



PLANET TEXAS 2050 SYMPOSIUM

RESILIENCE RESEARCH IN ACTION

The annual symposium brings together university faculty, researchers, staff, students, practitioners, artists, and community members interested in applied interdisciplinary research on climate resilience, adaptation, and environmental justice.

Through multiple presentation formats and opportunities for dialog and exchange, Resilience Research in Action highlights the work of PT2050 project teams and partners, as well as that of other researchers and students exploring diverse and intersecting aspects of resilience. The event is part of our broader efforts to build a community of collaborators through the sharing of ideas, research, tools, and strategies aimed at shaping more resilient communities throughout Texas and beyond.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

11:30 AM | Lunch

Black Box Theater (WCP 2.304)

12:00 - 1:15 PM | Opening Remarks and Keynote

“Climate Solutions and Their Co-Benefits for People and Ecosystems”

Jonathan Foley, Ph.D

Executive Director

Project Drawdown

Legislative Assembly Room (WCP 2.302)



1:15 - 1:45 PM | Creating With More-Than-Humans

Jiabao Li

Assistant Professor

College of Fine Arts

Legislative Assembly Room (WCP 2.302)



1:45 - 2:00 PM | Break

2:00 - 2:55 PM | Talk Cluster

Insights from INHALE: Inequitable Neighborhood Health and Airborne Lung Exposures with Center for Health and the Environment: Education and Research (CHEER)

Legislative Assembly Room (WCP 2.302)



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2:00 - 3:30 PM | Workshop Session *Climate of Failure, Embodied Hope*

Leah Cox

Associate Professor
College of Fine Arts



Adam Rabinowitz

Associate Professor
College of Liberal Arts

Black Box Theater (WCP 2.304)



3:00 - 3:55 PM | Lightning Talks Cluster *Flooding & Other Hazards*

Legislative Assembly Room (WCP 2.302)

4:00 - 5:00 PM: Closing Panel Discussion *Deactivating Climate Doom: Cognitive, Emotional, and Embodied Strategies*

Leah Cox

Associate Professor
College of Fine Arts



Katie Dawson

Associate Professor
College of Fine Arts



Meg Mattingly

Licensed Professional Counselor and Founder
Willow Tree Collective



Starla Simmons

Clinical Assistant Professor
Steve Hicks School of Social Work

Legislative Assembly Room (WCP 2.302)



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

11:30 AM | Lunch

Ballroom (WCP 2.410)



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12:00 - 1:30 PM | Panel Discussion

Space/Time Conflicts in Planning: Equity, Affordability, and Environmental Challenges

Matt Bartos, Ph.D -----

Assistant Professor
Cockrell School of Engineering



Katie Coyne -----

City of Austin Environmental Office & Assistant Director
Watershed Protection Department,
City of Austin



Nefertitti Jackmon -----

Community Displacement Prevention Officer
City of Austin



Carmen Llanes Pulido -----

Executive Director
Go! Austin/Vamos! Austin



Elizabeth Mueller -----

Professor
School of Architecture



Paola Passalacqua -----

Professor
Cockrell School of Engineering
Ballroom (WCP 2.410)



2:00 - 3:30 PM | Panel Discussion

Extreme Heat in Texas: Interdisciplinary Challenges and Solutions

Katherine Brown -----

Research Associate
Oden Institute



Marc Coudert -----

Climate Resilience and Adaptation Manager
City of Austin





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Maggie Hansen

Assistant Professor
School of Architecture



Ashley Hawes

Disaster Epidemiologist
Austin Public Health



Katherine Lieberknecht

Assistant Professor
School of Architecture



Dev Niyogi

Professor
Cockrell School of Engineering & Jackson School of Geosciences



Kenneth Thompson

Community Activist
Ballroom (WCP 2.410)

3:30 - 5:00 PM | Movement Workshop Butoh Ecologies

Rosemary Candelario

Associate Professor
College of Fine Arts



Outside

3:30 - 5:30 PM | Research Poster Presentation and Networking Reception

Ballroom (WCP 2.412)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

9:30 - 11:00 AM | Workshop Session Towards a Sustainable Production Process

Kate Freer

Lecturer
College of Fine Arts



Edward T. Morris

Set and Projections Designer
Black Box Theater (WCP 2.304)





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11:30 AM | Lunch

Black Box Theater (WCP 2.304)

12:00 - 1:15 PM | Closing Keynote and Discussion

Why Youth are Active in the Global (and Local) Climate Space

Pooja Tilwawala -----

Founder & Executive Director
Youth Climate Collaborative

Legislative Assembly Room (WCP 2.302)



1:15 - 2:30 PM | Lightning Talks

Community-Based Research and Scholar Activism

Legislative Assembly Room (WCP 2.302)

2:30 - 3:00 PM | Break

3:00 - 4:00 | Talk Cluster

Data Visualization and Storytelling

TACC Viz Lab (POB 2.404)

4:15 - 5:00 PM | Presentation and Photovoice Exhibition

Looking to the Future: Youth's Environmental Insights and Imperitives

Tasha Banks -----

Assistant Director of Community Engagement and Health Equity
Dell Medical School



Adrian Montoya -----

Graduate Student
School of Architecture



Miriam Solis -----

Assistant Professor
School of Architecture



Carmen Valdez -----

Associate Professor
Dell Medical School and Steve Hicks School of Social Work



5:00 - 5:30 | Closing Reception

POB Connector Lobby



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SPEAKERS



Tasha Banks

Tasha Banks is the assistant director of community engagement and health equity in the Department of Population Health. As a result of her experience of working with children with HIV/AIDS while she was in high school, Banks knew public health and working with communities struggling with many health disparities would be a part of her life's work. She went on to earn her bachelor's degree in anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis and her master's degree in global health and medical anthropology from the University of Edinburgh. Prior to working in population health, Banks worked as a yoga instructor and as a program manager for multiple nonprofit organizations with a focus on social emotional learning skills, trauma-informed care and healing and wellness for youth mainly in the East Austin area.



Matt Bartos

Dr. Matt Bartos is an Assistant Professor in the Environmental and Water Resources group in the Maseeh Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. His background combines domain expertise in hydraulics and hydrology with a cross-disciplinary focus in embedded systems, signal processing, and control theory. His research investigates real-time sensing, modeling, and control of water infrastructure with applications to urban flood mitigation, water quality remediation, and management of coupled critical infrastructure systems. Current research projects include development of digital twin models for urban stormwater infrastructure; low-power wireless sensor networks for online monitoring of urban drainage systems; real-time control strategies for reduction of nonpoint-source pollutants in stormwater networks; new techniques for contaminant source identification; and real-time control of building water heater systems for improved demand response and carbon offsets.



Katherine Brown

Dr. Katherine Brown is a Senior Research Scientist for the Oden Institute and the Department of Molecular Biosciences at University of Texas at Austin, as well as the Department of Physics at Cambridge University. She is an expert in tropical infectious diseases and her current work focuses on the spread of Melioidosis and Chagas disease into new environments, such as southern Texas, due to warming temperatures. She serves as a faculty leader for Planet Texas 2050 and as co-lead for the AI-enabled Model Integration for Complex Decision Making flagship.



Rosemary Candelario

Rosemary Candelario writes about and makes dances engaged with Asian and Asian American dance, butoh, ecology and site-related performance. She was awarded the 2018 Oscar G. Brockett Book Prize for Dance Research for her book *Flowers Cracking Concrete: Eiko & Koma's Asian/American Choreographies* (Wesleyan University Press 2016) and received the 2022 Mid-Career Award from the Dance Studies Association. Candelario is the co-editor with Bruce Baird of *The Routledge Companion to Butoh Performance* (2018) and with Matthew Henley of *Dance Research Methodologies: Ethics, Orientations, Practices* (Routledge 2023). Recent choreographic premieres include *aqueous* (site version, 2021), *aqueous* (stage version 2019) and *100 Ways to Kiss the Trees* (2018). Candelario is the Dance Studies Association Vice President for Publications and Research. Candelario is Associate Professor at The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance and holds a Ph.D. in Culture and Performance from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Marc Coudert

Marc Coudert is the Climate Resilience and Adaptation Manager in the City of Austin Office of Resilience. Marc works with city departments to embed climate adaptation strategies into long term operation and asset management planning. In this role, he also supports community organizers to increase climate adaptation in the Eastern Crescent. Marc received a Certificate in Climate Change and Health from the Yale School of Public Health, a Master of Science in Sustainable Design from the University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture and a Bachelor of Science in Urban Planning from Arizona State University Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts.



Leah Cox

Leah Cox loves using dance to discover new ideas, orient in the world and connect to others. Cox is a dancer/collaborator in Liz Lerman's latest piece, *Wicked Bodies*, and a frequent adjudicator for the American College Dance Association. She is the creator of the Failure Collective, an interdisciplinary, intergenerational workshop that explores the creative possibilities that arise when we embrace failure and work in unfamiliar contexts. Her current creative projects include *Group Therapy*, an evening-length solo made in collaboration with George Staib, artistic director of staibdance. Cox was Dean of the American Dance Festival from 2015-2022 and served on the New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award Committee from 2015-2018. She worked with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company for 14 years, first as a company dancer and subsequently as the Company's first education director. Her teaching was featured in the documentary about Bill T. Jones, entitled *A Good Man*, which aired on PBS nationwide. *Dance Teacher Magazine* celebrated Cox with a feature story in May 2016.



Katie Coyne

Katie Coyne is an award-winning queer ecologist, designer, and urban planner. The first woman to serve as Environmental Officer for the City of Austin, she is responsible for guiding all environmental vision and policy for the rapidly growing metropolis. Prior to joining the City, she founded an urban ecological design practice with nationally recognized work. She co-led the City's first racial equity focused climate plan; facilitated sustainable design-focused discussions for Austin's first MLS stadium; was the architect of the City Council resolution that initiated the establishment of Austin's first Resilience Office and Chief Resilience Officer; and, has been recognized as Central Texas Planner of the Year, Austin Under 40 award winner, Austin Business Journal's Women of Influence finalist, Austin Young Women's Alliance "Lead" award winner, and one of Austin Woman Magazine's 2024 Changemakers. Katie is a longtime LGBTQ+ activist, and has been featured by Equality Texas and the Human Rights Campaign for her public testimony at the Texas Legislature fighting against the trans sports ban. She has taught Urban Ecology at the UT School of Architecture and regularly speaks passionately about the role of love in climate and environmental work, and about what queer and non-binary thinking can teach us about magnifying our global impact.



Katie Dawson

Katie Dawson uses the arts to increase equity and access in educational contexts. She is an associate professor at The University of Texas in Austin where she co-heads the M.F.A. in Drama and Theatre for Youth and Communities / UTeach Theatre program. Dawson received the Distinguished Book Award (for *The Reflexive Teaching Artist: Collective Wisdom from the Drama/Theatre Field*), the Creative Drama Award and the Winifred Ward Scholar Award from the American Alliance of Theatre and Education. Her second book *Drama-Based Pedagogy: Activating Learning Across the Curriculum* was published in 2018. Dawson is a Provost's Teaching Fellow at UT where she received the 2015 College of Fine Arts Distinguished Teaching Award, the 2018 College of Fine Arts Distinguished Research Award and the 2013 Regents Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award. Dawson is an internationally recognized consultant in creative learning and teaching artist practice. She publishes, speaks and facilitates workshops locally and globally, including ongoing partnerships in Australia, Asia and Eastern Europe with university and government partners. Dawson recently completed a two-year fractional appointment at the University of South Australia in pedagogical innovation.



Jonathan Foley

Jonathan Foley, Ph.D., is a world-renowned environmental scientist, sustainability expert, author, and public speaker. His work focuses on understanding our changing planet and finding new solutions to sustain the climate, ecosystems, and natural resources we all depend on. Jon's groundbreaking research and insights have made him a trusted advisor to governments, foundations, non-governmental organizations, and business leaders worldwide. He has published over 130 peer-reviewed scientific articles and has been named a Highly Cited Researcher in ecology and environmental science. Jon is also a noted science communicator, with presentations featured at international venues and publications in National Geographic, the New York Times, and Scientific American. He has won numerous awards for his work, including the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers and the Heinz Award for the Environment. Before joining Project Drawdown, Jon led several world-leading environmental science and sustainability organizations. He launched the Climate, People, and Environment Program and the Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment at the University of Wisconsin, where he served as the first Gaylord Nelson Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies. He was also the founding director of the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota and the executive director of the California Academy of Sciences.



Katherine Freer

Katherine Freer a lecturer in the Department of Theater and Dance at the University of Texas at Austin. She is a multimedia artist, filmmaker, organizer and educator. Her artistic practice lives at the intersection of story, technology and civic engagement and is rooted in joy, curiosity, mutual learning and the pursuit of justice for all living beings. She is a core collaborator in All My Relations Collective, a proud member of Wingspace Theatrical Design and United Scenic Artists Local 829.



Maggie Hansen

Maggie Hansen is an assistant professor at the School of Architecture at UT-Austin. She is a landscape designer and artist who brings multidisciplinary training to the design of public spaces. Professor Hansen's research explores landscape architecture as the choreography of care practices that maintain cultural and ecological relationships. Her work draws influence from social impact design, gardening, theater and performance, participatory art, and activist methods. Prior to UT, she was director of Tulane's Small Center for Collaborative Design where she led community-based design projects in support of a more equitable New Orleans. She earned a BA from the University of Chicago and worked in contemporary art and theater before turning to design. She holds a Master of Architecture and a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Virginia.



Ashley Hawes

Ashley Hawes is a disaster epidemiologist for the City of Austin. She collaborates across departments to develop and implement public health preparedness exercises on infection disease, flooding, and severe weather, among other topics. She has a Master's in Public Health from Tulane University and B.S. in Animal Biology/Zoology from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.



Nefertitti Jackmon

Nefertitti Jackmon is a Cultural Strategist serving as Austin's first Community Displacement Prevention Officer. Jackmon leads the Housing Department's Displacement Prevention Office where she is instrumental in developing and leading programming and outreach, including the \$300 million anti-displacement investments for Project Connect. In this role, Jackmon, works with community members, consultants, and City staff to co-create an Equity Tool to inform investment priorities for anti-displacement funds related to Project Connect. She is also the former executive director of Six Square, a nonprofit that seeks to preserve the cultural legacy of Austin's Black Cultural District. In January 2022 she was listed as one of Texas' Top 100 Influential leaders impacting the Texas economy in Austin Business Journal. Her passion and work to support households in need comes from her more than 25 years of service in the nonprofit sector. Her desire is to see economic mobility opportunities as a foundation to address displacement pressures. She holds a Master of Arts in African-American Studies from the University of Albany, SUNY.



Jiabao Li

Jiabao is a tenure-track Assistant Professor at The University of Texas at Austin. Her Ecocentric Future lab explores the intersection of art, design, technology, and biology. The interests are broadly spanning from interspecies co-creation to knowledge graph, from human-computer interaction to menstrual blood proteomes. Her mediums include wearable, robot, AR/VR, projection, performance, software, and installation. Her work has been exhibited internationally at MoMA, Venice Architecture Biennale, Ars Electronica, Future of Today Biennial, Exploratorium, Milan and Dubai Design Week, among others. She has received numerous awards, including Forbes China 30 Under 30, iF Design Award, Falling Walls, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Jiabao graduated from Harvard Graduate School of Design with a Master of Design in Technology with Distinction and Thesis Award. She was a researcher at MIT Media Lab. She holds a bachelor of Electrical and Computer Engineering from the National University of Singapore.



Katherine Lieberknecht

Katherine Lieberknecht is an assistant professor in the Community and Regional Planning program at the School of Architecture at The University of Texas at Austin. She researches environmental planning centered around equity, with specific focus areas on climate planning, green infrastructure planning, and water resources planning. Dr. Lieberknecht was the inaugural chair of Planet Texas 2050, The University of Texas at Austin's first grand challenge research program and continues to serve on its leadership team. She is the faculty lead for the Texas Metro Observatory, a Planet Texas 2050 research project and co-lead for the Planet Texas 2050 Flagship Project Equitable and Regenerative Cities in a Post-Carbon Future. She received her Bachelor of Science in Biology from the College of William and Mary, a Master in Environmental Management from Yale University, and a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University.



Carmen Llanes Pulido

Carmen Llanes is the executive director of Go Austin/Vamos Austin. Carmen is a native of Austin, TX and second-generation community organizer working with neighborhoods and organizations in Austin's Eastern Crescent for the last 15 years. After receiving an interdisciplinary B.A. at the University of Chicago in Environmental Studies with a focus on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and its impact on Mexican communities and international food systems, she returned to Austin to work at home as an environmental justice researcher and organizer for People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources (PODER) in East Austin. Carmen cares deeply about community relationships and intergenerational organizing, and participates in public health, anti-racist and anti-displacement networks in Central Texas and across the country. She chaired the City of Austin's Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission until July 2019 when she joined the City's Planning Commission during a once-in-a-generation Land Development Code rewrite, and is an inaugural member of Austin's first Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission which created single-member city council districts in 2014. She was also a 2019-20 Fulcrum Fellow with the Center for Community Investment at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.



Meg Mattingly

Meg Mattingly (she/her) is a climate-aware therapist in Austin Texas, on the traditional land of the Jumanos, Comanche, Coahuiltecan, Lipan Apache, and Tonkawa People. She founded Willow Tree Collective, a growing private practice focused on helping folks deepen their connection to themselves, their communities, and the natural world. She primarily works with folks navigating religious trauma, identity exploration, anxiety, and LGBTQIA+ issues. Due to a growing need, Meg is passionate about building community and providing support for environmental organizations and academic spaces around the climate crisis, leaning on Mother Nature as her guide. She holds many identities and is proud to be a mother, community builder, justice seeker, forever student, and nature ally.



Adrian Montoya

Adrian Montoya is a research assistant and community and regional planning master's candidate at UT SOA. He works with Dr. Solis as lead curator for a physical and digital exhibition showcasing youth perspectives on environmental injustice. His personal research evaluates policy and land use barriers that inhibit transitional housing development in Austin for unhoused and decarcerated populations.



Edward T. Morris

Edward is set and projections designer for live performance and a sustainability consultant who believes in the power of art and design to increase empathy and facilitate positive social change. Edward is a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829 and Wingspace Theatrical Design, and a graduate of University of Michigan and Yale School of Drama. He has taught at the New School and Connecticut College. Edward is passionate about conserving our environment and co-authored The Sustainable Production Toolkit. He has lectured on sustainability at numerous universities and is a proud supporter of the Broadway Green Alliance.



Elizabeth Mueller

Dr. Elizabeth Mueller is Professor of Community and Regional Planning and Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin. Her work focuses on the ways that patterns of economic and racial segregation and inequality were established and continue to be produced in growing cities. She has examined how contemporary local planning initiatives, aimed at increasing density and reducing driving, affect patterns of racial and economic segregation and exposure to environmental hazards and poor housing conditions. Her work is currently funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She is co-editor of *The Affordable Housing Reader* (second edition, Routledge, June 2022) and co-author of *Uprooted: Gentrification in Austin's Residential Neighborhoods and What Can Be Done About It* (2018), a report commissioned by the Austin City Council.



Dev Niyogi

Dr. Dev Niyogi is Professor in both the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences and the Maseeh Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering at UT-Austin. He also has affiliations with the Oden Institute and Center for Space Research. Dr. Niyogi has coauthored over 200 peer-reviewed papers for international journals, 18 book chapters, and over 150 conference proceedings or abstracts for professional conferences such as the AMS and AGU annual meetings. His work has been highlighted in various media outlets including in the popular press such as Yahoo!, MSNBC, Wired, CNN, LiveScience, National Geographic, Tedx Talk, NASA press releases. Dr. Niyogi's research has been funded through the National Science Foundation, NASA, NOAA, the Department of Energy among others. Before arriving at UT, he was at Purdue University and served as the state meteorologist for the state of Indiana. At University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Niyogi is also part of the Theme Organizing Committee of the Planet Texas 2050, and part of the Good Systems Smart City initiative.



Paola Passalacqua

Paola Passalacqua is a Professor of Environmental and Water Resources Engineering in the Maseeh Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin and the Chair of Planet Texas 2050. She also holds a courtesy appointment in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Passalacqua's research focuses on transport processes along river and delta networks, with particular focus on flooding, river-floodplain connectivity, and coastal resilience. She is the lead PI of SETx-UIFL, a DOE funded Urban Integrated Field Laboratory that focuses on the compounding effects of flooding and air pollution on Southeast Texas communities. Dr. Passalacqua has been honored with several awards including the Bagnold Medal of the European Geosciences Union (2022), a National Science Foundation CAREER Award (2014) and the University of Texas Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award (2017).



Adam Rabinowitz

Adam Rabinowitz is an Associate Professor in the Department of Classics, at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the Acting Director of the Institute of Classical Archaeology, and a founding member and former Faculty Chair (2021-22) of the Theme Organizing Committee of the Planet Texas 2050 Grand Challenge. He is an active field archaeologist with a current project at the Greek and Roman site of Histria in Romania, with interests including ancient colonization and the archaeology of food and drink. With colleagues in Geosciences, Geography, and Integrative Biology, he is one of the leaders of the Stories of Ancient Resilience flagship.



Starla Simmons

Starla Simmons, LCSW-S is a Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of the Earl Maxwell Scholar Program at the UT Steve Hicks School of Social Work. She is strongly rooted in racial justice and liberation, with a passion for supporting the vitality, resilience, and collectivism of Black, Indigenous, and communities of color. Starla has over a decade of experience as a school social worker, providing a range of direct care services to students, families, and staff. She worked as the liaison and coordinator for Austin ISD's School Mental Health Centers, providing consultation and operational support for school-based therapy services at 19 middle and high schools. Starla is a skilled and experienced facilitator around racial equity, social justice and holistic practices such as mindfulness and eco-therapy. Previously, she served as Interim Executive Director for Black Mamas ATX, and Board Chair for Mama Sana Vibrant Woman. In 2016, Starla served as Austin leader for the national non-profit Outdoor Afro, which celebrates and inspires Black leadership in nature. At home, Starla is mama Bear to her two children Maya and Langston and spirited partner to her husband, Thomas. She loves exploring natural swimming holes, sitting under trees, camping and creative expression.



Miriam Solis

Miriam Solis, Ph.D., MCP, is an Assistant Professor of Community and Regional Planning at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research draws on environmental justice theory and research to examine the role of environmental education and workforce development in the planning, design, and operation of urban infrastructure. She is a community-based participatory researcher who frequently collaborates with nonprofit organizations and government agencies. Dr. Solis served on the leadership team of Planet Texas 2050, UT's campus-wide grand challenge research initiative from 2020-2023. Raised in California's Central Valley, Dr. Solis is a first-generation college graduate and the proud daughter of working-class Mexican immigrants. She received her doctorate in City and Regional Planning, as well as undergraduate degrees in Ethnic Studies and Geography, from the University of California, Berkeley. She also holds a Master of City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Prior to her faculty appointment, Dr. Solis was a Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation Environmental Fellow, and worked for the cities of San Francisco, New York, and Richmond, CA.



Kenneth Thompson

Kenneth is passionate about serving his community. He is the former president of the Board of Trustees for the Pflugerville Independent School District, where he was the first African American elected to political office in the Pflugerville community. Kenneth was also the vice president of the Texas Caucus of Black School Board Members and vice chair for the Austin Disproportionality and Disparity Advisory Committee, addressing disproportionality within the welfare system. In addition, he served as the director of the East Austin Youth Foundation, which provides sports activities for economically disadvantaged youth while promoting high academic achievement. Additionally, he was the chairman of the Board of Directors for The Overton Group, which focuses on multilingual education in Head Start. In addition, he serves as board chair for Building Promise USA, focusing on retrying formerly incarcerated men and women into society. Lastly, he served as a board member for Solar Austin, whose mission is to provide pathways for women and students of color to the clean energy industry. He is a Steering Committee member of "Our Future 35". He is the former chair of Austin's African American Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission. Mr. Thompson is a graduate of Texas State University Applied Arts and Sciences, with an emphasis on "Peace and Conflict. "



Pooja Tilvawala

Pooja is an award-winning global climate justice leader who founded Youth Climate Collaborative in 2020. YCC strives to make the climate movement more just, inclusive, intergenerational, and one that activates and sustains youth. Amongst other roles, she is also the Co-Founder of the Entertainment + Culture Foundation, an Advisor for Rivet, Chair of the Aspen Institute Future Leaders Alumni Committee, a member of the Walking Softer Alumni Committee, and a member of YOUNGO (the children & youth constituency of the UNFCCC). Her work increases access for and retention of youth solutionists in our movement, helps those experiencing eco-anxiety, advances intergenerational and participatory decision-making, engages youth in UNFCCC processes, widely shares opportunities, and more.



Carmen Valdez

Carmen R. Valdez, Ph.D., is an associate professor, chief of the Division of Community Engagement and Health Equity and faculty director of Community-Driven Initiatives in the Department of Population Health. She is also an associate professor in The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work. Valdez is a community-based participatory researcher with a special interest in mental health promotion and intervention with Latinx immigrant families. She aims to address health equity through partnerships, community-grounded research and mentoring of health equity scholars. She has collaborated with local residents, community organizations, binational organizations and city offices to improve health equity. Prior to 2018, she was associate professor in the Department of Counseling Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. At a national level, Valdez has actively contributed to the American Psychological Association. She chaired the APA's Committee on Children, Youth and Families in 2015 and in 2017 was a member of the APA Working Group on Child and Adolescent Mental Health. She served as associate editor of the journal *Family Process* between 2017 and 2020.



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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

JONATHAN FOLEY, PH.D - Executive Director,
Project Drawdown

POOJA TILVAWALA - Founder & Director,
Youth Climate Collaborative

SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

ELYBETH ALCANTAR - Graduate Student,
Department of Geography and the
Environment

JOVANA ANDELKOVIC - Graduate Student,
Department of Communication Studies

SHANNON BALEY - English & Theater
Teacher, San Juan Diego Catholic High School

TASHA BANKS - Assistant Director of
Community Engagement and Health Equity,
Department of Population Health

MATT BARTOS - Assistant Professor, Maseeh
Department of Civil, Architectural and
Environmental Engineering

KATHERINE BROWN - Research Associate,
Oden Institute

**NATASHA (QUYNH NHU) BUI LA FRINERE-
SANDOVAL** - Graduate Student, Steve Hicks
School of Social Work

ROSEMARY CANDELARIO - Associate
Professor, Department of Theatre and Dance

NANCY CARLSON - Graduate Student,
Department of Communication Studies

GRACE CASTELINO - Undergraduate Student,
Department of Chemistry

SARAH CHAMBLISS - Research Associate,
Department of Population Health

MARC COUDERT - Climate Resilience and
Adaptation Manager, City of Austin Office of
Resilience

LEAH COX - Associate Professor, Department
of Theatre and Dance

KATIE COYNE - Assistant Director, City of
Austin Watershed Protection Department

KATIE DAWSON - Associate Professor, College
of Fine Arts

LARA DOSSETT - Assistant Professor of
Instruction, Department of Theatre and Dance

KATHERINE FREER - Lecturer, Department of
Theatre and Dance

MAGGIE HANSEN - Assistant Professor,
School of Architecture

ASHLEY HAWES - Disaster Epidemiologist,
City of Austin Public Health Department

KATE HUGHES - Undergraduate Student,
Department of Geography and the
Environment

NEFERTITTI JACKMON - Community
Displacement Prevention Officer, City of
Austin Housing Department

ALEXIA LECLERQ - Co-founder & Director of
ATX Hub, Start:Empowerment

JIABAO LI - Assistant Professor, School of
Design and Creative Technology

KATHERINE LIEBERKNECHT - Assistant
Professor, School of Architecture

LI-CHEN LIN - Clinical Assistant Professor,
School of Nursing

CARMEN LLANES PULIDO - Executive
Director, Go Austin/Vamos Austin



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THANK YOU

MEG MATTINGLY - Licensed Professional Counselor, Willow Tree Collective

LAUREL MEI-SINGH - Assistant Professor, College of Liberal Arts

IRAIS MONSERRAT DAYRIES - Assistant Professor, Tecnológico de Monterrey

ADRIAN MONTOYA - Graduate Student, School of Architecture

EDWARD MORRIS - Set and Projections Designer

WHITNEY MOSERY - Graduate Student, College of Fine Arts

ELIZABETH MUELLER - Professor, School of Architecture & Steve Hicks School of Social Work

DEV NIYOGI - Professor, Department of Geological Studies & Maseeh Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering

PAOLA PASSALACQUA - Professor, Maseeh Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering

CATHERINE PLOEHN - Assistant Professor of Practice, School of Design and Creative Technologies

MATT PREISSER - Graduate Student, Maseeh Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering

MARIAL QUEZADA - Graduate Student, Department of Curriculum and Instruction

ADAM RABINOWITZ - Associate Professor, Department of Classics

MADISON RUSS - Research Engineer, Oden Institute

MATTHEW RUSSELL - Lecturer, Center for Teaching and Learning

RAJ SANKARANARAYANAN - Postdoctoral Fellow, Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost

ROXANNE SCHROEDER-ARCE - Associate Professor, Department of Theatre and Dance

STARLA SIMMONS - Clinical Assistant Professor, Steve Hicks School of Social Work

MIRIAM SOLIS - Assistant Professor, School of Architecture

JIAYU SUN - Graduate Student, Department of Communication Studies

KENNETH THOMPSON - Community Activist

CARMEN VALDEZ - Associate Professor, Department of Population Health

SAMANTA VARELA - Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Economics Research and Teaching

AQUIEL WARNER - Medical Student, Dell Medical School

DANIELA WILLETT - Teacher, Overton Elementary School

HYUNJE YANG - Graduate Student, Maseeh Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering

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