



Greenlining Summer Associates Class of 2017 Biographies

Chanel Williams, Environmental Equity

Chanel Williams was born in Nassau, Bahamas. She is currently a Master in Urban Planning student at Harvard's Graduate School of Design. While growing up in Nassau, Chanel experienced many hurricanes and has come to understand how natural disasters affect place-making and equity. The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina allowed Chanel to see how low-income communities of color are disproportionately affected not only by disasters but by planning and design practices that place them in vulnerable areas. Chanel is interested in how land use and zoning practices lead to environmental inequity in communities, and hopes to use the skills she gains as a Greenlining Summer Associate to improve the communities that she will work for and engage with. Chanel hopes to bring agency to neighborhoods of California that currently feel marginalized and environmentally burdened. In her spare time, Chanel enjoys running, swimming, reading and expanding her music taste.

Chinelo Agbim, Energy


Chinelo comes to us from the Chicago suburbs; however, she's been in Austin, TX for the past year pursuing a dual master's degree in Energy Resources and Public Affairs at the University of Texas. She first became interested in inequities in water and energy access during her time in Nigeria and her undergraduate years volunteering and traveling through groups like Alternative Spring Breaks. After receiving a B.S. in Civil Engineering at the University of Illinois, Chinelo decided to pursue an interdisciplinary degree to enhance her understanding of policy and economics. Since her time at UT, she has worked with groups like the Public Affairs Alliance for Communities of Color to help raise awareness of energy and water access inequities in Texas. In her free time, she enjoys biking, reading, and listening to music.

Estivaliz Castro, Bridges to Health

Estivaliz, originally from southern California, worked for four years as a researcher at a social justice organization where she focused on violence prevention, policing strategies, and juvenile justice. Estivaliz is passionate about stopping the cycle of intergenerational justice involvement by addressing the health disparities, specifically trauma, of children with incarcerated family members. She is looking forward to learning from colleagues at The Greenlining Institute over the summer about how to apply research and build partnerships to advocate for more trauma-centered programming for youth with incarcerated family members. In her spare time, Estivaliz likes to try new foods, travel, hike, and journal.

José Luis Gomez, Economic Equity

José Luis is a product of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, but he grew up throughout the (sub)urban sprawl of Phoenix, Arizona. He had the privilege of studying Public Policy Analysis &

A decorative illustration at the top of the page. On the left, there's a rural landscape with wind turbines, a barn, and houses. On the right, there's a city skyline with various skyscrapers. A thin line connects the two scenes, with a small train or tram crossing it.

Sociology at Pomona College, where he first began understanding the systemic issues facing the communities that have nourished his growth and successes. For a year, he's been at the Oakland Catholic Worker supporting recently-arrived immigrants in their transition to the Bay. José Luis cares deeply about economic equity because he's witnessed how his mother, who despite being a hard-working and resilient woman, often had to rely on high interest payday and car title loans to keep the family afloat. He's excited to use all that has been given to him to contribute to building a more respectful and just society.

In his free time, José Luis finds himself trapped in the rabbit hole of Wikipedia.

James Huynh, Economic Equity

James comes from the suburbs of southern California where he grew up in a predominantly Asian American community. He has developed his passion for social justice by working and volunteering in different community-based settings in the Bay Area. In those spaces, he has been able to witness the brutality of the economic system in the United States. In particular, working with individuals experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity has informed his values and practices in how to approach advocacy and direct service provision. He looks forward to learning and growing as an Economic Equity fellow at The Greenlining Institute, where he will continue to build his skill-set for centering and amplifying the voices and issues of low-income communities of color. In his free time, you can find James sitting in a boba shop, park or chatting with a friend.


Kimiko Satterfield, Telecommunications

Kimiko Satterfield was born here in the Bay Area and joins us as a recent and early graduate from Mills College with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology. Kimiko's passion for creating social change stems from her own personal experience with the prison industrial complex, which revealed the faults and injustices within the criminal justice system. Further, it has sparked her interest in creating social change specifically for low-income and minority communities to break the cycles that often lead to incarceration, such as poverty. Last summer, she worked as a legal advocate for people incarcerated in women's prisons while interning at our neighboring nonprofit organization, Justice Now. While at Justice Now, she used the power of voices as she transcribed interviews by those formerly incarcerated to capture the different processes and specific challenges of reentering communities upon release. In addition, she participated in publishing a press release to promote awareness about California legislation while incorporating voices of the community. As a psychology major delving into policy work, she hopes to use her background as a bridge to connect and effectively communicate with under-resourced communities.

Karen Romero Estrada, Environmental Equity

Karen was born and raised in Anaheim, California by Mexican immigrant parents. She graduated from Occidental College in May 2016 as a first-generation college student, with a degree in Urban and Environmental Policy. Prior to joining Greenlining, she completed an AmeriCorps year of service as a math tutor at a middle school in Wilmington, Delaware.

Karen's passion became clear during an undergraduate internship at Esperanza Community Housing Corporation, located in South Los Angeles. Working alongside residents on public health

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and environmental justice initiatives, she learned how public policy could be a tool that marginalized communities can reclaim and use to improve their social and physical conditions.

In her time at Occidental College, Karen was a student organizer for CODE (Coalition at Occidental for Diversity and Equity), served as La Raza Coalition's president, was Vice President of Academic Affairs for ASOC Senate, was an active member of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc., and participated in the Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship.

As a scholar and activist, Karen is deeply committed to understanding public policy and utilizing community organizing to address racist policies that create and perpetuate structural barriers. She is excited to join Greenlining to learn more about advocating for policies that combat environmental racism and promote equitable community and land development.

Lauren Alexander, Executive

Lauren attributes her passion for social justice to her upbringing in the American South. Born and raised in the suburbs of Atlanta, she remembers being acutely aware of the thinly veiled constant presence of race, religion and othering within her community. Upon graduating from Northwestern University with a degree in journalism, she moved to Brooklyn where she worked for ABC News for two years before pivoting to campaign and communication strategy work for the ACLU. She has spent the last four years focusing her advocacy on the reform of the criminal justice system and the system's unfortunate collateral consequences. Today, she is a graduate student at the Goldman School of Public Policy and looks forward to using her skills to take a more holistic approach at addressing the challenges faced by communities of color and how they interact with government agencies.

In her free time Lauren enjoys zipping around the easy bay on her bike, dancing wherever she finds good music and enjoying time with friends in the sunshine.

Veronica Viceñas, Bridges to Health

Veronica studied Anthropology at UCLA and minored in Chicana/o Studies, Public Policy, and Education. Upon graduating, she served as an AmeriCorps member at AltaMed Health Services, working as ACA Outreach and Enrollment Coordinator. In this capacity, Veronica realized the magnitude of the impact that the Affordable Care Act had on the communities she served, cementing her desire to bring about positive change through policy. Veronica's interests include a wide range of topics relating to health, from improving health care access to community-level health education initiatives. Most specifically, she is interested in expanding her knowledge in health policymaking and aspires to translate her experience into practice to advance changes. She hopes to develop the tools needed to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals, particularly those faced with great disadvantage and systemic inequalities. Veronica is currently pursuing her master's in public health in Health Policy & Management at UCLA.