



**CENTERING EQUITY
IN THE SUSTAINABLE BUILDING
SECTOR INITIATIVE
*WORKING RETREAT***

**October 28 – 29, 2019
Brock Environmental Center
Virginia Beach, VA**



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NAACP

CESBS INITIATIVE WORKING RETREAT

October 28 - 29, 2019 • Brock Environmental Center, Virginia Beach, VA



OVERVIEW/BACKGROUND

Communities of color and low-income communities bear the brunt of the impacts of unhealthy, energy inefficient, and disaster vulnerable buildings through poor health and financial impacts of high energy bills, as well as the disproportionate negative effects of climate change, to which buildings contribute as a major consumer of fossil fuel based energy. Yet, as one looks around the tables or worksites of the sustainable and regenerative building sector, there is little representation of the populations most impacted by our current proliferation of unsustainable, inefficient, sometimes unsafe, and often unhealthy building stock. Whether it's as policy makers, advocates, architects, project managers, contractors, or even in the construction workforce, the most impacted communities are underrepresented in the design, construction, and occupancy of sustainable, regenerative, healthy buildings.

Given the huge import of buildings in reducing the demand on energy production, plus the co-benefits that regenerative design has for building occupants and the community, not to mention the environment, all of this points to the fact that this gap in access/uptake must drastically change and quickly to build a big tent and universalize sustainable, regenerative buildings.

In actualizing our commitment to ground our operations in the principles and practices of our environmental and climate justice platform, the NAACP will establish its headquarters as an exemplar for an Equitable Living Building Project. Through this effort, we will develop a replicable model of ensuring the centering of equity in all aspects of sustainable, healthy, safe, and regenerative buildings, including access, affordability, co-benefits, cultural resonance, inclusive decision-making, financing, service provision, procurement, contracting, employment, communications, monitoring and evaluation, and so much more.

Our aim as the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization is to be a beacon of inspiration and transformation in centering equity in the sustainable building sector. In doing so, we can catalyze the building of a bigger, broader tent for the sustainable building movement, towards the betterment of the building users, the communities, the economy, and the planet.

Building upon the first Summit that convened people and organizations leading the sector and those who have not been engaged in the past, our aim is to build a bigger, broader tent for the sustainable building movement. This working retreat will continue the conversation to adopt a collective, grassroots action agenda and initiate a policy platform that will provide a vision and personal/collective action commitments to catalyze the institutionalization of policies, programming and practices that center equity in the sustainable building sector.

Find a Summary Report of the CESBS Launch Summit, webinar recordings, and other resources from the CESBS Initiative in our [shared Google Drive](#).

KEY PRINCIPLES FOR CENTERING EQUITY IN THE SUSTAINABLE BUILDING SECTOR

In order to transform the narrative and norms of the sector, it is necessary to orient around new principles that center equity. These include:

- **Fundamental human rights** to healthy and safe housing, air, water, and food
- **Radical inclusion, self-determination, and community ownership**, which prioritize the communities most impacted by unsustainable buildings and least represented in the green building movement
- **Multidimensional definition of well-being** that considers social, economic, and environmental health
- **Universal accessibility and availability** of sustainable buildings, regardless of ability, income, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, language, age, and identity
- **Asset- and place-based community development** grounded in history, locality, abundance, ownership, healing, and regeneration
- **Uphold local knowledge** as the best source of understanding of community and environmental needs and assets
- **Recognition of lived experience** on equal footing with quantitative data
- **Right-to-know and transparency** of research, processes, decisions, and practices driving the sector
- **Acknowledgment of and investment to remedy** past, present, and future injustice for frontline communities struggling against structural oppression
- **Mutual support and empowerment** to cultivate and nurture a diversity of champions and a broad movement
- **Accountability and enforcement** of standards to achieve intended goals and outcomes
- **Intergenerational, interspecies commitment** to build communities that will foster and protect human and non-human life for generations to come





MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2019

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES—DENISE FAIRCHILD, EMERALD CITIES COLLABORATIVE

TIME	ITEM/TOPIC
8:30am-9:00am	SHUTTLE DEPARTS HOTEL AND ARRIVES AT VENUE
9:00am-10:00am	BREAKFAST
9:30am-10:00am	WELCOME/OVERVIEW Speaker: John Silver, Nansemond Indian Nation
10:00am-11:00am	FRAMING PLENARY: THE IMPERATIVE & OUR PURPOSE Speaker & Moderator: Jacqueline Patterson, NAACP Panel: Definitions, Root Causes, and Levers of Change Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raisa Johnson, National Housing Trust • Maya Henderson, Kilroy Realty Corporation • Karen Campblin, ECJ Chair of the Virginia NAACP State Conference • Felicia Davis, Clark Atlanta University, HBCU Green Fund • Joyce Clark, Climate Change & Environmental Justice Chair of the New England Area Council of the NAACP
11:00am-12:00pm	WORKING SESSION I: FRAMING THE ISSUES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Group Discussion • Mapping Activity
12:00pm-1:00pm	LUNCH Celebrity Guest Speaker: Reverend Lennox Yearwood
1:00pm-1:30pm	KNOWLEDGE & SKILL SHARE I
1:30pm-2:45pm	GROUNDING: CULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY IN VIRGINIA BEACH Speaker & Moderator: Taylor Lilley, Chesapeake Bay Foundation Chesapeake Bay Watershed: Environmental Systems and Justice Panel on Remembrance and Resilience: African American History in Virginia Beach Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Robert Watson, Hampton University • Dr. Karen Hills Pruden, Virginia Beach NAACP • Dr. Amelia Ross-Hammond, Virginia Beach African American Cultural Center
2:45pm-3:30pm	BUILDING TOUR: BROCK ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
3:30pm-4:45pm	WORKING SESSION II: REFINING ISSUES INTO ACTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gallery Walk • Small Group Discussion
4:45pm-5:00pm	CLOSING
5:00pm-5:30pm	SHUTTLE DEPARTS VENUE AND ARRIVES AT HOTEL



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2019

TIME	ITEM/TOPIC
8:30am-9:00am	SHUTTLE DEPARTS HOTEL AND ARRIVES AT VENUE
9:00am-10:00am	BREAKFAST
9:30am-10:30am	MORNING GROUNDING: CASE STUDIES OF SUCCESS Speaker & Moderator: Monica Sierra Aparicio, Georgia Institute of Technology Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• E.D. Mondainé, NAACP Portland• Khalil Shahyd, Natural Resources Defense Council
10:10am-11:10am	WORKING SESSION III: ACTION PLANNING <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small Group Discussion• Retreat Packet
11:30am-12:00pm	KNOWLEDGE & SKILL SHARE II
12:00pm-1:00pm	LUNCH
1:00pm-2:30pm	WORKING SESSION IV: GROUP BRAINSTORMING & SYNTHESIS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small Group Discussion• Report Back• Full Group Discussion
2:30-3:30pm	CLOSING Next Steps Closing Ritual
3:30pm-4:00pm	SHUTTLE DEPARTS VENUE AND ARRIVES AT HOTEL
4:00pm-5:15pm	OPTIONAL OFF-SITE BUILDING TOUR: OLD DONATION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL <i>(Advanced sign-up required. Transportation provided.)</i>



CONFIRMED PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- Virginia Beach (VA) NAACP
- Hampton (VA) NAACP
- Chesterfield (VA) NAACP
- Martinsville Henry County (VA) NAACP
- Fairfax (VA) NAACP
- NAACP Virginia State Conference
- NAACP New England Area Council
- Bergen County (NJ) NAACP
- Fort Wayne (IN) NAACP
- Michigan City (IN) NAACP
- Compton (CA) NAACP
- Riverside (CA) NAACP
- San Diego (CA) NAACP
- Anchorage (AK) NAACP
- Reno Sparks (NV) NAACP
- Portland (OR) NAACP
- Eugene/Plane County (OR) NAACP
- Louisville (KY) NAACP
- San Angelo (TX) NAACP
- Baton Rouge (LA) NAACP
- Miami (FL) NAACP
- NAACP National Board of Directors
- NAACP National Office
- Virginia Beach African American Cultural Center
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Hampton University
- Howard University
- Clark Atlanta University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- City of Houston Historic Preservation Office
- Virginia Environmental Justice Alliance
- Green New Deal VA Coalition
- Soulardarity
- Catalyst Miami
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
- Center for Sustainable Communities
- National Housing Trust
- Emerald Cities Collaborative
- Sierra Club
- Earth Day Network
- Healthy Building Network
- National Association of State Energy Officials
- Environmental and Energy Study Institute
- Partnership for Southern Equity
- Institute for Market Transformation
- Cancer Free Economy Network
- HBCU Green Fund
- Enterprise Community Partners
- International Living Future Institute
- U.S. Green Building Council
- Design Corps
- Material Reuse
- National Organization of Minority Architects
- Kilroy Realty Corporation
- Linnean Solutions
- The Wei LLC
- First Alliance Consulting LLC
- Elevate Energy



LOGISTICS NOTES

Below please also find logistical information for the event:

Venue:

Brock Environmental Center
3663 Marlin Bay Dr, Virginia Beach, VA 23455
Oyster Conference Room

Host Lodging:

Courtyard Marriott South
2501 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451
757-491-6222

Shuttle: We will be providing a free shuttle from the Courtyard Marriott South to the Brock Environmental Center each day of this retreat, departing at 8:30 am each morning. The shuttle will return to the hotel at 5 pm on Monday, October 28, and 3:30 pm on Tuesday, October 29.

The hotel is approximately 25 minutes away from the Norfolk International Airport. This hotel does not offer shuttle services from the airport to the hotel. Please visit this website for more information on ground transportation:

<https://www.norfolkairport.com/parking-transportation/ground-transportation>

To connect with other attendees to share a taxi to and from the airport, please coordinate using [this spreadsheet](#).

Accessible parking is available adjacent to the building. There are three handicapped parking spaces by the main entrance and one in the paver parking lot. From Marlin Bay Dr, turn left to round the sharp curve. Take an immediate right onto Chesterfield until you see the brick paver lot on your right. Drive up the paver parking area, and the ADA spaces are adjacent to the entrance of the building. Drop-offs are welcome at the ramp. NOTE: Event guests NOT PERMITTED to park in the Paver Parking Lot unless ADA spaces are full.

Non-accessible parking is available along Marlin Bay Drive, where the natural areas will be on your right and houses on the left. You may parallel park along either side of the road. Parking is allowed there daily until 11:00pm. Walk the foot path at the end of Marlin Bay Drive through the woods along the white light poles (about a 5 minute walk) to the Brock Center. If parallel parking is full, limited parking is also available in marked spaces at the Paver Parking Lot (approximately 0.1 mile away) at the corner of Chesterfield Avenue and E. Stafford Street. A five-minute walk along a path from the parking lot takes you to the Brock Environmental Center.

A/V Equipment: We will have a Projector, screen, and speakers if you want to share power point presentations and/or show video/film clips. Please notify NAACP staff in advance.

Meals: We will have breakfast and hot lunches daily at the venue, catered by Chef Jermaine Boothe of Elite Culinary Staffing.

Photo/Video Permission: We will be taking photographs and filming this event. We will have permission forms for participants/speakers to sign to allow us to use your images both for live streaming and subsequent educational uses.

Social Media: Please share quotes and favorite moments! Tag **@ECJP_NAACP** on Twitter and **@NAACP** across all platforms.

Dinner & Evening Destinations:

We recommend the following Black-owned restaurants for you to explore:

- Mango Mangeaux, open until 9 pm, 33 E Mellen St, Hampton, VA 23663
- Senses Vegan, open until 6 pm on Mondays, 3375 Killam Ave, Norfolk, VA 23508
- J&K Style Grill, open until 6 pm on Tuesdays, 6557 College Park Square #29, Virginia Beach, VA 23464
- Croaker's Spot, open until 8 pm on Tuesdays, 600 W35th St, Norfolk, VA 23508

We recommend the following African American heritage and history destinations for you to explore in the evenings:

- **The Seatack Community** is the oldest Black community in Virginia Beach. Its name was derived from the War of 1812 when the British attacked an unarmed American ship and someone called out "Sea Attack"; the community has several historic churches dating back to 1885, a community park, and an elementary school to completely integrate into Virginia Beach school system. (Birdneck Road, Virginia Beach, VA)
- **Hampton University** was founded in 1868 and one of the earliest established educational institutions for African Americans in the US. While on campus, visit the Emancipation Oak, believed to be the place where President Abraham Lincoln's famous proclamation was first read to Hampton slaves. Located in the heart of the historic campus, the Hampton University Museum is the oldest African American museum in the United States and one of the oldest museums in the state of Virginia. The collections feature over 9,000 objects including African American fine arts, traditional African, Native American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Island, and Asian art; and objects relating to the history of the University. (Museum is open until 5 pm. Admission is free.)
- **Fort Monroe** is a national monument recognized as the site of the first African landing. In late August 1619, the first ship carrying "20 and odd" enslaved Africans arrived at Point Comfort in Virginia, where Fort Monroe is today. Fort Monroe later became known as "Freedom's Fort," the refuge for thousands of runaway slaves during the Civil War. (The park grounds are open until midnight daily. Admission is free.)

Contacts: If you have any challenges/questions, please feel free to email/call:

- **Logistics:** Grace Nicholl gnicholl@naacpnet.org 407-432-6848
- **Program:** Mandy Lee slee@naacpnet.org 609-802-4285

Thank you all, once again!

Yours Sincerely,

The NAACP CESBS Initiative Team



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Deep Appreciation to All of the Speakers, Working Group Facilitators, and Retreat Participants for Contributing Your Time, Energy, Knowledge and Experience to this Mission to Center Equity in the Sustainable Buildings Sector

We Warmly Thank All Who Served as Behind the Scenes Partners in the Execution of This Initiative Launch, Including:

CESBS Leadership Advisory Group:

Sherley Spears, Rosemary Lytle, Darlene Gay-Allen, Joyce Clark, Felicia Davis, Khalil Shahyd, Jamal Lewis, Kimathi Boothe, Carmera Thomas, Raygena Smith

Energy Foundation

Emerald Cities Collaborative

Elevate Energy

JPB Foundation

Kendeda Fund

Kresge Foundation

Finally, We Thank Our Gracious Host

Brock Environmental Center & the Chesapeake Bay Foundation



**4805 Mt. Hope Drive
Baltimore, Maryland 21215**