NASHVILLE YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

SPEAKER BIOS: RACIAL JUSTICE AND CLIMATE JUSTICE PANEL

CECILIA PRADO (SHE/HER) - WORKER'S DIGNITY

Cecilia Prado is a Co-Director at Workers' Dignity and the lead organizer and strategist for the Commercial Construction Campaign. Cecilia is building power alongside the members of Workers' Dignity Construction Committee, a group of construction workers and their families who believe that they should be defining their own workplace standards and feel free to assert these standards without fear of retaliation. Before Workers' Dignity, she led the Public Education efforts at Sanctuary in the Streets, a volunteer network with over 3,000 members offering rapid response services and campaign support for the Pioneer Valley Workers Center, which supports farm and restaurant workers in western Massachusetts. While at PVWC, she was also a leader behind their campaign to push 150 businesses, two mayors and a Chamber of Commerce to publicly endorse the Work and Family Mobility Act, a bill to allow undocumented immigrants to apply for Massachusetts driver's licenses. In 2019, she helped coordinate emerging immigrant-centered community groups in towns directly impacted by the massive ICE raids on poultry plants that devastated over 500 families. Cecilia's passion for immigrant and worker rights is fueled from her own experience as an Indigenous Mexican immigrant, from growing up in a family with roots in the steel labor movement, and from her deep ties to her community. In the past, she has worked as an educator and interpreter, and as a microbiology researcher at Amherst College.

TEQUILA JOHNSON (SHE/HER) - THE EQUITY ALLIANCE

Tequila Johnson is an award-winning cause driven community organizer and strategist whose work focuses on creating equity and increasing civic engagement among Black Americans and other communities of color. She has been recognized for educating communities of color about the political process, relevant economic, social, and political issues, the impacts of impending legislation, and providing people with the tools to exercise self-agency. She has been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, on CNN, MSNBC and around the country. Johnson is the co-founder and Co Executive director of The Equity Alliance, a Tennessee-based nonprofit that equips Black and brown citizens with tools and strategies to strengthen their communities and make government work better. In 2018, Johnson served as the statewide manager for the Tennessee Black Voter Project, a statewide coalition of nearly two dozen local nonprofits working together toward the goal of registering 50,000 Black Tennesseans to vote. The group, under Johnson's leadership, submitted 91,000 voter registration forms. In addition to her involvement in local politics and community organizing, Johnson is also the founder and CEO of The Equity Consulting Group, LLC, a firm specializing in issue advocacy, government relations, community relations and media strategy.

NASHVILLE YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

SPEAKER BIOS: RACIAL JUSTICE AND CLIMATE JUSTICE PANEL

PATRICK KING (HE/HIM) - URBAN GREEN LAB

Patrick King is a local environmental and sustainability advocate based In Nashville, TN. A native of Baton Rouge, LA, King witnessed firsthand the impact that climate change has on coastal communities, the effects of degraded local food systems, and the health outcomes associated with living and working in the region known as “Cancer Alley."

Founded in 2009 in Nashville, Tennessee, Urban Green Lab teaches communities how to live sustainably. We organize, train, and connect professionals in schools, businesses, and nonprofits so they can teach others how to make more sustainable choices. A recent winner of the Governor’s Environmental Stewardship and Frist Foundation Innovation in Action awards, Urban Green Lab works with public-private partnerships citywide to ensure all of us know the basics of sustainability so we can thrive together.

JAMEL CAMPBELL-GOOCH (HE/HIM) - GIDEON'S ARMY

Jamel Campbell-Gooch is a Nashville native and community organizer whose work is rooted in 37208, but touches every part of Nashville.

As a violence interrupter and the Deputy Director of Gideon’s Army, Jamel alleviates community violence with practices based in restorative justice, building community and connection rather than resorting to police intervention.

Gideon’s Army also provides mutual aid in North Nashville, helping people to care for one another rather than outsourcing help to government or other service providers. Gideon’s Army has been a crucial leader in the aftermath of the March 2020 tornado, from which many, many people have not fully recovered.

He is also a founding member of Nashville’s Community Oversight Board, which was created by voters in 2018 to hold police accountable to our community.