



# Retreat on Conscious Food Systems as a Pathway to Planetary Health

September 18th-21st, 2024 • The Garrison Institute, Garrison, NY



# Purpose and Overview

The purpose of this retreat was to ground our intentions, find inspiration, and exchange lessons among leaders at the intersection of food systems and planetary health.

In this retreat, we aimed to:

- Further shared respect for the land and how we can cultivate conscious food systems as a pathway to planetary health and transformation.
- Create and strengthen relationships among leaders working in food systems, climate responses, and planetary health.
- Build our collective capacity to address at a deeper level the underlying values and worldviews at the heart of current food-related social and environmental predicaments.
- Gather before Climate Week NYC and the UN Summit of the Future to transform how we mindfully step into these important occasions and to create a more compassionate world.

We engaged with facilitated dialogue, contemplative practices, conversations on inner and outer change-making efforts, inspired and inspiring speakers, and time for being outside on the land reflecting on how to apply insights to our lives and work.

***Outmoded mindsets and self-interested habits of thought drive many of today's environmental predicaments. Deep societal change and adaptation is necessary, but requires movement in dominant values and narratives at the heart of current systems. To be effective, our actions need to be grounded in different ways of thinking and being.***

Food systems are at the core of current polycrises and polyopportunities. Transformation in food systems is instrumental to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Through food, we cultivate very tangible yet sometimes far-reaching connections with the land, each other, and ourselves.

Pathways to Planetary Health and the UNDP-convened Conscious Food Systems Alliance partnered to host a retreat to explore conscious food systems as a promising pathway for planetary health and transformation.

The Pathways to Planetary Health program at the Garrison Institute develops practical, scalable approaches to addressing pressing social and environmental challenges. We recognize that the wellbeing of people and Earth are deeply interconnected and we build understanding of planetary health through scientific inquiry and contemplative practice across traditions. We apply insights to align systems with nature across four pathways: biodiversity stewardship, regenerative economies, ecological cultures, and the commons and the common good.

Convened by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), whose Nature Pledge emphasizes a global value shift, the Conscious Food Systems Alliance (CoFSA) supports people from across food and agriculture systems to cultivate the inner capacities that activate systemic change and regeneration.



# Program

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

2:00 – 5:00 PM

### Check-in and arrival

5:30 – 6:00 PM

### Welcome, orientation, opening remarks and intentions, honoring the land and wisdom residing here

Stephen Posner | Director of Pathways to Planetary Health, The Garrison Institute

Andrew Bovarnick | Global Head, Food and Agricultural Commodity Systems, UNDP

6:00 – 6:30 PM

### Guided walking meditation

Thomas Legrand | Lead Technical Advisor, Conscious Food Systems Alliance, UNDP

6:30 – 7:30 PM

### DINNER WITH REFLECTIONS ON THE GARRISON INSTITUTE FOOD SYSTEM

Shelley Boris | Garrison Institute Head Chef

7:45 – 9:00 PM

### Introductions – What brings you here?

Knellee Bisram | Founder and CEO, AHAM Education

the Yale School of Environment and Forestry, and Co-founder of Natural Resources Defense Council and World Resources Institute

9:30 – 11:00 AM

### B.Nature – An eco-affinity model for embodied action

Knellee Bisram | Founder and CEO, AHAM Education

Piero Falci | Author and Educator, South Florida Center for Mindfulness

11:00 – 11:30 AM

### BREAK

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

### Self assessment and exploration of regenerative mindsets

Luis Camargo | Founder and Executive Director, Organización para la Educación y Protección Ambiental

Hannah Gosnell | Professor, Oregon State University

12:30 – 2:00 PM

### LUNCH

Introduction to mindful eating practice

2:00 – 4:00 PM

### Bringing consciousness into our work

Gary Zukav | Author, speaker, and teacher  
Invited remarks, interactive Q&A, and sharing circles

4:00 – 4:30 PM

### BREAK

4:30 – 6:00 PM

### The role of consciousness in transforming food systems for planetary health

Conscious Food Systems Alliance, UNDP

6:00 – 7:00 PM

### DINNER

7:00 – 8:30 PM

### Evening session: Healing our world

Cynthia Jurs | Honorary Lama and Executive Director, Earth Treasure Vase

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

6:30 – 7:00 AM

### Morning practice

Optional greeting the sun, a scientific and mindful sharing circle with Stephen Posner

7:30 – 8:30 AM

### BREAKFAST

9:00 – 9:15 AM

### Qi Gong

9:15 – 9:30 AM

### Gathering and opening remarks

Gus Speth | Pathways Advisory Council member and former Administrator of UNDP, former Dean of

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

6:45 - 7:15 AM

### **Morning practice**

Optional guided meditation, movement, and ancestral session with Knellee Bisram

7:30 - 8:30 AM

### **BREAKFAST**

9:00 - 10:00 AM

### **Pathways to planetary and bioregional health in the Northeast U.S.**

Gaby Pereyra | Land Network Weaver & Program Co-Director, Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust  
Jack Algieri | Chief Agroecology Officer and Founding Farmer, Stone Barns  
Jason Angell | Farmer, Council Member on Phillipstown Town Council, and Co-Director of the Ecological Citizen's Project  
Stacey Farley | Artist and Farmer, Davoren Farm

10:00 - 11:00 AM

### **Presentation of the Conscious Food Systems Alliance**

Conscious Food Systems Alliance, UNDP

11:00 - 11:30 AM

### **BREAK**

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

### **Nature-based consciousness practice**

Christa Tinari | Director of Contemplative-Based Resilience, The Garrison Institute  
Fruzsina Molnar | Certified Forest Bathing Guide and Senior Development and Strategic Projects Manager, The Garrison Institute

12:30 - 2:00 PM

### **LUNCH**

2:00 - 3:00 PM

### **Building pathways for planetary health and transformation**

Dina Juc | Coordinator of Law and Culture, Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests  
Ernesto Mendez | Professor and Co-Director, Institute for Agroecology, University of Vermont  
Molly Anderson | William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Food Studies, Middlebury College  
Susan Prescott | Director, Nova Network for Planetary Health  
Xiaoan Li | Senior Program Officer, The Fetzer Institute

3:00 - 4:00 PM

### **Collaboration and application circles I**

How does a call to consciousness apply in our lives and work? Where are collaboration opportunities?

4:00 - 4:30 PM

### **BREAK**

4:30 - 5:30 PM

### **Collaboration and application circles II**

6:00 - 7:30 PM

### **DINNER**

7:30 PM

### **Evening session: Guided chocolate tasting and lessons from the field**

Gillian Goddard | Co-Founder, The Alliance of Rural Communities & The Cross-Atlantic Chocolate Collective

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

6:30 - 7:15 AM

### **Morning practice**

Optional morning meditation session with Piero Falci

7:30 - 8:30 AM

### **BREAKFAST**

9:00 - 10:30 AM

### **Harvesting and sowing seeds for collaboration**

Collaborations, takeaways, giveaways, and commitments for co-creating pathways forward

10:30 - 11:00 AM

### **BREAK**

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

### **Closing circle and steps forward into the emerging future**

12:30 PM

### **LUNCH**

1:30 PM

### **Close**



# Participants

Samantha Adler	8	Larisa Jacobson	21
Joseph Akure	8	Juan Carlos Jintiach	21
Jack Algieri	8	Dina Juc	22
Shannon Algieri	8	Cynthia Jurs	22
Molly Anderson	9	Nina Kantcheva	22
Jason Angell	9	Thomas Legrand	22
Lauren Baker	9	Xiaoan Li	22
Knellee Bisram	10	Jane Maland Cady	23
Balkisou Buba	10	Arty Mangan	23
Patricia Bon	10	Meghan Massaua	24
Shelley Boris	12	Kristina Mayo	24
Dana Bourland	12	V. Ernesto Méndez	24
Andrew Bovarnick	12	Dena Merriam	24
Samara Brock	12	Nika Moeini	26
Nazshonnii Brown-Almaweri	13	Lisette Montefusco	26
Luis Alberto Camargo	13	Nicole Negowetti	26
Pavel Cenkl	13	Karen Nordstrom	27
Amaya Mirentxu Carrasco-Torrentegui	13	Henry Obispo	27
María José Cespedes	14	Sara Omi	28
Jeff Conant	14	Aimee Arandia Østensen	28
Teresa Corçao	14	Gaby Pereyra	28
Dawn Denvir	16	Stephen Posner	28
Gloria Diez	16	Susan Prescott	29
Marcelo Borges Doroso	16	Soumeya Rachedi	29
Piero Falci	16	Jonathan F.P. Rose	29
Margarita Fernandez	17	Karen Spiller	30
Kathleen Finlay	17	Woody Tasch	30
Howard Fischer	17	Michael Tetreault	30
Willie Freeman	18	Jean Theron Willoughby	31
Carlos Andres Gallegos-Riofrío	18	Diana Ugalde	31
Ali Ghiorse	18	Maria Jose Valdivia Cox	31
Tiokasin Ghosthorse	20	Steve Varley	31
Gillian Goddard	20	Lucy Wallace	32
Ron Gonen	20	David Sloan Wilson	32
Hannah Gosnell	21	Lini Wollenberg	32

## Samantha Adler

### **Strategic Media and Storytelling Advisor, AHAM Education**

Samantha Adler is a storytelling strategy expert, with a background in film impact producing, program design and narrative strategy. Most recently she served as the Impact and Program Senior Manager at Exposure Labs, where she played a vital role in designing impact campaigns for original productions and building programs focused on resourcing climate storytellers and organizers to use film as a tool for action. Prior, she worked for Yale's Program for Climate Change Communication promoting research around a multifaceted approach to climate change social research, including their landmark publication "Global Warming's Six Americas." Additionally, Samantha acted as the Global Communications Manager at Girl Rising. Projects included constructing a communications strategy with the White House in relation to the First Lady's Let Girls Learn initiative. Samantha holds a B.A. in Journalism and Cinema Studies from New York University.

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## Joseph Akure

### **Program Officer – Global Grants, Vista Hermosa Foundation**

Joseph serves as a Program Officer at the Vista Hermosa Foundation, where he oversees Global Grants and fosters stronger ties with grantee partners in East Africa and India. His expertise spans food and nutrition security, sustainable development, and the grantmaking process.

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## Jack Algieri

### **Director of Agroecology, Stone Barns Center**

Jack Algieri is Director of Agroecology at Stone Barns Center. As our organization's first official employee back in 2003, he brought a critical skill set in diversified, regenerative farm practice to the Stone Barns landscape. Since then, he has built an integrated farming operation rooted in land stewardship, innovation, and community, which also serves as a training campus for young farmers, chefs, changemakers, and the public. Jack has been actively farming for more than two decades and has trained a generation of young farmers in organic

and biodynamic farming practices. He oversees the extensive farming operations at Stone Barns, integrating a holistic farm team that works together on multi-species grass-fed livestock, grains, field crops, greenhouse, fruit, flowers, wild landscapes, and compost in a four-season regenerative system. Jack leads our programming in innovative tool design, breeding and monitoring work that supports the efforts of small- and mid-size farmers, and was part of the core team that developed the Conservation Action Plan that led to our management of 350 acres of public lands in the Rockefeller State Park Preserve. He is a frequent public speaker and has appeared at food and farming conferences and summits across the country. He holds a B.S. in horticulture from the University of Rhode Island.

On the side: With his wife and fellow farmer, Shannon, Jack has two farm-raised sons. He is a lifelong musician and a commissioner of his local volunteer fire department, and has served on several boards of agricultural organizations including Johnny's Selected Seeds, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the Dutchess/Putnam/Westchester (NY) Farm Bureau.

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## Shannon Algieri

### **Farm Operations Manager, Stone Barns Center**

Shannon Algieri, one of the first employees on the farm at Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, brings over 25 years of experience in holistic farm design, crops production, garden and greenhouse management, and farm-based education.

She was introduced to an agrarian lifestyle as a young girl, frolicking in strawberry fields and peach orchards and showing goats and rabbits at local fairs. While studying at the University of Rhode Island, Shannon worked at a natural food cooperative, where she was inspired to think about food sourcing and holistic nutrition.

She has worked to promote sustainable models in the floral industry by celebrating the elegance and ecology of connecting regional grower economies with designers, and she has led training and workshops on growing and marketing cut flowers at NOFA, Stone Barns Center's Young Farmer's and Oregon State University Small Farms conferences.

She has also written articles and been interviewed for her work at the intersection of farming and health & wellness. On the side: Along with her husband and mentor Jack, Shannon sustains a passion for natural systems and is raising two teens in Westchester County.



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## Molly Anderson

**William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Food Studies,  
Middlebury College**

Molly Anderson directs the Academic Program in Food Studies at Middlebury College in Vermont and teaches about hunger and food security, fixing food systems, and sustainability. She is especially interested in multi-actor collaborations for sustainable food systems, sustainability metrics and assessment, food system resilience, human rights in the food system, and the right to food in the US and other industrialized countries. She is also interested in bridging interests and concerns of academicians, community-based activists and social movements. She is involved in food system reform and planning at the local, state and regional scales; participates in the regional Food Solutions New England network and the national Inter-Institutional Network for Food, Agriculture & Sustainability; and is a member of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food). She was a Coordinating Lead Author on the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science & Technology for Development (IAASTD) and served on the Board of the Community Food Security Coalition for 6 years. She has worked as a private consultant for domestic and international organizations, with Oxfam America, and at Tufts University, where she was the founding Director of the Agriculture, Food and Environment Graduate Program in the School of Nutrition Science & Policy and directed Tufts Institute of the Environment for 2 years. Molly earned an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Systems Ecology from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a B.S. and M.S. in natural resource management and a certificate in Latin American Studies from Colorado State University.

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## Jason Angell

**Co-Director, Ecological Citizen's Project**

Jason Angell is currently the Co-Director of the Ecological Citizen's Project (ECP), a non-profit based in the Hudson Valley, NY that works to grow citizen-led campaigns to produce a more just, healthy, democratic and sustainable way-of-life. The ECP helped establish New York's second CCA, developed the Community Congress which has engaged over 2,500 community members in participatory democracy, and developed New York's first local carbon sequestration inventory. The ECP is currently building the

Regenerative Communities program to develop community owned solar that turns profits from the sun into a living wage for new, diverse farmers that feed their communities. Jason was a Co-Founder of the Coalition of Communities of Color in the Pacific Northwest and served as the Director of the Working Families Party-aligned Center for Working Families to develop and pass Green Homes/ Green Jobs NY and Fair Share Tax Reform in NYS. He currently teaches Sociology at Bronx Community College, serves on the advisory boards of American Farmland Trust-New York and Partners for Climate Action, and is an elected councilperson on the Town of Philipstown Board. Together, Jason and his partner Jocelyn Apicello live and work on Longhaul Farm in Garrison, NY with their two young children and several farmyard animals. At Longhaul Farm, they practice sustainable living and agriculture, including running a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program for fifty families, a diversified, free-range livestock program, and making, baking, canning, pickling, cutting, cooking, growing and mending various things.

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## Lauren Baker

**Deputy Director, Global Alliance for the Future of Food**

Lauren Baker is Deputy Director of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food. A systems thinker, skilled facilitator and practical problem-solver, Lauren has worked in non-profit, government, academic, business, and philanthropic contexts. In leadership roles, Lauren supports diverse organizations and initiatives including the True Cost Accounting Accelerator, Transformational Investing in Food Systems, the Agroecology Coalition, the People's Food Institute, Agritecture, and Food Secure Canada, to address global challenges related to climate, biodiversity, food security, and equity. Previously, Lauren led the Toronto Food Policy Council, a citizen advisory group embedded within the City of Toronto's Public Health Division and was Founding Director of Sustain Ontario – the Alliance for Healthy Food and Farming. With a PhD in Environmental Studies focused on food systems and biodiversity/ biotechnology debates in Mexico, Lauren has taught at the University of Toronto and at Ryerson University. Lauren's awards include Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowships for both her Master's and PhD research, an IDRC EcoHealth award, a SSHRC Doctoral Award and Ontario Graduate Scholarship. She is a Sylff Fellow. Lauren is the author of numerous articles and publications, including *Corn meets Maize: Food Movements and Markets in Mexico* (2013), co-editor of *True Cost*

Accounting for Food: Balancing the Scale (2021), and most recently Earth to Tables Legacies, Multimedia Food Conversations Across Generations and Cultures (2023). She lives in Toronto, Canada where she enjoys canoeing and kayaking with her husband and two sons.

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## Knellee Bisram

### Founder and CEO, AHAM Education

Knellee Bisram, M.A. transitioned from her career in international relations and international consulting to dedicate her efforts to AHAM Education and partnerships that build mindful, resilient communities. Serving as Lead NGO Representative to the United Nations, she leverages regional, national and global multi-stakeholder partners to bring a nature-based, mindful approach to meeting 21st century global challenges affecting children, women, marginalized communities in education, water and climate justice, and women's well-being. A student of meditation, mindfulness and various mind-body modalities for over 35 years, Knellee is a Certified Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) instructor and Certified Center for Mind Body Medicine (CMBM) facilitator and is the co-creator of the *Be Nature* program. She has designed curricula and taught Mindfulness, Mind-Body and Emotional Intelligence to youth and disabled individuals, educators, counsellors, health practitioners, veterans, business, government, and community leaders in English and Spanish throughout the Americas. She holds a BA in languages, and a MA in International Relations and Latin American Studies.

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## Balkisou Buba

### Vice National Coordinator, REPALEAC

Balkisou Buba is from the Mbororo Fulani Pastoralist Indigenous community of Cameroon. She has been working for the protection and promotion of the rights of Indigenous Peoples for more than 12 years. She is the Founder and President of Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Development Association (IPSD-Cameroon) and the Vice National Coordinator of the Network for Indigenous Peoples and Local communities for sustainable management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa (REPALEAC Cameroon). Her areas of expertise are land rights, climate change and biodiversity conservation, women economic empowerment, youth leadership and

representation in decision making. She is one of the members of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG) of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the current chair of the IPAG.

Balky is a holder of a Bachelor's Degree in English Modern Letters from the University of Yaounde 1 and a Professional Master's Degree in International Relations, specialized in International Cooperation, Humanitarian Action and Sustainable Development from the International Relations Institute of Cameroon (IRIC). She is a 2015 Mandela Washington Fellow, trained under the civic leadership track from the University of Delaware and did her Professional Development Experience at the Phoenix Indian Center in Arizona, USA. She is equally a holder of online certificates in Conflict analysis, conflict negotiation and management and interfaith conflict resolution from the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). Her working languages are English and French.

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## Patricia Bon

### Senior Program Manager, Eco Agriculture Partners

Patricia Bon is a Senior Program Manager at EcoAgriculture Partners, where she collaboratively manages projects and programs focused on integrated landscape management, integrated landscape finance, and capacity strengthening for the 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People initiative. With a master's degree in urban planning and a concentration in Community Development, she brings extensive experience in international, multi-stakeholder environments, managing complex projects, and leading strategic initiatives.

After completing her BA in Sociology from the University of Edinburgh, Patricia worked in the food industry for eight years. Her increasing interest in sustainable food systems and community development led her to pursue her MA in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Before joining EcoAg, she coordinated the DC Master Gardener training program, developed a food access program for a state government in Brazil, and led a bilingual participatory planning project for a community garden in Chicago.

Patricia lives in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. She is passionate about sustainable food systems, social justice, and building healthy communities.



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## Shelley Boris

### Founder/Executive Chef, Fresh Company

Shelley Boris was studying painting in New York City when she took a job at the newly opened Dean & DeLuca to make ends meet. Soon enough she was manager of the cheese department and swept into the mesmeric food world of early-1980s New York, which tipped its hat to the qualities of traditional cooking while experimenting with novel approaches.

She went on to become the chef at Exile, then at Peter Dent Catering, both in Tribeca. Shelley opened the first Dean & DeLuca Espresso Bar at the Paramount in Midtown, then began working as a private caterer in the city. She has published recipes in various journals and books, including the New York Times and Food & Wine Magazine, Recipes From America's Small Farms, and co-wrote The International Mail Order Gourmet, a food guide, with friend Jamie Harrison.

Since forming Fresh Company Shelley has cooked for such personalities as the Dalai Lama and Mikhail Gorbachev. She is a founding member of the Cold Spring Farmer's Market and works in the Hudson Valley region to promote local foodmakers and farmers.

Shelley Boris is the chef at the Garrison Institute and is a partner at Fresh Company, where she is the creative director and executive chef. She is inspired by a diversity of regional cooking styles from around the world. In the kitchen, Shelley's warm, relaxed sensibility is an extension of her love of a leisurely stay at the table and her belief in the elemental value of eating and drinking well. A board member emerita of Cold Spring's Farmers' Market, Shelley has long worked to support sustainable agriculture in the Hudson Valley. She lives in Garrison with her husband and two sons.

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## Dana Bourland

### Vice President for the Environment, JPB Foundation

Dana Bourland is committed to solving our housing and climate crises in ways that advance racial, economic, and environmental justice. Over her career she has worked at the intersection of systems related to health, poverty, and the environment.

Most recently Dana led the creation of the environment program at the JPB Foundation, which is one of the largest private foundations in the US. Formerly Dana was vice

president of Green Initiatives for Enterprise Community Partners, a national affordable housing intermediary, where she developed and oversaw all aspects of the award-winning Green Communities program, including the creation of the Green Communities Criteria and Enterprise's Multifamily Retrofit Program.

Dana thrives on building great teams, setting audacious targets, and leaning into the strengths of everyone involved to get there.

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## Andrew Bovarnick

### Founder & Team Lead Conscious Food Systems Alliance

Andrew is CoFSA's Founder and Team Lead. Andrew is the UNDP Global Head of Food and Agricultural Commodity Systems practice. With degrees from Oxford University and the Fletcher School of International Relations, he is at the cutting edge of thinking on transforming food and agricultural commodity systems and nature based solutions.

He has over 25 years' expertise in changing systems through collaborative action and fostering transformative stakeholder partnerships and cooperation in food and commodity systems, to address climate, conservation and poverty.

He envisioned CoFSA during his sabbatical year in 2020. This time brought opportunities both to reflect on 20 years of progress in the development sector, and to meet a number of inspiring individuals and advocates of inner change. He became determined to create a space where the international development community could cultivate and integrate inner change into daily work and ultimately, catalyze elusive system transformation with food systems being the entry point

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## Samara Brock

### PhD Student, Yale School of the Environment

Samara Brock has worked for over fifteen years in sustainable food systems as a planner for the City of Vancouver, implementing agricultural projects in Cuba and Argentina, and as a program officer at the Tides Canada Foundation funding organizations working on complex conservation, climate change, and food system initiatives. She holds a master's in Community and Regional Planning

from the University of British Columbia, and a master's in Food Culture from the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Italy. She is currently pursuing a PhD at the Yale School of Environment where her research focuses on organizations attempting to transform the future of the global food system.

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## Nazshonnii Brown- Almaweri

### **Indigeneity Program Manager, Bioneers**

Nazshonnii Brown-Almaweri is a farmer, STEM educator, and Union College Alumna (B.S Mechanical Engineering and Studio Arts, French and Francophone Studies Minor) from West Oakland. She was a STEM tutor, media educator, and youth program assistant for the American Indian Child Resource Center. She is also connected to the Gill Tract Community Farm in Albany, an volunteer-led farm that provides food, medicine, and green spaces to the community. Nazshonnii is passionate about STEAM education and advocates for exposure and opportunities for the historically excluded people, especially Black and Native youth. As an educator, Nazshonnii has provided middle and high school youth with the space to learn about STEAM at the intersection of ancestral knowledge and their lived experiences. Creating space for Oakland youth to thrive in disciplines like engineering. Outside of work, she likes spending time with her nephews on the farm, watching endless YouTube with her partner, and cooking for her friends.

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## Luis Alberto Camargo

### **Founder & Executive Director, Organización Protección Ambiental (OpEPA)**

Luis Alberto Camargo is Founder and Executive Director of Organización para la Educación y Protección Ambiental (OpEPA - Colombia & USA), Co-Founder of The Weaving Lab, Core member of Regenerative Communities Network and Founder of Colombia Regenerativa, and Director at Thundra Outdoors. Global Change Leader, Young Global Leader (2008), Ashoka Fellow. Prior to this, he held a number of roles, including Adviser to the Vice-Minister of Environment of Colombia, Adviser to the Department of National Planning, Researcher at

Universidad de los Andes and WWF, Wilderness Medicine Instructor at the Wilderness Medicine Institute of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) as well as wilderness educator in the US. He received a BSc in Mechanical Engineering from Lehigh University and a Master's in Computer Graphics from Pratt Institute.

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## Pavel Cenkl

### **Dean of Academic Affairs, Prescott College**

Pavel Cenkl, PhD, is former Dean of Sterling College, Vermont, a researcher on ecologically minded curriculum development, and an environmental philosophy instructor. An avid endurance and adventure runner, through a project called Climate Run, Pavel has covered hundreds of miles in the Arctic and subarctic on foot in order to bring attention to the connections between our bodies and the more-than-human world in the face of a rapidly changing climate. He is author of Nature and Culture in the Northern Forest and This Vast Book of Nature. He is Head of Schumacher College and lives in Devon, UK.

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## Amaya Mirentxu Carrasco- Torrontegui

### **Gund Graduate Fellow, University of Vermont**

Amaya is a PhD candidate in the Food Systems' Graduate Program. Amaya has multiple experiences working for the government of Ecuador at national and local levels, including the Ministry of Environment and the Municipality of Quito, on areas of international cooperation, development, climate change, public policy and evaluation. Amaya has collaborated with nonprofit organizations for over a decade, working with vulnerable populations in Ecuador, India, Spain, Australia and the United States. Amaya is interested in applied, participatory and transdisciplinary research with grassroots organizations, NGOs and academia in the intersection of agroecology, climate change, food justice and urban agriculture. Amaya will be joining UVM's Agroecology and Livelihoods Collaborative (ALC) to work in the Collaborative Crop Research Program's (CCRP) Agroecology Support Project, which seeks to strengthen agroecological knowledge and capacities in Africa and South America. In collaboration with Ernesto Méndez, Taylor Ricketts, and Rachelle Gould, Carrasco hopes to focus her work on the Andes region

in South America, which includes her home country of Ecuador.

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## María José Céspedes

### Executive Director, CO\_Plataforma

María José has + 10 years of experience in impact innovation, impact investment and entrepreneurship. Before joining CO\_Plataforma she was CPO at Latimacto-Latin

American Investment Network for Impact-and Executive Director for Mexico and Central America at Ashoka. She has a Masters in Development Studies from the University of Sydney, which she completed with a scholarship from the AusAID Development Leadership Programme. She is a member of the Board of Najil Cab and CC Espumas.

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## Jeff Conant

### Senior International Forests Program Director, Friends of the Earth

Jeff Conant directs Friends of the Earth's International Forests Program, which works to halt the destruction of tropical forests and defend the rights of forest-dependent peoples. The program campaigns to reform public policy, drive change in financial markets and big agribusiness, and support frontline partners in Brazil, Indonesia, West Africa and elsewhere to address the economic drivers of land grabbing and tropical forest destruction. Prior to Friends of the Earth, Jeff was Communications Director with Global Justice Ecology Project where he advocated for climate justice at the U.N. and other global arenas. As a consultant with International Accountability Project, he co-authored a Community Action Guide to the Asian Development Bank (2013). With Hesperian Health Guides he coordinated and co-authored A Community Guide to Environmental Health (2008), a comprehensive, low-literacy educational resource published in over a dozen languages. Jeff is also author of A Poetics of Resistance: The Revolutionary Public Relations of the Zapatista Insurgency (AK Press, 2010), and translator of Wind in the Blood: Mayan Healing and Chinese Medicine (North Atlantic Books, 2000). When not campaigning, organizing or writing he may be found parenting, permaculture gardening, beekeeping, baking or biking.

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## Teresa Corção

### Founder & President, Maniva Institute

Teresa Corção is the Founder & President of Instituto Maniva ([www.institutomaniva.org](http://www.institutomaniva.org)), an organization that protects and promotes sustainable food systems, traditional knowledge in food, improvement in the life of small holder farmers in Brazil/Rio de Janeiro State and in Amazon Biome. Her main target groups include chefs, cooks and food activists. After joining the Slow Food Movement in 2001, Teresa started Projeto Mandioca in 2002 in order to teach public school children from the slums about manioc, an important Brazilian heritage food. Using history, folklore, and cooking classes, Teresa taught children how to prepare tapiocas and manioc crepes, while also simultaneously teaching them about their culture.

Teresa made a documentary in 2004 entitled The Manioc Flour Professor about a manioc producer in the Amazon. This documentary was shown in Dallas, Texas, as part of the 2005 Convention of the International Association of Culinary Professionals. She made a second documentary, Mr. Bené Goes to Italy, which was exhibited at the Slow Food on Film festival

and at the 2008 International Berlin Film Festival. As a result of the films' popularity, Teresa founded the Instituto Maniva in 2007 to protect and promote Brazilian food culture and small holder farmers through films, TV shows and cooking classes for youngsters and children.

Teresa joined several well-known chefs in Rio to found the group Ecochefs in 2007, which became the heart of Maniva. Led by Teresa, Ecochefs Maniva catalyzed changes in production within the Brazilian food chain promoting ancestral food. In 2011, the group began to work side by side with organic family agriculture farmers in the Jardim Botânico organic farmers market, which is part of the Circuito Carioca de Feiras Orgânicas, in partnership with the Associação Biológica de Agricultores Familiares do Rio de Janeiro.

A self-taught chef, Teresa graduated from Pontifícia Universidade Católica PUC- RJ in 1975 with a degree in graphic design. She fell in love with cooking during her two year stay in London, where she initially realized the strong connection between food and culture. In 2020 due to the COVID pandemic she closed the restaurant and went back to the Academic world in a master's degree in design to deepen her knowledge about the food systems communication.



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## Dawn Denvir

**Global Managing Director, Learning & Organizational Development, The Nature Conservancy**

Dawn has more than 30 years' HR /OD and Learning & Development experience, with both public and private sector international organizations. For the last 7 years, she's headed Organizational Learning & Development for The Nature Conservancy where she's built out a team and interventions that are in alignment with, and in support of, fulfilling on our organizational goals and priorities. Prior to that she spent 15 years working in the United Nations system (DPKO, and UNICEF). There she launched multiple complex multi-tiered initiatives which were delivered to more than 16,000 staff located in 168 countries around the globe.

Before the UN, she managed HR/OD programs in a variety of companies including Ogilvy PR Worldwide (a div of Ogilvy & Mather), Prudential Securities, and Citigroup. As a consultant she supported Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Thompson-Reuters and Boston Consulting Group (BCG), amongst others. A common thread across all her years has been the creation of trusting relationships with executives and senior leaders – many of whom sought her out for coaching support.

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## Gloria Diez

**Women's Movement Coordinator, Global Alliance of Territorial Communities**

Gloria, a social innovator with a background in social tech startups, brings 20 years of experience in fostering global impact through international startups.

Specializing in connecting diverse stakeholders for impactful collaborations, she founded Mater Earth. This platform champions biodiversity and climate nature-based solutions, with a particular emphasis on indigenous communities worldwide and promoting fem ale- led initiatives in climate action. Gloria's transformative journey began during her studies in Social Entrepreneurship at Said Business School, Oxford, run by Skoll Center.

Currently, she provides technical support to the Women's Movement of the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities. Her commitment lies in ensuring equitable representation and resource access for women from indigenous and local communities in global climate and biodiversity negotiations.

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## Marcelo Borges Doroso

**Programmes Coordinator, Global Alliance of Territorial Communities**

Marcelo Borges Doroso has experience working closely with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at various levels, in partnerships for mutual capacity strengthening, the definition of common agendas, the amplification of local narratives and solutions in global debates and decision-making spaces. Currently, he is the Programmes Coordinator and a member of the Executive Secretariat of the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities. Marcelo is a graduate in International Relations and holds a Master's Degree in Sociology and Anthropology with a focus on Migrations and Interethnic Relations from Université Paris Diderot. Marcelo has a passion for languages and can communicate in English, Arabic, French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. He is excited to join the retreat and explore conscious food systems as a promising pathway for planetary health and transformation.

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## Piero Falci

**Author & Mindfulness Educator**

He teaches Mindfulness Meditation and Mindful Living, the acclaimed Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) program, the Center for Mind Body Medicine (CMBM) model, and the Mindfulness in Schools Project's curriculum for teenagers. Piero is a Certified MBSR Teacher, a Certified Center for Mind-Body Medicine (CMBM) facilitator, and a Certified Mindfulness in Schools Teacher. He received his MBSR teacher training at the Center for Mindfulness in Medicine, Health Care, and Society at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and at the Mindfulness Center at Brown University School of Public Health. He is a board member of the Academy of Heart and Mind—AHAM Education—and the organization's Representative on Sustainable Development to the United Nations. Before teaching mindfulness, Piero designed and taught several human relations improvement programs in corporations, civic groups, and schools. For many years, he occupied upper management positions in the corporate world doing business internationally. Piero studied Business Administration and Urban and Regional Economics in Brazil, Economic Development and Planning in Italy, and Public Administration in Japan. He currently lives in Florida, USA.



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## Margarita Fernandez

**Executive Director, Caribbean Agroecology Institute**

Margarita Fernandez joined CAI in January 2015 after nearly 20 years working on transdisciplinary action research and the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of international cooperation projects in Cuba, Laos, Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Venezuela. She specializes in transformative agroecology and food systems, sustainable livelihoods, and climate resilience, with a focus on participatory based approaches. Margarita has worked with multistakeholder teams at the research- practice-policy nexus to link results-based evidence with action and policy change.

In 1998, Margarita made her first trip to Cuba as a volunteer in the urban agriculture movement of Havana. Building from this experience, she conducted her Master's research on the socioecological benefits of urban agriculture in Havana and New York City. While living on the island, Margarita led various sustainable agriculture research exchanges between U.S. and Cuban experts via Global Exchange, Food First and Oxfam. She also worked as a consultant to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) where she co- led the development of a national level invasive species program. She served as external evaluation consultant of an EU funded national level agroecology project.

In addition to her Cuba experience, Margarita has worked long term contracts as an urban farms community organizer in New York City (Green Guerillas), organic farm manager in upstate New York (Tierra Farm), program officer for organic agriculture and rice diversity program in Laos (Helvetas), technical reviewer for organic product certification with a focal area of Mexico, USA, and Canada (QAI), and global research consultant (Global Alliance for the Future of Food). She has also worked short-term consultancies for a wide range of groups such as Oxfam (Laos), the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT-Mexico), and the Global Plant Clinic-FUNICA (Nicaragua).

Margarita has over a dozen articles published in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, and grey literature. She holds a PhD in Agroecology from the University of Vermont, a Master's in Social Ecology from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and a Bachelor's in Biology from Tufts University.

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## Kathleen Finlay

**President, The Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming**

Kathleen is the President of the Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming and the Founder of Pleiades, a national constellation of women changemakers. An experienced non-profit leader, connector and network builder, she is particularly interested in empowering women and historically marginalized individuals to address our most pressing issues, especially humanity's relationship with the natural world. Previously, Kathleen was a Director of Harvard's Center for Health and the Global Environment, where she developed and shaped programs to educate communities about the correlation between human health and the global environment. Kathleen was recently awarded the Rachel Carson Award for Women in Conservation by the National Audubon Society, was a Visiting Scholar at the American Academy of Rome and serves on several Boards and Advisory committees including for Senator Gillibrand, NY Commissioner of Agriculture Richard Ball, Oxfam and Planet Women. She recently provided the forward for the book Kuni: A Japanese Vision and Practice for Urban-Rural Reconnection. She holds a degree in Biology from UC Santa Cruz and a Master of Science in Science Journalism from Boston University.

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## Howard Fischer

**Co-Founder, Gratitude Railroad**

Howard is co-founder and Chief Evangelist of Gratitude Railroad and serves on its Board of Stewards. He is also the founder and former Chief Executive Officer of Basso Capital Management, L.P. a hedge fund management company. Over his 30 years at the firm he led its marketing, convertible securities hedge funds and SPAC arbitrage fund. Previously,

Howard was co-head of the institutional convertible trading desk at Smith Barney. Before Smith Barney, he was a convertible trader at Drexel Burnham Lambert and at Cohen Feit & Company. Prior to his trading career, Howard was a Certified Public Accountant in both public and private practice. Howard serves on the boards of 1% For The Planet, The Carbon Underground and Garrison Institute's Compassionate Leaders in Finance program. He advises BrightEdge, the investment fund of the American

Cancer Society. Howard has served on several for profit boards including DoneGood, Builders Fund, Atlas Impact Partners and Blackdirt Capital. Howard holds a B.S.E. in Accounting and Finance from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and was a 2013 and 2014 fellow in the Advanced Leadership Initiative at Harvard University.

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## Willie Freeman

### **Program Assistant - Pathways to Planetary Health, Garrison Institute**

Willie Freeman is the Program Assistant at the Garrison Institute's Pathways to Planetary Health initiative. He uses his background in agriculture, international environmental advocacy, and science to inform his programmatic work. He is also the Youth Representative on the Environment for the Temple of Understanding at the United Nations. Willie graduated from Cornell University with a B.S. in International Agriculture and Rural Development. In the past, Willie has participated in research on agroforestry, plant-microbe interactions, plant pathology, and vulnerable food systems in areas experiencing climate crises and conflicts.

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## Carlos Andres Gallegos-Riofrío

### **Research Assistant Professor, Institute for Agroecology at the University of Vermont**

Carlos Andres works in agroecology, planetary health, and nutrition. His interdisciplinary profile combines behavioral, life and social sciences, arts, and communications. Carlos Andres has more than a decade of experience in applied and community-based research, with experiences in Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Australia, and the U.S. He has published extensively in scientific journals, and has coauthored a book, a book chapter and two social marketing manuals.

Carlos Andres co-ordinates the [Agroecology, Nature, and Health](#) research area in the UVM Institute for Agroecology and is the principal investigator (PI) of three projects framed with participative, transdisciplinary, pluralistic and justice-oriented lenses: (i) a cross-cultural learning process with BIPOC rural and urban farming communities in the U.S. to critically address issues around ethnicity, embodiment, power, and the hegemony of knowledge in

nature and health research; (ii) a pilot study on the Earth-health connection using a coherence model (i.e., life is as an interconnected whole, links between soil and plants microbiology, human gut bacteria and emotions); (iii) and a collaboration in Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia to share Andean perspectives to understand health and well-being effects of disconnecting from traditional agroecosystems and Mother Nature.

In addition, he is the Research Coordinator of the Calia Initiative – an international community-based partnership promoting sustainability projects in rural Andes. Also, a Faculty Associate at the Buder Center for American Indian Studies in Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL), advising on food sovereignty, resiliency, and sustainability. Carlos Andres collaborates with Drs. Iannotti (WUSTL, E3 Nutrition Lab) and Waters (Universidad San Francisco de Quito [USFQ]), acting as social marketing specialist for Ecuador's pilot "Mikhuna Project: Evolutionary Maternal Nutrition."

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## Ali Ghiorse

### **Founder, the Foodshed Network**

Ali Ghiorse is a bridge-builder and network weaver with over thirty years as a social and food justice advocate. A former chef, Ali sees society's most pressing issues through a food systems lens. She dedicated her career to helping advance transformation within the food system through her work as co-founder of Savory Thymes in Marin County, CA and most recently as founder of The Foodshed Network (TFN), based in Fairfield County, CT. Ali studied psychology at Mills College and the culinary arts at the Natural Gourmet Cookery School in Manhattan.

Upon moving back to Greenwich, CT after living in the Bay Area for 24 years, she noticed that the food systems sector was not contextually understood or adequately represented, and a bridge-building entity for communities was missing. She established TFN in 2020, to meet the need for stronger connectivity, to provide space for education and advocacy, and to amplify the many values based, grassroots, community led initiatives in Greenwich, Fairfield County and Connecticut.

Alongside her work for TFN, she serves on the Greenwich Sustainability Committee as the Food Systems-Sector Co-Chair, as a member of the Greenwich Community Garden Advisory Board, Waste Free Greenwich Advisory Board and as a member of the Representative Town Meeting. Statewide, Ali participates in initiatives such as Stamford Food Collaborative, Connecticut Food Justice Network, CT Farm to School Collaborative and the School Meals 4



All Coalition. Regionally and nationally: Food Solutions New England's Food System Comms Community of Practice, the North American Food System Network Production Circle and the National Right to Food Community of Practice.

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## Tiokasin Ghosthorse

**Founder, Host & Executive Producer, First Voices Radio**

Tiokasin Ghosthorse is a member of the Cheyenne River Lakota Nation of South Dakota and has a long history with Indigenous activism and advocacy. Tiokasin is the Founder, Host and Executive Producer of "First Voices Radio" (formerly "First Voices Indigenous Radio") for the last 30 years in New York City and Seattle/Olympia, Washington. In 2016, he received a Nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize from the International Institute of Peace Studies and Global Philosophy. Other recent recognitions include: Native Arts and Cultures Foundation National Fellowship in Music (2016), National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship Nominee (2017), Indigenous Music Award Nominee for Best Instrumental Album (2019) and National Native American Hall of Fame Nominee (2018, 2019). He also was recently nominated for "Nominee for the 2020 Americans for the Arts Johnson Fellowship for Artists Transforming Communities". Tiokasin is a "perfectly flawed human being."

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## Gillian Goddard

**Co-Founder, The Alliance of Rural Communities & The Cross- Atlantic Chocolate Collective**

Gillian Goddard is a systems thinker, community organizer, and chocolate maker who engages with food and agriculture as a means of instigating change. She has been gardening and farming indigenous style for over three decades.

Founder of the Alliance of Rural Communities (ARC), a non-profit where rural residents, with urban partners, create communities of intention around the principles of regenerative farming, sustainable rural livelihood creation, and circular economy. ARC started in Trinidad and Tobago in 2014 and has spread throughout the Caribbean region to Dominica, St. Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis and Guyana. In 2021, Goddard expanded her community of intention across the Atlantic Ocean, as the Founder and Convenor

of the Cross Atlantic Chocolate Collective. The Collective unites farming communities from Africa to the Caribbean, to North America to Europe. Countries include Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Jamaica, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Denmark and the United States.

By combining experiences and stories involving food and community Goddard tackles complex issues around power, decolonization, and emancipation. In 2022, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) awarded Goddard with the "Soul of Rurality" award for her work in enhancing rural communities, protecting biodiversity, and improving food security.

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## Ron Gonen

**Founder & CEO, Closed Loop Partners**

Ron is the Founder and CEO of Closed Loop Partners, a firm focused on building the circular economy. Closed Loop Partners manages capital for leading consumer goods companies, technology companies, retailers, financial institutions, family offices and endowments focused on investments that seek strong financial returns and tangible social impact.

Prior to Closed Loop Partners, Ron was the Deputy Commissioner of Sanitation, Recycling and Sustainability in New York City in the Bloomberg Administration. He oversaw the collection and processing of NYC's paper, metal, glass, plastic, textile waste, electronic waste, organics, and hazardous waste as well as public policy. In 2013, NRDC and Earth Day New York named Ron as the Public Official of the Year in New York City.

During his career, Ron has been recognized with a number of business and environmental awards including recognition as a 'Champion of the Earth' by the United Nations Environment Program which is the highest distinction for environmental protection given by the United Nations and recognizes outstanding visionaries and leaders in the fields of policy, science and entrepreneurship and the Medal of Excellence from Columbia University which recognizes alumnus under the age of 45 for excellence in scholarship, public service and professional life. The companies that he has led have been recognized as innovators in sustainable business practices. Recognitions include The Conference of Mayors – Public/Private Partnership of the Year, Technology Pioneer from the World Economic Forum and the Wall Street Journal's 1 Venture Backed Cleantech Company of The Year. Ron is the author of a number of patents in the areas of technology and environmental science.

Ron received his MBA from Columbia Business School. He returned to Columbia as an Adjunct Professor for several years. His first book, *The Waste-Free World*, was published by Penguin Random House in 2022.

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## Hannah Gosnell

**Professor, Oregon State University**

Hannah Gosnell's research focuses on transformations to sustainability, agricultural landscape change, rural sustainability, and land and water conservation from a social-ecological systems perspective. She is especially interested in how views, laws, and institutions evolve to reflect changing geographies and under what conditions they can facilitate transformation in practical, political, and personal spheres. Hannah's work reflects a belief that collaborative and interdisciplinary solutions to conservation challenges involving all affected stakeholders are likely to be more durable and equitable than ones that are top-down or purely technical. Most of her projects take place on rural, agricultural, working landscapes involving both public and private lands in the U.S. West, and they all deal with various aspects of environmental governance – the processes of decision-making involved in the control and management of the environment and natural resources.

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## Larisa Jacobson

**Climate Justice & Advocacy Co-Director, NEFOC Land Trust**

Rooted by ancestors who tended mountainside maize and millet, Larisa “Lala” Jacobson is a land and story steward sowing seeds of transformation.

As Climate Justice & Advocacy Co-Director, Lala advocates for climate stewardship supports for farmers and land stewards, fostering leadership and collaborative policy development among our members and connections with other Black and Indigenous-led land sovereignty efforts and coalitions. Lala is also a 2023-2024 Castanea Fellow.

Having begun farming over 25 years ago, with farming experience at a variety of scales in urban and rural settings, and roots in community health and youth leadership, Lala previously served as Farm Director and Co-Executive Director of Soul Fire Farm, where she incorporated many

ancestral plants and practices, coordinated 100+ member weekly Solidarity Share food deliveries, co-hosted weeklong farmers immersion programs for hundreds of BIPOC land stewards, co-developed the inaugural Braiding Seeds Fellowship, created resource guides, produced the bilingual *Liberation on Land Skillshare Video Series*, and focused on relationship with the original land stewards, the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohican Nation. A founding member of the NEFOC Network, Interim Council, and Board, Lala has worked alongside farmers in Ghana, Mexico, Haiti, and Guatemala; coordinated a school for youth on the autism spectrum; taught workshops ranging from crop planning, climate resilient farming, tractors, and soil love to uprooting racism in land-grant universities' extension systems; amplified stories shared by Black and Brown youth pushed out of high school; organized for collective land reclamation by elders and youth growing food in public housing; collaborated with disabled community leaders demanding health care change; and managed a farm outside Boston offering land and culturally relevant food for migrant and refugee communities. With children and elders at its heart, Lala's work seeks to support ancestral and other practices for caring for soil and ecosystems during the age of climate crisis, and Black and Brown people reclaiming our sacred roles as mediators between soil and sky in the collective of beings we know as Land.

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## Juan Carlos Jintiach

**Executive Secretary, Global Alliance of Territorial Communities**

Juan Carlos Jintiach Arcos, current Executive Secretary of the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (AGCT), recently nominated as a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize 2023, belongs to the Shuar people of the Ecuadorian Amazon. Partner and active member of the Interprovincial Federation of Shuar Centers of Ecuador - FICSH, member organization of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon - CONFENIAE, former coordinator of International Cooperation of the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin - COICA, Former Parliamentary Advisor to an Amazonian Indigenous Congresswoman now known as the National Assembly of Ecuador, former Coordinator of the Inter-federal Committee in resistance against extractive industries (mining and oil) that affected the territories of indigenous organizations such as: FICSH, NAE and NASHE. He studied Natural Resources Management - Environmental Control and Environmental Administration

at the University of San Francisco de Quito – Ecuador, an International Diploma from the International Center for Education and Training of Indigenous Peoples of the University of Nuuk Greenland on the theme: “Indigenous Peoples in the International System”.

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## Dina Juc

**Coordinator of Law and Culture, Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests**

Dina is Maya Poqomchi' and Q'eqchi' from Santa Cruz Verapaz, Guatemala. She stands strong and with courage to support many communities from her country which suffer violence, dispossession, discrimination, and exclusion from the state. She has two children, who are her strength to keep fighting.

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## Cynthia Jurs

**Executive Director, Earth Treasure Vase**

Cynthia Jurs, the author of *Summoned by the Earth: Becoming a Holy Vessel for Healing Our World*, received Dharmacharya transmission from Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh to become a teacher in the Order of Interbeing in 1994. In 2018, she was made an honorary lama in the Vajrayana tradition of Tibetan Buddhism in recognition of her thirty years of dedicated pilgrimage into diverse communities and ecosystems to carry out the Earth Treasure Vase Global Healing Practice. Today Cynthia is forging a new path of dharma in service to Gaia that is deeply rooted in the feminine, honoring indigenous cultures, and devoted to collective awakening. Cynthia leads meditations, retreats, courses, and pilgrimages to support the emergence of a global community of engaged and embodied sacred activists. She lives at the base of the Sangre de Cristo mountains in northern New Mexico where she is often found walking in the wilderness with her dog, or gardening with her husband. You can find her offerings at [www.GaiaMandala.net](http://www.GaiaMandala.net) and learn more about her book at: [www.SummonedbytheEarth.org](http://www.SummonedbytheEarth.org)

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## Nina Kantcheva

**Senior Policy Adviser on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) Engagement, UNDP**

As a Senior Policy Adviser on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Engagement, Nina works to determine how UN Biodiversity Lab can be useful to IPLCs and how to support them to produce their own data through enhanced capacity, tools, and technology, respecting principles of data sovereignty. This may include assessing needs related to data and capacity, and organizing and providing training related to drones, GPS, and other technology. In terms of the project, Mapping Nature for People and Planet, Nina's work is related to ensuring that IPLCs are part of the ELSA process, and that their lands and territories are considered in developing policies related to nature, climate, and sustainable development.

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## Thomas Legrand

**Lead Technical Advisor, Conscious Food Systems Alliance (UNDP)**

Thomas Legrand is CoFSA's Lead Technical Advisor. He leads the operations of the secretariat, ensuring cohesion and integration between all the different CoFSA workstreams. Holding a Ph.D. in Economics, Thomas has 20 years of experience working on sustainable land use, climate change, sustainable finance, and leadership. His inner journey began at the age of 23 through an encounter with native spirituality in Mexico. He now lives near Plum Village, the monastery of Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh in the Southwest of France, his country. He is the author of *Politics of Being. Wisdom and Science for a New Development Paradigm* (2022).

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## Xiaoan Li

**Senior Program Officer, The Fetzer Institute**

Xiaoan Li is a Senior Program Office at The Fetzer Institute. Of his many projects—which include spiritual leadership development, healing democracy, and spiritual development in the context of higher education—Xiaoan really enjoys helping build an ecosystem for the spiritual

development of children and youth. That body of work focuses on the question of how to promote the spiritual and moral development of young people in and through U.S. pre-K and K – 12 schools with the goal of better integrating the head and the heart, the mind, the body, and the soul. Prior to his work at the Institute, Xiaohan held numerous teaching and leadership positions in educational institutions in China and the United States. He received his PhD in higher education and organizational change at the University of California, Los Angeles. Xiaohan's passion towards working with young people naturally includes two of his own: David and Clare. Playing baseball with David and reading together with Clare are his favorite things to do in the world. When he has time to spare, Xiaohan plays basketball and daydreams about playing for the New York Knicks.

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## Jane Maland Cady

### **Program Director on Global Collaboration for Resilient Food Systems, Mcknight Foundation**

Jane Maland Cady is the founding director of McKnight Foundation's international program. During her tenure, she has overseen the growth and vision of McKnight's global portfolio, leading to its focus on agroecology and food systems.

Today the Global Collaboration for Resilient Food Systems (CRFS) operates established communities of practice (CoPs) in ten countries in the Andes, West Africa, and East and Southern Africa. Each CoP is comprised of locally-based teams of scientists, farmer researchers, and community leaders, as well as international consultants in agroecology, policy, research, and communications. Jane leads with systems thinking. In 2023, she and her global team began to implement a new strategy to elevate this local CoP work with the aim of influencing food systems at a global level. The CRFS is building agroecological evidence to scale up, out, and deep, fueled by collaborations with tens of thousands of smallholder farmers engaged in co-creation.

Jane is also active in international food-systems efforts with peer organizations. As the steering committee co-chair of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, which she helped launch, she continues her dedication to transforming food systems through collaborative leadership and farmer-centered strategies. Prior to joining McKnight, Jane was a private consultant in research and evaluation, community development, agriculture, fair trade, and natural and organic food value chains. She nimbly leverages that experience to advance efforts to drive change in both the public and private sectors.

Raised on a farm in the Midwest, Jane has deep roots in agriculture. She earned her masters degree and PhD at the University of Minnesota, with a focus on liberatory education and agroecology. Through work and research in Latin America, Jane developed a deep appreciation for ecological approaches, collective action, creative farmer-driven solutions, and local-regional food systems innovation.

When work isn't calling, Jane is singing with friends, playing softball, tending apple trees, and growing other fruits and vegetables on a special piece of Minnesota land that she stewards with her family.

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## Arty Mangan

### **Director of Restorative Food Systems, Bioneers**

Arty Mangan, Director of the Restorative Food Systems program, whose first experience in agriculture was as a farm worker picking peaches in West Virginia and tobacco in Ontario, has worked with farmers and agriculture since the 1970's as a partner in Live Juice, a fresh, local, organic apple juice company in Santa Cruz, CA and later with Odwalla in charge of fruit sourcing, working with farmers in the US, Mexico and Costa Rica.

He joined Bioneers in 1998 as the Project Manager for the Restorative Development Initiative, producing "Wisdom at the End of Hoe" ecological agricultural workshops, collaborated with John Mohawk and the Iroquois White Corn Project and worked with The Federation of Southern Cooperatives and African American farmers in Mississippi and Alabama.

He is a former Board president of the Ecological Farming Association, and was a member of the Santa Cruz GE Subcommittee that led to a Precautionary Moratorium on growing genetically engineered crops in Santa Cruz County. For the Dreaming New Mexico project, he conducted a series of video interviews with Indigenous and Hispano farmers and leaders in New Mexico on biocultural crops and traditional farming that were shown on community TV stations in NM.

Arty's latest work focuses on how agriculture can be a climate solution. He produced a Carbon Farming media series illustrating the power of soil carbon sequestration to remove carbon from the atmosphere. Mangan is also the Director of the Youth Leadership program.

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## Meghan Massaua

**Senior Mediator and Program Associate, The Meridian Institute**

Meghan Massaua is a Senior Mediator and Program Manager. She has been an integral contributor and leader of projects in Meridian's ocean portfolio, including advancing ocean policy, improving aquaculture and fisheries management, and supporting responsible offshore wind development. Meghan is passionate about working across perspectives and disciplines to address shared challenges by facilitating policy dialogues, designing collaborative processes, and helping uncover shared values. Meghan is leading efforts at Meridian to enhance effectiveness of collaboration through mindfulness principles and is working to enhance wellbeing in the workplace.

Highlights of her time at Meridian include bringing a group of diverse stakeholders for an experiential site visit on both indigenous and conventional forms of aquaculture in Hawai'i, and facilitating a retreat among a community of nonprofits working to create environmental and social change by enhancing wellbeing and implementing mindful principles. Meghan feels most excited when she is creating spaces for people to connect with one another authentically and learn together.

Meghan has over 15 years of experience in marine science and policy, supporting a variety of efforts to advance research, engage stakeholders, build collaboration, and develop effective strategies for positive change. Prior to joining Meridian, she advanced offshore renewable energy at the U.S. Department of Energy and supported a variety of targeted marine ecology and policy efforts in the Northeast and Pacific Northwest.

Meghan enjoys being outside as much as possible—often in, near, or on the water. Meghan works from New Hampshire; she is a graduate of Clark University with a Master's degree from the University of Washington.

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## Kristina Mayo

**Consultant, Shumei International**

Kristina has worked in the field of sustainable development since 1992, engaging with NGO's, UN agencies and philanthropic organizations. Over the last 20 years, she has focused on climate change and food systems and in collaborative advocacy work on agroecology and

regenerative food systems at the UN in New York, climate conferences, and in civil society spaces. In her work with Shumei International, Kristina served as co-lead of the Food and Agriculture Cluster of the NGO Major Group of the UN from 2018 to 2022. Her other interests include the localization movement, ecosystem restoration and nature connection.

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## V. Ernesto Méndez

**Professor of Agroecology & Environmental Studies, University of Vermont**

V. Ernesto Méndez is Professor of Agroecology and Environmental Studies at the University of Vermont's Environmental Program and Department of Plant and Soil Science, where he leads the Agroecology and Livelihoods Collaborative (ALC). His research and teaching focus on agroecology, agrifood systems, participatory action research (PAR), and transdisciplinary research approaches. At UVM he is also an active member of the Food Systems Initiative and a fellow of the Gund Institute for Environment. He has almost 20 years of experience doing research and development work with smallholder farmers in Latin America, with an emphasis on coffee farmer cooperatives. He is also working with a team of faculty and extensionists to address agricultural resilience in the face of climate change in Vermont and the U.S. Northeast. He has authored or co-authored over 40 peer-reviewed articles and chapters, as well as three edited books. Most recently, he was the lead editor of the book *Agroecology: a transdisciplinary, participatory and action-oriented approach*, published in 2016, which explores how the field of agroecology can contribute to attain more ecologically sound and socially just agrifood systems. Ernesto was born and raised in El Salvador and has worked extensively in Latin America, California and Spain.

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## Dena Merriam

**Founder, Global Peace Initiative for Women**

For over 40 years, Dena has been a student of Paramahansa Yogananda and a meditation practitioner. While on her own spiritual journey, Dena has been active in the public sphere and has worked with Shumei International to integrate spiritual messages into their work on regenerative food systems. Having founded the non-profit organization, The





Global Peace Initiative of Women in 2002, she has worked to bring spiritual voices to address global challenges. She has spoken in many forums on the need for a shift in consciousness if we are to successfully address ecological decline, economic and gender imbalance, climate instability, violence and other critical issues. She received her Master's Degree from Columbia University, has served on numerous boards and in 2014 received the Niwano Peace Prize for her international work. She is the author of the books, *My Journey Through Time - A Spiritual Memoir of Life, Death and Rebirth*, *The Untold Story of Sita*, *When the Bright Moon Rises* and *To Dance with Dakinis*.

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## Nika Moeini

### Executive Director, Youth Climate Save Canada

Nika Moeini is an influential Iranian-Canadian climate advocate, organizer, and policy analyst, with a deep commitment to environmental justice and sustainability. Her impact in the climate space is marked by her leadership as the Executive Director of Youth Climate Save Canada, where she spearheaded campaigns to push for plant-based policies and climate action among Canadian MPs. Nika's work reflects a unique intersection of climate, food systems, and environmental justice, and she has a proven ability to mobilize communities and advocate for meaningful change.

Nika's career spans diverse roles, from public speaking at the Canadian Animal Law Conference on the intersection of climate, animal welfare, and labor, to her involvement in coalitions such as the Canadian Climate Action Network and the Coalition for Healthy School Food. She attended COP28 as part of the Canadian Climate Action Network, demonstrating her dedication to participating in high-level global discussions on climate policy. As a policy analyst at Environment and Climate Change Canada, Nika worked closely with Indigenous communities, contributing to the proposed Coal Mining Effluent Regulations. Her efforts there reinforced her commitment to decolonizing environmental discourse and uplifting marginalized voices in climate advocacy.

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## Lisette Montefusco

### Director of Advisor, CO\_Capital

Lisette has more than 10 years of experience in investment banking, strategic consulting, management and operations. Prior to CO\_Capital she worked at CMR, Accenture, Banco Santander, Empresas Polar, and OBoticario. She also has experience managing and institutionalizing foundations and CSR operations. Lisette is an Economist from Northwestern University and has an MBA from NYU Stern. She is currently a Board member of Fundación CMR. Lisette has more than 10 years of experience in investment banking, strategic consulting, management and operations. Prior to CO\_Capital she worked at CMR, Accenture, Banco Santander, Empresas Polar, and OBoticario. She also has experience managing and institutionalizing foundations and CSR operations. Lisette is an Economist from Northwestern University and has an MBA from NYU Stern. She is currently a Board member of Fundación CMR.

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## Nicole Negowetti

### Visiting Lecturer, Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy

Nicole Negowetti is an advocate, attorney, educator, and scholar whose groundbreaking work focuses on the laws and policies shaping the agriculture and food system in the U.S. For nearly fifteen years, Nicole has developed, led, and implemented a broad range of federal, state, and local policy initiatives addressing the health, environmental, and economic impacts of the food system, and promoting sustainable, equitable, and healthy food and agricultural production. She has vast experience working with innovative food entrepreneurs, companies, and advocacy organizations in her current role as the Vice President of Policy & Food Systems at the Plant Based Foods Association, the first and only trade association for the plant-based foods industry in the U.S. and the Plant Based Foods Institute, a nonprofit organization that creates opportunities for plant-based food companies and U.S. farmers to increase supply network resiliency and foster a transition to sustainable agriculture. Nicole previously served as the first Policy Director of the Good Food Institute, a nonprofit organization working internationally to accelerate alternative protein innovation.

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## Karen Nordstrom

**Policy Program Co-Director for Food Solutions New England, University of New Hampshire**

Karen Nordstrom serves as the Policy Program Co-Director for Food Solutions New England (FSNE), serving as a key liaison to a cross-cutting regional policy initiative that integrates and coordinates activities, insights, strategies, and tactics across the issue areas of food, farms, forests, fisheries, and communities. This work supports the New England Food Vision, the Wildlands and Woodlands vision, and related efforts. It builds on Karen's recent work at the University of Vermont, where she serves as the evaluation director for a USDA Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates program, as an educational research affiliate with the Agroecology and Livelihoods Collaborative (ALC), and as a coordinating committee member of the UVM Contemplative Faculty Learning Community. Karen's work explores participatory and engaged approaches for systematic data collection that informs program development, with a strong commitment to transformative justice. These approaches seek to develop enhanced communication, systems improvements and organizational development. Karen's graduate studies include an MAE from California State University Monterey Bay, and a PhD from the University of Vermont (UVM). She completed her MAE in 2004 centered on curriculum and instruction with a multicultural education focus. Building on this action research project, her doctoral work examined participatory program and course development with colleagues from a range of disciplines at UVM. She completed her doctoral work in 2015 through the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, where her academic background was situated within the field of sustainability education. Her work involved applied scholarly engagement on the UVM campus and beyond. While at UVM, she also led program development processes within the residential learning community focused on sustainability, and co-designed and taught domestic and international courses focused on high impact educational practices in the fields of agroecology and food systems. She subsequently served as a course instructor for undergraduate courses focused on food systems and environment, including experiential seminars nested within Sustainability House, and as an academic advisor for students pursuing baccalaureate degrees in environmental studies and food systems.

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## Henry Obispo

**Founder, Reborn Farms**

Henry Obispo was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in the Bronx, since the age of five. As a product of the rich culture Henry's passion for his community has prompted him to dream big and pioneer businesses for the benefit of all in the Bronx and beyond.

After receiving a fully funded scholarship up to PhD, from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Henry completed his B.A. from Binghamton University, and finished his graduate studies at New York University (NYU). In pursuit of purpose and abundance, Henry traveled the world, studied abroad and later lived in Cuba where he filmed a Documentary on the commodification of Afro-Cuban Religions. Subsequently, Henry moved to Brazil and studied entrepreneurship, through a United Nations program in Rio De Janeiro. While working as a Spanish and Portuguese linguist, Henry studied to become a Certified Tea Master from The American Tea Masters Association. Henry's entrepreneurial spirit developed an idea to bring health to underrepresented communities through food, drinks and overall wellness.

Henry became a community organizer and activist in the Bronx out of the passion for creating solutions to the oppressive realities around health and wellness in his community, which is considered one of the largest food deserts and the poorest congressional district in the United States. After implementing an awarded grant from the USDA, Henry started creating solutions for the food desert realities; access to food became a focal point and an

obsession to implement programs for those social ills and creating a coalition of community organizations and local community gardens in the name of access.

Henry founded The United Business Cooperative (UBC), a business and community cooperative based in the South Bronx, the first of its kind and winner of the Thrive Competition award from the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), as the most innovative immigrant organization.

As the appointed President of the UBC, Henry also created well-known initiatives around health in the Bronx, one of them being the famed The Bronx Salad. Thus, Henry decided to build on everything he created to start a revolution around Food and Tech, launching BORN JUICE: a social-entrepreneurship venture, focused on sustainable, zero-carbon-footprint, zero-waste, hyper-local food, grown with hydroponic technology, to produce plant-based food in his beloved Bronx.

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## Sara Omi

### **Women's Representative, Global Alliance of Territorial Communities**

Sara Omi is an Emberá Lawyer and defender of Indigenous Rights. Founder of the Emberá Artisan Women Association (AMARIE-Emberá) that promotes the cultural and economic empowerment of Emberá Women through the rescue of traditional knowledge. President of the Territorial Women Leaders of the Mesoamerican Alliance of People and Forest and chosen to represent the Women in the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities. This year, for the second time in road, she has been recognized by Forbes magazine as one of the "100 most powerful women in Central America." Also recently selected as the Coordinator of Panama's Empowerment Plan for Indigenous Women.

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## Aimee Arandia Østensen

### **Professional Learning Facilitator, Shelburne Farms**

Aimee Arandia Østensen is a second generation Filipina-American educator committed to transforming the educational system towards justice and sustainability. She envisions a future in which all children have a deep sense of belonging and love for the places in which they dwell. Aimee's pathway has been a spiral of diverse experiences in learning, teaching, and being in urban, suburban, and rural spaces. She holds a B.S. in Early Childhood and Elementary Education with a minor in Anthropology from New York University and an M.Ed. in Educating for Sustainability from Antioch University New England. Aimee weaves all of these experiences into her work today as a professional learning facilitator in education for sustainability with the Shelburne Farms Institute for Sustainable Schools.

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## Gaby Pereyra

### **Land Network Weaver & Program Co-Director, NEFOC Land Trust**

Gaby Pereyra is a Venezuelan/Uruguayan transplant to NY. Her immense love for plant ancestors started at an early

age, when she began to learn anything and everything about them, especially their relationship to people in agro-ecosystems. Gaby's current responsibility as Land Network Weaver is to seed and strengthen relationships, networks, collaborations, and knowledge exchange among Black, Indigenous, and other land stewards of color. Over the past 15 years, Gaby has worked alongside farmers and land stewards from the Americas, Africa, and Europe, learning about the magical trade-off of carbon, nitrogen, and water between the soil, plants, and the sky. As a descendent of immigrant and refugee ancestors and as an immigrant herself, her commitment is to the re-connection of communities and land, under land tenure models that support human beings and non-humans beings, to create more equitable possibilities for our future ancestors.

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## Stephen Posner

### **Director of Pathways to Planetary Health, The Garrison Institute**

Stephen is responsible for the Pathways to Planetary Health initiative at the Garrison Institute. In this role, he develops strategic partnerships and practical, scalable approaches to addressing planetary health. Stephen's work integrates scientific inquiry and contemplative ways of knowing across traditions to create a more compassionate and balanced world. He has over 20 years of experience building understanding across sectors. He is a trusted advisor to policymakers and funders, and he has consulted with global companies to evaluate how they impact and depend on nature. Stephen previously worked within the Office of the VP for Research at the University of Vermont, where he launched a new university-wide research theme on Equity, Justice, and the Environment and led the publication and release of the Vermont Climate Assessment, leading to a new U.S. Federal Center of Excellence focused on measuring climate impacts. He received a B.S. in astronomy and physics and earned a Ph.D. in natural resources and economics. His work has appeared in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Environmental Science & Policy, Nature Communications, Bloomberg, The Hill, and the New York Times. A native of Baltimore, Stephen has lived in the Bay Area of California, the Hudson Valley of New York, and St. Andrews in Scotland. He now lives in the Green Mountains of Vermont.

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## Susan Prescott

### Director, Nova Network

Prof. Susan L. Prescott MD, PhD, is a pediatrician, immunologist, artist, and award-winning author, internationally recognized for her cutting-edge research into the early environmental determinants of health and disease. Her work promotes awareness of the interconnections between personal and planetary health in a way that inspires wiser, creative, integrated approaches, grounded in reciprocity, for social and ecological justice and flourishing futures.

Susan is Professor of Pediatrics at University of Western Australia in Perth where she is founding Director of The ORIGINS project, an intervention birth cohort of 10,000 families aimed at improving all aspects of long-term physical and emotional health. She is also founding Director of the Nova Network (formerly inVIVO Planetary Health), a global trans-transdisciplinary network focused on transforming health of people, places, and planet, based at the Nova Institute for Health in Baltimore, and Editor-in-Chief of Challenges journal which promotes interdisciplinary discourse. She is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the prestigious Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences. She has been awarded more than \$52 million in research grants as chief investigator and received numerous awards. She was the founding President of the DOHaD Society (Developmental Origins of Health and Disease) of Australia and New Zealand, and a previous Director of the World Allergy Organization. In addition to over 350 scientific publications, Susan is author of several books for the public—The Allergy Epidemic, The Calling, Origins: Early-life solutions to the modern health crisis and gold medal winning book The Secret Life of Your Microbiome. Her inspiration to study medicine came from her grandmother, one of the few women to study medicine in the 1930s.

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## Soumeya Rachedi

### Founder, Nxt Evolution

Soumeya is the founder and CEO of NXT EVOLUTION, a boutique advisory firm specializing in accelerating personal and business growth through ecosystem building, regenerative leadership, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). With a rich background in international law and ecosystem development, Soumeya empowers

purpose-driven leaders and organizations worldwide to unleash their highest potential and build thriving, resilient businesses in both stable and volatile environments.

A former International Arbitration Lawyer, Soumeya has lived and worked across 9 countries, lending her expertise to entrepreneurs and organizations globally. Her journey in ecosystem development began in 2016 when she co-founded Startup Altitude and Global Entrepreneurship Network Algeria. These initiatives have been instrumental in fostering entrepreneurial growth and leadership development in emerging markets, particularly across Africa and the Middle East.

As the former COO of Digital Africa, Soumeya played a pivotal role in supporting African entrepreneurs and shared her deep insights into community building and ecosystem development through speaking engagements, coaching, and consulting. Today, she leverages her sharp intuitive abilities and connector mindset to drive exponential growth for high-impact individuals and organizations. Using emergent strategy frameworks, somatic practices, and innovative collaborative principles, Soumeya assists her clients in building powerful networks and forging strategic partnerships that align with their vision and values.

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## Jonathan F.P. Rose

### Co-Founder, The Garrison Institute

Jonathan F.P. Rose's business, public policy, teaching, research, writing and not-for-profit work focuses on creating more environmentally, socially and economically resilient cities.

In 1989, Mr. Rose founded Jonathan Rose Companies LLC, a multi-disciplinary real estate development and investment firm, to address the challenges of declining ecologies and the poor distribution of opportunity through the development of green affordable and mixed-income housing. Jonathan has led the firm's vision, strategy, and growth, developing award winning new projects, investment funds and city plans that model solutions to address the issues of community development, opportunity, inequality, and the environment. The firm is one of the largest acquirers of affordable and mixed income housing in the nation.

Mr. Rose also advises global cities on planning, affordable housing, environmental, and social issues. He Chairs the Bhutan Urban and Regional Planning Global Advisory Committee.

Mr. Rose's book on how to create resilient cities, *The Well-Tempered City: What Modern Science, Ancient Civilizations and Human Nature Teach Us About the Future*

of Urban Life, was published by Harper Wave in 2016, and won the 2017 PROSE Award for Outstanding Scholarly Work by a Trade Publisher.

Mr. Rose is a Trustee of Enterprise Community Partners. He and his wife Diana Calthorpe Rose are the co-founders of the Garrison Institute, and he serves as Chair on its Board, and founded its Pathways to Planetary Health program. In recognition of this work, Mr. Rose received the Urban Land Institute's 2021 Urban Visionary Award.

Mr. Rose graduated from Yale University in 1974 with a B.A. in Psychology and Philosophy and received a Master's in Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania in 1980. He has held the Edward P. Bass Distinguished Visiting Architecture Fellowship at the Yale School of Architecture, and is currently an Executive in Residence at the Skoll Center for Social Entrepreneurship at Oxford's Saïd School of Business.

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## Karen Spiller

### **Thomas W. Haas Professor in Sustainable Food Systems, University of New Hampshire**

As the Thomas W. Haas Professor in Sustainable Food Systems at University of New Hampshire (UNH), Durham, NH, Karen's primary responsibility is to connect the community-engaged, transdisciplinary work of Food Solutions New England (FSNE), and in particular, its racial equity work, to students, faculty, and staff at UNH through lectures, workshops, and collaborative scholarship. The Haas Professorship was established to deepen the ties between UNH and the New England food system; by serving as a "Professor of Practice", Karen brings unique community and practitioner perspectives into the UNH sustainable learning community.

Karen is Principal of KAS Consulting and provides mission-based consulting with a focus on resource matching, board development, and strategic planning for health and equity-focused initiatives. She has extensive experience in working with youth, young adults, and community members in a variety of educational and training programs. Karen serves on national and regional committees and leads teams committed to creating an equitable public health and sustainable food systems with a number of organizations and initiatives including Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE). As national SOPHE Chair of Chapter Development, she managed the coordination and collaboration of SOPHE's 21 chapters across the United States for more than three years.

Involved in state-wide and regional food system work, Karen is an engaged steering committee member of the

FSNE network. She serves as Massachusetts Ambassador for its New England Food Vision linking the racial equity commitment, work and lived experiences of students; residents; organizations; and communities of color to the evolving food system work happening across the New England states. Karen serves local, state and regional organizations in various roles that include board membership of Boston Food Forest Coalition, Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts, Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group and AMIBA - American Independent Business Alliance.

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## Woody Tasch

### **Founder, Slow Money Institute**

Woody Tasch is the author of *Inquiries into the Nature of Slow Money: Investing as if Food, Farms, and Fertility Mattered* (Chelsea Green), *SOIL: Notes Towards the Theory and Practice of Nurture Capital* (Slow Money Institute), and *AHA! Fake Trillions, Real Billions, Beetcoin and the Great American Do-Over* (Slow Money Institute). Tasch is former chairman of Investors' Circle, a nonprofit angel network that has facilitated more than \$200 million of investments in over 300 early-stage, sustainability-promoting companies. As treasurer of the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation in the 1990s, he was a pioneer of mission-related investing. He was founding chairman of the Community Development Venture Capital Alliance. *Utne Reader* named him "One Of 25 Visionaries Who Are Changing Your World."

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## Michael Tetreault

### **Chief People Officer, The Nature Conservancy**

As TNC's inaugural Chief People Officer since 2015, Mike leads the team charged with ensuring our colleagues are equipped to deliver on our mission and to thrive in the organization. This team is focused on supporting a healthy organizational culture; creating a strategic and agile organization-wide approach to attracting, developing, and deploying our global workforce; and updating our human resources systems and operations to meet the needs of a growing organization. Under Mike's leadership, the People Team doubled from 60 to more than 120 staff from 2019-2022 to strategically meet TNC's expanding human resources needs.

Mike began his TNC career in 1998 as the Yampa River Program Manager in western Colorado, where he worked closely with landowners and community leaders to conserve this free-flowing tributary to the Colorado River and the surrounding watershed. In 2004, Mike became the State Director for TNC in Maine, working with a team of 40 colleagues, a dedicated board of trustees, and innumerable community partners to restore the State's rivers, expand a system of ecological reserves, protect working forests, and partner with the fishing fleet to evolve groundfish management.

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## Jean Theron Willoughby

### Co-Director, The Agrarian Trust

Jean served as a founding advisor to Agrarian Trust starting in 2014, later joined our Board of Directors, and was our first hired employee, serving as Organizational Development Director (2018-2020). She is excited to help write Agrarian Trust's next chapter while serving in a executive leadership role.

With more than a decade of experience, Jean's work focuses on advancing equity and justice in our food system through building partnerships, institutional and community organizing, and movement building. Jean is the founder of Health Equity Resources and Education and a trainer with the Racial Equity Institute. Alongside her colleagues, she has worked with 100+ nonprofit, corporate, community, municipal, and federal institutions including the NIH, CDC, and others. In collaboration with LaShauna Austria and Seeds of Change Consulting, Jean has worked with land trusts and other organizations including the Triangle Land Conservancy and the Massachusetts Food System Collaborative.

Jean's writing on race, climate, and the food system have appeared in YES! Magazine, and her poetry has appeared in Colorado Review, Minnesota Review, The Shore, and elsewhere. Her book Nature's Remedies: An Illustrated Guide to Healing Herbs was published by Chronicle Books. Raised in housing projects in and around Little Rock, Arkansas during a massive ramp up of the War on Drugs, she lived in concentrated poverty growing up and left to attend high school in Los Angeles, California. Drawing from her family's experiences as poor, landless, white sharecroppers in the rural South, after first pursuing a career in public health she found a calling in the movement to transform the food system from an exploitative, exclusive industry into a regenerative, inclusive expression of care and respect for land and community. Jean and her partner currently call north central Florida home.

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## Diana Ugalde

### Learning Lead, Healthy Food Healthy Planet

Diana started as a Programme Officer within Healthy Food Healthy Planet in September 2022. In this role she is the linchpin between the Pooled Fund and the CSO movement, serving both constituencies.

Diana is originally from Costa Rica, where she studied Human Nutrition. She later came to Europe to complete an Erasmus Master's Degree in Food Identity and a PhD in Food Sciences. During her career she has led projects engaging with different actors like consumers, producers and researchers in Costa Rica, Romania and France related to improving food environments and diets, environmental production practices and participatory approaches.

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## Maria Jose Valdivia Cox

### Vice President of Investments & Portfolio, CO\_Capital

Maria Jose Valdivia Cox is VP of Investments and Portfolio at CO\_Capital, which is based in Mexico City, Mexico. She attended Columbia Business School. She was previously an Analyst at JPMorgan's Investment Banking team and a founding member of Women in Finance Latam in Chile. She also holds a MA in Philosophy and a BA in Mathematics and Philosophy from Boston College.

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## Steve Varley

### Managing Director, Garrison Institute

Steve Varley currently serves as the Managing Director at the Garrison Institute. In this role, Steve is responsible for the comprehensive strategy and support of the Garrison Institute's efforts to apply the benefits of contemplative practice to modern problems, with a focus on the translation of individual practice to community, organizational, and systems-level problems. Steve's previous experience includes leadership roles at prominent organizations such as National Public Radio (NPR) and the University of North Carolina. His leadership at UNC resulted in record-breaking fundraising years and was defined by his orientation of service and partnership

toward the local community and the Lumbee Tribe. Steve also served as President of the UNC Pembroke Foundation, an independent organization with endowment management and fundraising responsibility, where he oversaw millions of dollars in annual grantmaking for students with financial need.

Previously, Steve served as associate dean of advancement at Yale University, completing a long term of service in health-related fundraising and global health initiatives. Prior to Yale, he was the vice president of development at Gardner-Webb University, where he spearheaded the *Higher Ground* capital campaign, the university's most successful fundraising organization in its history.

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## Lucy Wallace

### Director of Global Relationships, EIT Food

Lucy is a leader and strategist focused on food systems challenges. In her role as Director of Global Relationships at EIT Food, the world's largest food innovation community, she believes in the value of multistakeholder collaboration to drive systems change. With 20 years of experience in stakeholder engagement and strategic communications, Lucy uses a regenerative mindset to promote inclusive meaningful dialogue and drive action in order to provide solutions to global challenges. She leads the secretariat for the Food Systems Partnership which coordinates the Action on Food Hub at the UNFCCC COP, as well as being co-founder of Regen House, a space for evolutionary conversations about regenerative food systems. Lucy lives in rural southeast England with her husband, two children and elderly cat.

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## David Sloan Wilson

### President, Pro-Social World

David is an American evolutionary biologist and a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences and Anthropology at Binghamton University. He is a son of the author Sloan Wilson, and co-founder of the Evolution Institute, and cofounder of the spinoff nonprofit Prosocial World. Wilson graduated with a B.A. with high honors in 1971 from the University of Rochester. He completed his Ph.D. in 1975 at Michigan State University. Wilson then worked as a Research Fellow in the Biological Laboratories at Harvard University from 1974-1975. He held a dual

position as Research Associate in Zoology at the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of Washington from 1975 to 1976. After this he was a Senior Research Officer at the South African National Research Institute for the Mathematical Sciences from 1976 to 1977. Wilson moved back to the United States and held an Assistant Professorship in the Division of Environmental Studies at the University of California, Davis, from 1977 to 1980. He served as an Assistant and then Associate Professor at the Kellogg Biological Station and Department of Zoology of Michigan State University from 1980 to 1988. Wilson was promoted to full Professor of Biological Sciences at the State University of New York, Binghamton, in 1988. He was given a joint appointment as Professor of Anthropology in 2001 and retired in 2019.

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## Lini Wollenberg

### Research Professor at the Gund Institute for Environment University of Vermont

Lini Wollenberg works on climate change, food systems and sustainable agriculture at the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT and Gund Institute for Environment, University of Vermont. From 2009 to 2021 she led the Low-Emission Development research theme for CCAFS, the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security. Prior to that, Lini worked with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) based in Indonesia and with the Ford Foundation. She received her PhD in natural resource management from the University of California, Berkeley, USA. Her expertise is in climate change mitigation, land use, and social inclusion. She has worked primarily in Asia, especially Indonesian Borneo. Lini is currently the Project Lead: Inclusive Digital Tools to Enable Climate-Informed Agroecological Transitions.





## Acknowledgements

Thanks to the land as host, the Wappinger and Lenape peoples, the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohican Nation, and efforts to preserve Lenapehoking Heritage that honors all ancestors and considers all future generations.

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We wish to extend our deep gratitude to the Jesse and Betsy Fink Family, The Davoren Farm Family, and the Rockefeller Foundation for generously supporting this retreat. We are also grateful to anonymous donors for their kind support.

Thanks to Jonathan F.P. Rose and Diana Rose for founding the Garrison Institute with a mission to apply the skills and wisdom cultivated through contemplative practice, together with the insights emerging from science, to today's urgent social and environmental challenges, leveraging transformational change and helping build a more compassionate, resilient future.

We offer heartfelt thanks to Thomas Legrand, Luz Elena Navarro, William Freeman, and Knellee Bisram for collaborative guidance and inspiration in shaping the design of the program, and to Shelley Boris, Carmen Dandreano, and all Garrison Institute staff for offering nourishing meals and maintaining a safe, warm, and welcoming space for gatherings across traditions.



***“I used to think that the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse, and climate change. I thought with 30 years of good science we could address those problems. But I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed, and apathy... And to deal with these we need a spiritual and cultural transformation.”***

**Gus Speth, former Administrator, UN Development Programme (UNDP)**

