



SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT

Climate Equity

SPEAKER LIST



ZELALEM ADEFRIS

Vice President of Policy & Advocacy, Catalyst Miami

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Zelalem Adefris is the Vice President of Policy & Advocacy at Catalyst Miami, where she oversees Catalyst's Policy & Engagement Department. Zelalem joined Catalyst Miami in 2016, directing the organization's climate justice work. Her previous work experiences include environmental justice organizing at the Environmental Justice League of Rhode Island and conducting emergency preparedness research at the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She holds an MPH in Global Environmental Health from Emory University and a bachelor's degree in Community Health from Brown University. Zelalem serves as a co-chair of the Miami Climate Alliance, a philanthropic trustee of the Solutions Project, as well as a board member of the Miami-Dade College Earth Ethics Institute.



NICOLE CROOKS

Overtown Community Engagement Coordinator, Catalyst Miami

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Nicole Crooks has dedicated her life to elevating the plight and ensuring the well-being of Black women and their children. She is a proud mother of three, a resident of her beloved Historic Overtown, and a Community Engagement Coordinator at Catalyst Miami. Nicole is a co-creator of the "Black Butterfly Collective", an initiative that centers the leadership of Black women in ensuring a culture of personal and environmental healing within their communities. Nicole is very clear that her purpose in this space is to serve as a vessel, a forever humble student and companion along this journey toward liberation with her people. She believes that those most impacted must be at the center of the solutions process. Her mission is to ensure a society in which all Black women thrive beyond measure.



MAYRA CRUZ

Climate Justice Director, Catalyst Miami

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Mayra is the Climate Justice Director at Catalyst Miami. She manages CLEAR (Community Leadership on the Environment, Advocacy, and Resilience) and HEAL (Housing, Equity, Advocacy, and Leadership), which provide training around social justice and community organizing around the issues of climate change and affordable housing, respectively. Collectively the programs have graduated over 400 leaders who are more civically engaged and advocating for resilient solutions to Miami's most pressing problems. She also advocates for equitable resilient strategies for frontline communities. As a Steering Committee member of the Miami Climate Alliance, she advocates for access to clean energy for low-wealth communities. She is passionate about addressing the social determinants of health and combating climate change from a public health perspective. Mayra graduated from Columbia University with an MPH in Environmental Health Sciences with a Certificate in Climate and Health.



ALISSA FARINA

Resilience Programs Manager, City of Miami

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Alissa Farina is a Resilience Programs Manager for the City of Miami's Division of Resilience and Sustainability. After graduating from the University of Miami with Bachelor's of Arts in Ecosystem Science & Policy and Economics, she helped upstart two environmental education programs, Inventors in Residence at Frost Science and the Miami Science Barge. From there, she transitioned to working for the City of Miami directly under the Chief Resilience Officer on the regional urban resilience strategy, Resilient305, and the City's climate adaptation plan, Miami Forever Climate Ready. Currently, Alissa focuses on carbon mitigation, communications, community engagement, and is project manager for Miami's greenhouse gas reduction plan.



REBECCA FISHMAN LIPSEY

President & CEO, The Miami Foundation

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Rebecca Fishman Lipsey is President and CEO of The Miami Foundation, the \$350 million philanthropic, civic, and leadership backbone focused on building a stronger, more equitable Greater Miami. Rebecca is a former policymaker and social innovator dedicated to building thriving, equity-minded communities. At the helm of The Miami Foundation, Rebecca led the institution to run the region’s largest nonprofit recovery effort in its history, initiated the region’s Racial Equity Fund, and co-launched Miami Connected to bring internet access to every single child and family in the County. Prior to leading the Foundation, Rebecca founded Radical Partners, a social-impact accelerator that incubates and accelerates ventures solving civic and community challenges. During her tenure, they helped scale over 100 social impact ventures, impacting issues ranging from sea level rise to music access. Lipsey served a four-year term on the Florida Board of Education, was Executive Director of Teach for America in Miami, and began her career as a teacher.



NADEGE GREEN

Director of Research and Storytelling, The Community Justice Project

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Nadege Green is Director of Community Research and Storytelling at the Community Justice Project. She worked as a journalist in Miami for just over 10 years investigating how local government policies and actions—both historical and contemporary—impact everyday people. Her work centers around using analysis, data and narratives from the directly impacted to address housing inequities, climate justice, and other pressing issues in Miami-Dade County that disproportionately impact black and brown communities. Green believes in the power of teaching community storytelling as a means to educate, problem-solve and heal. She is a frequent lecturer and speaker in academic and community settings around disparities in Miami-Dade, local history and race. Green is a recipient of the Ruth Shack Leadership Award and the Florida ACLU Gene Miller Voice of Freedom Award.



CAROLINE ALEXANDER LEWIS

Independent Consultant & Founder, The CLEO Institute

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Caroline Lewis is an independent consultant who is passionate about effective education. She designs initiatives that are transformative, scalable and replicable. Ms. Lewis aligns action plans with vision statements as she builds capacity, promotes innovation, scales impact, and inspires leadership in individuals and institutions. As founder of The CLEO Institute, Lewis promotes climate literacy and supports bold action. She is currently CLEO's Senior Advisor, working with a stellar team to advance climate action as the urgent imperative it is. Lewis, a science teacher and high school principal, joined the staff at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in 2002 where she created the Fairchild Challenge. This interdisciplinary environmental education program still annually engages tens of thousands of students in Miami and around the world. As the 2016 founding Director of Cushman High School, Lewis provided a unique vision for a rigorous, creative, character-based and civic engagement-focused high school education. Her service roles include: the National Environmental Education Advisory Council; American Public Garden Association; Miami-Dade Executive Board for Science Curriculum & Instruction; the White House Summits on Climate and Energy and Women & the Environment; the Conservation Fund's Advisory Panel; Congressman Curbelo's Climate Advisory Team, VAI-Changing The Current Advisory Council, M-D County Living With Water Committee, and others.



NANCY METAYER

Commissioner, Coral Springs and Statewide Coalition Manager, NEO Philanthropy

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Nancy Metayer, a long-time resident of Coral Springs, serves as the city's first Black and Haitian-American woman Commissioner. Metayer's political journey began at Coral Springs Charter School, where she served as President of the Student Government Association. Metayer built a notable public service career providing steadfast leadership on issues ranging from environmental advocacy to disaster relief. Prior to joining the Coral Springs City Commission, she led a long-term strategic initiative – the Florida Disaster Preparedness Plan (FDPP), which focused on rebuilding disaster areas and community resilience in vulnerable neighborhoods across the State of Florida.

Metayer is an Environmental Scientist and former member of the Broward County Soil and Water Conservation District. She has undertaken work across multiple government agencies and nonprofit organizations where she brought long-term strategic expertise to programs seeking to improve environmental conditions, water, sanitation, and public health. She has been a staunch advocate for those impacted by water crises nationwide and worked extensively in response to devastating natural disasters such as Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Michael, and Hurricane Dorian.

Currently, Metayer is the Statewide Coalition Manager for NEO Philanthropy, supporting efforts around reproductive and gender justice throughout the State of Florida. She graduated with her Bachelor of Science from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and her Master of Health Science from Johns Hopkins University. She is a Steering Committee Member for the Miami Climate Alliance, is an Executive Board Member for Avanse Asanm, Ruth's List Broward, Women's March Broward, and the Broward County Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Advisory Board. Metayer also serves as a Committee Member for Coral Springs Neighborhood Environmental Committee and Customer Involved Government Committee. Metayer awards and recognitions include, Top 20 under 40 by Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce, United Nations Clean Water Advocacy Award, CLEO Institute Leadership Circle Inductee.



SONA MOHNOT

Associate Director, Climate Equity, Greenlining Institute

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Sona is the Associate Director of Climate Equity at the Greenlining Institute. Sona works on creating equitable climate adaptation and resilience strategies to ensure that communities hit first and worst by climate disasters have the resources and support needed to adapt to a changing climate and thrive in spite of it. She was the lead author of [*Making Equity Real in Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience Policies and Programs*](#), a guidebook for policymakers on how to meaningfully embed equity in resilience efforts. Sona also serves as a council member on the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP), out of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and is a member of the California Climate Insurance Working Group, out of the California Department of Insurance. She holds a J.D. from Tulane School of Law and her LL.M in Natural Resources and Environmental Law from Lewis and Clark Law School.



IKE POWELL

Senior Program Specialist, Outreach and Community Programming, Youth Services Department, Palm Beach County

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Ike Powell is currently the Senior Program Specialist in the Outreach and Community Programming Division of the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department (YSD). YSD consolidates various youth programs and services under the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Powell serves as the Task Force Leader for the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Network of Palm Beach County. MBK Palm Beach County is a coalition of public and private entities that work together to improve life outcomes for boys and young men of color through internal agency policy review, mentoring, and by creating educational and employment opportunities. Previously, Mr. Powell served in various leadership roles at Urban League of Palm Beach County and CareerSource Palm Beach County where he developed and implemented strategic initiatives for community and economic empowerment, and workforce development resulting in preparing youth and adults for successful life outcomes.

He is a servant leader committed to actively serving in the community and fostering equity and social justice. Mr. Powell serves in several volunteer leadership capacities and mentorship roles with community and faith based organizations. Mr. Powell is an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity,

Inc. He holds a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Industrial Technology from Illinois State University.



PHOEBE ROMERO

Environmental Program Coordinator, City of Austin Office of Sustainability
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Phoebe Romero is an Environmental Program Coordinator at the City of Austin Office of Sustainability, where she works on air quality and climate change planning. She is currently focused on creating an equitable climate action plan that improves residents' quality of life while reducing environmental impact. She was formerly a Program Manager at CLEAResult, where she implemented utility energy efficiency programs for large commercial and institutional organizations across Texas. Prior to CLEAResult, she was an Environmental Defense Fund Climate Corps Fellow tasked with evaluating energy and water conservation initiatives at Huston-Tillotson University. She has a BA in Political Science and Latin American studies from Brown University and a Professional Science Master's in Environmental Management and Sustainable Development from St. Edward's University.



LAUREN ROSS

Senior Director of Policy, ACEEE
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Lauren Ross is Senior Director of Policy at ACEEE. She oversees state and local policy work as well as utility regulation. She conducts program and policy research and provides technical assistance to a variety of groups aimed at advancing equitable energy efficiency. She has served as the lead on ACEEE's work to expand policies and programs to improve energy use in underserved communities, with an emphasis on advancing inclusive clean energy solutions in affordable housing. Through her previous and current work, she continues to promote energy efficiency as a tool to make communities more economically vibrant, healthier, and adaptable in the face of climate change.