

*Environmental Business Council of New England, Inc.
Sustainable Solutions Lab at the University of Massachusetts Boston*

Climate Migration International Pressures, Local Realities

Friday, June 4, 2021



Save the Date!
Friday, September 17, 2021

EBC & Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston – Quarterly Climate Adaptation Forum
EBC Contact: Ann Gisinger, agisinger@ebcne.org | SSL Contact: Rebecca Herst, rebecca.herst@umb.edu
www.climateadaptationforum.org

AGENDA

10:00 a.m. Welcome

- Rebecca Herst, Forum Organizer
Director, Sustainable Solutions Lab
University of Massachusetts Boston

Forum Introduction

- Lauren Sampson, Forum Co-Chair
Staff Attorney, Lawyers for Civil Rights

10:20 a.m. Panel Discussion: Global Focus

Moderator: Alex Papali, Forum Co-Chair
Political Director, Center for Economic Democracy

- **Oscar Chacón**, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Alianza Americas
- **Todd Miller**, Independent Journalist and Writer
- **Hannah Vogel**, Senior Legislative Assistant, U.S. Senator Ed Markey's Office

11:30 a.m. Break

11:40 a.m. Interactive Reflection: Why do we move?

Moderator: Osamu Kumasaka, Forum Co-Chair
Co-Founder and Program Director, Buy-In Community Planning
MIT Department of Urban Studies & Planning

11:50 a.m. Panel Discussion: Local Officials

Moderator: Osamu Kumasaka, MIT Department of Urban Studies & Planning

- **Anna Marandi**, Program Manager, Climate Resilience and Sustainability
National League of Cities
- **Missy Stults**, Sustainability and Innovations Manager, City of Ann Arbor, MI
- **Alex Train**, Director, Housing and Community Development
City of Chelsea, MA

1:00 p.m. Adjourn – Closing Remarks

- Ann Gisinger, Forum Organizer
Director of Business Operations
Environmental Business Council of New England, Inc.

FORUM CO-CHAIRS

Gabriela Boscio Santos, Sustainability Engagement Manager
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Gabriela is a sustainability professional with over ten years of experience in the climate change and nonprofit sectors. She is the Engagement Manager for Boston University Sustainability, a team that focuses on implementing BU's bold Climate Action Plan. Before that, she served as the Climate Program Manager at NOAH (the Neighborhood of Affordable Housing) in East Boston, leading inclusive community-based climate resilience planning. Growing up in Puerto Rico shaped her approach to sustainability work, which is driven by the desire for a just transition. Her interests include climate action, resilience, sustainability, and justice.

Osamu Kumasaka, Co-Founder and Program Director, Buy-In Community Planning
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Osamu Kumasaka, Co-Founder and Program Director of [Buy-In Community Planning](#), is a climate resilience planner and stakeholder engagement specialist. Osamu works with households that have been stranded in areas at high risk of flooding to design and implement more responsive and supportive relocation programs. In 2020, Osamu worked as a Rappaport Public Policy Fellow in the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Osamu previously worked as a junior associate at the Consensus Building Institute supporting and facilitating collaborative public processes. Osamu holds a BA from Lewis & Clark College. He is currently a Master's in City Planning candidate and research assistant at MIT.

Alex Papali, Political Director
Center for Economic Democracy
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Alex has lived in the Boston area 30 years, organizing locally since high school. His areas of focus have ranged from prison issues to immigrant rights to tenant organizing—with the common goal of addressing structural causes of injustice and obstacles to sustainability.

In prior roles, Alex has worked towards 'energy democracy' and fair access to the benefits of energy efficiency programs, clean local energy infrastructure through "community microgrids," and a robust green economy that empowers communities at the frontlines of climate disruption and systemic inequities. At CED, he supports municipal innovations like participatory budgeting, statewide worker-ownership infrastructure and federal-level interventions to ensure community control of new investments and democratic governance.

A perpetual student at the University of Life, Alex is actively plotting his next adventure off the grid.

Lauren Sampson, Staff Attorney
Lawyers for Civil Rights
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Lauren Sampson is a Staff Attorney with Lawyers for Civil Rights, an impact litigation, racial justice nonprofit headquartered in Boston. Lauren advances LCR's life-changing and law-changing work through litigation, policy advocacy, and community education. Lauren is currently litigating [Massachusetts Fair Housing Center v. HUD](#), the first lawsuit nationally challenging the Trump Administration's attempt to gut the disparate impact protections of the Fair Housing Act. In 2020, she secured a landmark [nationwide preliminary injunction](#) blocking the Trump Administration from implementing changes to the Fair Housing Act. Recently, she also successfully litigated [Mussotte v. Peyser](#), a groundbreaking challenge to Massachusetts' school funding formula on behalf of children of color and low-income children. Her cutting-edge work is regularly featured in publications such as the [New York Times](#).

Lauren coordinates LCR's [Racial Justice & Climate Project](#), a new practice area focusing on climate resilience and environmental justice in low-income communities of color and immigrant communities. Under her leadership, the initiative recently filed a major federal lawsuit against the EPA for failing to investigate and address national origin discrimination — along with a series of high-profile [language access](#) complaints against proposed environmentally-sensitive projects in Boston.

Lauren currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of Boston CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), which advocates on behalf of court-involved children, and on the Board of Directors for the Welcome Project, a community-based immigrants' rights organization. She also serves on the Steering Committee for the Climate Adaptation Forum and the Advisory Board of Alternatives for Community & Environment's (ACE) environmental justice legal services program.

Lauren is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Duke University School of Law, where she was elected to the Order of the Coif, and served as the editor-in-chief of the Duke Journal of Gender Law and Policy. She also holds a Master's degree in English Literature from Duke. She is a member of the bars of New York and Massachusetts.

SPEAKERS

Oscar Chacón, Co-Founder and Executive Director
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Oscar A. Chacón is a co-founder and executive director of Alianza Americas, a Chicago-based national network of Latin American immigrant-led and immigrant serving organizations in the US. Oscar is an immigrant from El Salvador. He has been an organizer and a leader on community justice issues at the local, national and international levels for over 30 years. He has occupied leadership positions in multiple organizations including Oxfam America, Centro Presente, the Northern California Coalition for

Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights. Oscar is a member of the Inter-American Dialogue, the American Bar Association's Immigration Commission and the Latino-Jewish Leadership Council, among other professional associations. Oscar is a frequent spokesperson, domestically and internationally, on economic, social, political and cultural issues affecting Latin American immigrant communities, including the nexus between human mobility, economic inequality, white supremacy and racial justice. Alianza Americas mission is to improve the quality of life of Latin American immigrant communities in the US, as well as of peoples throughout the Americas.

Anna Marandi, Program Manager, Climate Resilience and Sustainability
National League of Cities
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At the National League of Cities, Anna oversees the Leadership in Community Resilience program, a cohort of eight U.S. cities advancing their climate preparedness efforts. Anna is also an expert resource in climate-induced migration, regional climate collaboration, and the intersection of climate and equity. She is currently researching ways in which local communities and governments can inform federal policies to address climate migration and relocation challenges. Prior to joining NLC, Anna supported the Puget Sound Climate Change Preparedness Collaborative, a cross-sector consortium dedicated to enhancing regional resilience and climate preparedness. She has a background in film, media, and foreign languages, and graduated with a master's in environmental policy from The New School for Public Engagement.

Todd Miller, Independent Journalist and Writer
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<http://www.toddmillerwriter.com/about/>

Todd Miller has researched and written about border issues for more than 15 years, the last eight as an independent journalist and writer. He resides in Tucson, Arizona, but also has spent many years living and working in Oaxaca, Mexico. His work has appeared in the New York Times, TomDispatch, The Nation, San Francisco Chronicle, In These Times, Guernica, and Al Jazeera English, among other places.

Miller has authored four books: [Build Bridges, Not Walls: A Journey to a World Without Borders](#) (City Lights, 2021), [Empire of Borders: The Expansion of the U.S. Border Around the World](#) (Verso, 2019), [Storming the Wall: Climate Change, Migration, and Homeland Security](#) (City Lights, 2017), and [Border Patrol Nation: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Homeland Security](#) (City Lights, 2014).

He's a contributing editor on border and immigration issues for NACLA Report on the Americas and its column "[Border Wars](#)".

Missy Stults, Sustainability and Innovations Manager
City of Ann Arbor
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Missy Stults is the Sustainability and Innovations Manager for the City of Ann Arbor. Over her career, Missy has collaborated with cities and tribal communities to advance their climate and sustainability goals. Previously, Missy was the Climate Director for a nonprofit called ICLEI-USA where she worked with hundreds of U.S. cities on climate-related activities. Missy has a PhD in urban resilience from the University of Michigan, a Masters in Climate and Society from Columbia University, and undergraduate degrees in Marine Biology and Environmental Science from the University of New England.

Alex Train, Director, Housing and Community Development
City of Chelsea
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Alexander Train serves as the Director for the City of Chelsea's Department of Housing and Community Development (H+CD). He oversees the Department's comprehensive community resilience and development agenda, focused on the areas of affordable housing, open space, infrastructure, public social services, food security, and climate resiliency. In partnership with local community leaders, he's worked at the helm of the City COVID-19 response, where new approaches and methods in community resilience have been applied. He sits on the board of the North Suburban HOME Consortium, the Steering Committee of the Mystic River Watershed Association, and various boards, commissions, and community groups. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Alex holds a Masters of Regional Planning from the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at UMass Amherst, as well as a Bachelors in History from Suffolk University. Outside of work, he spends his time reading, gardening, and supporting animal rights and environmental justice causes.

Hannah Vogel, Senior Legislative Assistant
U.S. Senator Ed Markey's Office
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Hannah Vogel is a senior legislative assistant for Senator Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts, covering energy, environment, climate, and space issues. Before joining the senator's office in 2017, she worked for Representative Lloyd Doggett (TX-35) on his energy, environment and Ways & Means portfolio. Prior to her work on Capitol Hill, Hannah worked for a non-profit that provided climate messaging and strategic coordination for NGOs and academics and as a clean air organizer in Cleveland, Ohio.

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