

PPN

Environmental Justice

Professional Practice Network Update



Summer 2019 Newsletter

During April, the Environmental Justice PPN reached out to landscape architecture professionals regarding their understanding of environmental justice. A total of 169 responses were cataloged from all across the country. Using this information, the EJ PPN leadership team aims to develop case studies, local chapter events, and learning resources related to environmental justice. Thank you to those who contributed!

We are excited to share the results of the survey and more about our planned PPN activities. We invite you to our next call on **Thursday, June 13 at 3:00 pm (ET)** to learn about ways you can be involved and make an impact on the profession through volunteer leadership. Be on the lookout for an article in ASLA's [The Field](#) for more detail on the survey results.

The discussion will be facilitated by the EJ PPN co-chairs, Chingwen Cheng, ASLA and Tom Martin, Associate ASLA. We hope you can join us!

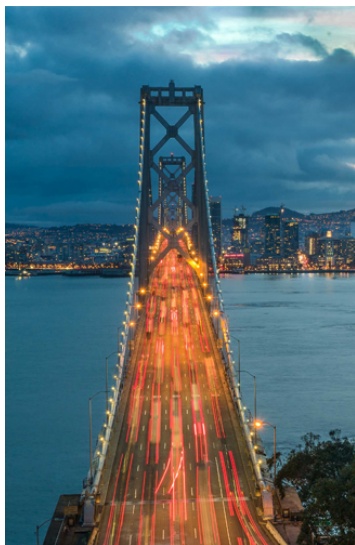
Thursday, June 13 at 3:00 pm (ET)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/390024484>

Call-in Number: 646 876 9923

Meeting ID: 390 024 484

ASLA Online Learning



Developing an Equity Framework for Government Agencies

1.0 PDH (LA CES/HSW)

Jun 27, 2019

12:00PM - 1:00PM (Eastern)

Hosted by the Environmental Justice and
Transportation PPNs

At its core, inequality exists when there are fundamental differences in access to opportunity. Taking the first steps to address it can be difficult and fraught, with a need to recognize power and fully acknowledge its reality and consequences. In this presentation, learn about developing and implementing a comprehensive agency equity framework based on LA Metro's Equity Platform. From this discussion, we hope to convey a blueprint for incorporating equity into your own agency's work as we all work as transportation professionals to undo decades of barriers to mobility. Let's not just talk about equity - let's define and address it.

Speaker:

Therese McMillan, Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Commission

ASLA-NY hosted Environmental Justice event during World Landscape Architecture Month

As part of World Landscape Architecture Month this year, the ASLA New York Chapter partnered with Victor Stanley and the American Planning Association New York Metro to hold a unique panel of speakers on environmental justice through the lens of landscape architecture. Held on April 23 at the Center for Architecture, nearly 60 people attended the event, ranging from students and recent graduates to seasoned professionals in both landscape architecture and planning fields. The speaker panel included landscape architects Elizabeth Kennedy, ASLA, and Molly Bourne; resiliency planner Priya Mulgaonkar of the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance; and Professor Cequyna Moore of Hostos Community College. The panel moderator was Scott Grimm-Lyon, of APA-NY Metro.

Kicking off the panel, Ms. Bourne talked about her firm Mathew Nielsen's approach to the design and community engagement of [Roberto Clemente Park](#). In a project with limited resources and scope, she discussed the importance of finding opportunities to engage the community beyond what was defined within the scope of the project.

Next, Professor Moore provided an overview of the environmental justice movement, including the watershed report by the United Church of Christ Commission on Racial Justice's examination of the disproportionate siting of toxic waste sites within communities of color and low-income neighborhoods. The grassroots activism across the country resulted in the 1992 First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., which established the [17 Principles of Environmental Justice](#).

Ms. Mulgaonkar followed up with a series of engaging maps of NYC, highlighting the "hotspots" of environmental injustices in particular neighborhoods around NYC. Overlaid with sociodemographic information, the maps showed compelling visual evidence of unequal burden of toxic sites, heat vulnerability, and health impacts in communities of color. Ms. Mulgaonkar's organization is an umbrella organization comprised of advocacy groups working in these specific neighborhoods, and she highlighted the various campaigns and programs to increase green infrastructure in these communities.

As the last panelist, Ms. Kennedy shared an engaging presentation on her work in Harlem which ultimately led to the establishment of her landscape architecture firm [EKLA](#). What started off as a survey of existing community gardens in Harlem transformed into a new understanding of open space and language of advocacy for the local community.



Scott Grimm-Lyon moderates the Q&A session. From left, Molly Bourne, Cequyna Moore, Elizabeth Kennedy, Priya Mulgaonkar. Photo by Michelle Lin-Luse



The Environmental Justice Through A Landscape Architecture Lens was held at the Center for Architecture in NYC. Photo by Michelle Lin-Luse

Environmental Justice PPN meeting in San Diego

The Environmental Justice PPN Co-Chairs will be presenting at PPN Live on the EXPO floor at the ASLA Conference this November. Join us on November 17th at 11:00 am in sunny San Diego for a discussion on the EJ survey findings, and how we can better integrate environmental justice into our everyday practice. [Register for the 2019 ASLA Conference today!](#)

ASLA Advocacy

[Tell Your Representative to Support Environmental Justice](#)

Landscape architects believe in and prioritize the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, national origin, education level, or income with regard to the development and implementation of public designs and plans. In the age of climate change, it is more important than ever to address environmental justice and work on a global solution to combat climate change and protect climate vulnerable communities.

[Write to Your Legislators to Support Transportation Alternatives](#)

The Transportation Alternatives (TA) program is a set-aside program within the FHWA's Surface Transportation Block Grant program. The TA program provides funding for states and other entities to plan, design, and construct smaller-scale transportation projects, such as bicycle and pedestrian pathways, trails, and safe routes to school projects.

News and Resources

[Designing for Public Space Inclusive of Unhoused People](#)

by Katie Kingery-Page, PLA, ASLA, and Skylar Brown, Student ASLA - The Field

[Green Infrastructure: A Blueprint for Climate Resilient Communities](#)

ASLA Online Learning webinar recording

1.5 PDH (LA CES/HSW)

FREE for members

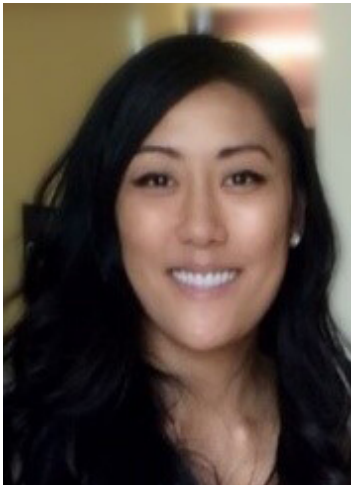
Though we are all vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change, some groups are disproportionately affected. Climate-related health challenges are an environmental justice issue because certain communities that already experience multiple environmental health burdens are also disproportionately affected by climate change. Our challenge is to put

these recommended planning approaches and public policies into practice as standard operating procedure for communities of all sizes and for all types of development.

African American Design Nexus

The AADN emerged from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design's inaugural Black in Design Conference, acknowledging the remarkable achievements of African American designers from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds. "At a time of unprecedented inequality and environmental crisis the designers of our homes, cities, landscapes, public art, fashion, music, movies, and other media have a crucial role in shaping the future. To have a future that is designed to reflect the diversity in the world requires different voices, perspectives, and thus new paradigms for design practice and education to emerge."

PPN Member Spotlight



Sarah Kwon, Affiliate ASLA

Sarah is an affiliate member of ASLA and a Senior Business Developer at Victor Stanley. She has been involved and worked with ASLA for 5 years and recently became a part of the Environmental Justice Professional Practice Network. She was drawn to volunteer for the EJ PPN because of her previous experience working in the social justice community. To this day this experience has a large influence on how she engages with the world.

After college, Sarah worked as a congressional intern and learned how the legislative process worked. She enjoyed working directly with constituents before moving into the social justice world with a non-profit

organization. As a 2nd generation Korean American, Sarah was drawn to working with the Korean American/AAPI community. She worked on immigrant rights, with a focus on undocumented students (Dreamers); civic engagement; and access to social benefits for underprivileged seniors. While working with the communities firsthand, Sarah realized the policies that were enacted to help them were not always reflecting the needs of the community. Organizing and empowering them to be stronger advocates for their communities was the most challenging but rewarding worthwhile aspect of the work.

Through these experiences, Sarah came to understand that community organizing is about relationships. She realized very early on that when working with the community to reach a goal, everything came down to trust and the relationships you build with them.

As she started to work with ASLA, the landscape architecture community, and the EJ PPN, Sarah saw many of the values and goals were similar or exactly the same. She is happy that she is able to work with a company like Victor Stanley that has encouraged her to be a part of the EJ PPN and has been supporting members of ASLA for the last 16 years.