



2021- 2023 EJ Movement Fellowship Advisory Committee



Bineshi Albert: [Climate Justice Alliance](#)

Bineshi Albert grew up in the movement and remembers her family organizing for community and Indigenous Rights throughout her upbringing. Her work over the last 30 years has primarily focused on environmental justice and Native/Indigenous rights. She has also been part of many pivotal movement building and multicultural spaces throughout her career. She joins CJA from one of our founding member organizations, the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN). She was a founding board member of IEN, served on their three person

Leadership Team alongside the Executive Director and was their Movement Building Coordinator and Co-Coordinator for Indigenous Feminisms. She is proud to have contributed to the work of It Takes Roots, the Rising Majority and international movement spaces. Bineshi supported the creation and development of both an Indigenous Feminist Organizing School and an International Feminist Organizing School. She is the proud mother of three, and recently became a grandmother. She makes her home in relocated Yuchi & Muscogee territory in Oklahoma, also known as Tulsa.



Xavier Brown: [Soilful City](#)

Xavier Brown is a native of Washington, DC and a graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He operates at the boundaries of urban agriculture, environmental sustainability, and African Diasporic culture. His work intertwines sustainability with the issues that impact stressed communities from gun violence to mass incarceration.

By studying the practices of indigenous people and going back to ancestral knowledge, Xavier is creating a new sustainability movement that is healing the people and the land by reconnecting our sacred* relationship to the earth.



Veronica Coptis: [Center for Coalfield Justice](#)

Veronica Coptis joined the CCJ staff in March 2013 as a Community Organizer and is now serving as the Executive Director. She grew up in southwestern Pennsylvania near the largest underground coal mine in the country and currently lives near the boom of fracking. Before joining the CCJ staff, Veronica served on the Board of Directors for CCJ and organized with the Mountain Watershed Association. She received a bachelor's degree in biology from West Virginia University. She is a mother of two kids which

makes the fight for a healthy world a critical focus for her. She enjoys hiking and geocaching with her husband and daughters.



Jihan Gearon: [Indigenous Feminist, Painter, Writer, Organizer, Leader](#)

Jihan Gearon is an Indigenous feminist, painter, writer, organizer, and facilitator and is a leader in Indigenous environmental justice. She is Diné and Black and comes originally from the community of Old Sawmill, Arizona, which is on the Navajo Nation. She is a graduate of Stanford University with a Bachelor of Science in Earth Systems and a focus in Energy Science and Technology. She currently serves on the board of the Groundswell Fund. Her work over the past 15 years - particularly with the Black Mesa Water Coalition, Indigenous Environmental Network, Climate Justice Alliance, and Grassroots Global

Justice Alliance - has made her a nationally recognized movement leader in environmental and climate justice, just transition, Indigenous Peoples rights, and indigenous feminism. She was named one of the "Grist 50! The 50 People You'll Be Talking About in 2016" and was awarded the NDN Changemaker Fellowship, representing the southwest region, in 2020. At the age of thirty-five, Jihan was diagnosed with endometrial cancer. As part of her journey of healing, she turned to painting, creating bold, powerful works that featured the animals, people, and other beings that protected, motivated, and transformed her during her recovery. Her paintings bring her passions in life together, showcasing feminine energy, connections with the natural world, and the future of a healthy planet.



Darryl Jordan: [East Michigan Environmental Action Council](#)

Darryl has been an organizer for more than 35 years on a variety of issues including health & wellness, hunger and food security, union and labor rights, human rights, peace, diversity/anti-racism/people of color, block club/neighborhood/community organizing, immigration and self determination. Darryl came to EMEAC in 2014 as a senior organizer to work on Just Transition issues such as water, food and land justice and community resilience.



Pam Tau Lee:

Pam Tau Lee, Asian American elder activist and organizer and retired from the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, UC Berkeley. She was a participant at the People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit in 1991 and a contributor to the Principles of Environmental Justice. She is a co-founder of the Just Transition Alliance, Asian Pacific Environmental Network, Chinese Progressive Association and a representative to the Grassroots Global Justice, Rising

Majority and current chairperson of the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines.



Jacqui Patterson: [The Chisholm Legacy Project](#)

Before leaving to find The Chisholm Legacy Project: A Resource Hub for Black Frontline Climate Justice Leadership, Jacqueline was the Senior Director of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program. Since 2007 Patterson has served as coordinator & co-founder of Women of Color United. Jacqui Patterson has worked as a researcher, program manager, coordinator, advocate and activist working on women's rights, violence against women, HIV&AIDS, racial justice, economic justice, and environmental and climate justice. Patterson served as a Senior Women's Rights Policy Analyst for ActionAid where she integrated a women's rights lens for the issues of food rights, macroeconomics, and climate change as well as the intersection of violence against women and HIV&AIDS. Previously, she served as Assistant Vice-President of HIV/AIDS Programs for IMA World Health providing management and technical assistance to medical facilities and programs in 23 countries in Africa and the Caribbean. Patterson served as the Outreach Project Associate for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Research Coordinator for Johns Hopkins University. She also served as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Jamaica, West Indies.