



Smithsonian  
*Anacostia Community Museum*

# Preparing the **Next** Generation SUMMIT



## Women's Environmental Leadership COMMUNITY FORUM



MARCH 16 & 17, 2018

National Education Association  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC





## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

All events will be held in the News Conference Room except as noted

### FRIDAY, MARCH 16

#### Preparing the Next Generation Summit

8:00–9:00am Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00–9:15am Welcoming Remarks

9:30am–12:20 pm Panel Discussions

#### Morning sessions

##### ■ Mentorship Room B

9:30–10:20 Group A

10:30–11:20 Group B

11:30–12:20 Group C

##### ■ Education & Training Room C

9:30–10:20 Group B

10:30–11:20 Group C

11:30–12:20 Group A

##### ■ Leadership Room G

9:30–10:20 Group C

10:30–11:20 Group A

11:30–12:20 Group B

12:30–1:30pm Lunch

#### Afternoon Session

1:35–2:25pm

##### ■ Topic 1: Developing an Equitable Anacostia Watershed Engagement Plan

Group A Room B

Group B Room C

Group C Room G

##### ■ Topic 2: Breaking the Mold: Gentrification and Development Along the Anacostia River

(Same room assignments)

3:35–4:25pm Reports Out

4:30–5:30pm Reception Atrium

### SATURDAY, MARCH 17

11:00am–1:00pm Women's Environmental Leadership Community Forum

## MISSION

The purpose of this summit is to convene a national network of women environmental leaders and local next-generation leaders for face-to-face discussions focused on the exchange of knowledge, wisdom, and experience. Specifically, the summit and community forum will address the importance of mentorship, educational and career opportunities, and the multitude of ways in which leadership is enacted.

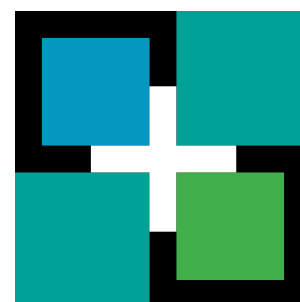
Attendees will explore issues of particular importance to their neighborhoods and the Anacostia River and formulate action steps to continue their efforts to improve their communities and local waterways.

We are excited about the prospect of bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds and concerns, including not-for-profit and community leaders, scholars, and activists to provide information and informed experience to benefit residents, researchers, and decision-makers.

The Urban Waterways Project is a long-term research and educational initiative based upon research on the Anacostia River and its watershed, as well as research examining how people engage with urban rivers in other communities. Formerly the Eastern Branch, the Anacostia River has long been considered one of the nation's most troubled urban rivers. The watershed covers more than 175 square miles and is one of the nation's most densely populated. The challenges facing the Anacostia River are problems that confront other rivers in the industrialized world. The project explores the impact of environmental burdens, resource depletion on urban communities, as well as the interplay of environmental and social conditions. The project also examines approaches and solutions on national and international levels through the study of civic oversight, community engagement, and environmental efforts. It has been undertaken by the Anacostia Community Museum with our local and national partners.

The Urban Waterways Project is particularly focused on working with communities on the frontline and most affected by development and environmental impacts. The project seeks to 1) create cross-disciplinary dialogue among scholars, government officials, organizers, activists, and scientists; 2) elicit first-hand information from residents of local communities, and 3) engage with local residents and other interested parties with ongoing activities that will enable their participation in reclamation, restoration, and appropriate redevelopment of their urban waterways and surrounding communities.

**Support for the Urban Waterways Project was made possible by the Smithsonian Consortium for Understanding the American Experience and the Consortium for Understanding and Sustaining a Biodiverse Planet.**



# Selected Urban Waterways Project Efforts and Engagement

## Research and Documentation

### Onsite Documentation

ACM project team members documented how local, traditionally marginalized community members are developing strategies to bring their voices to local decision making. Documentation was conducted in Southeast Washington, DC, and adjacent communities and East London (2012), Los Angeles (2013), Hawai'i (2013, 2017), Baltimore (2014), Turkey Creek, MS (2014, 2015), and Spartanburg, SC (2016).

### Photographic Documentation

More than 1,000 photographs have recorded such Anacostia River activities as the installation of Bandalong Trash Trap, Rice Rangers activities, festivals, Anacostia Watershed Society river clean ups, rowing competitions, and recreational uses of the river. Photographs also include documentation of community-driven efforts in Los Angeles, Hawai'i, Baltimore, Turkey Creek, MS, and Spartanburg, SC.

### Oral Histories

Eighty-eight interviews have been conducted with activists, stakeholders, and decision makers about environmental issues in Washington, DC, Baltimore, Spartanburg, SC, the Gulf Coast, Louisville, KY, Los Angeles, O'ahu, and London.

## Network Development

### Urban Waterways Newsletter

Since 2013 nine quarterly issues have covered the activities and strategies of our community partners in the Urban Waterways network. Topics explored include the impact of history on urban waterways, critical issues facing urban waterways and their communities, community collaboration, green economies, and faith.

### Community Forums

Over 30 community forums have convened conversations among environmental activists, agency leaders, federal and local government officials, and citizen stakeholders. Among the topics addressed were strategies for improving distressed waterways and waterfronts, citizen science, diversifying the green movement, youth activism, climate justice east of the Anacostia, green jobs, and National Park Service involvement East of the River.

### Urban Waterways Symposium, 2015

This day-long conference in Washington, DC, assembled a national network of project collaborators from diverse backgrounds and perspectives to exchange experiences and best practices focused on environmental activism and community engagement. The event convened non-profit and community leaders, scholars, and activists, developed national networks, and offered solutions to benefit residents, researchers, and decision-makers.

*continues >*



## Selected Urban Waterways Project Efforts and Engagement

CONTINUED

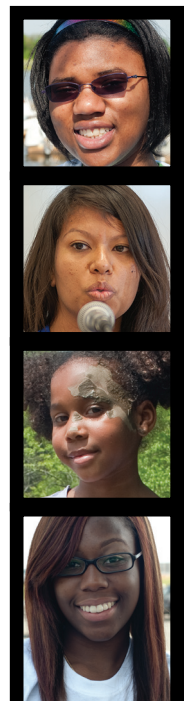
### Education and Engagement

#### Major Exhibition

Based on research by the museum on the history, public use, and attitudes toward the Anacostia River and its watershed and reviews of urban waterway developments in Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Louisville, KY, London, and Shanghai, *Reclaiming the Edge: Urban Waterways and Civic Engagement* explored various aspects of human interaction with natural resources in an urban setting. The exhibition looked at densely populated watersheds and rivers as barriers to racial and ethnic integration and examined civic attempts to recover, clean up, re-imagine, and engineer urban rivers for community access and use. *Reclaiming the Edge* featured 75 objects, 16 artworks, 170 images, and 5 video stations, with original materials produced for the exhibition. Highlights included artworks by Chinese artist Zhang Jian-Jun, Chicano artist Leo Limón, and renowned Anacostia River photographer Bruce McNeil. Independent filmmaker Peter Byck contributed a piece on Louisville's Waterfront Development Corporation and the Waterfront Park. The exhibition was curated by Dr. Gail S. Lowe, PhD; John R. Wennersten, PhD, professor emeritus of the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, served as consulting scholar.

#### Public Programs

Nearly 40 public workshops, films, fieldtrips, and in-school programming engaged participants in urban waterways issues. Highlights included a three-part photographic expedition on the Anacostia River with photographer Bruce McNeil; a day-long program for teachers featuring a tour of the *Reclaiming the Edge* exhibition, a visit to the Aquatic Resources Education Center, and a water-testing project; a poetry program with Lewis MacAdams, founder of Friends of the Los Angeles River, and United Planning Organization's youth group; watershed explorations and off-site tours; summer youth educational fieldtrips; and a STEAM-based workshop for teachers and students on "Slick Fish Anatomy."





# Agenda

DAY ONE: FRIDAY, MARCH 16

## PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION SUMMIT

8:00–9:00 a.m. **Registration & Continental Breakfast** **News Conference Room Hallway**

9:00–9:15 a.m. **WELCOMING REMARKS** **News Conference Room**

9:30 a.m.–12:20 p.m.  
*Morning sessions  
will be recorded.*

### PANEL DISCUSSIONS

#### ■ **Mentorship**

**Conference Room B**

This session will explore the importance of mentorship as a foundational element in the pursuit of a career in environmental leadership, the various forms mentorship can take, and how to most effectively use networks.

**MODERATOR**

**Charisa Morris**, Chief of Staff, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**PANELISTS**

**Leslie Fields**, Director, Environmental Justice and Community Partnerships, Sierra Club

**Jessica M. Loya**, Government Affairs/Public Affairs Associate, Hispanic Access Foundation

**Irma Muñoz**, Founder and President, Mujeres de la Tierra

9:30–10:20 **Group A**

10:30–11:20 **Group B**

11:30–12:20 **Group C**

#### ■ **Education & Training**

**Conference Room C**

This session will explore the various paths and resources available to those interested in pursuing a career in environmental activism.

**MODERATOR**

**Adrienne Hollis, Esq.**, Director of Federal Policy, WE ACT for Environmental Justice

**PANELISTS**

**Tara Morrison**, Superintendent, National Park Service, National Capital Parks-East

**Kerene N. Tayloe, Esq.**, Policy Director, Green For All

**Tamara Toles O’Laughlin**, Executive Director, Maryland Environmental Health Network

9:30–10:20 **Group B**

10:30–11:20 **Group C**

11:30–12:20 **Group A**

*continues >*

## Agenda

Day One: Friday, March 16

CONTINUED

	<p>■ <b>Leadership</b></p> <p>This session will explore the variety of forms leadership can take, provide a realistic representation of the various challenges involved in such work, and address the areas of greatest concern to those currently in the field.</p>	<b>Conference Room G</b>
<b>MODERATOR</b>	<b>Vernice Miller-Travis</b> , Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice and Equitable Development, Skeo Solutions	
<b>PANELISTS</b>	<p><b>Amanda Aguirre</b>, COO and Executive Vice President, GreenLatinos</p> <p><b>Cynthia Peurifoy</b>, Regional Environmental Justice Coordinator (retired), U.S. EPA Region 4, Office of Environmental Justice</p> <p><b>Effie Turnbull Sanders</b>, Executive Director, South Los Angeles Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z)</p>	
9:30–10:20	<b>Group C</b>	
10:30–11:20	<b>Group A</b>	
11:30–12:20	<b>Group B</b>	
12:30–1:30 p.m.	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>News Conference Room</b>
<b>AFTERNOON SESSION</b>		
1:35–2:25 p.m.	<p>■ <b>Topic 1: Developing an Equitable Anacostia Watershed Engagement Plan</b></p> <p><b>Group A</b> <b>Conference Room B</b></p> <p><b>Group B</b> <b>Conference Room C</b></p> <p><b>Group C</b> <b>Conference Room G</b></p>	
<i>Session will not be recorded.</i>		
<i>Session will be recorded.</i>	<p>■ <b>Topic 2: Breaking the Mold: Gentrification and Development Along the Anacostia River</b></p> <p>Room assignments and groups remain the same</p>	
3:35–4:25 p.m.	■ <b>Reports Out</b>	<b>News Conference Room</b>
4:30–5:30 pm	<b>RECEPTION</b>	<b>Atrium</b>



# Panelists

## Mentorship

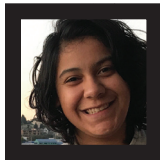
### **Leslie G. Fields**

*Director, Environmental Justice and Community Partnerships, Sierra Club*

Leslie Fields brings over 20 years of federal, state, local, and international environmental justice and environmental law and policy experience to the Sierra Club. Ms. Fields was appointed by President Obama to serve on the board of directors of the Mickey Leland Urban Air Toxics Research Center. She serves on the boards of the Children's Environmental Health Network and Empower DC. She also serves on the board of Adeso African Solutions (formerly Horn Relief, an East African natural resources and development organization) and has been an adjunct law professor at Howard University School of Law. Ms. Fields is a graduate of Cornell University and the Georgetown University Law Center.

### **Jessica M. Loya**

*Government Affairs/  
Public Affairs Associate,  
Hispanic Access  
Foundation*

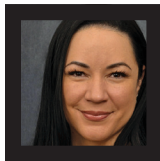


Jessica M. Loya is a conservation and public lands policy advocate based in Washington, DC. She currently works as government relations/public affairs associate at the Hispanic Access Foundation, a national non-profit dedicated to elevating Latino voices in public land, climate, and conservation policy. She is a dedicated young leader in the movement to increase access and representation of diverse communities in the environmental movement. Her previous experience at the White House Council on Environmental Quality, Office of Public Engagement, provided her a unique understanding of the influence community voices can have in the policy and decision-making process.

Born in East Los Angeles, Ms. Loya discovered her love for the outdoors during her first trip to a national park as a young adult. She is happy to be able to combine her passion for community engagement, environmental justice, and the outdoors through her career. Ms. Loya enjoys hiking, camping, and birding and has made it her lifetime goal to visit all 58 national parks. A member of GreenLatinos and the Next 100 Coalition, she serves on the board of the non-profit California Wilderness Coalition and on the National Park Conservation Association's Next Generation Advisory Council. She received degrees in environmental studies and economics from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

### **Charisa Morris**

*Chief of Staff, U.S. Fish  
and Wildlife Service*



Charisa Morris has worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 19 years, focusing initially on endangered species conservation in the Chesapeake Bay area and then moving on to headquarters where she expanded her scope to endangered species nationally, as well as migratory bird management. Her contributions include policy and regulatory improvements, building organizational efficiencies, and generally making the sustainable decision the easy decision for the American public. Ms. Morris currently serves as the USFWS chief of staff in Washington, DC, where she has worked since 2015.

## Panelists

CONTINUED

### **Irma R. Muñoz**

*Founder and President,  
Mujeres de la Tierra*



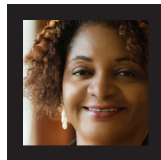
Irma R. Muñoz is the founder and president of Mujeres de la Tierra, an avant-garde environmental non-profit focused on healing *La Madre Tierra* and re-defining the traditional “green” dialogue in Los Angeles. Ms. Muñoz firmly believes in the power of one and that community action starts with individual participation. She believes the families and residents of the neighborhood should have the power and right to lead/own their issues and determine what’s best for them, their families, and community.

She currently serves on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy board of directors as an appointee of the mayor of Los Angeles and is a governor’s appointee to the Los Angeles County Regional Water Quality Control Board. She has held many positions in the public sector. The position she is most proud of is her presidential appointment to the U.S. Small Business Administration in Washington, DC, during the Clinton Administration. Ms. Muñoz earned her BA from the University of California, San Diego, and her JD from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego.

## Education and Training

### **Adrienne Hollis, Esq.**

*Director of Federal Policy,  
WE ACT for Environmental  
Justice*



Adrienne Hollis has extensive experience in the environmental arena, having worked on numerous environmental issues and earning a doctorate degree in biomedical sciences and a law degree focused in environmental law. She received her doctorate from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, conducted her post-doctoral studies in inhalation toxicology at Harvard University’s School of Public Health, and received her law degree from Rutgers School of Law in Newark. After completing her post-doctoral studies, Dr. Hollis was employed as a supervisory environmental health scientist and toxicologist (section chief) at the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry in Atlanta, where she supervised environmental health scientists, toxicologists, and engineers as they addressed community health concerns related to National Priorities List Superfund sites. In that capacity, she performed health assessments and reviewed data regarding exposures to hazardous chemicals, with particular attention to cumulative exposure risk, and worked with community members to identify and address their health concerns.

Dr. Hollis next developed the Environmental and Occupational Health track at Florida A&M University’s Institute of Public Health, located in its School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. She taught courses in environmental risk communication, environmental toxicology, environmental epidemiology, occupational health and safety, and topics in public health. Dr. Hollis has experience working with local, state, and federal agencies and has been an adjunct professor in the environmental and occupational track at Florida A&M University, teaching environmental policy and risk management and environmental risk communication.

Dr. Hollis previously worked as a senior policy analyst/consultant for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, through a subcontract with Tetra Tech EM, Inc. Most recently, she worked as a project attorney at Earthjustice, a premier non-profit law firm, in its Tallahassee office.





Currently, she is director of federal policy at WE ACT for Environmental Justice in its Washington, DC, office, where she continues to work with a number of community-based organizations and state and federal agencies applying her wealth of experience in community-based participatory research. She is an adjunct professor at the George Washington Milken School of Public Health and American University's Washington College of Law where she teaches appellate advocacy. She serves on numerous committees and boards, bringing broad experience in environmental issues, a passion for protecting the public from exposure to hazardous substances, and perspectives from her academic career and her work with environmental justice communities.

---

**Tara Morrison**

*Superintendent, National Park Service, National Capital Parks-East*



Tara Morrison began her National Park Service career as an archeology intern in Washington, DC, and rose to become the first superintendent of African Burial Ground National Monument in New York City. In that role, she worked with the African descendant community and led the development of the monument's visitor center. Her first permanent job was as a park ranger at Boston African-American National Historic Site, and she has worked with parks and communities from Maine to West Virginia to discover, preserve, and share stories of the Underground Railroad.

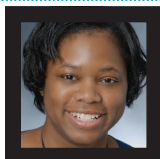
In 2011, Ms. Morrison joined Rock Creek Park as superintendent where she strengthened and developed partnerships and engaged neighboring communities in enjoying and caring for the park. Since December 2016, she has served as superintendent of National Capital Parks-East, where she is responsible for the management and direction of Anacostia Park, parks that date to the L'Enfant Plan, and national parks that honor heroes of American history, including Frederick Douglass, Mary McLeod Bethune, and Carter G. Woodson.

Ms. Morrison is passionate about health and well-being and the role parks can play for all. She serves as a champion for Park Rx and enjoys working with partners to provide information and opportunities for passive and active recreation in the park.

---

**Tamara Toles O'Laughlin**

*Executive Director, Maryland Environmental Health Network*



Tamara Toles O'Laughlin is an environmental advocate focused on health, equity, access, and justice. Her niche is developing capacity building programs and the creation of multimedia campaigns to dismantle privilege and increase opportunities for vulnerable populations to access health air, clean energy, and a toxic-free economy at the local, regional, and national levels.

Ms. O'Laughlin casts a wide net in service to community. Among her activities, she is executive director of the Maryland Environmental Health Network; the co-chair of DC EcoWomen, which serves 6,000 professional women in the environment; and vice chair and DC representative on the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee. Ms. O'Laughlin also serves as a vice chair and director on the board of directors of the Missoula, MT-based Women's Voices for the Earth. Women's Voices disrupts industry standards by forcing ingredient disclosure and the elimination of toxic chemicals from personal care products.

## Panelists

CONTINUED

Ms. O’Laughlin graduated from the Vermont Law School in 2009 with a JD and Masters of Environmental Law and Policy. She has worked for over 15 years to embed the principles of environmental justice into applied environmental work, with attention to community capacity building, mobilization, equity of enforcement, and environmental health. She has held varying positions with distinguished organizations including the District Department of Energy and Environment, Maryland Energy Administration, Advisory Council of Historic Preservation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, among others. Prior to relocation to the mid-Atlantic, Ms. O’Laughlin served as the senior law clerk to the Honorable Douglas A. Brady and Senior Sitting Judge Julio A. Brady.

---

### **Kerene N. Tayloe, Esq.**

*Policy Director,  
Green for All*



Kerene N. Tayloe is a social justice advocate who has worked tirelessly in the areas of environmental justice, civil rights, and voter protection. She is the policy director for Green for All, a climate and economic justice organization working at the intersection of poverty and pollution to create an inclusive green economy strong enough to lift people out of poverty. Ms. Tayloe is driven by the desire to ensure that the needs of communities of color are not overlooked and that everyone, regardless of their zip code, has access to clean air and water. She is focused on ensuring that people of color and women are not left out of the growing clean energy economy.

To that end, she is currently a fellow in the highly selective Clean Energy Leadership Institute whose mission is to empower young professionals for careers in clean energy. She recently completed her training in Vice President Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project and is a charter member of the Washington, DC, chapter. In addition to her environmental work, Ms. Tayloe has worked in many political arenas but is most proud of helping to elect New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the first African American to represent the city of Yonkers in the State Senate and the first woman in New York State history to lead a conference in Albany, NY. She is a proud graduate of Florida A&M College of Law, where she founded the Environmental Law Society. Follow her on Twitter: @GreenKerene.

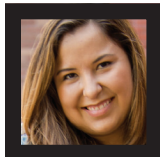




## Leadership

### **Amanda Aguirre**

*COO and Executive Vice President, GreenLatinos*



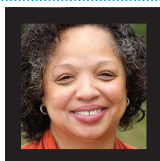
Amanda Aguirre serves at the COO and executive vice president of GreenLatinos, a national non-profit organization that convenes a broad coalition of Latino leaders committed to addressing national, regional, and local environmental, natural resources, and conservation issues that significantly affect the health and welfare of the Latino community. Before joining GreenLatinos, she served as the director of public engagement for the Climate Action Campaign. Ms. Aguirre previously served as the acting director of public engagement and environmental education at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, overseeing engagement with national stakeholders on the Obama Administration's climate and environmental priorities. Prior to that Ms. Aguirre served as associate director of intergovernmental affairs at the White House, working with state legislators on the president's policy priorities.

Before joining the White House, she served as special assistant for public engagement at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency where she managed the administrator's outreach to the Latino and public health communities. Ms. Aguirre also served as the director of ticketing and credentials on Governor McAuliffe's gubernatorial campaign as well as the director of ticketing and credentials for his inauguration in Virginia.

Ms. Aguirre got her start in Washington, as a White House intern in the Office of Public Engagement. She has held several positions in the Obama Administration as a political appointee at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Medicare and Medicare Services, and Corporation for National and Community Service. She worked on the Obama Biden 2012 campaign in North Carolina as the state trips director, managing celebrity and principal travel into the state. Following the election, she joined the 2013 Presidential Inaugural Committee as the associate director of the Office of Public Engagement. Ms. Aguirre is originally from California, raised in Texas, and a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin.

### **Vernice Miller-Travis**

*Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice and Equitable Development, Skeo Solutions*



Vernice Miller-Travis has over 30 years of experience in environmental and civil rights policy development and is sought after for her expertise in cross-cultural and environmental conflict mediation and facilitation, multi-stakeholder design and planning, environmental justice, equitable development, brownfields redevelopment, urban river restoration, and community revitalization. Ms. Miller-Travis's interests have focused on environmental restoration and the inclusion of low-income, people of color, and indigenous communities in environmental decision making at the federal, state, local, and tribal levels.

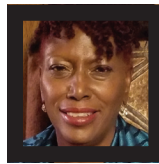
Prior to joining Skeo Solutions, Ms. Miller-Travis served as director of the Environmental Justice Initiative of the Natural Resources Defense Council, program officer at the Ford Foundation, executive director of Groundwork USA, and co-founder of We ACT for Environmental Justice. She also serves on the board of directors of Clean Water Action, the North Carolina Land Loss Prevention Project, the Patuxent Riverkeeper, We ACT for Environmental Justice, and the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum.

## Panelists

CONTINUED

### **Cynthia Peurifoy**

*Regional Environmental  
Justice Coordinator (retired),  
U.S. EPA Region 4, Office of  
Environmental Justice*



Before retiring in January 2018 after a more than 40-year career with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Cynthia Peurifoy served as the regional environmental justice coordinator in EPA's Region 4 Office in Atlanta. In this capacity, Ms. Peurifoy built lasting relationships with many environmental justice stakeholders in Region 4, and worked to create an atmosphere of engagement, respect, and collaboration around environmental justice issues in the region. Ms. Peurifoy provided advice and guidance to regional management and staff, as well as a host of external stakeholders in an effort to address environmental justice concerns as they arose.

Ms. Peurifoy has worked in various positions and program areas, including coordinating the Regional Response Team, working with the Community Right-To-Know Program, and working in the Office of Civil Rights. Other previous primary responsibilities include coordinating EPA's efforts in support of the Charleston/North Charleston Community-Based Environmental Protection Project. Prior to taking this position, she served as a community involvement coordinator in EPA's Waste Management Division.

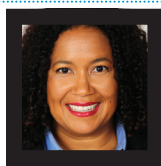
Ms. Peurifoy is a life member of Blacks in Government, as well as the 1998 recipient of the Superfund Community Involvement Coordinator of the Year Award and two other National Notable Achievement Awards from the Superfund Program. She was the recipient of the region's Diversity Awareness Award in 2008. She also served as the region's Black Employment Program Manager. In 2010, she received the "Women Rebuilding Communities & Ensuring a Sustainable Planet Award" from the Nu Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc. She also received EPA's National Collaborative Problem Solving Award for her work in Spartanburg, SC, in 2010. In 2014, the ReGenesis Board in Spartanburg, SC, presented Ms. Peurifoy with the South Carolina Grass Roots Advocacy for Environmental and Economic Justice award, which has been given every year subsequently in her honor. She was also presented with the EPA Environmental Justice Champion Award in 2015 and was recognized by the Florida Brownfields Association in 2014 for her work on behalf of environmental justice communities in Region 4. In 2017, the South Carolina State Legislature passed a resolution commending Ms. Peurifoy for her long history of dedicated service at EPA and her service to environmental justice communities, particularly those in South Carolina.

Upon her retirement earlier this year, she was awarded the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice, Hazel M. Johnson Federal Agency Achievement Award for Outstanding Achievement in Advancing Environmental Justice. The day of her retirement celebration was, by proclamation, Cynthia Peurifoy Day in Spartanburg and Spartanburg County. She also received the EPA Environmental Justice Champion Award and a letter of commendation from Congressman James Clyburn. Despite her retirement, Ms. Peurifoy plans to stay involved in pursuing environmental justice and community revitalization for vulnerable communities.



**Effie Turnbull Sanders**

*Executive Director,  
South Los Angeles  
Empowerment Zone  
(SLATE-Z)*



Effie Turnbull Sanders is a passionate and dedicated advocate for economic, environmental, and social change. She brings over two decades of experience advancing the rights of underserved Los Angeles communities to lead the South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z) as its executive director. In this capacity, Ms. Sanders leads SLATE-Z's efforts to promote neighborhood revitalization, educational excellence, and economic empowerment to help realize the tremendous promise and potential of South Los Angeles.

Prior to joining SLATE-Z, Ms. Sanders worked in service of the children of Los Angeles as assistant general counsel to the Los Angeles Unified School District on real estate development, facilities management, and employment law. Through her legal career, she has worked as counsel to public and private organizations such as the City of Los Angeles and Richards, Watson & Gershon. As a social justice leader, Ms. Sanders has served as an appointee to state and federal entities. Currently, she is the environmental justice designee and vice chair of the California Coastal Commission. She is also a member of Representative Karen Bass' Congressional Council. Ms. Sanders was a presidential appointee for Vice Chair Cruz Reynoso with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Throughout her career, Ms. Sanders has led a number of non-profit organizations as an active board member for Social Action Partners and the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters. She also served as an advisory board member to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mark Ridley Thomas' African American Voter Registration, Education, and Participation Project.

Ms. Sanders received her BA in mass communications from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her JD from UCLA School of Law. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California Ross Program in Real Estate. She and her husband live with their two children in Los Angeles.



11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

## **WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY FORUM**

**News Conference Room**

This forum will bring together a national network of women who have led environmental efforts in their communities, organizations, and governmental agencies. Discussion will explore their personal and professional journeys, best practices for galvanizing community, organizational, and governmental efforts, reflections on the impacts of their efforts, their leadership lessons, and next steps as they look at present and future challenges.

### **MODERATOR**

**Vernice Miller-Travis**, Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice and Equitable Development, Skeo Solutions

### **PANELISTS**

**Leslie Fields**, Director, Environmental Justice and Community Partnerships, Sierra Club

**Irma Muñoz**, Founder and President, Mujeres de la Tierra

**Cynthia Peurifoy**, Regional Environmental Justice Coordinator (retired), U.S. EPA Region 4, Office of Environmental Justice

**Effie Turnbull Sanders**, Executive Director, South Los Angeles Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z)



# Acknowledgments

**The Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum  
would like to thank our summit participants:**

Biophilic DC

Earth Conservation Corps

Green For All

GreenLatinos

Georgetown Climate Center

Hispanic Access Foundation

Howard University

Maryland Environmental Health Network

Mujeres de la Tierra

National Aquarium

Riverkeeper

Sierra Club

Skeo Solutions

South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z)

United Planning Organization

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Equity Advisory Group

WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Special thanks to the National Education Association

**Photos by Susana Raab**







# Smithsonian *Anacostia Community Museum*

**Mission:** The Anacostia Community Museum explores social issues impacting diverse populations of the DC metropolitan area to promote mutual understanding and strengthen community bonds.


**Social Impact Statement:** ACM is a museum of, for, and by the people. It promotes the coming together of diverse people and perspectives to learn from, empower, and uplift one another to create a more tolerant, unified metropolitan community.  
*"Your Community. Your Story."*

1901 Fort Place SE  
Washington, DC 20020

Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed December 25th

FREE ADMISSION  
FREE PARKING

Museum parking lot and  
on-street parking

 Accessible to people  
with disabilities

202.633.4820

202.287.3183 Fax

For group tours,  
call 202.633.4870

[www.anacostia.si.edu](http://www.anacostia.si.edu)

 @SmithsonianAnacostiaCommunityMuseum

 @SmithsonianACM

 @SmithsonianAnacostia

 @SmithsonianAnacostia