land rights in Brazil.

CAMPUS EVENTS

Earth Month 2023:

During Earth Month 2023, we partnered with filmmakers, Black farmers, and students to curate multiple events on critical environmental issues. A highlight of these events was a sustainability town hall to engage with students and gather feedback on existing and new on-campus sustainability initiatives. The event generated several new ideas for reducing the campus’s carbon footprint and reinstated the campus’s composting services.

Climate Week at The New School Series:

As part of our Climate Week at The New School series, on September 20, 2023, we hosted a special event, “Ensuring Federal Funding Reaches Environmental Justice Communities,” moderated by Tishman’s Senior Fellow, Danielle Deane-Ryan, and with introductory remarks by Tishman’s Senior Advisor, Michelle DePass. Our panelists included Harold Mitchell from Regenesis Institute, Trenton Allen from Sustainable Capital Advisors, Maria Lopez-Nuñez from Ironbound Community Corporation, Joe Evans from the Kresge Foundation, and Helen Chin from Communities First Fund. Our role in Climate Week continues to be a testament to our solidarity with those fighting against fossil fuels and advocating for a Just Transition.
DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT
PRESS ENGAGEMENT

- It’s Time We Put an End to the Carbon Capture Farce, Common Dreams, 11/14/2023
- The Making Waves Summit set in Guam Oct. 20–21, Saipan Tribune, 10/16/2023
- Is Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) Racist?, Go Green Radio, 9/8/2023
- ‘Down your throat’: Biden pushes CCS on polluted places, E&E News by Politico, 8/22/2023
- New York’s Apocalyptic Air Isn’t Deadly for Me. It Can Be for Others, The New Republic, 06/08/2023
- Burning trash for the planet? Climate cash sets off branding frenzy, Washington Post, 05/29/2023
- Advancing Climate Justice in New York City, PBS Thirteen, 04/10/2023
- Looking at Environmental and Natural Resource Economics through the Lens of Racial Equity, Resource, 03/29/2023
- Environmental Justice Leader María Belén Power To Join Healey–Driscoll Administration in New Leadership Position, Chelsea Record, 03/02/2023
- Too many in NJ live near hazardous materials. This is what lawmakers must do | Our view, Northjersey.com, 01/13/2023

Over 25K visits to Our Website
up 49% and 44k Page views up 54% from last year

Over 7.5K views to Our YouTube Channel
up 86% from the last year

Connect on Our Social Platforms
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LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

Graphic Notes by Crystal Clarity, an Artist, Illustrator, Printmaker, Art Director, Dream Weaver, and Visual Strategist for movement moments. Learn more about Crystal’s work [here](#).
2023 saw the addition of new staff and community members, broadening and deepening our capacity to work with our partners and catalyze change. The Tishman Center welcomed two new staff members, a senior fellow, a visiting scholar, and a newly revised advisory committee, allowing us to expand our reach and remain responsive to the social and political landscape.

Our advisory committee brings together leaders from the environmental justice movement, academia, and philanthropy, with the council’s format designed to maximize participatory engagement. Their guidance has been critical to understanding and leveraging current political, scientific, and EJ forces at play. Similarly, our senior fellow, Danielle Deane-Ryan, whom we welcomed over the summer, provided thought leadership and guidance on strategic planning and development and federal initiatives related to environmental justice. Danielle is currently on an intergovernmental personnel assignment from the New School to the EPA’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

In the newly created position of Communications Lead, Angélica Salazar brings over 15 years of experience as a strategic communications and public relations specialist to organizations, elected officials, and institutions. As Communications Lead, she will ensure our work reaches the communities and bodies who need it most and that our impact is as far-reaching as possible.

Susan Austin, a recent graduate of the New School’s MS in Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management, was hired as a Project Director, focusing on the Centering Justice Symposium and building our capacity as a convener.
The Tishman Center welcomed our 2023-2024 Visiting Scholar, Kali Akuno. Kali Akuno is an organizer, educator, and writer for human rights and social justice. Currently, he is a co-founder and Executive Director of Cooperation Jackson, an emerging network of worker cooperatives and supporting institutions. He is the former Co-Director of the US Human Rights Network. During his tenure as the Tishman Center’s Visiting Scholar, he will develop a comprehensive program of action that encourages social justice organizers to engage in new ways of acting, to stimulate new ways of thinking that will enable us to aggregate our collective power to effectively confront and overcome the restrictive powers of capital and the nation-state.

THE YEAR AHEAD

2024 is another critical year. With a presidential election on the horizon, much is at stake in the climate and environmental justice space. As we complete our next strategic plan amid political uncertainty, we will seek to ensure that our commitments, research, and impact persist and thrive well into the future.

As part of this commitment and coming out of the Centering Justice Symposium, the Tishman Center will collaboratively create an ongoing community of practice for universities, environmental and climate justice leaders, and philanthropy to organize and socialize best practices for institutions engaged in EJ partnerships. This constellation will promote community agreements, model authentic partnerships, and provide ongoing relevant technical assistance, research, and support at the invitation and direction of EJ partners.

The Tishman Center research team will release reports on Carbon Capture and Sequestration and other carbon management approaches, providing communities with vital information to assess proposals and defend their health. We are also finalizing projects with the Climate Justice Alliance and Communities First Fund, looking at the success of frontline solutions to the climate crisis and helping connect EJ projects to the federal government’s Thriving Communities funding. The EJ Disrupt Design Fellowship will select and collaborate with its second group of fellows in its 2024-2026 cohort. This cohort will include an expanded EJ Design Network model and active Alumni community, furthering our capacity to create space for leaders central to the EJ movement.
Our on-campus effort will center on galvanizing students, faculty, staff, and the broader community to take action on the root causes of the climate crisis, environmental racism, and social injustices. Our campus activities continue to prioritize supporting and mentoring the next generation of environmental leaders with a particular focus on students Of Color and students from EJ communities. Additionally, we are co-creating a new draft of the New School’s Climate Action Plan, working in collaboration with the New School’s Facilities department. Beyond campus, we will continue to engage with EJ partners and surrounding communities in New York City through various programming, including our annual Climate Week and Earth Month series, which continue to grow in scale and popularity.

The Center is poised to help advance changes in policy, investments, and practices to address deepening inequality and ecological crises. We know the best, most equitable solutions lie in frontline movement-led work, and we are well-positioned to leverage and amplify this work as a trusted academic partner.

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS: