



# EYES OF THE **BEAST**

**CLIMATE DISASTER SURVIVOR STORIES**



September 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 2024  
**The Phoenix Theatre**





**EYES OF THE BEAST:  
Climate Disaster Survivor Stories**

A **Newworld Theatre** Production

Presented by the **Climate Disaster Project**

In Association with the **University of Victoria's**  
Department of Theatre

Co-written by *Kelsey Kanatan Wavey, Gavan Cheema, and Sebastien Archibald*, based on climate disaster survivors' testimonies.

**CREATIVE TEAM**

- Director ..... Chelsea Haberlin
- Associate Director ..... Kelsey Kanatan Wavey
- Stage Manager ..... Jasmin Sandhu
- Costume Designer ..... Donnie Tejani
- Lighting Designer ..... Jonathan Kim
- Projections Designer ..... Candelario Andrade
- Sound Designer ..... Mary Jane Coomber
- Set and Props Designer ..... Christian Ching
- Technical Director ..... Jamie Sweeney
- Assistant Technical Director ..... Brianna Bernard
- Producer ..... Raes Calvert
- Production and Tour Manager ..... Alen Dominguez

**CAST**

- Edith and Various ..... Danica Charlie
- Dian and Various ..... Sarah Conway
- Carter and Various ..... Vuk Prodanovic
- Anonymous and Various ..... Jessica Wong
- Understudy ..... Gavan Cheema

**NEWORLD THEATRE**

- Artistic Director ..... Chelsea Haberlin
- Managing Director ..... Alen Dominguez
- Community Engagement  
Manager ..... Angelica Schwartz
- Resident Technician ..... Brianna Bernard



*Climate disaster survivor Dian Brooks*

**CLIMATE DISASTER PROJECT**

- Founding Director ..... Sean Holman
- Managing Editor ..... Aldyn Chwelos
- Researchers ..... David Leach  
Sarah Marie Wiebe  
Neil Osborne
- Research Associate ..... Morgan Krakow
- Instructors ..... Francesca Fionda  
Tracy Sherlock  
Janice Paskey  
Steve Lillebuen  
Trish Elliott
- Photographers ..... Mike Graeme  
Jimmy Jeong  
Phil McLachlan  
Jen Osborne  
Jess Beaudin  
Amy Romer  
Room Up Front  
Jessie Winters

## TESTIMONY NARRATORS AND INTERVIEWER/WRITERS

Anonymous..... Claudia Culley  
 Jasna Rowse  
 Colleen Canyon

Alen Dominguez ..... Alexandra Lainfiesta

Bernie Amell..... Michael Lo

Brian Mirea ..... Aldyn Chwelos  
 Sean Holman

Carter Gulseth ..... Naomi Duska

Corry Spitters ..... Aldyn Chwelos  
 Christina Gervais

Cyndie Anderson..... Aldyn Chwelos

Dale Bass ..... Sean Holman

Derek Kingston ..... Michael Lo

Dian Brooks..... Geena Mortfield

Divine Lwamba..... Nola Stenstrom

DJ O'Brien ..... Francesca Fionda  
 Sean Holman

Edith Loring-Kuhanga..... Francesca Fionda  
 Sean Holman

Jasna Rowse..... Claudia Culley

Jordi Williams ..... Paul Voll

Julie Chapman ..... Eleni Vlahotis

Ken Pite ..... Gage Smith

Kristen de Jager ..... Ashlee Levy

Laine Taylor ..... Emma Treleaven

Maggie Lord ..... Gage Smith  
 Michael Lo

Micha Kingston ..... Aldyn Chwelos

Michelle Feist ..... Aldyn Chwelos  
 Christina Gervais

Mikaela Robinson ..... Christina Gervais

Mike McNeeley ..... Aleisha Langmann  
 Eleni Vlahotis  
 Aldyn Chwelos

Nicki McCarthy ..... Josie Hjermsstad

Patsy Gessey ..... Francesca Fionda

Peter Thompson..... Sean Holman  
 Sarah Suleman

Rochelle Rupert..... Geena Mortfield

Racine Jeff ..... Amber Bear  
 Emilie Wren

Suzanne Kilroy/Huculak ..... Tosh Sherkat

Therin Gower ..... Brett McKay

Tricia Thorpe ..... Geena Mortfield

Wanda Turner..... Samantha Holomay



## DIRECTORS AND WRITERS NOTES

Firstly, the most sincere thanks to everyone who shared their testimonies with us. It takes an immense amount of courage to share your experiences with such vulnerability, and we are deeply grateful to create a piece of theatre from these stories. Reading and creating from your testimonies has been an incredible privilege.

How do you do justice to over 200 powerful testimonials about loss, community and climate change? Each of these stories were so unique, and the task of sitting down to read all of them was daunting, if not downright scary. The humanity in each story kept us going. The care, and the heart.

Slowly our characters for this piece began to emerge as we leaned into the absurdity of living through climate change, and the surprising moments of joy and hope, amidst unimaginable loss and grief.

Every year, scientists and governments share facts and figures about the damage being done by climate change. But we so rarely see and hear the stories and lives behind that data. This process has helped us reckon with our own experiences, feelings and reactions to climate change and now we invite you to do the same.

- Kelsey, Gavan, Sebastien and Chelsea



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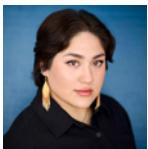
## THANK YOU

Andrew Weaver, Anna Bigland-Pritchard, Ben Brown, David Beers, Deborah Campbell, Ellie O'Day, Fraser Valley Current, Gabrielle Nebriada-Pepin, Gordon Murray, Heather Barr, James Long, Jeanette Ageson, Kendra Fanconi, Kevin Kerr, Kevin Loring, Loop: Design for Social Good, Mary Ancheta, Manuela Sosa, Megaphone, The Only Animal, Pacific Theatre, Paula Carlson, Phil Miguel, Playwrights Theatre Centre, Progress Lab 1422, Rice and Beans Theatre, The Russian Hall, Shiral Tobin, Stephanie Dickson, Stuart Poytnz, Tejinder Bansal, The Tyee and 2 Rivers Remix Society.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia, the BC Arts Council, the Canada Council for the Arts, the City of Vancouver, the Climate Disaster Project, the Deux Mille Foundation, the Hamber Foundation, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

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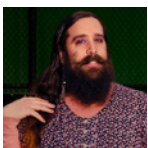
## EYES OF THE BEAST COMPANY



**Danica Charlie**  
*Edith and Various*

Danica Charlie (she/they) is a mixed Nuuchah-nulth/settler actor who is excited to be back home in so-called "Victoria". They graduated from CCPA in 2021. Recent credits include: *Father Tartuffe: An Indigenous Misadventure* (Arts Club Theatre/Touchstone Theatre), *The Incredible Adventures of Mary Jane Mosquito* (Kaleidoscope Theatre), *Ghost the Musical* (Chemainus Theatre), *Goodnight Desdemona*, *Good Morning Juliet* (Blue Bridge), *Th'owxiya* (Axis Theatre), *White Girls in Moccasins* (the frank theatre), *The Great Bloom* (Story Theatre). She is proud to call the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səilwətaʔ (Tsilil-Waututh) Nations, also known as "Vancouver", her home. As always, shoutout to her cat Lily Life: @danica\_charlie\_

Beadwork: @deadlydeerdesigns



**Mary Jane Coomber**  
*Sound Designer*

Mary Jane Coomber [they/them] is a collaborative music and sound artist who primarily works on the unceded, sovereign territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsilil-Waututh people. Recent sound designs: *Hamlet* (Bard on the Beach), *Fat*

*Joke* (Newworld), *This Is How We Got Here* (Firehall), *CHILD-ish* (Pacific), *Snow White* (Carousel), *Hurricane Mona* (Touchstone), *How Black Mothers Say I Love You* (Frank), *Division Infinity Saves The World!* (Newworld), *The Tempest* (Studio 58), *Rubaboo* (Grand Arts Club/Citadel), *My Little Tomato* (vAct/ZeeZee), *Me Love Bingo* (Arts Club), *In My Day* (ZeeZee), *YAGA* (Touchstone), *To Perfection* (Shameless Hussy), *Kindred* (Belfry), *White Girls in Moccasins* (Frank), *Oz and Ladies and Gentlemen*, *Boys and Girls* (Carousel), *Beautiful Man* (Pi), *Inheritance* (Alley), and *Wakey, Wakey* (Pacific). Mary Jane is a member of ADC659 and a graduate of the School of Contemporary Arts at SFU.

**Donnie Tejani**  
*Costume Designer*

Donnie Tejani is a Vancouver-based dresser, wig stylist and Jessie Award winning costume designer. As Head Dresser for the Arts Club, he spent years learning tricks from the 'front lines' and having just returned from touring Europe as Kidd Pivot's Wardrobe Supervisor, he is excited to be back on a creative team with Newworld! Aside from Vancouver stages, Donnie's work can also be seen on screen on series' such as RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars, Drag Race Canada and Call Me Mother. Recent Credits: *CATS* (TUTS), *Into the Woods* (Studio 58). @donnietejani



**Gavin Cheema**  
*Co-Creator and Understudy*

Gavan Cheema is a director, writer, dramaturg and co-Artistic Director of Theatre Conspiracy. She is based out of Vancouver: the occupied territories of the Coast Salish peoples. She is a first generation Canadian, with roots coming from the five rivers of Punjab. Gavan's work aims to create nuanced dialog and visceral experiences that invite audiences to be challenged, with care. She is a recent recipient of the Sam Payne Award for Most Promising Emerging Artist at the Jessie Richardson Awards and was a member of the inaugural REFLECT Leadership program through the GVPTA and the City of Vancouver. She has created work and directed for various local, national and international stages and has extensive experience in youth engagement, theatre education and workshop facilitation.

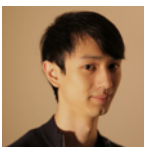
Select works for the stage include *Himmat* (Theatre Conspiracy, writer), *Eyes of the Beast* (Newworld, writer), *SWIM* (Theatre Conspiracy, co-creator/director), *Same Difference* (Theatre Conspiracy, co-creator/dramaturg), *Conspiracy Now* (Theatre Conspiracy, co-creator), *Rishi & d Douen* (Carousel Theatre, co-creator/writer), *Catfish* (Alley Theatre, director), *Burqa Boutique* (Revolver Festival, director), and *Danceboy* (Vancouver Art Gallery, director).



**Chelsea Haberlin**  
Director

Chelsea Haberlin is the Artistic Director of Newworld Theatre and Associate Artist with ITSAZOO Productions, a company she co-founded in 2006 while she was a theatre student at the Phoenix. Early directing projects included promenade plays staged in the Finnerty Gardens on summer break. As a director she has worked with: ITSAZOO Productions, Newworld Theatre, Arts Club Theatre, Firehall Arts Centre, Theatre SKAM, Realwheels, Pacific Theatre, Delinquent Theatre, Studio 58, and many more. Chelsea is forever searching for new ways to surprise and engage an audience and is particularly passionate about meaningful collaboration, immersive environments, community engagement, and reconciliation.

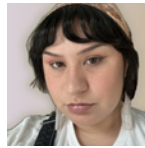
Chelsea has an MFA in directing from UBC and a BFA in Applied Theatre from UVic. She is the recipient of the Sydney J Risk award in directing, the Ray Michal award for an outstanding body of work by an emerging director and a two-time winner, and a five-time Jessie Richardson Award nominee for Outstanding Direction.



**Christian Ching**  
Set Designer

Christian Ching is an emerging scenographer, lighting designer, and production manager with a love for design and biology. They are a graduate of Simon Fraser University (2021) with a double degree in Theatre Production and Design and in the Biological Sciences. Originally from the Philippines, they are currently based in the unceded Coast Salish territories of the xʷməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətaɫ (Tseil-Waututh) nations (also known as Vancouver). Their practice aims to revolve around collaboration and

the consideration of ecological aspects of design. In their free time, they like to run RPGs, draw, and make music.



**Kelsey Kanatan Wavey**  
Co-Creator and Associate Director

Kelsey Kanatan Wavey (they/them) is a gender fluid multidisciplinary artist currently based in so-called Vancouver. Kelsey was born and raised in Treaty 1, Winnipeg, is 5th generation settler of German/British/Norwegian ancestry and Muskeg Ininowahk (Swampy Cree), and is a proud member of Tataskweyak Cree Nation (Treaty #5).

Kelsey attended Studio 58 to study acting, and has been working as an actor, writer, director, and curator since graduating in 2019. Kelsey is also a singer and is working on self-releasing their work with Indigenous indie pop rock group “EVERBODY”, as well as sings with two femme Indigenous drumming group “M’girl” and “iskwew singers”.

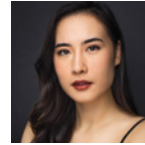
Some of their recent theatre acting work includes *In My Day* (Zeezee theatre), *The Rez Sisters*, *Women of the Fur Trade* (MTC), *Making the Mystics*, *Break Horizons: a Concert Documentary* (Urban Ink and The Cultch). You may have seen their recent directing work in *Cerulean Blue* (Studio 58) and *Gather: Stories in Nature* (Newworld and Pacific Theatre).



**Jonathan Kim**  
Lighting Designer

Jonathan, better known as Jono, is a Korean-Canadian lighting designer who currently lives and works on the unceded, stolen and ancestral lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh territories (Vancouver, BC). He is a graduate of Simon Fraser University’s Theatre Production and Design program. Recent credits: *Into the Woods* (Studio 58);

*CHILD-ish* (Pacific Theatre); *Jade Circle* (rice & beans theatre); *Red Velvet* (Arts Club Theatre Company); *Parifam* (vAct & Medusa Theatre); *Family Room* (The Falling Company); *Homecoming* (Urban Ink); *Maamawi: together through the fire* (O.Dela Arts); *I Fear Love* (Katie Voravong); *Take Form* (Ballet BC).



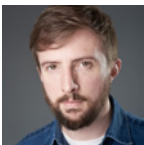
**Jessica Wong**  
Anonymous and Various

Originating from Hong Kong, Jessica Wong (she/her) is an artist living on the traditional, ancestral and stolen territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Kwantlen, Semiahmoo, Stó:lō and s̓cəwəθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawassen) peoples. Some recent credits include - *The New Canadians* (vAct), *Before They Cut Down Our Tree* (J to K Productions), *The Prom* (TUTS), and *30 Neo-Futurist Plays* (Bramble Theatre). While theatre was her first love, Jess spends the majority of her time working in voiceover - you can hear her in the upcoming videogame, *Mech Warrior 5: Clans*. When not acting, she also works as a co-founder of Bramble Theatre Collective (@brambletheatreco). Through Bramble, she is passionately working towards nurturing a love of theatre for artists who, like herself, may have struggled to find their place in acting and hopes to invite a more diverse range of artists into the theatre world.



**Sarah Conway**  
*Dian and Various*

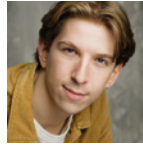
Sarah Conway (she/her) is an actor, writer, and comedian living on the lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̅əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətaʔ nations known colonially as Vancouver. Select credits: *Performer* (Tamasha-O-Tamasha (Resource Centre for the Arts), *Diana Hudson* (The Bright Young Things, Vancouver Fringe), *Amanda-Lynn* (The Flying Doctor, Perchance Theatre), *Stephano/Boatswain* (The Tempest, Perchance Theatre), *Jackie Coryton* (Hay Fever, Perchance Theatre), *Reporter & Local Reporter* (Son of a Critch), *Elizabeth Welsh* (Blue Stockings, Studio 58). Her play *Budding* premiered as part of the Six of One: New Play Festival at Studio 58. Sarah wrote and directed her first short film *Jenny the Goblin* earlier this year. She has performed at the Ottawa, Montreal, and Baltimore improv festivals. Catch her doing improv, sketch, or performing as burlesque clown Cleo the Taurus at a bar near you. Sarah is a graduate of Studio 58. sarahconway.ca



**Sebastien Archibald**  
*Co-Creator*

Sebastien Archibald is an actor, playwright and Co-Artistic Producer of ITSAZOO Productions. He lives on the ancestral and stolen lands of the Coast Salish peoples with his wife and two glorious children. For ITSAZOO, he has created and/or produced numerous shows, including: *Sunrise Betties*; *The Café* (with Aphotic Theatre); *Straight White Men* (with Gateway Theatre); *The Pipeline Project* (with Savage Society); *WET*; *Hidden*. Recent theatre acting credits include: *Red Velvet* (Arts Club); *Sunrise Betties* (ITSAZOO); *God Said This* (Pacific Theatre); *Our Ghosts* (Firehall); *Redbone Coonhound* (Arts Club). Sebastien is a 4 time Jessie nominated actor (*Killer Joe*; *The Pipeline Project*; *Marine Life*; *House*

and Home) and one time Jessie nominated playwright (*The Competition is Fierce*). Playwriting awards include: the Bottle Tree National Playwriting Competition; Theatre BC National Playwriting Competition; Monday Magazine 'M' Award. Sebastien holds a BFA from the Phoenix Theatre, University of Victoria.



**Vuk Prodanovic**  
*Carter and Various*

Vuk (He/They) is a Serbian-Canadian Actor and Artist born and raised in “Vancouver” on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̅əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Since graduating from Studio 58 in 2021, Vuk’s work has spanned both the stage and screen. Theatre and Film credits include: *Ensemble/Frankie/Tom Watson Understudy*, *Parade* (RAINCITY THEATRE), *The Baker*, *Into the Woods* (STUDIO 58), *Ensemble/Topher/Lord Pinkleton Understudy*, *Cinderella* (GATEWAY), *Simon*, *The Code* (GREEN THUMB THEATRE), *Jonah*, *The Big Draw* (INDUSTRY PLANT INC.) *Brian*, *What’s Your Wish* (CTORA). Vuk is a proud recipient of the Langara College Theatre Arts Lloyd Nicholson Memorial Scholarship and APPLAUSE! Musical Societies Cheryl Hutcherson Memorial Award.



**Jasmin Sandhu**  
*Stage Manager*

Jasmin (she/her) is a stage manager working & living with gratitude and recognition that I am an uninvited settler on the unceded & sovereign territories of the səliłwətaʔ, xʷməθkʷəy̅əm, and Skwxwú7mesh Nations. She is a fat, queer, 1st generation immigrant POC theatre collaborator, book collector & mother. Jasmin’s artistic practices prioritize radical empathy & intention. Select stage management credits; *Medicine*, *Truth*

& *Lies* (Pi Theatre), *Fat Joke* (Newworld Theatre), *How Black Mothers Say I Love You* (ASM, the frank theatre), *Teenage Dick* (ASM, ACTC), *The Three Little Pigs* (CTYP), *Classic Country Roads* (ASM, Chemainus Theatre Festival), *FOR EVER, NOW, WAVE/S*, *HORIZON/S*, *OVERTURE/S*, *Reveal + Tell & What If* (ASM, Ballet BC), *East Van Panto: Alice in Wonderland* (ApSM, Theatre Replacement), *No Child* (ApSM, ACTC), *It’s a Wonderful Life & Herringbone* (ApSM, Patrick Street Productions), *Next to Normal & The Nether* (West Moon Theatre). Select other credits; *Uninterrupted* (VR Staging Manager, Canada Wild Arts Society) & *Amélie the Musical* (Production Manager, West Moon Theatre).



**Ella Macdonald**  
*Assistant Stage Manager*

Ella Macdonald (any pronouns) is an interdisciplinary theatre artist honoured to be living and learning on unceded Ləkʷənjən territory. They are a fourth year student at UVic’s Phoenix Theatre with interests in Stage Management, costume design, and performance. This Fall will be their first term as one of the Student Alternative Theatre Company (SATCo’s) General Managers! They are also a founding board member and media director of timetheft theatre, an independent collective, having performed in their productions of *Scruples* by Molly Jamin (2024), *Carpet!* by Nadia Myroon (2023), and *Horse Girl* by El Newell (2023), the last of which Ella also costume designed. Previous Assistant Stage Management credits include *The Hot L Baltimore* (2024) and *Vinegar Tom* (2023) at the Phoenix Theatre.



**Candelario Andrade**

*Projection Designer*

Candelario Andrade is a video editor and designer of media for theatre, dance and performance arts. Recent editor credits include: *Done/Undone* (Bard on the Beach); *Grand Acts of Hope* (Mortal Coil/Coastal Wolf Pack); *Artificial Eden* (SFU); *Same Old, Same Old*; *Taking Shakespeare*; *The Refugee Project* (Belfry Theatre); *Body Parts* (Tara Cheyenne Performance). Theatre design credits include: *Boy in the Moon* (Newworld), and *Pathetic Fallacy* (The Chop); *Anywhere But Here* (Electric Company); *House and Home* (Firehall). Cande recently edited the shorts, *The Day The Cat Saved My Life* (Dir. Kagan Go) and *Jesus Blood* (Dir. Aryo Khakpour); and has also worked for Knowledge Network, VIFF and Mochizuki Studios. Cande is a faculty teacher at Studio58 and co-artistic director of Rough House productions.



**Jamie Sweeney**

*Technical Director*

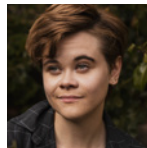
Jamie Sweeney is a Canadian, Vancouver-based, theatre collaborator. She is a technical director, a lighting designer, a performer, a deviser, and an artist. She has a BFA in theatre production and design from Simon Fraser University. Some companies she has worked with include Ballet BC, Bard on the Beach, Vancouver Opera, Arts Club, Rice & Beans Theatre, vAct, and Newworld Theatre. Further credits can be found on her website: [jamiesweeney.ca](http://jamiesweeney.ca)



**Brianna Bernard**

*Assistant Technical Director*

Brianna Bernard (she/her) is a theatre artist who takes interest in both the creative and practical departments of art. With a background in technical theatre and digital media, Brianna has taken on roles such as technical director and production manager. She holds a BFA in Theatre Production & Design from Simon Fraser University. Originally born and raised in Jamaica, Brianna is thankful to now work, create and reside on the stolen lands of the Coast Salish peoples of the x<sup>w</sup>məθkwəyəm (Musqueam), skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səllíwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) nations.



**Angelica Schwartz**

*Community Engagement Manager*

Angelica Schwartz (They/Them) is a director and creator from Treaty 1 Territory, Winnipeg, MB, currently residing on the ancestral and unceded lands of the x<sup>w</sup>məθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səllíwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) peoples in Vancouver, BC. With a Jessie Award already under their belt, Schwartz is a visionary dedicated to community building, redefining leadership models, and embracing hope in the face of uncertainty. Beyond their numerous company credits, including work with The National Arts Centre, Buddies in Bad Times, Electric Company Theatre, Rumble Theatre, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, and Bard on the Beach, Schwartz also serves as the

Community Engagement Manager for Newworld Theatre. Schwartz is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's Directing and Studio 58's Technical Production programs. To learn more about their work, visit [angelicaschwartz.com](http://angelicaschwartz.com).



**Alen Dominguez**

*Production and Tour Manager*

Alen Dominguez (He/Him) is a Mexican-Canadian theatre artist who trained at the University of British Columbia. He's currently the Managing Director at Newworld Theatre in Vancouver and is focused on cultural space advocacy and on raising public awareness of how Arts and Culture can be an effective tool for climate action. Onstage and off, he's worked with some cool folks at Royal City Musical Theatre, Electric Company, City Opera Vancouver, Bard on the Beach, Ruby Slippers, Arts Club, Citadel, Chemainus, Western Gold, TODOS Productions, Rumble, Tara Cheyenne Performance, the Chop, Zee Zee and the PuSh Festival. Alen is a co-founding member of the Canadian Latinx Theatre Artist Coalition (CALTAC), a member of the Sectoral Climate Action Leadership for the Emergency (SCALE), the Level UP! Advisory Committee and the Climate Reality Leadership Corps.