



SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS
#SEJ2022 Annual
Conference

Houston, TX | March 30-April 3 | Hosted by Rice University



Environmental Journalism **2022**

#SEJ2022 Sponsors

CONFERENCE HOST



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CONTENTS

CONFERENCE HOST	PAGE 2	SATURDAY, APRIL 2	PAGE 26
WELCOME	PAGE 3	SUNDAY, APRIL 3	PAGE 36
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30	PAGE 6	POST-CONFERENCE TOUR	PAGE 38
THURSDAY, MARCH 31	PAGE 8	SPONSORS AND THANKS	PAGE 40
FRIDAY, APRIL 1	PAGE 13	COVID POLICIES	PAGE 42

Houston, TX | March 30-April 3 | Hosted by Rice University

Hosted by Rice University



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Set in the heart of Houston, Texas on a 300-acre forested campus, Rice University is a comprehensive research university dedicated to producing the next generation of leaders, generating bold research solutions and advancing tomorrow's thinking. Consistently ranked among the nation's top 20 universities by U.S. News & World Report, Rice is home to over 7,000 undergraduate and graduate students from more than 80 countries. Rice has highly respected schools of architecture, business, engineering, humanities, music, natural sciences, social sciences and continuing studies and is home to the Baker Institute for Public Policy.

Rice has a 6-to-1 undergraduate student-to-faculty ratio and a residential college system which supports students intellectually, emotionally and culturally through social events, intramural sports, student plays, lectures series, courses and student government. Developing close-knit, diverse college communities is a strong campus tradition, which is why Rice is highly ranked for best quality of life and best value among private universities.

Rice at a Glance

- ▲ **Size:** 4,052 undergraduate and 3,484 graduate degree-seeking students
- ▲ **Selectivity:** 24 applicants for each place in the freshman class
- ▲ **Faculty:** 698 full-time and 197 part-time instructional faculty (97 percent of the full-time instructional faculty have a doctorate or terminal degree in their field)
- ▲ **A focus on teaching:** Undergraduate student-to-faculty ratio of just under 6 to 1 (median undergraduate class size of 14)
- ▲ **Research excellence:** Approximately \$145 million in annual externally funded research expenditures during the 2019-20 academic year
- ▲ Rice encourages engagement of undergraduate and graduate students in the creation of new knowledge and technology
- ▲ **Residential college system:** 11 close-knit and diverse communities

Welcome back to Texas for #SEJ2022!

Houston is widely known as the “energy capital of the world.” It’s also been dubbed the “new capital of Southern cool” by GQ magazine. Welcome to both Houstons!

Hosted by Rice University and housed at the Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria, SEJ’s 31st annual conference is the first time the SEJ community will be meeting in person in more than two years, and we couldn’t be happier to have y’all back in the Lone Star state.

A lot has changed in the decade since the 2012 SEJ conference in Lubbock. Houston is one of the most diverse cities in the country and where the same industry that’s behind much of its success is also largely responsible for a warming world that’s leading to a wide range of climate-fueled calamities – many of them experienced here. Houston provides a front row seat to cause and consequence, and offers the opportunity to explore both environmental challenges and successes.

The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change points to already “irreversible” changes affecting weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. As the acclaimed climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe (whom you’ll get to hear from during the conference) told Texas Monthly, Texas is already one of the most vulnerable states to extreme weather and climate disasters. Due to the state’s geographic location and size, Texans experience hurricanes, tornadoes, supercell thunderstorms, hail, drought, blizzards, ice storms and floods – some of them in what can feel like the same day. Houstonians are rarely spared by these disasters.

Some parts of Houston have seen three 500-year flood events in three years. In 2017, Hurricane Harvey dumped up to 60 inches of rain in some areas, making it the largest rain event in U.S. history. Since then, there have been more floods and more near misses from storms coming from the gulf. More recently, Winter Storm Uri led to outages that left millions of Texans without power and water for days in freezing conditions. Hundreds of people froze to death, while thousands of others were poisoned by carbon monoxide as they tried to keep warm.

The disasters may not discriminate, but the recovery from them has been unequal. We have repeatedly seen how inequities in society are exacerbated in the aftermath of climate-fueled disasters. Whether it’s the additional pollution burden that fence-line communities face due to their proximity to industrial facilities or in the disbursement of recovery resources, Black and Brown communities often find themselves holding the short end of the stick. Houston typifies such challenges – and leads the way in imagining a more just future.

Dr. Robert Bullard, fondly anointed the “father of environmental justice,” began his seminal work into the placement of landfills and waste facilities in communities of color right here in Houston about four decades ago. His work bolstered a burgeoning environmental justice movement, one that recognized that the environment included not just the natural world but our human-made surroundings. Dr. Bullard spoke at the very first SEJ conference in Boulder in 1991, and he’ll be back to welcome you all to Houston at our opening reception on Wednesday, March 30.

That work has continued to gain strength here. Today, local nonprofits and communities are leading the charge in designing low-cost, air-quality monitoring systems. Where the state and local governments have failed, mutual aid groups have stepped in to protect and support one another. The county is going after polluters more aggressively for repeatedly endangering the health and safety of residents. And Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner is leading mayors across the country in trying to prepare for the havoc that climate change will continue to wreak on their cities.

continued ▶



As co-chairs of SEJ's 2022 conference, our hope is you'll immerse yourself in these varied and complex issues. The workshops and panels are designed to expand your familiarity with environmental topics and give you the hands-on skills you need to cover your beats. The nine tours – led by a crew of stellar journalists – will take you down the Houston ship channel on a ferry; to the wooded areas around the Big Thicket; along a contentious section of I-45 that the state is trying to expand; and to refinery row, where communities have long lived in the shadow of massive petrochemical plants.

While Texas has been in the news recently for some of the most restrictive laws on abortion, voting rights and trans rights, we hope that as journalists, you'll agree that our mission is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. To that end, join us to help shine a light on the injustices in the state and hold those responsible to account.

Your #SEJ2022 conference chairs:

Perla Trevizo, reporter with the ProPublica/Texas Tribune Investigative Unit

Naveena Sadasivam, senior staff writer at Grist

SEJ Welcomes the Science, Health, and Environment Reporting Fellows



CASW | AHCJ | SEJ
National Science Health Environment Reporting Fellowships

Supported by
 • Howard Hughes Medical Institute
 Department of Science Education
 • Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Jesenia De Moya Correa (@JeseniaDeMoyaC), communities reporter, The Philadelphia Inquirer

Nada Hassanein (@nhassanein_), environmental and health inequities reporter, USA Today

Erin Douglas (@erinmdouglas23), environment reporter, The Texas Tribune

Ciara McCarthy (@mccarthy_ciara), reporter, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Greg Kim, reporter, KYUK

Halle Parker (@_thehalparker), environment reporter, WWNO

Betsy Ladyzhets (@betsyladyzhets), science writer and data journalist, COVID-19 Data Dispatch & freelance journalist

Nicolás (Nico) Rivero (@NicolasFuRivero), reporter, Quartz

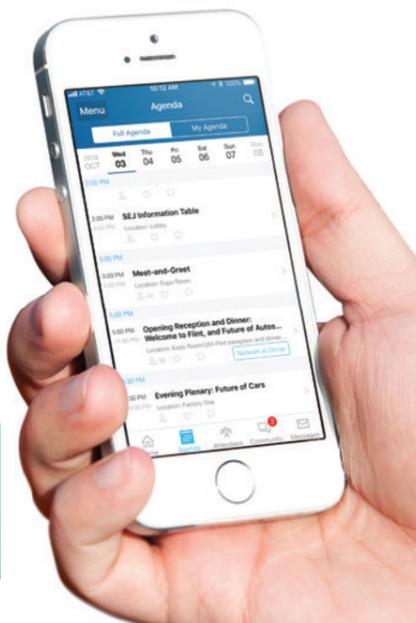
Jessica Meszaros (@jmmeszaros), sustainability reporter and Morning Edition host, WUSF Public Media

Monica Samayoa (@m0nica10), environment reporter, Oregon Public Broadcasting

Benjamin Purper (@benjaminpurper), news director, KCBX

Carol Thompson (@thompsoncarolk), reporter, Lansing State Journal

Brandon Yadegari Moreno (@brandonyadegari), producer/cinematographer, High Country News / independent journalist



Want to be more productive at SEJ-HOUSTON?

DOWNLOAD THE WHOVA CONFERENCE APP AT [HTTP://BIT.LY/WHOVA4SEJ](http://bit.ly/whoVA4SEJ)

SEJ Welcomes the #SEJ2022 Diversity Fellows

Amal Ahmed, Independent Journalist

Farha Akhtar, Independent Journalist

Lyric Aquino, Independent Journalist; New York University Student

Sophie Austin, Center for Public Integrity

Aman Azhar, Independent Journalist

Deborah Balthazar, Science Line

Jena Brooker, Independent Journalist

Aydali Campa, Inside Climate News

Mary Carreon, Independent Journalist

Delger Erdenesanaa, Independent Journalist

Daniella Flanagan, Independent Journalist

Eduardo Franco, Independent Journalist; Red Ambiental de Información (RAI)

Huiyu Hsu, Medill Reports; Northwestern University Student

Alex (Ching Lam) Ip, The Xylom

Gulnaz Khan, Climate Editor, TED

Mark Lannaman, Independent Journalist

Chioma Lewis, Great Lakes Echo; Michigan State University Student

Lourdes Medrano, Independent Journalist

Miguel Otarola, Colorado Public Radio

Tanishka Poal, Independent Journalist

Spoorthy Raman, Independent Journalist

Aya Sharaby, Asharq News

Quratulain Tejani, Global Voices; Inside Climate News; New York University Student

Valerie Vande Panne, Native News Online

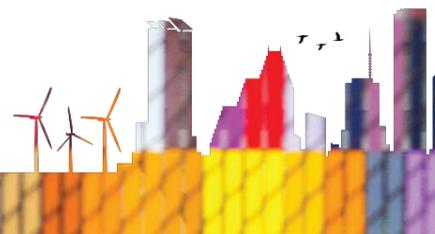
Christian von Preysing-Barr, KRGV

Wufei Yu, Independent Journalist



In partnership with The Uproot Project:

The Uproot Project is a network for journalists of color who cover environmental issues, as well as students and others aspiring to cover this beat. Uproot is dedicated to advancing the careers of journalists of color who've been historically underrepresented in this field. Uproot membership is currently free for journalists of color and we encourage you to sign up.



Environmental Journalism 2022

The 31st Annual Conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists officially begins Wednesday, March 30, at 5:30 p.m., with an opening reception followed by dinner and programs.

Before the official kick-off, three all-day workshops will be held, as well as an afternoon meet-and-greet with fun networking opportunities.

SEJ is committed to supporting a safe, healthy and harassment-free environment at the conference. Please read our anti-harassment policy and COVID-19 protocols.

All sessions, as well as registration, exhibits and breaks, will be at Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria, 2222 West Loop South, Houston, TX 77027, unless otherwise indicated.

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Registration

7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Legends Ballroom Foyer

All-Day Journalist Workshops

Workshop 1.

Covering Biodiversity and Indigenous Peoples

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (\$75 fee includes breakfast and lunch)

Indigenous peoples across the globe account for about five percent of the world's population, but conserve about 80 percent of the world's remaining biodiversity. Join **Tristan Ahtone** of Grist, Indigenous journalists, and legal experts to learn best practices for covering Indigenous communities, territory and struggles to protect ecosystems. **SEJ members and journalists only. Space is limited; preregistration required.**

Workshop 2.

Covering Oceans and Coasts

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (\$75 fee includes breakfast and lunch)

Join The Times-Picayune | The New Orleans Advocate's

Mark Schleifstein, journalist and author **Lise Olsen**, Houston Chronicle environment writer **Emily Foxhall** and other journalists, along with experts from NOAA (including Administrator **Richard Spinrad**), NMFS, Rice University's SSPEED Center (Severe Storm Prediction, Education and Evacuation from Disaster), and more for a deep dive into covering ocean health, climate change impacts and coastal resilience. We'll address carbon sequestration in the ocean, sea level rise and natural protection, threats to fisheries and the latest on hurricane threats. **SEJ members and journalists only. Space is limited; preregistration required.**

Workshop 3.

Tracking Toxics Data Training Workshop
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (\$75 fee includes breakfast and lunch)

Join us for a day of hands-on database training, including presentations from Tableau, USA Facts, Grist and the U.S. EPA. You'll learn how to use data for quick turnaround investigations and longer stories. We will use historic examples of environmental disasters (like chemical accidents) and practice using relevant state and federal datasets. You'll learn how to track specific toxic releases from specific facilities, how to analyze data (using basic Excel functions and/or Tableau) and report on possible impacts to local communities. **SEJ members and journalists only. Space is strictly limited; preregistration required. Registrants must bring their own laptops.**

Moderator: **Lisa Song**, Reporter, ProPublica

SEJ Information Table

2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Legends Ballroom Foyer

Sign up here for Saturday mini-tours and check out the Networking Table topics. Find information about SEJ, our award winners and current contest (April 5 late deadline), membership and other services.

Afternoon Meet-n-Greet

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Image courtesy of City of Houston



Opening Reception and Dinner at the Royal Sonesta

5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Legends Ballroom

Welcome to Houston, and welcome to Harris County, the most ethnically diverse in the country. Meet up with old friends or mingle with new ones, then settle down for dinner and an evening of presentations to give us a sense of place and set the stage for the rest of the week's agenda. Scientists, environmental justice leaders, youth activists and others will give us a big-picture look at the environmental challenges facing the city and region, and the unique solutions some are trying.

Emcees:

Naveena Sadasivam, Senior Staff Writer, Grist and #SEJ2022 Co-Chair

Perla Trevizo, Investigative Reporter, ProPublica/Texas Tribune Investigative Unit and #SEJ2022 Co-Chair

Welcome to Houston:

David Leebron, President, Rice University

Speakers:

Robert Bullard, Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy, Texas Southern University and Co-Chair, National Black Environmental Justice Network

Daniel Cohan, Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Rice University

Christian Menefee, Harris County Attorney

Other Speakers TBA

Check the web agenda or Whova app for event logistics, speakers, room assignments, the latest updates and more.

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Thursday, March 31, 2022

Registration

5:30 – 9:30 a.m. and Noon – 6:00 p.m.
Location: Legends Ballroom Foyer

SEJ Information Table

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

All-Day Tours

Advance registration is required for all Thursday tours. Attendance on each tour is strictly limited, so registering early is important. Departure times vary (see below), but all Thursday tours will return to the Royal Sonesta Houston Galleria about 5:00 p.m. For those looking for some exercise, tours 2, 3 and 4 are your best options. Other tours involve moderate exercise. Tours 1 and 5 are best suited for those with limited mobility.



Image courtesy of Freestock

1. Sustainable Fishing, Coral Health and Marine Life in the Gulf of Mexico

6:00 a.m. departure (\$60 fee, lunch included)

Join us for a trip to Galveston, where we will set out for a half-day of fishing. Between casting our lines, we will discuss how fishery management works in the Gulf of Mexico. We'll use as a case study how challenges with the ever-popular red snapper have been addressed. Back on shore, we'll eat local seafood and learn about the national marine sanctuary protecting coral here. Experts will fill us in on why these coral are so important globally and how oil and gas interests were balanced in trying to keep them safe. We'll cap the day with a walk

on the beach, where advocates will tell us how they're working to protect turtles and birds. Total drive time: **2.5 hours.**

Tour Leaders:
Emily Foxhall, Environment Reporter, Houston Chronicle

Katie Watkins, Environmental Reporter, Houston Public Media



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

2. Boomtown, Flood Town: Climate Solutions for the Nation's Oil and Gas Capital

6:30 a.m. departure (\$60 fee, lunch included)

The fast-growing Houston metropolitan area, which is home to 7 million people and the largest petrochemical complex in the country, has in recent decades been repeatedly pummeled by climate change-related weather disasters. From Tropical Storm Allison in 2001 to Hurricane Harvey in 2017, the region has been hit with some of the worst urban flooding events in American history. Scientists also say it is a sitting duck for a monster hurricane that could kill thousands of people and inflict irreparable environmental harm. A variety of solutions have been floated to guard against these events, from nature-based ecological restoration to a multi-billion-dollar public works project that is awaiting congressional approval. On this water-front tour, you'll hear from the scientists, advocates and government officials who are working on these complex issues, tour the Houston Ship Channel by boat and enjoy a seafood lunch at a restaurant that donates its used oyster shells for marine habitat restoration. Total drive time: **3.5 hours.**

Tour Leaders:
Kiah Collier, Investigative Reporter, ProPublica/Texas Tribune

Halle Parker, Environment Reporter, The Times-Picayune | New Orleans Advocate | NOLA.com



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

3. Birds, Conservation, Diversity and Inclusion

7:00 a.m. departure (\$60 fee, lunch included)

View spring bird migration with the Houston Audubon Society at its High Island sanctuaries to observe spring migration of songbirds. We'll hear about the importance of the Texas Coast for migrating shorebirds from the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. We'll get a birds-eye view from a boardwalk in the tree canopy and learn why there's a high geological formation so close to the coast. Houston Audubon, under the directorship of a Black woman, will describe how it reaches out to the area's diverse population. Total drive time: **3.5 hours.**

Tour Leaders:
Sergio Chapa, Energy/Business Reporter, Bloomberg

Cheryl Hogue, Senior Correspondent, Chemical & Engineering News



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

4. Wildfire, Prescribed Burns and Indigenous Traditions
7:30 a.m. departure, (\$60 fee, lunch included)

For millennia, Indigenous communities have used prescribed burns to manage forests and create openings for wildlife and berries to thrive. Today many of these traditions still exist across the country but are often stifled by government regulations, complicating already convoluted forest and wildfire management and leaving communities vulnerable to more intense wildfire. In Texas, we'll visit Roy E. Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary – a nature preserve managed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) that is a hotbed for biodiversity and sanctuary for the iconic longleaf pine. Texas Forest Preserves Manager Shawn Benedict will lead a hay ride to show the ecological benefits of prescribed fire, how TNC, which is second only to the federal government in the amount of land it burns, has put fire back on the ground in the sanctuary and how it partners with the Alabama-Coushatta tribe fire team, which uses "cultural burns" to manage forests. After lunch we'll head to Big Thicket National Preserve, where we'll learn how the National Park Service has also reintroduced fire to the forests there to improve the health of the longleaf pine ecosystem. Total drive time: **4 hours.**

Tour Leaders:
Michael Kodas, Senior Editor, Inside Climate News; Photojournalist, Educator & Author of "Megafire: The Race to Extinguish a Deadly Epidemic of Flame" and "High Crimes: The Fate of Everest in an Age of Greed"

Debra Krol, Indigenous Affairs Reporter - Climate, Culture & Commerce, The Arizona Republic

Check the web agenda or Whova app for event logistics, speakers, room assignments, the latest updates and more.

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Image courtesy of Pexels



5. The Future of Clean Energy
8:00 a.m. departure (\$60 fee, lunch included)

Electricity plays a key role in a low carbon future. This tour highlights energy efficiency building technology and the role renewables can play to help disenfranchised communities. First, we'll tour energy research hub, the Houston Advanced Research Center. We'll also tour the certified, net-zero energy building (one of less than 50 certified zero energy office buildings in the US and the first in Texas). After lunch, we'll visit the site of the future Sunnyside Solar Farm, located in the historic Sunnyside neighborhood. Once built, the solar array will be the largest urban solar farm in the country. We will finish the day at Memorial Park, 100 acres in Houston which has undergone a series of conservation efforts in recent years, including new tunnels with a land bridge on top to allow people and animals to cross from the north side of the park to the south. Total drive time: **2.5 hours.**

This tour is generously underwritten by Anaergia. Donors have no right of review of tour content, speakers or itinerary.

Tour Leaders:
Mitchell Ferman, Energy and Economy Reporter, Texas Tribune

Nushin Huq, Independent Journalist



Image courtesy of TSHA

6. Flood Protection, Dam Safety and Cumulative Trauma
8:30 a.m. departure (\$60 fee, lunch included)

When the reservoirs behind Addicks and Barker dams swelled during Hurricane Harvey, the federal government chose to flood some neighborhoods in order to save others downstream. With future storms posing similar risks, you'll get to tour the dams and hear from the Harris County Flood Control District about the challenges of maintaining the country's dams and how best to localize these stories. You'll hear from marginalized minorities in Houston's Fifth Ward and Kashmere Gardens about the inequities they've faced in the recovery process. We'll also travel to Meyerland, a community victimized by flood after flood. Total drive time: **2.5 hours.**

Tour Leaders:
Zach Despart, Politics Reporter, The Texas Tribune
Sarah Rafique, Investigative Producer, ABC13 Houston

Image courtesy of Houston Chronicle



7. From the Fenceline to the Frontline: The Battle Against Environmental Racism in Houston's Ship Channel
9:00 a.m. departure (\$60 fee, lunch included)

Attendees will tour the Houston Ship Channel, a highly industrialized area of refineries and chemical plants that sit adjacent to predominantly Latino neighborhoods, to better understand the environmental problems faced by fenceline communities. We'll begin with a boat tour to understand the plants and applicable air pollution regulations. Then we'll walk through one of the neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by air pollution, accompanied by a community advocate, environmental epidemiologist and county pollution regulators. The tour will end with a panel discussion about environmental racism during a community luncheon. Total drive time: **2 hours.**

Tour Leaders:
Erin Douglas, Environment Reporter, Texas Tribune
Syan Rhodes, KPRC 2 TV, Houston



Image courtesy of Houston Chronicle

8. Superfunds: Climate Threats and Corporate Stonewalling
9:30 a.m. departure (\$60 fee, lunch included)

We'll tour the San Jacinto Waste Pits and the French Limited Superfund Sites, both along the San Jacinto River, and hear from attorneys, environmental researchers and activists who have been pushing for a clean-up of the waste pits, which have dumped dioxin into Galveston Bay and continued to leak during recent hurricanes. Despite Houston's urban industry, the San Jacinto River still has historic towns where residents used to enjoy fishing and boating and who struggle to co-exist with Superfund threats. We'll stop in a historic Freedman's town, have lunch at a BBQ place and tour two or three Superfund sites to spotlight one of several areas in the U.S. where multiple superfund sites are clustered in heavily populated low-lying areas. Often these sites were not properly capped or cleaned up especially in light of changes in flood plain maps, stronger hurricanes and sea level rise. Total drive time: **1.5 hours.**

Tour Leaders:
Lise Olsen, Senior Reporter and Editor, Environment and Investigations, Texas Observer
Dianna Wray, Freelance Journalist

Check the web agenda or Whova app for event logistics, speakers, room assignments, the latest updates and more.

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9. Highway? No Way! Why Cities Are Moving Away From Highways

10:00 a.m. departure (\$60 fee, lunch included)

In every major city, building highways has required demolishing bustling, densely packed and walkable avenues, and paving over them to make room for dozens of lanes of high-speed traffic. Tight-knit communities — almost always primarily people of color — were broken up as families were scattered all over the city. Houston is ground zero for a growing fight in Texas to rethink the way that we move people around cities. This tour will

explore the proposed route of the I-45 expansion, how the federal government is rethinking the history of civil rights violations in highway expansions, the impact that highway design and transportation policy have had on communities of color in Houston — and how a new way forward is possible. Total drive time: **3 hours**.

Tour Leaders:

Amal Ahmed, Freelance Journalist

Megan Kimble, Freelance Journalist

Electric bus transportation provided by Navistar.

Bookstore

Location: Discovery Ballroom Foyer

5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Brazos Bookstore is on-site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference. Stop by for book signings from 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Independent Hospitality Receptions and Exhibitor Sneak Peek

5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Discovery Ballroom

A popular SEJ tradition, this is the conference's best networking opportunity. After spending the day in the field, meet with hosts of multiple receptions. They'll have experts on hand as well as displays, materials and, of course, great food and drink. Mingle with our exhibitors and build your source list.

Friday, April 1, 2022

Registration

7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Legends Ballroom Foyer

SEJ Information Table

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Legends Ballroom Foyer

Breakfast

7:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Location: Legends Ballroom Foyer

Grab continental breakfast and some coffee and peruse the exhibits, join a Networking Breakfast Table discussion in the Legends Ballroom, or make your way to one of the breakfast breakout sessions.

Exhibits

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Legends Ballroom Foyer

Don't miss the wealth of information offered by the 2022 exhibitors. Learn about environmental issues and innovations, see some great displays and add to your source list.

Networking Breakfast Tables

7:30 - 8:45 a.m.

Location: Discovery Center

Join a networking breakfast table on various topics, or make one of your own!

See the Information Table, the web agenda or Whova app for the latest list of Networking Breakfast Tables.

Bookstore

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Legends Ballroom Foyer

Brazos Bookstore is on site to sell SEJ member-attendees' and speakers' books.

Breakfast Breakouts

7:30 – 8:45 a.m.

Diversify Environmental Journalism Education, Diversify Environmental Coverage

Location: Founders III & IV

One route to diversifying the ranks of environmental reporters and the topics they cover — including environmental (in)justice, Indigenous issues and access to public lands — is diversifying students in environmental journalism programs. This panel will examine strategies for recruiting more students from underrepresented and marginalized groups and tips to bolster their chances of success through mentoring, internships and other methods. We also will discuss how to better incorporate such topics into the environmental journalism curriculum.

Moderator:

Eric Freedman, Professor of Journalism and Knight Chair; Director, Knight Center for Environmental Journalism; and Director, Capital News Service, Michigan State University

Religion & Environment for Breakfast

Location: Founders I & II

Join co-directors and fellows from the Religion & Environment Story Project for an informal conversation on anything and everything religion-and-environment-related. Grab breakfast outside the main ballroom and bring it to the session.

Moderator:

Meera Subramanian, Journalist, Author and Co-Director, Religion & Environment Story Project

Check the web agenda or Whova app for event logistics, speakers, room assignments, the latest updates and more.

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Opening Plenary:

New Frontiers in the Final Frontier – Reporting on Oceans in 2022

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Location: Legends Ballroom

From regulating our weather to absorbing our carbon emissions, oceans play a central role in the global climate story, but often go unrecognized in the telling of this story. This panel will look at different ways oceans and coasts fit into the climate discussion this year, including the environmental justice story unfolding on coastlines near petrochemical refineries, the push this year for a global agreement on oceans and the role oceans can play in reducing carbon emissions.

Moderator:

Justin Worland, Senior Correspondent, TIME

Speakers:

Robert Bullard, Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy, Texas Southern University and Co-Chair, National Black Environmental Justice Network

Manuel Carmona Yebra, Counsellor for Environment and Oceans, Delegation of the European Union to the United States

Katharine Hayhoe, Chief Scientist, The Nature Conservancy, and Paul Whitfield Horn Distinguished Professor and Political Science Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Public Law, Department of Political Science, and Associate, Public Health Program, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Texas Tech University

Check the web agenda or Whova app for event logistics, speakers, room assignments, the latest updates and more.

Monica Medina, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Beverage Break and Exhibits

10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Sponsored by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative.

Concurrent Sessions 1

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Bolster Your Digital Safety: An Anti-Hacking, Anti-Doxing Workshop

Writers and journalists are increasingly expected to have an online presence and engage on social media, which puts them at risk of abuse – especially if they identify as women, LGBTQ+ and/or BIPOC. From impersonation and hacking to doxing (the publishing of private info), abusive trolls join forces to intimidate, discredit and silence. But there are concrete steps you can take to protect yourself. With your devices in hand, join PEN America and Freedom of the Press Foundation for an interactive workshop where we'll teach you how to audit your social media accounts, tighten your privacy settings and track your personal information online so you can maintain the public profile you need to do your job.

Moderator:

Viktorya Vilks, Program Director, Digital Safety and Free Expression, PEN America

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Following the Money: The Profiteers Behind Environmental Damage

Accountability for environmental abuses begins with identifying who profits from them. In this panel, investigative journalists from the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project and the Pulitzer Center's Rainforest Investigations Network will talk about their strategies for following the money to show who is benefiting from environmental harms. Panelists will share lessons from the Pandora Papers about how opaque financial structures help companies and executives profit from environmental degradation, discuss how they investigated corrupt patronage schemes used to facilitate resource extraction, and describe how they exposed the link between the US auto industry and deforestation.

Moderator:

Mark Schapiro, Investigative Journalist, Author and Lecturer, University of California, Berkeley



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Dual Crises: Reporting on the Intersections of COVID-19 and Climate Change

Two global crises, both severely impacting communities across the globe. Reporting on climate change or COVID-19 alone is a challenge – how do you talk about both in a relevant, accessible and understandable way? In this panel, we'd like to highlight some of the current intersections between public health and climate change, including the role of environmental justice, the potential origins of the next pandemic, how the response to COVID-19 could inform climate action and more. We'll also discuss what story ideas journalists could be investigating, how to stay up-to-date on the latest science and tips to combat the rampant mis- and disinformation inherent to both topics.

Moderator:

Hannah Bernstein, Program Associate, Earth Journalism Network

Check the web agenda or Whova app for event logistics, speakers, room assignments, the latest updates and more.

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



From Oil & Gas to Clean & Fair: Restoring the Gulf of Mexico During the Climate Transition

As the Gulf of Mexico begins its shift from “America’s Sacrifice Zone” — a center of oil and gas production and pollution — our panelists will look at the work required in the coming transition. This includes coastal restoration from Florida to Texas, slowing sea level rise by restoring marshlands, environmental justice with a focus on climate resiliency in at-risk communities of color that have been most impacted by petrochemical pollution and flooding, and plans to employ energy sector workers in capping and remediating abandoned rigs and pipelines and in the new offshore wind energy sector.

Moderator:
David Helvarg, Executive Director, Blue Frontier Campaign



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

How to Tell True Stories About Lead

Lead is malleable, durable, abundant and easy to extract from the earth. It’s flexible enough for lead pipes to bend through the underground landscape of tree roots and cellars, but sturdy enough to last for decades. Mixed with paint, lead makes colors shine and stick. In gasoline, it makes engines run smoothly and more efficiently. Indeed, if lead weren’t poisonous to humans, even to the point of death, it might really be, as one old General Motors executive once put it, ‘a gift from God.’ But just as the old alchemists felt lead could be spun into gold, countless people in the years since found infinite uses of lead, leaving its toxic traces in our pipes, plumbing fixtures, paint, soil, even our fishing gear and cosmetics. How do we, as journalists, report on this? How do we balance the technical and policy nuances of lead in our environment with the historical and structural truths that it reveals? How do we bring humanity and readability to these stories without slipping into simplistic shorthands or over-familiar tropes? How do we follow up on lead stories over time, and how do we navigate the complexities of data that is and isn’t available?

Moderator:
Anna Clark, Reporter, Midwest, ProPublica and Author, “The Poisoned City: Flint’s Water and the American Urban Tragedy”

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Drilling Down: Using Databases To Find Stories on Oil, Gas and Mining

From national investigations to local accountability reporting, readily available datasets hold the information necessary to inform your next story on the oil, gas and mining industries. This panel of journalists and researchers will walk you through their go-to data sources, including federal oil leasing, state-level oversight of coal companies and nonprofit dashboards tracking infrastructure permitting. Then, they’ll discuss how to localize these data-driven stories for your coverage area.

Moderator:
Mark Olalde, Reporter, ProPublica



Image courtesy of Pexels

Covering Indian Country for Non-Natives

Non-Indigenous reporters often seek to cover Indian Country or traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) with an intention of being fair and accurate. However, the result is often extractive, insensitive or even riddled with racist tropes. How does one cover Indian Country? How are relationships with Indigenous communities cultivated? What are the skills needed to cover Indian Country accurately and respectfully? What do newsroom colleagues and editors need to know? This panel will explore covering Indian Country from the perspectives of Indigenous sources, reporters and newsrooms.

Moderator:
Valerie Vande Panne, Managing Editor, Native News Online

Check the web agenda or Whova app for event logistics, speakers, room assignments, the latest updates and more.

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Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Believers Look Up: Covering Religious Communities' Response to the Climate Crisis, From Eco-Grief to Solutions

As the public increasingly experiences direct impacts of the climate crisis, journalists need to cover every aspect of the beat, from international negotiations to energy breakthroughs. But often the psychological import of recognizing and confronting the climate crisis demands a different kind of coverage. What might religious organizations, long skilled in helping humans handle grief, answer existential questions and take action in their local communities, offer for these times? And how can environmental journalists of all stripes better cover the often-sidelined religious angle of their beat and discover missing stories in the process?

Moderator:
Meera Subramanian, Journalist, Author and Co-Director, Religion & Environment Story Project

Luncheon Plenary



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

The Energy Transition and Environmental Justice 12:15 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Legends Ballroom

Scientists have shown that using clean electricity to power as much of the economy as possible — from cars and trucks to kitchen stoves — may be the cheapest, easiest way to fight climate change. But doing that equitably, while keeping the lights on, is another story. Will the push to “electrify everything” currently underway in California and other states raise energy costs and force low-income families to spend money they don’t have on new vehicles and appliances? And what happens when fires, floods and heat waves made worse by climate change inevitably cause chaos on the electric grid?

Welcome:
Reginald DesRoches, Provost, Rice University

Moderator:
Sammy Roth, Energy Reporter, Los Angeles Times

Speakers:
Jamal Lewis, Director of Policy Partnerships and Equitable Electrification, Rewiring America and former Director of Energy and Climate Initiative, Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

Pedro Pizarro, President and Chief Executive Officer, Edison International

3rd Speaker TBA

Concurrent Sessions 2 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Beyond Doom & Gloom: Bringing Solutions to Your Climate Reporting

Every year, communities continue to be hit harder by climate change and the environmental injustices it perpetuates. While news media continue to focus on the doom and gloom, centering the stories of the victims, audiences want more. This workshop will equip journalists to tell the whole climate story, emphasizing efforts to mitigate carbon emissions, community adaptations, and how to be resilient in the face of climate change. The workshop will consist of four parts: 1. How and why to use Solutions Journalism; 2. Finding solutions-focused stories; 3. Pitching solutions-focused stories; and 4. Framing climate stories around solutions.

Moderator:
Cheryl Dahle, Climate Initiative Manager, Solutions Journalism Network



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Preparing for the Future of Environmental Journalism

What are the emerging skills and habits of mind that will be increasingly useful to environmental journalists in the next five years — and how can we develop them? Whether you’re teaching environmental journalism, or seeking to continue your own professional development, this session will provide practical and philosophical guidance for the challenges ahead. We’ll hear about what kind of training is being developed at arguably the most prominent journalism education nonprofits in the country; what kind of skills and attitudes are sought by hiring editors at one of the most influential and technology-rich environmental news outlets in the world; and what kind of insights environmental journalists can gain from colleagues in adjacent fields.

Moderator:
Emilia Askari, Lecturer II, University of Michigan

Check the web agenda or Whova app for event logistics, speakers, room assignments, the latest updates and more.

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Image courtesy of Pexels



Ocean Plastic

The scourge of plastic in the ocean has had its iconic moments, from images of seabird bellies full of bottle caps to sea turtles impaled by a straw. It's also been called a red herring, a way to distract from the ocean's other — and perhaps more pressing — ails. Where's the ocean plastic story going next? This panel will try to get to the "seed" of the question with results from Nurdle Patrol along the Gulf Coast, the region responsible for more plastic production than any other place in the US. It will also look at new policy and business practices aimed at limiting plastic pollution well before it hits the waves.

Moderator:
Juli Berwald, Ocean Scientist, Science Writer and Author



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Covering the Next Five Years of Water and Infrastructure Change in Texas and Beyond

The American Society of Civil Engineers gives the country's water infrastructure a C-. In Texas, the grade is near failing. This panel will cover how everything from climate change to urbanization are impacting water infrastructure, and how an increase in federal funding could finally address some of the most pressing issues — and where journalists can look for stories about the challenges ahead.

Moderator:
Amal Ahmed, Freelance Journalist

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Energy Equity and the Grid

What are the renewable-energy access challenges low-income communities face and what are some possible solutions? Panelists will walk through a "day in the life" of a family earning less than \$75K annually. With solar and wind power hitting record-low costs to beat out fossil fuel prices, storage options growing and climate-related power outages becoming more common, we explore solutions, such as resilient local "micro-grids." How could access to clean renewable energy, at an affordable rate, improve low-income residents' quality of life and economic stability, spare the climate and help protect residents from sweltering after a hurricane or freezing after a nor'easter?

Moderator:
Nushin Huq, Freelance Reporter



Image courtesy of Pexels

Landfills at a Crossroads

The dominant destination for America's trash is at an inflection point, facing a number of risks, pressures and opportunities. Long-running discussions about environmental justice around disposal sites are gaining renewed national attention. Landfills are also the third-highest human-related source of methane emissions in the United States, prompting more scrutiny from policymakers and growing interest from ESG-focused investors about solutions. Also on the horizon are concerns about PFAS, a notorious family of chemicals contaminating waste sites nationwide and facing a major crackdown at the state and federal level. Join us for a discussion about what's next for landfills in Houston, the birthplace of the modern U.S. waste industry, with experts and beat reporters.

Moderator:
Cole Rosengren, Lead Editor, Waste Dive

Check the web agenda or Whova app for event logistics, speakers, room assignments, the latest updates and more.

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Image courtesy of Pexels



Mapping Environmental Injustice: From Stolen Land to Cancer Hot Spots and Toxic Prisons

Over the past two years several newsrooms have used location data and mapping software to tell groundbreaking stories of environmental injustice. To go with the stories, teams of reporters, researchers and developers have published maps and databases that can be re-purposed by other journalists as well as organizers, policymakers and academics. We'll introduce three mapping projects, discussing what it took to make the projects successful and explaining how reporters can use each to find their own stories. Featured projects include High Country News' Land Grab Universities, about how the United States funded land-grant universities with expropriated Indigenous land; ProPublica's Sacrifice Zones, which used U.S. Environmental Protection Agency data to identify toxic hot spots around the U.S.; and The Intercept's Climate and Punishment, which mapped more than 6,500 U.S. detention facilities against indicators of the climate crisis.

Moderator:
Alleen Brown, Reporter, The Intercept



Image courtesy of KXRO

U.S. EPA Press Conference and Q&A Session 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Legends Ballroom

The Biden Administration and Regan EPA are focusing money and energy on environmental justice issues and toxic release monitoring like never before. With our host city plagued with industry-related explosions, a cancer cluster and some of the highest levels of cancer-causing air stemming from industrial pollution, we'll hear from EPA leaders on how they're addressing these issues on multiple fronts. Get your questions ready! Following brief presentations, the panelists will take questions from the audience.

Moderator:
Darryl Fears, Staff Writer, The Washington Post

Speakers:
Rosemary Enobakhare, Associate Administrator for Public Engagement, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Carlton Waterhouse, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Land and Emergency Management, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Networking Happy Hour 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Legends Ballroom

Grab a cold beverage (hard or soft) and ask EPA PIOs your hot questions, or meet SEJ volunteers and help shape the future of SEJ. Options include:

- ▲ Meet the U.S. EPA public information officers from HQ and regions 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9
- ▲ #SEJ2023 in Boise: What should be on the agenda?
- ▲ SEJ Future Sites: Where should we go next?
- ▲ SEJournal: What are your ideas for stories and columns?
- ▲ SEJ board and committees: How to get involved in leading SEJ
- ▲ Fund for Environmental Journalism: How should we support the future of environmental journalism?
- ▲ More to be added!

See the Information Table, the web agenda or Whova app for the latest list of Networking Happy Hour Tables.

Beverage break sponsored by Earthjustice. Cash bar.

Beat Dinners 7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Sign up online for Beat Dinners hosted by a variety of organizations, or arrange your own Beat Dinner using the Whova app. Or just take the opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues. See the web agenda and Whova app for a list of Beat Dinners and RSVP information, and stop by the information table for more information on nearby restaurants.

SEJ Open Screen 8:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Join us for a visual journalism show-and-tell! This is a low-key hangout for anyone who wants to gather around a warm projector and talk shop. We'll have snacks and the hotel bar is close by. Reporters are invited to come with any photos, videos, animations or dataviz they've been working on to share with the group. We'll pull names from a hat and take turns to show our stuff and talk process, wins, challenges and whatever else comes up. Please limit film clips and presentations to five minutes; journalistic content only, please. We'll take walk-ins, but sign up here if you know you want to come so we can get your media ready for showtime:
<https://forms.gle/FdDAeE7AHk1nLeFz9>

Moderators:
Kevin Beaty, Photographer and Reporter, Denverite and Colorado Public Radio

Sam Eaton, National Correspondent, Newsy

Check the web agenda or Whova app for event logistics, speakers, room assignments, the latest updates and more.

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#SEJ2023
APRIL 19-23, 2023
Boise, Idaho

CROSSING THE DIVIDE

URBAN GROWTH AND THE WILD

Idaho bridges more than the continental divide:

A red state with a streak of purple, Idaho relies on tech, recreation and agriculture. Its history of logging, ranching and mining has left a complicated legacy on its awe-inspiring landscape.

In Boise, one of America's fastest growing cities, the climate and topography is so unusual, you can ski and golf on the same winter day.

But the challenges and opportunities facing state and tribal governments are familiar: addressing urban sprawl and the housing crunch, diversifying energy sources, balancing economic growth and environmental impact, and conserving the wild for future generations.

Join the Society of Environmental Journalists and our host, Boise State University, in April 2023!

Co-chairs:
Tom Michael,
Boise State Public Radio

Christy George,
Freelance Radio News Editor

- COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF
- How Boise balances growth and conservation
- GOP politicians and Millennial voters
- Protecting vs using public lands
- Climate change and carbon farming
- Ranching and wolves
- Grazing and sage grouse
- Nuclear waste and national parks
- Puget Sound orcas, Columbia-Snake River dams and Idaho salmon



CONGRATULATIONS

to the winners of the

**Nina Mason Pulliam Award for
Outstanding Environmental Reporting**

2020

"Polluter's Paradise"

TRISTAN BAURICK, JOAN MEINERS,
GORDON RUSSELL AND SARA SNEATH
of The Times-Picayune and The Advocate

and LYLLA YOUNES, AL SHAW
AND CLAIRE PERLMAN

of ProPublica

2021

"Where Will Everyone Go? How Climate Refugees Might Move Across International Borders"

ABRAHM LUSTGARTEN, AL SHAW,
MERIDITH KOHUT, LUCAS WALDRON
AND SERGEY PONOMAREV

for ProPublica and The New York Times
Magazine



**NINA MASON PULLIAM
CHARITABLE TRUST**

Building a Legacy of Community
Grantmaking since 1998

Saturday, April 2, 2022

Registration

7:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Location: Legends Ballroom Foyer

SEJ Information Table

8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Location: Legends Ballroom Foyer

Breakfast

7:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Location: Legends Ballroom Foyer

Grab continental breakfast and some coffee and peruse the exhibits, join a Networking Breakfast Table discussion in the Legends Ballroom, or make your way to one of the breakfast breakout sessions.

Exhibits

7:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Legends Ballroom Foyer

Don't miss the wealth of information offered by the 2022 exhibitors. Learn about environmental issues and innovations, see some great displays and add to your source list.

Networking Breakfast Tables

7:30 - 8:45 a.m.

Location: Discovery Center

Join a networking breakfast table on various topics, or make one of your own, or just join others for informal conversation.

See the Information Table, the web agenda or Whova app for a list of Networking Breakfast Tables.

Bookstore

7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Legends Ballroom Foyer

Brazos Bookstore is on site to sell SEJ member-attendees' and speakers' books.

Check the web agenda or Whova app for event logistics, speakers, room assignments, the latest updates and more.

Breakfast Breakouts

7:30 – 8:45 a.m.

Pitch Slam and FEJ Proposal Coaching: Covering U.S. Public Lands

Location: Founders I & II

SEJ's Fund for Environmental Journalism will award grants up to \$5,000 in 2022 for story projects covering U.S. public lands. Share your ideas with past FEJ judges and get feedback and tips to strengthen your proposal for the FEJ Spring competition.

Moderator:

Meaghan Parker, Executive Director, Society of Environmental Journalists

Note: This session will not be recorded. Story grants made possible by The Wilderness Society and other foundation and individual donors to FEJ.

Speed Mentoring Breakfast

Location: Summit Room

Ask them anything: Veteran SEJers from a mix of genres and backgrounds are here to share advice and tips with newcomers to the beat. Questions about any aspect of environmental journalism are fair game, and participants will also get an introduction to SEJ's year-long Mentoring Program partnerships. Each attendee will have the chance to meet individually with three mentors, one in each of three consecutive rounds of one-on-one discussion. This has been a popular session at past conferences, and it requires advance signup.

Moderator:

Jane Braxton Little, Independent Journalist

Uproot Breakfast Meetup

Location: Founders III & IV

The Uproot Project is a network for environmental journalists of color that launched in 2021. It seeks to bring diverse voices to the forefront of environmental reporting and is dedicated to advancing the careers of journalists of color who've been historically underrepresented in this field. If you're an Uproot member, this is your chance to meet other members in person and socialize. Grab a continental breakfast near the main ballroom and join us for conversation in the Founders III & IV ballroom.

Moderators:

Maddie Burakoff, Digital Journalist, Spectrum News 1 Steering Committee Member, The Uproot Project"

Lucia Priselac, Director, The Uproot Project

Concurrent Sessions 3

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Show Me the Money: How To Keep Environmental Journalism Alive

A fundraiser, a philanthropist and a venture capitalist walk into a bar for some real talk about raising money to support great reporting on some of the most pressing issues of our time. This is what that conversation might sound like. Join The 19th's master of major gifts, a journalist-turned-venture-capitalist and a foundation rep (we hope!) for a discussion of how to effectively make the case that environmental journalism is worth people's support and investment. Walk away with smart tips and useful tools for keeping great green journalists in business.

Moderator:

Greg Hanscom, Executive Director and Publisher, High Country News



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Environmental Engagement Reporting

As audiences increasingly cope with the realities of the climate crisis there is opportunity for more community engagement work while journalists continue to cover stories. Who's currently doing that work? How can engagement reporting be better utilized in environmental journalism? In this roundtable, leading journalists will discuss how they've accomplished environmental engagement projects in their newsrooms and how that work can better be supported.

Moderator:

DaLyah Jones, Freelance Journalist and Community Engagement Consultant

Check the web agenda or Whova app for event logistics, speakers, room assignments, the latest updates and more.

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Extreme Weather: How To Report on a World That's Warmer, Colder, Wetter, Drier and Weirder

Climate change is scrambling weather and making everything more extreme. The warming is fueling atmospheric changes that affect everyone and everything, from flooding and hurricanes to wildfires and ice storms. It's a recipe for disasters that needs sharp and nimble science-backed reporting. This panel focuses on the science of climate change and extreme weather, attribution knowledge of climate and weather-related disasters, and some best practices for effective journalism before, during and after extreme weather events.

Moderator:
Joe Wertz, Climate and Environment Editor, Colorado Public Radio News



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Diving Deeper: Untold Stories of Ocean Science

There's a treasure trove of stories hiding within the deep blue, and we will dive into the murky currents to find them. We will descend into the underwater caves, aka subterranean estuaries, so poorly studied that we still don't know what creatures live there and what they do. We will learn that hurricanes destroy not only what's above the water, but also what's below, such as the estuarine ecosystems housing fish and other species that people depend on for food. And we will sniff out human sewage pollution that's smothering the ocean, fueling algae blooms and hampering coastal restoration efforts worldwide. Come with us on an undersea expedition fishing for ocean science stories.

Moderator:
Lina Zeldovich, Freelance Journalist, Writer, Editor & Book Author

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



At the Junction of Clean Water and Human Rights

Nearly every community has well-meaning activists. But few have groups like Toledo's Junction Coalition, a grassroots community organization that helped lead efforts to address Toledo's 2014 algae-driven water crisis. Then there's Houston, home to numerous community activist groups and efforts. On this session we'll hear from a lawyer who won a major court decision that will lead to fewer sewage overflows in low-income areas and from a pastor who founded a community coalition that fights to keep people of limited means empowered through education, as well as a national expert on environmental justice and equity issues.

Moderator:
Tom Henry, Environmental-Energy Writer, The (Toledo) Blade



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

When the Truth Is Not Neutral: The Myth of Absolute Objectivity in Reporting

In this session, we will dive in with veteran journalists about how they are recognizing the severity of the climate crisis and being appropriately adversarial with the corporations and other powerful influences causing it – while still being fair.

Moderator:
Emily Holden, Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Floodlight

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Image courtesy of Dreamstime



Reporting From the Front Lines of Climate and Energy

Frontline communities live with the worst and earliest impacts of fossil fuels extraction, military contamination and the climate crisis. They are also often at the crossroads of environmental racism and socioeconomic hardship. To report effectively in and about frontline communities, you need to navigate these complex issues, to approach vulnerable sources with sensitivity, and often to grapple with a tangle of environmental regulations and multiple fields of scientific research. How do you put this together into a hard-hitting story that reveals the truth about frontline communities and how their struggles are connected to our energy choices and climate policies?

Moderator:
Madeline Ostrander, Freelance Journalist and Author



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Virtual Journalists' Guide to Energy & Environment in Latin America, 2022

Building on the successful formula for SEJ's popular annual Journalists' Guide to the year ahead in energy and environment news, this virtual panel of prominent environmental journalists working in Latin America will provide a roundup of some key anticipated stories from across the region. In recognition of our many shared interests — cultural, economic and of course environmental — we invite our colleagues throughout the US, Latin America and the world to join this session virtually. The conversation will take place on Google Meet, so participants can take advantage of the free caption-translation feature. Presenters will speak in either English, Spanish or Portuguese. We'll hear from a Brazilian geo-journalist who founded an organization that analyzes data from nine countries across Amazonia, and from other Latin American journalists as well; from an Indigenous journalist/news entrepreneur reporting from southern Mexico on how Indigenous lands are used by energy companies; and from a Colombian journalist investigating violence against people practicing free speech. We'll also talk about SEJ's relationship with Latin American journalists, both in the US and elsewhere. People visiting this session would leave with a new perspective on emerging environmental stories in Latin America — and with an expanded professional network.

Moderator:
Emilia Askari, Lecturer II, University of Michigan

Beverage Break and Exhibits 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Sponsored by First Solar.

Concurrent Sessions 4 10:45 a.m. - Noon

Image courtesy of Gallup



Collaborations: From Surviving to Thriving

Journalism collaborations started out of necessity and something resembling desperation, but they've morphed into the new powerhouse of journalism. In recent years, collaborations have become a not-so-secret weapon, enabling us to do more together than we ever could have alone. Collaborations covering environmental issues — especially climate change and natural resources — are among the most popular. This session will examine several examples of environmental journalism collaborations and offer tips for ensuring successful outcomes.

Moderator:
Sara Shipley Hiles, Associate Professor, Missouri School of Journalism and Executive Director, Mississippi River Basin Ag & Water Desk



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Clearing Up the Fishbowl: EPA Press Access Roundtable

Shortly after taking office last year, EPA Administrator Michael Regan pledged to operate the agency as transparently as a "fishbowl," and EPA public affairs leaders have committed to improving relationships with reporters. SEJ surveyed members last spring and the results showed signs of progress, though PIOs' gatekeeper role in handling interview requests remains an issue. Join EPA Press Secretary Nick Conger and some regional EPA PIOs for a discussion on press access and how it can continue to be improved. Bring your tough questions and personal anecdotes into the mix.

Moderator:
Tim Wheeler, Chair, SEJ Freedom of Information Task Force

Check the web agenda or Whova app for event logistics, speakers, room assignments, the latest updates and more.

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Image courtesy of Reuters



Reporting on Carbon Capture and Other Controversial Climate Solutions

Climate reporting has largely moved past convincing people that climate change exists, and on to the messy politics and science of trying to stabilize the climate. Journalists must be able to navigate reporting on solutions like carbon capture, carbon removal and hydrogen, which are simultaneously being pushed by the fossil fuel industry, described as “necessary” by prestigious scientists like those on the IPCC and written off as “false” by many environmental advocates. On this panel, the moderator will start with a brief introduction to these solutions, and then panelists will discuss how they have approached them in their own work.

Moderator:
Emily Pontecorvo, Reporter, Grist



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Inside the Fight To Tackle Flood Risks

Four years after the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey, state and local governments are taking action, putting a growing emphasis on resilience and adaptation in anticipation of more frequent and severe climate change-fueled disasters. From appointing resilience officers to developing watershed-scaled plans and investing in mitigation tactics such as Harris County’s program to buy out at-risk properties and the use of nature-based solutions, leaders at all levels of government are working to adapt. The Pew Charitable Trusts will release its new report describing how increased federal funding and planning assistance can support states and local communities in using buyouts of at-risk properties as a mitigation strategy.

Moderator:
Gloria Gonzalez, Deputy Energy Editor, POLITICO

Image courtesy of Dreamstime



The Oil Industry’s Big Bet on Plastic and LNG, and the Frontline Communities Organizing to Stop Them.

A global battle is emerging to halt the fossil fuel industry’s move into processing and marketing two other products extracted from fossil fuels: plastic and liquified natural gas. The first impacted are largely environmental justice communities at the sites of production and export; then on the other end, as plastics and other byproducts contaminate the waste stream. Our panel will consider these developments, their impacts on the industry, and local, national and global efforts, including the new Global Plastics Treaty, to hold the contaminating companies accountable.

Moderator:
Mark Schapiro, Independent Journalist, Author and Lecturer, University of California, Berkeley



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Environmental Exposures, Health and the Media

This panel will feature two scientists and a medical student, each of whom will discuss key developments in environmental health and the need for more in-depth journalism on this subject. Topics to be discussed include how the U.S. regulatory system fails to protect Americans from endocrine-disrupting chemicals before they enter the market; the latest evidence on the health effects of fracking; and how more physicians have begun advocating for patients whose health has been impacted by climate change.

Moderator:
Jim Morris, Executive Director and Editor-in-Chief, Public Health Watch

SATURDAY APRIL 2, 2022

SATURDAY APRIL 2, 2022

Check the web agenda or Whova app for event logistics, speakers, room assignments, the latest updates and more.

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Transportation in Environmental Coverage

Transportation has taken an increasingly large role in environmental coverage, as has environmental impacts for transportation reporters. From electric cars to high-speed rail to sustainable aviation fuel to heavy duty trucks to the post-2035 world, our panel looks at trends in transportation stories, especially in light of the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill and the prospects for more spending on climate and transportation-related projects. We will also look at electric vehicle charging, fuel economy standards, postal delivery trucks, the legacy of the nation's highway building and sprawl, as well as the future of transit and Amtrak in a post-pandemic world. There's also drone deliveries, flying taxis, hyperloops, smarter airplane navigation and even self-driving cars' and trucks' impact on perhaps ending congestion and reducing emissions.

Moderator:
David Shepardson, Correspondent, Reuters

Lunch and Plenary Session



Image courtesy of Dreamstime

Solutions Journalism and Environmental Justice

Noon – 2:00 p.m.
Location: Legends Ballroom

Environmental reporting in communities of color often lacks depth and nuance. Stereotypes of who cares about the environment abound. Narratives about environmental injustice present frontline communities as victims, devoid of agency. These stories often omit communities' efforts to organize and find solutions. From framing a story to the ethics of maintaining relationships with BIPOC communities, panelists will discuss the common pitfalls of reporting in communities of color, the role of evidence-based solutions journalism in environmental justice reporting and how reporters can provide smart and informative coverage for underrepresented communities.

Moderator:
Yvette Cabrera, Senior Staff Writer, Environmental Justice, Grist

Speakers:
Heather McTeer Toney, Vice President, Community Engagement, Environmental Defense Fund

Dharna Noor, Digital Producer and Reporter, Boston Globe

Bryan Parras, Healthy Communities Organizer, Sierra Club

Mustafa Santiago Ali, President and Founder, Revitalization Strategies and former Assistant Associate Administrator for Environmental Justice and Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice and Community Revitalization, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Afternoon Mini-Tours

2:15 – 5:30 p.m.

Sign up at the Information Table for the Saturday mini-tour of your choice. Options this year may include urban biodiversity on Rice's amazing campus; prairie chickens on the lek; sustainable buildings and green design; biking and hiking in historic Memorial Park; and more.

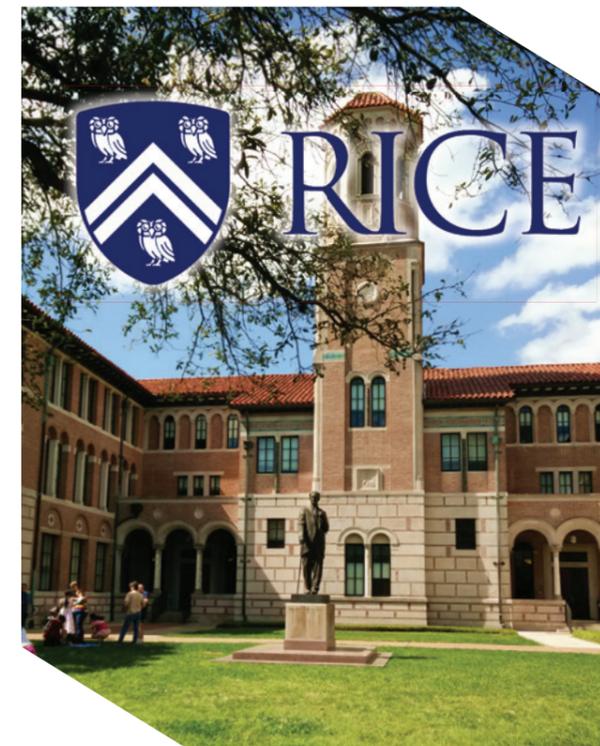


Image courtesy of Dreamstime

SEJ Dinner Party on Rice Campus

6:00 – 10:00 p.m. (\$40 fee includes dinner and music and dancing with an awesome band)

Under majestic live oaks, we'll mix and mingle with Rice University faculty and students in an outdoor dinner extravaganza. Food stations, lawn games and cocktail bars will spread us out as leading Gulf Coast environmental artists and activists offer performances of their work. We'll visit James Turrell's Twilight Epiphany Skyspace for a sunset light show before dancing in the dark with a live band to wrap up the party.

Preregistration required.

Check the web agenda or Whova app for event logistics, speakers, room assignments, the latest updates and more.

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Image courtesy of Houston Chronicle

Sunday, April 3, 2022

Buses will depart from the Royal Sonesta's front entrance at 7:45 a.m. There will be three buses, marked Bush, Hobby and hotel. Be sure to load your luggage in the correct bus.

Breakfast and Books at the Houston Arboretum

8:00 a.m. – Noon (\$25 fee includes breakfast and airport shuttle, with arrival at airport no later than 1:00 p.m.)

Join us for a full breakfast under the trees at the Houston Arboretum, a walkable oasis and urban birders' paradise, followed by our Sunday morning authors' program. **Preregistration required.**

Bookstore

8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Houston Arboretum

Brazos Bookstore is on-site to sell SEJ members' and speakers' books, as well as offering environmental books handpicked for the SEJ conference. Stop by for book signings from 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

8:00 a.m.

Breakfast

Emcee:

Joseph Campana, William Shakespeare Professor of English and Director, Center for Environmental Studies, Department of English, Rice University

8:45 – 10:00 a.m.

Environmental History: Legacy and Craft

Our Sunday program opens in conversation with Douglas Brinkley, one of the nation's foremost historians of the American environment and its champions, from journalists to activists and presidents. Out this fall in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, Professor Brinkley's latest book, "Silent Spring Revolution," explores the legacies of Rachel Carson, JFK and LBJ in the "great environmental awakening." How did daily journalism help shape that awakening? Is such a turning point possible in our time? And what is the obligation of journalists to history, including the history of land, water and wildlife – and the many human voices left out of traditional primary sources? Join SEJ author Cynthia Barnett in conversation with Brinkley on the joys and duties of reporting environmental history.

Moderator:

Cynthia Barnett, Environmental Journalist in Residence, University of Florida and Author, "The Sound of the Sea: Seashells and the Fate of the Oceans," "Mirage," "Blue Revolution" and "Rain: A Natural and Cultural History"

Speaker:

Douglas Brinkley, Katherine Tsanoff Brown Chair in Humanities and Professor of History, Rice University; CNN Presidential Historian; and Author/Editor of more than 20 books, including the environmental histories "Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America," "Rightful Heritage: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Land of America" and the upcoming "Silent Spring Revolution: John F. Kennedy, Rachel Carson, Lyndon Johnson, and the Great Environmental Awakening" (November 2022, HarperCollins)

10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Tour and Book Signing Break

Take a break to stroll around the Arboretum, get your books signed by the authors, or grab a cup of coffee and chat with colleagues.

10:45 a.m. – Noon.

Stories From the Fields: Environmental Storytelling

Humans are creatures of story, which is why practices of environmental storytelling drawn from a range of disciplines have become so important in recent years. Information alone isn't enough, especially when it comes to environmental dilemmas. What strategies do experts in various fields use to connect with people about phenomena that are vast, complex or remote? Or so close, intimate and pervasive as to be difficult to articulate? In this session join Rice University authors and experts as they discuss their strategies for telling stories about environmental justice in storm-stricken Houston, mothering after Hurricane Harvey, biodiversity amidst the insect apocalypse and climate gridlock.

Moderator:

Lisa Spiro, Assistant University Librarian for Digital Scholarship and Organizational Development, and Coordinator, Fondren Library's Green Team, Rice University

Speakers:

Daniel Cohan, Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Rice University and Author, "Confronting Climate Gridlock: How Diplomacy, Technology, and Policy Can Unlock a Clean Energy Future" (Yale University Press, March 29, 2022)

Lacy Johnson, Associate Professor of Creative Writing, Rice University and Author, "The Reckonings" (Scribner, 2018)

Rachel Kimbro, Dean, School of Social Sciences, Herbert S. Autrey Chair in Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology, Rice University and Author, "In Too Deep: Class and Mothering in a Flooded Community" (University of California Press, 2021)

Scott Solomon, Associate Teaching Professor, Department of BioSciences, Rice University and Author, "Future Humans: Inside the Science of Our Continuing Evolution" (Yale University Press, 2017)

Noon: Conference ends and shuttles take attendees back to the Royal Sonesta Hotel or to Bush Intercontinental Airport or Hobby Airport, with airport arrival no later than 1:00 p.m.

Check the web agenda or Whova app for event logistics, speakers, room assignments, the latest updates and more.

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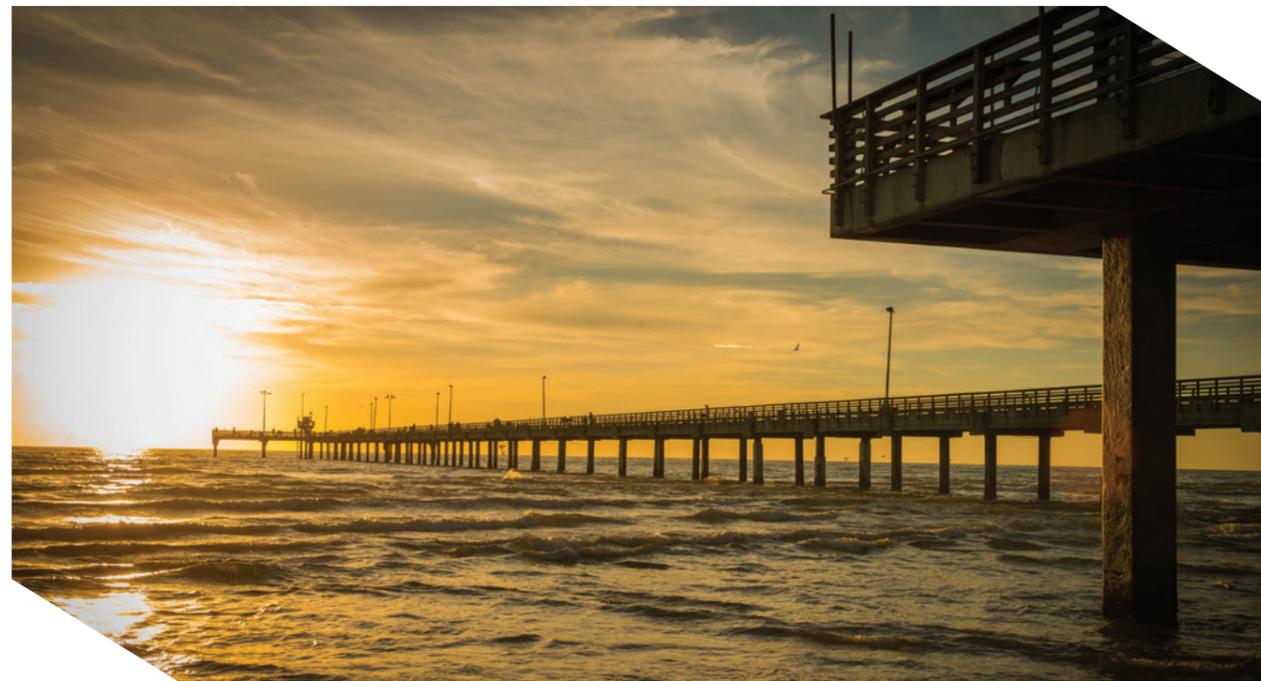


Image courtesy of Dreamstime

SUNDAY-TUESDAY

APRIL 3-5, 2022

Sunday - Tuesday, April 3 - 5, 2022

Journey to the South Texas Coast

The Institute for Journalism & Natural Resources (IJNR), in conjunction with the Society of Environmental Journalists, will conduct the 2022 SEJ Post-Conference Tour on the South Texas Coast from April 3-5. We'll spend two-plus days in and around Corpus Christi, exploring such topics as:

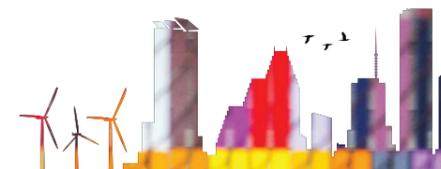
- ▲ Gulf ecology in a changing climate
- ▲ Gulf fisheries, the food supply and sustainability
- ▲ The local - and global - impact of the petrochemical industry's shift toward plastic production
- ▲ The economic and environmental justice implications of a new wave of Gulf Coast industrial expansion
- ▲ The Texas coast's critical role in bird (and sea turtle) migration (Note: Tour dates will coincide with these annual phenomena.)

The tour bus will depart from the SEJ Sunday morning program at the Houston Arboretum around noon on Sunday, April 3, and return to the Royal Sonesta the evening of Tuesday, April 5. Lodging will be provided to participants unable to depart for home on April 5.

- ▲ The post-conference tour will follow the same strict COVID-19 protocols as the main conference.
- ▲ Up to 15 participants will be selected on an application basis, with expenses paid during the tour, and will represent diversity in geography, outlet, race, gender, experience and journalistic medium. Priority will be given to journalists of color.
- ▲ Participants must be members of SEJ, and have attended the #SEJ2022 conference.

Program funded by SEJ's Fund for Environmental Journalism

Check the web agenda or *Whova* app for event logistics, speakers, room assignments, the latest updates and more.



The Society of Environmental Journalists is grateful to all whose personal efforts and financial support have made SEJ's 2022 Annual Conference possible.



SEJ 2022 CONFERENCE HOST

David W. Leebron
President, Rice University

Reginald DesRoches
Howard R. Hughes Provost, Rice University

Rice University faculty and staff:

Mauricio Benitez, Assistant Provost

Rob Bruce, Dean of the Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies

Joseph Campana, William Shakespeare Professor of English | Director, Center for Environmental Studies

Kathleen Canning, Dean of the School of Humanities
Andrew W. Mellon Professor of History

Daniel Cohan, Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering

Richard Johnson, Executive Director for Sustainability and Director of the Administrative Center for Sustainability and Energy Management

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Igor Marjanovi, William Ward Watkin Dean of Architecture and Professor of Architecture

Seiichi Matsuda, Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, E. Dell Butcher Chair in Chemistry

Luay Nakhleh, William and Stephanie Sick Dean of the George R. Brown School of Engineering

Scott Solomon, Associate Teaching Professor, Department of BioSciences

Weston Twardowski, Program Manager, Diluvial Houston

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Conference Support

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Thank You to SEJ Volunteers and Partners

SEJ could not have produced this conference without the dozens of members who generously donated their time and energy to organize sessions, moderate panels, lead tours, recruit sponsors and support multimedia.

Special thanks to **Amal Ahmed, Tristan Ahtone, Emilia Askari, Yvette Cabrera, Emily Foxhall, Nushin Huq, Antonia Juhasz, Lise Olsen, Sammy Roth, Mark Schleifstein, Lisa Song, Justin Worland.**

SEJ is grateful for the partnership of **The Uproot Project** on the #SEJ2022 Diversity Fellowships, and welcomes their leaders and members to #SEJ2022. For more about The Uproot Project and how to join, visit: <https://uprootproject.org/>

SEJ is grateful for its partners, the **Association of Health Care Journalists** and **Council for the Advancement of Science Writing**, on the Science, Health, Environment Reporting Fellowship. For more about the SHERF program, see ad on page 5.

SEJ is especially grateful to **Marie Lynn Miranda, Matthew Tresaugue** and **Elena Craft**, without whom this conference would never have come to be.

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The Society of Environmental Journalists



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SEJ COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

All attendees at SEJ and SEJ-sponsored in-person events must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or, if they are unable to be vaccinated for medical or religious reasons, produce a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours of the event. Masks will be mandatory, unless outdoors or while actively eating/drinking. Panelists can choose to remove their masks while actively speaking. These requirements are subject to change based on public health requirements at the time and place of event. This policy will comply with all applicable laws and is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local health authorities, as applicable. SEJ is not and will not be responsible for any expenses, damages or losses resulting from the enforcement of these COVID-19 protocols. Any attendee who fails to abide by SEJ's COVID-19 protocols will not have their fee refunded. If you receive a positive COVID-19 test within 10 days of the conference, you should not attend #SEJ2022 and a full refund will be provided.

SEJ ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

SEJ is committed to maintaining an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity without harassment. Toward this end, SEJ prohibits and condemns discrimination and all forms of harassment, including sexual harassment and harassment based on an individual's race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, military or veteran status or any other legally-protected characteristics.

This strict policy means that no form of unlawful or prohibited discriminatory or harassing conduct by or towards any SEJ employee, member, board member, speaker or invited guest, exhibitor, event attendee, vendor or contractor or volunteer will be tolerated. This policy should not be construed as applicable to events not organized by SEJ or non-SEJ forums or workplaces which it does not control.

SEJ is committed to enforcing its policy at all levels within SEJ and at SEJ events. Any employee, member, board member, speaker or invited guest, exhibitor, event attendee, vendor or contractor or volunteer who engages in prohibited discrimination or harassment will be subject to discipline, up to and including immediate removal from any applicable SEJ-organized functions, activities or events, removal from leadership or committee positions or expulsion from SEJ consistent with its member expulsion policy.

Unless otherwise excluded, the term "harassment" within this policy includes prohibited discrimination. Anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies for employees are covered by SEJ's separate employment handbook.

Conduct Covered by This Policy: This policy applies to and prohibits all forms of harassment and discrimination in the course of SEJ's work or activities. This includes any harassment or discrimination that may occur as part of SEJ activities, whether in person, in writing, via phone or through any online platforms, including but not limited to systems hosted or moderated by SEJ.

Harassment or discrimination may take many forms, including but not limited to the following:

- ▲ Verbal conduct, such as epithets, derogatory comments and slurs.
- ▲ Displaying derogatory posters, cartoons, drawings or gestures.
- ▲ Physical conduct, such as assault or blocking normal movement unnecessarily.
- ▲ Yelling at or threatening speakers and other participants (verbally or physically).
- ▲ Offensive or unwelcome advances and invitations, regardless of whether they involve physical contact, or if the harassed individual submits to the invitation.
- ▲ Offensive or unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including sexually graphic spoken or written comments, offensive comments transmitted by email or another messaging system, or offensive or suggestive images or graphics, whether physically present or sent over the Internet or displaying or using sexually suggestive objects in an offensive manner.
- ▲ Offensive or unwelcome physical contact of a sexual nature, including the touching of another's body or the touching or display of one's own body in a sexual manner.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prevent a critical discussion of or education relating to sexual harassment or different forms of discrimination. SEJ is strongly committed to diversity, equity and the free expression of ideas. Critical disagreements or conflicting beliefs and viewpoints do not alone constitute harassment. Sexual imagery or language in a professional discussion might not constitute harassment. Speakers and sponsors are asked to be aware of how language or images may be perceived by others. Participants may exercise their option to leave a session or a conversation.

Computer Messaging and Information Systems: Employees, members, board members, speakers or invited guests, exhibitors,

event attendees, vendors or contractors or volunteers are reminded that data generated on, stored in or transmitted to or from SEJ's computers, websites and listservs remain the property of SEJ for all purposes. SEJ retains the right to monitor its computers, computer systems, listservs, networks, websites and social media accounts to ensure compliance with this requirement.

Procedures in Cases of Harassment or Discrimination:

SEJ is committed to taking all reasonable steps to prevent harassment and will make every reasonable effort to promptly and completely address any harassment that may occur. However, SEJ cannot take prompt and effective remedial action unless each incident of harassment is reported immediately.

Anyone who believes that they have been subjected to harassment or discrimination of any kind within the meaning of this policy should report the incident immediately or as soon as possible to SEJ's Executive Director or the President of SEJ's Board of Directors. Violations that occur at an SEJ event also may be reported directly to the organizers of the event. Anyone else who observes conduct that they believe is in violation of this policy also is encouraged to report the conduct in the same manner.

Any individual making a claim of harassment or discrimination should provide as much information as possible about the details of the incident or incidents, name or names of the individuals involved, the names of any witnesses, and any written, electronic or physical evidence. Reporting should be made without any fear of retaliation. Retaliation against any employee, member, board member, speaker or invited guest, exhibitor, event attendee, vendor or contractor or volunteer for reporting harassment will not be tolerated.

SEJ will take appropriate, thorough, independent and prompt action in response to any reports of harassment or discrimination in whatever context or circumstances they arise under this policy. Such reports will be reviewed by an ad hoc committee whose voting members shall consist of the following: the President of SEJ's Board of Directors and the chairs of SEJ's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and its Membership Committee or their designees, provided that all such voting members must also be members of SEJ's Board of Directors who are not involved in the dispute. The ad hoc committee may also consult or discuss the matter with SEJ's Executive Director.

The ad hoc committee will use good faith efforts to the extent practicable to maintain confidentiality as it conducts its investigation and deliberations. The complaining party and the accused will be informed of the results of the investigation, with timing up to the discretion of the ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee will notify the full Board of Directors about any complaints at the next Board Meeting, but due to privacy concerns the level of detail will be at the discretion of the ad hoc committee.

Notwithstanding the forgoing, violators at events may be summarily expelled from the event without further review at the discretion of SEJ event organizers.



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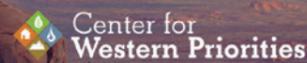


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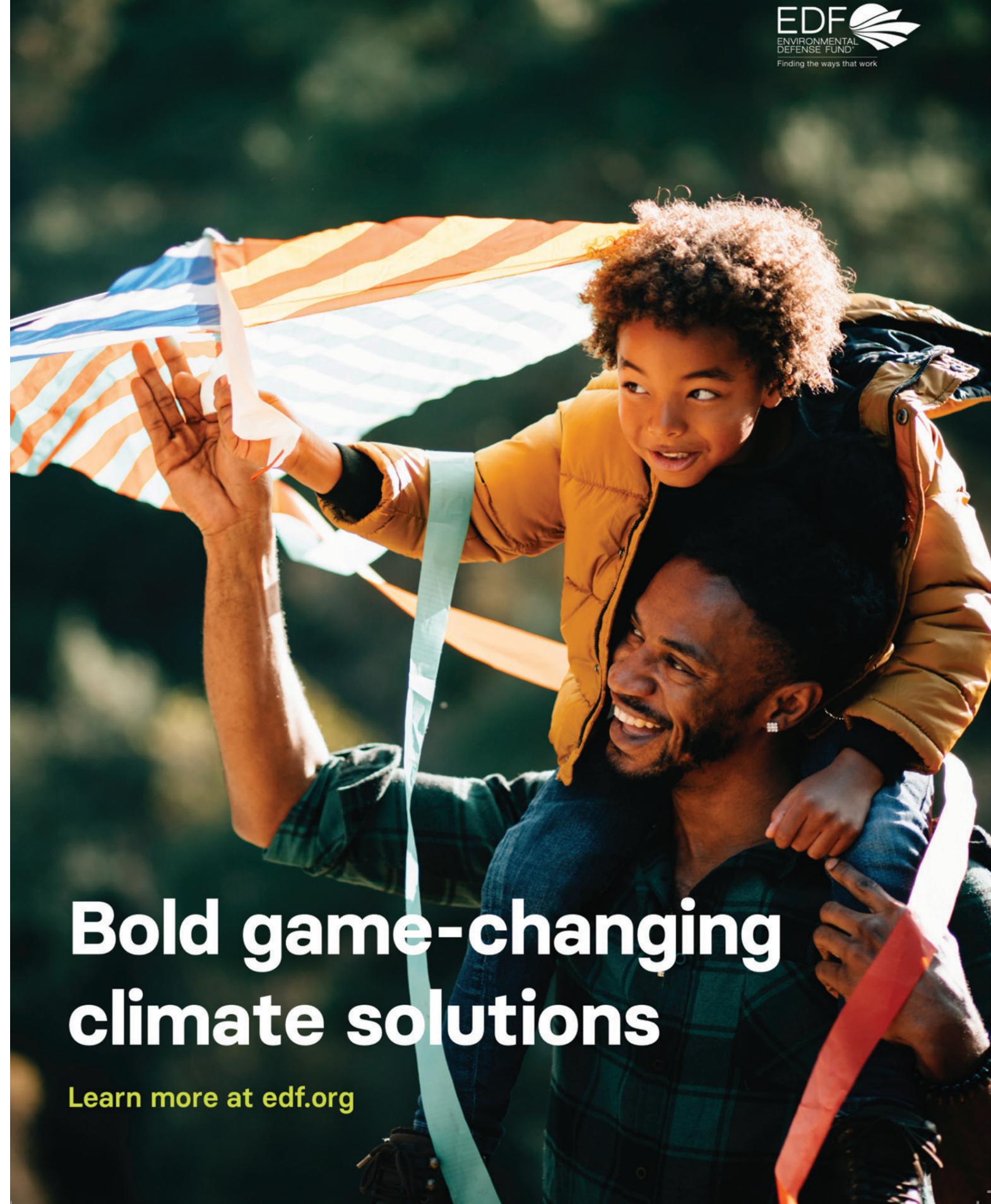


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