



# Summary Report

*What we learned from our  
Liberty City Community Climate Forum*

**March 19, 2016**



## **A Part of The CLEO Institute's CLIMATE CHANGE 101 OUTREACH PROJECT**

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*The CLEO Institute is a non-profit organization, based in Miami, Florida,  
that drives climate action through public education and engagement.*

*We create Climate Leadership Engagement Opportunities through efforts such as our  
**Climate 101 Community Outreach Pilot Project.***

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# ***Liberty City Community Climate Forum***

**March 19, 2016**

***“This meeting is invaluable, but everyone  
in the community should know....”***

- Liberty City Community Climate Forum participant

# Contents

Executive Summary .....	1
Project Background.....	3
Climate Gentrification.....	5
Emergency Management.....	8
Climate Awareness .....	10
Conclusions .....	11
Appendix 1: CLEO Climate 101 Community Outreach Pilot Project.....	12
Appendix 2: Liberty City Climate Forum Invitation and Agenda .....	13
Appendix 4: Event Photographs .....	16
Appendix 5: Climate-inspired Artwork by local high school students.....	18

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## SPECIAL THANKS TO

*Caroline Lewis, David McDougal, and Andrea Cristina Ruiz*  
*for contributing to this summary report*

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## *What we learned from our Liberty City Community Climate Forum*

The Community Climate Forum was held at The TACOLCY Center in Liberty City on March 19, 2016. Prior to convening this Forum, The CLEO Institute and their climate outreach partners held a series of smaller meetings to identify the concerns and priorities of local residents regarding challenges posed by climate change.

These listening sessions revealed that (a) **climate awareness**, (b) **climate gentrification**, and (c) **emergency preparedness** are among the top concerns for residents in the Liberty City and surrounding neighborhoods. More than fifty people attended the climate forum, representing Liberty City area residents, businesses, community based organizations, nonprofits, Miami Dade County, City of Miami, the Office of Emergency Management, Florida International University, and others.

The discussion reaffirmed that climate disruptions to communities include but are not limited to sea level rise, which often commands the most attention. Attendees recognized that climate change also affects changes to heat and health patterns, extreme weather events, food and freshwater availability, and population displacement. It was further acknowledged that these disruptions disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in our society who have fewer resources and safety nets. Indeed, climate change presents new challenges and amplifies existing ones. The forum allowed residents to discuss their three selected agenda items. Ms. Valencia Gunder, a Liberty City community member and program facilitator, encouraged residents to share their climate concerns, vulnerabilities, and questions, and facilitated discussions among forum attendees.

### ***Climate Gentrification***

Residents overwhelmingly and passionately expressed concern about the indirect impact of rising sea levels on their community, especially as increasing real estate demands put pressure on the already limited affordable housing in the area. This pressure is particularly strong in communities located on higher than average elevations, like Liberty City. Florida International University's sea level rise web tool, *Eyes on The Rise*, presented to the audience at the forum, showed clearly that areas of Liberty City and other vulnerable communities are on *high ground*, at or over 10 feet. In South Florida, 10 feet of elevation is considered VERY high ground. Local residents shared that there is increased pressure from predatory real-estate interests for their properties. "Gentrification takes everything in its wake. We don't want to have to lose what we've spent all of our lives trying to make happen," warned a resident. One concerned resident proposed that "[in places where] property owners are struggling to keep afloat, the county should be proactively working to ensure that banks don't act as predators." Lack of awareness, insufficient preparation, and the inability to be resilient were feared to be potential climate gentrification accelerators.

### ***Emergency Preparedness***

A trio of local leaders then led a presentation and discussion about the need for emergency planning and preparedness to prevent worst-case scenarios, as was the case in New Orleans after Katrina. Several Forum attendees voiced concerns based on past experiences and the mistrust these created. Residents proposed increased collaboration between the community, the Red Cross, and emergency management professionals when planning and reacting to emergencies. City, County, and Emergency Management representatives answered questions, provided information and shared plans. More importantly, they heard residents asking for funding and government leadership to have broad, robust, effective emergency preparedness plans in place and that members of their community be involved in the process of building climate resilience for the Liberty City community.

### ***Climate Awareness***

Community members actively shared concerns, asked questions, and gave suggestions on local actions that could build climate awareness and resilience. Despite raising more questions than could be answered, the community was interested in working together with local governments and non-profit organizations to improve their preparedness and increase their resiliency. A resident asked, “What are creative things we can do? A resiliency fund? How do we act proactively?” There was rich discussion between residents and representatives from the County and the City of Miami, and attendees, who expressed a willingness to become more informed and engaged climate speakers, able to advocate for climate action.

### ***Conclusions***

Forum participants identified ways they hoped community and government actors could work together. Participants left with new insights and a clearer sense of the stakes residents are facing. They also acknowledged the importance of developing local capacity to respond to these issues. There was broad agreement on the need for immediate efforts to:

1. Build a “living infrastructure” of community-based and non-profit organizations able to help build climate resilience;
2. Train local teams of residents as first responders and outfit local churches and community-based organizations as secondary emergency shelters;
3. Generate a list of local capital projects and advocate for their inclusion on the official FEMA emergency management list;
4. Address the growing risk of home loss from extreme events and predatory practices; and
5. Develop a “high tech/high touch” community outreach program to engage every resident on these issues.

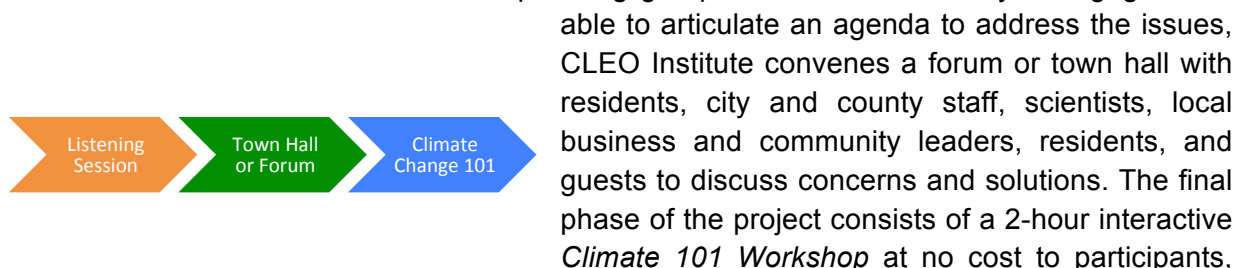
Above all, this first community climate forum in Liberty City highlighted the need for community members, non-profit leaders, residents, and representatives of the city, county and community-based organizations to work together. The importance of involving residents as stakeholders in all of the county and city plans and responses to climate change was identified as both a challenge and opportunity for resiliency efforts moving forward. A strong communications network is needed, and efforts to build climate resilience must include everyone; it is up to us to make room at the table for all stakeholders.

## Project Background

The CLEO Institute developed the Climate 101 Outreach Project with support from the Miami Foundation. There is a growing need to have informed discussions with communities who are disproportionately vulnerable to impacts of climate change. CLEO works with scientists and climate leaders to simplify the science, seriousness and solutions for the general public.

This initial pilot project has allowed the CLEO Institute to engage with communities in Shorecrest, Little Haiti, Liberty City, and Sweetwater (**See Appendix 1 for Summary of CLEO Community Outreach Pilot Project**)

The outreach project is organized in three phases. The first phase consists of informal listening sessions with the community, including residents and business owners, to gauge interest, understand concerns, and build a local planning group. Once the community is engaged and



especially those interested in working with CLEO Institute to develop their climate speaking skills.

The project focuses on empowering residents to prepare for unavoidable climate disruptions, work to build climate resilience, and voice their informed concerns, individually and collectively.

The CLEO Institute identified vulnerability based on geography and socioeconomic conditions. Targeted communities included those in low-lying elevations that are already experiencing flooding as well as those on higher land and vulnerable to climate displacement. Selected communities also had a large number of residents who live at or near the poverty level, who tend to be more vulnerable to climate impacts like heat waves, changing health patterns, droughts, floods, and other extreme events.

# FULL REPORT

## *What we learned from our Liberty City Community Climate Forum*

### Introduction

On Saturday, March 19, 2016, The CLEO Institute convened a Liberty City Community Climate Forum (see Appendix 2). About fifty people attended including area residents and representatives from community based organizations, local nonprofits, Miami Dade County, City of Miami, Office of Emergency Management, Florida International University, and others (see Appendix 3 for participant list). This report summarizes the main issues, ideas and perspectives discussed during the Forum (see Appendix 4 for event photographs). The report includes local students' climate-related artwork that was on display during the Forum (see Appendix 5).

Liberty City is officially part of the City of Miami, which is one of 34 municipalities located in Miami-Dade County - a large County in Southeast Florida with a population of about 3 million. Liberty City is home to a majority of residents who live just at or below the poverty level. It is part of CLEO Institute's Outreach pilot project because, as CLEO Institute's executive Director, Caroline Lewis shared during her opening remarks, "Climate disruptions to communities include but are not limited to sea level rise, which often commands the most attention. We must understand that climate change also affects changes to heat and health patterns, extreme weather events, food and freshwater availability, and population displacement." It was further acknowledged that these disruptions disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in our society. This includes those who have fewer resources and safety nets, and for whom climate change not only presents new challenges, but also amplifies existing inequalities and vulnerabilities.

Prior to convening this Forum, The CLEO Institute and a stellar team of climate outreach partners (see Appendix 2) held a series of smaller meetings to identify the concerns and priorities of local residents with respect to challenges posed by climate change. These "listening sessions" revealed that (a) **climate awareness**, (b) **climate gentrification**, and (c) **emergency preparedness** were among the top concerns for residents in the Liberty City and surrounding neighborhoods. Thus, the agenda for this Climate Forum was created by local residents, and engaged them in sharing concerns and brainstorming solutions. The overall goal was to initiate and expand discussions between and among residents, and City and County representatives.

Despite raising more questions than could be answered, community members were interested in working together with local governments and non-profit organizations to improve their preparedness and increase their resiliency. More importantly, it was evident that residents were aware of the issues, wanted to learn more, and insistent that they be included in the conversations and decision-making involving climate disruptions and building resilience.



## Climate Gentrification

As our Southeast Florida region increasingly experiences the effects of climate change, communities face different challenges with varying capacities to cope. Low-income residents with already limited safety nets are most vulnerable. In areas such as Liberty City, with an average elevation of 12.87 feet, flooding will not be the main risk.<sup>1</sup> Climate change has been identified as a threat multiplier. It increases the prevalence, intensity and interconnection between several challenges, from flooding to tropical diseases, to food vulnerabilities.<sup>2</sup>

Dr. Susan Jacobson, who helped create Florida International University's sea level rise app or web tool, *Eyes on The Rise*, demonstrated for the audience that Liberty City and other vulnerable communities are on *high ground*. Her demonstration showcased a map with changing inundation levels in Miami-Dade County, ranging from 1 foot to 10 feet of sea level rise. It was visually arresting to see the real estate elevation advantage of communities like Liberty City and Little Haiti, another neighborhood included in CLEO Institute's pilot project. A reoccurring theme and large portion of the Climate Forum focused on residents' fears of displacement and losing their homes to eminent domain, gentrification and/or extreme events.

The most recent estimates of sea level rise by the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact predict that sea level will increase 6 -10 inches by 2030 and 11 - 22 inches by 2060.<sup>3</sup> As a result, low-lying regions, including those near the coast, will be confronting challenges associated with rising seas. Though sea level rise is already affecting many residents in low elevation areas, climate disruptions are not limited to the direct impacts of flooding.

Residents confirmed that climate change is already increasing the pace and intensity of displacement, and recent articles in places like *The Atlantic* have explored the newest phase of this process, coined "climate gentrification."<sup>4</sup> Projected sea level rise is dramatically increasing the speed of the gentrification process and the demand for real estate located at higher elevations. Dr. Hugh Gladwin of Florida International University is currently conducting research on this topic. He finds that property values in high elevation areas of the county, including the Liberty City area, can be three times higher than their current stated value.<sup>5</sup> As rents and home-ownership costs in low-lying areas increase due to higher costs associated with tidal flooding, land developers covet areas of higher elevations where property values are growing.

The Liberty City neighborhood is home to many residents who struggle financially to meet their daily needs. Thus, they might more readily agree to sell their assets below market value to cover immediate costs of living. One resident expressed that "Gentrification takes everything in its wake. We don't want to have to lose what we've spent all of our lives trying to make happen."

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<sup>1</sup> Jacobson, Susan. "Eyes on the Rise Presentation at Community Climate Forum". 2016. Presentation.

<sup>2</sup> World Bank. (2009). World development report 2010: Development and climate change. Washington, DC

<sup>3</sup> Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Provides Update to Regional Sea Level Rise Projection." Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, Oct. 2015. Web

<sup>4</sup> See "Taking the High Ground and Developing It" written by Matt Vasilogambros and published in The Atlantic on March 6, 2016 ([www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/03/taking-the-high-ground-and-developing-it/472326/](http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/03/taking-the-high-ground-and-developing-it/472326/))

<sup>5</sup> For more information see: <https://gss.fiu.edu/people/faculty/hugh-gladwin/>

Additionally, as property values increase, so do the taxes and insurance commitments, making it harder for homeowners who are already struggling with limited resources to remain in the area. Sometimes those interested in purchasing the land coerce residents into selling below market value.

Homeowners were not the only ones worried about the growing pace of gentrification amplified by climate change. Residents in public housing were also identifying the increased risk of losing affordable housing. “We have public housing here in Liberty City, and these communities are really vulnerable. They get told to move, and they have to...” shared an alarmed resident. There is clearly a real-time need for increased climate awareness community-wide that would help residents understand what is happening and explore their options.

Throughout the forum, residents were proactive and looking for solutions. Some asked, “What can we do to help homeowners who are struggling to keep their homes?” Paulette Richards, one Liberty City resident, who has been actively working to spread climate awareness in the community, reflected on challenges affecting area homeowners “I’m a homeowner and stakeholder... I’ve watched my neighbors lose their homes, and I hear a lot of stories in the community. We need a safety net for homeowners. There are lots of silent undercurrents that build up and become too much.” Moving toward identifying solutions, she went on to ask, “What kind of mechanisms are being set up to protect homeowners in this neighborhood?”

In addition to a homeowners’ fund, some residents proposed that the Miami Dade County Office of Resilience help make homeowners resilient by working with them to identify and address the increased displacement pressure they are facing. Residents agreed that collaboration with the district to prevent displacement should be a key part of building a community’s resilience in a changing climate, and asked for communication and inclusion in decision making and planning. One resident shared that, “homeowners are left out and kept out,” and encouraged her community to be more active. We all have to be aware and part of this fight. Banks are so happy to help the new homeowner with cheap loans, but there’s no help for those of us struggling to keep our homes.”

Other suggested responses included advocating for more assertive government actions like regulating predatory behaviors from banks and real-estate developers. One resident suggested: “Where the county does have land, don’t give it away. Where there are property owners struggling to keep afloat, the county should be proactively working to ensure that banks don’t act as predators. What are creative things we can do? A resiliency fund? A community land trust? How do we act proactively?” Marcia Olivo, executive director of Miami Worker Center proposed the need for close collaboration and communication, “We need to work with people in the community.” Both homeowners and renters agreed that they need to be informed, heard, and involved.

Many residents were concerned by the increased risk of losing affordable housing. One resident believed that tenants living in the footprint of the new Liberty Square project will be permanently displaced and “the only way that people can come back [after being relocated to public housing

units in Florida City] is through medical reasons. This is people in public housing.” It is worth noting that Florida City is located in the southernmost areas of the County, approximately 37 miles from Liberty City through non-toll roads, about a one hour and ten minute drive without traffic.<sup>6</sup> The current approach breaks communities and uproots residents from their sources of income and support networks, a proven source of resilience.<sup>7</sup>

James Murley, Miami Dade County’s Chief Resilience Officer listened intently to residents’ appeal for financial and/or policy help in dealing with gentrification. Mr. Murley addressed forum attendees and promised to keep improving lines of communication as climate resilience action is discussed and planned.

The community forum was a unique opportunity for residents and local leaders to connect and discuss current fear of displacement and potential solutions. “I would recommend getting very loud. Write the mayor’s office. Write your council member’s office; let him know it’s happening now,” recommended Jose Regalado, a representative of City of Miami Sea Level Rise Committee. Mr. Regalado encouraged residents to be civically active and elevate the need for regulation, exposing the role of elected officials in moving public housing residents from Liberty City. “The County should not be in the business of moving people against their will. We must call on our city and county leaders to build public housing in the communities where we live.” Climate change is increasing the pace of challenges residents are already facing, as is the case with the current controversial redevelopment of Liberty Square housing project.<sup>8</sup>

Trenice Bryant, board member at the Miami Worker Center, shared her concern and reminded forum participants their voices had to be heard, “It’s up to us. Private owners are now buying public housing. If you don’t say something, they are going to do what they want. If you stand up and say something and we do it together, it can change things. We know.” Attendees acknowledged the seriousness of the issues discussed, and there was a sense of empowerment and urgency to take informed action.

The presence of government representatives at the Climate Forum facilitated the creation of new and important communication channels. City representatives shared that even though poverty, housing and the several stresses the community faces are prioritized challenges, these critical concerns for the most vulnerable residents are drowned out as governments grapple with many competing priorities.

Ajani Stewart, City of Miami Sustainability Officer, contributed with a reflective and frank response to residents’ concerns, “This is a very important topic. It’s a reminder to me that we as practitioners are mainly engineers and technicians. We don’t often think about residents, poverty, and community. There are programs that we are working on, partnering with the County and Miami Beach and the City of Miami on resilience plans. We listed poverty and

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<sup>6</sup> Estimates based on a search for best non-toll routes between Liberty City and Florida City on Google Maps

<sup>7</sup> Cite Georgia fed article on networks and resilience

<sup>8</sup> See article “Liberty Square housing project to be razed, redeveloped” by David Smiley and Charles Rabin published in the Miami Herald on January 29, 2016

extreme poverty as some of the most important stressors.” The discussion continued as Mr. Stewart encouraged residents by saying, “I have to second Jose’s [Jose Regalado’s] call for people to get involved and to make your concerns known.”

Valencia Gunder, chair of the board of the TACOLCY Center in Liberty City, built on this sentiment in her closing remarks: “If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu. All the candidates and elected officials are talking about climate change, and we gotta use our voice. Invite them to these community meetings, and let them know that we are here and that we want to be part of the conversation.”

***See Appendix 4 - Summary of pictures of the event***

## Emergency Management

Local leaders Linda Sippio, Gihan Perera, and Winnie Brown, then lead a presentation and discussion about the need for emergency planning and preparedness to prevent worst-case scenarios like the events in New Orleans after Katrina. Climate Forum attendees shared insights from the American Red Cross Miami Chapter and Miami Dade County Emergency Management. Several residents voiced concerns based on negative past experiences. This then transitioned to a constructive dialogue between the community and government representatives.

The opinions that many residents had towards emergency response organizations like the American Red Cross, FEMA, and others were based on negative memories following Hurricane Andrew (1992) and Hurricane Wilma (2005). One resident recollected, “I can remember when Wilma came and we were without lights for months. We used Miami Worker Center for people without lights.” The resident also recalled the issues they faced at a Red Cross shelter where women and men were separated and there were insufficient resources like food and water.

The Forum allowed the community to share their experiences and, in doing so, helped identify areas for improvement. Residents proposed increased collaboration between the community and emergency management professionals when planning and reacting to emergencies. This led to proposals to: improve location and access to shelters, ensure protection for the most vulnerable, like the young and elderly, and have residents support first response efforts. Community members repeatedly raised their concern that lack of adequate preparation could permanently displace residents. It was evident that including residents in decision-making before and during disaster response could address concerns about equity.

Valencia Gunder agreed, “When you look at emergency management and the Red Cross, people don’t trust. They say, ‘Oh the same Emergency Management that tried to help us out after Wilma? Oh the same Red Cross that tried to help us out after Katrina?’” One resident proposed increased communication before disasters as a way to address the mistrust between emergency management and the community, “Maybe the Red Cross can hold meetings in the

community and can actively recruit volunteers from the community?” Winnie Brown, community liaison for the American Red Cross, shared their plans to have community outreach programs in local schools, “We are trying to start building community, so we all know each other.” She also offered to provide Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) certification courses for community members. Residents expressed resolve to participate in CERT training and ensure the formation of resident CERT teams throughout Liberty City.

Shelter location, accessibility and level of supplies were described as inadequate when residents discussed past responses. “When they opened up the Orange Bowl Stadium, there was nothing. Nothing was there. And what about transportation? A lot of elderly people live in our community. Finally, with a lot of commotion, we got them to bring supplies to a park in our neighborhood,” shared one resident. Another resident highlighted the importance of having safe, accessible shelters, especially for elderly, since “people in shelters are in a crisis situation and the dynamics are often challenging. And it seems that the place you go to deal with crisis is often more dangerous than where you were.” Residents proposed moving beyond traditional shelters, offering, “when it comes to preparing for storms, we need more places other than schools for preparedness. If people cannot get to schools, we need scattered sites.” Another resident suggested that the community take leadership, “we know that church groups end up being much more trusted places. What is the process for churches and community organizations to become shelters and centers for emergency response?”

Ms. Brown offered to share information on how community-based organizations and churches could be added to the official Red Cross shelter list. Steven Detwiler, the Miami-Dade emergency management representative shared how locations could be added to the county’s emergency management shelter list, and mentioned the Coordinated Organizations Responding to Emergencies program -- a faith based program run in partnership with a County-based team. Ms. Gunder, highlighted that supplies were also essential in shelters, “I remember in [Hurricane] Andrew they opened the schools as shelters but there were no supplies!” She proposed that beyond shelter identification, “if we can get a list [of shelters], then we can investigate and ensure that all are properly supplied.”

At the heart of the discussion was the underlying need for emergency managers to listen and, more importantly, include residents as stakeholders who will be invited to be at the table when discussing and making decisions about their livelihoods. While recalling their experience after Wilma (2005) residents recalled the lack of attention they received in contrast with other areas. One resident asked, “When money comes in, have we been put on the list as a high priority?” Ms. Gunder encouraged participants to think of Liberty City with the same regard as areas like Aventura and Miami Beach: “When emergency management comes here, it’s gotta be tailored to our community. Packaging is important. Aventura has a tailored message. Miami Beach has a tailored package. We want a tailored message packaged for our community so we can understand and we can be prepared.” The need for a coordinated and unified plan that prioritized Liberty City residents was an evident necessity.

The forum helped both the community and first responders share experiences and discuss the opportunities to increase collaboration. As a result, the community showed a strong commitment to engage with the programs mentioned. Those in attendance, many of them community leaders, were eager to be actively involved in planning for emergencies. At the conclusion of the session there was consensus on the need for a paradigm shift in emergency management planning. The new paradigm involves residents and focuses on preparing communities to be resilient after a disaster. One resident said, “what is happening here is a very different way we do emergency response.” The new approach is one that involves building capacity in local communities. The initiative and proposals by residents showed their hope that a new approach would be an example for other neighborhoods. Aware of the challenges ahead in making the new approach a reality, the residents were committed to doing whatever was necessary to ensure that the City and County proceed with their needs in mind.

## Climate Awareness

The last part of the Forum focused on discussing and proposing next steps in building climate awareness and engaging many, many more residents. Throughout the discussions, taking initiative to demand climate action and increase resident participation were repeated themes. The community felt the need to be better informed and take the reins. “We’ve got to let the people know the value of the land we are on. We gotta look into the history of Liberty City and why we are here. We gotta get strong again,” proposed one resident. Another resident, also expressed a need to become active “We need to do door-to-door communication to ensure everyone is in the know and prepared.” After general comments, Climate Forum attendees split into small groups where they brainstormed strategies to improve climate awareness and build climate resilience in Liberty City. Residents proposed several ways they could begin taking action in the short term, suggesting:

1. We need funding to build the teams, and we need to learn how to demand money for community-based organizations.
2. We must educate our community before disaster happens, now is the right time to ramp up.
3. We have to create a hub of communication.
4. We need to be flooding social media; our outreach needs to be both high tech and high touch.
5. We must be able to understand what is needed and how to advocate for ourselves.
6. We have to understand how a changing climate will affect us and what we can do about it.

Residents expressed an urgency to be represented, “we gotta be represented in all decisions affecting our lives and livelihoods,” expressed one participant. More importantly, there was consensus on the importance of involving residents, community and, non-profit organizations, government at all levels, businesses, and other stakeholders to engage in addressing climate disruptions and what building resilience entails in communities like Liberty City.

Equally important was the need to develop community leadership. Kamalah Fletcher, an American Red Cross representative and former community leader with Catalyst Miami,

identified cultivating a deep understanding of decision-making as one of the most critical components of capacity-building: “We need to understand how the county works, who reports to who, how decisions are made and who decides.” She also emphasized that organizations “must actively build community partnerships, and, as with all aspects of this work, outreach to communities will be critical for success.”

## Conclusion

Climate Forum participants hoped that, going forward, community and government actors could work together. Residents acknowledged the importance of developing local capacity to respond to these issues. There was a call-to-action for residents and their advocates, “It’s up to us. Insert yourself in the process. Show up to commission meetings. Show up in general. If people give you a (business) card, reach out to them. Connect. Keep these conversations going and building. As challenges increase, there must be opportunities for us to come together,” reminded a participant.

There was, during final discussions, broad agreement on the need for immediate efforts to:

- a. Build a “living infrastructure” of community-based organizations and non-profit organizations able to help build climate resilience;
- b. Train local teams of residents as first responders and outfit local churches and community-based organizations as secondary emergency shelters;
- c. Generate a list of local capital projects and advocate for their inclusion on the official FEMA emergency management list;
- d. Address the growing risk of home loss from extreme events and predatory practices; and
- e. Develop a “high tech and high touch” community outreach program to engage every resident on these issues.

This first community climate forum in Liberty City highlighted the importance of involving key stakeholders in all of the county and city plans and responses to climate disruptions, those already here and those that are coming. This is both a challenge and opportunity for resiliency efforts. A strong communications network is needed and efforts to build climate resilience must include everyone. It is up to us to make room at the table for all stakeholders so that real, scalable problem solving will take place.

## Appendix 1: CLEO Climate 101 Community Outreach Pilot Project



### CLEO CLIMATE 101

***Community Outreach Pilot Project*** January-June 2016



#### **In selected communities**

**CLEO, together with our partners and collaborators, coordinate:**

**#1 CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS** - Meet informally with residents and business owners to gauge interest and concerns, build a local planning group, and create an agenda for #2

**#2 CLIMATE TOWNHALL/FORUM** - Convene residents, city and county staff, scientists, business and community outreach leaders, local principals, faith leaders, and others to discuss concerns, science and solutions

**#3 CLIMATE 101 TRAINING WORKSHOP** - Hold a 2-hour interactive workshop & identify volunteers for a Speakers Network. This is CLEO's proven, research-based, scientifically informed workshop that simplifies climate science, seriousness, and solutions for a lay public.

#### ***CLEO's partners and collaborators include:***

*Miami-Dade County; City of Miami; The New Florida Majority; Catalyst Miami; Moms Clean Air Force; Union of Concerned Scientists; FIU SLSC; UM CIMAS; Miami Workers Center; Tacolcy; The Cushman School; EcoTech Visions; FANM; Little Haiti Cultural Center, Women in Leadership Miami; and others*

#### ***Sponsored in part by:***

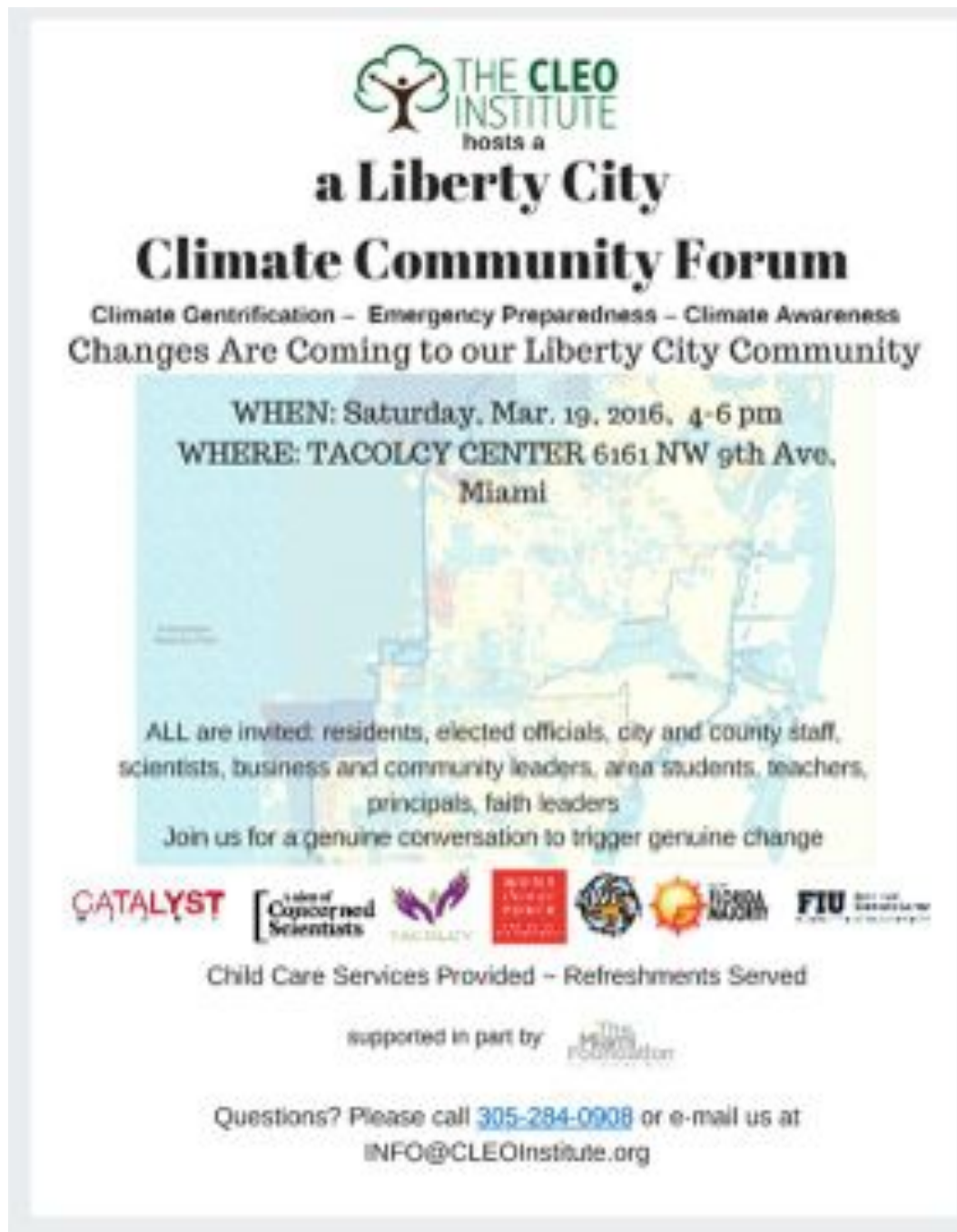


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## Appendix 2: Liberty City Climate Forum Invitation and Agenda



The poster features a light blue background with a map of Miami in the center. The map shows the city's layout with various neighborhoods and water bodies. The text is arranged around the map, providing details about the forum. The top section includes the logo of The CLEO Institute, which consists of a stylized tree with a person inside it, followed by the text "THE CLEO INSTITUTE" and "hosts a". Below this is the title "a Liberty City Climate Community Forum" in a large, bold, black font. Under the title, the topics "Climate Gentrification – Emergency Preparedness – Climate Awareness" are listed, followed by the statement "Changes Are Coming to our Liberty City Community". The date and time are given as "WHEN: Saturday, Mar. 19, 2016, 4-6 pm", and the location as "WHERE: TACOLCY CENTER 6161 NW 9th Ave, Miami". A list of invited groups includes residents, elected officials, city and county staff, scientists, business and community leaders, area students, teachers, principals, and faith leaders. The poster also mentions "Join us for a genuine conversation to trigger genuine change". At the bottom, there is a row of logos for various organizations: CATALYST, a group of concerned scientists, FACILITY, a group of people, a sun, and FTU. Below the logos, it says "Child Care Services Provided – Refreshments Served" and "supported in part by" followed by the logo of The Foundation. The contact information at the bottom includes the phone number "305-284-0908" and the email address "INFO@CLEOInstitute.org".

**THE CLEO INSTITUTE**  
hosts a

**a Liberty City**

**Climate Community Forum**

Climate Gentrification – Emergency Preparedness – Climate Awareness  
Changes Are Coming to our Liberty City Community

**WHEN:** Saturday, Mar. 19, 2016, 4-6 pm  
**WHERE:** TACOLCY CENTER 6161 NW 9th Ave,  
Miami

ALL are invited: residents, elected officials, city and county staff,  
scientists, business and community leaders, area students, teachers,  
principals, faith leaders

Join us for a genuine conversation to trigger genuine change

**CATALYST** [a group of Concerned Scientists] FACILITY [a group of people] [a sun] **FTU**

Child Care Services Provided – Refreshments Served

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Questions? Please call [305-284-0908](tel:305-284-0908) or e-mail us at  
[INFO@CLEOInstitute.org](mailto:INFO@CLEOInstitute.org)

## Appendix 2: Liberty City Climate Forum Invitation and Agenda (continued)

### **AGENDA**

## **Liberty City Community Climate Forum**

**Saturday, March 19, 2016, 4-6PM**

The Belafonte Tacolcy Center  
6161 NW 9th Avenue, Miami

#### **Welcome, Introduction of Artwork, & Overview of Goals**

Valencia Gunder, Tacolcy Center Board of Directors  
Caroline Lewis, Executive Director, The CLEO Institute  
Lashaevia “Shey” Burns, Liberty City resident

#### **Climate Science / Concerns – Caroline Lewis**

#### **Climate Gentrification: Demo of Sea Level Rise App**

Dr. Susan Jacobson, FIU School of Journalism & Mass Communication

#### **Resident Concerns – Valencia Gunder**

#### **Emergency Preparedness: Why?**

Gihan Perera, Executive Director, New Florida Majority  
Linda Sippio, Board Member, Miami Worker Center  
Winnie Browne, Volunteer Community Liaison, American Red Cross-Miami

#### **Resident Concerns – Valencia Gunder**

#### **Climate Awareness: Residents’ Needs and Wants – Caroline Lewis**

#### **Small Group Discussion & Sharing of Suggested Next Steps – Valencia Gunder**

#### **Closing Remarks – Valencia Gunder**

## Appendix 3: Liberty City Climate Forum Participants

### **Liberty City CLIMATE FORUM Participants**

#### **AREA RESIDENTS & CLEO PARTNERS**

**Winnie Browne, Trenice Bryant, Lashaevia “Shey” Burns,  
Valencia Gunder, Sherri Jones, David McDougal,  
April Merleaux, Clarence Mims, Marcia Olivo,  
Izegbe Onyango, Harold Pendas-Ali, Paulette Richards,  
Linda Sippio, Devetria Stratford, Rosalie “Cookie” Wiley**

**American Red Cross, Miami—Winnie Browne  
Belafonte Tacolcy Center—Valencia Gunder, Sherri Jones  
Catalyst Miami & Mom’s Clean Air Force—Kamalah Fletcher  
Center for Popular Democracy—Aura Vasquez  
The Children’s Trust—Izegbe Onyango  
FIU-Global and Sociocultural Studies—Dr. Hugh Gladwin  
FIU Sea Level Solutions Center—Brad Schonhoff  
FIU-Journalism and Mass Communication—Dr. Susan Jacobson  
Robert Ted Gutsche  
Make the Homeless Smile; TACOLCY—Valencia Gunder  
Miami Workers Center—Marcia Olivo, Trenice Bryant, Linda Sippio  
Miami Climate Alliance—Mitch Chester, Andrea Cuccaro, Kamalah Fletcher, Caroline  
Lewis, Stephen Malagodi, David McDougal, Cecilia O’Brien, Marcia Olivo, Gihan Perera  
New Florida Majority—Gihan Perera & Harold Pendas  
NextGen Climate—David McDougal  
Rethink Energy—Andrea Cuccaro  
Sierra Club, South Florida—John Ullman  
Women in Leadership Miami—Paulette Richards  
350 South Florida—Stephen Malagodi  
and  
Phil Chapman, Mercedes Jimenez, Ricardo Barrios,  
Ernesto Medina, Maddi Spado, Adriel Abella,  
Lyn Miller, Daniel Goldberg, April Meremux**

#### **GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION**

**Jose Regalado**, member, City of Miami Sea Level Rise Committee  
**Ajani Stewart**, City of Miami Sustainability Officer  
**Jim Murley**, Miami Dade County Chief Resilience Officer  
**Katie Hagemann**, Miami Dade County Sustainability Initiatives Coordinator  
**Carlos Gonzalez**, Housing and Community Development  
**Steve Detwiler**, Whole Community Recovery Planner  
**Katiana Desir**, Community Aide, Office of Commissioner Audrey Edmonson  
**Mark Moore**, Deputy Director, City of Miami Emergency Management

## Appendix 4: Event Photographs

The following section includes some images of the event where community members, government representatives and non-profit organizations convened to discuss the impacts of climate change in their community. Underlying themes centered on community inclusion in decision-making and a proposed paradigm shift to involve communities in developing resiliency.

### ***Emergency preparedness discussion leaders at Liberty City Climate Forum***



***Jim Murley, Chief Resilience Officer, speaks with Liberty City Climate Forum participants***

***Valencia Gunder opens the Liberty City Climate Forum***



*Image taken by S.Malagodi*



***Ms. Cookie, a Liberty City resident addresses the forum on displacement***



***An attentive audience listens to comments from Jose Regalado***



***Participants engaged during the Community Climate Forum***



## Appendix 5: Climate-inspired Artwork by local high school students

The Climate Forum had climate-focused artwork featured as a backdrop to this Tacolcy Center-hosted neighborhood Forum. Students at Jackson Senior High School, Miami Northwestern Senior High School, and other students from Liberty City and Model City created the art pieces. This project was coordinated by Liberty City resident, Paulette Richards. At the beginning of the event, Lashaevia “Shey” Burns, Paulette Richard’s daughter, introduced each art piece.



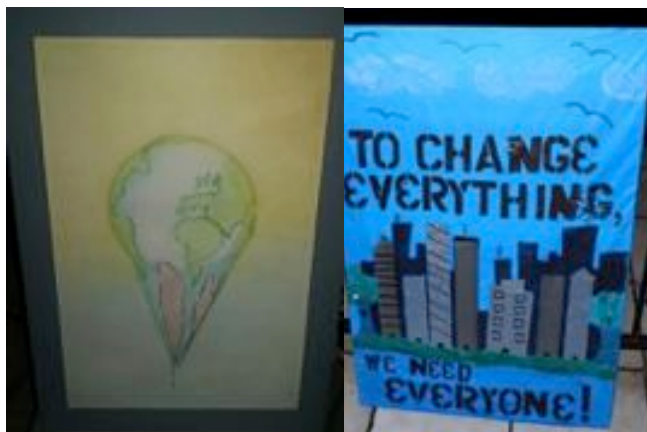
*Photograph by Women in Leadership Miami*

Paulette Richards was always active in her Liberty City community but now she is more involved than ever. After connecting the impact of climate change with the issues she already saw in her community, she was concerned. Mrs. Richards was very concerned by climate change and its connection to health, housing and the future of her community. She immediately took action by dedicating herself to spreading awareness and sharing the issue with her community, especially with the youth. The entries received “spoke volumes,” of the awareness and concern the youth have on the issue, reflects Ms. Richards. The artwork, commented Ms. Richards, not only tells a story, it *shows* a story. “I want to tell

all our story, I want to share and get them out so people know how we are struggling,” shared Ms. Richards.



*Photograph by Women in Leadership Miami*



*Photograph by Women in Leadership Miami*

The art represented the student's relationship with natural resources around them and explored how climate change was connected to it. Students shared their concern for the growing risks associated with climate change including natural disasters like hurricanes, more intense weather or increasing severity and length of heat. The artwork also reflected a strong call to action encouraging everyone that "to change everything, we need everyone."

The winning submission depicted an iconic native plant, the palm tree, battling a tumultuous environment with intense heat, wind, waves, and rising sea levels. The palm tree is shaped as a mother holding on to a seed, or perhaps our earth. The native palm tree cannot move as her roots rest firmly on the sandy ground. Many residents might see themselves reflected in the calm, strong, motherly palm "hanging in there" against the many obstacles brought on by climate change.



*Photograph by Women in Leadership Miami*