July 13-16, 2020

"Let's talk" webinar series

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What is BehindTheSTEAHM?

Purpose & Mission

BehindTheSTEAHM Officially founded in 2020, with the idea conceived since 2018, BehindTheSTEAHM's mission is to bridge the gap between experts and public opinion by demystifying misconceptions of various fields that are seen through public opinion, along with misconceptions of the public seen through the lens of experts.. Originally just an idea for a conference, the objective,
Every field and subject has its foundations in Science, Technology, Engineering, Humanities, Arts and Mathematics (S.T.E.A.H.M.) and with great success these areas have improved our understanding of each other and the world. But with increased access to information there has been a lack of addressing the factuality of information that comes from multiple mediums. Information drives understanding and knowledge, but with heavily opinionated unfactual thoughts,, misinformation has created a wedge in our society.

This is a platform to address misinformation and miscommunication, by having the public and experts engage with one another through webinars, workshops, and conferences, the public and experts learn from one another, collaborate, and create solutions that will not only address the problems of misinformation and miscommunication, but also change the way society views these fields and disciplines.

BehindTheSTEAHM invites educators, scientist, science communicators, politicians, students, business owners, artist, health professionals, and anyone who benefits from S.T.E.A.H.M. to come and engage with one another "under one roof" to improve ourselves, our understanding, and our society!

BehindTheSTEAHM Team

Venezia Ramirez

(She/hers) Born and raised in South Los Angeles. Venezia is pursuing a B.S. in Environmental Science at UCLA and is an early-career fellow within the UCLA Center for Diverse Leadership in Science. She is passionate about community engagement, environmental justice/racism, and emphasizes the importance of diversifying the sciences.

DJ Yousavich

DJ is a PhD student at UCLA studying deep sea chemistry and microbiology. He received his MS in geology from Cal State LA where he studied green engineering solutions to heavy metal pollution. He is involved in several reclamation and restoration efforts in the Los Angeles area and is passionate about environmental justice, science communication, and community engagement.

BehindTheSTEAHM Team

Tiara Wicks

Tiara is a senior at Carnegie Mellon University in the B.S Business Administration degree program with a concentration in Business Technology. Her main interests are entrepreneurship, business analytics, engineering, and performing arts. Currently, she is building two small businssess and conducting consumer analytics research.

Ashlyn Ford

Ashlyn Is a PhD student at UCLA studying Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. More specifically her research involves assessing the health of marine ecosystems and evaluating how infectious diseases are impacting different aspects of marine communities. She received her BS in Environmental Science at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in 2017.

Daryl Lawrence

Daryl Michelle is a content creator and social media strategist located in the Dallas Forth Worth area. Her work consist of social media campaigns to increase brand awareness or compelling stories for my clients' website visitors. When she is not immersed in the latest social media trend, she likes taking pictures of food and her dog.

BehindTheSTEAHM Team

Allen Pettigrew

Allen Pettigrew Jr. is a sport journalist in the Dallas Fort Worth area with a background in content creation and marketing , I am also the founder of traveling hoopers, a platform to create basketball related content and to highlight high school basketball players.

Erick Zerecero

Erick Zerecero is a PhD student at UCLA in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. His research focuses on studying toxic dinoflagellates that cause Ciguatera Fish Poisoning (CFP) on humans and their relationship with a macro alga that has expanded in range on the reefs of Moorea, French Polynesia. He received his BS in Environmental Science and Minor in Conservation Biology from UCLA in 2017. He is passionate in increasing representation of minority students in Marine Science.

BehindTheSTEAHM Team

Stephen Dunwoody

Steve Dunwoody works with campaigns, nonprofits and small businesses to engage elected officials and public policy stakeholders at the Federal, State and Local level. He previously worked with the Center for Diverse Leadership at UCLA. Prior to this, he worked for Vet Voice Foundation, leading advocacy on conservation, healthcare and housing issues. He served as a member of the Obama Administration at the Departments of Defense, Energy and the White House. Steve is also a Veteran of the Air National Guard. Also is on the Board of Director for BehindTheSTEAHM

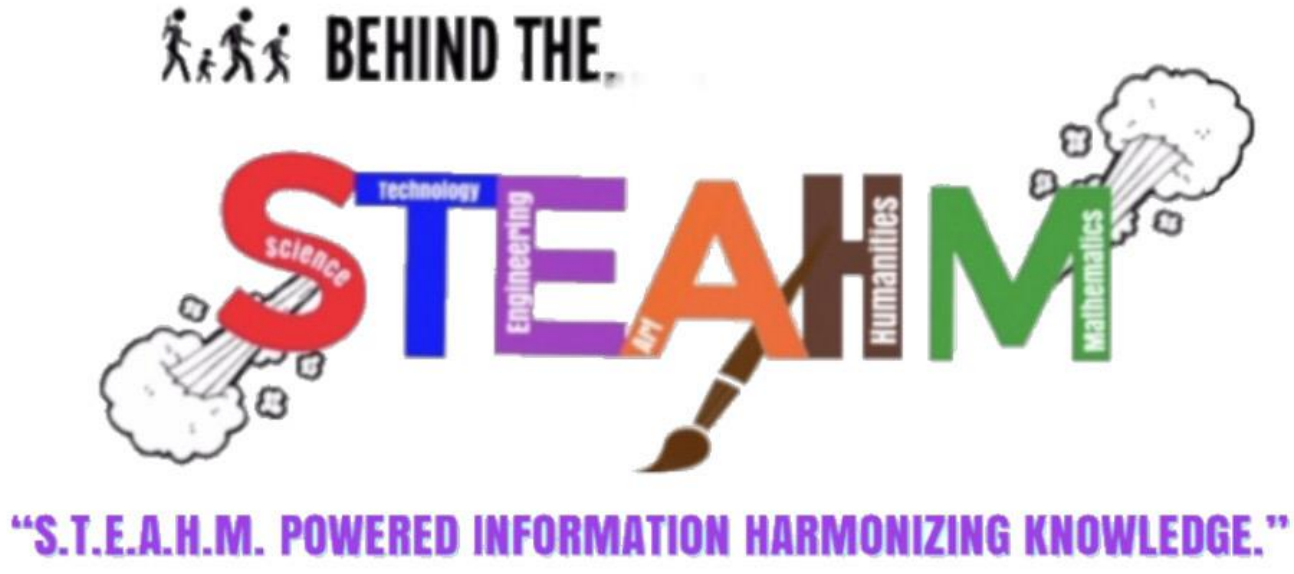
Richard Gragg, PhD

Dr. Richard Gragg is the Principal Consultant for 3PSC: Public Private Partnership for Sustainable Communities. He serves as the FAMU Undergraduate Research Organization Academic Advisor; HBCU- Geosciences Working Group Co-Chair; National Technical Association President; and on BehindTheSTEAHM Board of Directors. His work reflects twenty-eight years of leadership and expertise to analyze complex issues, devise solutions, bridge differences among a diversity of stakeholders, and reach across disciplines to build cooperation, lead change, align resources with shifting priorities, and enrich effectiveness in the preparation of place-based global change agents. He holds the Pharmaceutical Sciences Ph.D. & Pharmacology M.S. from Florida A&M University and the Biochemistry B.S. from SUNY Binghamton University.

BehindTheSTEAHM Team

Founder
De’Marcus Robinson

De’Marcus Robinson is the founder of BehindTheSTEAHM and currently a graduate student at UCLA in the Atmospheric & Oceanic Science Department. He is a proud member of Phi Beta Fraternity., and spend his time outreaching, mentoring, scuba diving and drumming



2020 Webinar Series

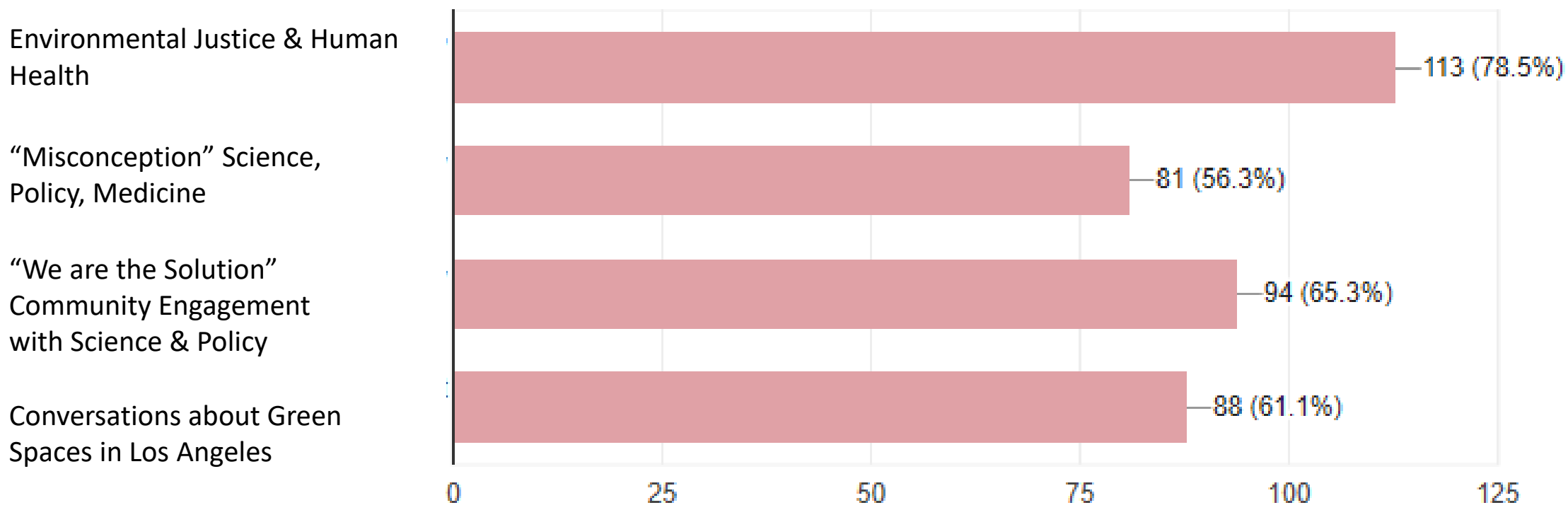
Demographics of Webinar

Registrant: 144 (Google Forms) + 10 (Zoom Registration) = 154

s

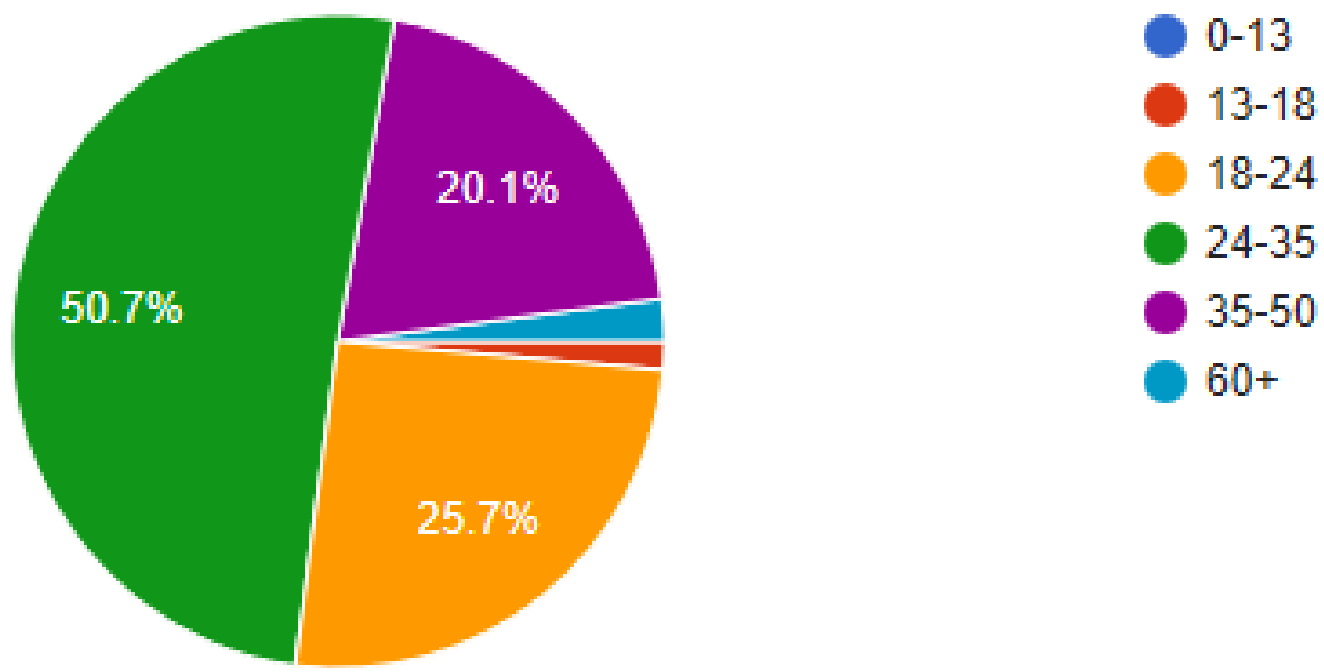
Which webinar are you interested in attending?

144 responses



Age range

144 responses



Demographics of Webinar

Locations and numbers of Participants

Massachusetts: 2
Maryland: 2
Dominican Republic: 1
Brazil: 1
Virginia: 1

Maine: 1
Baku Azerbaijan: 1
Bristol, UK: 1

BEHIND THE STEAHM

"S.T.E.A.H.M. POWERED INFORMATION HARMONIZING KNOWLEDGE."

Environmental Justice & Human Health

Environmental Justice & Human Health

About this webinar

This interactive webinar focuses on Environmental Justice issues which is a response to human health and racial disparities in Los Angeles County in relation to COVID-19. This webinar focuses on first breaking down what Environmental Justice is, examining environmental problems around your neighbor, and then finally constructing how we can address these environmental problems in your community.

Panelist & Moderator

Aura Vasquez

Cindy Donis

David Gonzalez, PhD

Venezia Ramirez

Richard Gragg. PhD

Jessica Sims, M.D. M.P.H.

Environmental Justice & Human Health

Aura Vasquez – Community Organizer, Former Commissioner of LAWDP

Aura Vasquez attended the "Forward on Climate" Rally in Los Angeles, and People's Climate March in 2017 in Washington D.C., to speak about the importance of creating local jobs through investing in a green economy, bringing benefits to communities most affected by high bills and pollution, and working with leaders to fight Climate Change.
She led the Sierra Club's groundbreaking "Beyond Coal" campaign to help Los Angeles eliminate its dependency on coal.
She helped establish the Feed-in Tariffs Initiative in Los Angeles, which is the largest rooftop solar program in the country. She also advocated for passage of SB-350, the Clean Energy Pollution Reduction Act.

Richard Gragg, - Professor, Florida A&M University

Dr. Richard Gragg is the Principal Consultant for 3PSC: Public Private Partnership for Sustainable Communities. He serves as the FAMU Undergraduate Research Organization Academic Advisor; HBCU-Geosciences Working Group Co-Chair; National Technical Association President; and on Behind The STEAHM Board of Directors. His work reflects twenty-eight years of leadership and expertise to analyze complex issues, devise solutions, bridge differences among a diversity of stakeholders, and reach across disciplines to build cooperation, lead change, align resources with shifting priorities, and enrich effectiveness in the preparation of place-based global change agents. He holds the Pharmaceutical Sciences Ph.D. & Pharmacology M.S. from Florida A&M University and the Biochemistry B.S. from SUNY Binghamton University.

David Gonzalez PH.D - Atmospheric Chemist, UCLA

Dr. David Gonzalez is an atmospheric chemist who is interested in understanding the health impacts of air pollution. Dr. Gonzalez received his PhD in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences from UCLA where his research focused on the atmospheric chemistry and health impacts of air pollution. He is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Environmental Cardiology & Vascular Biology lab at the UCLA School of Medicine. His current research investigates how air pollution causes oxidative stress and inflammation in the lungs and cardiovascular system.

Environmental Justice & Human Health

Cindy Donis – Community Organizer, EYCEJ

Cindy Donis grew up in the city of Maywood and graduated with a BA in Chicana/o Studies and Gender & Feminist Studies at Pitzer College. As a daughter of Guatemalan immigrants, she has always valued her roots and history of struggle. She became involved in social movements and organizing in college, fighting for worker rights though the Claremont Student Worker Alliance as well as connecting local and international movements through the Chiapas Support Committee. She spent 3 years working at the Labor/Community Strategy Center, as a youth organizer challenging the mass criminalization of black and brown youth and the militarization of communities. She is committed and passionate about creating a world where black and brown communities can live and breathe with dignity.

Dr. Jessica E. Sims - Regional Medical Director

Dr. Jessica Sims is board certified in Emergency Medicine. She also has a Master of Public Health degree from the Fielding School of Public Health at UCLA.

She is a Los Angeles native and UC Berkeley graduate with a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry. She graduated from UCLA/Charles R. Drew University with a degree in medicine. She has 20 years of experience in Emergency Medicine and completed residency training in Emergency Medicine at LAC-USC.

Environmental Justice & Human Health

Key quote and moments

"In the beginning, Environmental Justice was called Environmental Racism, because the communities and people who were being impacted by disproportion co-location of facilities, that were emitting environmental stressors, they were working in these facilities as well, were suffering from the impacts that we are aware of now. It became know as Environmental Justice when the federal government, under the pressure of these community-based organizations, put pressure on the government to do something about it, it was transformed to Environmental Justice so that it can be – **Richard Gragg PhD**

" I feel like I experienced it [Environmental Justice] before I knew what to call it, or what it is was. Growing up in Maywood, I thought that having all these warehousing, truck traffic, industry, smoke clouds, free-ways and railyards. I thought that was the norm for everybody. I thought that people in y neighborhood having asthma, cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, oh that's the norm everybody . It is not until I went to college, and stepped outside of my neighborhood, in a real way where I started noticing that people don't have to deal with these things and have clean air. – **Cindy Donis**

I grew in the Huston area, known for its oil refinery business, it is normal there to expect refineries to blow-up, to happen occasionally. Its not that these accidents happen and that the communities are the ones that are primarily impacted, its that the regulations and the policies put forward do nothing to address it. So before I even knew that this was somewhat of an academic thing. It was something that people especially people of color, low income people experience daily. So how to change that narrative and get around these communities, so that everyone's health is improved is something I was passionate about since I was young. – **David Gonzalez PhD**

I didn't grow up in this country, I grew up in South America Columbia, and I grew up in a small town and in my small state we are know for sugar cane. We are the second largest exporter of sugar canes in the world, so there are tons of sugar fields in that area that I was raised and born. It is an intense situation where it gives a lot of people jobs, but it gets a lot of people sick. For along time they would burn sugar cane that would release ash. So in my town 95% of people had asthma but nobody really talked about. At age 11 I learned about global warming and I learned that aerosols were making a hole in the ozone layer. So I went and found the first Environmental Club at my school and even though the issue of asthma rate was bigger than the ozone layer for a lot of folks, it was again where something again where it continues to happen today where elected officials and community leaders to protect cooperate interest in order to protect the economy and putting the economy before people health- **Aura Vasquez**

The Significance of the Environmental Justice Movement, Just like the Civil Rights Movement you have people of color calling everyone to a specific issue, the difference is that the Civil Rights and the right to vote, only impacted African Americans, where as when we talk about Environmental Justice an Racism, these same people are at the forefront because we are the ones being disproportionally impacted, but we have to be clear as well, everyone is being impacted.- **Richard Gragg PhD**

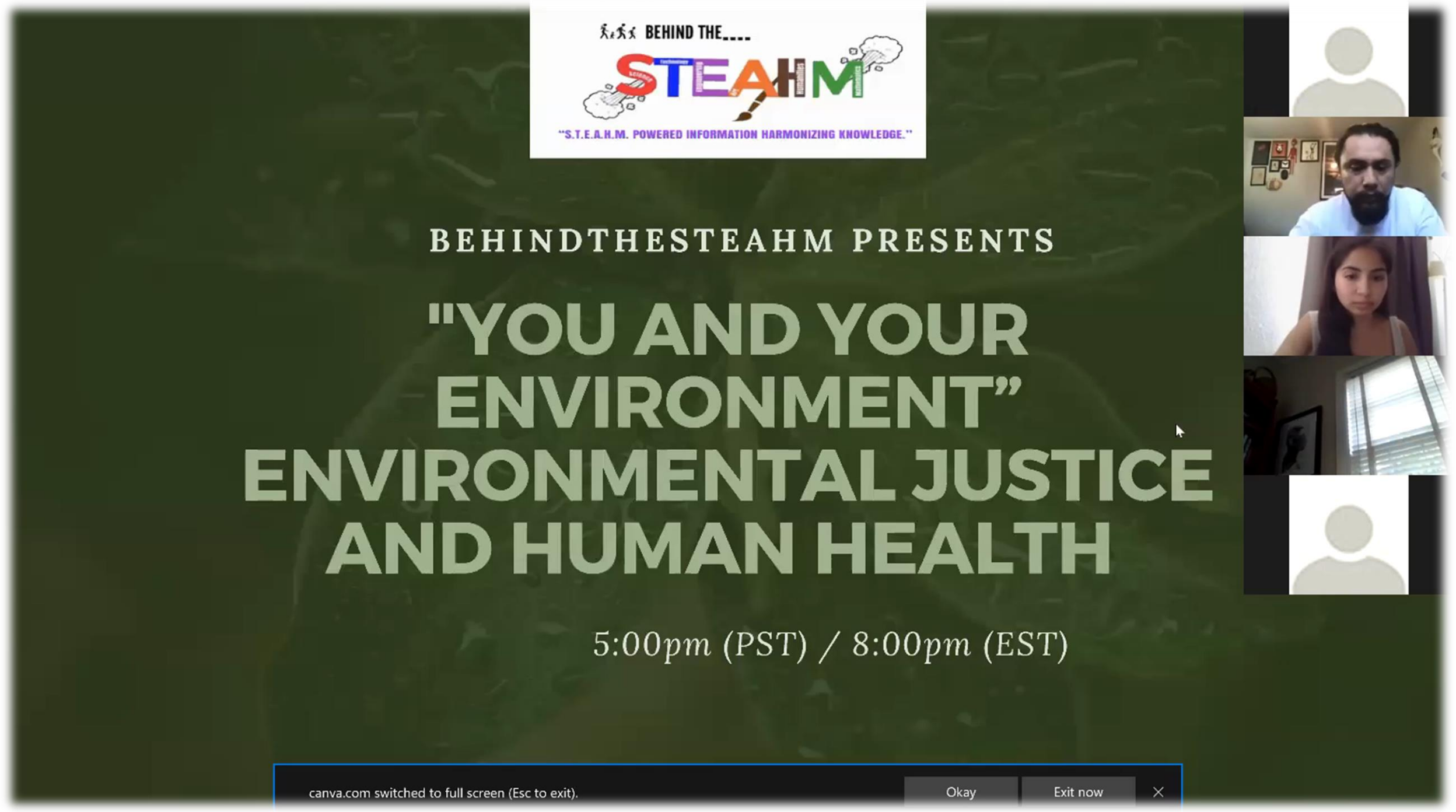
Environmental Justice & Human Health

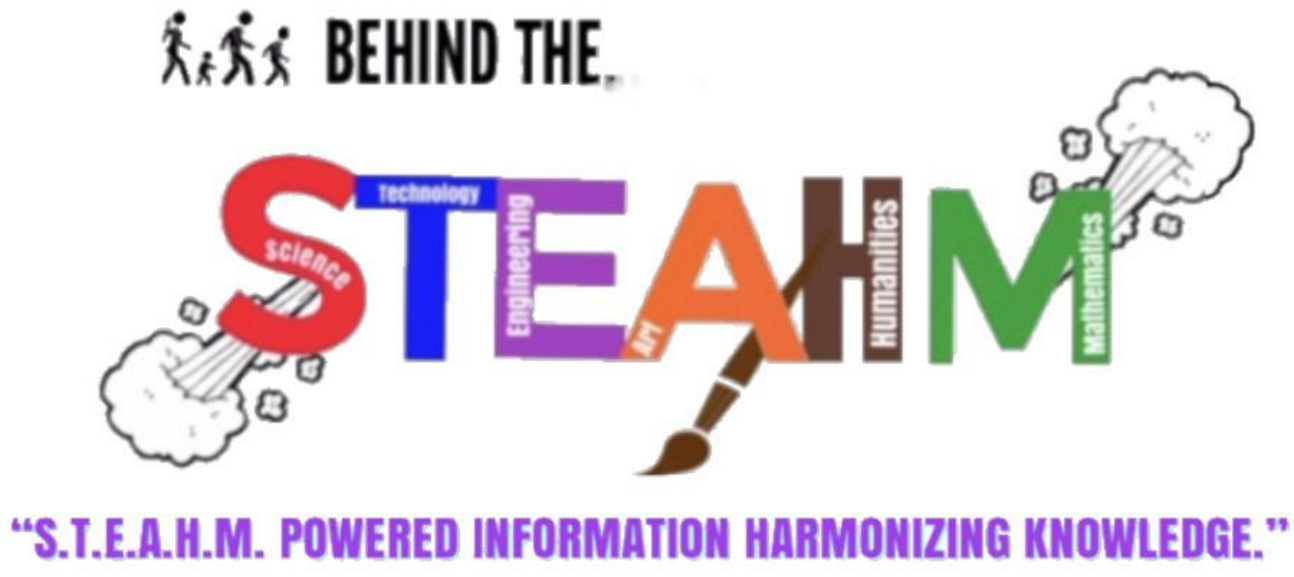
Links and resources

1. https://runforsomething.net/
2. https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/
3. www.ntaonline.org
4. https://www.stand.la/
5. http://www.cbecal.org/
6. https://caleja.org/
7. http://eycej.org/
8. https://linktr.ee/TheJanusAcademy
9. www.dcej.org
10. https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice
11. https://www.naacp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Youth-and-College-Organizing-Toolkit-for-Environmental-Climate-Justice_NAACP.pdf
12. https://www.naacp.org/climate-justice-resources/films/

Environmental Justice & Human Health

To watch the webinar visit www.behindthesteahm.com





Misconception "Science, Policy Medicine"

Misconception “Science, Policy Medicine

About this webinar

This interactive webinar focused on common misconceptions in science, policy and medicine along with perceived misconceptions of the public from experts as it relates to science, policy and medicine. This webinar focused on the interaction between COVID-19, Climate Change and Policy.

Panelist & Moderator

Alex Hall Ph.D.

Christina Shoushtari M.D.

Aradhana Tripati Ph.D.

De’Marcus Robinson

Atul Nakhsi M.D.

Misconception “Science, Policy Medicine

Dr. Aradhna Tripati - Professor, Geoscientist & Climate Scientist, UCLA
Director of Center for Diverse Leadership in Science

Dr. Aradhna Tripati s an American geoscientist, climate scientist, and advocate for diversity and justice. She is a professor at UCLA and is part of the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, the Department of Earth, Planetary, and Space Sciences, the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, and the American Indian Studies Center. She is also the director of the Center for Diverse Leadership in Science. Her research includes advancing new chemical tracers for the study of environmental processes and studying the history of climate change and Earth systems. She is recognized for her research on climate change and clumped isotope geochemistry.

Dr. Alex Hall- Climate Scientist, UCLA
Center for Climate Scientist

Dr. Alex Hall's research is focused on reducing climate change uncertainty at both regional and global scales. At the global scale, his goal is to reduce uncertainty surrounding processes determining the climate system’s response to increases in greenhouse gases. At the regional scale, he has been active in the development of downscaling techniques to reduce uncertainty about processes that are crucial to regional climate change, but are unrepresented in global climate models. He is a recipient of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Future Horizons in Climate Science: Turco Lectureship (2019), the AGU Atmospheric Sciences Ascent Award (2016), and the NSF CAREER award (2002–2007). Dr. Hall was a Contributing Author to the 2007 United Nations IPCC 4th scientific assessment of climate change Working, and Lead Author of the IPCC 5th Assessment Report. At UCLA, he is the faculty director of the UCLA Center for Climate Science

Misconception "Science, Policy Medicine

Dr. Christiana Soushtari- Resident Physician, Advocate Lutheran General Hospital.

Dr. Christiana Shoushtari is in her final year as internal medicine resident at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, a large community hospital outside Chicago. Upon graduating from Washington University in St. Louis, Dr. Shoushtari obtained a Master's in Public Health from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She then worked as a health legislative correspondent in the Office of the U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, as well as special assistant to the HRSA Administrator in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Nevertheless, her childhood dream to help others as a physician drove her back to school where she first obtained her Masters in Science in Physiology at Georgetown University School of Medicine and then her Medical Degree at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago. Dr. Shoushtari has continued to pursue her passions in advocacy and policy as a physician. Some experiences include board of trustee member of the Chicago Medical Society and Illinois State Medical Society; Delegate to the American Medical Association House of Delegates; member of the Council of Resident/Fellow Members for the American College of Physicians, and a member of the inter-departmental Resident Advisory Committee at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital.

Dr. Atul Nakhasi - Physician & Policy Advisor, LA County Department of Health Services

Dr. Atul Nakhasi originally hails from Iowa, born and raised amongst cows and cornfields. During this time, he led the movement to triple the youth vote helping catalyzing Obama's historic victory during the 2008 Iowa Caucuses. His leadership was recognized by the Wall Street Journal, Good Morning America, ABC World News, NPR, and BBC. Afterward, Atul attended Johns Hopkins School of Medicine for his medical degree and Harvard Kennedy School of Government for his policy degree. During this time, he served as the national chair for the Medical Student Section of the American Medical Association and represented nearly 50,000 US medical students. He now lives in Los Angeles and serves as a primary care physician for the underserved communities of Watts/Compton at a government-run public clinic. He also advises the Office of Government Affairs and Policy for the LA County Department of Health Services, the nation's second largest public health system.

Handle: @Nakhasi_MD
on twitter/IG/Facebook/tiktok/LinkedIn

Misconception "Science, Policy Medicine

Key quote and moments

Questions: When will we find out the truth about the vulnerability of COVID-19 and children?

Answer: What we know so far is that children have milder version and transmit it less than adults. If you look at the death rates, complication rates, hospitalization, they are less than adults. Children have less Ace2 Receptors, that's a receptor in the nose and the throat and the lungs and have less density of this and grow as you age. – **Atul Nakhasi M.D.**

Question/Climate: The scientific community has maintained its integrity on the Climate Question in spite of all the public misinformation and governmental mismanagement, but I really feel like medical information is contaminated financially and politically especially during COVID and it concerns me.

Answer: What we are experiencing firsthand essentially, is something that is unknown with little data, with little time to figure out was going, but we have to also rapidly put out information for individuals to be safe. Essentially you are comparing to very different things right now something that is at is very early stages. – **Christiana Shoushtari M.D.**

There is an interesting parallel with Climate [COVID19]. If you look at the impacts of Climate Change, they really fall disproportionately on disadvantage communities, and if you look at how fossil fuel is generated, a lot of those activities disproportionately impact communities as well, and if you look at more of the international scene, they are much more severe in what we call the developing world and those impacts are not very well understood, and primary the funding for Climate Science is primary in western countries and so we have a huge blind spot on understanding the impacts on Climate Change on people that need to understand it the most. So there is a similar myopia in Climate Science that's playing out now with regard to COVID –**Alex Hall Ph.D**

We should all be looking to youth organizers for this, from youth organizers from Black Lives Matter to youth Organizers to the Sun Rise Movement , they are engines for social change that we need to listen to. – **Aradhna Tripati Ph.D**

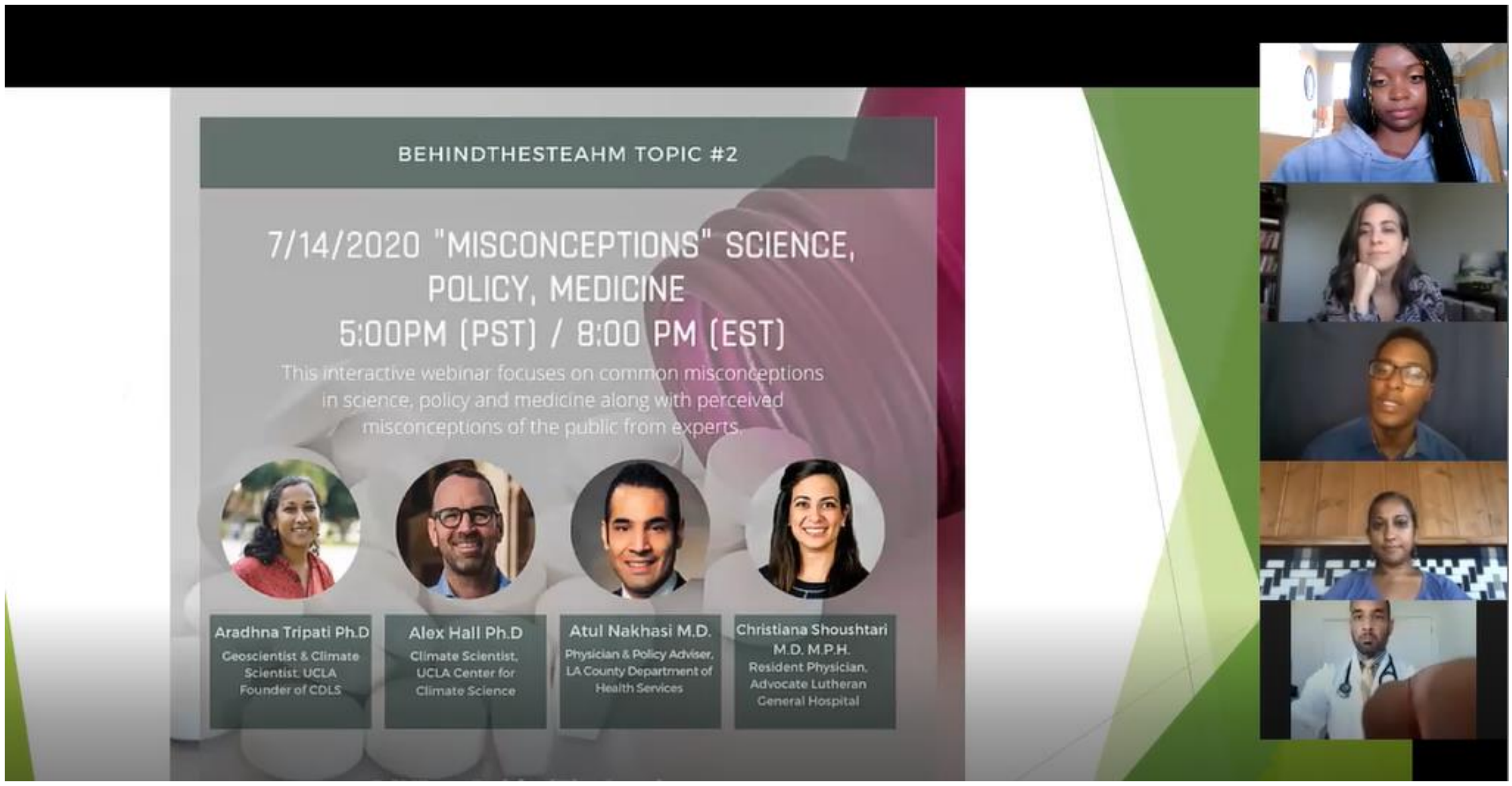
Misconception “Science, Policy Medicine”

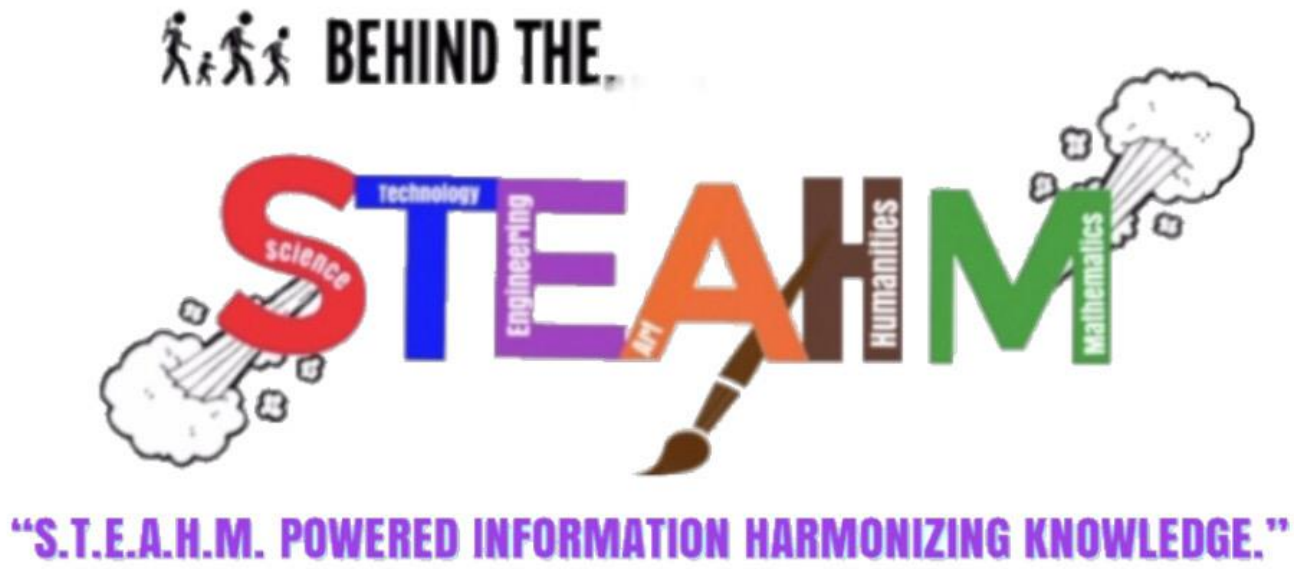
Links and resources

1. https://covidtracking.com/race
2. http://www.realclimate.org/
3. https://youtu.be/bPDVzt79UMU
4. www.cdc.gov
5. https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus
6. https://e360.yale.edu/
7. https://www.climaterealityproject.org
8. https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/
9. https://www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections/climate/climate-change-impacts
10. https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

Misconception “Science, Policy Medicine”

To watch this webinar, visit www.behindthesteah.com





"We are the Solution" Community Engagement with Science & Policy

“We are the Solution” Community Engagement with Science & Policy

About this webinar

This interactive webinar focuses on breaking down the barriers that prevent understanding and communication between the community members, scientists and policy makers to facilitate solutions that benefit each other.

Panelist & Moderator

Karina Ramirez

Felicia Davis

Tiara Wicks

Michael Simpson

Steve Dunwoody

“We are the Solution” Community Engagement with Science & Policy

Felicia Davis- Director of the HBCU Green Fund, Clark Atlanta

Felicia M. Davis, directs the Building Green Initiative housed at Clark Atlanta University within the Atlanta University Center-the largest consortium of historically black colleges and universities in the nation. Created by UNCF, the program advances green building and other sustainability efforts at historically black, Hispanic-serving and tribal colleges and universities. Davis began her environmental journey with Ozone Action in 2000 when she was recruited to serve as the Georgia Air keeper Director where she mentored a small cadre of women and minority climate activists. Davis has been advocate for just climate policy since attending the UN Climate Conference in The Hague.

Stephen Dunwoody Public Affairs Consultant/Advisor

Steve Dunwoody works with campaigns, nonprofits and small businesses to engage elected officials and public policy stakeholders at the Federal, State and Local level. He previously worked with the Center for Diverse Leadership at UCLA. Prior to this, he worked for Vet Voice Foundation, leading advocacy on conservation, healthcare and housing issues. He served as a member of the Obama Administration at the Departments of Defense, Energy and the White House. Steve is also a Veteran of the Air National Guard.

Shannon Lawrence - Business Executive,

Shannon Lawrence was born and raised in Gardena and was recently named one of Alabama State University’s “50 Under 50” award winners.
Shannon has had a very distinguished professional career. From his work in the Mayor’s Office in Los Angeles, the Service Employees International Union, to the US Census Bureau -and to all of his other positions, Shannon has been instrumental in leading organizations through successful campaigns,
and has played a key role in driving policy that has helped and uplifted communities. Shannon has also served on the Los Angeles Division Board of the American Heart Association, and during his time on the Board he was very instrumental in helping us with campaigns around Physical Activity, Nutrition, Tobacco Control, Access to Health Care, and Heart Disease and Stroke.

“We are the Solution” Community Engagement with Science & Policy

Karina Ramirez-Diversity Outreach Manager

Karina Ramirez started volunteering with CCL in 2017 and is now serving as a Diversity Outreach Manager, focusing her energy on helping CCL find more bilingual volunteers and helping translate CCL’s Spanish-language website, climavivible.org. Karina is also the leader of the Spanish-language Action Team.

Prior to her work with CCL, Karina spent a decade reporting news for diverse audiences in Dallas, Texas, including time covering local news, business and immigration topics. Karina holds a master’s degree in Journalism from the University of North Texas and a bachelor’s degree in International Studies from American University. When she is not working or volunteering, she is using Facetime to connect with her daughter who is attending her second year of college at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Karina lives in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Michael Simpson – Principle Environmental Engineer

Michael Simpson is currently the Division Manager for the Industrial Waste Management Division (IWMD) and has ushered in a new culture for the Division of 140 staff members primarily engaged in regulations of industrial discharge to the sewer system. In this position, he has been a “change agent” for the agency, and by his work, he has received many local and national awards. One highlight of his new philosophy in the Division is the creation of “L.A. Industry”. L.A. Industry is a partnership collaborative effort for not only restoring the Los Angeles manufacturing business base, but also to work to develop new manufacturing opportunities for local and regional partners. The L.A. Industry team provides business assistance to businesses, especially in EJ communities that are heavily impacted by COVID-19 and Racial Justice.

Mr. Simpson currently serves as Past President of the Los Angeles Council of Engineers and Scientists, and is an active member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, California Water Environment Association, the American Public Works Association’s Center of Sustainability, National Society of Black Engineers Professional Chapter, and a Board member for the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable (NPPR). As an NPPR Board member, Michael has led a national group of experts in creating a guide for industry professionals to learn the principles of green chemistry and how to apply the principles in promoting cleaner processes and products.

“We are the Solution” Community Engagement with Science & Policy

Key quote and moments

“For those that are in college and there isn’t a student that already exist in terms of a professional type of organization for students on campus,, create it, but also one of the best organizations to get an understanding of how w your interest have a place in the world , is joining the local political club. On your campus.”- **Shannon Lawrence**

“ Every individual in the United States disposals of about 50 pounds of clothes per year, California has a state law where you cant put clothes, food and textiles into the land fields, so our division is having the Innovative challenge, where instead of take, make and waste, were going to take make and put it back into the cycle of using things. So we will be reaching out to students and small business”- **Michael Simpson**

“We are going to divest from out police force (LAPD) and some of the money will come to our department to hire college student, professional workers, and GIS specialists, to hire 50 people by the end of September. To hire high schoolers, college and young professionals to help us with our mission with the EJ community and the environment” – **Michael Simpson**

“I remember when I got some wisdom from my father who said , if you try to stand Infront of a stamped you're going to get run over, what you do is that you get on a horse of your own, and you ride up to that stamped and you try to steer that in a different direction” – **Steve Dunwoody**

A lot of money gets distributed to communities across this country and our elected officials use that information that gets taken from that census form, that is mandated by law, every 10 years regardless of status that’s you should participate” – **Karina Ramirez**

“Learn about different organizations and how you can contribute”- **Karina Ramirez**

‘Every voice we loose in congress, our community suffer from it, its not the people in Washington that surfers, its us” – **Shannon Lawrence**

“ If you have any complaint about the city of Los Angeles, you should dial 311, in our communities we don’t come forward enough with our complaints, we have to come together to talk about and report some of these complaints to hold us accountable to resolve them”- **Michael Simpson**

“Here in southern California, one of the largest issues when it comes down to development is what we call brown field properties, these are properties that use to be gas stations, and from the aerospace industry moved here, the use of the land when those companies moved it polluted the land, the ground water, and soil. The EPA determined it would not be in the public’s interest to build anything there without cleaning the land, or mitigating that land,”- **Shannon Lawrence**

If there are things coming into your community that you don’t like, you have the right as a citizen to show up at the Planning Commission Meeting and let them know that we don’t want these things coming into our community, you can make that comment in the oral communications in public comment, it doesn’t have to be agenized as long as you say during oral comment” – **Shannon Lawrence**

“We are the Solution” Community Engagement with Science & Policy

Key quote and moments

“Planning Commissioners and city council members, they're not deaf to the community concerns, they’ll here it enough it becomes enough they will begin to believe that this is something important to you, if they don’t believe this time they will be in a few years when they are up for re-election” – **Shannon Lawrence**

You have to get evolved, you have to show up and get your voice heard, you have to let them know what you like and don’t like, that will determine how they will act on future endeavors”- **Shannon Lawrence**

“Solution of one community, doesn’t fit the solution of another” – **Michael Simpson**

“When you're out and about don’t be afraid to have those tough conversation, whether it is politically correct or not, you cant be afraid to talk to people outside of your comfort zone”- **Shannon Lawrence**

“Be open to new ideas, but don’t compromise your values”- **Steve Dunwoody**

“We are the Solution” Community Engagement with Science & Policy

Links and resources

1. https://citizensclimatehighered.org/

2. ntaonline.org

3. Hbcugreenfund.org

4. NCBCP.ORG

5. www.lacitysan.org

6. https://www.environmentalvoter.org/

7. https://2020census.gov

8. https://www.frackfreelacounty.com/

9. https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/dacag/

10. https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jun/27/us-air-pollution-north-east-mid-atlantic-analysis-union-concerned-scientists

11. https://commissions.sfplanning.org/hpcpackets/DRAFT%20HPC%20Equity%20Resolution_Final.pdf

12. https://energyinnovationact.org/

13. http://www.aqmd.gov/

“We are the Solution” Community Engagement with Science & Policy

To Watch this webinar, visit www.behindthesteahm.com

BEHIND THE STEAHM

"S.T.E.A.H.M. POWERED INFORMATION HARMONIZING KNOWLEDGE."

"Conversation about Green Spaces in Los Angeles

“Conversation about Green Spaces in Los Angeles

About this webinar

This interactive webinar focused on a conversation about what green space means to the residents of Los Angeles and how to get the public involved and engaged in the process of restoration

Panelist & Moderator

Misthy Hernández

David McNeil

DJ Yousavich

Scott Culbertson

“Conversation about Green Spaces in Los Angeles”

Mithsy Hernandez - Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator

Mithsy Hernandez is a Los Angeles native, Mithsy grew up with the hustle and bustle of the city. Despite the traffic and urban pollution, she often found herself biking to the beach or making her way to the nearest hiking trails. Her love for the great outdoors developed into a passion for environmental conservation and preservation. Her desire to pursue a career in the environmental field led Mithsy to graduate from the University of San Diego with a BA in Environmental Studies and minor in Sociology. During this time, she participated in research studies surveying local coastal ecology and geology, and interned with the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department. Her interest in environmental justice and public health encouraged her to work with her local communities toward creating an equitable and healthy environment.

Scott Culbertson – Executive Director, Friends with Ballona Wetlands

Scott Culbertson started his career at Unilever and later worked at Activision, Mediacentric and a start-up or two. A self-proclaimed "intrapreneur," he has experience working in finance, brand management, and entertainment.
But it was his passion for children and education, as well as the environment, science and technology that led him to working with nonprofits. It was at the Los Angeles inner-city agency A Place Called Home where, for more than 10 years, Culbertson was dedicated to supporting and helping provide opportunities for youth living and growing up in one of the most challenging zip codes in Los Angeles.
"I am honored to serve this remarkable organization that changed the fate of an environmental gem. Today more than ever, the Ballona Wetlands, like so many other important ecological sites, faces many challenges and an uncertain future. I strongly believe we have an obligation to continue the important work that was started 42 years ago at Friends of Ballona Wetlands. With a dedicated and knowledgeable staff, an engaged and supportive board, steadfast partners, and the community’s support, I look forward to helping restore and preserve this urban oasis."

“Conversation about Green Spaces in Los Angeles”

DAVID MCNEILL -Baldwin Hills Conservancy

David McNeill is the Executive Officer of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy which operates under the Natural Resources Agency for the State of California. He oversees the long-term acquisition and planned development of approximately two-square miles of industrial open space into much needed parkland for urban Southwest Los Angeles County. With over 20 years of real estate, public outreach, and administration experience, Mr. McNeill has helped re-imagine the outdoor landscape in underserved communities. Since 2001, he has led a wide range of land acquisition, planning and design efforts culminating in the creation of community-based pocket parks, citizen science, habitat restoration and multi-benefit water quality projects, regional recreation facilities, as well as miles of trails providing access to parkland for the most diverse and densely populated neighborhoods in the State

“Conversation about Green Spaces in Los Angeles”

Key quote and moments

“We’ve lost 95% of our coastal wetlands in Los Angeles County. Coastal Wetlands provide flood control, carbon sequestration, protection against sea level rise, and habitat for native species. 550 acres of Ballona are highly degraded, imagine what could happen if we had a full restored wetland; all of the opportunities we would have for communities from all over Los Angeles” – **Scott Culbertson**

“The urban park movement has been a revolution in that people started to see not everybody made it to the beach who lived in Inglewood, not everybody made it to the mountains who live in South AL, so putting parks where people are, making sure there’s access and equity in investments, those are the things that going to save people from society’s ills” – **David McNeil**

Talking about stories being past down in black and brown communities to keep a neighborhood feel original even in the face of gentrification- **David McNeil**

“That’s what the urban parks movement has been about the last 20 years: put the parks in the same communities where people live because they don’t all have the money to drive out to the mountains or the beach. Pedestrian access and neighborhood access are key” – **David McNeil**

“More and more people are asking for green spaces or asking to have somewhere with nature especially now we know the benefits of having nature in our communities. It filters stormwater, it filters air pollution, and when we have a healthy neighborhood, we have a healthy people. That’s a right and that’s what people are now expecting”- **Mithsy Hernandez**

“People want green spaces in their community, they shouldn’t have to pick between affording the place where they live and having green space and nature and trees” – **Mithsy Hernández**

“One of the key elements of the Ballona Wetlands is that we bring in kids from all over Los Angeles so that they can have access to outdoor spaces” – **Scott Culbertson**

“Conversation about Green Spaces in Los Angeles”

Links and resources

1. www.Ballonafriends.org

2. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-10-10/why-greenway-parks-cause-greater-gentrification

3. https://lawaterkeeper.org/

4. http://bhc.ca.gov/

5. https://tayloryardriverprojects.lacity.org/

6. https://folar.org/

7. http://eycej.org/

“Conversation about Green Spaces in Los Angeles”

If you wish to watch this webinar, visit www.behindthesteahm.com

Future Events

Fall 2021

Inaugural Conversation & 1st Annual Conference Theme: "Experience and Communicate the Science Around You“

The goals of the Inaugural Conversation & 1st Annual Conference Theme: “Experience and Communicate the Science Around You” are to create dialogue, generate knowledge, and inspire collaboration between the experts and the public. Participants will be able to engage in discussions with each other on discussion panels, in research tours & demonstrations, and poster sessions to teach experts and the public how to communicate with each other while fostering understanding, trust, collaboration.

2020- 2021

Look out for our future webinars and events at www.behindthesteahm.com

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge and give special thanks to the BehindTheSTEAHM team for organizing this webinar as a platform to expand knowledge, and facilitate community base solutions, to the panelist for giving their expertise and experience with issues we face together as a community along with addressing the solutions we all can engage in, and last but not least to the audience for coming to learn something new and engage in solutions and ideas with each other for a better tomorrow.

Special Acknowledgement: Michelle Wicks, Koreen Woodward, & Eric Batch

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