

## *Exploring the Intersections of Environmental Justice and Equitable Development in Infrastructure Investments*



**GROUNDWORK**  
**USA**



# WELCOME TO THE Peer Call

## *Exploring the Intersections of Environmental Justice and Equitable Development in Infrastructure Investments*

### *While you wait ...*

- In the chat box, share your organization, the native lands from which you're joining, and your preferred pronouns (if you are comfortable).

<https://native-land.ca/>

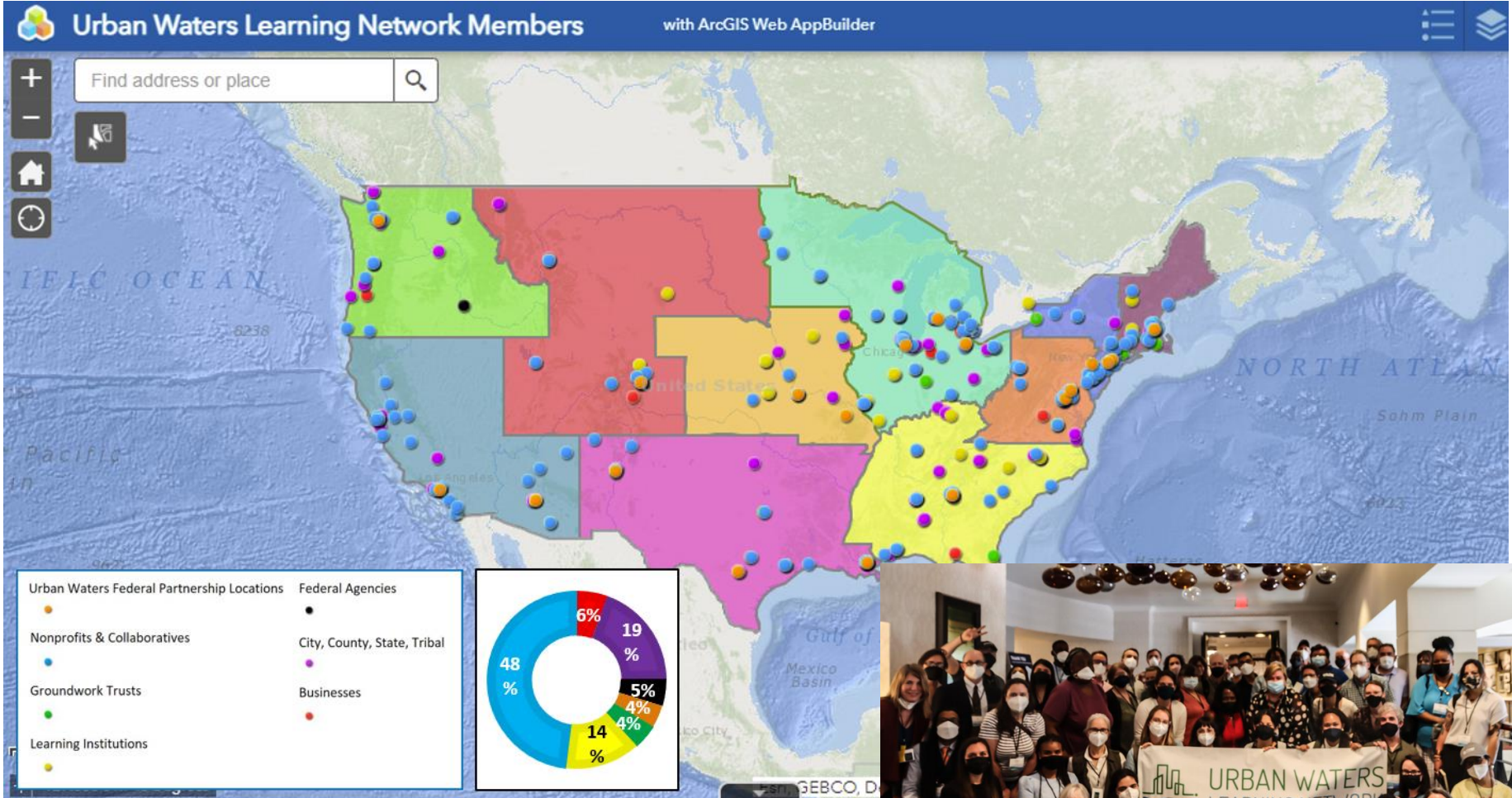
<https://www.mypronouns.org/what-and-why>

- Please use the chat box for questions.
- Please fill out the post-event survey so we can improve!

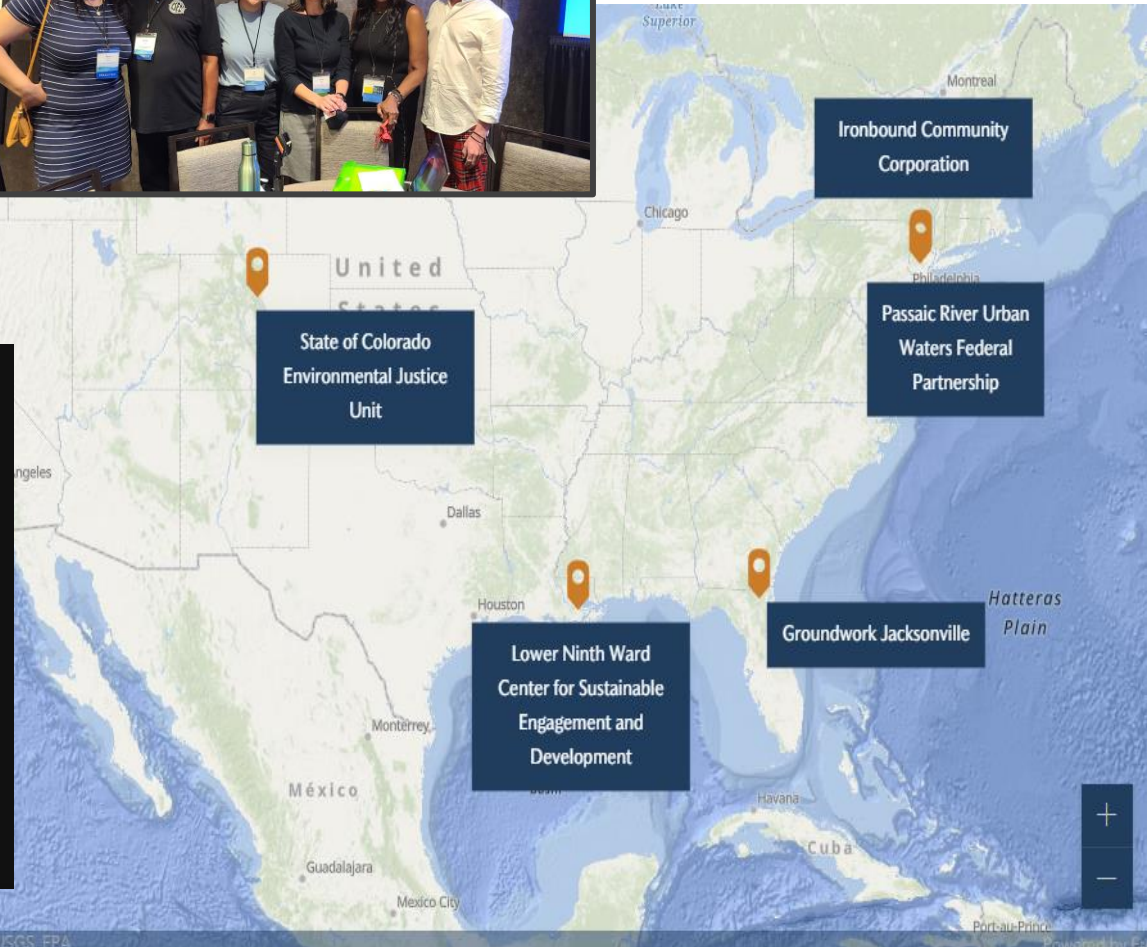
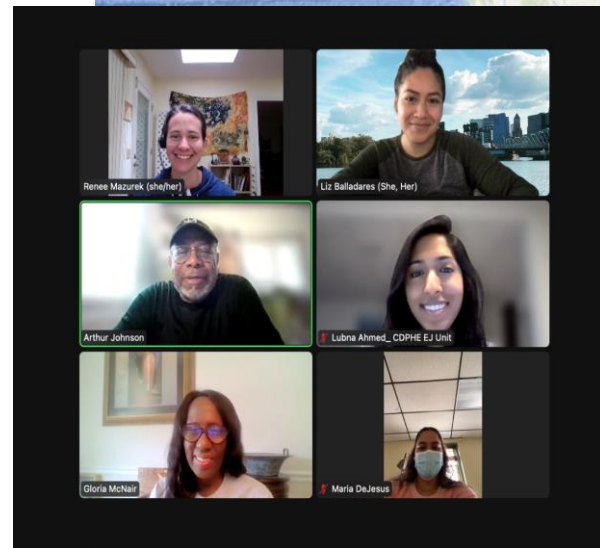
<https://www.rivernetnetwork.org/training-evaluation/>

# ABOUT The UWLN

Join our Urban Waters Learning Network  
Mobilize group: <https://community.rivernetwork.org/registrations/groups/48741>



# UWLN Equitable Development and Anti-Displacement Collaborative



# Introduction – Recorded Session

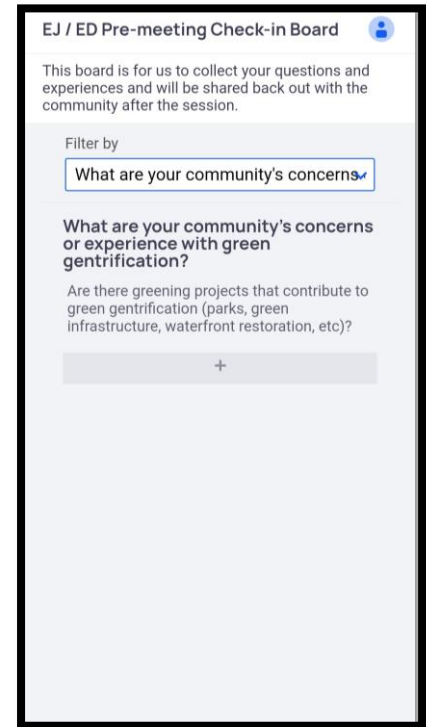
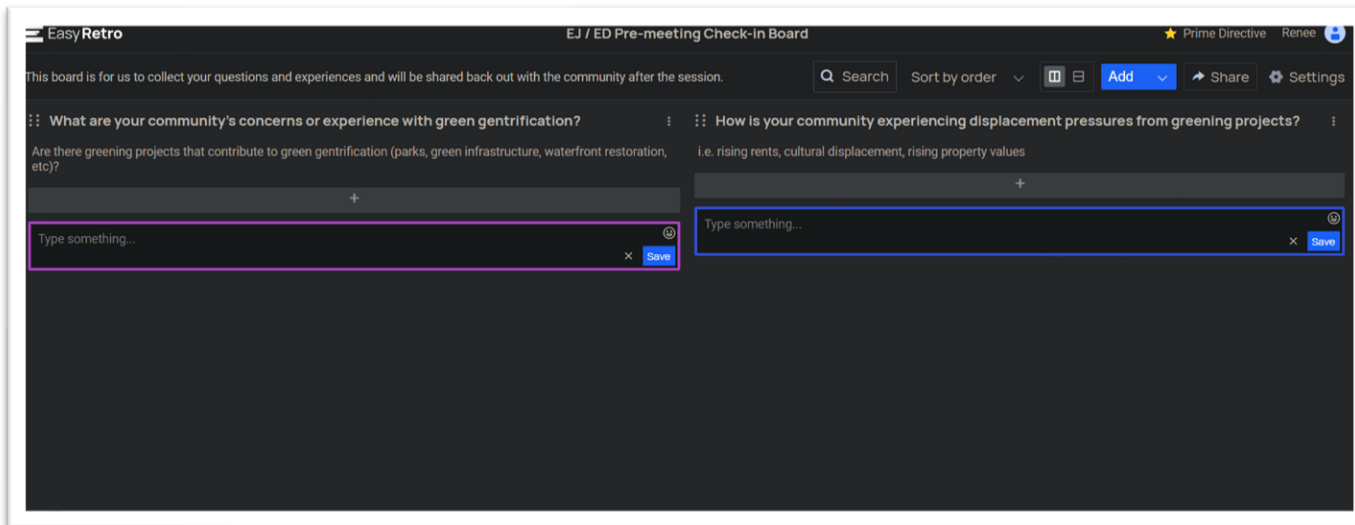
*Introduction: Exploring the Intersections of Environmental Justice and Equitable Development in Infrastructure Investments*

**GROUNDWORK USA**  
URBAN WATERS LEARNING NETWORK  
**river NETWORK**  
connecting people · saving rivers

An Introduction: Intersections of Env Justice and Equitable Dev in Infrastructure Investments

<https://youtu.be/HmcThhL00k8>

# A Couple of Questions to Get Us Started



Follow the link (will be dropped in chat) and answer a few background questions:

# Introductions – Our Panel



Cheyenne Holiday  
(she/her)  
Water Justice Coordinator  
[Verde](#)



Sonia Kikeri  
(they/she)  
Nat Dir of Policy  
and Civic Engagement  
[Emerald Cities Collaborative](#)



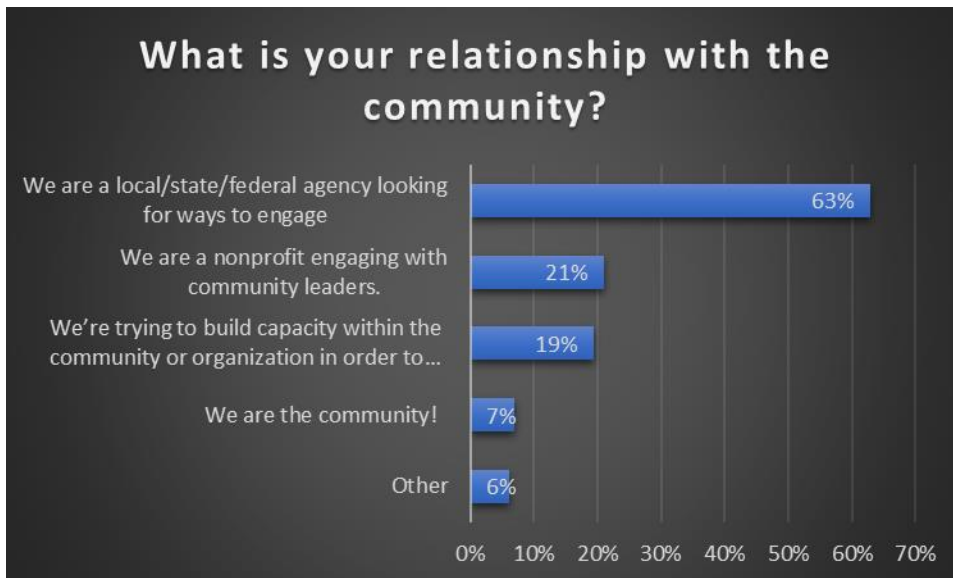
Lubna Ahmed  
(she/her/ella)  
[Env Justice Boards](#) Manager  
CDPHE

Read more about our panelists here:

<https://urbanwaterslearningnetwork.org/resources/exploring-the-intersections-between-ej-and-equitable-development-in-new-infrastructure-investments/>

# Poll: Community Relationships

- **What is your relationship with the community? (Multiple Choice)\***
  - We are the community!
  - We are a nonprofit engaging with community leaders.
  - We're trying to build capacity within the community or organization in order to engage with community
  - We are a local/state/federal agency looking for ways to engage
  - Other





# Community Engagement

Verde and the Oregon Water Futures Collaborative

# Cheyenne Holliday, she/her

Water Justice Coordinator at Verde

Member of the Oregon Water Futures Collaborative

Based in Oregon





We serves communities by building environmental wealth through social enterprise, outreach, and advocacy.

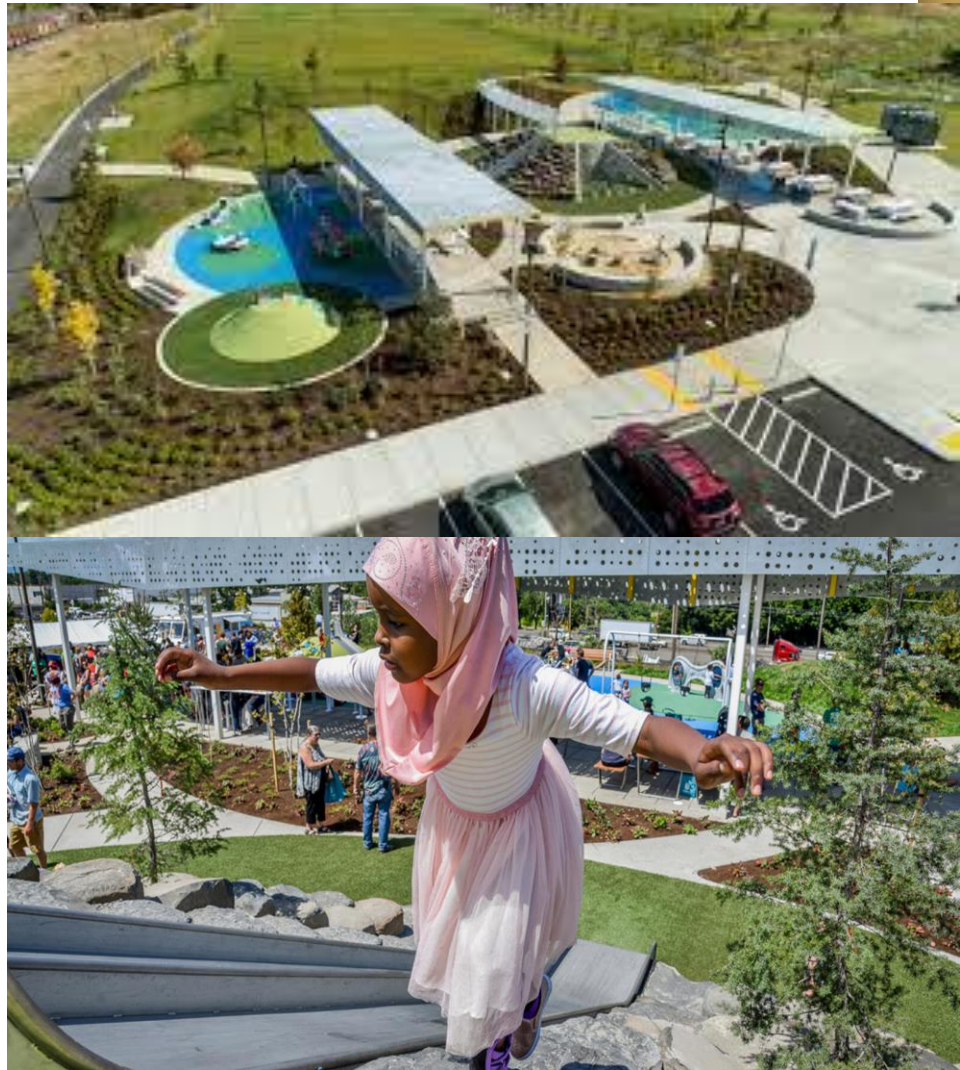
Based in Portland, Oregon

Environmental Justice work is state wide

Infrastructure projects, job training, leadership development, community building

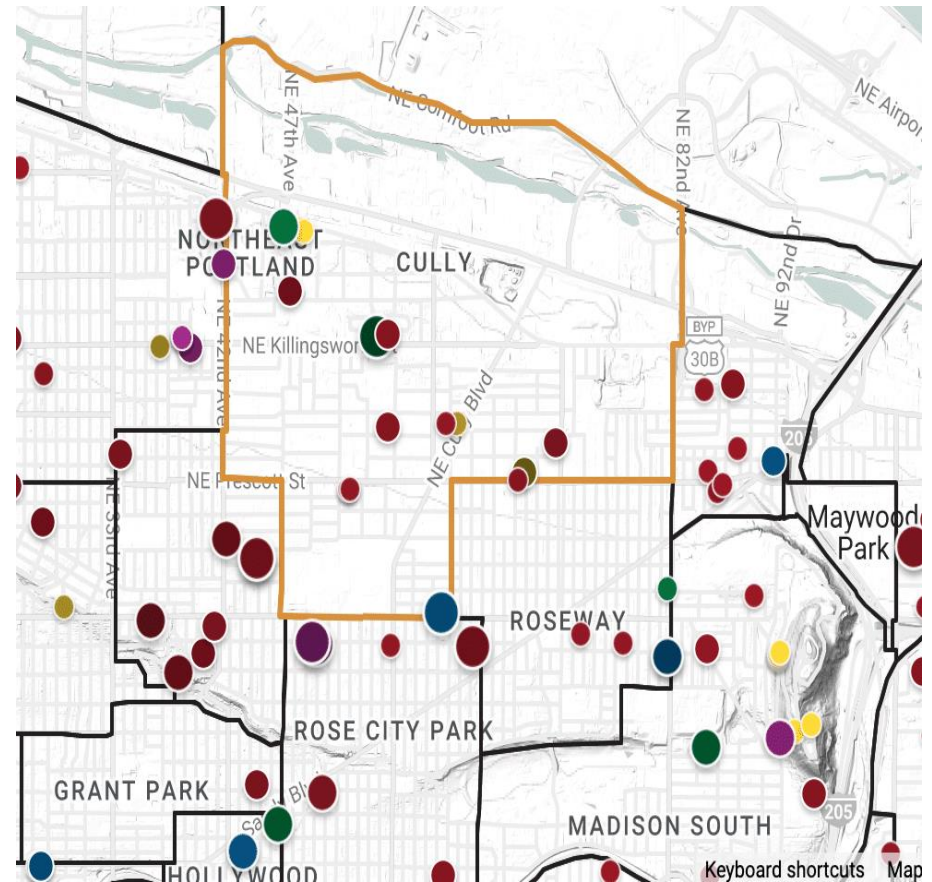
# Cully Park

- Former hazardous landfill into a new 24-acre park
- In collaboration with Habitat for Humanity Portland, Hacienda CDC, and Native American Youth & Family Center (NAYA)
- Verde Builds



# Cully TIF District

- TIF = Tax Increment Financing
- 7 community-based organizations worked together to create a Community-Driven Development District
- \$100 million fund to prevent displacement and keep Cully affordable for current residents and future generations.



# Verde + Oregon Water Futures Collaborative

Water in Oregon

Through a water justice lens, we aim to impact how the future of water in Oregon is imagined through storytelling, capacity building, relationship building, policymaking, and community-centered advocacy at the state and local level.



# Oregon Water Futures

# Oregon Water Futures Project

Illuminating what **water justice** means to Oregonians on the frontlines of our water challenges through community conversations and partnerships.

Project goals:

- Lift up voices from across the state about water and environmental justice issues
- Identify community priorities for water and culturally-specific resiliency
- Build capacity around water advocacy
- Foster a statewide water justice movement



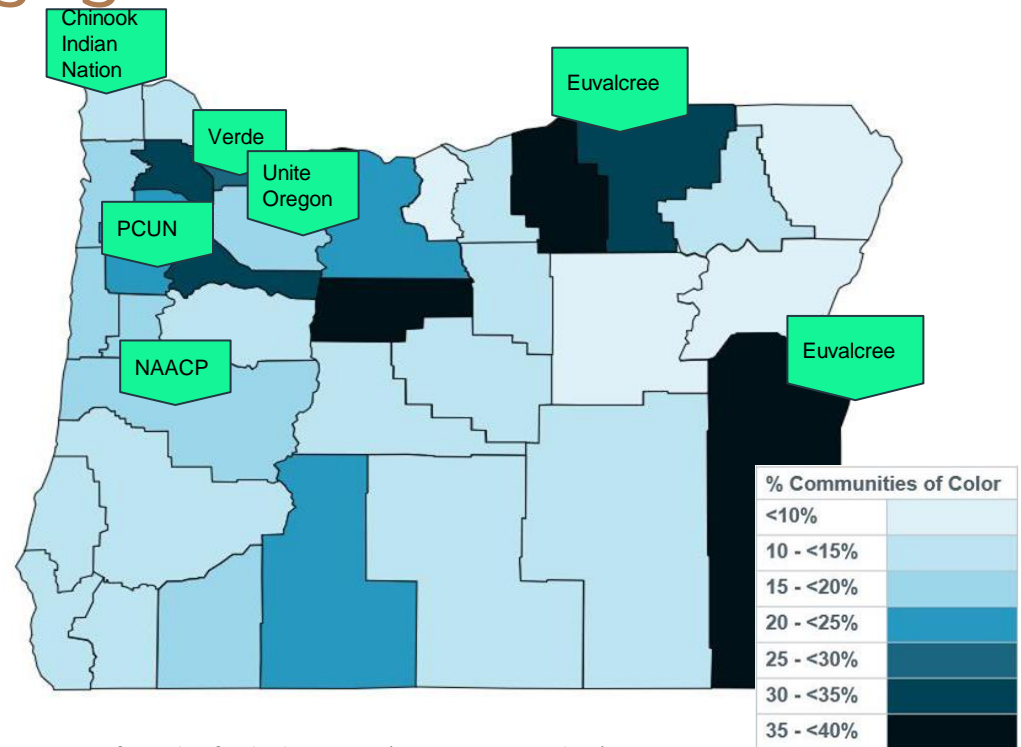


# 2020 Community Engagement

2 online gatherings  
75 phone interviews  
Multilingual

## 104 total participants:

- Native
- Latinx
- Black
- Migrant communities (Indigenous Latinx, SE Asian, Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, Arab, Somali)
- Mostly lower-income/ working class
- Many renters, some homeowners



Percentage of People of Color by County (Hispanic + non-white)  
Source: John Horvick, DHM Research, Political Director on Twitter

## What We Informed

- \$530 million water package
- \$1.5 million for equitable water access & indigenous energy resiliency
- SCR17 puts responsibility on all agencies to prioritize environmental justice



# Oregon Water Justice Framework

## OREGON WATER JUSTICE FRAMEWORK

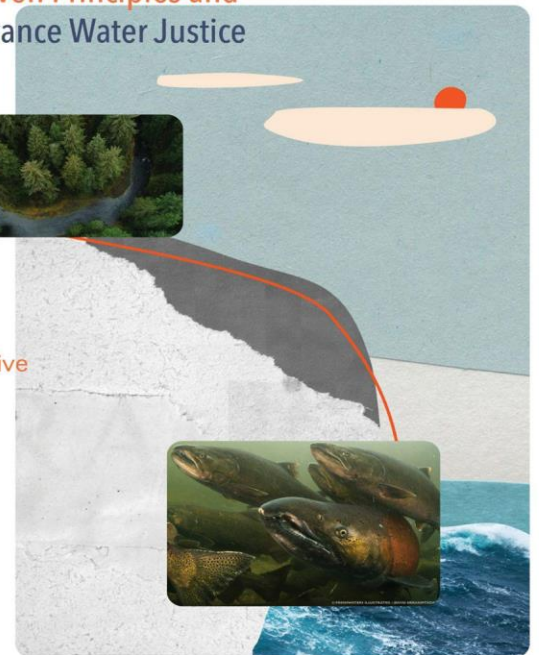
Community-Driven Principles and  
Priorities to Advance Water Justice



A project led and  
compiled by the  
Oregon Water  
Futures Collaborative



November 2022



# Six Community Driven Priorities

WATER JUSTICE ACTION AGENDA AT A GLANCE



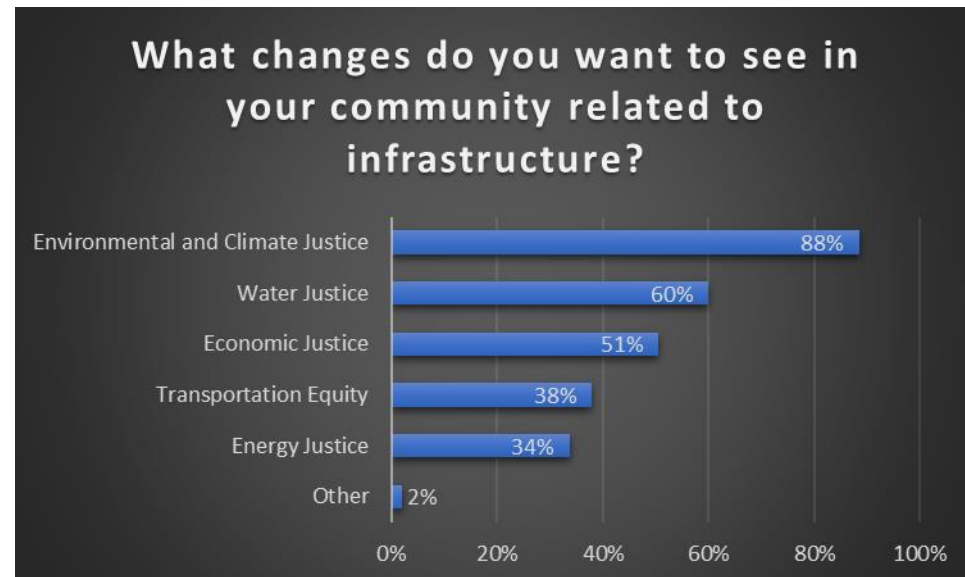
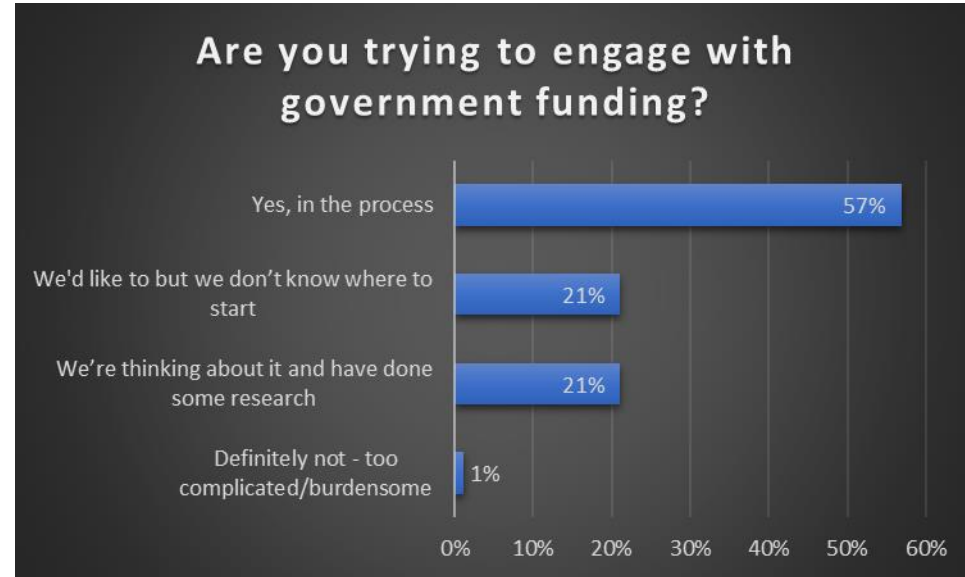
# What We Are Doing Now

- Water Justice Leadership Institute
  - March-July 2023
  - Raises awareness around water justice issues at the state, municipal, and household/individual levels
  - Develops community capacity to advocate for water justice at every level
  - Identification of project ideas for local action
- Diving in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund



# Poll: Federal Funding

- **Are you trying to engage with government funding? (Single Choice)\***
  - Yes, in the process
  - We're thinking about it and have done some research
  - We'd like to but we don't know where to start
  - Definitely not - too complicated/burdensome
  
- **What are the changes you want to see in your community related to infrastructure? (Multiple Choice)\***
  - Energy Justice
  - Water Justice
  - Economic Justice
  - Environmental and Climate Justice
  - Transportation Equity
  - Other (Please share in chat)





# Justice40, IIJA & IRA \$, and Community Benefits

Emerald Cities Collaborative  
Sonia Kikeri

December 8, 2022



**Emerald Cities**  
COLLABORATIVE  
*America empowered.*





# Who We Are

The **Emerald Cities Collaborative** is a national nonprofit coalition founded in 2009 to:

- Green our Cities
- Build our Communities
- Strengthen our Democracy

We are a Black-led organization with staff serving 10+ cities throughout the US and projects in many more. ECC is a recognized national leader in aligning the green economy with equity, diversity and inclusion.





# The Justice40 Initiative

**GOAL:** 40% of overall **BENEFITS** of certain **FEDERAL INVESTMENTS** flow toward **DISADVANTAGED** communities

- Federal Investments:
  - Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency
  - Clean Transit
  - Affordable and Sustainable Housing
  - Training and Workforce Development
  - Remediation and Reduction of Legacy Pollution
  - Development of Clean Water Infrastructure

## Justice40 Interim Implementation Guidance

- **Benefits:** include direct and indirect investments (and program outcomes) that positively impact disadvantaged communities
- **Disadvantaged Communities (DACs):** [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#)

# IIJA & IRA Funding to be aware of:

## EPA Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds

**Purpose:** Allows states to provide low-interest loans or grants to fund water projects. SRFs do fall under Justice40 guidelines and EPA has mandated that 49% of funds to go directly to disadvantaged communities.

### Overall funding;

- \$11.7B Clean Water SRF
  - \$1B for Emerging Contaminants
- \$11.7B Drinking Water SRF
  - \$4B for Emerging Contaminants

## HUD's Green and Resilient Retrofit Program

**Purpose:** Competitive grants and direct loans to affordable housing properties to improve energy or water efficiency, indoor air quality, address climate resilience, or install low/zero emission energy technologies, including energy storage.

**Overall funding;** \$1 billion and up to \$4 billion in loans over 6 years. \$43 million to fund energy and water performance assessments. Process of distribution and implementation to be determined by HUD.

# IIJA & IRA Funding to be aware of cont.:

## EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

**Purpose:** Competitive grants to establish or expand financial institutions that support GHG-reduction and zero-emission projects, with a majority of funds devoted to benefitting low-income and disadvantaged communities. Recipients will provide grants, loans, and other financial or technical assistance to close \$ gaps.

**Overall funding:** \$27 billion in grants and loans over two years, estimated to become available Spring 2023. Eligible applicants include state and local governments as well as non-profit financial institutions.

## Climate and Environmental Justice Block Grants

**Purpose:** To support community-led projects in disadvantaged communities and to help address disproportionate environmental and public health harms related to pollution and climate change.

**Overall funding:** \$3 billion for community-based nonprofits as well as tribes, local governments and institutions of higher education who are in partnership with community based organizations.



# The People's Justice40+ Community Benefits Playbook

- What is Justice 40?
- Why a Community Benefit Playbook?
- Show Me the Money: Guide to Federal Spending Bills
- The Energy Justice Playbook
- The Water Justice Playbook
- The Economic Justice Playbook
- The Environmental and Climate Justice Playbook
- The Transportation Justice Playbook
- Community Benefit Plans: From Policy to Community Impact





## What are Community Benefit Plans?

Community Benefit Plans are:

- Developed by community
- Rooted in equity principles and values
- Focused on the needs and priorities of the community

Community Benefit Plans can be used to:

- Build or deepen a coalition of community stakeholders
- Advocate for State or Federal programs or funding opportunities
- Advise project developers on community benefits

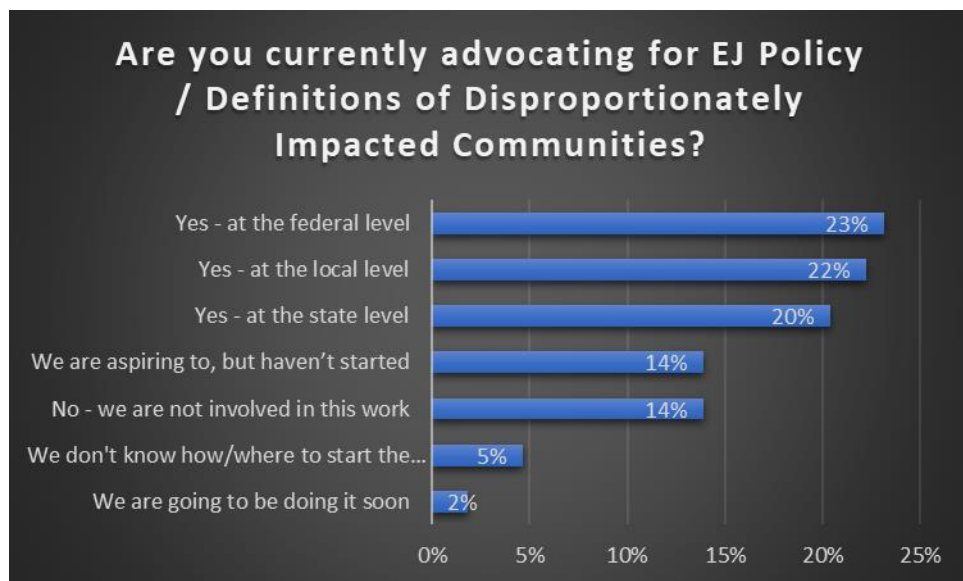
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**Email:** [eccpolicy@emeraldcities.org](mailto:eccpolicy@emeraldcities.org)  
**Website:** [www.emeraldcities.org](http://www.emeraldcities.org)



# Poll: EJ Policy / Definitions

- **Are you currently advocating for EJ Policy / Definitions of disproportionately impacted communities? (Single Choice)\***
  - Yes - at the federal level
  - Yes - at the state level
  - Yes - at the local level
  - We are going to be doing it soon
  - We are aspiring to, but haven't started
  - We don't know how/where to start the process
  - No - we are not involved in this work







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Lubna Ahmed

Colorado Environmental Justice Program

Thursday, December 8, 2022



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

# Colorado Environmental Justice Act



**DECLARES**

Environmental justice as  
a state policy for  
Colorado



**CREATES EJ  
ENTITIES**

EJ Action Task Force  
& EJ Advisory Board



**DEFINES**

Disproportionately  
Impacted Communities

# Environmental Justice Action Task Force



Arthur Ortegon



Beatriz Soto  
Committee Co-Chair



Dominique Gómez



Doug Dean



Ean Tafoya  
Task Force Co-Chair  
& Committee Chair



Gary Arnold



Hilda Nucete  
Committee Chair



Jamie Valdez



Jonathan Asher



Jordan Beezley



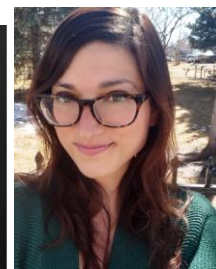
Kimberly  
Mendoza-Cooke



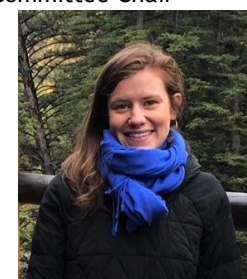
Mara Brosy-  
Wiwchar



Marsha Nelson



Meera Fickling



Elizabeth Schoder



Michael Sapp



Renée Millard-Chacon  
Committee Co-Chair



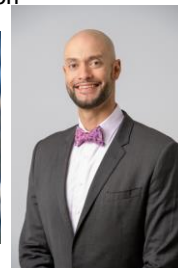
Robyn Wille



Dr. Sheila Davis



Trisha Oeth



Tyson Johnston  
Task Force Co-  
Chair

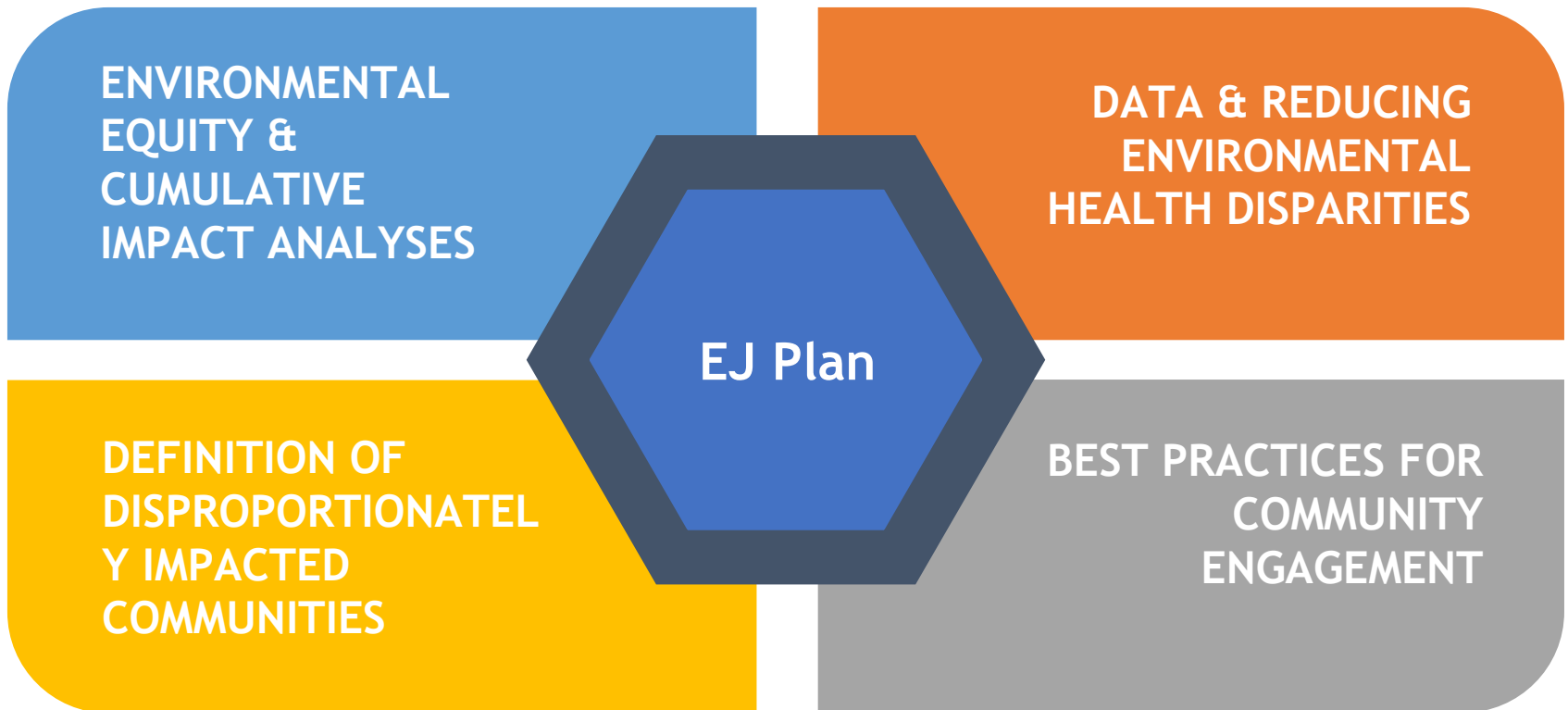


Uni Blake  
Committee  
Chair

Task-  
Developing a statewide  
EJ strategy and plan



# EJ Action Task Force Report of Recommendations



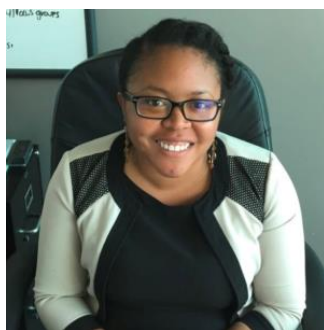
# Environmental Justice Advisory Board Members



Aaron Martinez



Bianka Emerson



Christina Yebuah



Dr. David Rojas Rueda



Jason Swann



Phuonglan Nguyen



Jonathan Skinner-  
Thompson



Jorge Figueroa



Josette Jaramillo



Darci Martinez



Steven Arauza



Lesly Fajardo-Feaux

Tasks: help advance EJ policy and oversee the new EJ Grants Program

# EJ Advisory Board

## COLORADO EJ GRANT PROGRAM

Funding for environmental mitigation projects in Disproportionately Impacted Communities

## PUBLIC COMPLAINT PROCESS

EJ public complaint process in coordination with the ombudsperson.

## EJ Advisory Board

## PROVIDE EJ GUIDANCE

Make recommendations to Governor and CDPHE ED about EJ issues

## ADVISE ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Provide CDPHE advice on best practices for engagement with disproportionately impacted communities

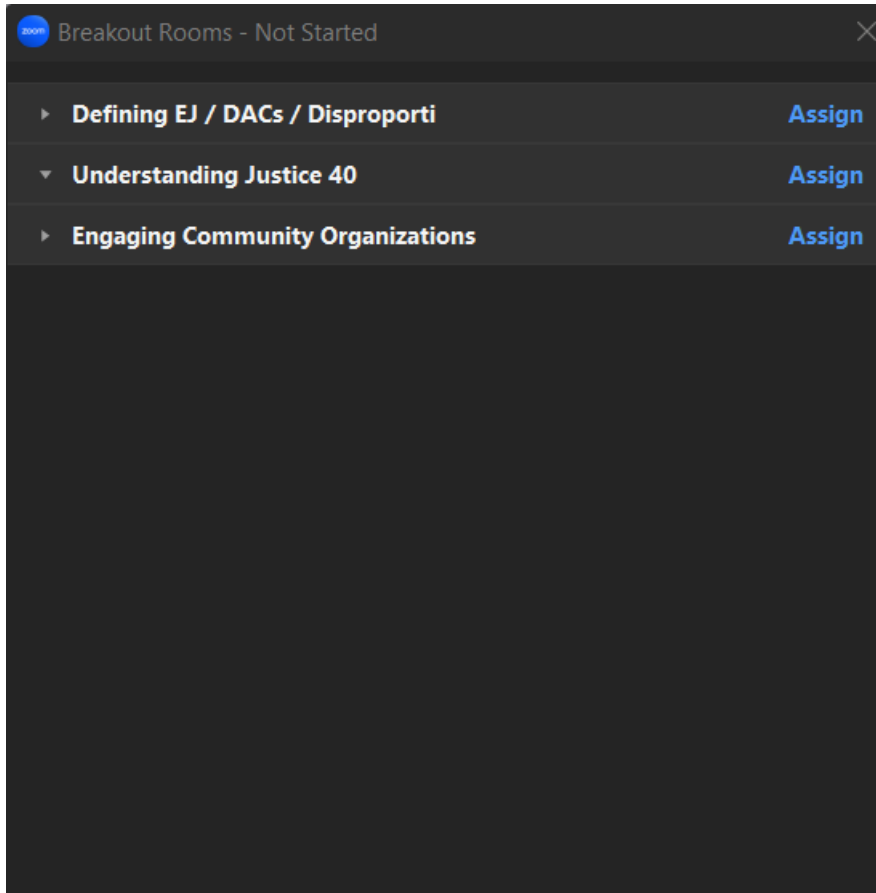
# Questions

We'll answer a few questions before heading into breakout rooms.



If you have to drop at 2 pm, please take the time to fill out our evaluation: <https://www.rivernetwork.org/training-evaluation/> and be sure to find us on Mobilize and join the UWLN for further conversation: <https://community.rivernetwork.org/registrations/groups/48741>

# Break-Out Rooms – You Choose!



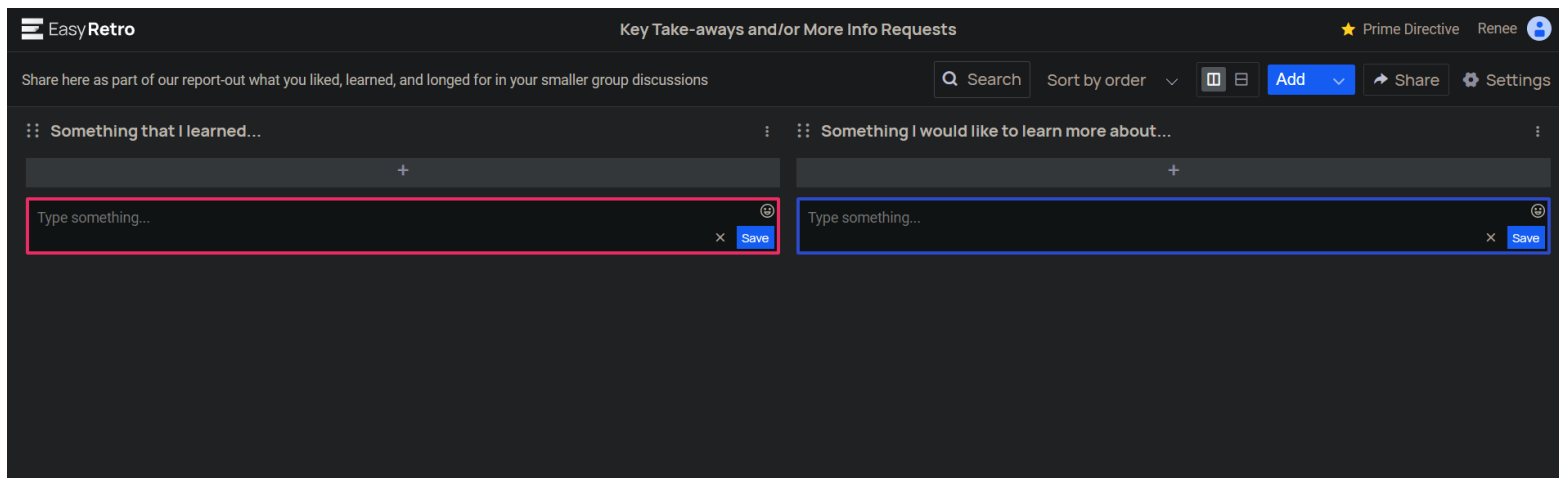
- **Defining EJ / DACs / Disproportionately Impacted Communities** (with Lubna)
- **Understanding Justice 40 / Justice 40 Playbooks** (with Sonia)
- **Engaging Community Organizations / Members** (with Cheyenne)



# Sharing

Come off mute and share and/or share in the Restrospective Board:

Learned or I would like to learn more



A wide-angle photograph of a city skyline across a river. The skyline includes several tall buildings, some with glass facades, and a bridge in the foreground. The river is blue with some rocks and a small island. A person is kayaking in the lower left. The sky is blue with some clouds.

*Thank you!*

Please fill out the post-event survey!

<https://www.rivernetwork.org/training-evaluation/>

*Join us*

<https://community.rivernetwork.org/registrations/groups/48741>