Academic Institutions-Communities-Agencies Network (ACA-NET) Convening
Convened by Harambee House/Citizens for Environmental Justice
Morehouse College, Sales Hall Chapel
November 9, 2023
Spelman College, Cosby Auditorium
November 10-11, 2023
Atlanta, GA.

Building Collective Power to Achieve Justice
Dear Family,

Karibu means welcome in the language Kiswahili spoken in East Africa. Welcome, welcome, welcome, karibu, karibu, karibu! Welcome to this historic and monumental convening. This collection of brilliant minds having come together to develop and execute a community-based, community-driven 10-year strategic action plan for EPA Region 4 Southeast region (GA., AL., MS., FL., SC., NC., TN., KY., 6 Indigenous Tribes) is history in the making.

It is no coincidence that you are here. Reading this welcome letter means you have kept your divine appointment. Together, we are creating the best plan that will address our environmental injustice priorities and climate change impacts, as well as build a bright new future for our residents and our children.

We will build a new generation of wealth that thrives and survives on protecting Mother Earth and her resources that take care of us on a daily basis. We have come together over the next few days to learn, to share, to heal, to build, to commune, and to exalt the Most High for all of the blessings we have received.

Yes, it has been difficult over the last few years, decades, and centuries. But we are stronger for it. We are still ready to carry it on; To fight for our liberation and the earth's healing. We will grow a regional network anchored in the ACA-NET model that brings together Academic Institutions, Communities, Agencies, and Allies together to address environmental injustice in front-line and fence-line communities, particularly those with limited resources. We are asking the industry, and business sector to join us in working for winning solutions for smart growth and development.
WELCOME LETTER

We will change from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources because we have the intellect, we have the dedication, we have the drive, and we have the commitment. So, roll up your sleeves and get ready to immerse yourself in the best days ever!

Please, take an opportunity to get to know somebody that you didn't know when you first came. Talk about this strategic action plan that we have busted our butts putting together for your review, input, and feedback. But most of all, we need you to "warrior up" and help us implement this plan once we bring consensus that this is the direction that we are going as a collective people.

Harambee means “Let's pull together.” Let's pull together for a sustainable future. Because I'm thinking what will having a right to vote mean if you don't have an earth?

Much love and respect. Let's get busy!

Dr. Mildred McClain,
Founder of Harambee House/ Citizens for Environmental Justice
ACA-NET Convening Agenda

Convened by Harambee House/Citizens for Environmental Justice

EVENT DETAILS

**November 9th** convening session held from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.:

Morehouse College  
Sales Hall Chapel  
830 Westview Dr. S.W.  
Atlanta, GA. 30314

*lunch included*

**November 10th-11th** convening sessions will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at:

Spelman College  
Camille Cosby Auditorium.  
350 Spelman Lane  
Atlanta, GA. 30314

*Youth Leadership Development will be held on **November 11th** at Spelman College

*lunch included*

Host Hotel:  
Embassy Suites Buckhead  
3285 Peachtree Rd. NE.  
Atlanta, GA. 30305

*lunch included*

*Transportation to and from the event venue and the hotel will be provided*
## ACA-NET Convening Agenda

Convened by Harambee House/Citizens for Environmental Justice

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>9:00 am</td>
<td><strong>Welcome:</strong> Chandra Farley, Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Atlanta</td>
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| 9:30 am | **Early Bird Training:** Roadmap to Justice  
40: Vernice Miller-Travis & EJNCF |
| 11:00 am | **Opening Session:**  
Oyotunji Drummers-Tribute and Honoring Our Ancestors  
Melody Famble, Songstress- Welcome |
| 11:30 am | **Welcome Address:** State of Affairs- Dr. Mildred McClain, Harambee House/Citizens for Environmental Justice & EPA Region IV |
| 12:00 pm | Lunch                                                             |
| 1:00 pm | **Speaker:** James Mosely, Management & Program Analyst Minority Business & Workforce Div. Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, U.S. Department of Energy |
| 1:30 pm | **Speaker:** Dr. Rebecca Stanfield-McCown, Deputy Director for Environmental Justice Public Engagement, White House Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President |
ACA-NET Convening Agenda

Convened by Harambee House/Citizens for Environmental Justice

Date: Thursday, November 9

Time:

2:00 pm

Community-Based Solutions:
Community Solar- Suzanna Almanza, Ponder
Reliency Hubs-Azania Hayward-James, Harambee House
Church Initiative (EJ101)- Rev. Brendolym Boseman, Imani Group
Community Air Monitoring-Asada Rashidi, SWEA
Reducing Energy Burden- Leon Childs, Groundswell
Greenhouse Gas Policy-Molly Greenberg, Moving Forward Network
Executive on EJ- Dr. Yomi, EcoAction

3:00 pm

CEAR Hub- “Collaborating to Build Coastal Equity and Resilience”- Jill Gambill, Executive Director and Senior Research Associate Coastal Equity and Resilience, Russ Clark, GT., Ofun Maja, Savannah St., Dawud Shabaka, Harambee House, and Jazz Watts.

4:00 pm

HBCU Green Fund- HBCU Sustainability Panel-Dr. Cynthia Hewitt (Morehouse), Dr. Ann Hayes (Bennett), Dr. Kendra Sharp (UNCF ICB), Dr. Richard Gragg III (FAMU)
ACA-NET Convening Agenda

Convened by Harambee House/Citizens for Environmental Justice

Date: Thursday, November 9

Time:

5:00 pm   Adjourn

6:00 pm   Reception: Embassy Suites Hotel
           Buckhead
# ACA-NET Convening Agenda

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<td>7:00 am</td>
<td><strong>Tai Chi at Embassy Suites Hotel:</strong> Master Heg Robinson, Roxbury Tai Chi Academy</td>
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| 9:00 am     | **Opening Session:**
Elder Earl Tully, Navajo Nation  
Oyotunji Drummers  
Vocalist- Melanie Famble  
Sacred Circle- Dr. Mildred McClain |
| 9:30 am     | **Sacred Circle:** Dr. Mildred McClain                                |
| 10:00 am    | **Keynote Speaker:** Nathaniel Smith, Executive Director, Partnership for Southern Equity |
| 10:30 am    | **EPA Tic Tac Center Updates:** Kyle Bryant, Project Officer, EJ TC TACs, R4 EJ Liaison for MS, NC |
| 11:30 am    | **Speaker:** James Harrington, Fellow, RTI and Co-Director, TCTAC       |
| 12:00 pm    | **Lunch**                                                             |
| 12:30 pm    | **Lunch Remarks:** Chandra Farley, Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Atlanta  
**Lunch Keynote:** Rev. Brendolyn Bozeman, The Imani Group |
ACA-NET Convening Agenda

Convened by Harambee House/Citizens for Environmental Justice

**Date:** Friday, November 10

**Time:**

1:00 pm  **Role of Academic Institutions, HBCUs, Allies, and Big Greens:** Dr. Shaifei, Spelman College, Dr. Erica Holloman-Hill, Ayika Solutions, Janelle Wright, Wawa, Alicia Scott, Energy Foundation

2:00 pm  **Bus Pick Up**

2:30 pm  **Atlanta Circle:**
Those from Atlanta will stay at the Cosby Auditorium

All Other States - Embassy Suites Hotel Buckhead

5:30 pm  **Adjourn**

6:00 pm  **Closing-** Dinner on your own
ACA-NET Convening Agenda

Convened by Harambee House/Citizens for Environmental Justice

Date: Saturday, November 11

Time:

7:00 am  Tai Chi - Embassy Suites Hotel: Master Heg Robinson, Roxbury Tai Chi

9:00 am  Presentation: Southeast Region 10-Year Strategic Action Plan

9:30 am  Keynote Speaker: Daniel Blackman, Environmentalist, Civil Rights Activist, and Public Servant

10:00 am Opening Session: State Circles

12:00 pm Lunch

12:30 pm Keynote Speaker: Harold Rickenbacker, Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ), at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

1:30 pm HBCU Green Fund: International Framework and Partnership Ms. Felicia Davis Mr. Cheikhou Thiome (Senegal) Dr. Myron Williams, Ms. Raina Turner-Greenlea, Dr. Kamara
ACA-NET Convening Agenda

Convened by Harambee House/Citizens for Environmental Justice

Date:    Saturday, November 11

Time:

2:30 pm    "Fighting False Solutions to the Climate Crisis: The Continuing Absence of Health and Justice in Climate Policies" - Moderator Elizabeth Friedman MPH MD, Presenters: Beto Martinez, Nicky Sheats, Yukyan Lam


          Youth Presentation: An EcoHood Does Good

4:30 pm    Break

5:00 pm    Closing: The Gullah Geechee Ring Shouters- Coastal Georgia

5:30 pm    Adjourn

7:00 pm    Reception: Embassy Suites Buckhead
Youth Leadership Development

Description

Date:  Saturday, November 11

Time:

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

An Eco-hood Does Good! is an innovative, hands-on project for young people. Students envision, design, and construct a miniature model of their ideal community, for which they must meet the requirement of a pedestrian-only, ecologically sound environment. Mini research and each-one-teach-one activities take place first to ensure a basic knowledge of terms and concepts related to sustainability.

Together, using an assortment of recycled and craft materials, students produce the kind of neighborhood they would like to live in. Students present and discuss their model with adults at the close of the session.

Amakiasu Turpin Howze is the founder and primary instructor of this project.
ACA-NET Convening Agenda

Convened by Harambee House/Citizens for Environmental Justice

Date:  Sunday, November 12

Time:

10:00 am  Working Group Meeting-Embassy Suites Hotel Buckhead

12:00 pm  Closing
SUPPORT

Harambee House Staff

Dr. Mildred McClain, Founder
Executive Director Emeritus

Dawud Shabaka
Interim Executive Director

Yolanda Alston
Director, Worker Education & Job Training Program (WEJTP)

Nicole Lee
Co-Director, Worker Education & Job Training Program (WEJTP)

Deborah Jackson
Director, Fannie Lou Hamer Democracy Center

Anjani Heyward-James
Director, Department of Youth Affairs

Baba Ofun
Community Outreach Coordinator, CEAR Hub

Uzenzile Stephanie Robinson
ACA-NET Coordinator

Michele Howard
Coordinator, Hudson Hill Environmental Justice Work Group

Ife Asha Heyward-James
Legal Counsel

ACA-NET Convening Planning Committee Members

Convening Coordinator
Pamela Fann

Carlotta Mustapha Ali
Brendolyn Jenkins-Boseman
Michelle Dawkins
Nick Deffley
Chandra Farley
Ade Gosier
Molly Greenberg
Azania Heyward James
Cosco Jones
Erica Holloman-Hill
Brian Holtzclaw

Dominique Mack
Rev. Michael Malcolm
Miaisha Mitchell
Omar Mohammed
Michelle Moore
Yomi Noibi
Nataki Osborne-Jelks
Cynthia Peurifoy
Alicia Scott
Fatemeh Shafei
Ramsey Sprague
Thank You to Our Sponsors Investors

Dear Investors,

On behalf of the eight states that make up the Southeast region of North America, we extend our deepest gratitude to our initial investors in the development of the Southeast Region Environmental Justice 10-Year Strategic Action Plan. This is a historic moment when multiple stakeholders have come together to create a bottom-up blueprint for how to build power to achieve justice. In our lifetime, it is critical to change the language in our movement. That is why it is with intention that we use the word investor as opposed to sponsor. You chose to invest in a process based on some words that we presented to you but it was a deeper conviction than you knew. We were on the right path to bring together all our people to work as one collective body to push the needle and our movement, which is so desperately needed. As I sit here in the rainforests of Utive, Panama, I see the beautiful expressions of nature: the trees, the shrubs, the flowers, the birds, the butterflies, and the river. It is so good to hear the river once again. Because just a few months ago, there was so little rain. You can barely hear her, but Mother Earth is always speaking.

We thank you for your initial investment but we are calling on you for a deeper commitment to help us fund the implementation of this strategic action plan. It is going to take all of us, and multiple resources, to stage this plan over the next decade. However, if we do this, we will be assured that we have changed the course of the lives of our children, our planet, and the region in which we live.

So once again, thank you for your investment. We look forward to building a deep, deep relationship and partnership with you. Those two things are different, but we look forward to doing both. So, get your checkbooks out and spread the word, so others can respond. Bring that checkbook to the table because this is not a nickel-and-dime operation. It will take multiple sources of revenue to implement the plan as it should be implemented. So, all hands on deck, and all boots on the ground as we look forward to working together.

Moving forward together. Together, we rise.

Dr. Mildred McClain
Founder & Executive Director
Harambee House/ Citizens for Environmental Justice