TISHMAN CENTER ANNUAL REPORT



CONTENTS

Message from our Co-Directors What is the Tishman Center Tishman Center Reach Campus Engagement Movement Building Digital Engagement



MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-DIRECTORS

DR, ANA BAPTISTA AND JOEL TOWERS

This year marks a pivotal moment for the Tishman Center in our nearly twenty-year history. We are very excited to announce that in December 2021, the Center was awarded a catalytic, multi-year grant to strengthen our operational, research, and communications capacity by Waverley Street Foundation. Our increased capacity will help us better meet the needs of our campus community, our Ripe for Creative Disruption EJ Fellows, and our collaborative, action-based research.

Over the past six months, we have worked hard to develop and implement a comprehensive growth strategy. Our staff has grown from six to twelve full-time employees contributing to all aspects of our work on campus and with communities. Our co-produced research continues to focus on the needs of the environmental justice movement. This past year, we partnered with eight organizations working towards equitable and just climate solutions. We released a comprehensive assessment of Cumulative Impacts policies at state and federal agencies. Our team has been particularly focused on President Biden's and Vice President Harris's Justice40 Initiative. On campus sustainability, we completed the New School's third STARS evaluation (2011, 2018, 2021) to assess sustainability performance across our campus, receiving a silver rating.

Finally, we are most proud of the successful launch of the first cohort of the *Ripe for Creative Disruption:* An Environmental Justice Movement Fellowship partnering with fellows disrupting the status quo to lead justice and community-oriented climate solutions.

Over the next year, you will see our staff grow, our visibility on campus increase, and our partnerships with the Environmental Justice Movement deepen and expand. We see the Environmental Justice Movement and the values developed by movement leaders and elders before us as a beacon of light during these challenging times. We invite you to join us in thinking creatively as we disrupt the status quo in partnership with and via the leadership of the EJ movement.



DR. ANA BAPTISTA

Co-Director, Tishman Environment and Design Center

Associate Professor of Professional Practice, Milano School of Policy, Management and Environment



JOEL TOWERS

Co-Director, Tishman Environment and Design Center

UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

WHAT IS THE TISHMAN CENTER?

"We see the Environmental Justice Movement and the values developed by movement leaders and elders before us as a beacon of light during these challenging times."

The Tishman Environment and Design Center is a university-wide center that is committed to bringing an interdisciplinary and environmental justice approach to contemporary environmental challenges. The Tishman Center is possible through an endowment from former New School Trustee John L. Tishman.

Our mission is to integrate bold design, policy, and social justice approaches to tackle the climate crisis and advance environmental justice.

We are a collaborative resource center and hub for environmental justice organizations, designers, policy makers, students, and faculty that support and advance bold environmental and climate justice action and movement building in accordance with the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing. We will advance more equitable and just sustainability policies within the University, and we will be leaders in the fight for climate justice.

Over the past few years, the Center has focused on deepening our efforts to leverage the passion, experience, and creativity of the New School community to confront the climate emergency while continuing to ground our work in the principles of environmental justice. Our work is organized according to two overarching goals:

1. Serve as a resource center and hub for movement building and climate and environmental justice research,



design, and interdisciplinary practice. The Tishman Center offers support in the form of *Ripe for Creative Disruption*: *An Environmental Justice Movement Fellowship*, interdisciplinary research and practice, as well as design and policy expertise. The Center works with a wide range of groups including community-based organizations, environmental and climate justice coalitions and networks, advocates and policymakers. Our work is guided by the Jemez Principles for Democratic

Organizing with an emphasis on critical, participatory research and the co-production of inclusive, bottom-up approaches that amplify the knowledge of frontline and environmental justice communities. 2. Mobilize students, staff, faculty and our broader community to take action on the root causes of the climate crisis and concomitant social and environmental injustices. The Center does this in a variety of ways: creating opportunities for staff, students, faculty and our larger community to learn about and act on environmental justice and climate change; sharing best practices; experimenting with programming and practices that invite innovation, transdisciplinarity, design thinking and solidarity with frontline communities.

ITED STATES 🛭 🕺

DA

This past year the Tishman Center has significantly expanded our reach within the US and internationally. *The Ripe for Creative Disruption: An Environmental Justice Movement Fellowship* received applications from 151 people from eighteen movement organizations, eight states, and five territories. We are happy to welcome the 20 environmental justice leaders selected to be part of the cohort. Our 2021-2022 Campus Events and Public Programming activities engaged with activists, scholars, and leaders from the United States, Botswana, Colombia, and Canada. Finally, our Action-Based Research partnered with organizations and scholar-activists across four states and with national and transnational organizations. In the coming years we plan to continue expanding and deepening our relationships with organizations both in the US and abroad.

INDIA

TURKEY

BOTSWANA

AL

PUERTO RICO

DLOMBIA

TISHMAN CENTER

REACH

9 a 1







NEW STAFF 2022

Please welcome our new staff - from top left: Taylor Griggs, EJMF Operations and Events Manager; Jennifer Santos Ramirez, Senior Researcher; Yukyan Lam, Research Director and Senior Scientist; Drake Reed, Special Projects Manager; Teri Brezner, EJMF Curriculum Lead; Kamrin Harbin, Operations Manager





11

CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

Photos by Mike Harrington; Photo Collage by Drake Reed

STUDENT GRANTS

CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

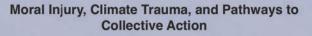
Awarded nearly \$12,000 to support 10 students developing innovative environmental justice and sustainability projects

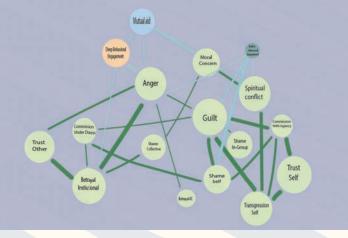
Awarded \$8,700 for three faculty grants to support cutting edge research and practice related to waste, the circular economy, and regenerative agriculture

Six Arnold and Sheila Aronson Fellows were awarded a total of \$36,000 to support their scholarship and engage in staff, faculty, and peer-to-peer mentorship and networking to advance their environmental projects Our 2021-2022 student grants featured a diverse group of environmental justice projects that ranged from communications work to mental health to the carceral system. These students dedicated time and effort to addressing not only environmental and climate injustice but also advocating for democracy, civil rights, accessibility, and climate trauma care.

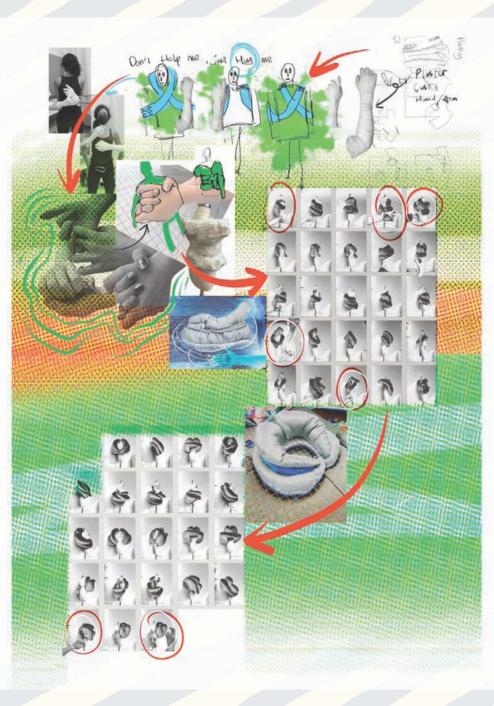








Evan Henritze & Sonora Goldman Evan: Clinical Psychology PhD, New School for Social Research Sonora: Psychology MA, New School for Social Research Moral Injury, Climate Trauma, and Pathways to Collective Action





Hanwei Su & Ziyu Zhang Hanwei: BFA Fashion Design, Parsons School of Design Ziyu: MPS Fashion Management, Parsons School of Design. "I'M BLIND, BUT I HAVE OCD OF COLOR-MATCHING"



Julian Muro, Master of Music Performer-Composer, College of Performing Arts Mind Fields or La tierra, una criatura



Citizen visioning for land restoration taking place at RISE Rockaway (Credit: Veronica Olivotto) Veronica Olivotto & Katinka Wijsman Veronica: PhD in Public and Urban Policy, Milano Schools of Public Engagement Katinka:PhD in Politics, New School for Social Research Procedural Justice and Participation: Insights from theory and practice



Dillon Bernard: Journalism and Design, Eugene Lang College of Liberal Studies Content By Us Amplify Climate Strategy



Jimmy Jackson (front) with a work crew at Angola prison. Photo by Ron Levine/Prisoners of Age Cynthia Golembeski, PhD in Urban and Social Policy, Milano Schools of Public Engagement Carceral and Climate Crises: Advancing health equity solutions by addressing the impact of the climate crisis on people involved with the criminal legal system





AMPLIFY CLIMATE

Dillon Bernard: Journalism and Design, Eugene Lang College of Liberal Studies Content By Us Amplify Climate Strategy

FACULTY GRANTS

The Tishman Center continues to support innovative interdisciplinary research and practices by New School faculty. The 2021-2022 Faculty Grants supports projects by three faculty members working on circular economy manufacturing, waste stream management, and regenerative agriculture. For more detailed information on each project please visit the faculty grant webpage.



Jamie Kruse, Part-time Assistant Professor, Parsons School of Design Observing the Long Lives



Barent Roth, Assistant Professor of Product and Industrial Design, Parsons School of Design Circular Economy Manufacturing



Daniel Michalik, Assistant Professor of Product and Industrial Design, Parsons School of Design A Forest for the Trees

2021-2022 ARONSON FELLOWSHIP

The Arnold and Sheila Aronson Fellowship, supporting student scholarship focused on the environment and sustainability, has grown tremendously over the past year. Fellows were introduced to four of the Tishman Center's Affiliated Faculty who met with Fellows to discuss their topics and research methodologies including sustainable fashion and action-based research; the built environment; feminist, anti-colonial, and Indigenous research methodologies; storytelling; and oral histories. We are sending gratitude and appreciation for the following Affiliated Faculty: Yvonne Watson, Nicki Pombier Berger, Brian McGrath, and Dr. Abigail Perez Aguilera.



Left Top Corner, Clockwise: Mel Corchado, MA Environmental Policy & Sustainable Management, Milano Schools of Public Engagement, Fashion x Borders; Kaija Xiao, MA Environmental Policy & Sustainable Management, Milano School of Public Engagement, Land Based Liberation Movement Research; Quincy Drane, MA of Architecture and Master of Fine Art Lighting Design Dual Degree Program, Parsons School of Design, Increasing Black Presence in Architecture and Design; Aradhita Parasrampuria, MA of Textiles, Parsons School of Design, Natural Dyes Utilizing Biodegradable Ingredients; Zainab Koli, MA Environmental Policy & Sustainable Management, Milano Schools of Public Engagement, Fashion x Borders; Chandler (Chase) Louden, MS Design and Urban Ecologies, Parsons School of Design; Yasmin Arquiza, MA in Creative Publishing & Critical Journalism, New School for Social Research, Small Scale Fisheries in the Philippines

CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

The Tishman Center completed the 2021 certification for the New School and received a silver rating. The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) is a transparent, self-reporting framework for higher education institutions to measure sustainability performance across different dimensions. Sustainability categories include physical campus improvements, curriculum content, academic research, and public engagement. As of 2021, over 1,000 institutions registered to use the STARS reporting tool, of which 674 have earned a STARS rating. The 2021 assessment is the second STARS certification for The New School. The New School's STARS data is publicly available on the AASHE STARS website.

Arnold and Sheila Aronson Environmental Justice Archive

We began work on the Aronson Environmental Justice Archive with
Archivist Yvette Ramirez. The goal is to develop a community-centered digital archive showcasing the work of our community partners, students, and faculty. We are completing the first stages of inventory and creating a collection policy for community ty-based archiving projects.

EVENTS

The Tishman Center engaged with our campus community and the public through a variety of public and private events hosted virtually. Throughout the year, we had over 1,200 virtual attendees come to our events. The majority of our events took place during Climate Week 2021 and Earth Week 2022, covering topics related to the intersections of





the climate crisis including music, design, food, and race. You can find most of these events on the <u>Tishman</u> <u>Center Youtube</u> page. Additionally, we hosted four events throughout the year related to energy, food, and extreme heat.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

This session of the *Communities Beyond Crisis* series, entitled *Climate Crisis and the African Diaspora*, features speakers of African descent from Colombia, Botswana, and the United States discussing how the climate crisis is affecting their regions. Panelists spoke about the global inequalities that people of the African diaspora face and how collaboration and alignment can support justice for people of African descent.

<u>Music and Food</u> (co-hosted with Food Studies) was moderated by Tishman Center Affiliated Faculty Member Dr.Kristin Reynolds and Tishman Center Director of Sustainability Engagement Mike Harrington. The event focused on the connections between food, environmental justice, and art. Panelists included musicians Lyla June Johnston, Thomas RaShad Easley, Dr. Tanya Kalmanovitch and chef Bryant Terry.

Music, Environment, and Culture of the Magdalena River was co-hosted with Dr. Juan Camilo Osorio of Pratt Institute and Simon Mejia of the music group Bomba Estereo. The event featured Colombian Musicians Martin Espana and Mathilde Camacho, Designer Xandra Uribe and scholar Wade Davis. The speakers discussed their relationship with Colombia's Magdalena River and its influence on the culture and environment of the country.

MOVEMENT BUILDING



RIPE FOR CREATIVE DISRUPTION

"A space for EJ Leaders to practice solutions to the most complex climate problems of our time."

Ripe for Creative Disruption: An **Environmental Justice Movement** Fellowship welcomed a pilot cohort of six groups, totaling 20 groundbreaking Environmental Justice (EJ) leaders. The cohort is multicultural. intergenerational, primarily BIPOC, and women-led. The six groups, which include two to four leaders each, represent 18 organizations doing frontline work across eight states and five territories, including Indigenous territories, the Mariana Islands of Micronesia, and Puerto Rico. The fellows represent leadership from national environmental justice alliances, such as the Climate Justice Alliance, Moving Forward Network and the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council. The Fellows also work across multiple sectors, including organizing, design, urban

planning, and arts. The cohort was selected from a competitive set of 51 group applications, totaling 151 leaders, representing work happening in all regions of Turtle Island, including 22 states, and across Indigneous Territories and Nations. The majority of groups were BIPOC-led, with Black leadership showing the greatest representation (about one-third of all applicants identified as Black).

At the time of publication, the fellows have completed Phase 1 of the Fellowship: Collective Leadership and Purpose. Phase 1 was an invitation for fellows to practice EJ Design Mindsets-Curiosity, Empathy, Creative Disruption and Interrelatedness-while defining their problem using EJ and liberatory lenses and deepening their collective purpose. Fellows embodied



By Yuki Kidokoro

these mindsets through a series of gatherings, which included two virtual retreats, in-person Core Group huddles, and curious conversations hosted with community members. At each retreat our "EJ Spark" sessions created space for Fellows to drop into the EJ fishbowl and examine questions that emerged from their curious and courageous conversations around the topics of risk and power. Through these conversations they explored risk as it relates to their relationship with different stakeholders across the spectrum of allies and opponents and their core group's specific problem.

During Phase 2 of the fellowship, the groups brainstormed solutions at the intersection of radical imagination and radical do-ability. Phase 2 was launched in June 2022 with the first in-person retreat held in South Florida, unceded Original Tequesta now Miccosukee and Seminole Territories. At the retreat, each group refined their problem statement and used insights from their curious conversations to develop 'How Might We' questions that they will use to begin co-designing solutions with communities.

ACTION-BASED RESEARCH HIGLIGHTS

Co-Published two peer-reviewed journal articles: <u>Grassroots</u> <u>Environmental Justice Work and Philanthropy: Challenges and</u> <u>Opportunities and Landscape Assessment of the US Environmental</u> <u>Justice Movement: Transformative Strategies for Climate Justice</u>

Worked with eight partner organizations and scholars at local, regional, and federal levels

Six student research assistants worked with the Tishman Center and supported our community partners gaining real world experience in issues related to climate change, cumulative impacts for environmental justice communities, and disproportionate impacts of air pollution from the energy sector.

Understanding the Evolution of Cumulative Impacts Definitions and Policies in the US

By authors Ana Baptista, Adrienne Perovich and Research Assistants Maria Fernanda Pulido-Velosa, Enrique Valencia, Marisa Valdez, and Jennifer Ventrella

The impacts of environmental, social, and public health stressors are cumulative—they add up and harm environmental justice (EJ) communities disproportionately exposed to stressors. For decades, EJ movement leaders have been fighting for a legislative and regulatory framework that addresses these injustices. Our research team has gathered data and created this searchable site containing Cumalitive Impact (CI) definitions, indicators, and thresholds from local, state, and federal sources to support EJ movement stakeholders and policymakers in advancing CI policies and implementation efforts.

Equitable and Just National Climate Forum

The Tishman Center continues to work with the Equitable and Just National Climate Forum to advance federal climate solutions that are grounded in justice and equity. Participation in the forum is sharpening our attention and advocacy around potential climate funding through President Joe Biden's Justice40 Initiative and also sharpening our attention to potential false solutions that are emerging in federal policies, such as unproven carbon capture technologies.

Grassroots Environmental Justice Work and Philanthropy: Challenges and Opportunities

Journal Article Co-Produced with Building Equity and Alignment for Environmental Justice (BEA). By authors Jennifer Ramirez, Ana Baptista, Molly Greenberg, Adrienne Perovich, and Anna Yulsman, The New School; Antonio Lopez, Chicago Frontlines Funding Initiative, and Andrew Rosenberg, Union of Concerned Scientists.

Across the United States, grassroots groups within the environmental justice movement are leading important work on the front lines of the climate crisis, especially in marginalized communities. Despite the importance of these organizations, the philanthropic sector has devoted the lion's share of environmental funding to more mainstream nonprofits.

We conducted <u>a landscape assessment</u> <u>study</u> of environmental funders and grassroots environmental justice organizations in the Gulf South and the Midwest. The study had four research aims: to gain a greater understanding of environmental justice funding, capabilities, and priorities in these regions; to highlight the complementary objectives of both groups; to develop a replicable methodology for similar assessments in other regions; and to identify opportunities for funding alignment.

Landscape Assessment of the US Environmental Justice Movement: Transformative Strategies for Climate Justice

Journal article by authors Ana Baptista, Sujatha Jesudason, Molly Greenberg, Adrienne Perovich.

As a part of designing *Ripe for Creative* Disruption: An EJ Movement Fellowship, this landscape assessment included surveys and interviews with more than 200 EJ movement activists across the country to explore the priorities, strategies, challenges, and social movement capacities of the EJM. The study reveals that EJM activists work across a diverse set of issues and rank climate justice among their highest priority issues. Activists overwhelmingly rely on base building, coalitions, and organizing strategies to do their work. In reflecting on the movement's contemporary approaches,

activists articulated the importance of shared frameworks, such as climate justice, to shift popular narratives and action on climate change. The climate justice frame reflects a critical and intersectional conceptualization of the climate crisis that requires disrupting the status quo approaches to climate change.

NJ Power Plant Emissions Rule for the Global Warming Response Act. Technical Comments Submitted to New Jersery Department of Environmental Protection

Contributors are Dr. Nicky Sheats, Dr. Ana Baptista, Adrienne Perovich, Anna Yulsman, Thomas Ikeda

With the leadership of partner organization New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA) and the Center for the Urban Environment (CUE) of the John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy and Research at Kean University, we submitted comments to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) on a new rule to implement portions of the New Jersey Global Warming Response Act.

This proposed rule on the power sector includes placing air pollution emissions limits on fossil-fuel fired power plants. NJEJA, The Tishman Center, CUE, and others in the environmental justice (EJ) movement have advocated that, in addition to fighting climate change, climate change mitigation policy should be used to reduce the disproportionate pollution loads often found in communities of color and lowincome communities. This would be achieved by identifying power plants located in EJ communities and forcing them to reduce their emissions.

False Solutions for Just Climate Mitigation and Clean Energy Policies: Case Studies of New Jersey, Delaware, and Minnesota

By authors Ana Baptista, Jennifer Ventrella

In the academic literature, the false solutions narrative is explored along divergent climate discourses. False solutions imply the concept of climate strategies that do not address the root or structural causes of climate change and environmental injustice and can include market-driven, technological, and economy-wide interventions. Environmental justice (EJ) and climate justice (CJ) movement actors take a critical perspective, placing false solutions in the context of the broader problem of climate change and inequality as products of global capitalism based on resource extraction and inequitable economic growth. Embedded in this critical perspective is not only a radical critique of false solutions but also alternative worldviews relating to a just transition to a fossil-free, less extractive, and regenerative economic and social systems (e.g., Climate Justice Alliance diagram on page 37).

To better understand and contest false solutions, this paper provides a snapshot of false solutions currently enacted or proposed in three case studies focused on New Jersey, Delaware, and Minnesota. These three state case studies can provide insight into both already entrenched and emerging false solution approaches in policy that EJ advocates have had to respond to across the country.

LOOKING AHEAD

Environmental Justice for All

Partnerships are led by Hester Street Collaborative and Burro Happold with Creative Urban Alchemy, New Deal Strategies, Lion and Hope Consulting

Dr. Baptista will serve as Strategic Advisor on the creation of an *EJ for All* report and web-based EJ Portal being developed by Buro Happold and Hester Street with other community partners for the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice. The report and portal will help to better understand where the city's EJ areas are located, the major concerns affecting these areas, concentrations of violations of City environmental regulations and the impacts of climate change on these communities.

Articulation of Impact of Grassroots-led Climate Solutions

Partnership with Climate Justice Alliance

Funders often ask grassroot organizations about impact and scale.

The Climate Justice Alliance invited the Tishman Center to join them in a project designed to grapple with these questions and develop an articulation of impact that climate funders can understand and that will lead to unlocking more capital and moving it to the grassroots. At the same time, we want to reciprocate the question asking climate funders about their impact on and commitment to systemic change and about their intentions to scale their support of frontline communities that not only have been fighting the industries driving the climate crisis for decades but are now also leading innovative climate solutions that are replicable, scalable, available to us now, and ready for investment.

Contributing to the New York City Panel on Climate Change (NPCC)

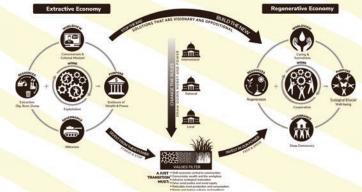
For over a decade, NYC's leaders have worked to build resilience and adaptation plans and have invested in preparing our infrastructure to address these issues. However, there is much more that needs to be done especially in regards to equitable planning that prioritizes communities with the greatest risks and legacies of environmental injustice. For the next report, Co-Directors Joel Towers and Dr. Ana Baptista are both serving on working groups for the NPCC.

NYC Town & Gown Vulnerability, Impact, and Adaptation Analysis

Tishman Center and Urban Systems Lab; Co-Principal Investigators Joel Towers and Timon McPhearson

A team of interdisciplinary researchers, co-led by Professors Joel Towers and Dr. Timon McPhearson at The New School's Tishman Environment and Design Center and Urban Systems Lab, was selected by the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ), to carry out a \$2.5M study on future climate change and its potential impacts to inform decision-making by the City of New York and assessment reports by the NYC Panel on Climate Change.

The team includes scientists from nine academic institutions (The New School. Columbia University, Cornell University, City University of New York, Drexel University, Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, Sarah Lawrence College, Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay, and Stevens Institute of Technology), four governmental institutions and nonprofit organizations (Natural Resources Defense Council, Population Council, NASA/GISS, and USDA Forest Service) and from the private sector (Arcadis). Together, this team will work collaboratively to develop a comprehensive analysis of future potential climate conditions and associated socio-economic impacts in New York City.



Analysis, Framework and Strategy JT Framework Design: Wisdom of Frontline communities and leaders with the support of Movement Generation Diagram by Climate Justice Alliance

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

Youtube

Top 5 most-viewed videos

1 | Facing the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit



March 30, 2021, 622 views

3 | Who Does Mapping Serve? GIS in Environmental Justice...



September 23, 2020, 418 views

Examining False Corporate Schemes...

2 | Hoodwinked in the Hothouse:



October 8, 2021, 513 views

4 | Black Food Matters Feb 25 2021



March 8, 2021, 254 views

5 | Radical Reimaginations -Disrupting the Status Quo...



September 1, 2020, 190 views

In the Media

26 mentions in the media since last year

Youtube

Engagement in 2021:

3,600 views387 hours watch time+54 subscribers

Engagement in 2022 (so far):

1,700 views188 hours watch time+27 subscribers

www. Website

+4% increase in traffic compared to last year

Top 5 most-viewed pages

1. EJ Movement Fellowship (6393 views)

2. EJ Movement Fellowship Application (2339 views)

3. Projects & Publications (1456 views)

4. Join our Team (1051 views)

5. People (965 views)



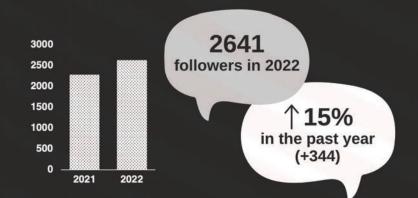
The fellowship is a 2 year experience made up of four 6-month phases. Fellows will participate in a combination of virtual and in-person retreats. gPlup coaching sessions, and ideation to scaling project phases. Ghuna Anglichnics are arean houseen Aunual 25, 2023 to Scatember 26.



JOIN OUR TEAM



Twitter



Instagram 🔘



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

UPROS

Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform











AND FUNDERS!









RALPH LAUREN CORPORATION

INDIVIDUAL DONORS: Michelle DePass Rosa Gonzalez Jacqueline Patterson Adrienne Perovich Viva Wittman

