

[Dr. Adrienne Hollis, The Chisholm Legacy Project:] Hello everyone. Welcome to our next segment of Picking Greens and Being Green Black Mommas on Culture, Conservation and Community Series.

This segment focuses on champagne taste and beer money, and I'm so excited to bring you this new episode with two awesome young women who will be sharing their fresh perspectives on the lessons they learned, or the lessons that they utilize in life around conservation, and I guess living within your means, whether it's money, water, electricity, or living large in general.

So I'm thrilled to be joined by Alaura Carter and Kari Fulton, environmental activists, educators, gosh so much. They're very active in the E. J. Arena, they're known by those who work in this space, who've been working in this space for years, and they are the future of environmental justice, and we're excited about that. so, ladies, welcome, welcome, welcome, so happy you're able to join us today.

[crosstalk]

Hey, I'm so excited, because [...] I think it's important to hear voices, all the voices, and I think you're gonna bring a different perspective, because [...] I think the lessons are probably fresher for you than they are for a lot of us, and also you probably utilize them differently I think, because we're talking about a different age group, let's be honest. [...] The three of us are in the same age group, no I'm just kidding. I mean, You're in a [...] younger age group. So I am just excited to hear what you guys are going to share with us.

So I'm gonna address the first question to both of you, just a general question: what is it about this project that really sort of captured your interest and compelled you to participate? And anyone can go, I won't do the name calling thing we're, not in school. Okay, Alaura?

[Alaura Carter:] I think the work of the Chisholm legacy is very influential, as well as needed in the work that we're doing around the environment. Sadly, the environmental space is portrayed as a very white space and a very male dominated space. And I think that this project does just the opposite of that. It highlights not only women, but it highlights women of color. And so the opportunities for us to continue to uplift each other, uplift our stories, uplift our work, and really just be an example for other women who can say [...] I've always wanted to do this, but I've always had a white boss or I've always had a male boss, I wasn't sure if I had a place in the movement. Because we know that climate change, environmental justice affects women and children, the first and the worst.

And so this project is an opportunity to share the knowledge that many women of color have given me through my journey, as well as [...] break those stereotypes of the environmentalist is the white male with the backpack who hugs trees or other stereotypes versus that an environmentalist can be anyone of any color, shape, size, anything, as long as you have a commitment to preserving not only our natural planet, but the people who live on the planet and improve their lifestyles.

So I think this project gives that opportunity in different ways which are different themes and topics, with these ways for any woman anywhere to get involved and learn something and be a part of it.

[TCLP:] Wow, thank you Alaura and I just wanna say my cousin calls me a tree hugger, so you know that's the term for all of us environmentalists. I don't know why, but I like trees. So Kari, share your perspective.

[Kari Fulton:] Yeah, I like trees, too. Sometimes I [dap] them up, you know. Sometimes I talk to them, Ask them, How they're doing. You gotta talk to the trees. because the trees are giving us life in many ways we're giving them life, because if you've ever talked to your plants, they always say it's good because you're giving them oxygen, so we grow together. I'm really excited about this project because of the legacy that comes with so much generational understanding of what environmentalism is. I've had the opportunity to work under a lot of really amazing women, and a lot of people in general, community members, scholars who are deep in the trenches, and who do this work, not just from a place of academic progress, but also from a place of understanding that this is their lived experience and the communities that they come from. And oftentimes, even for my own understanding, I didn't look at my experiences as environmental justice experiences until I started getting in depth into this work, until I knew the terms, until I could define how my life was growing up. So the idea and the opportunity to talk about our environment in the way that we see it, and how we defined it, how our communities, the people around us, we're talking about the women in our lives, which is great, and I also thought about some of the other male elders, and the things that they've brought in. So that's a whole other conversation, for a whole other day. But I really just appreciate the thought activity of looking back and even going through some of those pictures, and being like Wow, and you know there's definitely more that I could have shared. But I also wanted to be respectful to some of the folks that are still alive and not put them on front street about how we were saving money and coins back in the day. But you know we'll do what we can.

[TCLP:] Thank you and we appreciate you sharing that, and that is a great segue to my first question. Well, for both of you. What do you think about [...] when you hear the term, champagne, taste, and beer money? And I think we'll start with you this time Kari.

[KF:] Michelob Light.

[laughter]

[TCLP:] Okay, Michelob Light

[crosstalk]

[KF:] Oh, I think about that, I think about you know how we've been able to make the most out of what we have, so whether that is thinking about how we flavor even the scraps that we're

given and turn it into a gourmet meal, or how we're able to go into a thrift store. One thing I do appreciate is my mama and my folk teaching me how to go into a thrift store, and know quality, you know, and know how to look at fabrics and know how to say this is something that's a piece that will last a long time versus fast fashion that you're gonna buy, and it's gonna break on you immediately. So I really appreciate that, and I think a lot about that when we say champagne taste would be money is that we can do what we can to make that beer the finest beer you've ever tasted in your life. So it's all about how we present, and also sometimes champagne is not that tasty, anyway.

[laughter]

[TCLP:] Okay, thank you, Kari. Alaura?

[AC:] I think I think about it as kind of the opposite way. I'm in my early thirties, and [...] all of us have friends and relatives who are living these wonderful lives on social media and other places. And they don't have two nickels to rub together. If there's an emergency, they can't handle it. So I think about champagne taste and beer money. [...] I do have friends who [...] dress well, they're always on a trip somewhere. I've never seen them without eyelashes, fresh nails, fresh toes. You know they laugh. Oh, you, you shop at Tj. Max. They laugh at you about that, cause they always look good. But I also have to remember that yeah I mean I'd have all those things. But I do own my own home, I do have a savings account. So if I need a rainy day fund, or mad money as my mother would say. And I've always appreciated the lessons learned from that from older people. My grandmother, she was a woman who could dress, would always make sure she looked good, no matter what. But we always had, you know. we may not have had millions in the bank, but we had backup money, if something broke in the house and we needed to get it fixed. And I think that a lot of us, we're living that lifestyle in two different ways. The way I described first, [...] I'm living the high life, I look good, but I really can't afford to live that life. And then there are those of us who see the difference, and say you know what [...] I might not be going to Cancun every other weekend and I have a nice taste for things, but I also realize that I don't have the budget for that, and I have some money put aside, and I'll make it work with my Tj. Max and my Ross clothes or my thrift store clothes versus run into whatever new sale is at you know some designer that I can't afford or designer that really doesn't even support black and brown people, to be honest with you. And so you know, it can be thought of in 2 ways. And so, I encourage people to try to be more on the thrifty side than the designer side, if that makes sense.

[TCLP:] Yeah. when Kari talked about first of all, you both are definitely on point. And when Kari talked about the thrift store man, you took me back, because I just remember my mom and the 5 of us, her children, going in there and yeah, not just buying anything, but actually you could get quality clothes. And knowing that [...] as Alaura [inaudible] there's nothing wrong with going to goodwill or whatever thrift store and because you're gonna get the same, if you know what you're doing, gonna get the same quality clothes. So that's important, and I appreciate you guys sharing that with us. [...] Has there been a time when you were particularly challenged like there was something you really wanted, and you couldn't? You had to make that decision

about whether to get it or not based on what we've learned, I guess, what we were taught about conserving things and [...] being money conscious, right, being aware of future needs and things like that. So, are there any challenges [...], just one thing that kind of stands out for you and Alaura? We'll start with you.

[AC:] I mean I go through this all the time. I'm always getting updates from Coach for new handbags. I'm in too many shopping websites, little email groups. And I think really you know as I'm one of 4 kids. So I always, for a time I got hand me downs for a little bit, but then I got a lot bigger than my older sister. I got my own stuff sometimes, but even then I have two younger sisters, they're twins. [...] When I have to buy new things for them, I have to buy it at the same time. so you will have to get whatever's left. My grandmother, she would spend [...] good money for us to have lovely church clothes, quality clothes, but I say, can I have Jordans and it was like no your feet grow too fast. You're gonna get whatever shoes we get from whatever store. And so I always kind of like really wished I could [...] have my own money to dress the way I want, and buy what I want, and not have to wear hand-me-downs or not have to be subjected to [...] the off brand shoes, because the twins had to get new stuff, and you know the twins were the most important. But [...] last year I was able to buy my own home and decide the process. I really had to say, you cannot ask them for any money, like you cannot go shopping, you cannot get your hair done, you cannot get your nails done, and for a good like you almost two years. It was lucky the pandemic actually helped with that, it was very much [...] people were [...] what we're going to do this, we're gonna do that. we're going to brunch, and I had to just say, no I can't do it. And at the time [...] it was really hard, because I have the money, I'm working, [...] I'm side hustling, I'm making money, but why can't I do what I want? I definitely think that was a process of me just having to really struggle with like, you know it wouldn't kill me to spend \$20 on this. It's a sale, it wouldn't kill me not to go to, even now, it wouldn't kill me [...] to go to brunch with them. And then I want to do it. But [...] I also have to think about [...] it's \$70, but that \$70 could be well spent somewhere else. As well as you know, especially growing up, [...] we were talking about things we had to conserve [...] our refrigerator broke when I was a kid, and I'm thinking of them get a new refrigerator with an ice maker, and it was real cool. We got someone else's refrigerator from someone else's house when they bought a new refrigerator. And I was like, why can't we get a new refrigerator like we always get stuff somebody else doesn't want. That sucks. And [...] at that time my sister and I were like we could have got a new refrigerator. We always had the old stuff, but [...] that's what we could afford. We could afford someone's refrigerator that was still working, that was good to go. they held us over, and that you know really. Also, as I got older, I thought about wow we didn't though we didn't put something else back into a landfill. We actually just took it from someone else. My mom had a friend who could fix anything. He fixed it up, and it worked just fine. I think those were [...] just a few of the times [...] I was like [...] it would have been nice to have something new or brand new, and have what you want, but realizing that the sacrifice of the end was worth it. Because yeah, we had that older refrigerator. But I'm sure my mother was able to pay other bills about other things, because you have to spend \$500 in a refrigerator, you know, [inaudible] spent 200. And then the rest went to maybe give me something new I didn't realize that she bought new for me, or maybe even saying, [...] this weekend. We can actually go to the pool and hang out because, I've got 20, 30,

\$100 to go out to the pool to hang out for the day and get, you know, pizza afterwards, or something like that.

[TCLP:] Yeah, thank you, Kari?

[KF:] So I definitely would agree on that around the hand-me-downs and the second hand. A lot of times I've gotten into the point of somewhat embracing it a bit, in the sense of if there is something that is, you know you have to pick, and choose, cause you can't just pick up everybody's second hand things, but definitely there are pieces where I would agree around. hey this is how you know I'm not gonna spend \$1,000 on a brand new chair, you know. But I will go and get this other chair reupholstered and now I'm up cycling. and it's so interesting to see terms like up cycling as a terminology that people use as like hey, this is what we're doing in a cheek now in comparison to what we were.

[...] raised to do, and also to see as a skill set. So when I think about someone who can fix anything we're also talking about someone who has the skills to change their lives, and oftentimes we take that for granted. If we were able to change something to fix something as easy as we could. That's a blessing, and we're starting to see because of consumer culture, they're not even making things up quality the same way they make it so it intentionally breaks down, so you have to buy a new dryer or a new washer in 5 years, right as soon as that warranty runs out right always that how it would happen.

But I wanted to get in depth a little bit more into some of your other pieces of the question. But it was so much going on. I wanna make sure I'm touching on all of it.

[TCLP:] No, you are. and actually you brought up a good point when we talk about conservation, you know [...] so funny that we have these words that we didn't have back then, up cycling, free cycle, all of those things that we didn't know. It was just as Alaura so [...] aptly described. We got things that worked fine, [...] we didn't need new things, and [...] that was obviously true for me growing up. And then I see true for you growing up. And [...] just when we talk about the issues [...] that people face today around the economic crisis, or the effect of climate change, or what we saw with Covid, I wonder if there's a direct way you can sort of relate this notion around using what you have instead of getting something you really can't afford or something that's not as necessary, like how would you if you were talking to a community [...] for example, or an individual, [...] if you were trying to give that lesson how would you translate that to them?

[AC:] Hmm. It's interesting, you say using what you have versus doing something new. I think a lot of communities already do that. They make ways out of no ways. But like Kerry said also, some of the things we have in this day, and they just don't last as long. Some things have been passed down. I mean we have furniture my grandparents bought like in the twenties, and we had to finally get rid of some of it. And I was like we can't get rid of that, I love it. And my sister was like that thing has been through everything in America, the leg has fallen off, we didn't patch it up, sold it up, prayed over it. We got to let it go. and I think communities, you know nowadays we just don't have to think of that anymore, that lasts forever. I think communities use what they have in a sense of their knowledge of how to stay alive. They pass down that

knowledge of you know we can make this work, we can make that work, there's always a way they call it an alley mechanic or a hood mechanic will fix someone's car [...]. Back in the day my great great grandfather, he wasn't actually a plumber, but he knew enough about plumbing, so he could go to all the people's homes in the neighborhood who were black and didn't have a lot of money to call an expensive plumber and do quick and easy jobs for them that actually work that well. So we do use that knowledge of using what you have. But we could definitely, in a lot of communities, do more of just not just the knowledge part, but realizing the resources we have, whether it is a plot of land to grow some things on, whether it is [...] extra space in your house to use, do something with that, you know old electronics lying around that could be used. And I think I'm not the best expert in this. I would never try to, I would do my research [inaudible] community and say here's what you can do to do everything you can do. But there's definitely more things we can do, and then just really doing a lot of asset mapping. We've gone working with communities at the work. I Do like you know, I don't know anything about this community, but from what I've kind of research, what you're telling me, you can use this, do this, do that, he can help you do this, she can help you do that. And I think a number of communities already do that. But [...] there needs to be more sometimes [...] more conversation to learn more by just to see, what the cross the Cross fibers are saying like, Did you know, that so in the lawyer, and she could actually help with that? And that back and forth can be used. I hope I hit that right.

[TCLP:] You hit it, perfect

[crosstalk]

[KF:] yeah, I definitely agree when it comes to how we support each other in the community, moving from DC and buying [...] a home is a whole other gambit of like life and being a young homeowner. And also I bought a fixer upper. So literally I was like look I've watched gentrification my entire life, and I want to be able to find somewhere that I can afford, that I know is also somewhere I want to be and that's growing. And so when I came to find my home, I was in West Baltimore and up in and a lot of people were like, you're literally buying in the wire, Why are you doing that? Because there's history and there's promise and I believe in this home that's over a 100 years old, right? But more than that, I believe in the community. And one of the things that I love most about my neighborhood is that when I had a hard time and I had an issue, I was able to talk to my neighbors, and they were experts in my neighborhood that helped me to fix what was going on in my house. When I had outside contractors and things, they come, they see a little black girl and they're like honey, I'm not to overcharge you, I'm not to overtax you. And I think about that so much, symbolically about when we think about the science of climate change, when we think about the policies of climate change, sometimes it helps to have some folk that look like you and that come from where you're at that are going to be able to work with you and not mess you over. Because everybody has their own [...] reasons and interest for why they do something. And for my neighborhood the reasons and interests is for us together, if my house looks good, then [...] your house looks good. If I'm okay,

then you're okay. And that is such a beautiful thing that resonates with me, because it is also a skillshare as you mentioned.

Now I am personally working on making sure that I'm not holding on to every little bit needy greedy, I'm like I want that, I want that, I've had elders that cast away, and I'm like wait but this has so many memories. But really that's another reason why I appreciate this project, because I have also archives, not just physical pieces, but also histories, legacies, mental pieces that I've been able to gain from [inaudible]

[TCLP:] That's right, you guys made me think Oh, my goodness, right now [...] my mom is with me up here in Maryland, but when I went home I was just in town for a day, and she asked me to get the water hose out of the back and I went back there and I don't know what I did, but let's just say the faucet came out of the wall, and by the wall I mean the brick, and I just water gushing out and I'm freaking out. [...] And of course my first thought is we need to get a plumber, because this water is gushing out of the thing. So I called the water department. Yeah, we don't do repairs. It's all like I run in a house, mama, I broke the thing, we have to call the plumber [...] And she goes, wait a minute, and she called the neighbor across the street, the person who's living there, the actual neighbors passed away, but [...] another neighbor's son is living there. And he called some people who used to live there, the [...] family members in Atlanta, who then called someone else [...] who lives down the street, who wasn't home, but left the message. I mean the whole neighborhood pitched in, it was hilarious because I was like Oh my God. [...] He has a tool that you need to turn off the water on the street level [...] and all of this [...], instead of me finding a plumber [...] cause I told her I'll pay for it, let's get a plumber. You know we didn't need to do that, because this is as you both described and defined people have those skills and we use to do that. [...] He refused to take any money, because he says that's what neighbors do, we look out for each other. And by the time he got there, he told me he left another job when he got the phone call. [...] I had a friend of mine on the phone, and he was in Mississippi, and I was showing him the water shut off thing, and he was literally telling me on the phone how to shut it off with pliers. And you see everybody just pitched in, and that's what we used to do and that's part of the community, right? And part of that culture, the culture of working together [...] You know you guys made me think about the fact that I have my grandmother's sofa in here. And [...] I had it reupholstered some years ago. I would love to get rid of it, because [...] it takes space that I could use. You know this is not that big a [...] piece of property, but I love it, but I can't get rid of it, because, as Kari says, and you, it has history right? I mean [...] we used to sit on it at my grandma's house. So you know when we talk about things like you know [...] even the part of the racial awakening [...], people started talking a lot about things that happened before, like what happened in Tulsa, right and [...] black Wall Street and all of that. And even with that it was what we needed to do to survive [...] and thrive, in the words of Mustapha Ali, right? We went from surviving to thriving, we took what we had.

I think the message I'm hearing from both of you, we took what we had and made what we needed. And it was quality, it was community, and it was working together. So you know I appreciate that message, those messages that [...] we're talking about conserving things as a

part of [...] not just I guess moving on something because you wanted even though it may cost a \$1,000. [...] There was a woman I went to a store a little while ago, she was like oh, you should come and get your eyebrows done, it's just \$325. And, exactly, that was my [inaudible] I was like, what is this word just? Because I'm thinking, you know, that there are [...] other ways we could use our money, right? I mean when we talk about the economic crisis, I think one of the issues, my mom said to me, I have to keep going back to her, this was a couple of months ago, she said well your brother said that electricity is the cheapest commodity that we have that we have, [...] that's our cheapest bill. And then I had to of course talk about communities that use the majority of their checks to pay those bills, and how some people don't have an option. We didn't have it growing up, [...] we didn't have a dryer for a long time, it was whose turn is it to go hang the clothes outside. And now I miss that, because the sun would bleach the whites, and it was solar energy, solar power to drive the clothes and all of that.

[background noise]

So that just brings us back. Are there any things that, like for me, what resonates in my head is when I go to other people's homes, particularly my family's home, [...] I have one cousin who likes to, they just leave their lights on in every room. And for me growing up [...] that was a big lesson [...] I think the message was we don't have champagne money, so you can't walk around and leave the lights on when you're going to another room or leave the television on. Are there any things like that that stand out for you?

[KF:] Oh, definitely, I definitely was of the vein growing up in my granddaughter's house, we did not have a washer m [inaudible] machine, so we had to lug everything to the laundromat. And now when I see things that are eco-friendly I'm like oh yeah, so real, as I said, [inaudible] that played arcade games [...] But I think about that now in this sense of these are things I don't struggle with as an adult, because I've done them my whole life.

But I also know that there are certain things where you know we talk about the lights, or we talk about even growing food.

So some of the pictures when I look back, there's a lot of pictures of my grandfather's [inaudible] growing up, and people look at gardening as like an activity that lots of people want to do and it's chic now, but we just garden, one he might have really loved gardening, which he did is the country way but also because I never tried collard greens from the grocery store until I got to be an adult. I didn't know that you even could buy them at the grocery store.

And there were little things like that that set us through the summer like eating a 1 million squash, a 1 million [inaudible], if I never have to see a zucchini in my life that'd be okay, but these are things that were instilled in me throughout growing up that are now thought of as a big, abundant thing. But oftentimes, in that same vein there are things that we saw that we took for granted, and we would turn our nose up at. Like Alaura was mentioning, the friends that are always traveling and gotta have the nicest thing. And sometimes that's like our response to having grown up in a time where we couldn't have everything. So now we assume that we have to have the biggest house, the brand newest of things, and that doesn't always necessarily equate to better.

And also, especially when it comes to infrastructure that's a big lesson as I mentioned before with gentrification and growing up in it is that I also paid a lot of attention to how people built their homes, and how they built up these new developments, and they would just throw them up just as quick. And to me that also taught me a lot about taking time, and not just having to rush to meet a demand, but really taking the time to put in, as they mentioned, design excellence, to be able to make sure that is embedded. And I think that's also important when we think about movement building, we don't have to move as fast as everyone else who wants to get the biggest numbers, wants to have the biggest show, because that doesn't necessarily create a sturdy foundation. We want to have enough time to build that design excellence and also maybe even do some of that nice Victorian design like let's get real creative and build something real nice that can last a long time.

[TCLP:] Very good points. [...] I wanna say something so bad but I can't wait to hear what Alaura has to say, but I'm making a note because I want to know a little bit more about that.

[AC:] Let's say both my grandparents were born in the thirties, during the depression, so [...] there wasn't a lot going around to begin with. My grandfather is one of 8, he never let us forget that. So they were a family that literally [...] things stretched. You had a bowl of porridge, or a big [think] of potatoes, or a big [think] of whatever, because it had to stretch to feed everybody. And then some, even though my grandmother was an only child, [...] growing up in the South. it still was very much, you know things had to stretch it didn't matter. And so growing up, [...] we always had food, plenty of food, cookies, candy's case, but my grandfather, if they were doing 10 for 10 or buy one, get one, we had it. We may not have wanted it, it may have been something that wasn't that good, but if they were doing 30-cent cans of sardines, we had about 20 cans of sardines, and may not be what you wanted to eat, but it was good to eat.

[background noise]

And so, [...] I always remember that. You know my grandfather was also a very avid gardener, and so we always had string beans, bell peppers, carrots. He did [collagen] sometimes, I mean just tons of vegetables coming in, tomatoes. S we usually have [tape to make], you know vegetables from the summer, and pretty much into the fall. We have family in Kentucky. that would actually [...] preserve things [...] He was sending them stuff, and they would send us back jars of canned or preserved, whatever they grew in their own gardens. And so [...] that's what we ate growing up, I mean we ate out every now and then, but it was more so [...] like gardening, it was things preserved in the house, turning the lights off, yes. I remember our air conditioner broke, and [...] my grandfather went and bought a bunch of box fans from Montgomery Ward, and every room had a fan in it, and the air was not coming back on and you learn how to open the windows, or sit down and be quiet, because if you do hot, you should go and be quiet somewhere, or go get part of the breeze, you know and so just things like that. I remember he and my grandmother especially doing because, you know, we had to save money. I never did, I was like well, we have money, we have a nice house, what's the big deal? But you know they were very much rainy days [people where] we may have it now, but we might need

this later on, and they were right. There were several instances where \$1,000 had to be spent to fix this, you know, \$200 for that. And so it made a lot of sense.

And I think definitely like building off with Kari said, we are in a point where we see a lot of people springing up with different ideas for movements, and differences they want to do, and a lot of E. J. communities, and they're not really building on this foundation, they're just kind of I don't want them to say throwing things together. They have great ideas and great concepts, but not everyone has a great idea, everybody wants to make a poster, they want to get [...] on twitter and we're beating up. We're not, we're not doing this anymore. but a lot of folks don't want to the backbreaking work of [...] really not in just getting to know communities organizing, but you know the paperwork that comes behind it the admin work, the sitting down and strategizing and look and listen to pros and the cons which is just the prose of how we can make this beautiful. And we've seen a lot of wonderful people, wonderful young and older, all people together, [...] we're going on march, we're making a statement, we're upset, we're doing this, and then but [...] this is like maybe a year or 3 years ago, if I could google some of that stuff now I wouldn't hear anything about it. And I think [...] we're getting away from that, but we still are in some cases where you have folk who [...] are doing the doing the smart thing of trying to capitalize on the momentum of things happening, but aren't thinking about the long-term longevity programs and aren't really thinking, too about [...] what happens to a community after you leave. You're here now with cameras, lights, and everything else, but who's here when you leave? Yeah, you got someone to fund them \$50,000, but who's [...] here when the 50,000 runs out? Are you coming and helping get another 50 grant, or are you just [inaudible] we help fund them. Who's here when people leave? And I think we're not, we've got to be better about, you know sometimes everything doesn't need a big production or show, sometimes it's better to just keep it very simple, keep it easy, build the foundation from there, and make concrete and really strong partnerships and relationships.

And I definitely see that how we're not we are no longer being that preservation stage of you know we're not here to show up to [cancer Alley], and make a movement, we're [...] here to start building, preserving, passing things down, getting things moving. You know we may not make a big slash in the next 10 months as much as we want to, but we've at least changed 2 or 3 lives. We've been here since 95, we're going to be here until 2055, versus folk dropping in for 2010 and 2011 [...] they don't work there anymore, and they don't talk to anybody anymore. I think that part is key and critical, because that's a conversation that should be had. And I know that people have been bringing it up to the funders, how movements are created based on the funding allocated. And oftentimes we have these campaigns and that's something that's hot right now. So the green new deal might have been hot at that moment, so we're gonna put a lot of funding into this. But what happens may drive out [...] And oftentimes when we're thinking about movements, founders do not think on that long term scale or level of qualitative, really building out quality programming. They're thinking about how it can get done as quickly as possible, and oftentimes it's not

[crosstalk]

Right, and it's not on the calendar that makes any sense to real people. Maybe it's on a congressional calendar, maybe it's on a fiscal calendar, but it's not on a community calendar. And that is the hardest part, and that's what breaks down trust [...] So when I think about this idea of being able to have champagne [...] taste or beer money, is like well how many people can we feed, how many people can we have at this party if we buy [...] MGD. versus buying the crystal? It might just be a party of 2 or 3 of us if we get this

[crosstalk]

but we could [...] party with the whole block. And oftentimes that is the biggest frustration to me, is that people will build out their movements based on that. And then that timeline of saying hey, I have to meet these deliverables or I won't get funded and then you start changing the dynamics. And so I know that there are always different people that want to watch these webinars, and who may be inspired by them. But I would definitely say that as we're building this out and we're thinking about how we build stronger movements, that we think about the real people. And the real people do not live, breathe, and struggle through environmental injustice on a fiscal calendar, it happens every single day, and we need real funding and real support that balances out those

[crosstalk]

Yeah.

[TCPLP:] Exactly, right. You know one of the things you guys touched on, and the message I got from both of you around culture is that you have been doing these things all your life, eating vegetables, home grown. My grandfather also grew vegetables and that's that was our first, for a lot of us, only expose you to things you [...] can't afford in the store, even with my mom. I get my vegetables now, as Alaura knows, I have some of them I grow here, I try to grow little hydroponics. But I dug out the area [...] behind my bushes in [...] my townhouse, and I put some squash out there, and yeah sorry Kari some zucchini and not about someone watermelon, because my granddad used to grow watermelon [...] and some green beans, because we all got to have green beans. And then in the garage I have another setup with peppers and my [...] mom was like, you know, we didn't see all of this growing up, [...] cause nobody did [hydroponics], right? We put it in the soil, we had [...] yard, we had acreage back then that, of course, was taken in a lot of instances. But [...] I think about when people come to communities, not necessarily just communities, there's some big effort, and people want it to be as you say Kari, I'm gonna [...] [inaudible] a little bit splashy, you know this big thing and or even if you offer a community that's really having a hard time, some funding to you know upfront to do something, then what are you gonna do over time? What are you going to do to help them be resilient, right?

[...] We have to think beyond the moment. And I think that's kind of what this champagne taste, when we think, when we break it down, instead of having the champagne or having some big effort that looks good on paper or looks good in the newspaper, and then going away, right?

Like Alaura said, I don't see you and [...] we check it in a couple of years later, and there's nothing there [...] think about the impact you're going to have over time, particularly when we talk about things like the issues that we saw with COVID around, I don't know full insecurity, a big one that's only getting worse, right, with climate change. So what are you gonna do long term? And you know I'm a strong [component] of community gardens, right, I was actually supposed to start my class to be a master gardener. I missed the deadline by one day, so I'm gonna wait, [...] hopefully they'll have a winter series. But one of the things that the master gardener does is work with communities to establish community gardens, how impactful is that, of course, I'm gonna want one of the plots, cause this growing in the bushes isn't gonna last long, because somebody's gonna find out. [...] Well, what we need is for you guys, this lesson that I'm hearing, and the people who are listening, participating in the webinars are hearing, is we need to understand as a people [...] and I mean all people, understand that big isn't always better, right, and that using rational thought and what is this gonna look like over time and as Alaura says yeah the big trip, and then you're back and then what?

[audio issue]

The only thing you have is pictures and an empty bank balance or whatever. Where instead, you can show property, a house or investments. And Kari I think you hit it on the head, I'm looking at my neighborhood, they're literally [...] up apartments. And I think about how things looked in the past, and they were so sturdy, and the houses still remain today. I was driving with my mom in DC. And she goes this is history, look how these how homes are made, [...] and how long they've been here. Because she was like this is an old neighborhood, you could tell because these homes are sturdy, I wonder how long these people have lived here. and [...] it's not necessarily the people, as [...] much as it is where they are, the structure, the infrastructure. And [...] my mom likes to reminisce, we were driving Monday, [...] we saw a fruit tree somewhere. She goes oh, we used to have those in our yard and a lot of us did. We didn't think anything of it. Pear trees, [big] trees, pecan trees. Now we have an orange tree, [...] it's so high we can't cut anything down. But all of that sustained, my mom would make preserves with the figs, and we go blackberry picking. We can't do that now, because of pesticides, right? So culture is so important with

[audio issue]

it seems like there's such a strong connection between culture and conservation, using what we have, the way we were raised to save things, save things today, [...] to do things economically, to do things that make sense and reasonable. So I guess, as I said, that was a big lesson. But [...] I'm kind of wondering [...] if you had one lesson, one cautionary warning, or one piece of valuable information [...], if you had [...] to sort of import this information to a group of people, and you start with champagne taste and beer money, what would be the ultimate lesson that you would want them to know, like one takeaway? Because [...] people usually remember one thing from an in-person meeting, and I don't know how many things from a Zoom meeting, because we're on them all the time. So what's the one important lesson from this that you would give?

[KF:] I would say, be thankful for what you got. I definitely think we take for granted what we don't recognize is amazing you know. So take a look, take a closer look, be thankful, see where you can utilize something differently [...]. And if you don't value it, ask yourself who might value it more than you

[TCLP:] [...] You maybe think of your word upcycle, you know use it in [...] My mother had a [inaudible] saying you know it's time to get rid of it. Oh, but it's you guys, grew up there and it's been covered and recovered, and [inaudible] now it's time for somebody else to create memories on it, please. So because it is, [...] we don't throw things away, we pass them all up to somebody else who needs them, S that's a very good point, thank you Kari. Alaura.

[AC:] I would say learn from the past, but also look and think about [...] the future. We don't want to forget the lessons being taught to us, not just by like grandparents and parents, but people you meet in the neighborhood, people you meet at church. There's some people in my church who have done well, and I've always been like I'm gonna come work for you and make big money, and they're like listen I had to do a lot to get big money, it didn't come overnight, you got to be ready to sacrifice [...], to hustle hard. [...] One of my favorite [trustee trustee Slade], he'll tell anybody real quick he'll say you know me and my wife, both of us happen to get lucky and get to do different opportunities to build our business. But you know it doesn't come overnight. And so learning from people like that who have to teach you about things don't come easy, we had to do this in the past, learn from some of our elders [...], especially like, I guess some of our grandparents age, or maybe great grandparents, depending on how young you are, a lot of them live through Jim Crow civil rights movement and they'll tell you, is people [...] who were [masters] degrees, highly educated, couldn't get a job anywhere because they were black, and they had just do what they could to feed their family. so learning from the past and looking towards the future in a sense of you have it now, but you might need it 10 months from now. You might need it 10 years from now.

And so thinking about budgeting [...] and learning how to [...] of course saying no, but just learning how to say this will work now, but we have to have [it] ready for 10 or 20 years from now. You have few people who [...] make \$89,000 a year, they don't have any money in their 401k. So I'm like you're gonna work for the rest of your life? I'll put the money in later, you're 35, later is coming up quicker. [...] These are folks who are actually working, they're making money, and I can only imagine if folks who sadly or maybe aren't making as much every year, who may not have the opportunity to put it away. But if those of us who do have the opportunity to think about the future [...] when it comes to your spending and things, but also thinking about it when it comes to your right with our [planet] and conservation, I think a lot of people are [planet] and conservation just in general, with other subjects, too – thinking about now, but they're not thinking about what you're doing, the movement now is it [sustainable] for 10 years, is it something that we could come back to, have we learned from the past, and say [...] we did this model before and didn't work, we shouldn't do this model again. We did this model before and it did work, and we should revamp it and bring it back again, since people enjoyed that and they were receptive to it. And I think a lot of times in our personal finances,

but also within organizational movement building, we're not looking back, we're saying well that's the old, we're into the new now and then we're starting something new and just big old messages, and work is not sustainable.

And I think that's caused by a number of people who [...] are just jumping in the movement and doing a number of different things, but I encourage people to do that. I mean I'm grateful that people like you, Dr. Hollis, and Mustafa, and Bernice, and Leslie, and so many others, Jackie, are always telling me about different things that happened in the past, and some things you used to do and stuff like that. And most people will say well that's what they used to do, why do they care now, and I say well you know we were used to do things, but if we did it now in the community it'll still work. We'd have to revamp it. And I think sometimes some of the people, young and old, who were in this movement are very much, you know, I've got a great idea, I know how to work twitter, I can make a graphic, and they're ready to just go forward without thinking about the longevity, future, because a lot of these communities that we're working with and we're trying to help, we're a great help for the first 6 months, but, Lord willing, Michigan is gonna need your help in 2028, with issues that are happening there. We're trying to shut down fossil fuel industries, but we're not gonna be able to shut down all those candles, sadly fossil fuel plants [...] throughout the South until 2050, 2060.

And so it's great to think about now the splash you're making, but looking towards the future of like okay, how do we continue to go and help every year, same time every year, to be a part of this movement, and to get these things done? And so as I said, you know, think about the past, but also look towards the future as well, because it's got to be more forward-thinking versus just 6 months out. It's got to be 20 years out for what some of these movements we're trying to build and do.

[TCLP:] Thank you, and I guess 3 things I immediately picked up from what you said, you probably didn't even realize, one was just the art of budgeting. A lot of people don't know how to do it, right? [...] I mean my mom could budget to the nickel, to the penny, and so could my grandparents, because we have no choice. And I think a lot of people are in that same situation today, and once we start making money like [...] when I started out after college I made \$10,000, I thought I was like oh no, I was living at home, you know I because I was working around the corner [...] What is that thing, more money, more problems?

[laughter]

And I said it politely, more money, more problems, right? But that's one thing, was the need for lessons, and we learned this growing up. My mom used to have me write checks for her and balance the checkbook, send me to the store, and I'm not saying we all should return the checkbooks, but I'm just saying it as part of our culture, we were taught those things, we were taught that champagne isn't always best.

Another thing is traditional, and we both touched on this, traditional ecological knowledge, right? The history, the importance of what's working, what has worked in the past, and how

important that history is for infrastructure, for knowledge, for food, for just so much, so many different things. And then I thought about something else, and this sort of touch for me on [...] this notion of champagne taste and beer money, is another saying we've heard, the grass is greener. And people think the grass is greener on the other side, right? You know we need to operate from a position of that grass is brown and so let's not even go there let's [...] work with what we have and make it better. Let's work on this [...] side of the fence, let's work in our community, let's work to make this planet better. That's why personally I'm always concerned about people wanting to take a ride to the moon and do all this. Why are we planning to leave instead of fixing where we are, instead of addressing issues here? We're gonna abandon it, that's like when [...] you're farming, and you're not getting the crop you wanted, so you just leave it and let it grow wild. No, you figure out how to cultivate it, or what you need to add, or things like that.

So those are the messages that I receive. And you guys have been such a source of great information today that I am so happy that you decided to join us. And so I wanted to thank you for contributing your stories to this project, and for joining us today as we continue our series Picking Greens and Being Greens, Black Mamas, and other, and culture conservation and community. And for our listeners, thank you all so much, and I hope, if you have any questions or something you want to follow up on, that you do that with Alaura Carter or Kari Fulton. So thank you both so much on behalf of The Chisholm Legacy Project and have a wonderful rest of your day.