

NIKKI SILVESTRI



- Co-Founder and CEO of Silvestri Strategies
- Co-Founder of Live Real
- Executive Director of Green for All
- More than a decade of experience working with as an advocate for social and environmental equality for the impoverished

“Community resilience is the ability as a community to withstand change in a way that protects all people, and an ability to take advantage of change in a way that increases the ability of the community to thrive.”

VAN JONES



- Founder of Dream Corps, Rebuild The Dream, Green For All, and the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights and Color of Change.

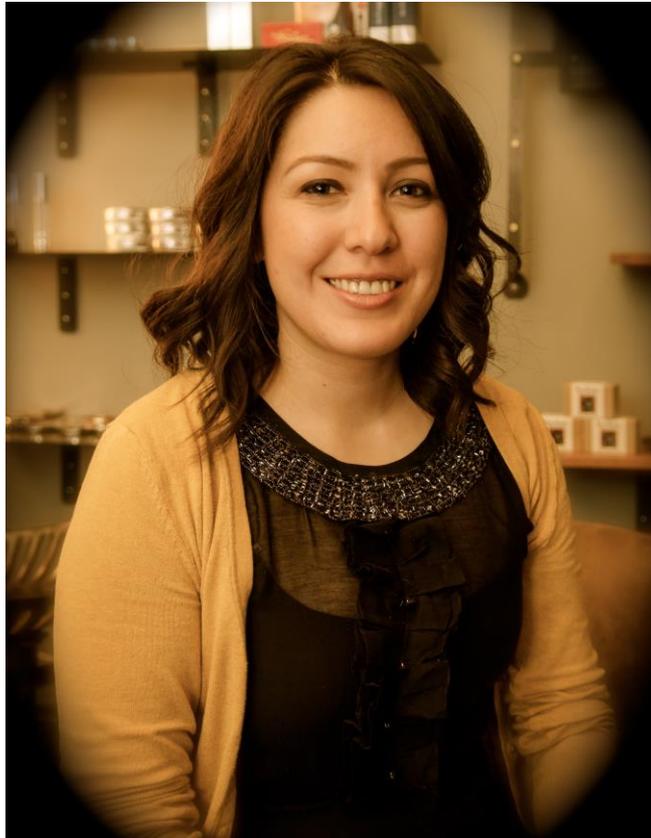
“Let us all say together: ‘We want to build a green economy strong enough to lift people out of poverty. We want to create green pathways out of poverty and into great careers for America's children.’”

In Memoriam BRYANT WILLIAMS



- President, BK Environmental Industries
- Senior Director of ReBuilding Exchange
- Former manager of engineering for the Cook County Department of Environmental Control
- Bryant spent 15 years in the field of industrial hygiene and environmental engineering

Raquel Garcia Alvarez



- Stewardship Program Coordinator for the Forest Preserves of Cook County, coordinating hundreds of volunteers at over 80 sites
- Network Initiator for the Environmentalists of Color, a network bringing together people of color in various environmental fields
- Master's degree in Environment and Natural Resource Management from the University of Iceland in Reykjavík and an undergraduate degree in Animal Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- From the south side Little Village neighborhood

Melanie L. Moore



- An accomplished environmental consultant with project management, construction oversight, land redevelopment and planning experience.
- Director Of Legislative Affairs at BK Environmental Industries.
- Former Director of Policy at Friends of the Parks, a local park advocacy nonprofit organization.
- Led projects with Union of Concerned Scientists, Chicago Botanic Garden, Environmental Design International, and Peoples Gas.
- Member of Trinity United Church of Christ (Ministries: Green & Trinity Recyclers)

Veronica Kyle



- Chicago Outreach Director of Faith In Place
- Currently serving a 4th term as an appointed Environmental Justice Commissioner for the State of Illinois
- Audubon Toyota Together Green Fellow
- North American Association of Environmental Educators Climate Change Fellow
- National Climate Change Advisory Council of United Church of Christ

“As Outreach Director, I feel called to ensure that when it comes to this very crucial issue of our time, that diversity of race, class, culture and gender are at the table. This beautiful planet belongs to ALL of us and it is up to ALL of us to make it better.”

Toni Anderson



- Founding Executive Director & Board President of Sacred Keepers.
- Trainer for the University of Minnesota's Monarch's in the Classroom (MITC) curriculum, Monarch Larvae Monitoring Project (MLMP) and is a member of the Monarch Flyways Connection.
- A Chicago Conservation Corp Environmental Leader, dedicating herself to bringing knowledge and resources to the communities she serves.

Lorena Lopez



- Outreach Coordinator at Faith in Place
- Has prior experience working as a community organizer for the community environmental organization.
- Lorena's passion for community advocacy and nature has led her to return to school to pursue a degree in Environmental Studies.

“As a Latina, mother, and wife from the south side of Chicago, I am very committed to working on getting our communities of color to re-connect to earth and to relearn how our elders connected through faith to help preserve our beautiful planet.”

Viva Yeboah



- Founder of the Outdoor Afro Chicago network. Outdoor Afro is a national nonprofit organizations that celebrates and inspires African-American connection and leadership in nature.
- Winner of the 2015 Outdoor Afro Leader of the Year award.
- Winner of the 2014 Chicago Wilderness Grassroots Conservation Leadership Award

“ Black folks are nature and will always be. You don't need to be the person fishing in Washington Park or hiking the Grand Canyon.

You can but you can also take the nature walks, ride bikes, swim, compost, ride horses, or lead a cleanup project. Embrace it, be curious, appreciate it, be adventures, be respectful and love mother earth.”

Anthena Gore



- Impact Strategist at Elevate Energy, working on Illinois' electric utility dynamic pricing programs and building efficiency projects.
- Serves as the lead strategist for the Environmentalists of Color, an interdisciplinary network of professionals and enthusiasts working to cultivate diversity and mentorship in the sector.
 - **"To me, success in environmental sustainability starts with an honest, inclusive and equitable conversation."**

Majora Carter



- Activist for environmental justice, urban revitalization strategy consultant, real estate developer, 2006 TEDTalks speaker, and Peabody Award winning broadcaster
- Established Sustainable South Bronx and Green For All
- Responsible for the creation & successful implementation of numerous green-infrastructure projects, policies, and job training & placement systems.
- Redefined the field of environmental equality, starting in the South Bronx – managed to bring the South Bronx its first open-waterfront park in 60 years, Hunts Point Riverside Park; scored \$1.25 million in federal funds for a greenway along the South Bronx waterfront.

Amaris Alanis Ribeiro



- Diversity in Environment/STEM Leader, Chicago Park District, Illinois Institute of Technology
- Began her career as an environmental educator at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum where she led the development of programs that address gender and cultural equity
- B.S. in Ecology, Ethology, Evolution from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Robert Bullard



- The Father of Environmental Justice. Dr. Bullard has received numerous accolades and awards.
- As a sociologist in the 1970s, Robert Bullard made a dismayed discovery: Houston landfills and incinerators were far more likely to be located in communities of color than in white neighborhoods, even though blacks made up just one-fourth of the city's population.
- Author of eighteen books that address sustainable development, environmental racism, urban land use, industrial facility siting, community reinvestment, housing, transportation, climate justice, emergency response, smart growth, and regional equity.
- Testified as an expert witness and served as a technical advisor on hundreds of civil rights cases

Rue Mapp



- Founder of Outdoor Afro, and oversees a carefully selected and trained national volunteer leadership team of 30 men and women who represent 16 cities around the US.
- Invited to the White House to participate in the America's Great Outdoors Conference, and subsequently to take part in a think-tank to inform the launch of the First Lady's "Let's Move" initiative.
- Proud to serve on the Board of Rails to Trails Conservancy, American Camp Association, and the Outdoor Industry Association and the California State Parks Commission.

"I founded [Outdoor Afro] in 2009 after some soul-searching about what I really cared about. There have been a few constants in my life: love of nature, the desire to connect in nature with people who look like me, and technology...I studied art history at UC Berkeley, which helped me to understand the power of visual representation to tell stories [and] to dispel the myth that African Americans don't engage with the outdoors."

Dianne Glave



- Associate Pastor at Ingomar Church in Pittsburgh. Part of her ministry is advocacy for impoverished and marginalized people affected by environmental disparity including access to recreational spaces and healthcare
- Author of “Rooted in the Earth: Reclaiming the African American Environmental Heritage” and a co-editor, with Mark Stoll, of “To Love the Wind and the Rain: African Americans and Environmental History.”

“My hope is that people of African descent of all faiths join together to meet the environmental needs of those who are impoverished.”

Elvia Rodriguez-Ochoa



- Neighborhood Program Director of Openlands. Openlands is one of the oldest metropolitan conservation organizations in the nation and the only such group with a regional scope in the greater Chicago region
- Helped foster the creative community in Chicago by collaborating with groups as diverse as Polvo Alternative (founding member), VillArte, AREA SouthWest Youth Collaborative, and currently serves on the Board at ElevArte Community Studio.
- Part of the first cadre of LISC-NCP Community Heroes in 2006.

Emmanuel Pratt



- Co-founder and Executive Director of the Sweet Water Foundation and founding member of axilL3C.
- Director of Aquaponics for Chicago State University and teaches courses within the college of Arts and Sciences.
- 2015 Chicago Artists Month
- March 2013 Chicago Magazine Feature—How To Turn a Vacant Building into an Urban Farm: Emmanuel Pratt's Mycelia Project, an aquaponic farm in a former shoe factory, now distributes fish and fresh veggies from the South Side.

“I am motivated by life (literally), the regenerative principles of ecosystems, the connectivity that life attracts, and the resultant interconnections that evolve from a sustained culture of care.”

Orrin Williams



- Chicago Partnership for Health Promotion (CPHP) Food System Coordinator at University of Illinois at Chicago
- Advocate for urban agriculture, food security, food access and food sovereignty for over 25 years.
- Previously worked at Growing Home (a nonprofit that uses organic farming to provide job training for hard-to-employ individuals) as a case manager and new projects director.

“Urban agriculture is, in my mind, critical to the rebirth of cities and communities that have fallen on hard times”

Kimberly Wasserman-Nieto



- Formerly Executive Director of the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO).
- Led local residents in a successful campaign to shut down two of the country's oldest and dirtiest coal plants—and is now transforming Chicago's old industrial sites into parks and multiuse spaces.
- 2013 North American recipient of the Goldman Award (for grassroots environmental activism)

“We have to be arming our young people to be thinking about careers in math and science and engineering to be able to bring those skills back and help us tackle some of these environmental-justice issues.”

Naomi Davis



- Founder/ CEO of Blacks In Green (B.I.G.)—a national network for advancing 'green-village- building'
- Urban theorist, attorney, activists, and proud granddaughter of Mississippi sharecroppers
- 2014 ComEd Power of One Community Heroes Award Winner
- A Green For All Fellow, LEED GA, and a certified teacher of the environmental literacy curriculum, Roots of Success, NCCER/Maritime, and Marine and Spatial & Marine Coastal Planning

“In my mom’s walkable village, everything they ate, they grew; everything they wore, they made; and they were happy. They had everything but cash and thought they were poor. But they were rich.”

Rev. Debra Williams



- Community Engagement for The Nature Conservancy in Markham, IL
- Former Outreach Coordinator at Faith in Place for the Migration & Me program
- Engages diverse audiences throughout the Chicago area in conservation and land stewardship

Rev. Booker Steven Vance



- Policy Director at Faith in Place
- Works to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency policies
- Educates people of faith on how to advocate for Earth-friendly and equitable legislation
- Instrumental in passing the Future Energy Jobs Act with the IL Clean Jobs Coalition and Faith in Place

Ramont Bell



- Outreach Coordinator for the Water Preservation program at Faith in Place
- Works with houses of worship in the Calumet region on green infrastructure planning, water audits, and installing rain gardens and rain barrels
- Background in engineering, information systems, and telecommunications

Celeste Flores



- Lake County Outreach Director for Faith in Place
- Champions the need for a sensible transition plan to move Waukegan toward a clean and sustainable energy future.
- Former Lead Organizer with Clean Power Lake County
- Her work with front line community members has drawn national attention to the environmental injustices associated with a fossil fuel economy
- Organizes nature outings, beach clean ups, educational workshops, community gardens, energy audits, and more with Lake County faith communities

Samantha Miller



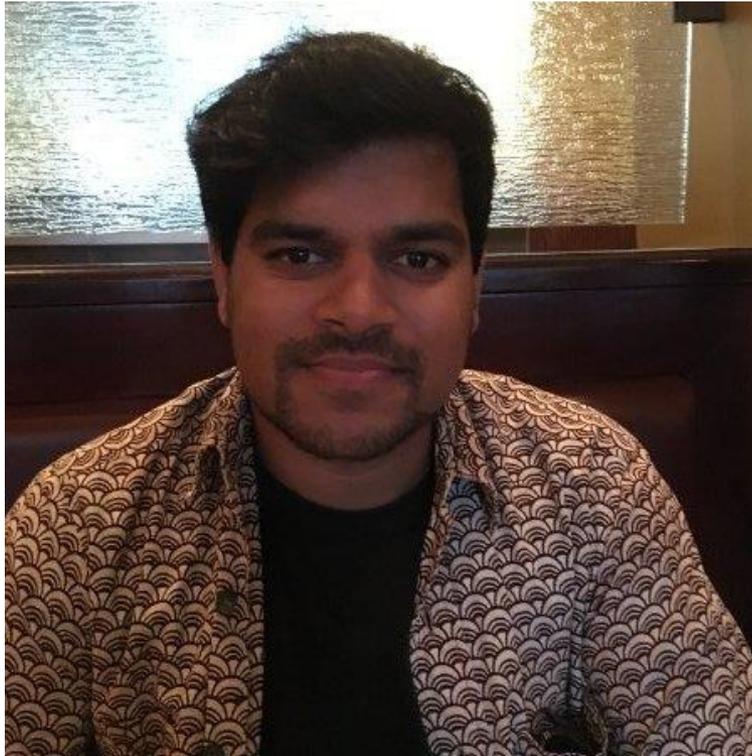
- Outreach staff at Faith in Place
- Educates people on Chicago's West side about energy conservation and how to save money on electricity bills at their homes and houses of worship
- **"I work at FIP because I want to do my part in helping people to care for our planet. People need to know that we only have this one planet and one chance to get it right!"**

Juanita Garcia



- BIM for Better, Webster Leiden Campus, Webster University USA
- Began her career in the industry designing mechanical systems for mechanical contractors.
- Volunteer for USGBC
- She has been developing and teaching STEM curriculum to students in the context of sustainable building and urban planning
- Co-host of Shades of Green Chicago podcast which features environmentalists of color

Kumar Jensen



- Sustainability Coordinator at City of Evanston
- Manages strategic planning, program development and project implementation to address energy efficiency, water and waste reduction, renewable energy and climate change.
- Also works on natural resources policy and challenges facing Evanston's urban forest.

Marcella Bondie Keenan



- Environmental and Sustainability Program Director at RainReady Home, Center for Neighborhood Technology
- Environmental program director, LEED Accredited Professional, and planner with fifteen years of experience.
- Passionate about environmental justice, inclusive planning, and sustainable community development.

Credell Walls



- Community Engagement Specialist at Forest Preserve District of Cook County

“Having youth go out and do stewardship work, remove an invasive species, making a difference in different areas of their lives, I think it helps them see their life a little better than they did before.”

Seva Gandhi



- Director of Programs and Partnerships at Institute of Cultural Affairs
- Has worked on various rural community development initiatives in other countries
- Seva's interest have come back to Chicago, specifically, focusing on access to local, organic, and affordable food within an urban context
- Organizes the accelerate77 project at Institute of Cultural Affairs

Vee Likes



- New Development Director at Faith in Place
- Bio and photo coming soon!

Karen Winters



- Coordinator for Youth Eco-Ambassadors Program and Winter Farmers Markets at Faith in Place
- Co-founder of a women's healing circle, S.H.A.R.E. (Sistahs Healing and Refocusing Energy), an initiate of the NTU Institute (African American Adult Rite of Passage)
- Extensive experience working with youth at Bobby E. Wright Behavioral Health Center, Kingdom Community, and After School Matters