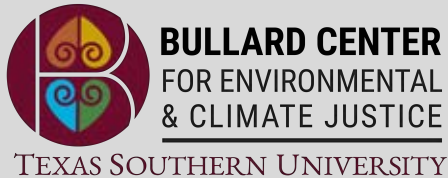


Bullard Center



2023 Year-End Report

Prepared by

THE BULLARD CENTER FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

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DR. ROBERT D. BULLARD, FOUNDING DIRECTOR

Robert D. Bullard, Ph.D., is the founding director of the Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice and a Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy at Texas Southern University. He received his Ph.D. degree in sociology from Iowa State University. Professor Bullard is often called the “father of environmental justice.” He is co-founder of the HBCU-CBO Gulf Coast Equity Consortium and HBCU Climate Change Consortium, and co-chair of the National Black Environmental Justice Network.

In 2021, President Joe Biden named him to the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC). The University of California, Berkeley Ecology Law Quarterly gave him its Environmental Leadership Award, and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) honored him with its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2022; Georgetown University and the University of Johannesburg both awarded him honorary doctorates; and Dr. Bullard was elected to join the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

As 2023 draws to a close, the Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice at Texas Southern University would like to underscore and reflect on the significant strides made in 2023 toward building and strengthening our organization infrastructure and community-university partnerships, making our HBCU-CBO Gulf Coast Equity Consortium and HBCU Climate Change Consortium—by far the most comprehensive and most robust HBCU-led Consortia in the nation—reaching more than 19 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

With the generous support of our valued funders, partners, community leaders, friends and allies, and our dedicated staff, we thank you for helping make 2023 a successful year for us to carry out our transformative environmental and climate justice work. We now have the wind at our back and momentum to help us achieve the goal of making 2024 the “Year of Justice.” We invite you to consider an end-of-year donation to support the Bullard Center’s effort. [[DONATE NOW](#)]

Today, we celebrate our victories, knowing all too well that there is still much justice work to be done. This year marked a significant turning point for our Center, becoming the “go-to” university-based research, policy, and civic engagement resource in environmental, climate, energy, water, transportation, and health justice. We get the calls because of the trust built over the years and our track record of “showing up” when communities need us.

With the increased funding in 2023, we had the capacity to expand our geographic reach, scale up our research, policy, and technical support services, and respond to the needs of more grassroots frontline communities. Some of the highlights of 2023 that your support helped make possible include:

- **Bullard Center Organization Growth.** The Center has grown to 18 core staff, faculty associates, post-doctoral fellows, graduate research assistants, and 22 Environmental Justice Climate Corps undergraduate interns. This expanded staff and faculty support capacity has improved the Center’s ability to apply for and succeed in winning a more diverse pool and amounts of grants.
- **Now an Environmental Grantmaker.** This year ended with the Bullard Center receiving a \$50 million EPA Thriving Communities Grantmakers Award for EPA Region 6. This grant positions the Center to award 80 percent of the funds to groups in communities in the region that are facing some of the most extreme environmental and climate threats.
- **HBCU Consortia at the Core.** In 2023, the Center scaled up its HBCU-CBO Consortia-driven work that allowed us to be more successful in winning substantial government (\$50 million) and private foundation (\$3.2 million) funding—using our trusted community-university partnership model and approach.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Green Fund of Texas.** The Center partnered with the Green Fund of Texas (Green Bank) in submitting a \$250 million EPA Solar for All grant application that proposed to bring solar to our HBCU Consortia institutions and CBO partner organizations over a five-year period. The grant application is currently under review by the EPA.
- **The Center has mobilized a Justice40 Roadmap to Righteous Investments.** The Bullard Center convened the HBCU Technical Support Team that developed, tested, and deployed a supplemental Justice40 Environmental Justice Screening Tool in 2023. It also commissioned the same group to develop a Justice40 Environmental Justice Funding Tracking Tool. Along with Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, our Joint Justice 40 Initiative partner, we mobilized 23 Justice40 Hub Leaders in 10 states.

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- **Awards, Honors, and Acknowledgements.** The Center staff, faculty associates, and graduate students won an array of prestigious awards in their respective fields in 2023—bringing national and international attention, acclaim, and recognition of our work and the Center.
- **Ninth Annual HBCU Climate Change Consortium.** The 9th Annual HBCU Climate Change Conference was held in New Orleans on October 11 – 15, 2023. It was attended by over 450 from 19 HBCUs, 9 predominately white institutions (PWI), and several dozen community-based organization leaders. The conference's theme was "Looking Back to Move Forward: Building a Climate Resilient Future with Vulnerable Communities." The conference had a "Meet the Authors" book signing, more than two dozen panels, plenaries, interactive workshops, and a toxic tour in Louisiana Mississippi River Parishes called "Cancer Alley."
- **Inaugural Environmental Justice Climate Corps.** The Center launched its inaugural Environmental Justice Climate Corps this past Summer with 22 TSU undergraduate students. The program will expand to the other HBCU Consortia member schools in 2024.
- **Bullard Center Post-Doctoral Fellows.** The Center expanded the number of post-doctoral fellows from 1 to four in 2023. The fellows are engaged in a range of environmental, energy, climate, disaster, waste, and water justice issues. Our goal is to double the number of fellows to 8 in 2024.
- **COP28 Delegation delegation.** The Center sponsored a small delegation of five staff to participate in the COP28 Climate Meeting in Dubai, UAR, in November and December. Our delegation participated in panels hosted by the World Wildlife Fund. We are all in partnership with the Climate Reality Project "24 Hours of Reality" and briefings with the U.S. State Department staff.
- **People of Color Directory Launched.** The Center launched its People of Color Environmental Groups Directory and Resource Guide 2023. The directory is an online platform that links people of color environmental and climate justice organizations, environmental resources groups, researchers, scientists, technical and legal experts, and activists.
- **Center Staff's Book Now in Paperback.** Highly acclaimed *The Wrong Complexion for Protection: How the Government Response to Disaster Endangers African American Communities* (NYU Press 2023) came out in paperback in September 2023.

As we advance, we must continue to build on our successes, especially our justice work across geographic and demographic boundaries, and enhance our ability to prepare for and respond to multiple converging threats and emergencies in our most vulnerable communities.

Again, we thank you for your support and wish you a peaceful holiday season and a happy new year filled with faith, hope, and optimism.

With gratitude,



Robert D. Bullard, Director

WHO ARE WE?



OUR VISION

Our vision is to be a leading force for transformative environmental, climate, and racial justice using rigorous science, community-driven research, policy, civic engagement programming, and effective advocacy.

OUR MISSION

The Bullard Center's primary mission is to confront systems that create and perpetuate environmental, climate and racial injustice.

TOP NEWS OF THE YEAR

Bullard Center at Texas Southern University Awarded \$50 Million EPA Grant

HOUSTON, TEXAS (December 20, 2023) – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice at Texas Southern University was selected as one of the eleven “Grantmakers” under its \$600 million Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking (EJ TCGM) program, created by President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the largest investment in climate action in history. “I am happy to say Texas Southern University is the HBCU that served as the ‘launching pad’ for my environmental justice career way back in 1979—before EJ had a name or initials.” And today, 44 years later, TSU was selected to serve as a Regional Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaker,” says Center director and professor Dr. Robert D. Bullard, who is often referred to as the “father of environmental justice.”

The Center will work closely with its community-based organization partner, Achieving Community Tasks Successfully (ACTS), led by Ms. Bridgette Murray, focused on engaging, educating, and empowering communities impacted by industrial sources of pollution. “ACTS is honored to serve as a partner for the Bullard Center. Our success as a CBO is a result of the mentorship of the HBCU-CBO Gulf Coast Equity Consortium and the Houston Data to Action Project, which provided both technical and financial assistance. It is our desire to assist other nonprofit organizations in the environmental justice space to lead mitigation efforts in their own communities. It is our belief this award will assist other communities to thrive in their desire to improve their own quality of life and health, states Murray, a native Houstonian.”

ACTS has been a long-time collaborative partner of the Bullard Center as a member of the HBCU-CBO Gulf Coast Equity Consortium and the Houston Data to Action Project. “The Bullard Center is proud of our decades-long relationships with HBCU-CBO partnerships that make us uniquely positioned to successfully carry out the grantmaking work in the region. We are committed to ensuring that 80% of this grant funding will be awarded to organizations committed to understanding and addressing environmental justice concerns in some of the most vulnerable communities,” says Dr. Denae King, associate director of the Bullard Center.

The Bullard Center will also work with the EPA Region 6 EJ Thriving Communities Technical Assistance (TCTAC), South Central Environmental Justice Resource Center at New Mexico State University, HBCU-CBO Consortia, and the National Black Environmental Justice Network to maximize the impact of these combined environmental justice funds—and ensure the resources follow the needs of disadvantaged communities and organizations that historically have been left out and left behind.

This new Grantmakers Program is designed to make it easier for small community-based organizations to access subgrant funding by reducing obstacles and barriers. “Our plan includes streamlining grant application and submission procedures, providing resources and technical assistance, improving the efficiency of the awards process, building in a more diverse pool of reviewers, and adopting a transparent tracking and reporting system, with the goal of ensuring communities that have long faced underinvestment can access the benefits of the IRA,” says Bullard.

Communities will be able to apply to the TSU Grantmakers Program for subgrants to fund a range of different environmental project activities, including (but not limited to) small local clean-ups, local emergency preparedness and disaster resiliency programs, environmental workforce development programs for local jobs reducing greenhouse gas emissions, fence-line air quality and asthma-related projects, healthy homes programs, and projects addressing illegal dumping and a host of other environmental areas.

For more information on the EPA Grantmakers Program, click [HERE](#).

STAFF AWARDS, HONORS & INVITATIONS



Dr. Robert Bullard was inducted into the American Academy of Arts & Sciences



Graduate Research Assistant Ed Pettitt was awarded the Community Champion of Park and Nature Equity



Dr. Denae King awarded the Damu Smith Power of One Award



Dr. Robert Bullard received the American Geographical Society John E. Gould Award Medal



Dr. Bullard presented at the Opportunity Finance Network 2023 Conference in Washington, DC, which was attended by more than 2200 Community Development Finance Institution (CDFI) leaders from around the country.



Dr. Robert Bullard received the Horizon Award from Harvard Law School Environmental Law Society



Dr. Bullard was invited to the White House to witness President Biden signing Executive Order 14091, "Revitalizing Our National Commitment to Environmental Justice for All," on April 21, 2023, in Washington, DC

WHERE DO WE WORK?

The Bullard Center at Texas Southern University is national in scope. However, it targets much of its attention and resources to serve Black communities in 19 states and the District of Columbia, where two-thirds of Black Americans live, and over 82 percent of 104 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are located.

The Center is the lead academic institution for the HBCU Consortium Gulf Coast Multi-Threat Information Hubs Initiative. Its international work centers on building relationships, partnerships, collaborations, and solutions in addressing environmental and climate justice challenges affecting Africans of African descent and the Black Diaspora.

HOUSTON LOCAL GROUPS

Achieving Community Tasks Successfully (ACTS)

[Pleasantville Community; Houston, TX](#)

Led by Bridgette Murray, ACTS is a non-profit organization focused on community-based social and environmental justice. In January 2023, ACTS celebrated 10 years of cutting-edge environmental justice work and commitment to their community and continues working with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to install a regulatory grade air monitor in the Pleasantville community.



L to R: Cyrus Cormier, Marsha Lister, Cleophus Sharp, Dr. Racheal White Roy, Bridgette Murray, Tracy Stephens

Sunnyside Community Redevelopment Organization (SCRO)

[Sunnyside Community; Houston, TX](#)

Led by Deborah Walker and Jo Ann Jones-Burbridge, SCRO is a Houston-based environmental justice organization that works to protect the health and well-being of the Sunnyside neighborhood. Sunnyside is a largely Black and Hispanic community overburdened by environmental pollution. SCRO works to address these issues through advocacy, education, and community organizing.



L to R: Jo Ann Burbridge, HBCU EJCC students, Deborah Walker)

HOUSTON LOCAL GROUPS

(CONTINUED)

Coalition Of Community Organizations (COCO)

[Fifth Ward Community; Houston, TX](#)

Led by Rev. James Caldwell, COCO was founded to share awareness of environmental and climate justice concerns. COCO works on legacy pollution sites, such as the creosote contaminated site owned by Union Pacific associated with adult and childhood cancer clusters. COCO led a “Get the Lead Out” campaign focused on reducing lead exposure in water faucets on campus of the Houston Independent School District (HISD). Its successful block captain program is used to educate and increase awareness of Fifth Ward, Kashmere Gardens, and Denver Harbor residents about environmental health and climate impact. COCO also installed a community air monitoring network this year to assess air quality in the Fifth Ward community.



COCO block captain and TSU student intern at work.



(Rev. James Caldwell holding an air monitor device)

Northeast Houston Redevelopment Council (NEHRC)

[Northeast Community; Houston, TX](#)

Led by Huey Wilson, NEHRC is a grassroots 501c3 non-profit community organization focused on advocating for issues that affect the Northeast Houston community and developing programs that provide resources to directly benefit their impacted communities. These resources address environmental, climate, health, economic, and social justice concerns.

NEHRC successfully filed a formal civil rights complaint in its fight against illegal dumping resulting in The City of Houston agreeing to enhance its efforts to tackle illegal dumping in primarily Black and Latino communities. NEHRC also provides access to healthy food options by regularly hosting farmer's markets in the Kashmere Gardens community.



(City of Houston dumping, credit *Houston Chronicle*)

HOUSTON LOCAL GROUPS

Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Service (t.e.j.a.s.)

[Manchester Community; Houston, TX](#)

Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Service (t.e.j.a.s.) has been committed for many years to promoting environmental protection through education, policy development, community awareness, and legal action.

Using the guiding principle that everyone, regardless of race or income, is entitled to live in a clean environment, t.e.j.a.s. is committed to working with communities on the East End to create sustainable and health environments.



Anna Parras details EJ issues in the Manchester Community during a Bullard Center tour

The Environmental Community Advocates of Galena Park (ECAGP)

[Galena Park Community; Houston, TX](#)

The Environmental Community Advocates of Galena Park (ECAGP) are focused on organizing and educating the community about environmental conditions in Galena Park, Texas and surrounding areas.

ECAGP seeks to raise public awareness around air quality issues, access to health care, and the built environment for underserved neighborhoods. ECAGP's successful air monitoring network and farmer's market initiatives aim to enhance the overall quality of life for Galena Park residents.



ECAGP leadership hosting a farmer's market event.

West Street Recovery

[Northeast Community; Houston, TX](#)

West Street Recovery (WSR) was formed during Hurricane Harvey. It remains committed to connecting communities to the resources they need to rebuild after climate disasters and build resilient, secure, and stronger communities. WSR uses community organizing and recovery services as mutually reinforcing activities that build a network of people who can care for each other, teach and learn from each other, and, building on the strength of the relationships we form, collectively fight for a better world. WSR leads impactful initiatives focused on equitable recovery for residents and disaster resilience hubs.

COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

Bullard Center Community Partners Awarded EPA Grant for \$498,000



(Photo credit: Harris County Precinct One)

Bullard Center Community Partners, Achieving Community Tasks Successfully ([ACTS](#)), Sunnyside Community Redevelopment Organization ([SCRO](#)), Coalition of Community Organizations ([COCO](#)), and Environmental Community Advocates of Galena Park (ECAGP) were awarded nearly \$500,000 by the Environmental Protection Agency ([EPA](#)) to assess the quality of the air in the Pleasantville, Sunnyside, Fifth Ward, and Galena Park communities. The community-based organizations will use this citizen science initiative to track dangerous air contaminants and educate residents about nearby pollution sources. The grant is a component of the unprecedented financial package allocated by the Biden-Harris Administration to support and improve local communities nationwide. Additionally, the effort will track urban air toxic concentrations in neighborhoods and close to industrial facilities classified as "super emitters" in Harris County, which encompasses Houston.



Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP)

Funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Environmental Careers Worker Training Program (ECWTP) conducts a distinctive course designed to provide simulated occupational safety and health training for workers who are or may be employed in areas involving hazardous waste removal, containment, or chemical response. The project is led by Deep South Center for Environmental Justice and Texas Southern University and has been in operation for more than twenty years.

The ECWTP takes place each spring on the campus of Texas Southern University and delivers widespread instruction that focused on increasing the number of underrepresented and disadvantaged minority adults employed in the fields of environmental restoration, hazardous materials, weatherization, and construction. The program places further emphasis on serving the needs of under and unemployed citizens.





JUSTICE40: A TIME FOR RIGHTEOUS INVESTMENT



Justice 40 is a Community Engagement Project between the Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice at Texas Southern University and the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice.. Justice40 Initiative formalized President Biden's commitment to make environmental justice a part of the mission of every agency by directing federal agencies to work with states and local communities to make good on the administration's promise to deliver at least 40 percent of the overall benefits from Federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities.

Louisiana and Texas are two states where environmental justice communities will converge to participate in education and research skills training provided by the Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice and the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ).

The Bullard Center and DSCEJ organized Justice40 Regional Hubs led by people of color and indigenous community-based organizations. DSCEJ and the Bullard Center organized 23 Regional Hubs in 10 states that leaders of community-based organizations will manage. Both organizations will continue their collaborative work on the equitable implementation of Justice40 as they convene leaders of the Justice40 Regional Hubs in New Orleans and Houston for education and research skills training.

The first 2-day Communiversity training for Regional Hub Leaders was held February 22 - 24, 2023, in New Orleans, Louisiana, at the NOPSI Hotel. The convening helped bolster the capacity of community-based organizations to secure funding for environmental justice projects in their communities.

On March 20 -22 on the campus of Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas, leaders were first to test the new HBCU Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool (HCEJST) tool that was created to show the disparities in neighborhoods after the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) tool developed by the federal government left race out. Leaders will learn how to use the tool and be responsible for teaching other organizations in their respective communities how to use the tool as well.

On Wednesday, August 16, 2023, leading environmental justice organizations, the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ) and the Robert D. Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice at Texas Southern University, will ignite the Justice40 August Convening. The three-day event unites leaders, activists, and policymakers dedicated to advancing environmental justice and translating the Biden Administration's pledge into action.

Executive directors Dr. Beverly Wright and Dr. Robert Bullard are championing communities affected by pollution and extreme weather. Their collective efforts empower these communities to advocate for their rightful share of resources.

Distinguished guests include White House Senior Advisor John Podesta and Dr. Jalonne White-Newsome, Senior Director of Environmental Justice at the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Representatives from vital federal agencies will collaborate with hub leaders to ensure the just execution of Justice40's goals.



JUSTICE40: A TIME FOR RIGHTEOUS INVESTMENT



Justice40 Hub Leaders

- William Barber, IIII, Rural Beacon Initiative, LLC - North Carolina
- Rev. James Caldwell, Coalition of Community Organizations (COCO) - Houston, TX
- Huey Wilson, Northeast Houston Redevelopment Council (NEHRC) - Houston, TX
- Juan Parras, Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (TEJAS) - Houston, TX
- Bridgette Murray, Achieving Community Tasks Successfully (ACTS) - Houston, TX
- Angel Torres, Organization for Human Rights and Democracy - Atlanta, GA
- Rev. Calvin Avant, Unity in the Family Ministry (UFM) - Pensacola, FL
- Hilton Kelly, Community in Power & Development Association - Port Arthur, TX
- Debra Walker, Sunnyside Community Redevelopment Organization (SCRO) - Houston, TX
- Doris Brown, West Street Recovery, Houston, TX
- Susanna Almanza, People Organized in Defense of Earth and Her Resources (PODER) - Austin, TX
- Katherine Egland, Education, Economics, Environmental, Climate & Health Org. (EEEECHO) - Gulfport, MS
- Rashida Ferdinand, Sankofa - New Orleans, LA
- Dawn Hebert, the East New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission - New Orleans, LA
- Dr. Nataki Jelks, West Atlanta Watershed Association (WAWA) - Atlanta, GA
- Darren Leach, Genesis Church - Columbus, MS
- Paulina Lopez, Duwamish River Community Coalition (DRCC) - Seattle, WA
- Carolyn Moseley, Eastwick United CDC - Philadelphia, PA
- A'Jae Grisby, North Carolina Environmental Justice Network - Raleigh, NC
- Robert Taylor, Concerned Citizens of St. John (CCSJ) - St. John the Baptist Parish, LA
- Darilyn Turner, Zion Travelers' Cooperative Center - New Orleans, LA
- Donele Wilkins, Detroit Green Door Initiative - Detroit, MI
- Joe Womack, Clean, Healthy, Educated, Safe & Sustainable Community (CHESS) - Mobile, AL

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH



Bullard Center Graduate Research Assistants, Ed Pettitt and Ola Ogbebor, were selected for the inaugural U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Brookhaven National Lab (BNL) manager, Brookhaven Science Associates, LLC (BSA) Environmental Justice Internship. The internship stimulated academic research that promoted the DOE's Justice 40 program. It was part of a ground-breaking collaboration with Texas Southern University (TSU). Pettitt and Ogbebor began their 10-week summer internship on June 5, 2023, and joined hundreds of interns that the BNL Office of Education hosts annually.

The Environmental Justice Internship is a noteworthy addition to the program, highlighting the significance of environmental justice in scientific research, even though most interns concentrate on STEM fields.

Ed and Ola had the opportunity to share their research at the 9th Annual HBCU Climate Change Conference in New Orleans, LA.



The Ninth Annual HBCU Climate Change Conference, co-hosted by The Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice at Texas Southern University and The Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, culminated with more than 450 participants, including 19 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and 9 Predominately White Institutions (PWI). Generation Next brought in 35 elementary, middle, and high school students. These students were introduced to climate science and participated in interactive, computer simulations and engaging sessions surrounded around environmental justice principles and empowering them to make informed choices that contribute to a more sustainable future.

The Conference theme: Looking Back to Move Forward: Building a Climate Resilient Future for Vulnerable Communities, brought into focus the importance of collaboration and forging practical solutions in the face of climate change. Emphasis was also placed on community engagement, global climate issues, and bridging theory with reality. The Conference further provided a platform for collaboration and knowledge sharing among faculty, students, researchers, climate professionals, and community residents impacted by climate change and toxic facilities.

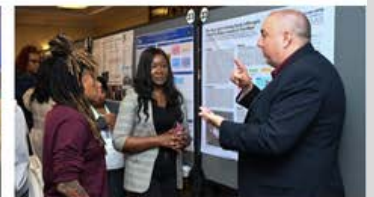
The Historically Black Colleges and Universities in participation were Alabama A&M University, Dillard University, Florida A&M University (FAMU), Fort Valley State University, Howard University, Jackson State University, Lincoln University, Morgan State University, Paul Quinn College, Prairie View A&M University, Savannah State University, Southern A&M University Baton Rouge, Spelman College, Tennessee State University, Texas Southern University, Tuskegee University, Virginia State University, West Virginia State University, and Xavier University of Louisiana.

The Predominately White Institutions included Mount Holyoke College, North Carolina State University, University of Arizona, University of California-Irvine, University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Virginia, Wayne State University/Howard University Alumna, and Western Colorado University.

The Ninth Annual HBCU Climate Change Conference encouraged education, understanding, and actionable strategies that would aid in tackling the complex issues associated with climate change. Moreover, the Conference organizers provided an excellent space for exposure and networking opportunities to lead to meaningful connections and change at the local, state, national, and global levels.



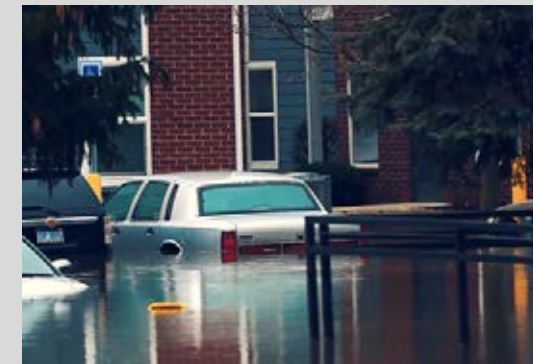
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OUR WORK IN THE COMMUNITY & BEYOND



OUR WORK IN THE COMMUNITY & BEYOND (CONTINUED)



OTHER EVENTS



Authors Dr. Beverly Wright, Dr. Robert Bullard, Heather Toney, and Keith Ellison showcased newly released books at the 2023 HBCU Climate Change Conference.

"The Wrong Complexion for Protection: How the Government Response to Disaster Endangers African American Communities" by Dr. Robert Bullard and Dr. Beverly Wright

"Break the Wheel: Ending the Cycle of Police Violence" by Keith Ellison

"Before the Street Lights Come On: Black America's Urgent Call for Climate Solutions" by Heather Toney

Dr. Robert Bullard met with environmental and climate justice experts and participated in panel presentations, conferences, and climate updates during New York Climate Week held September 18-22, 2023, with Bullard Center funding partners, Macquarie Group, Bloomberg Foundation, and America Is All In - World Wildlife Fund.

GLOBAL CONFERENCES

WORLD ENERGY JUSTICE CONGRESS 2023 ANGLET, FRANCE



(Photo credit: Energy Justice & the Social Contract Chair)

Day three of the Conference theme was entitled, "Justice as a Driver for a Common Energy Future". Dr. Robert Bullard presented [*The Quest for Environmental, Climate, and Energy Justice: Lessons from the U.S. Experiment*](#), which expressed that for a meaningful transition, energy justice campaigns and climate action strategies must strengthen current networks, consortiums, and partnerships for environmental, economic, and racial justice.

Dr. Bullard was among two recipients of the World Energy Justice Scholar Award 2023.



(Photo credit: Energy Justice & the Social Contract Chair)

COP28 DUBAI, UNITED EMIRATES



The Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice's team participated in the COP28 United Nations Conference of Parties on Climate Change from November 30th to December 8th, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. With almost 200 countries represented, the delegation engaged in lively panel discussions and connected with ardent climate supporters of all ages.

Dr. Robert D. Bullard participated in the inaugural Bloomberg Philanthropies Local Climate Action Summit (LCAS), which a COP Presidency hosted. The summit's purpose was to raise awareness of the vital role that local leaders play in mitigating climate risk, cutting emissions, and accelerating national efforts to advance climate change. IRA, BIL, and Justice 40: Advancing Climate Justice and Environmental Justice are other panels that included Dr. Bullard and prominent national figures in environmental and climate justice.

RAPID RESPONSE PROJECT

Elba, Alabama ~ Shiloh Community



In July 2023, Dr. Robert D. Bullard led a team of environmental justice and transportation equity experts on a “Fact-Finding Journey to Justice” tour in his hometown, Elba, Alabama. Day one of the two-day visit began with a press briefing, followed by a Shiloh Community Tour to assess the community’s growing flooding problem and lack of government action. The Bullard Center team met and listened to individual Shiloh homeowners impacted by the highway expansion and elevation project at the Fact-Finding Community Forum on day two, where the initial findings and next steps were shared. On November 9th, the Bullard Center reconvened in the Elba Shiloh community to lead a Rapid Response Team (RRT) of national experts and community groups from environmental, climate, health, civil rights, legal, and funding sectors on a one-day community-led tour and listening session.



HBCU ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CLIMATE CORPS SUMMER INTERNSHIP



The Bullard Center's HBCU Environmental Justice Climate Corps Summer Internship program provided mentorship, training, and research opportunities for 22 undergraduate Texas Southern University students. Focus was placed on identifying solutions to environmental and climate-related challenges facing our most vulnerable people of color communities.



HBCU ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CLIMATE CORPS SUMMER INTERNSHIP

The Environmental Justice Climate Corps (EJCC) inaugural program began June 5th, 2023, with 22 students from Texas Southern University (TSU). Students participated in an arduous 4-week program consisting of daily classes, weekly presentations, and field trips. Students were broken into groups, selected their presentation titles, and worked diligently in preparation for Friday's presentations.

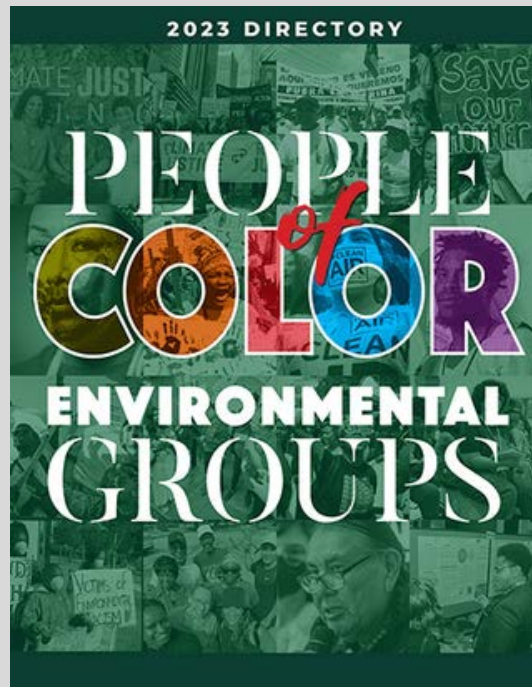
Each week, students traveled to different sites to witness areas containing contaminated property, excessive trash dumping and pollution. The first trip was a visit to the legendary 5th ward where air monitors were strategically placed to monitor the air quality. The trip was narrated by Rev Caldwell of the Coalition of Community Organization (COCO), who also pointed out a cemetery where former slaves were buried. The students also had the opportunity to visit the project's sponsor, Macquarie Group where they met the funders of the summer program. They offered the students summer internships and peer mentoring. They also visited the African-American museum inside the old Gregory Lincoln Elementary School. Students were excited to find relatable stories of people like them who grew up in their very own backyards. Students traveled to the Solar Farms in the Sunnyside area. They learned of the many solar panels that would be going up soon and the opportunity for job creation for the project. Program participants also traveled to the Memorial City affluent area to learn about walkable communities. Each one of the field trips provided information on ways they can help their own communities.

The students were divided into five groups, and each chose environmental subjects to research and make a final presentation. The students were given 5 minutes to present old and new information gathered throughout the week. At the end of the 4-week session, students presented the information in front of a group of esteemed judges. The results are as follows:

- First Place – **HISD Lead Poisoning** – Destiny Okonkwo, Devonte Emmitt, Gloria Ekezie, Chaunta Thomas and Trey Robertson
- Second Place – **Chemical & LNG Site Mapping** - Kayla Jackson, Madison Malone, Jacoby Wesley, Albert Como and Shevante Jenkins
- Third Place – **Air Pollution and the Quality of Air** – DeShai Philio, LaShay DeLee, Kelvin Odina, Darris Amos, Esther Aina
- Fourth Place – **Exploring Census Data** - Azaria Brailsford, D'azia Campbell, Carmesha Harper, Ameen Morgan
- Fifth Place – **Disaster Registry in Harris County** - Tiara Wade, Christian Ashford, Oshala Washington

The 1st place team represented the Bullard Center's panel presentation at the HBCU Climate Change Conference in New Orleans, LA. A select group from the remaining teams was selected to make poster presentations. Azaria Brailsford and Albert Como made up the special projects teams presenting on the current highway and flooding Injustice in the Elba, Alabama Shiloh Community.

PEOPLE OF COLOR ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS DIRECTORY



The People of Color Environmental Groups Directory and Resource Guide, an inventive online platform that links people of color environmental and climate justice organizations, environmental resources groups, researchers, scientists, technical and legal experts, and activists, was relaunched by Texas Southern University's Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice in the Fall of 2023. Dr. Bullard and his team assembled the first People of Color Environmental Groups Directory in the US in 1992—more than three decades ago. Subsequent printings came out in 1994 and 2000. North America—the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean will be included in the 2023 edition.

NEW AWARDS 2023



The Environmental Protection Agency has selected the Bullard Center to receive approximately \$50,000,000 in grant funding to serve as the EPA Region 6 Grantmaker for the EJ Communities Grantmaking Program (EJ TCGM).



The Macquarie Group Foundation awarded the Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice a **\$1.1 MILLION GRANT** to support new internship opportunities and programming for HBCU students.



The Bullard Center and its partner Deep South Center for Environmental Justice were awarded \$1.5 million by the Gulf Research Program of the National Academy of Sciences to develop a regional initiative to address the increasing challenge of flood risk and its associated impacts on health disparities as part of an HBCU-CBO Gulf Coast Equity Consortium Initiative.



The JPB Foundation recently awarded the Bullard Center \$500,000 to assist vulnerable communities in the Gulf Coast with developing community benefit plans (CBPs). The project will incorporate the HBCU Climate Change Consortium to bring in students, faculty, and community leaders to assist with drafting, negotiating, and implementing, resources such as, workforce training and development, funding for essential resources and services, and technology assistance.



The Bullard Center for Environmental and Climate Justice at Texas Southern University was awarded \$150,000 from America Is All In to increase awareness of proven community-based climate solutions in vulnerable communities.

FUNDING SOURCES

Heartfelt appreciation is extended to our funding partners and donors who have generously supported the Bullard Center's endeavors throughout the years 2022 and 2023. We eagerly anticipate nurturing enduring relationships with these esteemed agencies, companies, foundations, and organizations. Their generosity has played a pivotal role in enabling us to deliver high-quality programming and initiatives that benefit underserved communities.

- Bezos Earth Fund
- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- Climate Imperative
- Cynthia & George Mitchell Foundation
- EJ Data Fund - Google
- Energy Foundation
- Environmental Defense Fund
- HIVE Fund
- Houston Endowment
- Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation
- JPB Foundation
- JP Morgan Chase
- Macquarie Group Foundation
- National Academies of Sciences, Gulf Research Program
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- Resource Legacy Fund
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Rockefeller Family Foundation
- Urban Institute
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Water Foundation
- Waverly Street Foundation
- Winward Fund
- World Wildlife Fund - America Is All In

**The Bullard Center currently receives funding from federal and private foundations to support its multifaceted cross-disciplinary work.*

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