

**Reframing Environmental Education by
Celebrating Racial Perspectives**



*Saturday June 2, 2018 ~ 9am - 4pm
Antioch University, Seattle*

*Welcome and thank you for
joining us today*

Program Schedule

	Room 202 A & B	Room 227	Room 219 A & B
9:00- 9:45am	Registration & Posters		
9:45- 10:15am	Welcome		
10:30- 11:45am	Barbara Lawrence- Piecuch & Kah-Ty-Ah Lawrence Our Environment, Our Education and Our People, From the Past, In the Present and Our Hope for the Future	Riki Ott Who Rules? The Democracy Crisis - Understanding the Journey	Sapna Sopori, Bre Ganné & Belinda Chin Playing the Game to Change the Game: 3 women of color share what they've learned working within pre- dominantly white institutions
12:00- 12:30pm	Lunch		Julie Fonseca de Borges Keynote Presentation
12:45- 1:15pm	Lunch		Julie Fonseca de Borges Keynote Presentation
1:30- 2:15pm	Alicia M. Highland Exploring Identities through Environmental Education: Principles and Practices for New Educators		Meaghan Leferink Climbing the Ladder of Youth Participation Towards Leadership
2:30- 3:15pm	Florence Sum A Collaboration to Break the Green Ceiling		Hamdi Abdulle & Bilan Aden Environmental Educa- tion from a Refugee's Lens
3:30- 4:00pm	Closing		

Workshop Session One:

Our Environment, Our Education, & Our People, From the Past, In the Present & Our Hope for Our Future

Barbara Lawrence-Piecuch & Kah-Ty-Ah Lawrence

Barbara and Kah-Ty-Ah will take you on a brief journey through some of the teachings of the Suquamish Tribe, which will give you a glimpse of their tribes' deep and abiding relationship to the natural environment. Using traditional storytelling, and historical accounts, with contemporary realities and experiences; they will offer you a perspective of environmental education, unique to the Indigenous peoples of the Puget Sound.

Playing the Game to Change the Game: 3 women of color share what they've learned working within predominantly white institutions

Sapna Sopori, Bre Ganné, & Belinda Chin

Predominantly white institutions are a large percentage of the environmental field. How can people of color navigate the tricky waters of surviving and thriving in them? We will share the experiences of 3 women of color working in different institutions: small rural city government; large urban city government; mid-sized nonprofit.

Who Rules? The Democracy Crisis – Understanding the Journey

Riki Ott

Using an interactive timeline, participants explore American history through lens of laws that have shaped our society from inception to present. Participants gain knowledge of institutionalized racism, rise of corporate power and rule, cycles of power abuses – and the inter-generational work needed to limit power of a centralized government.

Workshop Session Two:

Exploring Identities through Environmental Education: Principles and Practices for New Educators

Alicia M. Highland

Though this interactive session, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the ways that self and social identities intersect with teaching and learning in environmental education. Participants will leave this session with adaptable tools that can be used for engaging learners of all ages.

Climbing the Ladder of Youth Participation Towards Leadership

Meaghan Leferink

Learn how individuals and organizations can provide impactful youth leadership opportunities, and avoid adultism (bias towards adults resulting in discrimination against youth) through the Ladder of Youth Participation. Strategize tools you could use in your own organization or classroom to overcome barriers in providing authentic opportunities for leadership to youth.

Workshop Session Three:

Environmental Education from a Refugee's Lens

Hamdi Abdulle & Bilan Aden

Environmental education looks differently to different communities. During this workshop we will discuss how Somali Youth & Family Club supports refugee families acclimate to their new home environment. We are devoted to maximizing the learning experience of every child by guiding and challenging them to reach their fullest potential through community networking and our own challenging and inspiring programs. SYFC strongly believes that the protection and educational development of all youth and the access to resources for families is necessary and integral to human progress.

A Collaboration to Break the Green Ceiling

Florence Sum

To address the disproportionate economic and health impacts of environmental inequality on communities, Florence Sum of Green Pathways proposes that low-income young people of color from these communities must be positioned to take leadership roles. This requires not only access to employment opportunities, but comprehensive career support and environmental justice education.

Presenters



Julie Fonseca de Borges (she/her/hers)

Keynote Speaker

Julie Fonseca de Borges is the Chief of Interpretation for Seattle Area National Park Sites. With over a decade of experience in the National Park Service, her work has focused on increasing the impact urban parks can make in fostering the necessary experiences that cultivate relevance for shared history sites and other public lands among individuals in the communities parks serve. She brings a wealth of experiences to our conference as a person of color working within a historically white federal agency. Outside her role as a park ranger, Julie is the proud mom of an active 11 year old, a Girl Scout Troop Leader, and a very amateur banjo player.

Barbara Lawrence-Piecuch (she/her/hers)

Raised on the Suquamish Port Madison Indian Reservation, Barbara's elders imparted to her a reverence for native stories, cultural teachings, and the importance of oral history. These tribal elders set her on a path that she continues to walk today as she pursues her passions that include storytelling, Suquamish culture and history, tribal politics, social justice, cultural resources protection, and cultural education. Currently Barbara works for The Suquamish Tribe in the Education Department and has served on several Washington State Advisory Boards, committees, commission and task forces that bridge the tribal/state governmental interests.



Kah-Ty-Ah Lawrence (she/her/hers)

Kah-Ty-Ah Lawrence is a Suquamish Tribal Member, raised with thorough cultural education at home and within her tribal community. Kah-Ty-Ah continuously reconnects to her culture via many avenues, including traditional plant gathering, old world food processing and advocating for tribal sovereignty through public education and museum contracting. She has been working with public school groups for 5 years. Currently an Archivist/Curator for the Suquamish Museum and Co-curating at the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art.



Riki Ott (she/her/hers)

Riki Ott, PhD, is a Marine Toxicologist and former Alaska commercial fisherman's who experienced the trauma and devastation of the Exxon Valdez oil spill firsthand. This became a vehicle for personal growth. She works in front-line communities to empower youth and adults with accessible, science- and civics-based trainings to build the movements to end corporate rule and transition off fossil fuels. She co-founded MoveToAmend and directs two projects of Earth Island Institute: UltimateCivics.org towards a healthy democracy; and AlertProject.org towards a healthy energy future.

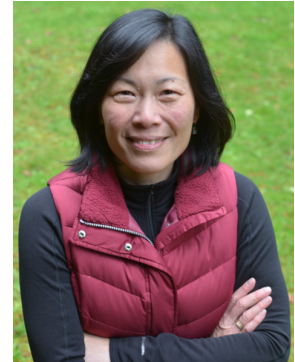


Bre Ganné (she/her/hers)

Bre is a queer POC and parent from the Okanogan Valley who has worked in parks and facilities maintenance and management for public agencies in Western Washington for 15 years. She was previously the Housing Facilities Maintenance Lead for the Evergreen State College and the Horticulture Manager for the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District. She is currently the Parks Lead Operator for the City of Port Townsend.

Belinda Chin (she/her/hers)

Belinda Chin is the daughter of immigrants whose pursuit of culturally relevant food resulted in lasting impressions about boundaries that discriminate by race, class, and place. These experiences gave rise to a career passionately committed to civil service and social justice. She is the Urban Food Systems Coordinator for Seattle Parks and Recreation.



Sapna Sopori (she/her/hers)



Sapna Sopori is a first generation Indian-American, raised by a single-mother whose own challenges and opportunities in this country shaped Sapna's understanding of the intersection between race, gender, and immigrant-status. In her current position with IslandWood as the Director of Youth and Community Education, Sapna works with her staff to decolonize their programs to ensure that the reason they do the work is not undermined by how they do it. Sapna is an active member of the Seattle chapter of the Environmental Professionals of Color. She is a Senior Fellow with the Environmental Leadership Program, and a board member of the Washington Environmental Council.

Alicia M. Highland (she/her/hers)

Alicia M. Highland is a passionate educator dedicated to advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion in the environmental field. She is working as a Learning Facilitator at the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program at UW. She's also an IslandWood alumni from the class of 2015. She has a love for the outdoors and creating safe spaces for people of color to engage in outdoor leadership.



Meaghan Leferink (she/her/hers)

Meaghan Leferink is a youth development professional currently working as Director of Community Engagement at Seattle Music Partners, an organization aiming to eliminate racial and economic barriers to quality music education. She has a BA in Music Performance from Mills College in Oakland, CA and in June will receive her MFA in Arts Leadership from Seattle University.

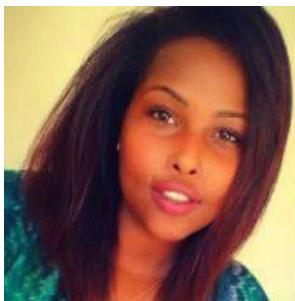


Florence Sum (they/them/theirs OR she/her/hers)

Florence is a queer radical Chinese American educator with 9 years of experience in the education sector specifically in higher education access and retention work, mentoring, and leadership development programs. They are a Fellow and the Fellowship Program Coordinator at Rainier Valley Corps. They believe in shared leadership, racial equity, and tapping into the power and agencies of communities of color.

Hamdi Abdulle (she/her/hers)

Hamdi Abdulle is the Executive Director and one of the founders of Somali Youth & Family Club. She has advocated for the Somali/East African community in South King county for over 10 years. Ms. Abdulle works to support refugee families and youth in housing, education and social services.



Bilan Aden (she/her/hers)

Bilan Aden is the former program Director at Somali Youth & family Club. She recently stepped down from her role to pursue her Master's Degree in Education. She is currently enrolled in the IslandWood Education for Environment and Community program and is eager to share her experience in outdoor education with the Somali/East African community.

Posters presented by:

Alison Martin: The Medicine Wheel: A tool for Learning, Growth, and Healing

Josh Parker: The Call for Culturally Relevant Environmental Education

Sylvia Hadnot: Phoenix Environment



Thank you for joining us at this year's MCEE
Conference! See you next year!



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Special thanks to our venue host, Antioch University
Seattle! IslandWood partners with AUS in administering
our Urban Environmental Education graduate program.

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