



HARRIS COUNTY CLIMATE JUSTICE ADVISORY COLLABORATIVE

Office of County Administration

Sustainability Division

The Advisory Collaborative Members

Alphabetical by last name

Doris Brown; Evelyn Castro; Joel Coulter; Jaime Gonzalez; Osvaldo Lopez; Jackie Medcalf; Zoe Middleton; Elaine Morales; Jordan Negussie; Crystal Nhu Ngo; Elliani Rodriguez; Myrtala Tristan; Ivy Walls; Skylar Williams; Ian Zhang

DORIS BROWN

She/Her/Hers

CEER NOMINEE



Doris is a co-founder of the Northeast Action Collective (NAC) and a lifelong resident of Northeast Houston. She joined staff at West Street in June of 2020. Doris grew up in 5th Ward and Kashmere Gardens and has lived in Scenic Woods for 56 years. She graduated from HCC with a degree in Human Service Technology and Certification in Mental Health. In 2016 she graduated from University of Houston with a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies. Doris started as an activist in the civil rights movement when she was 13 years old, following her instinct of "if it's not right I want to fight".

Email: Doris@weststreetrecovery.org

EVELYN CASTRO

She/Her/Hers

2024 YOUTH LEADER



Greetings! My name is Evelyn Castro, a 15-year-old sophomore at Carnegie Vanguard High School. Residing in the proud community of Northside/Northline, I'm dedicated to addressing and mitigating various social issues at the local level, particularly education and equitable access to resources for a greater quality of life. My passion encompasses volunteering work, where I organize and aid in after-school tutoring, community festivals, lead community clean-ups, and speak at beneficial seminars. Beyond community engagement, I'm skillful in painting, writing, and networking. As an advocate for positive change, I express my concerns and contribute to the common good.

Email: evelincastro137@gmail.com

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JOEL COULTER

PRECINCT 2 NOMINEE

He/Him/His



My name is Joel Coulter. I am the director of Family ministries at Deer Park UMC. I am a member of the Native Plant Society of Texas and Exploration Green Nature Park. I'm an Eagle Scout, an avid hiker and supporter of National Parks. My wife and I have two daughters who love to plant trees and flowers with me. We are working really hard to make sure we leave the planet the best we can for them.

Email: Joelcoulter9@gmail.com

JAIME GONZALEZ

PRECINCT 4 NOMINEE

He/Him/His



Jaime González is an awarding-winning conservationist, environmental educator, public speaker, and coalition builder working at the intersection of human health, biodiversity conservation, equity, and climate action. Mr. González earned a M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction-Science Education and a B.S. in Biology from the University of Houston.

Email: Jaimegonzalez72@gmail.com

OSVALDO LOPEZ

CEER NOMINEE

He/Him/His



I am the only person in my at large family and from my neighborhood that went to the University. I obtained a PhD at University of Buenos in the area of Immunology/Infectious Diseases. I immigrated to the U.S. and became a faculty member at medical schools in Ohio and New Jersey where I reached the rank of Full Professor. I also founded a biotech company in the area of molecular diagnostics. I retired to Houston in 2020. Currently I host the weekly podcast in Spanish "The Health of the Community" at Radio Jornalera, CRECEN located in the Sharpstown/Gulfton area.

Email: Osvaldojlopez@yahoo.com

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JACKIE MEDCALF

PRECINCT 3 NOMINEE

She/Her/Hers



Jackie Medcalf is the resounding voice of Texans who are negatively affected by toxins in their environment. With her Environmental Geology degree in hand and a passion for public health, Jackie discovered what no doctor could - a hidden menace that threatened the lives within her home and those around the San Jacinto River; toxic chemicals and heavy metals seeping into the water supply. Today, as the Executive Director of Texas Health and Environment Alliance (THEA), she is on the front lines of protecting public health by collaborating with government agencies, businesses, and community members to cleanup historic toxic waste sites.

Email: Jyoung@txhea.org

ZOE MIDDLETON

PRECINCT 1 NOMINEE

She/Her/Hers



Zoe is a policy strategist and advocate who has lived in Harris County since 2012. She has worked on disaster recovery, infrastructure investment planning, and the eviction crisis.

zoe.ross.middleton@gmail.com

ELAINE MORALES

COUNTY JUDGE'S NOMINEE

She/Her/Hers



Elaine Morales is a Public Interest Designer and Just Disaster Recovery Advocate from Puerto Rico. She is the Senior Director of Partnerships and Policy at Connective, where her work focuses in improving the equitable access to social services and strengthening our social ecosystem resiliency. With a background in architecture and community-based planning, Elaine has designed and rebuilt homes with hurricane survivors and facilitated placed-based equity-building efforts that address affordable housing, climate disaster recovery, and community development issues. Her work was showcased in "By the People," a Smithsonian Design Museum exhibit, and has informed successful legislation in Texas around disaster preparedness.

Email: Emorales@connectivetx.org

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FISIHA NEGUSSIE

2024 YOUTH LEADER

He/Him/Hims



As a dedicated community leader in Harris County, Texas, I've been actively involved in initiatives aimed at empowering youth and fostering positive change. My journey began with the founding of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Youth Union, where I've worked to encourage civic engagement, celebrate cultural heritage, and promote environmental stewardship. Inspired by the resilience of our community in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, I've been passionate about addressing climate change and advocating for sustainable practices.

Email: negussiefisiha@gmail.com

CRYSTAL NHU NGO

CEER NOMINEE

She/Her/Hers



Crystal, as the EJ Outreach Coordinator, spearheads community engagement efforts and fosters environmental decision-making through the Environmental Justice Leadership Lab. She hosts workshops to prepare community members for permit hearings, organizes cultural tabling events to foster dialogue, and makes public comments to advocate alongside the community. With a commitment to advancing language justice, she contributes Vietnamese translations to support the organization's mission. Rooted in the vibrant community of the southwest side of Houston, Crystal's upbringing instilled a passion for ensuring equitable access to vital resources and preserving the environment for future generations.

Email: Crystal@airalliancehouston.org

ELLIANI RODRIGUEZ

2024 YOUTH LEADER

She/Her/Hers



Observing the disparities in representation and access to scientific knowledge within her community has fueled Elliani's lifelong commitment to initiate change. Through diverse roles—ranging from a 5th-grade science teacher to an intern with the National Park Service and Mercer Botanic Gardens Herbarium—Elliani dedicated herself to this mission. Now, as a Naturalist at the Houston Arboretum, Elliani merges her experiences to foster inclusivity and promote sustainability. Her vision is one where every individual is empowered to advocate for environmental conservation in urban landscapes. Elliani aspires to cultivate a future where scientific literacy and environmental consciousness are integral to our community's ethos.

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MYRTALA TRISTAN

CEER NOMINEE

She/Her/Hers



I'm super interested in the problems that are happening in our neighborhood.

Email: Mtristan63@gmail.com

IVY WALLS

CEER NOMINEE

She/Her/Hers



Ivy Lawrence Walls is 3.5 generation farmer, community entrepreneur, and creative visionary from Houston. Her passion for creating community led her to open Ivy Leaf Farms, a community farm in Houston that is dedicated to complete neighborhood wellness through food equity in her community Sunnyside, Houston, Texas. Ivy believes everyone should have access to quality groceries no matter where they live. This initiative has led the charge for her to open Fresh House Grocery in November of 2022. Ivy is a proud Graduate of Prairie View A&M University and a member of the Psi Mu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated.

Email: Ivy@ivyleafaffarms.com

SKYLAR WILLIAMS

2024 YOUTH LEADER

She/Her/Hers



Skylar is a 15-year-old homeschool student living in Barrett Station, TX. She enjoys participating in opportunities that allow for collaboration with other community advocates to improve environmental conditions. Skylar is an active volunteer within her community where she is a Youth Volunteer Leader for a community development team called Barrett's New Daj. Skylar assist with various community development projects intended to empower and support my neighbors. Her most recent experience includes participating in the Harris County Public Library Book Buddy Program as a teen mentor in addition to facilitating numerous fundraisers and community events.

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IAN ZHANG

2024 YOUTH LEADER

He/Him/His



I'm super interested in the problems that are happening in our neighborhood.

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