

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Introducing T.R.E.E. Talks, a Public Lecture Series Hosted by TreePeople to Teach, Root, Engage, and Entertain on the Environment

*Starting with Environmental Justice, TreePeople Raises Thought-Provoking
Conversations With Leaders Working To Advance Equitable Climate Solutions*

Los Angeles, CA -- TreePeople announces a series of panel discussions to advance environmental policy for equitable solutions called T.R.E.E. Talks. The series kicks off on **Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 1:00 PM PST** with a discussion anchored by the book *Climate Change from the Streets*, written by Michael Méndez, assistant professor of environmental planning and policy at the University of California, Irvine.

Special guests include Angelo Logan, Campaign Director for the Moving Forward Network and co-founder of East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice; Mariana Del Valle Prieto Cervantes, Clean Water and Ocean Advocate at GreenLatinos; and Reverend Mac Shorty, Founder of Community Repower Movement in Watts. This important conversation will be moderated by TreePeople's CEO Cindy Montañez. More information on the event and series can be found at: treepeople.org/treetalks/

"Through the T.R.E.E. Talks public lecture series, we hope to bring together leaders from across the environmental policy spectrum in order to find common sense solutions to the climate challenges that face communities across the United States and the world," Montanez said. "TreePeople is committed to empowering people to take personal responsibility for the world around them and uniting communities to work together for our common goal to heal our planet."

The series will address a variety of environmental issues that impact our communities, including wildfires, clean water as a right, shade and urban heat, and the future of parks and open spaces. T.R.E.E. Talks aim to advance discussions to effect equitable solutions at the local, state, and global levels.

To learn more, go to: www.TreePeople.org

Media kindly contact:
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About Participants:

Angelo Logan

Moving Forward Network

Angelo is the Campaign Director for the Moving Forward Network and co-founder of East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice. For 20 years, Angelo has been advocating for his community and communities across the country impacted by industrial pollution and the goods movement system. Logan serves on multiple boards and advisory committees where he provides his perspective through an environmental justice and equity lens.

Logan is the 2017 and 2002 South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Environmental Justice and Clean Air Award Winner.

Mariana Del Valle Prieto Cervantes
GreenLatinos

Mariana the Clean Water and Ocean Advocate at GreenLatinos a non-profit organization that convenes a broad coalition of Latino leaders committed to addressing national, regional and local environmental, natural resources and conservation issues that significantly affect the health and welfare of the Latino community in the United States.

Mariana was awarded the Jefferson's Award in 2017 for her efforts of bringing together the community and its stakeholders to reduce single-use plastics at the local level. Through her work in coalition building, environmental justice policy advocacy, public education, and community engagement, Mariana has a strong passion and commitment to serve GreenLatinos.
@delvalle_almar

Dr. Michael Mendez
University of California, Irvine

Dr. Michael Mendez is an assistant professor of environmental policy and planning at the University of California, Irvine. He previously was the inaugural James and Mary Pinchot Faculty Fellow in Sustainability Studies at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Michael has more than a decade of senior-level experience in the public and private sectors, where he consulted and actively engaged in the policymaking process. This included working for the California State Legislature as a senior consultant, lobbyist, gubernatorial appointee, and as vice chair of the Sacramento City Planning Commission.

Rev. Mac Shorty
Community Repower Movement

Mac Shorty grew up in the Watts housing project Jordan Downs Housing. Born the oldest of four children, he learned at an early age about the civil rights movement from his grandparents, who came to Los Angeles by way of the Mississippi civil rights movement. After spending time helping his grandmother organize the first IHSS union recognized by the state of California, Mac

then began to lace up his shoes and beat the pavement for several local political campaign, then he got the sprites of his ancestors of the civil rights movement and so was born a true civil rights advocate. He continued to champion for justice for those who felt like their voices were not being heard at city hall or the state level, later he formed a community repower movement to address environmental concerns in the Watts community.

Cindy Montañez
CEO of TreePeople

In 2016, Cindy became the CEO of TreePeople, making her the first Latina CEO of an environmental organization in U.S. history.

At the age of 25, Cindy was elected as the youngest mayor and councilmember of her hometown of San Fernando, CA. At 28 years old, she made history by becoming the youngest woman elected to the California State Legislature, where she became a champion for the environment, sustainable urban planning and social justice.

Cindy then moved on to serve as Assistant General Manager at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, where she was a core part of the team transitioning the nation's largest publicly-owned utility to cleaner energy and a more sustainable local water supply.

Cindy is currently a Board Member for the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability and a Legislator In-Residence at the USC Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics.

About TreePeople

TreePeople unites the power of trees, people, and nature-based solutions to grow a more climate-ready LA. The organization inspires, engages and supports Angelenos to take personal responsibility for the urban environment, facilitates collaboration among government agencies, and promotes leadership in grassroots volunteers, students and communities. In this way, TreePeople seeks to build a powerful and diverse coalition to grow a greener, healthier and more water-secure Los Angeles for present and future generations. For more information, visit treepeople.org