

WEBVTT

1 00:00:00.870 --> 00:00:02.160 <v ->Don't have slides today.</v>  
2 00:00:02.160 --> 00:00:03.570 So thank you everyone  
3 00:00:03.570 --> 00:00:05.055 for being in person,  
4 00:00:05.055 --> 00:00:08.040 thanks for those people online.  
5 00:00:08.040 --> 00:00:09.810 Today, this is my break period.  
6 00:00:09.810 --> 00:00:13.190 I'll turn to Elizabeth Yeampierre  
7 00:00:15.320 --> 00:00:18.570 as our first speaker this semester.  
8 00:00:18.570 --> 00:00:21.240 Elizabeth is an internationally recognized  
9 00:00:21.240 --> 00:00:24.573 Puerto Rican environmental and climate justice  
leader  
10 00:00:24.573 --> 00:00:27.573 of African and Indigenous ancestry,  
11 00:00:27.573 --> 00:00:29.430 born and raised in New York City.  
12 00:00:29.430 --> 00:00:31.500 So Elizabeth is a co-chair  
13 00:00:31.500 --> 00:00:34.260 of the Climate Justice Alliance,  
14 00:00:34.260 --> 00:00:37.380 a national frontline led organization  
15 00:00:37.380 --> 00:00:39.870 and executive director of UPROSE,  
16 00:00:39.870 --> 00:00:44.190 Brooklyn's oldest Latino community based or-  
ganization.  
17 00:00:44.190 --> 00:00:49.190 And Elizabeth was the first Latina chair of the  
US EPA,  
18 00:00:49.260 --> 00:00:53.130 National Environmental Justice Advisory Coun-  
cil.  
19 00:00:53.130 --> 00:00:55.860 And opening speaker for the first White House  
council  
20 00:00:55.860 --> 00:00:57.273 on the Environment Quality Forum,  
21 00:00:57.273 --> 00:01:01.500 Environment Justice in the Obama adminis-  
tration.  
22 00:01:01.500 --> 00:01:03.720 And she has been in pictured in many of the  
news,  
23 00:01:03.720 --> 00:01:05.220 and received awards.  
24 00:01:05.220 --> 00:01:08.414 For example, the New York Times pictured her  
25 00:01:08.414 --> 00:01:11.397 as originally paving the path to climate justice.

26 00:01:11.397 --> 00:01:13.501 She was also named by Politico  
 27 00:01:13.501 --> 00:01:18.501 as the 100 most influential people in climate  
 policy.  
 28 00:01:19.140 --> 00:01:20.730 Also featured, involved  
 29 00:01:20.730 --> 00:01:23.370 as one of the certain climate warriors  
 30 00:01:23.370 --> 00:01:24.203 in the world.  
 31 00:01:24.203 --> 00:01:27.063 Now all across list of the features of rising,  
 32 00:01:27.990 --> 00:01:31.380 so many others.  
 33 00:01:31.380 --> 00:01:36.017 So it's our great to welcome Elizabeth  
 34 00:01:36.017 --> 00:01:38.400 to give the talk on climate justice.  
 35 00:01:38.400 --> 00:01:41.490 Online solutions in a midst of disruptions.  
 36 00:01:41.490 --> 00:01:42.600 So without further me,  
 37 00:01:42.600 --> 00:01:44.305 Elizabeth, present.  
 38 00:01:44.305 --> 00:01:47.352 <v ->Thank you.</v>  
 39 00:01:47.352 --> 00:01:50.103 My God, those bios are always so uncomfort-  
 able,  
 40 00:01:51.330 --> 00:01:53.250 because then it's like so much pressure.  
 41 00:01:53.250 --> 00:01:54.960 Because everything that we do comes out  
 42 00:01:54.960 --> 00:01:56.374 of the work of the collective.  
 43 00:01:56.374 --> 00:01:58.170 You know, we're a movement group.  
 44 00:01:58.170 --> 00:01:59.730 And so every accomplishment,  
 45 00:01:59.730 --> 00:02:02.040 everything from transforming the landscape  
 46 00:02:02.040 --> 00:02:05.910 to tapping legislation comes from being in deep  
 consultation  
 47 00:02:05.910 --> 00:02:08.970 with each other in community and across the  
 country.  
 48 00:02:08.970 --> 00:02:12.974 So everybody, thank you so much for having  
 me here today.  
 49 00:02:12.974 --> 00:02:15.450 I was asked to talk about public health  
 50 00:02:15.450 --> 00:02:17.730 and to talk about frontline responses  
 51 00:02:17.730 --> 00:02:19.470 to where we are right now.  
 52 00:02:19.470 --> 00:02:24.210 And when I was getting ready for this conver-  
 sation,

53 00:02:24.210 --> 00:02:27.057 it was really hard to determine how to approach this.

54 00:02:27.057 --> 00:02:30.390 And so really, that's why I put on my glasses,

55 00:02:30.390 --> 00:02:32.790 so I can see your faces, so I can feel your energy,

56 00:02:32.790 --> 00:02:34.500 so I can understand your vibe

57 00:02:34.500 --> 00:02:35.730 in terms of where you are

58 00:02:35.730 --> 00:02:39.090 in your political orientation of understanding.

59 00:02:39.090 --> 00:02:40.590 Where we are in this moment

60 00:02:40.590 --> 00:02:43.080 when it comes to climate change and racial justice,

61 00:02:43.080 --> 00:02:45.810 or the lack there of this country.

62 00:02:45.810 --> 00:02:48.480 And we are in a very, very bad place,

63 00:02:48.480 --> 00:02:50.170 because today, the Supreme Court in the United States

64 00:02:50.170 --> 00:02:53.130 overturned the so-called Chevron doctrine

65 00:02:53.130 --> 00:02:55.680 in a six to three ruling.

66 00:02:55.680 --> 00:02:59.340 It is again demonstrating its allegiance to big business,

67 00:02:59.340 --> 00:03:01.737 polluters, rather than the frontline.

68 00:03:01.737 --> 00:03:03.510 The ruling reverses one of the most

69 00:03:03.510 --> 00:03:05.010 important judicial precedents

70 00:03:05.010 --> 00:03:06.990 that have guided federal regulation

71 00:03:06.990 --> 00:03:08.760 for the past 40 years,

72 00:03:08.760 --> 00:03:10.530 that enabled government agencies'

73 00:03:10.530 --> 00:03:12.570 interpretation of a law and statute

74 00:03:12.570 --> 00:03:14.100 to stand when reasonable.

75 00:03:14.100 --> 00:03:15.960 This ruling will make it even easier

76 00:03:15.960 --> 00:03:18.810 for polluting industries to use the courts

77 00:03:18.810 --> 00:03:22.320 to block new pollution regulations from going into effect.

78 00:03:22.320 --> 00:03:25.650 It also opens up thousands of judicial decisions,

79 00:03:25.650 --> 00:03:28.890 sustaining government agencies' rulemaking,

80 00:03:28.890 --> 00:03:30.510 like the EPA, for example,  
81 00:03:30.510 --> 00:03:33.930 or adjudication as reasonable to now be chal-  
lenged.  
82 00:03:33.930 --> 00:03:36.270 For me, these are incremental acts  
83 00:03:36.270 --> 00:03:38.130 of violence against our survival.  
84 00:03:38.130 --> 00:03:39.300 That's how I feel.  
85 00:03:39.300 --> 00:03:42.060 And people think that that's rhetoric.  
86 00:03:42.060 --> 00:03:43.620 So I wanna talk to you a little bit,  
87 00:03:43.620 --> 00:03:45.510 because this is a university setting,  
88 00:03:45.510 --> 00:03:46.590 and you are students,  
89 00:03:46.590 --> 00:03:48.290 about where we're right now.  
90 00:03:48.290 --> 00:03:49.950 At this moment,  
91 00:03:49.950 --> 00:03:53.790 we are seeing a lot of money on the table.  
92 00:03:53.790 --> 00:03:56.790 The IRA money, money from Bezos, from Gates  
Fund.  
93 00:03:56.790 --> 00:03:59.820 There is tons and tons of money on the table,  
94 00:03:59.820 --> 00:04:02.820 some of that money supposedly for frontline  
communities,  
95 00:04:02.820 --> 00:04:04.590 for the infrastructure projects  
96 00:04:04.590 --> 00:04:06.300 and the work that we have  
97 00:04:06.300 --> 00:04:08.970 that will literally get us to adjust transition.  
98 00:04:08.970 --> 00:04:10.590 But it is not coming to us.  
99 00:04:10.590 --> 00:04:14.040 And what we're seeing right now isn't just the  
threat  
100 00:04:14.040 --> 00:04:16.260 of the big greens, the big organizations  
101 00:04:16.260 --> 00:04:18.540 that are multimillion dollar organizations  
102 00:04:18.540 --> 00:04:22.290 that have historically gotten the lion share of  
the funding  
103 00:04:22.290 --> 00:04:24.030 to determine what policy is,  
104 00:04:24.030 --> 00:04:26.850 and how it's going to affect those of us on the  
frontline.  
105 00:04:26.850 --> 00:04:28.980 We're also seeing universities play a role  
106 00:04:28.980 --> 00:04:30.810 of becoming the new big greens.

107 00:04:30.810 --> 00:04:33.030 So they're getting \$50 million at a clip,  
108 00:04:33.030 --> 00:04:35.430 and determining who are the leaders in our  
communities,  
109 00:04:35.430 --> 00:04:36.783 what are the priorities.  
110 00:04:37.950 --> 00:04:39.450 And they're serving as interveners,  
111 00:04:39.450 --> 00:04:40.283 coming into our communities.  
112 00:04:40.283 --> 00:04:42.150 I can give you an example.  
113 00:04:42.150 --> 00:04:45.210 There was a moment where NYU got a  
\$900,000 grant  
114 00:04:45.210 --> 00:04:47.370 to come into our community to replicate the  
work  
115 00:04:47.370 --> 00:04:48.390 that we were doing,  
116 00:04:48.390 --> 00:04:50.040 and then wanted to pick my brain  
117 00:04:50.040 --> 00:04:52.203 for a thousand dollars, right?  
118 00:04:53.340 --> 00:04:57.240 So that we would provide them with access  
to our brain trust  
119 00:04:57.240 --> 00:04:59.340 that would basically populate their proposal  
120 00:04:59.340 --> 00:05:00.870 so that they could get funded.  
121 00:05:00.870 --> 00:05:04.440 That top down extractive approach is going  
to kill us.  
122 00:05:04.440 --> 00:05:06.090 And I'm gonna use words like killing us  
123 00:05:06.090 --> 00:05:07.830 because that's where we are right now.  
124 00:05:07.830 --> 00:05:10.380 I am a descendant of extraction,  
125 00:05:10.380 --> 00:05:14.010 and my body is riddled with all of the health  
disparities  
126 00:05:14.010 --> 00:05:15.510 that exist from being born,  
127 00:05:15.510 --> 00:05:17.100 and raised in an EJ community  
128 00:05:17.100 --> 00:05:19.980 and worked in an EJ community.  
129 00:05:19.980 --> 00:05:22.020 And for you as students, what is your role?  
130 00:05:22.020 --> 00:05:23.490 I wanna talk about that  
131 00:05:23.490 --> 00:05:26.734 because honestly, every single year,  
132 00:05:26.734 --> 00:05:29.460 UPROSE, the New York City Environmental  
Justice Alliance,

133 00:05:29.460 --> 00:05:30.810 the Climate Justice Alliance,  
134 00:05:30.810 --> 00:05:35.010 it is inundated with calls and emails  
135 00:05:35.010 --> 00:05:38.190 from students who want to interview us  
136 00:05:38.190 --> 00:05:39.600 for their thesis.  
137 00:05:39.600 --> 00:05:42.595 And what you don't do, this is what you don't  
do.  
138 00:05:42.595 --> 00:05:44.400 You call because you have a dream.  
139 00:05:44.400 --> 00:05:46.980 You came into these institutions with a dream,  
140 00:05:46.980 --> 00:05:49.380 and you see us as the opportunity  
141 00:05:49.380 --> 00:05:52.170 to populate that body of information  
142 00:05:52.170 --> 00:05:54.000 that you need so that you can manifest  
143 00:05:54.000 --> 00:05:58.680 your individual capitalist, paternal, patriarchal  
dream.  
144 00:05:58.680 --> 00:06:00.030 What you should be doing,  
145 00:06:00.030 --> 00:06:02.640 if you are concerned about climate justice,  
146 00:06:02.640 --> 00:06:05.160 if you are concerned about using your privilege  
147 00:06:05.160 --> 00:06:08.880 to elevate and to support the frontline,  
148 00:06:08.880 --> 00:06:13.530 what you should be doing is asking, how can  
I use  
149 00:06:13.530 --> 00:06:15.660 access to data, research,  
150 00:06:15.660 --> 00:06:18.150 all of the things that I have access to right  
now,  
151 00:06:18.150 --> 00:06:22.110 to advance a local climate justice agenda.  
152 00:06:22.110 --> 00:06:23.970 And that becomes your thesis.  
153 00:06:23.970 --> 00:06:25.320 And we're willing to talk to you  
154 00:06:25.320 --> 00:06:27.090 if you talk to us about that.  
155 00:06:27.090 --> 00:06:29.040 But we're no longer talking to students  
156 00:06:29.040 --> 00:06:30.780 who are contacting us  
157 00:06:30.780 --> 00:06:33.330 because they have their individual dream,  
158 00:06:33.330 --> 00:06:34.680 and they wanna lead.  
159 00:06:34.680 --> 00:06:37.320 And they're using the rhetoric of a movement  
160 00:06:37.320 --> 00:06:38.880 when their culture or practice

161 00:06:38.880 --> 00:06:41.760 is inconsistent with those values.  
162 00:06:41.760 --> 00:06:44.340 And so the students that get to work with us,  
163 00:06:44.340 --> 00:06:45.780 that get to be part of this  
164 00:06:45.780 --> 00:06:47.130 leaderful, matriarchal,  
165 00:06:47.130 --> 00:06:50.100 intergenerational frontline led movement,  
166 00:06:50.100 --> 00:06:52.020 are the ones who ask the question,  
167 00:06:52.020 --> 00:06:52.890 how can we serve?  
168 00:06:52.890 --> 00:06:53.940 How can we help?  
169 00:06:53.940 --> 00:06:56.400 And how can I have access to these resources?  
170 00:06:56.400 --> 00:06:58.680 That means that you are not only an ally,  
171 00:06:58.680 --> 00:07:00.000 it means you are pro-Black.  
172 00:07:00.000 --> 00:07:02.100 It means that you're anti-racist,  
173 00:07:02.100 --> 00:07:04.960 that you are really thinking critically about  
174 00:07:05.940 --> 00:07:08.850 and understanding, recognizing that those of  
us  
175 00:07:08.850 --> 00:07:11.220 on the ground have the solutions,  
176 00:07:11.220 --> 00:07:12.840 that we understand policy,  
177 00:07:12.840 --> 00:07:16.380 infrastructure, community building, land use,  
178 00:07:16.380 --> 00:07:20.070 that we, despite what people think because  
of how we look  
179 00:07:20.070 --> 00:07:22.890 and where we're from, are a bunch of badassess  
180 00:07:22.890 --> 00:07:25.220 that are literally transforming the landscape.  
181 00:07:25.220 --> 00:07:26.603 And we are.  
182 00:07:26.603 --> 00:07:27.436 And we are.  
183 00:07:27.436 --> 00:07:29.670 And I say that because everything across the  
country  
184 00:07:29.670 --> 00:07:33.090 from the CLCPA in New York state,  
185 00:07:33.090 --> 00:07:35.367 that is a piece of legislation.  
186 00:07:35.367 --> 00:07:37.440 The Community Climate Leadership  
187 00:07:37.440 --> 00:07:38.880 and Community Protection Act,  
188 00:07:38.880 --> 00:07:41.880 I forget how to say it because government  
changed the title,

189 00:07:42.870 --> 00:07:44.460 is a piece of legislation  
190 00:07:44.460 --> 00:07:46.650 that has made it possible, for example, for  
DC,  
191 00:07:46.650 --> 00:07:49.680 the Department of Environmental Conserva-  
tion  
192 00:07:49.680 --> 00:07:54.680 to stop two power plants.  
193 00:07:58.110 --> 00:08:01.290 And so that legislation, that land language  
194 00:08:01.290 --> 00:08:02.910 that comes from all of us.  
195 00:08:02.910 --> 00:08:06.003 Working with each other in a way that is  
strategic.  
196 00:08:07.050 --> 00:08:09.243 Talking about one person leading.  
197 00:08:10.230 --> 00:08:12.330 We're talking about how we can be leaderful.  
198 00:08:12.330 --> 00:08:13.560 because being leaderful  
199 00:08:13.560 --> 00:08:15.510 is how we're gonna be able to win.  
200 00:08:15.510 --> 00:08:19.050 So the threats for us are enormous.  
201 00:08:19.050 --> 00:08:22.380 They are, we're talking about not just big  
universities  
202 00:08:22.380 --> 00:08:24.690 and big greens, we're talking about corpora-  
tions,  
203 00:08:24.690 --> 00:08:26.520 fossil fuel companies, government.  
204 00:08:26.520 --> 00:08:27.570 <v Voice>Chris, CJA.</v>  
205 00:08:28.800 --> 00:08:30.510 <v ->Sorry, that's the Climate Justice Al-  
liance.</v>  
206 00:08:30.510 --> 00:08:31.800 Never leave me alone.  
207 00:08:31.800 --> 00:08:33.273 Okay, I'm sorry about that.  
208 00:08:34.350 --> 00:08:35.790 Yeah, sorry.  
209 00:08:35.790 --> 00:08:38.040 But the Climate Justice Alliance, by the way,  
210 00:08:39.600 --> 00:08:41.460 10 years ago, we founded it 10 years ago  
211 00:08:41.460 --> 00:08:43.380 to be sort of the center of gravity  
212 00:08:43.380 --> 00:08:44.970 in the climate movement.  
213 00:08:44.970 --> 00:08:47.370 There were a lot of big organizations  
214 00:08:47.370 --> 00:08:49.230 that were leading on climate.  
215 00:08:49.230 --> 00:08:52.890 And the voice of the frontline wasn't central.



216 00:08:52.890 --> 00:08:54.120 We weren't being consulted.  
217 00:08:54.120 --> 00:08:55.800 Our work was being supplanted,  
218 00:08:55.800 --> 00:08:57.180 our work was being duplicated.  
219 00:08:57.180 --> 00:08:58.860 Everything was being replicated.  
220 00:08:58.860 --> 00:09:02.190 And so we needed to have an organization  
that was gonna hold  
221 00:09:02.190 --> 00:09:05.820 that space where we would be able to shape  
and influence.  
222 00:09:05.820 --> 00:09:08.550 And so we decided that we were gonna fight  
the bad,  
223 00:09:08.550 --> 00:09:10.890 build the good, change the rules, right?  
224 00:09:10.890 --> 00:09:11.970 And move the money.  
225 00:09:11.970 --> 00:09:14.070 And move the money literally  
226 00:09:14.070 --> 00:09:17.460 from organizations that have always had the  
majority of it,  
227 00:09:17.460 --> 00:09:19.710 to the frontline, so that we can invest.  
228 00:09:19.710 --> 00:09:22.500 And remember, we look very different across  
the country.  
229 00:09:22.500 --> 00:09:24.960 What it looks like in West Virginia is very  
different  
230 00:09:24.960 --> 00:09:26.370 than what it looks like in Brooklyn,  
231 00:09:26.370 --> 00:09:27.900 that is densely populated.  
232 00:09:27.900 --> 00:09:30.000 And we don't have site control over our build-  
ings.  
233 00:09:30.000 --> 00:09:31.890 It looks very different than Indian country,  
234 00:09:31.890 --> 00:09:33.720 and very different from the northwest,  
235 00:09:33.720 --> 00:09:35.700 of Puerto Rico, or the Gulf South.  
236 00:09:35.700 --> 00:09:38.040 So the solutions are really different.  
237 00:09:38.040 --> 00:09:41.160 And so these big organizations and agencies  
238 00:09:41.160 --> 00:09:43.410 that get so much of the funding come up  
239 00:09:43.410 --> 00:09:45.150 with cookie cutter approaches,  
240 00:09:45.150 --> 00:09:46.890 don't work on the ground.  
241 00:09:46.890 --> 00:09:48.570 They don't work on the block,

242 00:09:48.570 --> 00:09:50.310 they don't work in the neighborhood  
243 00:09:50.310 --> 00:09:52.890 because the solutions have to be very different.  
244 00:09:52.890 --> 00:09:54.120 In a community like ours,  
245 00:09:54.120 --> 00:09:56.130 where we look at it block by block,  
246 00:09:56.130 --> 00:09:58.560 in one block, you can have section eight hous-  
ing.  
247 00:09:58.560 --> 00:09:59.393 On another block,  
248 00:09:59.393 --> 00:10:01.140 you can have auto salvaging shops  
249 00:10:01.140 --> 00:10:03.690 that need to be made climate adaptable  
250 00:10:03.690 --> 00:10:05.960 so that their chemicals don't become projec-  
tiles  
251 00:10:05.960 --> 00:10:07.980 in the face of an extreme weather event.  
252 00:10:07.980 --> 00:10:09.900 It looks very different.  
253 00:10:09.900 --> 00:10:11.790 So I wanna share that with you  
254 00:10:11.790 --> 00:10:14.670 because we are,  
255 00:10:14.670 --> 00:10:16.080 when you think about who we are  
256 00:10:16.080 --> 00:10:18.690 and you're thinking about public health,  
257 00:10:18.690 --> 00:10:19.800 you're thinking about us  
258 00:10:19.800 --> 00:10:21.720 in terms of a moment in time.  
259 00:10:21.720 --> 00:10:24.630 You're saying, well, people of African or Black  
260 00:10:24.630 --> 00:10:27.690 and indigenous ancestry have all these health  
disparities  
261 00:10:27.690 --> 00:10:31.710 because they are living in the midst of toxic  
exposure,  
262 00:10:31.710 --> 00:10:33.450 and it is exacerbating their health,  
263 00:10:33.450 --> 00:10:35.040 and making it more difficult.  
264 00:10:35.040 --> 00:10:38.465 You don't think about us in terms of the  
continuum of time.  
265 00:10:38.465 --> 00:10:41.583 That we are the descendants of enslavement  
and colonialism.  
266 00:10:42.750 --> 00:10:44.910 And so there has never been a time  
267 00:10:44.910 --> 00:10:47.100 going back, back, back, back  
268 00:10:47.100 --> 00:10:48.600 that we have not been exposed

269 00:10:48.600 --> 00:10:50.130 to not having the best food,  
270 00:10:50.130 --> 00:10:51.360 the best healthcare,  
271 00:10:51.360 --> 00:10:52.830 that we have not been surrounded  
272 00:10:52.830 --> 00:10:54.540 by petrochemical industries  
273 00:10:54.540 --> 00:10:55.827 that we have not had to deal with  
274 00:10:55.827 --> 00:10:59.040 the high stress that comes with trying to  
survive,  
275 00:10:59.040 --> 00:11:01.650 put food on the table, and raise our children.  
276 00:11:01.650 --> 00:11:04.680 That shows up as a health disparity.  
277 00:11:04.680 --> 00:11:07.950 And so you need to look at it within that  
context.  
278 00:11:07.950 --> 00:11:10.400 The other thing that I want you to think  
about is  
279 00:11:11.790 --> 00:11:14.070 I want you to think about data,  
280 00:11:14.070 --> 00:11:16.410 and the collection of data.  
281 00:11:16.410 --> 00:11:18.450 Right now, you see the Bezos fund,  
282 00:11:18.450 --> 00:11:20.700 and all these funds wanna lead with data,  
283 00:11:20.700 --> 00:11:22.530 and the collection of data.  
284 00:11:22.530 --> 00:11:25.230 The way that data is collected right now is  
deeply flawed  
285 00:11:25.230 --> 00:11:28.020 and doesn't tell the story of our people, right?  
286 00:11:28.020 --> 00:11:32.490 There is a very big difference between Puerto  
Rican,  
287 00:11:32.490 --> 00:11:34.590 a Mexican, and a Dominican, right?  
288 00:11:34.590 --> 00:11:36.581 We show up differently in terms of  
289 00:11:36.581 --> 00:11:40.380 our entire profile in terms of our history.  
290 00:11:40.380 --> 00:11:43.386 And so when you put Latinos all together in  
one category,  
291 00:11:43.386 --> 00:11:44.430 and you call it Hispanic.  
292 00:11:44.430 --> 00:11:46.800 By the way, Hispanic includes people from  
Spain,  
293 00:11:46.800 --> 00:11:49.770 all kinds of people, people with Spanish sur-  
name, right?

294 00:11:49.770 --> 00:11:50.910 It doesn't tell the story,  
295 00:11:50.910 --> 00:11:54.390 and what it does is it washes out the impact  
296 00:11:54.390 --> 00:11:56.910 that different communities are facing.  
297 00:11:56.910 --> 00:11:59.940 Socioeconomically, environmentally.  
298 00:11:59.940 --> 00:12:00.900 It doesn't tell the story,  
299 00:12:00.900 --> 00:12:02.100 and when you don't tell the story,  
300 00:12:02.100 --> 00:12:05.250 what it means is less resources, less interven-  
tions,  
301 00:12:05.250 --> 00:12:07.230 so that we can get to a place of health.  
302 00:12:07.230 --> 00:12:09.870 The Asian community, there are vast differ-  
ences.  
303 00:12:09.870 --> 00:12:11.730 Enormous, right?  
304 00:12:11.730 --> 00:12:13.290 Enormous differences, right?  
305 00:12:13.290 --> 00:12:15.210 If you look at a place like Hawaii,  
306 00:12:15.210 --> 00:12:16.740 you've got Japanese people  
307 00:12:16.740 --> 00:12:18.180 who are doing really well  
308 00:12:18.180 --> 00:12:19.890 when it comes to the health profile.  
309 00:12:19.890 --> 00:12:21.360 And then you've got the indigenous people  
310 00:12:21.360 --> 00:12:22.800 of Hawaii who are not.  
311 00:12:22.800 --> 00:12:24.450 And when you put them in one category,  
312 00:12:24.450 --> 00:12:26.730 what it means is that they're not getting the  
attention  
313 00:12:26.730 --> 00:12:29.580 and the resources that they deserve.  
314 00:12:29.580 --> 00:12:30.630 Black folks.  
315 00:12:30.630 --> 00:12:32.010 And that's a whole lot of us, right?  
316 00:12:32.010 --> 00:12:34.890 I wanna say that because there's a difference  
317 00:12:34.890 --> 00:12:39.000 between African Americans, people from the  
Caribbean,  
318 00:12:39.000 --> 00:12:41.323 people who are coming from Africa, right?  
319 00:12:41.323 --> 00:12:43.200 From the motherland.  
320 00:12:43.200 --> 00:12:46.020 And so the details really matter  
321 00:12:46.020 --> 00:12:48.480 if you really want to address root causes,

322 00:12:48.480 --> 00:12:50.673 how they land in our bodies.  
 323 00:12:52.170 --> 00:12:53.550 And those terms were created  
 324 00:12:53.550 --> 00:12:55.680 so that we could be managed, right?  
 325 00:12:55.680 --> 00:12:57.630 Literally differences wiped out.  
 326 00:12:57.630 --> 00:12:59.490 So if you're European, you could be French,  
 327 00:12:59.490 --> 00:13:01.290 you could be Italian, you could be Greek,  
 328 00:13:01.290 --> 00:13:03.180 you could be all those things.  
 329 00:13:03.180 --> 00:13:05.490 But if you're us, you become a Hispanic.  
 330 00:13:05.490 --> 00:13:07.170 I don't know what that is.  
 331 00:13:07.170 --> 00:13:10.230 And so you erase our blackness, our indigeneity.  
 332 00:13:10.230 --> 00:13:13.530 And then for Latinos, not all Latinos are people of color.  
 333 00:13:13.530 --> 00:13:15.033 There are so many differences.  
 334 00:13:15.033 --> 00:13:17.430 They come sometimes here with privilege.  
 335 00:13:17.430 --> 00:13:19.380 And so they don't have the same  
 336 00:13:19.380 --> 00:13:21.580 disparities as some of us.  
 337 00:13:21.580 --> 00:13:23.520 So how do you change that?  
 338 00:13:23.520 --> 00:13:26.700 I charge you for changing that.  
 339 00:13:26.700 --> 00:13:27.930 As your charge,  
 340 00:13:27.930 --> 00:13:30.480 you need to be able to change it,  
 341 00:13:30.480 --> 00:13:32.974 so that we are addressing  
 342 00:13:32.974 --> 00:13:37.974 how a legacy of extraction lands in our bodies.  
 343 00:13:38.130 --> 00:13:40.380 And you get people who have health disparities  
 344 00:13:40.380 --> 00:13:43.530 and are now faced with climate change, right?  
 345 00:13:43.530 --> 00:13:45.270 So we know quite a few things.  
 346 00:13:45.270 --> 00:13:46.710 We know fossil fuel companies  
 347 00:13:46.710 --> 00:13:48.873 and governmental power plants, landfills, highways,  
 348 00:13:48.873 --> 00:13:51.690 incinerators, and other toxic infrastructure  
 349 00:13:51.690 --> 00:13:52.800 in our communities.

350 00:13:52.800 --> 00:13:55.080 We know that our communities sacrifice zones, right?

351 00:13:55.080 --> 00:13:58.110 And that right now you're seeing

352 00:13:58.110 --> 00:14:01.380 the climate movement talk about false solutions

353 00:14:01.380 --> 00:14:04.440 like green hydrogen and carbon sequestration,

354 00:14:04.440 --> 00:14:06.450 and turning our communities to sacrifice zones.

355 00:14:06.450 --> 00:14:08.160 Our solutions are not the same.

356 00:14:08.160 --> 00:14:09.540 They're hyper local.

357 00:14:09.540 --> 00:14:11.280 We know that even before Covid,

358 00:14:11.280 --> 00:14:15.990 about 250,000 people in our communities die

359 00:14:15.990 --> 00:14:17.550 because of air pollution.

360 00:14:17.550 --> 00:14:19.410 And we don't know what that looks like now.

361 00:14:19.410 --> 00:14:22.830 So you combine all of the health disparities that we take,

362 00:14:22.830 --> 00:14:26.040 that we are exposed to extreme policing,

363 00:14:26.040 --> 00:14:28.230 incarceration, under employment,

364 00:14:28.230 --> 00:14:31.140 poor educational opportunities, displacement,

365 00:14:31.140 --> 00:14:32.790 daily, overt racism,

366 00:14:32.790 --> 00:14:34.950 the lack of healthy food and transit options.

367 00:14:34.950 --> 00:14:37.230 And it's not surprising that our communities are the ones

368 00:14:37.230 --> 00:14:38.850 that are suffering individually

369 00:14:38.850 --> 00:14:41.160 and collectively from mental health issues.

370 00:14:41.160 --> 00:14:44.610 I'm surprised that it has never been documented

371 00:14:44.610 --> 00:14:47.757 to the extent how this history has impacted us

372 00:14:47.757 --> 00:14:50.250 and our ability to cope every single day.

373 00:14:50.250 --> 00:14:52.560 So our priorities,

374 00:14:52.560 --> 00:14:55.320 I'm gonna talk fast, 'cause we got a lot of solutions.

375 00:14:55.320 --> 00:14:56.490 So our priorities are  
376 00:14:56.490 --> 00:14:58.860 to address four things across the country  
377 00:14:58.860 --> 00:15:00.210 and hyper locally.  
378 00:15:00.210 --> 00:15:03.630 Renewable energy with community ownership  
at its center,  
379 00:15:03.630 --> 00:15:07.860 drinkable water, food sovereignty, and well-  
ness.  
380 00:15:07.860 --> 00:15:09.780 Those are the four things that our communi-  
ties  
381 00:15:09.780 --> 00:15:11.910 have told us are real, our real priorities.  
382 00:15:11.910 --> 00:15:14.430 We see ourselves as people who staff the com-  
munity.  
383 00:15:14.430 --> 00:15:16.170 We don't see ourselves as people  
384 00:15:16.170 --> 00:15:19.170 who are making decisions on behalf of our  
communities.  
385 00:15:19.170 --> 00:15:21.390 You know, we were the ones who had,  
386 00:15:21.390 --> 00:15:23.340 were very fortunate to go to school,  
387 00:15:23.340 --> 00:15:24.930 you know, thank God for affirmative action,  
388 00:15:24.930 --> 00:15:27.280 or I wouldn't be here talking to you right now.  
389 00:15:28.170 --> 00:15:32.130 We can have the skills that make it possible  
for families  
390 00:15:32.130 --> 00:15:33.870 that have two or three jobs,  
391 00:15:33.870 --> 00:15:35.790 and two or three children,  
392 00:15:35.790 --> 00:15:37.680 so that we can staff them  
393 00:15:37.680 --> 00:15:39.480 while they're taking care of their lives.  
394 00:15:39.480 --> 00:15:43.590 And making sure that community events are  
generational,  
395 00:15:43.590 --> 00:15:44.423 that there's always food,  
396 00:15:44.423 --> 00:15:45.510 that there's always childcare,  
397 00:15:45.510 --> 00:15:46.560 that there's at least translation,  
398 00:15:46.560 --> 00:15:48.990 and that we're available to meet with them  
399 00:15:48.990 --> 00:15:50.610 when it's convenient for them.  
400 00:15:50.610 --> 00:15:52.740 We see this not as a job.

401 00:15:52.740 --> 00:15:55.200 And this is important for those of you that  
are Gen Z,  
402 00:15:55.200 --> 00:15:57.930 who are talking about grassroots organizations  
403 00:15:57.930 --> 00:16:00.120 and talking to us about nine to five,  
404 00:16:00.120 --> 00:16:03.180 and self-love and self-care.  
405 00:16:03.180 --> 00:16:05.100 Self-care is the language of colonialism.  
406 00:16:05.100 --> 00:16:07.920 This country was built on the needs of the  
individual.  
407 00:16:07.920 --> 00:16:09.780 We talk about collective care.  
408 00:16:09.780 --> 00:16:11.340 And for us, this is not a job.  
409 00:16:11.340 --> 00:16:12.660 This is a calling.  
410 00:16:12.660 --> 00:16:15.960 If it is a Saturday afternoon and I'm ex-  
hausted,  
411 00:16:15.960 --> 00:16:18.420 and there's a possibility that some legislation  
412 00:16:18.420 --> 00:16:21.060 that is gonna benefit my people is impacted,  
413 00:16:21.060 --> 00:16:22.350 I take that call.  
414 00:16:22.350 --> 00:16:23.550 I do that work,  
415 00:16:23.550 --> 00:16:25.170 because that's in the interest of justice,  
416 00:16:25.170 --> 00:16:27.270 regardless of whether I'm tired,  
417 00:16:27.270 --> 00:16:29.370 regardless of whether I'm getting paid.  
418 00:16:29.370 --> 00:16:31.410 Because if I don't do that,  
419 00:16:31.410 --> 00:16:34.770 I'm not honoring my ancestors who gave up  
their life,  
420 00:16:34.770 --> 00:16:36.390 who put their lives on the line,  
421 00:16:36.390 --> 00:16:37.530 who spilled blood,  
422 00:16:37.530 --> 00:16:39.510 so that I would have rights right now.  
423 00:16:39.510 --> 00:16:42.390 For them, it wasn't a nine to five, it was a  
calling.  
424 00:16:42.390 --> 00:16:44.700 It's what you do when you're a movement  
builder.  
425 00:16:44.700 --> 00:16:47.070 That work ethic, that culture of practice  
426 00:16:47.070 --> 00:16:50.190 is radically different than what you see at the  
big greens,



427 00:16:50.190 --> 00:16:51.960 than what you see at big organizations.  
428 00:16:51.960 --> 00:16:55.050 And it's now because it's being learned in  
LinkedIn,  
429 00:16:55.050 --> 00:16:57.060 being applied to the grassroots  
430 00:16:57.060 --> 00:16:59.130 and it's killing our organizations.  
431 00:16:59.130 --> 00:17:00.870 So if you come to our organizations  
432 00:17:00.870 --> 00:17:02.400 and you wanna make demands about,  
433 00:17:02.400 --> 00:17:04.320 I only wanna work four days a week,  
434 00:17:04.320 --> 00:17:06.090 and I only wanna do this.  
435 00:17:06.090 --> 00:17:08.820 I'm telling you injustice is not nine to five,  
436 00:17:08.820 --> 00:17:10.470 and neither is climate change.  
437 00:17:10.470 --> 00:17:13.110 We're gonna need to be leaderful,  
438 00:17:13.110 --> 00:17:15.990 and we're gonna need to be engaged in collec-  
tive care,  
439 00:17:15.990 --> 00:17:17.190 if we're gonna survive,  
440 00:17:17.190 --> 00:17:19.590 and we're gonna not burn out during this  
process.  
441 00:17:19.590 --> 00:17:20.640 So I wanna put that  
442 00:17:20.640 --> 00:17:22.920 because when you guys get interviewed,  
443 00:17:22.920 --> 00:17:24.270 you say you're about that life,  
444 00:17:24.270 --> 00:17:25.800 and then when you come in, you're like, hey,  
445 00:17:25.800 --> 00:17:28.050 but you know, and I'm like, oh no.  
446 00:17:28.050 --> 00:17:29.610 This is not happening.  
447 00:17:29.610 --> 00:17:31.050 So, and it's not just us,  
448 00:17:31.050 --> 00:17:34.140 it's literally a complaint in leadership across  
the country  
449 00:17:34.140 --> 00:17:36.960 about a new generation  
450 00:17:36.960 --> 00:17:39.750 that is emerging with demands of the grass-  
roots  
451 00:17:39.750 --> 00:17:41.190 that we can't accommodate.  
452 00:17:41.190 --> 00:17:43.260 What it means is that the leadership is gonna  
burn out  
453 00:17:43.260 --> 00:17:45.060 and we're not gonna be able to hold the line.

454 00:17:45.060 --> 00:17:46.440 We're talking about climate change.  
455 00:17:46.440 --> 00:17:48.720 It is disruptive, it's unpredictable,  
456 00:17:48.720 --> 00:17:49.890 and it is happening.  
457 00:17:49.890 --> 00:17:52.470 And so we need people that are warriors,  
right?  
458 00:17:52.470 --> 00:17:54.210 And who think about this work  
459 00:17:54.210 --> 00:17:55.980 in a very different way.  
460 00:17:55.980 --> 00:17:57.633 So I wanna share that with you.  
461 00:17:59.550 --> 00:18:00.780 So what are we doing?  
462 00:18:00.780 --> 00:18:02.220 What are we doing in our communities?  
463 00:18:02.220 --> 00:18:04.710 We are working to protect, repair, invest,  
464 00:18:04.710 --> 00:18:05.880 and transform.  
465 00:18:05.880 --> 00:18:08.550 In Sunset Park, we've got the grit.  
466 00:18:08.550 --> 00:18:10.140 I'll tell you a little bit about Sunset Park.  
467 00:18:10.140 --> 00:18:11.310 It's in Brooklyn.  
468 00:18:11.310 --> 00:18:14.430 It is a community of 132,000 people.  
469 00:18:14.430 --> 00:18:15.780 It is located in  
470 00:18:15.780 --> 00:18:17.970 the largest significant maritime industrial area  
471 00:18:17.970 --> 00:18:19.290 in New York City.  
472 00:18:19.290 --> 00:18:20.790 It is an industrial sector  
473 00:18:20.790 --> 00:18:24.630 that has a legacy harm in our communities.  
474 00:18:24.630 --> 00:18:27.600 Toxic exposure, fossil fuel.  
475 00:18:27.600 --> 00:18:30.480 We have everything from the Gowanus Ex-  
pressway  
476 00:18:30.480 --> 00:18:34.140 that has 130,000 cars, 13,000 trucks  
477 00:18:34.140 --> 00:18:35.520 going through there every day,  
478 00:18:35.520 --> 00:18:37.950 to solid waste management plants,  
479 00:18:37.950 --> 00:18:41.010 three peaker plants, the Gowanus, the Nar-  
rows,  
480 00:18:41.010 --> 00:18:43.380 and the Joseph Seymour.  
481 00:18:43.380 --> 00:18:45.450 And what have we done in response?  
482 00:18:45.450 --> 00:18:47.040 In terms of organizing,

483 00:18:47.040 --> 00:18:49.350 we've created coalitions like Glass Mile  
484 00:18:49.350 --> 00:18:52.200 to take care of all of those Amazon trucks  
485 00:18:52.200 --> 00:18:53.430 and get some regulation  
486 00:18:53.430 --> 00:18:55.950 that will make sure that they are not going  
487 00:18:55.950 --> 00:18:58.170 through the most vulnerable neighborhoods.  
488 00:18:58.170 --> 00:18:59.730 That we're reducing emissions,  
489 00:18:59.730 --> 00:19:01.440 that they're using technology.  
490 00:19:01.440 --> 00:19:03.510 We created the Peak Coalition as a way  
491 00:19:03.510 --> 00:19:05.070 of decommissioning peakers,  
492 00:19:05.070 --> 00:19:07.530 and replacing them with battery storage.  
493 00:19:07.530 --> 00:19:09.810 When we fought Industry City for seven years,  
494 00:19:09.810 --> 00:19:14.400 Industry City is a company that owns an  
enormous part  
495 00:19:14.400 --> 00:19:16.620 of our industrial sector at Sunset Park.  
496 00:19:16.620 --> 00:19:18.510 And they wanted to take the industrial sector  
497 00:19:18.510 --> 00:19:20.880 and turn it into a destination location  
498 00:19:20.880 --> 00:19:22.770 for the privileged with high tech.  
499 00:19:22.770 --> 00:19:25.170 And we thought, well, you know, this is a  
sector  
500 00:19:25.170 --> 00:19:26.820 that has been harming us for years.  
501 00:19:26.820 --> 00:19:30.420 What is a sector that is doing green manufac-  
turing,  
502 00:19:30.420 --> 00:19:31.860 that is working towards  
503 00:19:31.860 --> 00:19:34.800 an adaptation, mitigation, and resilience look  
like?  
504 00:19:34.800 --> 00:19:35.910 How do we bring the jobs?  
505 00:19:35.910 --> 00:19:36.743 How do we make sure  
506 00:19:36.743 --> 00:19:38.370 that we don't follow the market,  
507 00:19:38.370 --> 00:19:40.170 but we create the market here.  
508 00:19:40.170 --> 00:19:42.300 And so in order to fight Industry City,  
509 00:19:42.300 --> 00:19:44.070 and we were told that we would lose  
510 00:19:44.070 --> 00:19:46.200 because literally it was like

511 00:19:46.200 --> 00:19:47.670 David and three Goliaths,  
 512 00:19:47.670 --> 00:19:49.380 it that was that kind of fight.  
 513 00:19:49.380 --> 00:19:52.320 The sector, Industry City had spent  
 514 00:19:52.320 --> 00:19:54.510 an enormous amount of money in our com-  
 munity,  
 515 00:19:54.510 --> 00:19:58.260 dropped it in the pockets of CBOs and  
 churches all over  
 516 00:19:58.260 --> 00:19:59.640 to do an enter and around us.  
 517 00:19:59.640 --> 00:20:01.710 They had five public relations firms.  
 518 00:20:01.710 --> 00:20:03.660 And then there was UPROSE.  
 519 00:20:03.660 --> 00:20:06.360 UPROSE would be told we were gonna lose.  
 520 00:20:06.360 --> 00:20:07.920 And we needed to figure out  
 521 00:20:07.920 --> 00:20:10.770 how do we bring movement into the space.  
 522 00:20:10.770 --> 00:20:12.960 But it wasn't enough to fight against some-  
 thing.  
 523 00:20:12.960 --> 00:20:14.850 We needed to lead with a vision.  
 524 00:20:14.850 --> 00:20:16.230 What does this have to do with health?  
 525 00:20:16.230 --> 00:20:17.610 Everything.  
 526 00:20:17.610 --> 00:20:18.990 You know, when you think about health,  
 527 00:20:18.990 --> 00:20:21.360 you're thinking about it in a very,  
 528 00:20:21.360 --> 00:20:22.530 it's very siloed.  
 529 00:20:22.530 --> 00:20:24.600 And we need to break out of those silos  
 530 00:20:24.600 --> 00:20:26.460 and start thinking about infrastructure,  
 531 00:20:26.460 --> 00:20:27.870 and thinking about what people's needs  
 532 00:20:27.870 --> 00:20:29.700 are going to be 30 years from now.  
 533 00:20:29.700 --> 00:20:32.850 The fact that the environment right now is  
 creating disease  
 534 00:20:32.850 --> 00:20:35.940 at a level that is neck breaking, right?  
 535 00:20:35.940 --> 00:20:39.000 So we put together the grit.  
 536 00:20:39.000 --> 00:20:41.850 It came out of 12 years of community-based  
 planning.  
 537 00:20:41.850 --> 00:20:46.260 It includes a just transition worker waterfront  
 exchange,

538 00:20:46.260 --> 00:20:48.270 a just transition worker resource center  
 539 00:20:48.270 --> 00:20:52.620 where people can learn how to access those  
 green jobs.  
 540 00:20:52.620 --> 00:20:54.690 An industrial microgrid.  
 541 00:20:54.690 --> 00:20:55.890 We are getting ready  
 542 00:20:55.890 --> 00:20:57.660 to launch the first community on solar  
 543 00:20:57.660 --> 00:20:59.220 in Sunset Park.  
 544 00:20:59.220 --> 00:21:02.400 We have mapped 20 rooftops for community  
 on solar.  
 545 00:21:02.400 --> 00:21:04.290 It's a plan for the decarbonization  
 546 00:21:04.290 --> 00:21:06.420 of this industrial waterfront community.  
 547 00:21:06.420 --> 00:21:09.720 A small business decarbonization pilot,  
 548 00:21:09.720 --> 00:21:11.880 and a zero emission distribution hub  
 549 00:21:11.880 --> 00:21:14.400 so that we can move away from Glass Mile.  
 550 00:21:14.400 --> 00:21:17.370 All of those pieces have a lot of different pieces  
 in them,  
 551 00:21:17.370 --> 00:21:18.780 and they all have a price set.  
 552 00:21:18.780 --> 00:21:20.703 One is \$145 million,  
 553 00:21:21.840 --> 00:21:24.240 the just transition worker center,  
 554 00:21:24.240 --> 00:21:27.600 which would take about 10 years, \$25 million.  
 555 00:21:27.600 --> 00:21:28.890 So why am I sharing that with you?  
 556 00:21:28.890 --> 00:21:31.350 Because those are big ticket items  
 557 00:21:31.350 --> 00:21:34.320 that are not just aspirational,  
 558 00:21:34.320 --> 00:21:36.030 they are operational.  
 559 00:21:36.030 --> 00:21:38.460 And we made sure that we were passing the  
 kind  
 560 00:21:38.460 --> 00:21:40.590 of legislation that would give it teeth.  
 561 00:21:40.590 --> 00:21:43.170 That would give us access to the resources  
 necessary  
 562 00:21:43.170 --> 00:21:44.970 so we can operationalize.  
 563 00:21:44.970 --> 00:21:46.200 But then what are we doing?  
 564 00:21:46.200 --> 00:21:48.090 We're competing with Columbia,

565 00:21:48.090 --> 00:21:51.750 with NYU, with Fordham, with all of these people

566 00:21:51.750 --> 00:21:54.330 who saw the opportunity that was created

567 00:21:54.330 --> 00:21:56.220 by the grassroots, right?

568 00:21:56.220 --> 00:21:58.500 And have helicoptered into our community

569 00:21:58.500 --> 00:22:00.990 so that they can engage in empire building.

570 00:22:00.990 --> 00:22:04.890 What we're trying to engage in community building.

571 00:22:04.890 --> 00:22:07.440 And literally, decarbonize the neighborhood.

572 00:22:07.440 --> 00:22:08.700 Highly sophisticated.

573 00:22:08.700 --> 00:22:11.520 We build strategic partnerships with a number of people

574 00:22:11.520 --> 00:22:13.440 so we don't have to know everything.

575 00:22:13.440 --> 00:22:15.690 And since you're at Yale, let me just say this,

576 00:22:15.690 --> 00:22:17.520 you don't have to know everything.

577 00:22:17.520 --> 00:22:20.100 You need to understand, I mean, you have been expected

578 00:22:20.100 --> 00:22:21.840 to know a lot, which is why you're here.

579 00:22:21.840 --> 00:22:23.040 Big ups to you for that.

580 00:22:23.940 --> 00:22:27.420 But understand that collectively, we know a lot.

581 00:22:27.420 --> 00:22:29.730 And so that when working in an organization,

582 00:22:29.730 --> 00:22:31.800 it's important to recognize what you don't know,

583 00:22:31.800 --> 00:22:33.540 and develop the relationships with people

584 00:22:33.540 --> 00:22:37.050 who come in from a place of building just relationships,

585 00:22:37.050 --> 00:22:40.890 so that we can strategically address these big items.

586 00:22:40.890 --> 00:22:42.480 Everything from trying to figure out

587 00:22:42.480 --> 00:22:45.030 how do we finance community on solar,

588 00:22:45.030 --> 00:22:46.050 and pre-development costs.

589 00:22:46.050 --> 00:22:47.850 Those are things that for a while,

590 00:22:47.850 --> 00:22:49.560 we didn't know anything about.  
 591 00:22:49.560 --> 00:22:50.820 But we identified people  
 592 00:22:50.820 --> 00:22:52.110 who could provide us with that.  
 593 00:22:52.110 --> 00:22:53.280 And that's gonna be your role.  
 594 00:22:53.280 --> 00:22:56.220 Your role is to provide us with the technical  
 support  
 595 00:22:56.220 --> 00:22:58.290 so that we can operationalize it.  
 596 00:22:58.290 --> 00:22:59.640 Yale's been really cool.  
 597 00:22:59.640 --> 00:23:03.030 And I wanna say that on the real,  
 598 00:23:03.030 --> 00:23:05.580 because we work with a lot of institutions  
 599 00:23:05.580 --> 00:23:07.200 that we've been like, okay, no.  
 600 00:23:07.200 --> 00:23:09.240 All right, so it's surprising  
 601 00:23:09.240 --> 00:23:12.120 and refreshing that we have for the last few  
 years  
 602 00:23:12.120 --> 00:23:14.460 worked with a number of departments  
 603 00:23:14.460 --> 00:23:16.500 or a number of schools at Yale  
 604 00:23:16.500 --> 00:23:18.120 that have provided us with the support  
 605 00:23:18.120 --> 00:23:20.580 so that we can move as quickly as we have.  
 606 00:23:20.580 --> 00:23:22.683 So we have several fellows from Yale.  
 607 00:23:23.619 --> 00:23:25.290 And that says that something is happening  
 608 00:23:25.290 --> 00:23:26.310 at this institution,  
 609 00:23:26.310 --> 00:23:29.340 where you're really sort of checking in on  
 yourself,  
 610 00:23:29.340 --> 00:23:31.680 and your professors are checking and thinking  
 about  
 611 00:23:31.680 --> 00:23:34.170 how are we going to be the most impactful.  
 612 00:23:34.170 --> 00:23:36.660 Not sort of like thinking about,  
 613 00:23:36.660 --> 00:23:37.860 you know, sort of this community  
 614 00:23:37.860 --> 00:23:40.770 that is talking about ideas and influencing.  
 615 00:23:40.770 --> 00:23:43.020 We influence, we come up with the ideas,  
 616 00:23:43.020 --> 00:23:45.270 we come up with the recommendations.

617 00:23:45.270 --> 00:23:46.680 You're the ones who are gonna be able to provide us

618 00:23:46.680 --> 00:23:48.840 with the support that we need,

619 00:23:48.840 --> 00:23:50.760 so that we can manifest those.

620 00:23:50.760 --> 00:23:53.370 So I had a long list of,

621 00:23:53.370 --> 00:23:55.860 but I wanna open up for questions and answers.

622 00:23:55.860 --> 00:23:59.370 A long list of all the health disparities that we have.

623 00:23:59.370 --> 00:24:01.560 Hyper-local problems with air monitoring,

624 00:24:01.560 --> 00:24:03.810 and how it's done, and how it should be done.

625 00:24:05.190 --> 00:24:07.200 But I kind of feel like I just really wanna break it up

626 00:24:07.200 --> 00:24:10.530 for questions, because I think that's where the richness

627 00:24:10.530 --> 00:24:12.330 of the conversation takes place.

628 00:24:12.330 --> 00:24:15.119 And I really hope that I've given you sort of

629 00:24:15.119 --> 00:24:16.890 a broad view of understanding

630 00:24:16.890 --> 00:24:19.470 the challenges that we're having locally.

631 00:24:19.470 --> 00:24:22.320 You will end up working in a lot of places

632 00:24:22.320 --> 00:24:27.320 that are engaged in contemporary missionary head.

633 00:24:27.810 --> 00:24:29.670 You know, super saviors.

634 00:24:29.670 --> 00:24:31.050 We don't want people like that.

635 00:24:31.050 --> 00:24:33.750 We don't wanna work with you if that's who you are.

636 00:24:33.750 --> 00:24:36.210 We don't think that you know more about anything than we do.

637 00:24:36.210 --> 00:24:38.880 We don't think you care more than we do.

638 00:24:38.880 --> 00:24:41.160 We are looking for people who are partners,

639 00:24:41.160 --> 00:24:42.900 who wanna work with us in a way

640 00:24:42.900 --> 00:24:45.210 that shows that you're committed

641 00:24:45.210 --> 00:24:46.440 to a different culture of practice.



642 00:24:46.440 --> 00:24:49.740 Because that's what climate change is demanding from us.

643 00:24:49.740 --> 00:24:53.820 This sort of top down, patriarchal way

644 00:24:53.820 --> 00:24:56.940 of thinking about power is unacceptable to us,

645 00:24:56.940 --> 00:25:00.480 and we're not suffering from insecurity.

646 00:25:00.480 --> 00:25:02.790 You will go into some communities

647 00:25:02.790 --> 00:25:03.623 where they will defer to you,

648 00:25:03.623 --> 00:25:06.300 and they will give up power because you came in,

649 00:25:06.300 --> 00:25:08.220 and you give the impression of having the skills

650 00:25:08.220 --> 00:25:10.260 and the understanding that maybe people

651 00:25:10.260 --> 00:25:12.990 who don't have a formal education don't have.

652 00:25:12.990 --> 00:25:13.830 You know, my grandmother

653 00:25:13.830 --> 00:25:15.120 didn't know how to read or write.

654 00:25:15.120 --> 00:25:16.920 My mother had a very limited education.

655 00:25:16.920 --> 00:25:18.960 I'm the first one out with college education

656 00:25:18.960 --> 00:25:19.890 in my family.

657 00:25:19.890 --> 00:25:21.330 And I can tell you that my mother

658 00:25:21.330 --> 00:25:23.580 and my grandmother were absolutely brilliant.

659 00:25:23.580 --> 00:25:25.080 And that when I am in community

660 00:25:25.080 --> 00:25:28.080 and I am listening with all, all my senses

661 00:25:28.080 --> 00:25:31.200 to people in the community, that they know what they want,

662 00:25:31.200 --> 00:25:32.310 and they know the solutions.

663 00:25:32.310 --> 00:25:35.160 And my responsibility is to facilitate that,

664 00:25:35.160 --> 00:25:36.600 to elevate that voice,

665 00:25:36.600 --> 00:25:39.750 and to make sure that we are honoring

666 00:25:39.750 --> 00:25:42.390 what they're telling us even when we don't agree.

667 00:25:42.390 --> 00:25:45.340 And I'm gonna give you one example of when we didn't agree.

668 00:25:46.620 --> 00:25:49.260 We, on 3rd Avenue, if you know Sunset Park or Brooklyn.

669 00:25:49.260 --> 00:25:51.330 How many of you know Brooklyn?

670 00:25:51.330 --> 00:25:52.980 Right, you know, 3rd Avenue,

671 00:25:52.980 --> 00:25:55.200 and you know how you've got the Gowanus

672 00:25:55.200 --> 00:25:57.360 and you've got all those industrial spots.

673 00:25:57.360 --> 00:25:58.683 Where there's a over,

674 00:25:59.790 --> 00:26:01.230 so many children in the neighborhood,

675 00:26:01.230 --> 00:26:02.580 and not enough schools.

676 00:26:02.580 --> 00:26:04.590 So our former councilman wanted

677 00:26:04.590 --> 00:26:06.360 to put a school in 3rd Avenue.

678 00:26:06.360 --> 00:26:07.193 And we said,

679 00:26:07.193 --> 00:26:10.110 but if you put the children under the highway,

680 00:26:10.110 --> 00:26:11.730 in the industrial zone,

681 00:26:11.730 --> 00:26:13.380 they're going to be running in their backyards,

682 00:26:13.380 --> 00:26:14.340 breathing hard,

683 00:26:14.340 --> 00:26:16.980 while all those emissions, socks, knocks, all of it,

684 00:26:16.980 --> 00:26:20.820 is going to be dumped into their little lungs, right?

685 00:26:20.820 --> 00:26:23.160 And so the Department of Education said to us, well

686 00:26:23.160 --> 00:26:25.140 of course we're gonna clean up the brownfield

687 00:26:25.140 --> 00:26:26.790 that the school's gonna be built on.

688 00:26:26.790 --> 00:26:29.880 And we said, but you can't control the adjacent brownfields.

689 00:26:29.880 --> 00:26:30.930 And you can't,

690 00:26:30.930 --> 00:26:34.140 you don't have any control over the adjacent brownfields,

691 00:26:34.140 --> 00:26:35.550 you don't own that property.

692 00:26:35.550 --> 00:26:37.710 And there are chemicals there from before

693 00:26:37.710 --> 00:26:39.240 there was even an EPA,

694 00:26:39.240 --> 00:26:42.450 that when dislodged, are carcinogens upon contact.

695 00:26:42.450 --> 00:26:45.270 So you can't, you shouldn't put the school there.

696 00:26:45.270 --> 00:26:47.490 But because the council member was somebody

697 00:26:47.490 --> 00:26:49.980 that the community loved, they supported him.

698 00:26:49.980 --> 00:26:50.970 The school got built there.

699 00:26:50.970 --> 00:26:53.870 I said, I would never send my little child to that school.

700 00:26:55.230 --> 00:26:57.030 Did we protest the parents?

701 00:26:57.030 --> 00:26:58.320 No, we did not.

702 00:26:58.320 --> 00:27:00.496 We gave them the information we wanted.

703 00:27:00.496 --> 00:27:01.590 We gave them enough

704 00:27:01.590 --> 00:27:04.650 so that they could make an informed decision.

705 00:27:04.650 --> 00:27:08.520 But there are people, and once they made that decision,

706 00:27:08.520 --> 00:27:10.320 they were stuck with that decision,

707 00:27:10.320 --> 00:27:12.240 and it broke our hearts.

708 00:27:12.240 --> 00:27:15.570 But it wasn't our place to supplant leadership,

709 00:27:15.570 --> 00:27:17.280 or to tell them what to do.

710 00:27:17.280 --> 00:27:20.130 It was our place to provide them with all the information

711 00:27:20.130 --> 00:27:21.000 that they needed,

712 00:27:21.000 --> 00:27:23.130 so that they could make an informed decision.

713 00:27:23.130 --> 00:27:25.560 So you're going to be in spaces where that's going,

714 00:27:25.560 --> 00:27:28.440 where your heart, everything is gonna be telling you,

715 00:27:28.440 --> 00:27:30.513 this is so wrong, right?

716 00:27:31.440 --> 00:27:33.990 But you need to honor what people are saying.

717 00:27:33.990 --> 00:27:36.210 They were desperate for schools.

718 00:27:36.210 --> 00:27:39.360 And so that decision led to us fighting

719 00:27:39.360 --> 00:27:41.370 for upland schools,  
720 00:27:41.370 --> 00:27:44.730 upland buying properties like hot sheet hotels,  
721 00:27:44.730 --> 00:27:46.230 and turning them into schools.  
722 00:27:46.230 --> 00:27:49.410 Letting people know this is a storm surge  
song.  
723 00:27:49.410 --> 00:27:51.900 We're gonna be dying from extreme heat.  
724 00:27:51.900 --> 00:27:54.330 Literally, that is what's going to kill us.  
725 00:27:54.330 --> 00:27:55.797 And if you wanna know more about that,  
726 00:27:55.797 --> 00:27:57.750 the New York City Environmental Justice  
Alliance  
727 00:27:57.750 --> 00:27:59.040 is preparing a report,  
728 00:27:59.040 --> 00:28:02.100 and has been doing an enormous amount of  
work on this.  
729 00:28:02.100 --> 00:28:05.313 So I'll stop and I'll open it to questions.  
730 00:28:06.330 --> 00:28:08.530 And I'll put on my glasses so I can see you.  
731 00:28:09.720 --> 00:28:13.410 So yeah, so it's a lot that we're doing locally,  
732 00:28:13.410 --> 00:28:15.390 that's just Sunset Park.  
733 00:28:15.390 --> 00:28:17.070 And it looks different everywhere,  
734 00:28:17.070 --> 00:28:18.840 all over the United States.  
735 00:28:18.840 --> 00:28:20.100 This is exciting.  
736 00:28:20.100 --> 00:28:21.360 What we're doing is viable.  
737 00:28:21.360 --> 00:28:24.180 It is operational, and it has a price,  
738 00:28:24.180 --> 00:28:25.950 and we need to move the money,  
739 00:28:25.950 --> 00:28:28.260 so that we are investing in local communities,  
740 00:28:28.260 --> 00:28:31.470 particularly around adaptation, mitigation,  
resilience.  
741 00:28:31.470 --> 00:28:33.270 And because you are in the school of public  
health,  
742 00:28:33.270 --> 00:28:36.240 really important that you break out of those  
silos  
743 00:28:36.240 --> 00:28:38.400 and you're working with people who are in  
the law school  
744 00:28:38.400 --> 00:28:39.720 that are working on land use

745 00:28:39.720 --> 00:28:41.490 and planning and zoning,  
 746 00:28:41.490 --> 00:28:44.490 that you are thinking outside of the box  
 747 00:28:44.490 --> 00:28:47.700 because this, the way that we are trained  
 748 00:28:47.700 --> 00:28:49.440 sometimes is very limited,  
 749 00:28:49.440 --> 00:28:51.180 and climate change is not that.  
 750 00:28:51.180 --> 00:28:52.143 It is not limited.  
 751 00:28:53.130 --> 00:28:54.273 So thank you.  
 752 00:29:00.132 --> 00:29:04.560 <v -> Yes, so I think we collect a lot questions  
 from students.</v>  
 753 00:29:04.560 --> 00:29:07.590 They're very interested in a lot of the work  
 you do.  
 754 00:29:07.590 --> 00:29:10.140 So now we have 20 minutes, which is very rare  
 755 00:29:10.140 --> 00:29:12.150 for the presenter to ask all the questions,  
 756 00:29:12.150 --> 00:29:14.160 especially what we don't know.  
 757 00:29:14.160 --> 00:29:16.140 Especially what, for all the things.  
 758 00:29:16.140 --> 00:29:18.603 So now, floor's open.  
 759 00:29:22.492 --> 00:29:23.325 <v Speaker>I'm not a student.</v>  
 760 00:29:23.325 --> 00:29:24.300 Can I ask a question?  
 761 00:29:24.300 --> 00:29:25.650 <v Instructor>Sure.</v>  
 762 00:29:25.650 --> 00:29:29.850 <v Speaker>You commented on a new house-  
 hold</v>  
 763 00:29:29.850 --> 00:29:33.750 solar power initiative in Sunset Park.  
 764 00:29:33.750 --> 00:29:36.930 And of course this is a source of great frustra-  
 tion,  
 765 00:29:36.930 --> 00:29:40.800 all of us that we have so many roofs,  
 766 00:29:40.800 --> 00:29:43.650 industrial roofs that are flat and vast  
 767 00:29:43.650 --> 00:29:48.060 that you can just imagine solar panels on,  
 768 00:29:48.060 --> 00:29:49.410 and household roofs  
 769 00:29:49.410 --> 00:29:52.950 that many of them face the sun in a very  
 agreeable way.  
 770 00:29:52.950 --> 00:29:55.530 So could you comment on some of your suc-  
 cesses  
 771 00:29:55.530 --> 00:29:58.830 and challenges in launching this initiative?

772 00:29:58.830 --> 00:29:59.663 <v ->A lot of challenges.</v>  
773 00:29:59.663 --> 00:30:01.200 This is the rooftop  
774 00:30:01.200 --> 00:30:03.150 of the Brooklyn Army Terminal.  
775 00:30:03.150 --> 00:30:04.680 It's owned by the New York City  
776 00:30:04.680 --> 00:30:06.120 Economic Development Corporation,  
777 00:30:06.120 --> 00:30:09.513 which is a quasi public corporation in New  
York.  
778 00:30:10.650 --> 00:30:12.150 It's the first time that they partner  
779 00:30:12.150 --> 00:30:14.910 with a frontline group like ours.  
780 00:30:14.910 --> 00:30:16.739 And there have been a lot of challenges,  
781 00:30:16.739 --> 00:30:19.020 just in financing and contracting  
782 00:30:19.020 --> 00:30:20.430 a lot of things that we didn't know  
783 00:30:20.430 --> 00:30:21.880 and we learned along the way.  
784 00:30:23.220 --> 00:30:26.280 But through the relationship with them, we  
are getting them  
785 00:30:26.280 --> 00:30:28.530 to do a study on green manufacturing,  
786 00:30:28.530 --> 00:30:29.640 and other kinds of things  
787 00:30:29.640 --> 00:30:32.010 that can happen along the industrial water-  
front.  
788 00:30:32.010 --> 00:30:34.857 So that one started out,  
789 00:30:34.857 --> 00:30:36.420 the idea was that it was going to be a cooper-  
ative,  
790 00:30:36.420 --> 00:30:37.890 and that did not work out.  
791 00:30:37.890 --> 00:30:40.920 So now it's a community owned initiative,  
792 00:30:40.920 --> 00:30:44.940 where the investments will be in community  
led projects.  
793 00:30:44.940 --> 00:30:46.530 And they look different in different places.  
794 00:30:46.530 --> 00:30:48.810 So we've mapped, for example, the MTA,  
795 00:30:48.810 --> 00:30:50.160 the Jackie Gleason Bus Depot,  
796 00:30:50.160 --> 00:30:52.320 which is enormous in Sunset Park.  
797 00:30:52.320 --> 00:30:53.970 And then we've met with Industry City,  
798 00:30:53.970 --> 00:30:55.020 which is surprising

799 00:30:55.020 --> 00:30:57.600 because we drove them crazy for seven years.  
800 00:30:57.600 --> 00:30:59.370 And we said, we want your rooftops,  
801 00:30:59.370 --> 00:31:01.650 we want your parking lots  
802 00:31:01.650 --> 00:31:05.490 for community owned solar canopies.  
803 00:31:05.490 --> 00:31:08.070 And what we'd like, because your private  
business is  
804 00:31:08.070 --> 00:31:11.910 to make your rooftop a source of renewable  
energy  
805 00:31:11.910 --> 00:31:16.860 for small businesses that have been devastated  
by Covid.  
806 00:31:16.860 --> 00:31:19.560 We lost so many of them in Sunset Park.  
807 00:31:19.560 --> 00:31:20.820 So that small businesses,  
808 00:31:20.820 --> 00:31:22.590 mom and pop shops have access  
809 00:31:22.590 --> 00:31:27.240 to renewable energy at a reduced cost in their  
homes.  
810 00:31:27.240 --> 00:31:28.710 We've met with Liberty View,  
811 00:31:28.710 --> 00:31:31.590 we've met with NYU Langone.  
812 00:31:31.590 --> 00:31:34.890 St. Michael's, OLPH, churches.  
813 00:31:34.890 --> 00:31:36.180 They look different, right?  
814 00:31:36.180 --> 00:31:38.010 So we're not looking at homes  
815 00:31:38.010 --> 00:31:41.040 because site control is a problem in New York  
City.  
816 00:31:41.040 --> 00:31:42.840 So where, if you're in Buffalo,  
817 00:31:42.840 --> 00:31:45.210 and you're working with PUSH, they own the  
property,  
818 00:31:45.210 --> 00:31:46.890 they have control of the rooftops.  
819 00:31:46.890 --> 00:31:48.660 It's a little easier for them.  
820 00:31:48.660 --> 00:31:50.520 But in New York City, there's no site control.  
821 00:31:50.520 --> 00:31:52.800 You can have a landlord that owns the build-  
ing  
822 00:31:52.800 --> 00:31:54.870 for five years and then passes on  
823 00:31:54.870 --> 00:31:56.760 ownership to somebody else.  
824 00:31:56.760 --> 00:31:59.490 So we're looking at a long history,

825 00:31:59.490 --> 00:32:01.680 deep roots, own the property,  
826 00:32:01.680 --> 00:32:05.453 and then we develop contracts that make it  
possible for us  
827 00:32:05.453 --> 00:32:07.260 to have access to them.  
828 00:32:07.260 --> 00:32:10.170 For a while there, I was looking at how we  
can own airspace.  
829 00:32:10.170 --> 00:32:11.790 We had the law school  
830 00:32:11.790 --> 00:32:13.980 and it was a crazy question and request.  
831 00:32:13.980 --> 00:32:15.030 They told me it was crazy,  
832 00:32:15.030 --> 00:32:16.620 but they researched it anyway,  
833 00:32:16.620 --> 00:32:18.390 so that we could have air rights.  
834 00:32:18.390 --> 00:32:21.963 And we could literally use our rooftops as  
eminent domain.  
835 00:32:23.310 --> 00:32:26.640 I'm still haven't given up on that idea.  
836 00:32:26.640 --> 00:32:27.600 So there's a lot.  
837 00:32:27.600 --> 00:32:30.723 It takes time, it takes a lot longer than I had  
expected.  
838 00:32:31.860 --> 00:32:33.240 And this one, I think we're ready  
839 00:32:33.240 --> 00:32:35.310 to launch in the fall of this year.  
840 00:32:35.310 --> 00:32:37.740 We're excited about this one because it be-  
comes a model.  
841 00:32:37.740 --> 00:32:41.610 We captured the learnings, the mistakes, all  
of the things  
842 00:32:41.610 --> 00:32:43.650 that we did well.  
843 00:32:43.650 --> 00:32:45.510 We did that with the fight against Industry  
City  
844 00:32:45.510 --> 00:32:48.060 so that other communities  
845 00:32:48.060 --> 00:32:49.910 can hit the ground running with that.  
846 00:32:51.150 --> 00:32:55.380 What we learned was that the organizing  
847 00:32:55.380 --> 00:32:58.800 that we had been doing for years benefited  
us.  
848 00:32:58.800 --> 00:33:00.630 And it wasn't just organizing on the ground,  
849 00:33:00.630 --> 00:33:02.220 but you know, when I was talking about



850 00:33:02.220 --> 00:33:04.740 how the climate justice movement is talking about

851 00:33:04.740 --> 00:33:05.850 moving the money,

852 00:33:05.850 --> 00:33:08.070 we've also been organizing in philanthropy

853 00:33:08.070 --> 00:33:10.230 and trying to get people who are in philanthropy

854 00:33:10.230 --> 00:33:15.230 to be on the inside talking about how

855 00:33:15.390 --> 00:33:17.730 our communities benefit from moving the money.

856 00:33:17.730 --> 00:33:20.910 How our communities benefit at all levels, right?

857 00:33:20.910 --> 00:33:24.330 And so when we needed the resources,

858 00:33:24.330 --> 00:33:26.550 we started getting those resources to make sure

859 00:33:26.550 --> 00:33:28.500 that we can operationalize that.

860 00:33:28.500 --> 00:33:29.973 Had this been over 10 years ago

861 00:33:29.973 --> 00:33:31.410 when we weren't part of

862 00:33:31.410 --> 00:33:33.360 a national climate justice movement,

863 00:33:33.360 --> 00:33:35.340 we would've been in a very different place.

864 00:33:35.340 --> 00:33:37.050 What's happening locally is that

865 00:33:37.050 --> 00:33:39.420 every local community is benefiting

866 00:33:39.420 --> 00:33:41.040 from the national movement.

867 00:33:41.040 --> 00:33:43.380 So the national agenda is being defined,

868 00:33:43.380 --> 00:33:44.850 what is happening on the ground,

869 00:33:44.850 --> 00:33:46.950 which is very different from how it happened before,

870 00:33:46.950 --> 00:33:48.510 which was grassroots, right?

871 00:33:48.510 --> 00:33:50.640 We saw that with the Green New Deal.

872 00:33:50.640 --> 00:33:53.790 When the Green New Deal came out, we had to have a meeting

873 00:33:53.790 --> 00:33:56.610 with AOC, and we needed to tell them, listen,

874 00:33:56.610 --> 00:34:00.300 this is being dictated by groups like Sunrise and others,

875 00:34:00.300 --> 00:34:01.830 who are not based in community,  
 876 00:34:01.830 --> 00:34:04.320 who are not accountable to community  
 877 00:34:04.320 --> 00:34:06.120 with an agenda that they're creating  
 878 00:34:08.400 --> 00:34:10.230 regardless of community,  
 879 00:34:10.230 --> 00:34:12.030 and are not working with us in a way  
 880 00:34:12.030 --> 00:34:14.100 that honors racial justice  
 881 00:34:14.100 --> 00:34:15.363 or the Jemez Principles.  
 882 00:34:16.590 --> 00:34:19.260 And it has to reflect a just transition  
 883 00:34:19.260 --> 00:34:22.050 and the thinking of the frontline all over the  
 country.  
 884 00:34:22.050 --> 00:34:23.220 We were able to do that,  
 885 00:34:23.220 --> 00:34:25.200 and we were able to change the culture of  
 practice  
 886 00:34:25.200 --> 00:34:27.210 of a lot of institutions  
 887 00:34:27.210 --> 00:34:28.440 because time is of the essence  
 888 00:34:28.440 --> 00:34:30.540 and we need to build those partnerships.  
 889 00:34:30.540 --> 00:34:33.120 So I guess the shorter way of saying that is  
 890 00:34:33.120 --> 00:34:36.030 that everything that we're doing locally comes  
 out  
 891 00:34:36.030 --> 00:34:38.880 of the collective vision that is not just local,  
 892 00:34:38.880 --> 00:34:40.503 but is also part of a national movement.  
 893 00:34:40.503 --> 00:34:42.510 It's movement work.  
 894 00:34:42.510 --> 00:34:44.070 But it's not easy.  
 895 00:34:44.070 --> 00:34:45.660 We're trying to figure out how do we get  
 896 00:34:45.660 --> 00:34:47.250 drinkable water in people?  
 897 00:34:47.250 --> 00:34:49.140 How are we making sure that there's infras-  
 tructure  
 898 00:34:49.140 --> 00:34:50.850 put on the rooftops.  
 899 00:34:50.850 --> 00:34:52.350 Organizing block to block,  
 900 00:34:52.350 --> 00:34:54.930 identifying one organizer per block  
 901 00:34:54.930 --> 00:34:57.210 that becomes sort of your block captain, your  
 leader,

902 00:34:57.210 --> 00:35:00.420 the person who determines whether or not  
 903 00:35:00.420 --> 00:35:02.100 they're going to be your first responder.  
 904 00:35:02.100 --> 00:35:04.260 And I jokingly for years have said that  
 905 00:35:04.260 --> 00:35:05.880 that busybody on the block,  
 906 00:35:05.880 --> 00:35:08.010 the one who organizes the block party,  
 907 00:35:08.010 --> 00:35:09.030 who knows what your business,  
 908 00:35:09.030 --> 00:35:12.330 who you're hooking up with, that's your or-  
 ganizer.  
 909 00:35:12.330 --> 00:35:14.430 They know whether you are on a respirator,  
 910 00:35:14.430 --> 00:35:16.890 whether you're on dialysis, they know.  
 911 00:35:16.890 --> 00:35:20.340 And so the idea of organizing block to block  
 912 00:35:20.340 --> 00:35:22.860 is also a way of strengthening social cohesion,  
 913 00:35:22.860 --> 00:35:24.900 because that's the way that we're gonna sur-  
 vive.  
 914 00:35:24.900 --> 00:35:26.790 And you could do that around projects.  
 915 00:35:26.790 --> 00:35:29.490 Like one block can build an anaerobic digester,  
 916 00:35:29.490 --> 00:35:31.770 another one can paint all the rooftops white.  
 917 00:35:31.770 --> 00:35:33.330 So there's a lot of interventions,  
 918 00:35:33.330 --> 00:35:36.180 and renewable energy is just one of them.  
 919 00:35:36.180 --> 00:35:37.290 But it's the sexiest,  
 920 00:35:37.290 --> 00:35:40.080 and it's the one that people talk about the  
 most.  
 921 00:35:40.080 --> 00:35:41.910 But we need to think about food sovereignty.  
 922 00:35:41.910 --> 00:35:43.680 We're on an industrial waterfront,  
 923 00:35:43.680 --> 00:35:45.690 and it has the possibility of being a place  
 924 00:35:45.690 --> 00:35:47.250 where there's food distribution,  
 925 00:35:47.250 --> 00:35:49.200 where we can connect with upstate farmers  
 926 00:35:49.200 --> 00:35:50.790 that are economically depressed,  
 927 00:35:50.790 --> 00:35:54.210 to bring the food to us through refrigerated  
 gardens.  
 928 00:35:54.210 --> 00:35:56.520 Not only will it strengthen social cohesion  
 929 00:35:56.520 --> 00:35:58.770 between downstate and upstate,

930 00:35:58.770 --> 00:36:01.050 but between poor white folks  
 931 00:36:01.050 --> 00:36:03.180 and people of color in New York City.  
 932 00:36:03.180 --> 00:36:04.770 And that's necessary  
 933 00:36:04.770 --> 00:36:07.470 because they get the benefit of our tax dollars.  
 934 00:36:07.470 --> 00:36:09.750 But when they make legislative choices,  
 935 00:36:09.750 --> 00:36:11.520 they're not thinking about our interests.  
 936 00:36:11.520 --> 00:36:12.900 They're based on race.  
 937 00:36:12.900 --> 00:36:16.140 And so we need to figure out how we use these  
 interventions  
 938 00:36:16.140 --> 00:36:18.060 as a way of connecting communities  
 939 00:36:18.060 --> 00:36:20.250 so that we're ready for these things.  
 940 00:36:20.250 --> 00:36:22.590 So we are making tons of mistakes.  
 941 00:36:22.590 --> 00:36:24.030 And here's the thing about mistakes.  
 942 00:36:24.030 --> 00:36:26.070 I wanna share this because this is true.  
 943 00:36:26.070 --> 00:36:28.230 White folks get to experiment  
 944 00:36:28.230 --> 00:36:30.870 and make mistakes all the freaking time,  
 945 00:36:30.870 --> 00:36:31.860 all the time.  
 946 00:36:31.860 --> 00:36:34.320 We have to excel all the time.  
 947 00:36:34.320 --> 00:36:37.170 And so even being able to talk about  
 948 00:36:37.170 --> 00:36:38.880 our mistakes is uncomfortable,  
 949 00:36:38.880 --> 00:36:40.710 because we're not allowed to fail,  
 950 00:36:40.710 --> 00:36:43.470 to try something, or to make mistakes.  
 951 00:36:43.470 --> 00:36:45.630 You could be someone who comes from privi-  
 lege,  
 952 00:36:45.630 --> 00:36:46.590 and they're just like, well,  
 953 00:36:46.590 --> 00:36:48.600 they were trying out idea.  
 954 00:36:48.600 --> 00:36:50.640 With us, it's not the same.  
 955 00:36:50.640 --> 00:36:52.500 Funders treat us differently.  
 956 00:36:52.500 --> 00:36:54.840 Everyone treats us differently when we fail.  
 957 00:36:54.840 --> 00:36:57.090 And so there's a lot of pressure on us to  
 succeed,  
 958 00:36:57.090 --> 00:36:58.710 not just because of how we're perceived

959 00:36:58.710 --> 00:37:00.030 because of racism,  
960 00:37:00.030 --> 00:37:01.497 but also because the lives of our people  
961 00:37:01.497 --> 00:37:03.060 are literally on the line.  
962 00:37:03.060 --> 00:37:04.590 And so we have to succeed.  
963 00:37:04.590 --> 00:37:05.760 So I wanna share that with you  
964 00:37:05.760 --> 00:37:09.370 because when I say that we're available to  
share  
965 00:37:10.530 --> 00:37:13.650 the learning and the mistakes, it can be the  
thing  
966 00:37:13.650 --> 00:37:15.453 that defines us, you know?  
967 00:37:17.940 --> 00:37:18.773 Yes.  
968 00:37:18.773 --> 00:37:19.606 <v Student>Thank you for speaking.</v>  
969 00:37:19.606 --> 00:37:21.750 I'm really interested in what you're saying  
about  
970 00:37:21.750 --> 00:37:24.840 younger applicants and students who interview  
you  
971 00:37:24.840 --> 00:37:26.310 that are idealistic,  
972 00:37:26.310 --> 00:37:30.180 and maybe romantic about how they perceive  
EJ,  
973 00:37:30.180 --> 00:37:34.740 and seemingly never ending list of to-do tasks  
974 00:37:34.740 --> 00:37:36.690 for you and your organization.  
975 00:37:36.690 --> 00:37:39.870 And they come in and it's actually, oh, too  
much work.  
976 00:37:39.870 --> 00:37:42.570 Maybe I want a four day week, like you said.  
977 00:37:42.570 --> 00:37:46.380 How do you personally balance knowing that  
that list exists  
978 00:37:46.380 --> 00:37:49.080 and also pursuing that collective community  
care  
979 00:37:49.080 --> 00:37:50.010 you were talking about  
980 00:37:50.010 --> 00:37:51.213 and what gives you hope?  
981 00:37:52.110 --> 00:37:54.810 <v ->Well, we have honest conversa-  
tions,</v>  
982 00:37:54.810 --> 00:37:57.930 saying this is not a nine to five organization.  
983 00:37:57.930 --> 00:37:59.460 So we're real honest.

984 00:37:59.460 --> 00:38:02.610 Also, we think that if people are engaged  
985 00:38:02.610 --> 00:38:03.443 in collective care,  
986 00:38:03.443 --> 00:38:04.860 that we will be able to take off  
987 00:38:04.860 --> 00:38:06.690 and be able to take care of each other.  
988 00:38:06.690 --> 00:38:09.000 And we also assess people's energy.  
989 00:38:09.000 --> 00:38:10.740 Like, we don't want people to burn out.  
990 00:38:10.740 --> 00:38:13.830 There's always food, there's always dogs in  
the office.  
991 00:38:13.830 --> 00:38:16.320 Like literally, it really is like that.  
992 00:38:16.320 --> 00:38:18.510 There's music, there's joy.  
993 00:38:18.510 --> 00:38:19.650 We have a lot of events  
994 00:38:19.650 --> 00:38:22.083 that are really just about embracing joy, right?  
995 00:38:23.760 --> 00:38:26.250 But we're honest about what the work de-  
mands,  
996 00:38:26.250 --> 00:38:28.410 and then we try to get a sense of whether  
that's the place,  
997 00:38:28.410 --> 00:38:31.303 not every place is is for you, right?  
998 00:38:31.303 --> 00:38:34.200 Maybe our organization is not for everybody.  
999 00:38:34.200 --> 00:38:36.600 Maybe you need to go work for an NRDC  
1000 00:38:36.600 --> 00:38:38.793 or God forbid, an EDF, right?  
1001 00:38:39.810 --> 00:38:41.430 But not every place.  
1002 00:38:41.430 --> 00:38:43.140 And so the idea,  
1003 00:38:43.140 --> 00:38:46.410 and then the other thing is that the challenges  
that come,  
1004 00:38:46.410 --> 00:38:49.680 often come when it's a woman of color in  
leadership.  
1005 00:38:49.680 --> 00:38:53.550 So you hire people who are more likely to  
hire,  
1006 00:38:53.550 --> 00:38:55.230 and we're seeing this across the country,  
1007 00:38:55.230 --> 00:38:57.180 to challenge and make the lives  
1008 00:38:57.180 --> 00:38:58.353 of women of color and leadership.  
1009 00:38:58.353 --> 00:39:00.327 What I mean saying women of color,  
1010 00:39:00.327 --> 00:39:02.670 are people of Black and indigenous ancestry.

1011 00:39:02.670 --> 00:39:04.020 And that could be anything.

1012 00:39:04.020 --> 00:39:06.660 Black and indigenous means Colombian, Mexican,

1013 00:39:06.660 --> 00:39:07.800 you know, Honduran, right?

1014 00:39:07.800 --> 00:39:09.090 Puerto Rican, right?

1015 00:39:09.090 --> 00:39:10.020 So I just wanna say that

1016 00:39:10.020 --> 00:39:11.100 because I think there is,

1017 00:39:11.100 --> 00:39:12.330 people don't really understand

1018 00:39:12.330 --> 00:39:13.880 how we think about those terms.

1019 00:39:15.120 --> 00:39:18.210 And it's more likely that leadership burns out

1020 00:39:18.210 --> 00:39:20.940 and is leaving because they can't take the pain

1021 00:39:20.940 --> 00:39:22.590 of coming from the frontline,

1022 00:39:22.590 --> 00:39:23.700 having a vision

1023 00:39:23.700 --> 00:39:25.020 and having people challenge them

1024 00:39:25.020 --> 00:39:26.490 just because they think they can.

1025 00:39:26.490 --> 00:39:28.260 But when there's a white man in leadership,

1026 00:39:28.260 --> 00:39:29.280 no one challenges them.

1027 00:39:29.280 --> 00:39:31.170 They let it go, they complain on the side,

1028 00:39:31.170 --> 00:39:32.580 they out for drinks and they complain,

1029 00:39:32.580 --> 00:39:33.540 but they do the work.

1030 00:39:33.540 --> 00:39:34.680 It's very different.

1031 00:39:34.680 --> 00:39:36.570 So I'm being honest about the challenges

1032 00:39:36.570 --> 00:39:37.800 that we're going through.

1033 00:39:37.800 --> 00:39:40.320 So I'm just saying that in terms of an invitation,

1034 00:39:40.320 --> 00:39:42.240 if you're coming into our organizations,

1035 00:39:42.240 --> 00:39:43.440 we take care of each other.

1036 00:39:43.440 --> 00:39:45.900 We look out for each other, we get paid.

1037 00:39:45.900 --> 00:39:49.775 I bust my butt raising funds so that people get paid well.

1038 00:39:49.775 --> 00:39:53.100 Worked really hard to make sure  
1039 00:39:53.100 --> 00:39:55.050 that the health insurance is the best  
1040 00:39:55.050 --> 00:39:57.120 that there is on the market.  
1041 00:39:57.120 --> 00:39:58.470 That you know,  
1042 00:39:58.470 --> 00:40:01.140 that we are engaged deeply in collective care.  
1043 00:40:01.140 --> 00:40:02.820 So the organization has to be a place  
1044 00:40:02.820 --> 00:40:05.240 where children are welcome, where all people  
1045 00:40:05.240 --> 00:40:06.780 of different kinds of abilities,  
1046 00:40:06.780 --> 00:40:07.890 where we are sancocho.  
1047 00:40:07.890 --> 00:40:10.623 A little bit of this and that and awesome,  
right?  
1048 00:40:11.730 --> 00:40:16.320 But there is a very, there's something that's  
happening  
1049 00:40:16.320 --> 00:40:18.630 to this particular generation,  
1050 00:40:18.630 --> 00:40:19.590 and I don't know, I don't even know.  
1051 00:40:19.590 --> 00:40:20.460 You all look Gen Z,  
1052 00:40:20.460 --> 00:40:22.350 I dunno where you're getting  
1053 00:40:22.350 --> 00:40:23.460 your marching orders from,  
1054 00:40:23.460 --> 00:40:24.420 like LinkedIn.  
1055 00:40:24.420 --> 00:40:26.250 And that's corporate culture,  
1056 00:40:26.250 --> 00:40:29.790 that you're literally toxic corporate culture  
1057 00:40:29.790 --> 00:40:31.500 is really influencing  
1058 00:40:31.500 --> 00:40:34.230 how you think about the workspace across  
the board.  
1059 00:40:34.230 --> 00:40:36.900 And it doesn't apply to grassroots organiza-  
tions  
1060 00:40:36.900 --> 00:40:38.670 that if you think and are supposed  
1061 00:40:38.670 --> 00:40:39.600 to be accurate in justice,  
1062 00:40:39.600 --> 00:40:41.700 you shouldn't have to be worried about that.  
1063 00:40:41.700 --> 00:40:43.140 Right?  
1064 00:40:43.140 --> 00:40:45.960 People talk about the nonprofit industrial  
complex,



1065 00:40:45.960 --> 00:40:49.380 and that's not grassroots, frontline led organizations,

1066 00:40:49.380 --> 00:40:51.180 but it's the kind of rhetoric

1067 00:40:51.180 --> 00:40:52.170 that makes you sound like

1068 00:40:52.170 --> 00:40:53.880 you know what you're talking about.

1069 00:40:53.880 --> 00:40:56.370 And so you come in ready to fight inside

1070 00:40:56.370 --> 00:40:57.870 instead of rolling up your sleeves

1071 00:40:57.870 --> 00:40:59.700 and doing the work outside.

1072 00:40:59.700 --> 00:41:02.700 And that is really taking out a lot of organizations.

1073 00:41:02.700 --> 00:41:04.470 I don't know if I've answered your question.

1074 00:41:04.470 --> 00:41:05.520 I hope that you have.

1075 00:41:07.444 --> 00:41:09.600 <v ->Thank you.</v> <v ->I think I hope that I have,</v>

1076 00:41:09.600 --> 00:41:12.300 but I'm really willing

1077 00:41:12.300 --> 00:41:14.580 to have uncomfortable conversations.

1078 00:41:14.580 --> 00:41:16.830 I think that that's how I show respect,

1079 00:41:16.830 --> 00:41:19.470 and that's how I make it clear about,

1080 00:41:19.470 --> 00:41:21.570 as someone who's in a leadership role

1081 00:41:21.570 --> 00:41:24.170 and runs an organization, what I expect from people.

1082 00:41:25.680 --> 00:41:27.330 And people not keeping their word,

1083 00:41:27.330 --> 00:41:28.230 like saying, you know,

1084 00:41:28.230 --> 00:41:29.550 you go through the interview process

1085 00:41:29.550 --> 00:41:31.470 and you say, this is what we need.

1086 00:41:31.470 --> 00:41:33.450 And they're like, okay, okay. 'cause they want the job,

1087 00:41:33.450 --> 00:41:35.370 and then they come in like, well,

1088 00:41:35.370 --> 00:41:37.050 what I really want is like.

1089 00:41:37.050 --> 00:41:39.510 That's self, that's self.

1090 00:41:39.510 --> 00:41:40.410 Even when you think about

1091 00:41:40.410 --> 00:41:42.900 intergenerational and youth-led,

1092 00:41:42.900 --> 00:41:47.640 this country has issues when it comes to age, right?

1093 00:41:47.640 --> 00:41:50.490 So you got young people trying to push older people out,

1094 00:41:50.490 --> 00:41:52.800 older people trying to hold onto power.

1095 00:41:52.800 --> 00:41:55.500 And power has to be intergenerational.

1096 00:41:55.500 --> 00:41:57.000 We need to be able to work

1097 00:41:57.000 --> 00:41:59.670 with each other across the continuum of age.

1098 00:41:59.670 --> 00:42:01.830 We learn, we build, and we have power

1099 00:42:01.830 --> 00:42:03.540 when it's intergenerational.

1100 00:42:03.540 --> 00:42:05.190 So young people and everything,

1101 00:42:05.190 --> 00:42:07.170 that's sort of how we romanticize and fetishize

1102 00:42:07.170 --> 00:42:08.370 youth leadership,

1103 00:42:08.370 --> 00:42:11.430 is really extractive, competitive, patriarchal.

1104 00:42:11.430 --> 00:42:14.040 It's, I wanna run to the front, I want shine,

1105 00:42:14.040 --> 00:42:16.860 I need this, I'm ambitious, and you're in my way.

1106 00:42:16.860 --> 00:42:20.010 And then older people holding on for dear life.

1107 00:42:20.010 --> 00:42:21.150 Intergenerational power

1108 00:42:21.150 --> 00:42:22.290 that comes from the Global South

1109 00:42:22.290 --> 00:42:23.850 is not like that.

1110 00:42:23.850 --> 00:42:26.310 When you are building an intergenerational movement

1111 00:42:26.310 --> 00:42:30.060 and power, clearly you may have skills that I don't have.

1112 00:42:30.060 --> 00:42:32.790 And those are important, and they're really important,

1113 00:42:32.790 --> 00:42:34.770 and I'm gonna recognize that those are important,

1114 00:42:34.770 --> 00:42:37.680 and understand what the deficits are of my generation,

1115 00:42:37.680 --> 00:42:39.660 because of the time that I grew up in.

1116 00:42:39.660 --> 00:42:43.080 I will not be able to be an impactful, powerful leader

1117 00:42:43.080 --> 00:42:46.350 if I am not part of an intergenerational movement.

1118 00:42:46.350 --> 00:42:48.750 I am learning from you constantly,

1119 00:42:48.750 --> 00:42:50.670 and I hope that out of humility,

1120 00:42:50.670 --> 00:42:52.440 you were learning from me as well.

1121 00:42:52.440 --> 00:42:55.680 So those tensions that are part, that are literally part

1122 00:42:55.680 --> 00:42:57.660 of an Anglo-American construct,

1123 00:42:57.660 --> 00:43:01.080 they're uniquely part of the United States,

1124 00:43:01.080 --> 00:43:03.660 hurt institutions because you've got young people

1125 00:43:03.660 --> 00:43:05.940 coming with knowing nothing

1126 00:43:05.940 --> 00:43:07.950 than what they learned in the classroom,

1127 00:43:07.950 --> 00:43:11.280 trying to push older people out, right?

1128 00:43:11.280 --> 00:43:13.230 Knowing nothing, no humility.

1129 00:43:13.230 --> 00:43:16.170 This is work that requires tremendous humility,

1130 00:43:16.170 --> 00:43:17.610 because it is complex,

1131 00:43:17.610 --> 00:43:18.750 and a lot of what we're doing

1132 00:43:18.750 --> 00:43:20.250 has never been done before.

1133 00:43:20.250 --> 00:43:23.730 And then older people holding on for freaking dear life

1134 00:43:23.730 --> 00:43:26.610 and not knowing that there's really room for all of us,

1135 00:43:26.610 --> 00:43:29.580 that we can be matriarchal and we can be leaderful.

1136 00:43:29.580 --> 00:43:31.290 There really is room for all of us.

1137 00:43:31.290 --> 00:43:32.940 And that this moment is demanding

1138 00:43:32.940 --> 00:43:35.670 that we all be in play with each other.

1139 00:43:35.670 --> 00:43:37.440 So those are some of the tensions

1140 00:43:37.440 --> 00:43:41.139 that are appearing in the workspace at a grassroots level.

1141 00:43:41.139 --> 00:43:43.320 And I think that these conversations  
 1142 00:43:43.320 --> 00:43:44.763 are absolutely necessary.  
 1143 00:43:46.650 --> 00:43:47.880 Si.  
 1144 00:43:47.880 --> 00:43:48.780 <v Student>Well, thank you so much.</v>  
 1145 00:43:48.780 --> 00:43:50.940 This sounds like really impressive  
 1146 00:43:50.940 --> 00:43:52.740 and really interesting work.  
 1147 00:43:52.740 --> 00:43:55.740 I was wondering, I obviously don't know your  
 space  
 1148 00:43:55.740 --> 00:43:58.410 and the geography of the space,  
 1149 00:43:58.410 --> 00:44:02.370 but with the solar canopies you were talking  
 about,  
 1150 00:44:02.370 --> 00:44:03.573 is there any, or like,  
 1151 00:44:04.558 --> 00:44:06.240 how are you guys ensuring that?  
 1152 00:44:06.240 --> 00:44:08.040 Or is there any risk of like flood zones  
 1153 00:44:08.040 --> 00:44:11.220 or how are you ensuring that it's sustainable  
 for --  
 1154 00:44:11.220 --> 00:44:12.053 <v ->Over time?</v>  
 1155 00:44:12.053 --> 00:44:13.770 <v Student>Yeah, over time.</v>  
 1156 00:44:13.770 --> 00:44:15.870 <v ->So we have a geographer on staff,</v>  
 1157 00:44:15.870 --> 00:44:17.150 and we work with a number of people.  
 1158 00:44:17.150 --> 00:44:19.590 We work with a company called Working  
 Power.  
 1159 00:44:19.590 --> 00:44:20.423 They're pretty amazing.  
 1160 00:44:20.423 --> 00:44:22.230 You should look them up.  
 1161 00:44:22.230 --> 00:44:25.500 And they look at the infrastructure,  
 1162 00:44:25.500 --> 00:44:28.329 they look at the space and they determine  
 whether,  
 1163 00:44:28.329 --> 00:44:31.170 what is being proposed to be built there,  
 1164 00:44:31.170 --> 00:44:33.273 will it withstand over time.  
 1165 00:44:35.100 --> 00:44:36.120 On the industrial sector,  
 1166 00:44:36.120 --> 00:44:38.610 you know, there are all these parking lots.  
 1167 00:44:38.610 --> 00:44:41.850 And so, you know, there's an opportunity  
 for solar panels,

1168 00:44:41.850 --> 00:44:43.500 for solar canopies there.

1169 00:44:43.500 --> 00:44:45.390 And then of course there's our rooftops.

1170 00:44:45.390 --> 00:44:47.040 And then we're thinking about our backyards

1171 00:44:47.040 --> 00:44:49.323 for like bioswales for growing food.

1172 00:44:50.460 --> 00:44:53.490 And the neighborhood has literally, if you look at the grid,

1173 00:44:53.490 --> 00:44:55.110 if you go online and you read the grid,

1174 00:44:55.110 --> 00:44:58.680 has been mapped for all of these different interventions.

1175 00:44:58.680 --> 00:45:00.450 But we work with people who understand

1176 00:45:00.450 --> 00:45:02.760 how the infrastructure works,

1177 00:45:02.760 --> 00:45:03.960 how it's going to be impacted

1178 00:45:03.960 --> 00:45:05.943 by extreme wind and heat.

1179 00:45:06.930 --> 00:45:08.179 I don't know those things.

1180 00:45:08.179 --> 00:45:09.060 I have to be a generalist,

1181 00:45:09.060 --> 00:45:11.580 I have to know a little bit about everything, right?

1182 00:45:11.580 --> 00:45:14.943 But luckily I work with a lot of experts in those areas.

1183 00:45:14.943 --> 00:45:17.970 But those are really good questions and they're necessary.

1184 00:45:17.970 --> 00:45:20.880 We did a project where we reached out to

1185 00:45:20.880 --> 00:45:23.160 90 auto salvaging shops

1186 00:45:23.160 --> 00:45:24.840 to make them climate adaptable,

1187 00:45:24.840 --> 00:45:26.700 because they fly below the radar

1188 00:45:26.700 --> 00:45:28.530 and because a lot of environmentalists

1189 00:45:28.530 --> 00:45:30.030 wanna take them out of business.

1190 00:45:30.030 --> 00:45:32.700 But these are mom and pop shops that are, you know,

1191 00:45:32.700 --> 00:45:35.040 they're fixing cars in our neighborhood.

1192 00:45:35.040 --> 00:45:37.505 But in their businesses, they're using chemicals

1193 00:45:37.505 --> 00:45:42.210 that present the possibility of toxic exposure,

1194 00:45:42.210 --> 00:45:43.860 that can become projectiles.  
1195 00:45:43.860 --> 00:45:46.020 And so we created an app for that.  
1196 00:45:46.020 --> 00:45:48.180 We created a comic strip to educate them  
1197 00:45:48.180 --> 00:45:50.130 because we assume that if we create,  
1198 00:45:50.130 --> 00:45:53.100 put together a body of literature in Spanish  
1199 00:45:53.100 --> 00:45:54.660 or in another language that they can read.  
1200 00:45:54.660 --> 00:45:56.580 Sometimes people can't read, right?  
1201 00:45:56.580 --> 00:45:57.960 Regardless of the language.  
1202 00:45:57.960 --> 00:45:59.400 So we created video content.  
1203 00:45:59.400 --> 00:46:02.430 It was multidimensional information  
1204 00:46:02.430 --> 00:46:04.500 so that they can access it in a different way.  
1205 00:46:04.500 --> 00:46:06.240 And then we raised the resources so  
1206 00:46:06.240 --> 00:46:08.880 that we could retrofit their business  
1207 00:46:08.880 --> 00:46:11.130 so that they could know where the chemicals  
are,  
1208 00:46:11.130 --> 00:46:12.360 what would happen upon,  
1209 00:46:12.360 --> 00:46:13.560 what they needed to do  
1210 00:46:13.560 --> 00:46:16.080 to protect themselves so that there wouldn't  
be any spillage  
1211 00:46:16.080 --> 00:46:18.390 and it wouldn't impact the adjacent,  
1212 00:46:18.390 --> 00:46:19.950 you know, their neighbors.  
1213 00:46:19.950 --> 00:46:21.720 So those are the kinds of things that we need  
1214 00:46:21.720 --> 00:46:22.830 to be thinking about.  
1215 00:46:22.830 --> 00:46:24.600 Really looking hyper-local  
1216 00:46:24.600 --> 00:46:27.870 at what people need and providing them  
with the resources.  
1217 00:46:27.870 --> 00:46:30.210 You know, we're coming from a climate jus-  
tice perspective,  
1218 00:46:30.210 --> 00:46:33.180 and so we weren't gonna say throw them  
out,  
1219 00:46:33.180 --> 00:46:34.780 close them down, shut them down.  
1220 00:46:35.700 --> 00:46:38.700 We wanna make sure that people thrive  
economically,

1221 00:46:38.700 --> 00:46:41.880 but that they get the resources that they need to thrive.

1222 00:46:41.880 --> 00:46:44.460 And because these are small businesses,

1223 00:46:44.460 --> 00:46:46.710 we needed to meet with them like at five in the morning,

1224 00:46:46.710 --> 00:46:47.640 late at night.

1225 00:46:47.640 --> 00:46:49.593 They work 24-7, right?

1226 00:46:50.940 --> 00:46:52.740 So there's a lot of different things that you can do

1227 00:46:52.740 --> 00:46:54.840 with a lot of different sectors,

1228 00:46:54.840 --> 00:46:56.340 so that they're ready for climate change,

1229 00:46:56.340 --> 00:46:58.770 and they're incorporating protections.

1230 00:46:58.770 --> 00:47:02.070 When I first met with one of those auto salvaging shops,

1231 00:47:02.070 --> 00:47:04.227 they had antifreeze on the ground,

1232 00:47:04.227 --> 00:47:07.230 and there was a little girl running around barefoot.

1233 00:47:07.230 --> 00:47:09.240 And I said to the guy, companero,

1234 00:47:09.240 --> 00:47:11.370 do you know that that's a carcinogen?

1235 00:47:11.370 --> 00:47:13.530 And that she's walking around barefoot?

1236 00:47:13.530 --> 00:47:15.303 And the guy almost started crying.

1237 00:47:16.140 --> 00:47:17.520 He didn't know.

1238 00:47:17.520 --> 00:47:19.680 All he knew how to do was fix cars.

1239 00:47:19.680 --> 00:47:21.870 And so what was I supposed to do?

1240 00:47:21.870 --> 00:47:25.620 Criminalize him, report him to DC?

1241 00:47:25.620 --> 00:47:26.550 Right?

1242 00:47:26.550 --> 00:47:27.930 That's not what we do.

1243 00:47:27.930 --> 00:47:30.420 We let him know because his family was working

1244 00:47:30.420 --> 00:47:33.120 in that business, and they were being exposed.

1245 00:47:33.120 --> 00:47:34.170 These are the things that you need

1246 00:47:34.170 --> 00:47:35.610 to do to protect yourself.

1247 00:47:35.610 --> 00:47:37.110 And if there's extreme heat,  
1248 00:47:37.110 --> 00:47:38.970 this is what's gonna happen with these chemicals.  
1249 00:47:38.970 --> 00:47:41.550 And if there's extreme wind, this is what's gonna happen.  
1250 00:47:41.550 --> 00:47:44.760 You don't have any ventilation in this space.  
1251 00:47:44.760 --> 00:47:45.593 You need to use  
1252 00:47:46.860 --> 00:47:48.333 this kind of protective gear.  
1253 00:47:49.170 --> 00:47:50.730 If you're talking about public health,  
1254 00:47:50.730 --> 00:47:54.000 and you care about creating wealth,  
1255 00:47:54.000 --> 00:47:55.200 community power,  
1256 00:47:55.200 --> 00:47:57.750 making sure people thrive so that they don't have to deal  
1257 00:47:57.750 --> 00:48:01.080 with the stress of poverty generation to generation,  
1258 00:48:01.080 --> 00:48:02.280 you need to be thinking about  
1259 00:48:02.280 --> 00:48:04.440 how do you support these kinds of businesses  
1260 00:48:04.440 --> 00:48:05.760 without judging them,  
1261 00:48:05.760 --> 00:48:07.860 and coming from your place of privilege  
1262 00:48:07.860 --> 00:48:09.093 and imposing your,  
1263 00:48:09.960 --> 00:48:13.230 and having interventions that will actually work for them.  
1264 00:48:13.230 --> 00:48:15.030 And those are the things that we do.  
1265 00:48:16.170 --> 00:48:17.220 <v ->Thanks Elizabeth.</v>  
1266 00:48:17.220 --> 00:48:18.053 Because of timing,  
1267 00:48:18.053 --> 00:48:21.665 I think we can only take one final question from online.  
1268 00:48:21.665 --> 00:48:23.160 One of the audience asking,  
1269 00:48:23.160 --> 00:48:25.920 minority children are some of the most vulnerable  
1270 00:48:25.920 --> 00:48:27.720 effected by the environmental disparities.  
1271 00:48:27.720 --> 00:48:31.350 Do you have any other advice on whether it is more effective



1272 00:48:31.350 --> 00:48:33.600 for us to focus research

1273 00:48:33.600 --> 00:48:35.790 and other efforts that you mentioned,

1274 00:48:35.790 --> 00:48:37.410 especially on children,

1275 00:48:37.410 --> 00:48:40.589 that continue working with their broader at risk

1276 00:48:40.589 --> 00:48:42.570 communities as whole?

1277 00:48:42.570 --> 00:48:44.640 <v ->So first I'd say that we are not minorities,</v>

1278 00:48:44.640 --> 00:48:47.984 that anywhere in the world, we're a global majority.

1279 00:48:47.984 --> 00:48:50.670 And I don't like the word minority,

1280 00:48:50.670 --> 00:48:52.410 because it disempowers us,

1281 00:48:52.410 --> 00:48:54.630 makes us feel small and insignificant.

1282 00:48:54.630 --> 00:48:57.990 And we're heading towards a world of climate apartheid.

1283 00:48:57.990 --> 00:49:01.080 So I wanna make it clear

1284 00:49:01.080 --> 00:49:03.000 that we are the descendants of extraction,

1285 00:49:03.000 --> 00:49:05.040 of colonialism, and enslavement,

1286 00:49:05.040 --> 00:49:07.380 and we are the majority in the world.

1287 00:49:07.380 --> 00:49:09.990 There are a lot of initiatives.

1288 00:49:09.990 --> 00:49:13.110 You know, EPA has a lot of federal advisory councils

1289 00:49:13.110 --> 00:49:15.120 that focus on children.

1290 00:49:15.120 --> 00:49:17.580 There's a lot of work that is being done across,

1291 00:49:17.580 --> 00:49:19.260 because we're intergenerational.

1292 00:49:19.260 --> 00:49:23.640 We look at what does that mean for our children

1293 00:49:23.640 --> 00:49:26.883 in terms of toxic exposure when they're in utero,

1294 00:49:27.810 --> 00:49:29.520 you're living under a highway.

1295 00:49:29.520 --> 00:49:32.970 And that means that our children are going to be

1296 00:49:32.970 --> 00:49:36.660 more susceptible to asthma of respiratory disease,

1297 00:49:36.660 --> 00:49:40.650 learning disabilities, all kinds of things that are a result

1298 00:49:40.650 --> 00:49:44.670 of sort of the legacy of toxic exposure.

1299 00:49:44.670 --> 00:49:48.060 So there's a lot of work being done across the country,

1300 00:49:48.060 --> 00:49:49.950 and in different parts of the world

1301 00:49:49.950 --> 00:49:52.320 that focuses specifically on children.

1302 00:49:52.320 --> 00:49:55.050 And I think I would encourage you to think about that.

1303 00:49:55.050 --> 00:49:59.040 I would also encourage you to, while you're doing that,

1304 00:49:59.040 --> 00:50:02.550 to also create popular education tools

1305 00:50:02.550 --> 00:50:05.340 so that parents have access to the kind of information

1306 00:50:05.340 --> 00:50:08.925 that they need about where they live, their space,

1307 00:50:08.925 --> 00:50:11.790 what they're eating, what they're drinking,

1308 00:50:11.790 --> 00:50:14.610 and how to protect the bodies.

1309 00:50:14.610 --> 00:50:16.360 Women, how to protect their bodies.

1310 00:50:17.460 --> 00:50:20.910 But there's an enormous amount of information,

1311 00:50:20.910 --> 00:50:22.170 and we know how climate change

1312 00:50:22.170 --> 00:50:25.440 is going to affect children and women.

1313 00:50:25.440 --> 00:50:27.360 So, yeah.

1314 00:50:27.360 --> 00:50:28.980 I hope I answered all of your questions.

1315 00:50:28.980 --> 00:50:29.813 It's a lot.

1316 00:50:29.813 --> 00:50:31.560 You know, I've been doing this work for a minute,

1317 00:50:31.560 --> 00:50:33.180 and I work with a lot of different people

1318 00:50:33.180 --> 00:50:36.630 who are just really holding it down.

1319 00:50:36.630 --> 00:50:37.680 I would encourage you to look at

1320 00:50:37.680 --> 00:50:39.600 the Climate Justice Alliance website.

1321 00:50:39.600 --> 00:50:41.760 We have created all of the frameworks,  
1322 00:50:41.760 --> 00:50:43.620 all of the tools so that you don't have to  
1323 00:50:43.620 --> 00:50:44.910 reinvent the wheel,  
1324 00:50:44.910 --> 00:50:46.920 or you don't have to extract our thinking  
1325 00:50:46.920 --> 00:50:49.380 and use the redefine, adjust, transition,  
1326 00:50:49.380 --> 00:50:52.140 redefine climate justice or environmental  
justice.  
1327 00:50:52.140 --> 00:50:54.210 We have definitions for all those things.  
1328 00:50:54.210 --> 00:50:58.260 And so what we want is for you to use the  
body of work  
1329 00:50:58.260 --> 00:51:01.200 that we have created so that it shapes  
1330 00:51:01.200 --> 00:51:04.230 and informs how you move forward in this  
area.  
1331 00:51:04.230 --> 00:51:07.200 I wanna congratulate you for your interest  
in this.  
1332 00:51:07.200 --> 00:51:10.110 And I wanna say thank you for,  
1333 00:51:10.110 --> 00:51:11.910 we need you, we need to be leaderful,  
1334 00:51:11.910 --> 00:51:13.260 and intergenerational.  
1335 00:51:13.260 --> 00:51:14.610 And you need to figure out,  
1336 00:51:14.610 --> 00:51:16.170 you need to follow the Jemez principles  
1337 00:51:16.170 --> 00:51:17.700 for democratic organizing.  
1338 00:51:17.700 --> 00:51:21.870 And be comfortable with being led by the  
frontline.  
1339 00:51:21.870 --> 00:51:23.550 Honestly, it's time.  
1340 00:51:23.550 --> 00:51:25.440 It is our communities that are suffering  
1341 00:51:25.440 --> 00:51:27.390 because of the legacy of extraction,  
1342 00:51:27.390 --> 00:51:29.310 because of decisions that have been made,  
1343 00:51:29.310 --> 00:51:32.370 and are being made even today by the  
Supreme Court  
1344 00:51:32.370 --> 00:51:34.596 that are killing our people.  
1345 00:51:34.596 --> 00:51:39.596 And so yeah, just lean into that  
1346 00:51:39.930 --> 00:51:42.660 and be comfortable with your vulnerabilities.  
1347 00:51:42.660 --> 00:51:45.270 It really is about decolonizing your education.

1348 00:51:45.270 --> 00:51:47.340 We've all been conditioned to think  
1349 00:51:47.340 --> 00:51:49.800 that we know everything and we don't.  
1350 00:51:49.800 --> 00:51:51.291 And that's okay.  
1351 00:51:51.291 --> 00:51:53.010 I mean, knowing everybody  
1352 00:51:53.010 --> 00:51:54.000 and being comfortable  
1353 00:51:54.000 --> 00:51:55.860 being part of a collective,  
1354 00:51:55.860 --> 00:51:57.510 intergenerational, leaderful model  
1355 00:51:57.510 --> 00:51:59.970 that is matriarchal, is the only way  
1356 00:51:59.970 --> 00:52:01.996 that we're be able to address these resources.  
1357 00:52:01.996 --> 00:52:04.259 (Elizabeth speaking in foreign language)  
1358 00:52:04.259 --> 00:52:06.092 <v Student>Thank you.</v>  
1359 00:52:08.779 --> 00:52:11.563 <v Instructor>Thank you everyone for coming.</v>  
1360 00:52:11.563 --> 00:52:14.688 (indistinct)  
1361 00:52:14.688 --> 00:52:16.476 Like she said, we need everyone,  
1362 00:52:16.476 --> 00:52:18.951 and especially. (indistinct)  
1363 00:52:18.951 --> 00:52:19.959 Thank you, everybody.  
1364 00:52:19.959 --> 00:52:23.084 Thank you also, the online audience.  
1365 00:52:23.084 --> 00:52:24.948 The lecture is recorded,  
1366 00:52:24.948 --> 00:52:26.735 it will be posted online.  
1367 00:52:26.735 --> 00:52:30.485 (instructor speaking softly)