



climate action palooza

DAY #1

About Our Presenters & Performers

Welcome | [Land Acknowledgement & Indigenous Rights Ceremony](#)

Jo Tavares

Jo Tavares (she or they) is an oceanographer and earth system scientist, an educator, and a community organizer who loves to help people find ways to get involved in Climate Action. As the Director for the brand-new California Center for Climate Change Education at West LA College, Jo is working with students, faculty, and community members to solve the climate crisis while improving lives by prioritizing projects centered on justice and equity. Jo feels the happiest when she is close to nature, so she tries to spend all her free time outdoors running trails, snorkeling, surfing, gardening, composting, and upcycling everything and anything with her family and friends. Jo loves art, and is particularly into street theater, improv, and dancing (her favorite types of dance are “farró” and “samba de roda” which are traditional dances from Bahia, Brazil, where Jo is originally from).

Jamie Rocha

Jaime Rocha is a journalism student; identifies as TongvaGabrielino who are indigenous people of the Los Angeles Basin and Orange County; her grandmother was Chief Vera “Ya’anna” Rocha; her father is Nick Rocha who is currently on the cultural advisory board for Anahuacalmecac International Baccalaureate World School in Los Angeles; the family has been involved with native activism and politics, especially her grandmother.

Dancers

SEQUOYA CANTE WAUKAZOO NAKAI

Sequoia Waukazoo Nakai is Lakota and Navajo and is enrolled member in the Navajo Nation, New Mexico. Sequoya has been a consistent honor roll student since the beginning of her high school career. She is also very involved in her own community and recently came back to the arena. She has loved to Powwow dance ever since she was little.

Summer Rose Harrison-Litte Cloud

Summer Rose Harrison-Litte Cloud is Pomo, Paiute, Navajo, and Yankton Sioux enrolled with the Walker River Paiutes of Schurz, Nevada. She is a student athlete playing on her high school varsity volleyball student. She loves math and is hoping to study engineer or medicine when she goes to college. She has danced in the powwow circle her whole life and comes from a long line of strong Native women who taught her the importance of education.

Dauwila Harrison

Dauwila Harrison is Pomo, Paiute, and Navajo and is an enrolled member of the Walker River Paiutes of Schurz, Nevada. Dauwila has danced in powwows since she was young. She is currently working at Friendship House Association of American Indians of San Francisco and is a full time student in her last semester before receiving her Bachelors in Sociology. She loves being on the powwow trail and traveling with her family.

President James M. Limbaugh

Dr. James M. (Jim) Limbaugh has served as the president of West Los Angeles College, a diverse urban dual-purpose college of 9,000 students, since October 2016. During his tenure, the College has been named an Aspen Institute Top 150 institution; established two baccalaureate degree programs (Dental Hygiene and Avionics), developed an associate's degree in Climate Change Studies, and created the California Center for Climate Change Education, prioritizing curricular enhancement, workforce development, and advocacy initiatives, with a focus on social justice. Recently, Dr. Limbaugh was also selected as one of only 25 presidents nationwide to be named an Aspen Institute Presidential Fellow.

Wawa Gatheru (Keynote Speaker)

Wanjiku "Wawa" Gatheru is a Kenyan-American climate storyteller passionate about bringing empathetic and accessible climate communication to the mainstream. Harnessing her academic background as a Rhodes Scholar and her work as a youth climate activist, Wawa's life goal is to help create a climate movement made in the image of all of us.

Youth Leaders Panel

Christopher Welch (Moderator)

Christopher Lee Welch is a Bachelor of Fine Arts in their 4th year at California Institute of The Arts where he studies musical arts experimental pop. As a Bachelors in Fine Arts, Christopher has received over \$200,000 in Scholarships & Grants for their creativity, thought leadership, and community building. As they are in process with what's been said by Oakland 501c3 Movement Strategy Center to be an advanced climate justice project, Chris loves their part time internship at the CA Center for Climate Change Education and Fellowship at MSC.

Marilyn Chavez

My name is Marilyn Chavez. I identify as a queer indigenous woman. I am a mother, a creative, and a mentor. I am Guatemalan, raised in the city of Inglewood. I am a full-time student at West LA College and an intern at the California Center for Climate Change Education.

Shekinah Deocares

Hi! I'm Shekinah (she/her). I'm a Filipina Chinese organizer for immigrant and workers rights and a climate activist with Youth Climate Strike LA. I love digital organizing, running campaigns, and fighting the system with people power.

Sim Bilal

My name is Sim Bilal. I'm the lead organizer for Youth Climate Strike LA, the state organizer for the CA GND Coalition, and the youth climate commissions for LA County's 2nd district.

Tatiana Murphy-Wheeler

Tatiana Murphy-Wheeler is in 11th grade at Culver City High School. She is working to increase sustainability in her school district through the CCUSD Green New Deal team, who have passed a sustainability resolution and are currently working to implement it's pillars through the district's future plans and current practices, and through her role as President of the CCHS Sunrise Hub. She is passionate about raising climate awareness and finding new ways to come up with sustainable solutions. Aside from her work in environmentalism, she works as a volunteer at TeenLine and is on her school's lacrosse team.

Nava Waisman

Nava Waisman is a Junior at Culver City High School. She is a part of the Culver City Unified School District's Green New Deal team that aims to integrate sustainable policy into the school district's practices! She is an advocate for environmental awareness, especially among youth. In addition to this passion, she is part of her school dance company and is part of the leadership team for the Vote 16 measure in Culver City!

Day 1 Workshops

Gayatri Seghal: Mindfulness for Selfcare and to Combat Climate Anxiety

Gayatri Seghal is moved by the wisdom of the non-human world. They facilitate wellness and resilience for activists through Yoga-based philosophy and practices, raise awareness of intersectional climate justice issues, and create advocacy content under the username @bodhisattvism. They are a graduate Yoga Studies candidate and co-founded Haus of Liberation, a co-living safe space for QT/BIPOC and vegan spiritual practitioners based in sovereignty, and non-hierarchy. Gayatri believes that through a decolonial, anti-speciesist lens, and an ecofeminist lens that Yoga can reconnect us with an optimism for the climate emergency rooted in compassion for all sentient beings, including ourselves.

STAR Eco Station

The STAR Eco Station is an environmental science museum, an exotic wildlife rescue center, and a haven for endangered and illegally-trafficked exotic animals confiscated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The STAR Eco Station has grown tremendously since it began in 1997.

Erick, Sr. and Katya Bozzi, and their children, Erick, Jr. and Katiana, founded the STAR Eco Station in Culver City, CA, as a division of STAR, Inc. Working in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other government and environmental organizations, STAR Eco Station provides a last chance for illegal or abandoned at-risk exotic wildlife, as well as environmental education outreach programs in over 40 California school districts.

Max Rosenberg: Sacred Imagination Upcycling and Slow Fashion

Artist, designer, creator, and founder of Sacred Imagination, Max Rosenberg will be highlighting aspects of brand building, upcycling, and slow fashion.

Nancy Woo: SolarPunk for a future where humans, nature and technology live in harmony

Nancy Lynée Woo is a poet, imagination enthusiast, and eco-activist who harbors a wild love for the natural world. Her debut poetry collection is *I'd Rather Be Lightning* (GASHER Press, 2023). Nancy is a 2023 recipient of the California Creative Corps grant, and was a 2015 PEN America Emerging Voices Fellow. She has received additional fellowships from Artists at Work, Arts Council for Long Beach, California Center for the Book, Idyllwild Writers Week and Literary Women. Her work has been published in *Tupelo Quarterly*, *Stirring*, *Radar Poetry*, and others. Nancy is the founder of the community-based poetry workshop *Surprise the Line*. She believes in the power of the arts to bring people together. Her degrees are in sociology and creative writing from UC Santa Cruz and Antioch University LA. Find her cavorting around Long Beach (Tongva land) in California, and on social media @fancifulnance.