

Bridging Communities with Hope: An Environmental Justice Conference for All

September 17th-18th, 2025

*University of Massachusetts Boston
Campus Center Ballroom*



CEJM

Center for Climate and
Environmental Justice Media

UMass
Boston



School for the
Environment



UMass
Boston



Sustainable
Solutions Lab



Day One - Wednesday, September 17th

9:00am	Registration and Refreshments
10:00am	<p>Land Acknowledgement and Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Stephen Curwood</i> Executive Producer and Host of <i>Living on Earth</i> and CEJM • <i>Dr. Robert F. Chen</i> Director of Grand Scholarly Challenges, UMass Boston <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Chancellor Marcelo Suárez Orozco</i> UMass Boston
10:30am	<p>Fireside Chat with <i>Dr. Robert D. Bullard</i> Texas Southern University, “Father of Environmental Justice”</p> <p>Hosted by <i>Stephen Curwood</i></p>
11:15am	<p>Panel: Environmental Justice and the Law</p> <p>Facilitator: <i>Stephen Curwood</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Monique Harden</i> Former Director of Law and Policy and the Community Engagement Program Manager at the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice • <i>Dr. David Cash</i> Former EPA Region 1 Administrator • <i>Marcus Holmes</i> MA Assistant Attorney General Director of Environmental Justice • <i>Brittney Jenkins</i> Conservation Law Foundation Vice President of Environmental Justice
12:15pm	Lunch
1:00pm	<p>Posters and Breakout Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters, tables, and exhibits - Main Ballroom 3550 • Breakout: Environmental Justice in Massachusetts - Room 3215 • Breakout: Community Case Studies - Room 2540 • Breakout: Approaches for Environmental Justice - Room 2545
2:00pm	<p>Plenary: <i>Dr. Marccus Hendricks</i> Associate Professor of Urban Studies & Planning, University of Maryland and Director of Stormwater Infrastructure Resilience and Justice (SIRJ) Lab</p>

Day One - Wednesday, September 17th (Continued)

2:45pm

Panel: Community Action

Facilitator: *Rev. Mariama White-Hammond* | Boston Pastor and Activist, Former Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space for the City of Boston

- *Crystal Johnson* | MA EEA Assistant Secretary of Environmental Justice
- *Daniel Blackman* | Renaissance94 Founder, Former Regional Administrator for EPA's Southeast Region
- *Dr. Meghan Kallman* | RI State Senator, UMB Professor
- *Kannan Thiruvengadam* | Director of Eastie Farm, Environmentalist and Activist

3:45pm

Break

4:00pm

Panel: Community Media

Facilitator: *Andrew Skeritt* | CEJM Senior Project Director/HBCU Liaison

- *Rev. Benjamin Chavis* | President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the Black Press of America
- *Pastor Timothy Williams* | CEJM Producer, Shiloh, AL
- *Kelley Saxon* | CEJM Producer, Valdosta, GA
- *Pastor Brenda Tyus* | CEJM Producer, Selma, AL

5:00pm

Keynote: *Nalleli Cobo* | Activist and Storyteller, Peace is Loud, Los Angeles, CA

5:45pm

Reception

6:30pm

Dinner and Networking

Day Two - Thursday, September 18th

9:00am	Registration and Refreshments
10:00am	Plenary: <i>Dr. Benjamin Chavis</i> President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the Black Press of America, Washington DC
10:45am	Case Study: Shiloh, Alabama
11:15am	Case Study: Valdosta, Georgia
11:45am	Case Study: Selma, Alabama
12:15pm	Lunch
1:00pm	Workshop: How to Tell a Story
1:45pm	Break
2:00pm	Workshop: Community Storytelling
2:45pm	Charette: Franklin Field, Massachusetts
3:15pm	Charette: Salem, Massachusetts
3:45pm	Workshop: Action Planning
4:30pm	Next Steps and close