



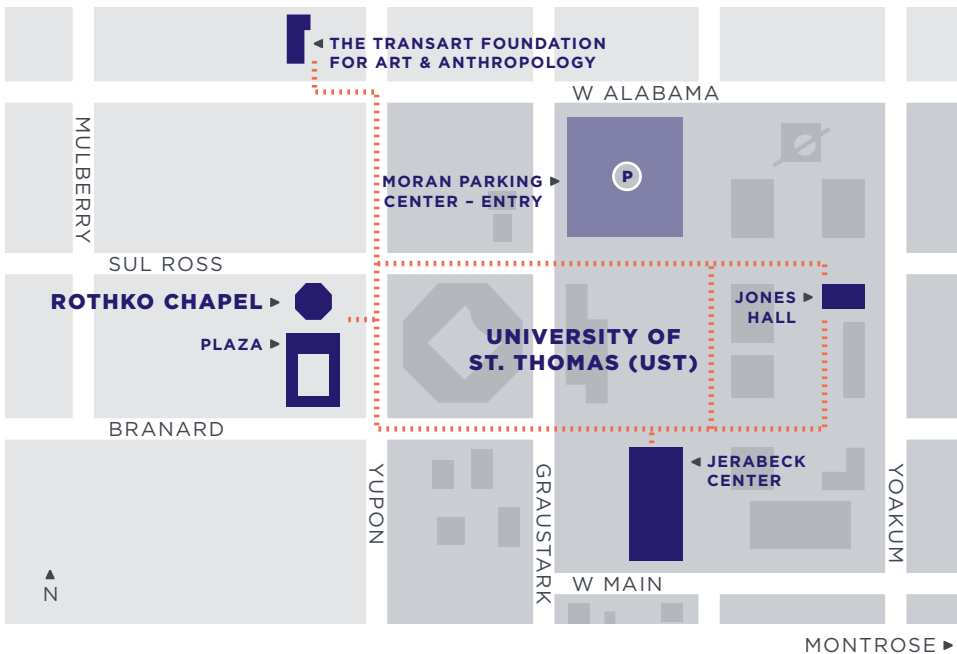
TOWARD A
BETTER FUTURE
TRANSFORMING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Rothko Chapel SYMPOSIUM
FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 2, 2019

Presented in partnership with the University of St. Thomas, Houston

GETTING AROUND

The Symposium will be held at both the Rothko Chapel and the University of St. Thomas, with an evening reception at the Transart Foundation for Art & Anthropology. Locations for each session are reflected in the map below and adjoining schedule.



ROTHKO CHAPEL

3900 Yupon
713.524.9839
Office Hours: M – F, 9am – 5pm
rothkochapel.org
info@rothkochapel.org
The Rothko Chapel and grounds will close to the public beginning Monday, March 4, for restoration.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS, HOUSTON (UST)

3800 Montrose
713.522.7911
stthom.edu

JERABECK CENTER

4000 Mt Vernon
2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

JONES HALL

3910 Yoakum

TRANSART FOUNDATION FOR ART & ANTHROPOLOGY

1412 W Alabama
thetransartfoundation.org

PARKING

Please plan ample time to find parking prior to your arrival. Free street parking is available on Sul Ross, Yupon, Branard, and Mulberry streets. Be sure to follow all parking regulations and signs, as street parking is monitored by the City of Houston.

MORAN PARKING CENTER AT UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

3807 Graustark
Suggested Parking, \$5 per entry

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2019

7 – 8:30pm

The Human Toll of Climate Change: A Reporter's Reflections
Keynote Address by Somini Sengupta
Rothko Chapel

8:30 – 9pm

Reception
Rothko Chapel Plaza

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019

8 – 8:30am

Continental Breakfast
Rothko Chapel Plaza

8:30 – 8:45am

Morning Observance
Rothko Chapel

8:45 – 10:15am

Navigating Climate Change: An Interfaith Conversation
Panel
Rothko Chapel

10:15 – 10:30am

Break

10:30 – 11:45am
Impact of Climate Change on the Mind, Body, and Spirit
Panel
Rothko Chapel

11:45am – 12pm

Break

12pm
Lunch
UST, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

12:15 – 12:30pm

Welcome from the President of the University of St. Thomas
UST, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

12:30 – 1:45pm

Environmental Injustices faced by Frontline, Indigenous, and Vulnerable Communities
Lunch Panel
UST, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

1:45 – 2pm

Break

2 – 5:15pm

The Science, Policy, Technology, and Economics of Climate Change: Past, Present and Future
Presentations and Roundtable Discussions
UST, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

5 – 6:30pm

"Exitium" (On the Edge of Destruction)
Exhibition Opening and Reception
The Transart Foundation for Art and Anthropology

7 – 8:30pm

Not Ok: A Little Movie About a Small Glacier at the End of the World (2018)
Film Screening and Q&A
UST, Jones Hall

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019

8 – 8:30am

Continental Breakfast
Rothko Chapel Plaza

8:30 – 9am

Morning Observance and Poetry
Rothko Chapel

9 – 10:15am

Young Activists Speak Out
Panel
Rothko Chapel

10:15 – 10:45am

Break

10:45am – 12:15pm
Communicating Climate Change
Presentations and Panel
UST, Jerabeck Center 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

12:15 – 12:35pm

Lunch and Words of Mindfulness
UST, Jerabeck Center 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

12:35 – 12:55pm

Remarks from the Mayor of Houston
UST, Jerabeck Center 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

1 – 2:30pm

Legislation and Public Policy Strategies
Panel
UST, Jerabeck Center 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

2:30 – 3pm

Closing Reflections and Moving Forward
UST, Jerabeck Center 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

Thursday – Saturday
Interactive Poet-Tree by Writers in the Schools
(WITS) Bayouth Collective



A NOTE OF WELCOME

Welcome to the Rothko Chapel's 2019 Symposium, *Toward a Better Future: Transforming the Climate Crisis*, offered in partnership with the University of St. Thomas. Since its opening in 1971, the Chapel has been an important place to engage social issues that challenge our sense of being at its deepest levels. While the issues addressed have been diverse and wide ranging, the synergy between contemplation and action continues to connect all we do, reminding us that we are all part of the same human community and are stronger and more effective when we work together.

An urgent concern is the impact that climate change has on all of us and our collective responsibility to address the human causes that contribute to a warming planet. Of particular interest is the impact climate change has on politically, economically and socially marginalized communities that are experiencing critical problems such as community displacement due to rising sea levels, drought and the loss of arable land, and heightened health issues including mental health and stress related disorders. The symposium will explore many of these issues, as well as provide a timely opportunity to engage with innovators and leaders from diverse sectors who are developing and shaping the technologies, policies, perspectives and practices that are moving us to a more sustainable, livable and possibility-filled world.

We are very fortunate to have a talented group of presenters including energy sector experts, scientists, religious leaders, youth activists, artists, political leaders, and people whose individual and communal lives are being directly impacted by climate change. Embedded in their collective understanding of and approach to addressing climate change is the affirmation that while human beings are major contributors to a rapidly warming climate, we also have the opportunity to change the course we find ourselves on to ensure that the earth can sustain life for future generations. By bringing together such a diverse group of experts, the symposium makes clear that cross-sector engagement is the key to developing lasting solutions that contribute to a healthier planet for future generations.

Thank you for your participation in this important gathering. May it strengthen our collective resolve to effectively address a problem of world-wide significance that demands our attention today.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Leslie', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

David Leslie,
Executive Director,
Rothko Chapel

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2019

7 – 9pm, Rothko Chapel

The Human Toll of Climate Change: A Reporter's Reflections

Keynote Address by Somini Sengupta, *The New York Times* International Climate Reporter and George Polk Award-winning foreign correspondent

Welcome and Overview by David Leslie, Executive Director of the Rothko Chapel

Climate change is not only about the planet—it's about the past, present, and future of the people who live here. Sengupta shares reflections from her writings about the human toll of climate change on vulnerable communities around the world.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019

8 – 8:30am, Rothko Chapel Plaza

Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 8:45am, Rothko Chapel

Morning Observance

Tiokasin Ghosthorse, Founder, Host and Executive Producer of First Voices Indigenous Radio and Member of Cheyenne River Lakota Nation of South Dakota

8:45 – 10:15am, Rothko Chapel

Navigating Climate Change: An Interfaith Conversation Panel

Vijaya Nagarajan, Associate Professor in Department of Theology and Religious Studies and the Program of Environmental Studies at University of San Francisco

Sister Damien Marie Savino, FSE, PhD, Dean of Science and Sustainability at Aquinas College

Rajwant Singh, President at EcoSikh and Executive Director of Guru Gobind Singh Foundation

Rabbi Daniel Swartz, Executive Director of Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) and Spiritual Leader at Temple Hesed

Moderator: Steve Kolmes, Chair of the Environmental Studies Department and Molter Chair in Science at the University of Portland

This interfaith conversation will explore the map of climate change and how to navigate it through the lenses of Christian, Jewish, Hindu and Sikh traditions. Panelists will speak about what they see as possible paths to take, and whether we might reimagine new ones going forward.

10:15 – 10:30am

Break

10:30 – 11:45am, Rothko Chapel

Exploring the Impact of Climate Change on Mind, Body, and Spirit Panel

Tiokasin Ghosthorse, Founder, Host and Executive Producer of First Voices Indigenous Radio and Member of Cheyenne River Lakota Nation of South Dakota

Christie Manning, PhD, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Psychology at Macalester College

Umair A. Shah, Executive Director and Local Health Authority for Harris County Public Health

Moderator: Alejandro Chaoul, Director of The Jung Center's Mind Body Spirit Institute and Director of Education at the Integrative Medicine Program at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

The impact of climate change is vast—impacting our countries, cities, communities, homes and each of us on a personal level. This conversation will explore the physical, psychological and spiritual effects of the changing climate, engaging the perspectives of a public health official, a research psychologist, and an Indigenous leader from the Lakota Tribe.

11:45am – 12pm

Break

12pm, UST, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

Lunch

12:15 – 12:30pm, UST, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

Words of Welcome from the President of the University of St. Thomas, Dr. Richard L. Ludwick

12:30 – 1:45pm, UST, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

Exploring the Impact on Frontline, Indigenous, and Vulnerable Communities Message from Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner, Marshall Islander poet and Panel

Byron Encalade, native of East Pointe-A-La Hache, LA, third-generation oysterman, President of Louisiana Oystermen Association

Bryan Parras, Co-Founder of Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (t.e.j.a.s.) and Dirty Fuels Gulf Coast Organizer at Sierra Club

Fawn Sharp, President of the Quinault Indian Nation in the Pacific Northwest

Moderator: Earthea Nance, PhD, PE, CFM, Associate Professor in the Department of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy at Texas Southern University

From oyster beds in Louisiana, to the Quinault Indian Nation in Washington state, low income communities and communities of color are disproportionately impacted by the changing climate. This presentation and discussion will share firsthand accounts of the realities three specific communities currently face, including their work toward change and the creative opportunities that arise to combat these injustices.

1:45 – 2pm

Break

2 – 5:15pm, UST, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

The Science, Policy, Technology, and Economics of Climate Change: Past, Present and Future Presentations and Roundtable Discussions

Jim Blackburn, Co-Director of Severe Storm Prediction, Education, and Evacuation from Disaster (SSPEED) Center at Rice University

Mark Boling, Founder and CEO of 2C Energy, LLC

Astrid Caldas, Senior Climate Scientist at Union of Concerned Scientists

Maha N. Haji, PhD, Research Affiliate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Amy Myers Jaffe, David M. Rubenstein Senior Fellow for Energy and the Environment and Director of the Program on Energy Security and Climate Change at the Council on Foreign Relations

Michael Skelly, Senior Advisor of Renewable Energy & Sustainability at Lazard

This cross-sector, interactive session will shine a light on the perspectives and work of scientists, economists, policy makers, environmentalists, and engineers, and will include presentations, breakout discussions and a moderated conversation.

5 – 6:30pm, The Transart Foundation for Art and Anthropology

“Exitium” (On the Edge of Destruction) by Maria Cristina Jadick Exhibition Opening and Reception

Climate change is causing extreme weather conditions worldwide: entire communities are destroyed by catastrophic events driven by hurricane force winds, water, drought, and fire. Hurricane Harvey exposed a collective “failure of imagination” to fathom its widespread havoc-wreaking power. Artist Maria Cristina Jadick responds to these climate realities with multimedia sculpture and installation.

7 – 8:30pm, UST, Jones Hall

Not Ok: A Little Movie About a Small Glacier at the End of the World (2018)

Welcome and Introduction by Shivas Amin, PhD, Associate Professor of Biology at the University of St. Thomas

Film Screening and Q&A with Dominic Boyer, Professor of Anthropology and Cymene Howe, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Anthropology at Rice University

Iceland is a country known across the world for the beauty of its 400+ glaciers. But it is now losing 11 billion tons of glacial ice each year because of global warming. In 2014, Icelandic scientists announced that the country's first major glacier, Okjökull (known to most by its nickname 'Ok'), had ceased to be. In 2017, U.S. anthropologists Cymene Howe and Dominic Boyer teamed up with Icelandic filmmaker Ragnar Hansson to make a documentary film about what losing their first glacier means to Icelanders and what it should mean to all of us.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019

8 – 8:30am, Rothko Chapel Plaza

Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9am, Rothko Chapel

Morning Observance and Poetry

Jackson Neal, Houston Youth Poet Laureate and National Youth Poet Laureate Ambassador

9 – 10:15am Rothko Chapel

Young Activists Speak Out Panel

Juan Elizondo, from Houston, Texas, Partnerships Coordinator and Instructional Specialist at Furr High School

Jayden Foytlin, from Rayne, Louisiana, an Indigenous climate activist, and a plaintiff in the case, *Juliana v. United States*

Nadia Nazar, from Baltimore, Maryland, Co-Founder, Co-Executive Director, and Art Director of Zero Hour

Moderator: Estrella Sainburg, GreenFaith Organizer

The people who are the least responsible for climate change are the ones who will be the most impacted long-term. Knowing this, they are taking the lead in making their demands for a livable climate known to the leaders of our cities and countries. This panel will explore what young leaders from different parts of the country are doing to lead us toward a better climate future. Examples include a class action lawsuit against the government, a national youth-led protest march, and joining local advocacy groups and empowering young people to make change.

10:15 – 10:45am

Break

10:45am – 12:15pm, UST, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

Communicating Climate Change Presentations and Panel

Tiokasin Ghosthorse, Founder, Host and Executive Producer of First Voices Indigenous Radio and Member of Cheyenne River Lakota Nation of South Dakota

Jim Morris, journalist and Interim CEO of the Center for Public Integrity

Eve Mosher, artist and creator of the HighWaterLine project

Nick Mullins, former Appalachian coal miner and founder of Breaking Clean, an environmental communication firm working to develop messaging strategies across socio-cultural and political divides

Moderator: Christie Manning, PhD, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Psychology at Macalester College

Our current climate crisis demands that we identify new modes of communication to convey the urgent moment we find ourselves in and to demonstrate why people should care. This presentation and conversation will follow the work and perspectives of an artist, former coal miner, environmental journalist and Indigenous leader.

12:15 – 12:35pm, UST, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

Lunch and Words of Mindfulness

Father Chris Valka, CSB, Chaplain and Director of Campus Ministry at the University of St. Thomas

12:35 – 12:55pm, UST, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

Remarks by the Mayor of Houston

Mayor Sylvester Turner

1 – 2:30pm, UST, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

Legislation and Public Policy Strategies Panel

Lara Cottingham, Chief of Staff of the Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department and the Chief Sustainability Officer for the City of Houston

Jay Blazek Crossley, Executive Director of Farm&City

Luke Metzger, Executive Director of Environment Texas

Bakeyah Nelson, Executive Director of Air Alliance Houston

Moderator: Elizabeth Love, Senior Program Officer for the Houston Endowment

Positive climate change outcomes depend on sound legislative decisions at the local, state, and national levels. Learn about current policy initiatives and how we can be more effective advocates.

2:30 – 3pm, UST, Jerabeck Center, 2nd Floor: Scanlan Room

Closing Reflections and Moving Forward

Reflect on the range of topics covered in the three-day symposium and discuss some of the many opportunities for action and advocacy.

PRESENTER BIOS



Shivas Amin

Dr. Shivas Amin is an Associate Professor of Biology at the University of St. Thomas (UST). He currently serves as the Project Director for a Hispanic-Serving

Institution Science Technology and Mathematics (HSI-STEM) Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Education, which is a 5-year, \$3.8 million-dollar, Title III project aimed at improving the retention and persistence of low income and/or Hispanic students in the STEM disciplines. Dr. Amin is a native Houstonian whose main educational goal is to help all people understand their impact on their local environment. He currently teaches several courses at UST, including General Biology and Ecology.



Jim Blackburn

Jim Blackburn is a professor in the practice of environmental law in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Rice University. He is also a practicing

environmental lawyer with the Blackburn & Carter law firm in Houston and a Rice faculty scholar at the Baker Institute. At Rice, he serves as the Co-Director of the Severe Storm Prediction, Education and Evacuation from Disaster (SSPEED) Center and as director of the undergraduate minor in energy and water sustainability. At the SSPEED Center, Blackburn has been responsible for the development of landscape-scale green space solutions for surge damage mitigation, including the Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area.



Mark Boling

Mark Boling is Founder and CEO of 2C Energy, a Houston-based effort to provide low-carbon energy solutions to meet the dual challenges of climate change and economic

growth. 2C Energy's mission is to bring modern energy to the millions that lack it today, enhance energy security around the world, and prove that rather than hurting jobs, the low carbon future provides jobs. Before founding 2C Energy, Boling was Executive Vice President of Southwestern Energy Company and President of Southwestern's V+ Development Solutions division, where he identified, developed and implemented solutions to the challenges of unconventional resource development that balance environmental, social and economic impacts.



Dominic Boyer and Cymene Howe

In 2017, U.S. anthropologists Cymene Howe and Dominic

Boyer teamed up with Icelandic filmmaker Ragnar Hansson to make a documentary film about what losing their first glacier means to Icelanders and what it should mean to all of us. The result is "Not Ok," a film featuring interviews with leading Icelandic politicians, scientists and artists as well as the opinions of regular citizens and the farmers who have been Ok mountain's neighbors for generations. Dominic Boyer is Professor of Anthropology at Rice University and Founding Director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences. Cymene Howe is Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Anthropology and founding faculty of the Center for Energy and Environmental Research at Rice University. Together they co-host the weekly *Cultures of Energy* podcast.



Astrid Caldas

Astrid Caldas is a senior climate scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists, working on climate change adaptation and science communication, including equitable

and just adaptation and resilience measures. Hailing from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with an academic career in ecology, she moved to the Washington, DC, area in 1996, and developed a deep interest in policy. Realizing that strong, science-informed policies were needed for better, equitable climate adaptation and resilience, she staged a career change that allows her to bring science to a variety of audiences. Astrid holds degrees in Entomology, Ecology and Environmental Management. She tweets under the handle @climategeek.



Alejandro Chaoul

Dr. Alejandro Chaoul, the founding director of The Jung Center's Mind Body Spirit Institute (MBSI), holds a doctoral degree in religious studies from Rice University. He is a faculty

member in the Integrative Medicine Program at MD Anderson Cancer Center, where, since 1999, he has used mind, body, and spirit techniques to facilitate healing in cancer patients and their families to reduce stress and promote work-life balance among support staff. Dr. Chaoul is a meditation and Tibetan yoga teacher of Ligmicha International and a Senior Teacher of The 3 Doors for *transforming lives through meditation*. He is also a Fellow of the Mind and Life Institute and an advisor for the Rothko Chapel.



Lara Cottingham

With 13 years of communications and public policy experience, Lara is the Chief of Staff of the Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department and the Chief

Sustainability Officer for the City of Houston. In addition to leading the Mayor's Sustainability Office, Lara is the public face of ARA in the media as well as before City Council, industry stakeholders, and customers. Prior to joining the City of Houston, Lara was a member of Hill+Knowlton Strategies' Houston office, providing strategic counsel in sustainability and social responsibility issues for a broad range of clients across the energy sector. Lara worked in Washington, DC, and served as Communications Director for the Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, Vice Chairman of the House Transportation Committee, and Vice Chairman of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Caucus.



Jay Blazek Crossley

Jay Blazek Crossley is Executive Director of Farm&City, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to high quality urban and rural human habitat in Texas in perpetuity. Crossley has

a Masters in Public Affairs from the LBJ School at UT-Austin and fifteen years of experience changing policies to provide affordable access to safe, walkable urbanism connected by high quality transit. Among other public roles, he serves as Chair of Austin's Pedestrian Advisory Council and on the Texas Strategic Highway Safety Plan Stakeholder Group. Crossley contributed significantly to Houston Complete Streets policy, Houston Metro's New Bus Network, Austin CapMetro's CapRemap, and PlanHouston.



Juan Elizondo

Juan Elizondo is a native of Houston, Texas. He serves as the Partnership Coordinator at Furr High School, enriching students' education with relevant place-

based programming. As partnership coordinator, Elizondo seeks opportunities for students to gain hands-on experiences with local, state and federal partners empowering students to tackle environmental injustices through impactful project-based solutions. Together with students and volunteers, they have established a fruit orchard with over 100 trees on campus, have built and maintained a public park community garden, and have worked city-wide in underserved communities throughout Houston planting fruit trees and native gardens on other campuses and public spaces.



Byron Encalade

Byron Encalade is a native of East Pointe à la Hache, LA, a small fishing village in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. He engages in harvesting seafood, oysters and shrimp; also in

transporting seafood along the gulf coast states. He is currently serving as Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana Constable 3rd Ward, American Legion Post 430 Judge Advocate, Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Seed Ground Permit Appeals Board, President of Louisiana Oystermen Association, President of South Plaquemines United Fisheries Cooperative and most proudly a lifetime member of the Wolfhound Pack 27th Infantry Regiment Historical Society, Inc.



Jayden Foytlin

Jayden Foytlin is a 15-year-old from Rayne, Louisiana, an indigenous climate activist, and a plaintiff in the case, *Juliana v. United States*. Jayden is one of 21

young people currently suing the president and the federal government of the United States in defense of the environment, with support from the nonprofit organization Our Children's Trust. Their constitutional climate lawsuit aims to hold the government accountable for furthering the effects of climate change, calling for a federal Climate Recovery Plan. Jayden has been a part of the complaint since it was filed in 2015, when she was 12. At the end of October 2018, *Juliana v. U.S.* was put on hold by Chief Justice John Roberts after the federal government made an additional request, and as a result, is expected to continue into 2019.



Tiokasin Ghosthorse

Tiokasin Ghosthorse (Mnicoujou/Itazipco Lakota) is a member of the Cheyenne River Lakota Nation of South Dakota. Tiokasin is an educator, musician and interna-

tional speaker on peace and the global issues facing Native peoples. Tiokasin is the Founder, Host and Executive Producer of the internationally-syndicated "First Voices Radio," now in its 27th year of broadcasting. In 2016, Tiokasin received a Nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize from the International Institute of Peace Studies and Global Philosophy. He is a 2016 Native Arts and Cultures Foundation National Artist Fellow in Music, and in 2018 was an inaugural nominee to the National Native American Hall of Fame. Tiokasin is a Sundancer in the tradition of the Lakota Nation.



Maha N. Haji

Dr. Maha Haji is a Research Affiliate with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She received her PhD at MIT in 2017, working in the Precision Engineering Research

Group on ways in which existing offshore structures, such as wind turbines and oil platforms, could be retrofitted to also harvest critical minerals such as uranium and cobalt from the ocean. Additionally, she has worked on determining the feasibility and design of integrated pumped hydro reverse osmosis systems. Her research interests center around developing data-driven design methods to enhance sustainable use of the oceans to solve problems in the water-energy-food nexus.



Maria Cristina Jadick

Exploring cultural identity, the human spirit and socio-political themes, multi-disciplinary artist Maria Cristina "Cristy" Jadick incorporates photography, video,

printmaking and performance which results in compelling, conceptually based projects. Her projects range from large, mixed-media, photo-lithographic prints on paper and canvas to sizable, performative, interactive tableau that integrate photographs and sewn, painted, baked and printed elements. Jadick earned her BA from Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, PA, and pursued studies at the Transart Foundation, The Glassell School-MFAH, Sam Houston State University, and Hopkins University-Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC.



Amy Myers Jaffe

Amy Myers Jaffe is the David M. Rubenstein Senior Fellow for Energy and the Environment and Director of the program on Energy Security and Climate Change at the

Council on Foreign Relations. A leading expert on global energy policy, geopolitical risk and energy and sustainability, Jaffe previously served as Executive Director for Energy and Sustainability at the University of California, Davis, and Senior Advisor for Energy and Sustainability at Office of the Chief Investment Officer of the University of California, Regents. She was also formerly a global fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Prior to joining the University of California, Davis, Jaffe served as founding director of the Energy Forum at Rice University's James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy and its Wallace S. Wilson fellow for energy studies.



Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner

Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner is a Marshall Islander poet and spoken word artist who focuses on raising awareness on issues faced by island communities, including nuclear testing, militarism, the impact of climate change, forced migration and racism. Her installation at the Honolulu Biennial marks an expansion in practice for Jetñil-Kijiner, who is principally a poet. She received her Master's in Pacific Island Studies from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa and has performed her poetry at the United Nations Climate Summit, New York; Southbank Center, London; Conference of the Parties (COP) 21 and 22, in Paris and Morocco, Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation and Poetry for the People at UC Berkeley in California.



Steve Kolmes

Steven A. Kolmes is Chair of the Environmental Studies Department, and occupant of the Rev. John Molter, C.S.C., Chair in Science at the University of Portland. His interests are in the areas of salmon recovery planning, combining ethical and scientific analyses in environmental policy discussions, and water and air quality issues. He has served on government scientific advisory panels (NOAA-Fisheries Technical Recovery Team for the Willamette and Lower Columbia Rivers; Oregon Dept of Environmental Quality Toxics Technical Advisory Committee) and on the Steering Committee for the Columbia River Pastoral Letter. Dr. Kolmes teaches courses in environmental science, and team-teaches a course on theology in ecological perspective.



David Leslie

David Leslie is the Executive Director of the Rothko Chapel whose vocation centers on creating cross-sector relationships to further human rights, criminal justice reform, peacemaking and environmental justice. He served on the Oregon Governor's Global Warming Advisory Group, chaired the National Council of Churches Immigration Reform Task Force and currently serves on the National Religious Campaign Against Torture Board of Directors, Northwest Workers' Justice Project Advisory Board and Houston Coalition Against Hate Steering Committee. He is the recipient of the National Council of Churches' Eugene Carson Blake Award for Ecumenism for his peacemaking and interfaith leadership. He served as the executive director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston and Austin Habitat for Humanity, and held program positions with Ohio Council of Churches and World Council of Churches.



Elizabeth Love

As senior program officer at the Houston Endowment, Elizabeth oversees grantmaking for the foundation's health and environmental portfolios as well as a portion of the arts and culture portfolio. Prior to joining the foundation in 2009, Elizabeth served as Director of Harris County Public Health's Office of Policy and Planning, where she led strategic planning activities concerning health promotion, infectious disease, air and water quality, neighborhood conditions, climate change and emergency response. In addition, Elizabeth oversaw the department's legislative activities, community-based assessment processes and outcomes evaluation framework. In the late 1990's, Elizabeth served as a fellow for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Christie Manning

Christie Manning, PhD, has a Bachelor's degree in Human Factors Engineering from Tufts University and a PhD in Cognitive and Biological Psychology from the University of Minnesota. She teaches in the department of Environmental Studies at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Her research and teaching explores cognitive, social and situational factors that influence people's behavioral and lifestyle choices, and the impact of these choices on ecological and social systems. One research focus includes how people perceive climate change, with particular interest in the psychological circumstances that motivate community-level climate change preparedness. Manning has also researched and written about the growing evidence of the mental health costs of the climate crisis.



Luke Metzger

As the director of Environment Texas, Luke Metzger is a leading voice in the state for clean air, water, energy and open space. Luke has led successful campaigns to win permanent protection for the Christmas Mountains of Big Bend; to compel Exxon, Shell and Chevron Phillips to cut air pollution at three Texas refineries and chemical plants; and to boost funding for water conservation and state parks. He has been named one of the "Top Lobbyists for Causes" by *Capitol Inside*, received the President's Award from the Texas Recreation and Parks Society for his work to protect Texas parks, and was chosen for the inaugural class of "Next Generation Fellows" by the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law at UT Austin.



Jim Morris

Jim Morris is acting CEO of the Center for Public Integrity in Washington, D.C. A journalist since 1978, he has won more than 80 awards, including the George Polk award, the Sidney Hillman award, three National Association of Science Writers awards, two Edward R. Murrow awards, the White House Correspondents Association award and five Texas Headliners awards. He directed a global investigation of the asbestos industry that won the John B. Oakes award for environmental reporting from Columbia University in 2011 and an IRE Medal from Investigative Reporters and Editors. Morris worked for newspapers in Texas and California before moving to Washington in 1999.



Eve Mosher

Eve Mosher is an artist and interventionist living and working in New York City. Her works use investigations of the landscape as starting points for audience exploration of urban issues. Recent work examines the complex urban waterways and the changes and impacts of climate change. She is a co-founder and co-director of Works on Water, a cultural institution dedicated to supporting artists working on, in and with the water, through a triennial and artist residency. In addition, she is co-founder and board vice-chair for play:groundNYC, an organization dedicated to children's rights in the urban environment through free and self-directed play and access.



Nick Mullins

Nick Mullins was the 5th generation of his family to work in the underground coal mines of central Appalachia before turning toward a career in economic and environmental justice. As author of the blog "Thoughts of a Coal Miner," Nick addresses many of the issues that impact coal miners, serving both to fight back against pro-coal messaging from industry associations and lobbying groups, as well as critique ineffective, and sometimes damaging, forms of activism. In 2016, Nick founded Breaking Clean, a media organization focused on justice advocacy communications strategies that are more inclusive of rural, conservative, and working class families. Through his work, Nick seeks to establish common ground across divisive sociopolitical viewpoints, and move communities towards a more sustainable future for generations to come.



Vijaya Nagarajan

Vijaya Nagarajan is the Chair and Associate Professor of the Department of Theology/Religious Studies and in the Program of Environmental Studies at the University of San Francisco. She writes about Hinduism, gender, ritual, ecology and the commons. Recently her work has centered around spiritual autobiographies of place, especially around immigration, motherhood and energy. She has been active in the American Academy of Religion and in the environmental movements in the United States, and is the author of *Feeding A Thousand Souls: Women, Ritual and Ecology in India, An Exploration of the Kolam* (2018).



Earthea Nance

Earthea A. Nance is an Associate Professor in the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University (TSU), and she holds joint faculty appointments in the Department of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy and the Department of Political Science. Prior to arriving at TSU, she was assistant professor of environmental planning and hazard mitigation at the University of New Orleans, and a faculty associate in the Center for Hazards Assessment, Response, and Technology. During New Orleans' recovery from Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Nance served as a public official providing expertise in disaster mitigation and environmental management. As a researcher, Dr. Nance focuses on the intersection of environmental hazards, community participation, and urban infrastructure in complex settings such as vulnerable communities, developing countries, and high-hazard areas.



Nadia Nazar

Nadia Nazar is a 16-year-old artist and environmentalist. She has been an activist since she was 12 years old, when she became a vegetarian from her passion for animals and the environment. Nadia co-founded the youth-led climate justice organization, Zero Hour, where she is the Co-Executive Director and Art Director. Zero Hour is a youth-led movement creating entry points, training, and resources for new young activists and organizers wanting to take concrete action around climate change. She uses art as a tool for awareness, and has taken her environmental efforts to school and her local Indian community. She is the Environmental Affairs Coordinator for the Baltimore County Student Councils and a Girl Scout Ambassador.



Jackson Neal

Jackson Neal is a freshman at the University of Houston, a three-time member of Houston's premier youth poetry slam team, Meta-Four Houston, and Houston Youth Poet Laureate. He is the 2017 and 2018 Space City Grand Slam Champion, a 2018 National YoungArts Foundation Winner in Writing, a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts nominee, and the 2019 Southwest Regional Youth Poet Laureate. His writing and videos have been featured in the *Claremont Review*, *Houston Chronicle*, Houston Public Media, and elsewhere.



Bakeyah Nelson

Bakeyah Nelson, PhD, works to improve public health and reduce health inequities based on where people live, work, learn, and play. Prior to working as Executive

Director at Air Alliance Houston, she led a consulting firm focused on strategic planning and community health assessment for public health and other non-profit entities. Dr. Nelson's focus continues to examine the policies and practices that produce health inequities, including the over-concentration of environmental hazards in communities of color and low-income communities. She previously served in the Office of Policy and Planning for Harris County Public Health where she was responsible for leading community health initiatives.



Bryan Parras

Bryan Parras is one of the Gulf Coast's most dynamic environmental justice organizers fighting along the entire central and eastern United States. Bryan grew up in a community on the east side of Houston, Texas, near one of largest concentrations of petrochemical plants, refineries and storage tanks in the world. He is deeply involved in the documentation of environmental racism experienced by marginalized communities from Houston and throughout the greater Gulf Coast region. He continues to help lead the rising environmental justice movement and is currently helping people in Houston and the Gulf Coast fight for a just recovery after Hurricane Harvey. Bryan is Co-Founder of Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (t.e.j.a.s.) and Dirty Fuels Gulf Coast Organizer at Sierra Club.



Estrella Sainburg

Estrella Sainburg is a Los Angeles native and UC Berkeley graduate. Through her studies of development and global poverty, and involvement in research groups and student organizations, she grew interested in the global crisis for safe, drinking water sources. After graduation, Estrella became the New Jersey Organizer and Organizing Director at GreenFaith, an interfaith organization that works with people of all faiths and spiritualities to help heal and restore the Earth. Driven by her faith as a Christian, she is energized by nature and motivated to secure a cleaner and healthier environment for marginalized communities.



Sister Damien Marie Savino

Sister Damien Marie Savino, FSE, is a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist with a Doctorate in Environmental Engineering and Master's degrees in Theology and Soil Science. Currently, she is the Dean of Science and Sustainability at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Prior to that, she was chair of the environmental science and studies department at University of St. Thomas, with a joint appointment in theology. Sister Damien Marie has also worked as an environmental consultant overseeing soil and ground water remediation of contaminated sites. Her areas of expertise include ecology and theology, science and theology, and ecological restoration.



Somini Sengupta

Somini Sengupta, *The New York Times'* international climate reporter, tells the stories of communities and landscapes most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. A George Polk Award-winning foreign correspondent, she has reported from a Congo River ferry, a Himalayan glacier, the streets of Baghdad and Mumbai and many places in between. As *The Times'* United Nations correspondent, she reported on global challenges from war to women's rights. Her first book, *The End of Karma: Hope and Fury Among India's Young* was published in 2016 by W.W. Norton. She grew up in India, Canada and the United States, graduating from the University of California at Berkeley.



Umair A. Shah

Since 2013, Dr. Umair A. Shah has served as Executive Director and Local Health Authority for Harris County Public Health (HCPH), in the nation's 3rd largest county with 4.7 million people. Dr. Shah began a distinguished career as an emergency department physician at Houston's DeBakey VA Medical Center. He started his public health journey as Chief Medical Officer at Galveston County's Health District before joining HCPH to oversee its clinical health system and infectious disease portfolio. Dr. Shah holds leadership positions with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention; Trust for America's Health; Network for Public Health Law; and Texas Medical Association.



Fawn Sharp

Fawn R. Sharp is the President of the Quinault Indian Nation (2006-present), and attorney with an academic background in criminal justice. She holds an advanced certificate in International Human Rights Law from Oxford University. President Sharp formerly served as Managing Attorney/Lead Counsel/Associate Judge for the Quinault Indian Nation government. While President of the Quinault Indian Nation, Sharp was elected as President of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI 2001-17); Vice President for the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), an organization established in 1944 representing 566 Tribal Nations (2016-17); and We Are Still In Leader Circle (WASI) member (2018-present). She completed two years of service as Chairman of the US Department of the Interior Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform that issued its final report in December 2013.



Rajwant Singh

Dr. Rajwant Singh is the Founder and President of EcoSikh, a global Sikh environmental network. EcoSikh has issued a major Sikh statement on climate change as well as guidelines on faith guided impact investing. Dr. Singh has worked with Presidents Clinton, Bush, and Obama, and their respective administrations on various faith-based, social justice, and environmental issues. Dr. Singh is founding member of Sikh Human and Development Foundation, and Secretary of the Guru Gobind Singh Foundation, a Sikh spiritual center in Maryland. He is also a senior advisor and co-founder of National Sikh Campaign, a national media campaign to educate Americans about Sikhs and Sikh identity in North America.



Michael Skelly

Michael Skelly is a renewable energy entrepreneur and a Senior Advisor at the investment bank Lazard, where he advises companies on renewable energy and sustainability. Skelly is the Founder and Chairman of Clean Line Energy, developing infrastructure projects to connect America's best renewable energy resources to market. Prior to Clean Line, Skelly led the growth of Horizon Wind Energy, now one of the largest renewable energy companies in the world. Skelly applies his expertise in developing infrastructure projects to enhance transportation options and increase access to parks in his adopted hometown of Houston, Texas. In 2012, he led the "Parks By You" campaign, which resulted in the passage of a \$150 million bond measure to fund 100 plus miles of trails along the city's bayous, an effort in which Skelly remains deeply involved.



Rabbi Daniel Swartz

Rabbi Daniel Swartz is the Executive Director of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL). COEJL engages the Jewish community in environmental advocacy and programs. He has combined his religious training with his love for the environment in positions with the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, Pennsylvania and Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light, and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. He is the author of numerous environmental op-eds in media ranging from CNN to the *Washington Post* and *To Till and To Tend: A Guide for Jewish Environmental Study and Action* (1995).



Mayor Sylvester Turner

Elected in December 2015, Sylvester Turner is serving his first four-year term as Houston's 62nd mayor. Since taking office, Mayor Turner eliminated a \$160 million budget shortfall in record time; led the city's remarkable rebound from Hurricane Harvey; championed historic pension reform; cheered on the 2017 World Series-winning Houston Astros; hosted a successful Super Bowl LI; and expanded municipal investments in renewable energy. Mayor Turner's civic leadership has been nationally recognized through his service as a member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Transportation and Communications Standing Committee, vice chair of the National Climate Action Agenda, member of the C40 and Global Covenant for Mayor's for Climate and Energy and an advisory board member of the African American Mayors Association.

LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED

Resources from Symposium Presenters

2C Energy, LLC
2cnrg.com

Air Alliance Houston
airalliancehouston.org

Amy Myers Jaffe
amymyersjaffe.com

Aquinas College Office of Science and Sustainability
aquinas.edu/academics/office-dean-science-sustainability

Baker Institute at Rice University
bakerinstitute.org

Breaking Clean
breakclean.com

Center for Public Integrity
publicintegrity.org

City of Houston, Office of Sustainability
greenhoustontx.gov

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL)
coejl.org

Council on Foreign Relations
cfr.org

EcoSikh
ecosikh.org

Environment Texas
environmenttexas.org

Eve Mosher
evemosher.com

Farm&City
farmandcity.org

First Voices Indigenous Radio
firstvoicesindigenousradio.org

Furr High School Institute for Sustainable Communities
ifsc.tamu.edu/Engagement/Partnerships/Furr-High-School

GreenFaith
greenfaith.org

HighWaterLine
highwaterline.org

Harris County Public Health
publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov

Houston Endowment
houstonendowment.org

Macalester College Environmental Studies
macalester.edu/environmentalstudies

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Department of Mechanical Engineering
meche.mit.edu

The Mind, Body, Spirit Institute at the Jung Center of Houston
junghouston.org/about-the-center/mind-body-spirit-institute

Our Children's Trust
ourchildrenstrust.org

Quinault Indian Nation
quinaultindiannation.com

Rice University Anthropology Department
anthropology.rice.edu

Rice University Center for Energy & Environmental Research in the Human Sciences
culturesofenergy.com

Severe Storm Prediction, Education, and Evacuation from Disaster (SSPEED) Center at Rice University
sspeed.rice.edu

Sierra Club
sierraclub.org

Somini Sengupta
sominisengupta.com

Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (t.e.j.a.s.)
tejasbarrios.org

Texas Southern University Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs
bjmlspa.tsu.edu

Thoughts of a Coal Miner
thethoughtfulcoalminer.com

The Transart Foundation for Art and Anthropology
thetransartfoundation.org

Union of Concerned Scientists
ucsusa.org

University of Portland Environmental Studies Program
college.up.edu/envscience

University of San Francisco Program of Environmental Studies
usfca.edu/arts-sciences/undergraduate-programs/environmental-studies

University of St. Thomas Biology Department
stthom.edu/Academics/School-of-Arts-and-Sciences/Undergraduate/Majors/Biology

Writers in the Schools (WITS)
witshouston.org

Zero Hour
thisiszerohour.org

PROMOTIONAL PARTNERS

Asia Society Texas Center
asiasociety.org/texas

BikeHouston
bikehouston.org

Buffalo Bayou Partnership
buffalobayou.org

Citizens' Environmental Coalition (Houston)
cechouston.org

Houston BCycle
houston.bcycle.com

Houston Climate Movement
facebook.com/houstonclimatemovement

Interfaith Environmental Network of Houston
facebook.com/faithandenvironmenthouston

The Jung Center of Houston, Texas
junghouston.org

Lone Star Legal Aid
lonestarlegal.blog/offices/houston-office

Plant It Forward Farms
plant-it-forward.org

Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
sistersofcharity.org

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About the Rothko Chapel

The Rothko Chapel was founded by French-born, Houston philanthropists Dominique and John de Menil, opened in 1971 as an independent institution. It is open every day of the year, 10am to 6pm, for people of all religions or none. The Chapel is the work of Mark Rothko and includes 14 of his monumental paintings.

The mission of the Rothko Chapel is to inspire people to action through art and contemplation, to nurture reverence for the highest aspirations of humanity, and to provide a forum for global concerns. The Chapel supports human rights and serves as a rallying place for all who are concerned with peace, justice and freedom throughout the world.

The Rothko Chapel is funded in part by the The Brown Foundation, Inc., the Dudley T. Dougherty Foundation, The George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation, Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation, Houston Endowment Inc., the John P. McGovern Foundation, Texas Commission on the Arts, and a grant from the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance.



The Rothko Chapel is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is solely responsible for its own funding. Your tax-deductible donation enables the institution to welcome all people every day of the year to experience the transformative power of art, to engage in courageous conversations, and to connect with their innermost thoughts.

About University of St. Thomas

The University of St. Thomas (UST) is Houston's Catholic University. For more than 70 years, UST has graduated students into successful careers in medicine, education, business, public administration and more. The UST Biology Department encourages students to think, experiment and discover science in a way that prepares them for the real world. UST students exhibit exceptional critical thinking skills, a strong ethical code and a passion for exploration. Biology faculty closely mentor every student to give them the best foundation possible for the rest of their lives.



Chapel Closure & Opening Spaces Master Plan

The Rothko Chapel and grounds will close to the public beginning Monday, March 4, and will reopen in winter 2019. This temporary closure is the first part of the implementation of the Rothko Chapel *Opening Spaces* master plan, focused on preserving the Chapel as a unique public art site and spiritual space, serving the growing number of visitors and program participants, and setting the stage for programmatic expansion.

