

Katharine Morris
Los Angeles, California

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Community Engagement | Environmental Health | Intersectional Social Justice
Cross-functional Leader | Creative Consultant | Engaging Coordinator

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

SAVE THE SOUND x CONNECTICUT COALITION FOR CLIMATE ACTION 03/2023 - 06/2023

Community Engagement Consultant

Spearheaded successful community engagement efforts to increase awareness and advocate for passing Senate Bill 1147, An Act Concerning the Environmental Justice Program of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (In Effect: October 2023).

- Advised the coalition steering committee (16-20 members) on advancing equity and environmental justice by offering insights on designing and administering campaign communications and goals.
- Planned and managed the “Climate and the Arts” open mic night event at Semilla Cafe + Studio, featuring 12 performers and attracting 50+ attendees. Maintained close ties with the STS to work as a creative project consultant for future events.
- Received positive accolades from the attendees, STS Staff, and the President of the Organization.

REIMAGINING NEW HAVEN IN THE ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE 03/2023 - 04/2023

Copywriting Consultant

Developed copywriting materials to spread awareness of environmental racism and encourage others to participate in solutions across community, business, and government levels.

- Edited language and editorialized the Climate Action Guide (18 pages) by reviewing all videos, written content, and graphics from the Climathon Event, highlighting intersectional and climate justice themes from Climathon records.
- Co-designed the website splash page in collaboration with consultant Raheem Nelson to design and create final deliverables.

CT INSTITUTE FOR RESILIENCE AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION (CIRCA) 02/2023 - 05/2023

Consulting Environmental Justice Specialist

Engaged with 125 community members, 6 MTAC members, and 5 CIRCA/DEEP coworkers to develop the Mapping Tool, a public tool to increase the resilience and sustainability of communities vulnerable to climate change.

- Facilitated 5 public forms by leading discussions and curating questions for maximum insights during a limited timeframe, receiving community feedback to improve the tool in development regarding functionality and user experience (UX).
- Participated in weekly calls with CIRCA staff to review draft materials and advise them on the best practices for effective science communication and public engagement during the forums.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR & DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEEP) 08/2022 - 11/2022

CT Governor’s Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Advisor

Served as an Advisor to Governor Ned Lamont to deploy up to \$6B in federal funds (i.e., IJA/BIL & IRA) to strengthen Connecticut’s infrastructure, job creation, and investment in renewable energy, grid resilience, water & land, broadband, and climate resilience.

- Coordinated with 7 state agencies, 2 stakeholder groups, 7 municipalities, and 3 nonprofits alongside the Governor’s Cabinet and the DEEP Commissioner’s Cabinet to evaluate and modify critical programs and services for equitable implementation.
- Contributed to problem-solving conversations regarding climate resilience issues and potential infrastructure/program solutions (i.e., updating existing public service programs to accommodate funding and improve resource allocation).
- Notable Achievements: Expansion of the Weatherization Assistance Program, the shared Community Solar Energy program, and the launch of the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND HEALTH AT UMD 09/2021 - 05/2022

Helen Gurley Brown Fellow

Accepted into the Helen Gurley Brown Fellowship as a BOLD Scholar; worked for CEEJH Laboratory, founded by Dr. Sacoby Wilson. CEEJH’s primary focus is to engage highly and differentially exposed populations and underserved communities.

- Planned and managed the 2022 Symposium for the regional EJ Coalition by brainstorming the theme, identifying speakers/panelists, booking locations, creating social media graphics, and delegating tasks among colleagues and interns.
- Contributed to the grant writing process for EPA, NOAA, and other grant applications, reviewing the RFPs for eligibility.
- Provided research and communications assistance regarding the coalition’s policy evaluation, drafting, and lobbying goals.
- Facilitated research assignments, project execution, and manuscript writing for the MD EJ Scorecard, Air Quality Monitoring research, and Climate-related white papers.

Sustainability Fellow

Served as an Intern for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency during their first participation in the Sustainability Fellowship program hosted by the University of New Hampshire Sustainability Institute.

- Consulted for the Stakeholder Engagement Branch on improving reciprocal engagement with 13 environmental justice communities, environmental NGOs, and federally recognized tribes across the 10 EPA regions of the US.
- Created a presentation to evaluate current outreach and engagement practices, recommending new procedures to reflect interview insights.
- Evaluated, edited, and organized the public-facing materials for the ELSWPEO and “Train the Trainer” programs by creating written and graphic content, receiving feedback from stakeholders, and suggesting outreach strategies during annual holidays/seasons.

HEALTH EQUITY SOLUTIONS

Policy Intern

Served as the Interim Policy and Advocacy Outreach Specialist to organize outreach efforts for Senate Bill No. 1 - Public Act No. 21-35, declaring racism a public health crisis in local and state government and promoting anti-racist policy accountability (Passed in 2021).

- Engaged with 23 local governments across the state (i.e., board of selectmen/alders) to declare racism a public health crisis via resolution in their municipality as a strategy for a broader mission to promote the bill in the state.
- Drafted the press conference run of show for the announcement of the bill’s passing (press conference including the HES Executive Director, the CT Governor, and other stakeholders and elected officials).
- Designed and hosted a 2-Part webinar series for 200+ attendees, preparing for legislative sessions by consolidating information for grassroots partners and legislators, managing social media campaigns, and communicating action plans.

UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL AND NORTHEAST CONNECTICUT

Research Technician

United Way is an organization that serves to help ALICE families living below the basic cost of living in CT by increasing access to youth development opportunities, financial assistance, and healthcare resources. Conducted data analysis for the Invest Health Hartford Health-Equity-in-All-Policies Audit led by Dr. Cooksey Stowers.

- Created, published, and distributed the final report among community members and stakeholders.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy - Allied Health Sciences Research Technician	06/2020 - 08/2020
Experimental Anthropology Lab Research Assistant	01/2018 - 06/2020
BOLD Women’s Leadership Network BOLD Scholar	01/2019
Yale University - National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates Research Intern	06/2018 - 08/2018

PUBLICATIONS

- “Atlanta’s Stop Cop City Movement is Connecticut’s Movement Too” | CT Mirror, April 15th, 2023
- “Finding shelter in love, and love in shelter” | Op-Ed published in the CT Mirror, February 14th, 2023
- “Saving Bassick High means Choosing Life” | Op-Ed published in the CT Mirror, December 6th, 2022
- “Stop Environmental Racism in Bridgeport” | Op-Ed published in the CT Post, November 15th, 2022
- “Seaside Liberation” | Article published in Connecticut Magazine: Issue 6, May 2022 | Cover Photo
- “Environmental Justice Resolutions for 2022” | Op-Ed published in CT Mirror, January 7th, 2022
- “An Environmental Justice Wishlist” | Article published in Connecticut Magazine: Issue 4, December 2021
- “What Spooks Me in CT” | Article published in Connecticut Magazine: Issue 3, October 2021

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS & CORE PROFICIENCIES

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| • Emotional Intelligence | • Survey Development | • Qualitative Research | • Public Speaking |
| • Writing & Communication | • Team Leadership | • Environmental Health | • Data Analysis |
| • English & Jamaican Patois | • Project Design & Management | • Outreach & Event Planning | • Public Relations |
| • MS Office & Google Drive | • Dedoose, Qualtrics, & BioPac | • Graphic Design | • Capacity Building |

EDUCATION & LICENSES

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT , Storrs, CT	
Master of Public Policy , (Fast-Track)	Graduation: 05/2021
Bachelor of Arts, Cognitive Science & Anthropology (MCL)	Graduation: 05/2020

Licenses: CITI Human Subjects Research & Connecticut State Drivers’ License