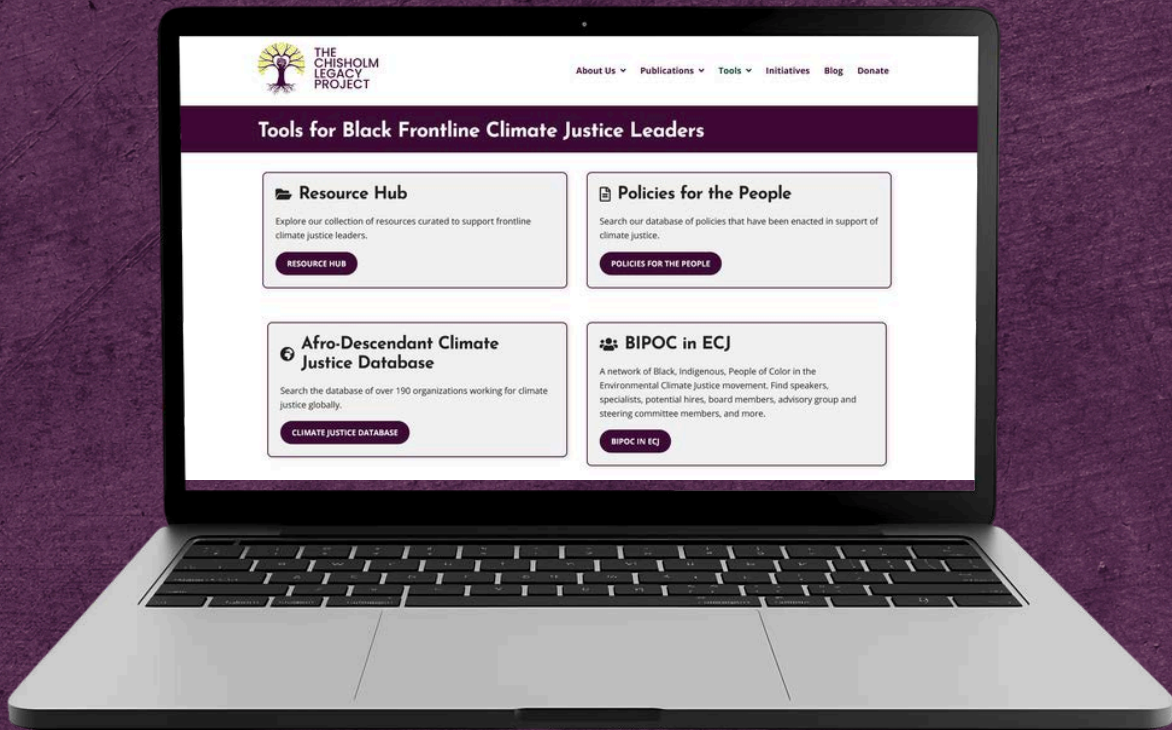


20 25 ANNUAL REPORT

Deepening Our Roots,
Extending Our Reach,
And Leveling Up!



THE
CHISHOLM
LEGACY
PROJECT



WE OFFER TOOLS AND RESOURCES
for anyone fighting for justice!

<https://thechisholmlegacyproject.org/tools/>

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A MESSAGE FROM JACQUELINE PATTERSON

Executive Director

of The Chisholm Legacy Project (TCLP)



Greetings Beloveds,

2025 was a turning point for TCLP, with January ushering in the most overtly systemically hostile circumstances most of us have seen in our lifetimes. We cannot overstate how much this political and economic era – deepening authoritarianism and deepened institutionalization of extractivist practices in the U.S. – disproportionately impacts Black communities domestically and globally. TCLP was founded in 2021 to address the layered injustices and vulnerabilities that undermine the wellbeing of our communities. But a whole new level of precarity arrived in 2025.

Today, communities face increased surveillance and intimidation, along with the withdrawal of critical infrastructure funding and the erosion of hard-won social protections. In addition to extreme escalation of anti-immigrant rhetoric and ongoing state-sanctioned violence, we are experiencing attacks on voting rights and healthcare access. We are feeling the rollback of hard-won LGBTQIA+ protections. Job losses are hitting Black women disproportionately. Black frontline communities are already more vulnerable to climate disasters, and the situation is worsened by the decimation of the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as other vital programs and supports (like FEMA, NOAA, USAID, and more). This compounds the burdens borne by Black women and femmes in our roles as organizers and caretakers.

Yet we are blessed. Precisely because of the layered injustices our communities have known and currently face, we are best equipped to design and lead solutions to persistent problems and as new challenges arise.



A MESSAGE FROM JACQUELINE PATTERSON

Executive Director

of The Chisholm Legacy Project (TCLP)



In 2025, TCLP continued to center the leadership and resilience of Black women as we deepened our support for frontline communities on the path to self-determination, local self-reliance, and the collective building of a new, inclusive democracy. We are guided by Shirley Chisholm's reminder – "service is the rent we pay for living on this earth."

As TCLP approaches our 5th anniversary, we are grateful for the significant contributions of so many – communities, staff, board, allies, partners, volunteers, donors – to the foundation we have built over the past four years.

Harsh headwinds continue to test us, but we stand firmly committed to organizing and building lasting power. Together, we are advancing a community-driven Black Liberation and Just Transition agenda. Our focus on self-determination and local self-reliance within a regenerative economy is needed now more than ever as any semblance of a social safety net is all but eliminated. Our leadership and expertise on community and individual safety, honed due to our experience with attack, is at an all-time high in terms of demand and we have risen to the challenge.

We remain clear-eyed about the consolidation of power in fewer hands and the barriers being erected to keep us in place. Looking back on what we accomplished in 2025 helps us see the path(s) ahead for building a truly inclusive economy and democracy. The path(s) will not be easy, but we proceed with the steadfastness that our mission requires, and our communities deserve.

In Unity and Solidarity,
Jacqui Patterson

TCLP

Mission Statement



The mission of The Chisholm Legacy Project is rooted in a Just Transition Framework. The project serves as a vehicle to connect Black communities on the frontlines of climate justice with resources to traverse the path from vision to strategy to action plan to implementation to transformation. In support of frontline leadership, the project seeks to link movements and mainstream entities with the tools necessary to advance systems change centered in equity and justice. With Black women on the frontlines of advancing systems change, this project ensures that these leaders have the support they need as they transform society from extractivism to a living economy that cares for sacred relationships between people and with Mother Earth, through regenerative, cooperative, democratic systems.



PILLARS OF OUR WORK:

Community Building Toward Self-Determination

MOUND BAYOU
MUSEUM
OF
AFRICAN AMERICAN
CULTURE AND
HISTORY
EST. 2021

Through our regional, on-the-ground community outreach, we work and walk with Black frontline communities to surface visions for systemic change, build strategies to achieve those visions, devise action plans, as well as leverage an abundance of existing resources and partners for implementation.



ATTENTION!!!

DUE TO THE RECENT STORM DAMAGE

AND PENDING RESTORATION THE
MUSEUM HAS BEEN RELOCATED TO
JUST A FEW STEPS AWAY. PLEASE
FOLLOW THE ARROWS TO THE NEW
MUSEUM'S TEMPORARY LOCATION.



OUR WORK WITH

Frontline Communities



TCLP's community building work focuses almost exclusively on places with a population below 4,000 (and many below 1,000 people). We work in areas (often unincorporated) with a significant Black population where median household incomes fall below the poverty line. We prioritize areas that do not have other organizations serving them. Hundreds of communities meet these criteria – overwhelmingly rural and peri-urban in nature.

2025 At-A-Glance: TCLP's Organizing Team



Completed **332** in-person community visits supported by hundreds of phone calls and email exchanges between Community Support Managers and residents.



Created **170+** resource plans, connecting communities with resources many never knew existed.



OUR WORK WITH

Frontline Communities

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

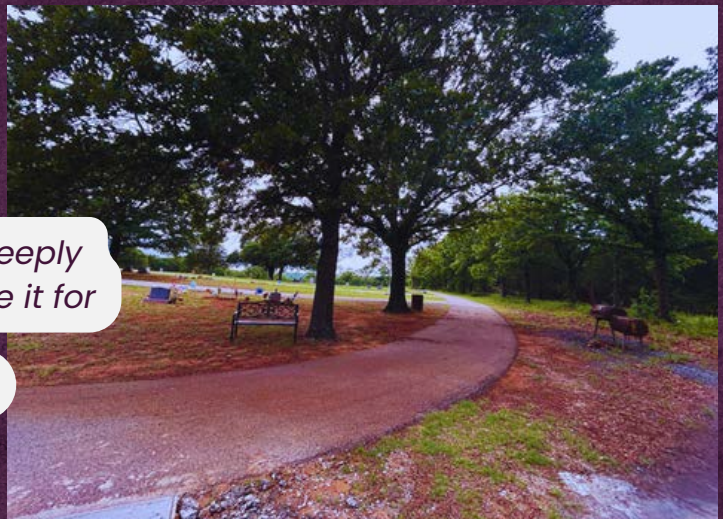


We are a very rural town. We are so rural that we don't even know what we need. But what we do know is that we need everything.

— Resident, Zwolle, Louisiana

We may be small, but we still care deeply about our town and want to preserve it for future generations.

— Resident, Brooksville, Oklahoma



We miss the community, the people. Ironton and Pointe à la Hache are crime free communities. We don't lock our doors here. We cannot afford to move and start over. Every time there is a natural disaster, we lose a little bit more of community!

— Resident, Ironton, Louisiana

CATALYSTS FOR A

New Democracy



How could we work with 200+ frontline communities across the country with launching regenerative projects to address issues the communities themselves have identified – ranging from climate resilience, deteriorating infrastructure, and built-environment concerns to historic preservation goals to capacity and governance challenges?

In July of 2025, we launched our expansive ecosystem engagement model: Catalysts for a New Democracy (CND) – to build our capacity to work with frontline communities in the ways they want and need!

We are deeply grateful to the National and State Anchor Institutions (NAIs and SAIs), Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs), and Movement colleagues who have so far signed on to walk with communities to meet these challenges collectively.



CATALYSTS FOR A

New Democracy



INAUGURAL NATIONAL AND STATE ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS

United Women in Faith

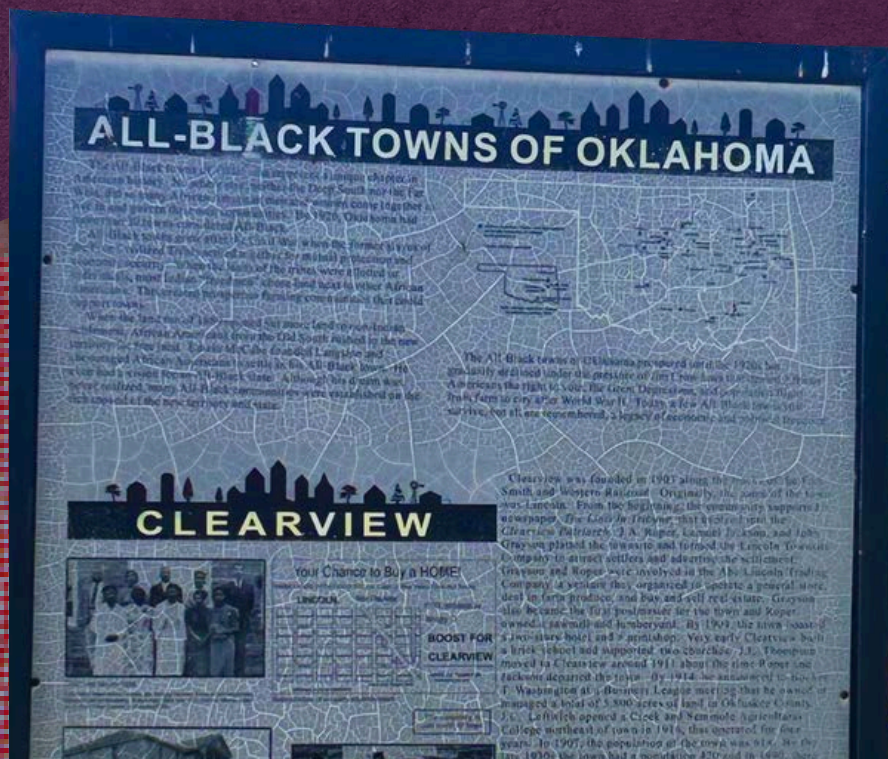
Arkansas Black Mayors Association

Virginia State Conference of the NAACP

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

At our first orientation call for entities interested in stepping forward to provide technical assistance, we had an inaugural cohort of 50+ participants from a range of organizations who are willing to serve as technical assistance providers, including: Environmental Protection Network, Sprout NOLA, Savannah Riverkeeper, Climate Center for Energy and Environmental Justice, Louisiana Food Policy Council, Freshwater Future, and many more!

Please contact TCLP to learn more about joining the CND ecosystem.



Frontline Communities Regenerative Economies Fund



What will it take for frontline communities to journey from visioning through to implementation?

TCLP is taking a multi-pronged approach. Through our CND initiative, TCLP is training hundreds of volunteers and technical assistance partners to work with frontline communities and facilitate visioning and strategy development to access technical and financial resources.

Simultaneously, access to early-stage resources is critical: town hall meetings, space rentals, food, equipment, and facilitation all require funding before implementation can begin. Without these supports, communities often struggle to move from planning to action. The rural towns where TCLP staff/organizers are working often do not have dedicated municipal staff, let alone staff trained in grant writing or grant management. Grant applications are time-consuming and often require detailed budgets, impact narratives, and technical documentation.

Solution? The **Frontline Communities Regenerative Economies Fund (REF)**, housed with the Movement Strategy Center, provides direct access to funds for frontline communities and their self-governance bodies.

Direct access is an oft-overlooked ingredient but absolutely integral for rooting local regenerative projects with community support!

- The REF was launched with a \$50,000 grant from the Wallace Global Fund in 2025!

TCLP has an initial goal of raising \$2,000,000, to support the planning stage activities of 300+ communities. (Estimated allocation: Average of \$5,000 per community for venue, food, supplies, etc. with flexibility recognizing varying needs.)

Please contact TCLP to learn more about the Fund's key features and benefits for frontline communities.

PILLARS OF OUR WORK:



Movement Building for Systems Change

We strengthen the integration of Black Liberation and climate justice through curation and creation of research and policy analysis, training/certification programs, strengthened communications capacity, building climate finance models, as well as facilitating diaspora connections for power building.



Black Liberation & Just Transition Institute (BLJTI)



Organizers, advocates, practitioners, and community members are working every day to protect their neighborhoods, strengthen local economies, and respond to the growing impacts of climate change. Yet the knowledge that emerges from communities is still too often overlooked or dismissed. The **Black Liberation & Just Transition Institute (BLJTI)** was created in part to shift that dynamic by recognizing lived experience and frontline leadership as essential forms of expertise in the climate justice movement.

Through BLJTI, organizers, practitioners, and community leaders come together to strengthen their work in advancing climate justice. They connect with peers across the country who are doing similar work. Learning is only one part of the journey. From the beginning, BLJTI has been guided by a simple idea: knowledge should support action. The goal is to deepen understanding, spark new action, as well as strengthen the work participants are already doing in their communities.

In 2025, we:

- Expanded BLJTI's Tier I learning pathway into a full suite of 18 certification programs.
- Onboarded 104 new learners representing over 30 states and more than 60 cities, bringing total enrollment to over 200!



EXPANDING THE REACH OF THE BLJTI



99 students across

5 COMMUNITY COLLEGES

in Southern California – including **West Los Angeles College, Mt. San Antonio College, and Fullerton College** – participated in an **Environmental Justice 101** course whose curriculum and materials were adapted from the BLJTI, and created in partnership with Gilmore Khandhar, a Solidarity Economies Law Firm, and with Community Learning Partnership, a national non-profit focused on building a workforce of credentialed, knowledgeable community organizers and skilled leaders who can create positive change in their local communities

This course has taught me to identify cultural climate narratives that affect polices, and to look at how, as a collective, we all affect what happens in our present environment. This course had great content about understanding our present environmental issues, in hopes of creating stronger systems that better support our Earth and collective well-being.

- Mia

I really enjoyed learning about different strategies for advocacy groups. Identifying an issue is one thing but figuring out how to tackle it is another.

-Julian

My community outreach skills have gotten better for sure. Along with strengthening my foundation for environmental justice issues, my skills for research regarding community issues also increased. When going through the modules, the amount of resources included was astounding. It showed me how much information is out there and that we can find resources for the issues impacting us.

-Itzel



THE
CHISHOLM
LEGACY
PROJECT

I learned so much. I learned about different ways communities unite together and focus on the issues. I also learned about how you really need organizing skills. I liked how focused it was in California. It was so amazing how many communities come together and it is amazing knowing people are making change and I can join them!

-Alice

2025 TOOK US INTO OUR 3RD YEAR OF THE

Just Transition Lawyering Institute!

The JTLI is a training and capacity building program for practicing lawyers in the United States, to ground and align their law practice with the Just Transition framework and grow their ability to support frontline communities. This year we proudly supported a cohort exclusively comprising **Black women attorneys!**

The cohort met for a series of facilitated virtual sessions throughout 2025, culminating in a 3-day in person gathering in November in Baltimore. The group discussed a case of the historic Black community of Athens, Alabama, who are organizing for sewer and water infrastructure access. The cohort met with community leaders and developed a document of possible strategic paths for the community to consider as they move forward.

- **States of practice include:** Maryland, Texas, Mississippi, DC, Illinois, California
- **Areas of practice and approach include:** Civil Rights, Environment, Public Interest, Nonprofit, Community Lawyering, Solidarity Economies, City Government



Photos: Kellie Finch, <https://kfinchphotography.com/>



ORGANIZING ACROSS

The Diaspora



The **Global Afro-Descendant Climate Justice Collaborative**, an initiative co-anchored with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, hosted multiple events throughout the year, highlighting issues at the intersection of the climate crisis and the Black diaspora: in June, we joined the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Body Meeting #62 (SB62) in Bonn, Germany; in September we participated in NYC Climate Week, and in November we traveled to UNFCCC COP30 in Brazil. It was a full year for GADCJC, and very fruitful!



Convening in Bonn, Germany: We hosted several side events that explored the intersection of immigration and climate justice and building Diaspora power, including Digital Dialogues on Immigration Justice, Advancing Migration Justice in Climate Movements, Igniting and Uniting Across Black Diaspora Movements, and a Global Afro-Descendant Policy Platform Working Session.

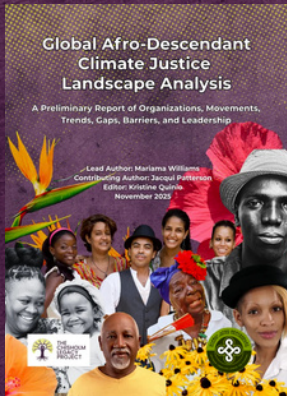
NYC Climate Week: At NYC Climate Week we hosted several events, including the panel When Sisters Speak: Black Femme Demands for Transformative Climate Justice and were honored to bring together women and femmes from across the globe to uplift the urgent demands of their communities in shaping transformative climate finance policy. We thank our panelists!



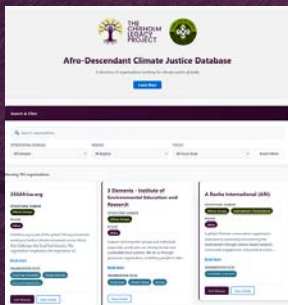
- o Andréia Coutinho Louback (Brazil)
- o Dr. Frances Roberts (Southern U.S.)
- o Dr. Mariama Williams (Jamaica)
- o Katia Avilés Vázquez (Puerto Rico)
- o Khara Jabola-Carolus (Hawaii)



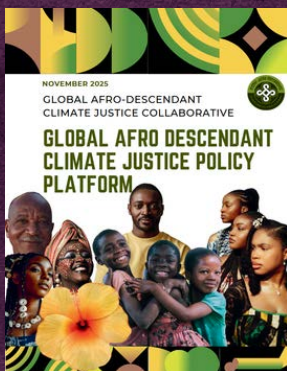
UNFCCC COP 30: during and after COP30, we released several resources:



REPORT: Global Afro-Descendant Climate Justice Landscape Analysis: A Preliminary Report of Organizations, Movements, Trends, Gaps, Barriers, and Leadership– The report explores how Afro-Descendant communities disproportionately continue to face the most devastating costs and impacts of climate change. Afro-Descendants are also leading innovative solutions to what the United Nations describes as “a triple inextricably intertwined crisis, or a ‘triple planetary crisis’ – climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.



DATABASE: Afro-Descendant Climate Justice Database– Featuring over 200 organizations and growing, this directory was compiled in conjunction with COP30 proceedings to provide a resource to showcase the extensive landscape of Global Afro-Descendant groups and communities organizing around climate justice.



POLICY PLATFORM: Global Afro-Descendant Climate Justice Policy Platform– This platform emphasizes the inextricable links between gender justice, climate justice, and Black Afro-Descendant liberation, recognizing that systemic oppression disproportionately impacts women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals, especially people who are Black, Indigenous, people of color, queer, trans, differently-abled, and/or economically disadvantaged.



Ensuring a seat at the table for **ALL**



Too often, groups are left out of both the climate and Black Liberation movements – including Immigrants, People with Disabilities, Veterans, Youth, Queer/LGBTQ+ communities, Muslims, Indigenous descendants, and People Affected by the Carceral State and their families.

TCLP is now working with 66 organizations across 8 priority population groups:

- 1) Black Differently Abled Persons;
- 2) Black Veterans;
- 3) Black Immigrants;
- 4) Black Returning Citizens/Justice Involved Persons;
- 5) Black Two-Spirit/ Non-Binary/Gender Nonconforming/ LGBTQIAP Persons;
- 6) Black Muslims;
- 7) Black Indigenous/Native;
- 8) Black Youth.

The common need expressed by these groups is to have access to funding to support their work – so, we are collaborating with the groups and Movement Strategy Center to create a fund in 2026 that serves them!

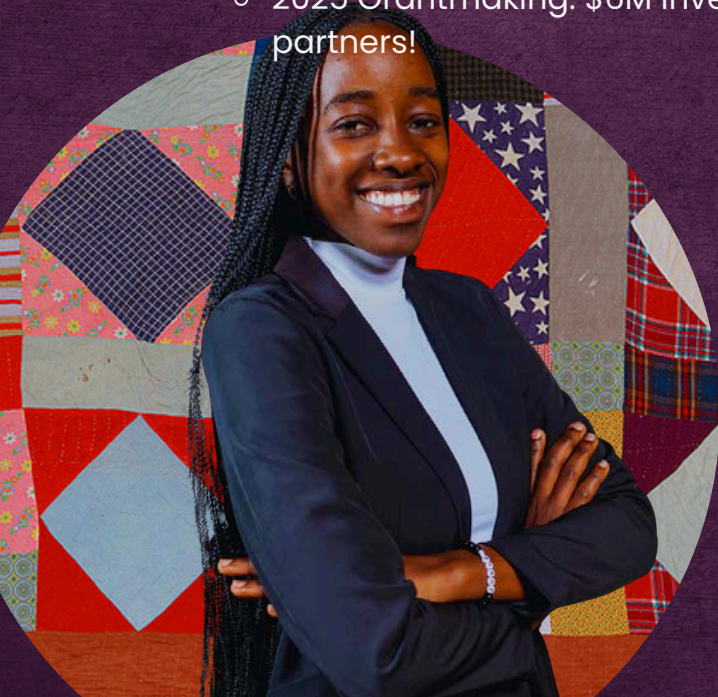


Participatory Grantmaking



In 2025 we worked with three participatory grant making bodies in breaking down the barriers grassroots organizations face in receiving funding by making sure it gets directly into the hands of frontline communities:

- **Frontline Justice Fund** is an effort of the Tides Foundation to fund frontline communities, particularly BIPOC communities, facing the effects of extractive industry infrastructure. Grants range from \$25,000 to \$150,000.
 - 2025 Grantmaking: \$4.25M to 49 grantee organizations!
- **Collectrify** is an energy fund that centers equity and people in the removal of fossil fuels from buildings and communities by giving resources to grassroots, frontline, and basebuilding organizations and leaders in communities of color and low-income communities to support their self-determined priorities.
 - 2025 Grantmaking: \$3.6M to 17 partners!
- **Mosaic Environmental Fund** invests in movement infrastructure to better support people working for clean air and water, a safe climate, healthy and just communities for all, and thriving natural systems. In 2025, we celebrated our 5th year in operation – during that time, we made 418 grants, invested 32M dollars, supported 800+ co-applicants, benefiting a total of 8,300 organizations.
 - 2025 Grantmaking: \$6M invested across 61 projects with 176 collaboration partners!



PILLARS OF OUR WORK:

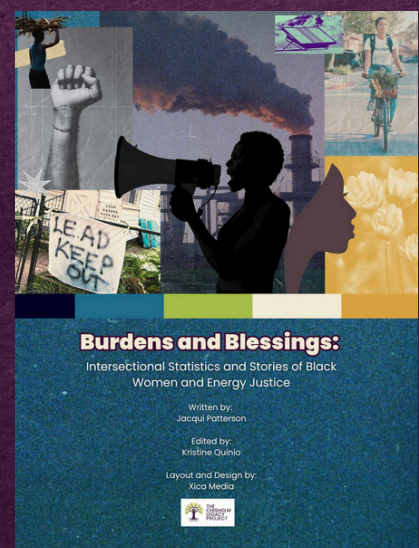
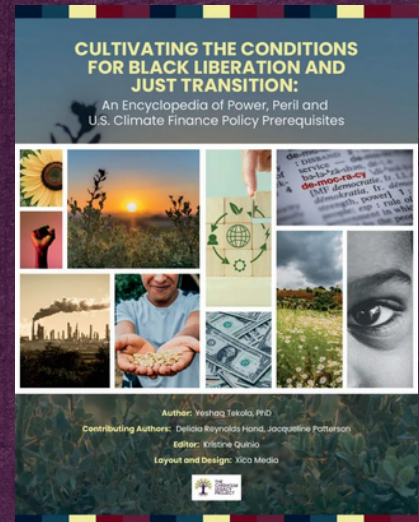
Bending the Arc of Mainstream Environmentalism Towards Equity and Justice



We facilitate the infusion of equity and justice centered analysis, policies and practices, into mainstream environmentalism/climate action by elevating aligned frontline leaders and organizations to provide grassroots leadership on just solutions.

Building on the “Ten Mandates” blueprint report (***Transforming Climate Finance Through a Black Liberation Lens***, published December 2024), this new report released in September 2025, walks through five political prerequisites to protect Black community and Black nation-controlled climate finance from historical and ongoing systemic destruction. The five “Political Prerequisites” are: reparative justice, legitimating multiple knowledge systems, participatory governance, transformation of international climate-finance architecture, and sustained resources for Black-led movements.

On July 18, we released ***Burdens and Blessings: Intersectional Statistics and Stories of Black Women and Energy Justice***. The paper explores the disproportionate impacts of the fossil fuel economy on Black women in the United States and highlights how Black women are leading the way to energy democracy. We then hosted a panel discussion to further build upon this report, featuring: Nia Jones, Founder & CEO, The Energy Queen, LLC, Denise Abdul Rahman, Founder & CEO, Black Sun Light Sustainability, Monica Booker, Energy Democracy Education Organizer, Soulardarity, and Roishetta Sibley Ozane, Founder & CEO, The Vessel Project of Louisiana



Municipalities are critical vehicles for building more inclusive democracy and local regenerative economies. Established Spring 2025, the **Just Transition Municipalities Institute (JTMI)** supports:



29 municipal governments

with customized resource plans meant to support them in centering Just Transition in their governance, systems, policies, programs, and practices.



20 cities

- including **Boston, Charlottesville, and Pittsburgh**
- with climate finance, climate budgeting and community engagement support.



50 municipalities

with a scenario planning document to the mayors, city council members, urban planning, and economic development staff. The document – **“Scenario Planning to Navigate Uncertainty, Turbulence and the Unknown: Using a Just Transition Framework”** – was a response to the sudden shift many municipalities had to make as grants and technical/ emergency assistance was cut by the federal government.



Speaking Engagements

Whether it is in communities, at universities, at movement or mainstream events, TCLP advances analysis and narrative at the intersection of racial justice, gender justice, and Just Transition. Below is a sampling of the 2025 events where we shared our perspective:

- January 16, 2025, **Our Future is Science (OFIS) Community Talk: Shaping a Sustainable Future: Rueanna Haynes & Jaqueline Patterson.** Understanding and connecting STEM and social justice to solve community problems is at the core of OFIS initiatives. In this talk, Rueanna Haynes and Jacqueline Patterson discuss how to create a sustainable future through climate activism. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10AC64dDmh0>
- March 7, 2025, **Navigating Equitable Climate Disaster Solutions.** Held at the HBCU Climate Change Conference in New Orleans, this session explored strategies for designing and implementing equitable disaster response and recovery solutions that prioritize marginalized and vulnerable populations. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dli7kf_XWdQ
- March 7, 2025, **Honoring Our Ancestors: Land and Labor.** Held at the Taking Nature Black Conference, this conversation honored the Indigenous routes of the land we are on, what the term “Indigenous” means to us as a Black community and the Black ancestors who came before us on this land. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98NzZlbdVj4&list=PLcAeggtfndJDGwP9N7L3bW5toDWRmhJRI&index=13>
- March 28, 2025, **Weaving Connections: Community and Climate Leaders.** Held at the Rutgers University Climate Symposium, which brings together climate scientists, activists, scholars, policymakers, and artists. This panel discussion explored the intersections of gender, migration, environmental justice, and scientific innovation.
- April 10, 2025, **The Long Game: Leading Through Climate Fatigue.** This panel was held at the Groundbreaking Women Summit, hosted by Worth Magazine. It focused on inclusive leadership and the lived experience of frontline communities, exploring how creative strategy, cross-generational action, and a focus on equity can reignite momentum—and sustain it—in an unpredictable world.

Speaking Engagements

- April 30, 2025, **Sustaining Our Future: Community Led Environmental Justice**. Presented by OxFAM + Keecha Harris & Associates, this conversation explored how communities are driving solutions for environmental resilience, climate justice, and sustainability.
- June 4, 2025, **Environmental Injustice: Race, Class, and Toxic Inequality | The Path to Today, presented by Brooklyn Public Library & ConEdison**. Part one of a three part event exploring the intersection of racial inequality and the environment, this conversation delved into the systemic roots of environmental racism and confronts a critical question: Why are communities of color and low-wealth populations disproportionately exposed to environmental hazards?https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89HDAK5ZNkg&list=PLFtEjc__6pNpAdZGPI8ZJNyyahZJWjH9R&index=2&t=3s
- June 28, 2025, **Global Women's Assembly for Climate Justice: Path to COP30 and Beyond presented by WECAN**. This conversation examines the work and the movement at large, the challenges we expect to face, the solutions we want to champion, and insights into how the movement can continue its work in the face of enduring threats to democracy, and threats to our communities. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Af-XdrwWVVA>
- July 11, 2025, **Climate & Health Equity Webinar Series** presented by the Climate and Health Equity Fellowship (CHEF), this installment explored the critical intersections of housing, energy access, and community engagement through a lens of environmental justice, sharing insights to advance holistic, community-rooted solutions to structural inequities in housing, energy, and health.
- August 7, 2025, **Keynote – Living Future's Affordable Housing Summit**. This conversation explored the evolving challenges of affordable housing development in a shifting financial landscape, while staying true to a vision of regeneration and sustainability.

Speaking Engagements

- September 10, 2025, **Eleventh Annual EJ and Health Disparities Symposium**, hosted by the Center for Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health. This conversation uncovered how EJ organizations can strengthen coalition power, defend grassroots leadership, and use litigation and policy strategies to fight back, and provide tactics for responding to misinformation, discrediting bad-faith attacks, and shifting public perception in favor of environmental justice.
- September 23, 2025, **Community Perspectives from the Frontlines** presented by PowerLines, featuring community advocates working on the frontlines and policymakers shaping federal and local responses. This moderated discussion elevated urgent stories from states like Georgia and Louisiana, connected the dots between climate and affordability, and highlighted opportunities for collective action.
- October 23, 2025, **Advancing Climate Justice in This Moment**, presented at the University of Michigan as part of the SEEC Institute's 2025 Solutions Summit, which brought together members of congress, policymakers, private-sector innovators, advocates, and researchers. The focus was on the policies, partnerships, and innovations shaping a resilient, prosperous climate and clean energy future.
- November 4, 2025, **From Redlining to Renewal**, an event hosted by The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland. Redlining's legacy continues to shape climate vulnerability in Black communities, driving disproportionate exposure to mold, extreme heat, flooding, and toxic facilities. This discussion explored how state action can help households address these long-standing harms.

PILLARS OF OUR WORK:

Black Femme Wellbeing



We ensure deep investments in the wellbeing and leadership of Black femmes, who anchor so much of environmental and climate justice activism, with too little support, by connecting Black femmes to coaching, sisterships, healing circles, entrepreneurship assistance, and more.

The inaugural cohort of the Fellowship for Liberated Futures (FFLF) hosted its final retreat in Miami, FL. From May 12–15, this dynamic group of 17 Black women and femmes gathered at The Palms Hotel & Spa to rest, reconnect and renew. The theme of the retreat was “Rest as Our Right,” which underscored rest as a birthright!



As one FFLF participant reflected:

“Rest is crucial for everyone, but for a woman at the intersection of being Black and Trans, it can be particularly significant. These challenges range from identifying unknown murder victims, to housing Trans teens who have been kicked out of their homes by parents, to getting a rifle pulled out on you by conservatives at rallies to fight anti-LGBTQ bills at the Texas legislative sessions. Sad, but that is my reality as a grassroots organizer. Adequate rest supports overall well-being, mental health, and resilience, helping to manage stress and improve the quality of life. We need all of that to enable us to better navigate and cope with daily challenges and contribute to a more fulfilling life.”

Awarded annually on Shirley Chisholm’s birthday, the **Shirley Chisholm Black Femme Leader Wellness Sistership** recognizes and resources Black femme frontline leaders who carry significant community, movement, and organizational responsibilities while often receiving too little support for their own wellness. Congratulations to our 2025 awardees!



Belinda G. Joshaway of Hughes, Arkansas, serving 253+ families through food pantry and community organizing

Ponice Devine Howard of Bernice, Louisiana, operating the only Black-owned childcare center in her community



We All Deserve Safety and Peace (WADSAP)

TCLP’s safety and security work has become a central expression of our Black Femme Wellbeing pillar in response to the threats, attacks, surveillance, intimidation, and isolation that Black women and femmes who lead climate, racial, gender, and democracy justice work increasingly face.

After publishing an anonymous report documenting these harms and advancing concrete remedies, TCLP facilitated 6 consultative strategy sessions in 2023 and 2024, which organized donors and philanthropic partners to move resources toward Black women’s safety, facilitated strategy conversations with women navigating threats, established a dedicated website, and curated safety, healing, digital-security, legal, and crisis-response resources.

In 2025, WADSAP work continued — providing consultations with impacted women and femmes, as well as continuously educating and advocating with philanthropy to put more resources into security and helping to connect people who were under threat and/or attacked with resources. We researched and developed a consultation report and resource guide with an overarching goal: To build a culture where foundations, organizations, and institutions fold the protection of Black femme leaders into their funding and operational strategies. In this way TCLP has become both a care infrastructure and a strategy hub for the women anchoring justice movements.

Black Femme Wellbeing Retreats

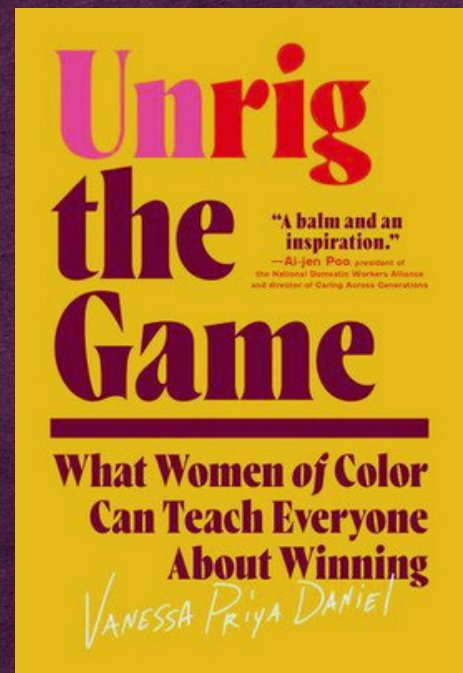
Caring for the Carers---Black Femme Caregivers Retreat

The intersection of climate justice leadership and caregiving responsibilities, amidst societal and systemic barriers and inequities, places a significant emotional, mental, and physical burden on Black Female leaders. Explicitly designed for Black Female climate justice leaders who are also caregivers, this gathering provided a space for respite and relaxation, fostered the development of a supportive peer cohort, and curated resources that address caregiving and self-care needs.

- Pre-Retreat survey remark in response to the query about what they wanted from the retreat—"I need a safe space to release the tears that I've been holding back (sometimes unsuccessfully)"
- Post-retreat survey remark—"I knew I needed to heal, but this gave me something more that I didn't even know I needed."

***Unrig the Game*—A Rest and Restoration Retreat for Black Women Under Siege Convening**

Black women leaders within the climate justice movement are uniquely positioned to lead transformative change, but we also face disproportionate challenges. This convening, facilitated by *Unrig the Game* book author, Vanessa Priya Daniel, created a nurturing space where we could examine the roots/drivers of these circumstances, build community, share coping strategies, and enjoy a much-needed respite amidst the pressures of organizational leadership and systemic challenges.



**LET'S BUILD THE FOLDING CHAIRS
— AND THE TABLE —
TOGETHER**



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