



# Sustainability, Climate Action & Resilience

Climate Policy Action Leadership Collaborative

First meeting

3.28.23

# Agenda

- **Welcome**
  - Land acknowledgment (2 min)
  - Get to know the team (5 min)
  - Get to know the collaborative (15 min)
- **Dinner**
  - Partner match up for dinner conversations (30 min)
- **Nuts and bolts**
  - Why is CPAL necessary? (5 min)
  - CPAL and Boulder County (5 min)
  - Let's do policy!!! (5 min)
- **Wrapping up**
  - Meeting norms (5 min)
  - Closing thoughts (10 min)
  - Group photo! (5 min)
- **Adjournment**



# Land Acknowledgment

- We honor and recognize that we are in the ancestral homeland of the Cheyenne and Arapaho nations. This area also has a long history of exchange, hunting, gathering, healing, and spirituality for many other nations, such as the Lakota, Ute, Comanche, Shoshone, and Apache. As we pronounce and make this recognition and these words are heard, the connection of these nations with their traditional and ancestral territories is renewed and reaffirmed.
- We recognize the indigenous nations as the first stewards of the land, water, plants, and animals that identify this area as their home and make a recognition that these nations and their traditional and ancestral territories are renewed and reaffirmed while recognizing the cruel and painful history of genocide and forced displacement that these nations lived in their territories.
- We respect the diversity of people who still feel and live this connection to this land in which we are present today, and we honor and thank these nations and the ancestors of this territory as we gather. We know that this land acknowledgement is just a first step and that only action, like what we hope this space will support, can help address the injustices of colonization.



# Get to know the team!

- **Michael "MikeyJ" Jacobs, Creative Climate Strategy Fellow**
- Marina LaGrave, Climate Equity Specialist
- Collin Tomb, Climate/Health Strategist
- Devon Reynolds, Climate and Air Policy Research Assistant



# Michael "MikeyJ" Jacobs (he/him)

## *Creative Climate Strategy Fellow*

- From Westchester, New York
  - Grew up in and out of NYC
- Took 8 years to finish undergraduate degree
  - Spent 2 years in Paris
  - Allowed me to really focus on what I am passionate about
  - What is your "why" ?
    - We will use this as fuel ! Often ! (better than fossil fuels)
- Graduated from CU last May
- Been working for OSCAR since August
- Will be co-leading CPAL with Marina and Collin
  - Assisting with strategy/administrational operations
- Favorite artist is a local producer: GRiZ
  - The self-proclaimed "Good Vibes Rainbow Boy" is a beacon of positivity



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# Marina LaGrave (she/her/mimi)

## *Climate Equity Specialist*

- Grew up Venezuela, USA and France
- UN Interpreter and Translator
- Earth Science, Climate Change Translator, and Interpreter
- Translation team lead for IPCC Reports (UN) and National Climate Change Reports for the White House
- Multicultural Education and Outreach Specialist at NCAR for a decade
- Founder and CEO for Colorado Language Access and Cultural Experts, CLACE, Multicultural, and Language Access Consultant for 20 years.
- NASA PI and Co-PI, Our Dynamic Earth and the MAVEN Mission
- NIH Co-PI, Discover Health
- Founder and Leader for "Explorando Senderos de Boulder", a Latinx environmental movement
- Vegan, sunrise trail runner, yoga, vegan cooking, classical guitar and cuatro player, travel, music.



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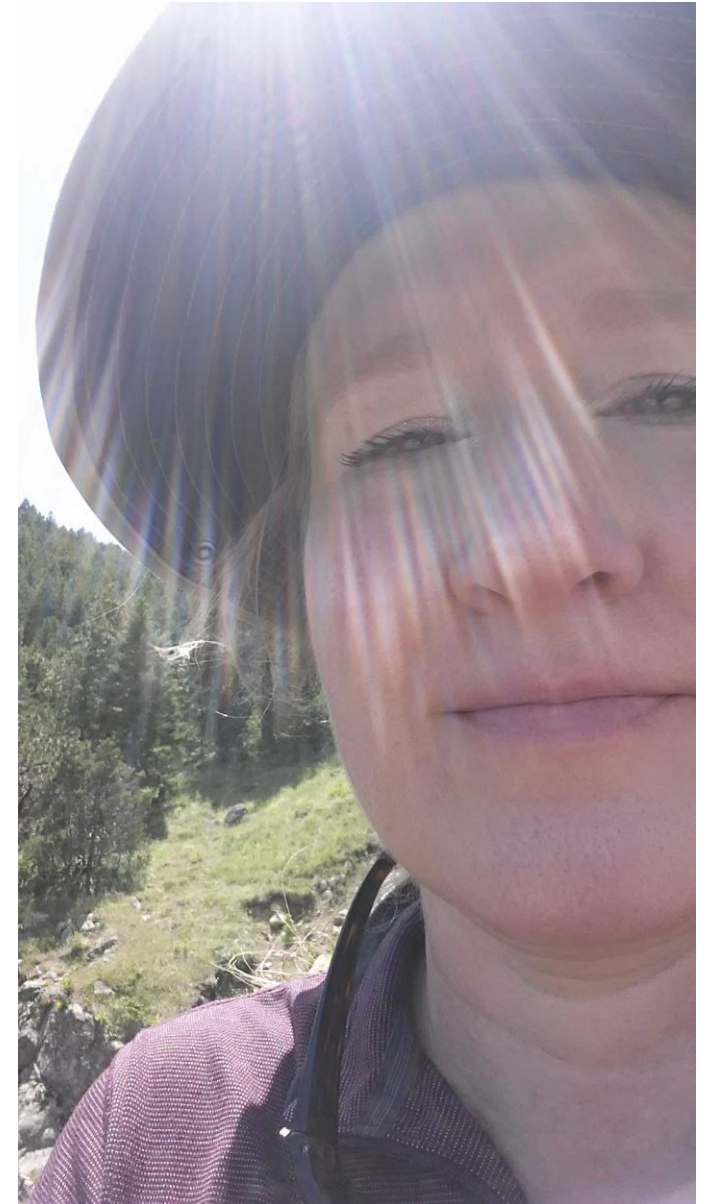




# Collin Tomb (she/her)

## *Climate & Health Strategist*

- Grew up in Utah feeling a close connection with the West and a complex feeling about how I came to be born here as a white American
- Pursued conservation and reptile handling
- Studied evolutionary molecular biology in college
- Worked in green architecture for a decade
- Sustainability at Boulder County Public Health for another decade
- Transitioned to air and climate policy to scale up impact
- Reached out to state climate team to assist with equity engagement
- Bike riding, cat-cuddling, newlywed, dressmaking, desert diving, mountain climbing, chai making, banjo listening, sketching, audiobook addicted, vegan drag fan. Bob.



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# Devon Reynolds (she/her)

## *Climate & Air Policy Research Assistant*



- Born in Glenwood Springs but moved around a LOT
- Loves the mountains, but learned that "wilderness" is not accessible to everyone
- Since then has focused on doing whatever she can for environmental justice and climate justice
- Grad student at CU Boulder, PhD research is on environmental justice with the hope of being useful
- Just started work at Boulder County, wants to work on structural change
- Loves to sing & dance!



# The CPAL Collaborative: 1st Edition

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- **Michal Duffy**
  - **Berenice Garcia Tellez**
  - **Kiran Herbert**
  - **Dai Kato**
  - **Robyn Lawrence**
  - **Rinchen Love**
  - **Andrea Nawage**
  - **Audrey Thames**

# Michal Duffy

My name is Michal, I use they/them pronouns (elle en espanol), and I live in the mountains outside of Boulder. I have been lucky to grow up and live in the mountains my entire life and I credit that with influencing my sensibilities as an environmentalist. An appreciation for and dedication to our natural environment has been a central tenet of my entire life. I am from western North Carolina, where I acquired a Masters degree in Appropriate Technology and Environmental Design and worked within the local, sustainable agriculture movement. Before moving to Colorado, I spent 4 years in Vermont again participating in the local, sustainable agriculture system, state-level compost and recycling, as well as working for a nonprofit that supported cooperative coffee growers in Latin America to diversify their income to better survive the impacts of climate change on their cash crop. When I relocated to Colorado, my professional focus shifted to equity and inclusion thanks to the opportunity to work for Out Boulder County; I still weave sustainability into my work whenever possible. While I am interested and motivated by all different fields and aspects of environmental sustainability, I am perhaps most excited by and most experienced in closed-looped systems at the connection of waste management through compost and recycling and local agriculture. My work in Boulder County over the past 6 years has also reinforced and enhanced my understanding of environmental justice and the importance of keeping equity and sustainability front and center, together.



# Berenice Garcia Tellez

Berenice Garcia Tellez, a Mexican native and travel enthusiast, received her master's degree in Environmental Engineering in Saudi Arabia. Other countries she has lived in include Turkey, Italy, and Norway, where she worked researching climate change. Berenice currently works at City and County of Denver implementing equitable policies for the new Energize Denver Building Performance Ordinance. Before, she managed the Sustainable Business Program at the City of Longmont and worked with the business community on implementing sustainable and DEI practices that lead to the creation of the first equitable sustainable business program in the country.

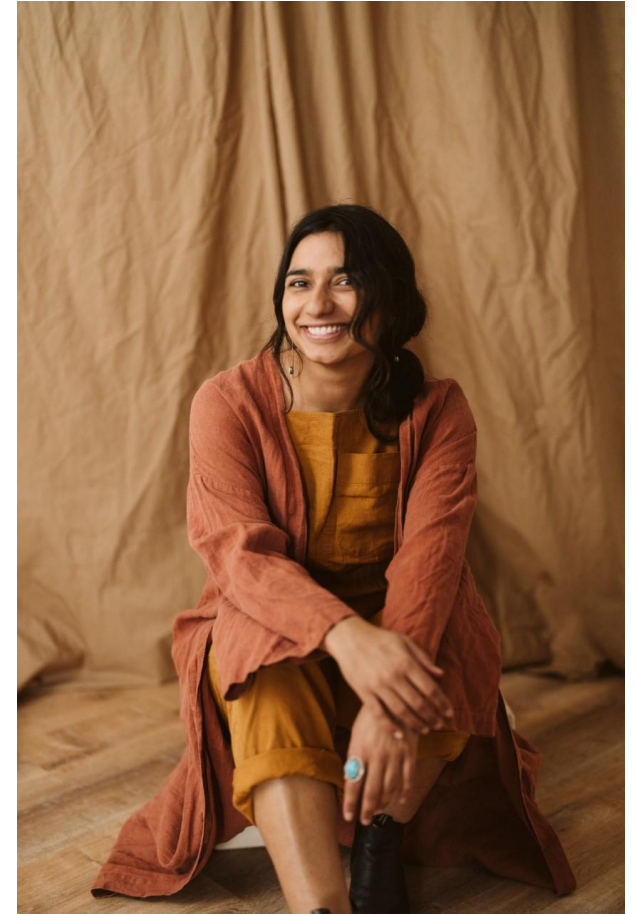
She also sat at the Latino Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for 4 years. Through her work with the Chamber, Berenice has supported hundreds of Latino businesses through the COVID-19 crisis, coordinated community equity clinics and advocated for equitable financial resources distribution.

Some of Berenice's favorite figures are Elon Musk and Batman. Though the two have very different origin stories, they both rose to make a great impact in their respective communities. While Batman may be fictional, both he and Elon Musk inspire Berenice to one day do something that influences the world.



# Kiran Herbert

Originally from Portland, Oregon, Kiran grew up all over the world and has settled in the foothills outside of Boulder, Colorado. For the past decade, she's worked as a writer and editor covering the outdoors and culture — she currently manages content for PeopleForBikes and moonlights as an officiant. Kiran serves on the Executive Committee of the local Sierra Club chapter and is passionate about creating a more equitable, biodiverse, and livable future. In her free time, you'll find Kiran at the farmer's market, hiking, sitting in community, or listening to Tiny Desk Concerts.



# Dai Kato

Dai Kato, MA is a mental health family therapist certified by the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. He is the founder of the Five Rings Program at SMART Therapy Center in Colorado.

In 2007, before he became a family therapist, Dai managed one of the largest events in human history for climate change called “Live Earth 2007” as a member of vice president Al Gore’s Live Earth executive management team. Live Earth reached two billion people using all traditional and social media to raise awareness for climate change. Dai was solely in charge of branding and strategic activations of the venues in Japan. He was a negotiator with the Japanese government, and the Ministry of Environment in order to host a press conference of the event at the ministry. Dai moved to Colorado in 2006, he was the first Sustainability Specialist at Colorado Mountain College to create B.A. and B.S. degrees in Environmental Science and Sustainability Studies in 2008.

In 2010, he moved to Boulder to become a research fellow at CU-Boulder, Center for the study of Conflict, Collaboration, and Creative Governance under Dr. Stan Deetz. He initiated projects in community disaster resiliency and hosted the first Colorado Resilience Initiative at CU Boulder with centers at CU and local government officials.

As the result of four years of research at CU Boulder, he concluded that the most effective intervention for climate change could be intervention to change our root cause of dysfunctioning behaviors using awareness-based interventions. Then, he activated his clinical registration as a psychotherapist in Colorado. He integrated Japanese Eastern wisdom and Western Medicine to develop the Five Rings program. The Five Rings program is a whole-brain approach that can help to raise our awareness of our culture, perceptions, identities, emotions, and somatic body sensations in order to balance holistic intervention to this planet of Earth without separating us from our local community and environment.

He is originally from a Japanese Samurai family and started his Zen meditation practice at the age of seven at Eiheiji Soto Zen Head Monastery. He still practices Zen and Zen Archery called Kyudo in Boulder. He also attended a Japanese Private Christian school for ten years. Dai is open to any faith and research domains from all over the world.





# Robyn Lawrence

Robyn Griggs Lawrence introduced mainstream America to sustainable, healthy lifestyles as editor-in-chief of Natural Home magazine for 11 years and was one of the first Westerners to write about the Japanese art of imperfection with *The Wabi-Sabi House* and *Simply Imperfect: Revisiting the Wabi-Sabi House*. She wrote the bestselling *Cannabis Kitchen Cookbook* and an early academic title, *Pot in Pans: A History of Eating Cannabis*. Robyn has been an editor with *Boulder Magazine*, *Sensi*, *Mother Earth News*, *Mountain Living*, *The Herb Companion*, and *Organic Spa* and ran successful blogs on *Huffington Post*, *Care2.com*, and *Motherearthnews.com*.

She raised two great kids in Boulder, then spent two years traveling up the West Coast in an Airstream before returning to settle down in Lafayette.

I started reading about climate change in the early 1990s when most people considered it theoretical and distant, a problem (if they even thought it was a problem) for future generations to ponder. In 1999, I helped found *Natural Home*, the first mainstream shelter magazine to address sustainable homes and lifestyles, and I served as its editor-in-chief until 2011. It was a thrilling time to be at the forefront of a sustainability movement that was gaining traction every year. But when the Great Recession hit, people's concerns about economic survival took precedent over their concerns about climate change. By the end of the decade, the environmental movement had ground to a halt—and *Natural Home* had, too. I started writing about cannabis a few years later, when it was legalized for adult use in Colorado. I was drawn to cannabis because I saw its potential as natural medicine and industrial hemp's promise as a renewable, sustainable material. Advocating for cannabis felt like a natural extension of my work with *Natural Home*. As the cannabis community evolved into an industry, though, I could no longer advocate for it in good conscience. Monoculture indoor grows, the industry standard, emit massive amounts of carbon, yet the environmental devastation resulting from the industry's rapid expansion isn't even a conversation. Industry leaders refuse to take any responsibility for their unsustainable cultivation practices. When I was running *Natural Home*, I wholeheartedly believed individuals' actions could save the planet from climate disaster. I've since realized we need sweeping corporate change if we're going to turn back this crisis. Shaming people into believing our individual carbon footprints are the problem is truly the worst form of greenwashing. Of course, we can and should take steps to reduce our individual impact and offset the carbon we use. But, as a powerful collective, we must start demanding change. Turning the climate crisis conversation back on the corporations and government entities that created it and continue to exacerbate it is a huge challenge, but I refuse to believe it's too late. I will never stop working toward bringing humanity around to adopting the solutions we are capable of accomplishing.



I'm all over the place: John Coltrane, Billie Holiday, Biggie Smalls, Snoop Dogg, Jack Johnson, Michael Franti. Spotify tells me my top artists of 2022 were Doja Cat, Jack Harlow, Post Malone, Snoop and Sofi Tucker. I can't remember the last time I listened to an album (which is kind of sad).

# Indya Rinchen Love

Rinchen Indya Love is the Program Coordinator for Foundations for Leaders Organizing for Water and Sustainability (FLOWS). Growing up in the foothills of the Himalayas in India had a large influence on her appreciation and love for nature. Her cultural background, which is Tibetan, Bhutanese, and Sikkimese taught her about the sacredness of mother nature and ways to honor and be respectful of the interconnectivity between nature and all its inhabitants.

She is committed to FLOWS's work with the community and has been able to take on different roles within the organization. FLOWS has opened up many doors for Rinchen to explore, learn, and gain a deeper understanding of social and climate injustices, especially for the BIPOC, immigrant, and low-income communities she belongs to. She continuously strives to fight for equity in the spaces and is an active advocate for social and environmental justice locally and globally.



# Andrea Nawage

Andrea Yoloteotl Nawage likes to continue creating opportunities for reparations towards Indigenous and BIPOC communities. Andrea, currently graduated with an Environmental Studies degree at Naropa University, focused on environmental and social justice on behalf of our planet. Additionally, she graduated with a minor in Peace Studies, Food Justice along with a Permaculture Design Certificate. She is originally Indigenous from Mexico, and she has become passionate about creating social justice and equity for people. She is the Chief Executive Director, and Founder the non-profit Harvest of All First Nations (HAFN), an Indigenous-led collaborative empowering communities through projects and education, which is focused on Indigenous-led reparations, repatriation & Earth based Decolonization for the benefit of BIPOC peoples for cultural enrichment & health equity .HAFN was able to host the first annual Corn Festival in Boulder County, focused on Land Back, Indigenous leadership and regenerative agriculture. Her cultural, ceremonial and ongoing community background has helped to offer an opportunity for generation healing for the next generations including my children. HAFN's focuses on reclaiming Indigenous ways of governance models within the non- profit world and societies so it could be adapted to help break patriarchal colonialistic systems.



# Audrey Thames

Hey there! My name is Audrey Thames and I am a fourth year at CU Boulder pursuing a major in environmental studies with a focus in public policy. I was born in Texas but have lived in the Boulder area since I have been 7 years old. I have never been a big outdoors sports girl but I have always had an appreciation for the outdoors. Going on afternoon strolls, coffee on the porch, or outdoor live music has been more of my speed. Because of this, my love of natural sciences and interest in policy, I found my path in environmental policy. It also doesn't hurt that I was the kind of kid that was told I should be a lawyer. Which we all know is a nice way of saying I was stubborn. Alongside being a student I also work for the Environmental Center at CU where I have found a community of supportive driven young climate change leaders. I also do internship work for clean energy action, a grass-roots nonprofit that aims to inspire, train, and support activists. Outside of school and work you can typically find me getting a beer and playing pool, watching survivor, or going to a concert. Some of my favorite artists at the time are Florance and the Machine, JOYRYDE, Grimes, and Two Door Cinema Club. I could go on for ages as I'd like to think I have a wide taste in music.



# Dinner! (30 min)

- We invite you to sit with a partner and discuss: What does Climate Justice mean to you?
- There will be a chance to share with the larger group later :)



CHEZ THUY

## Menu:

- **Lamb Curry Yellow**
  - Broccoli and shittake mushrooms with vegetables in mild yellow curry with peanuts on the side
- **Shrimp Curry Yellow**
  - Broccoli and shittake mushrooms with vegetables in mild yellow curry with peanuts on the side
- **Chicken Curry Yellow**
  - Broccoli and shittake mushrooms with vegetables in mild yellow curry with peanuts on the side
- **Buddha Delight**
  - Chayote squash, bamboo, zucchini, mushrooms, tomatoes and broccoli stir-fried together with tofu and jalapeños in coconut sauce
- **Vegetarian pad Thai**
  - Tofu and egg over rice noodles or lo mein in a spicy peanut sauce
- **Vegetarian fried rice**
  - Fresh tofu with basil and vegetables



# Why CPAL?

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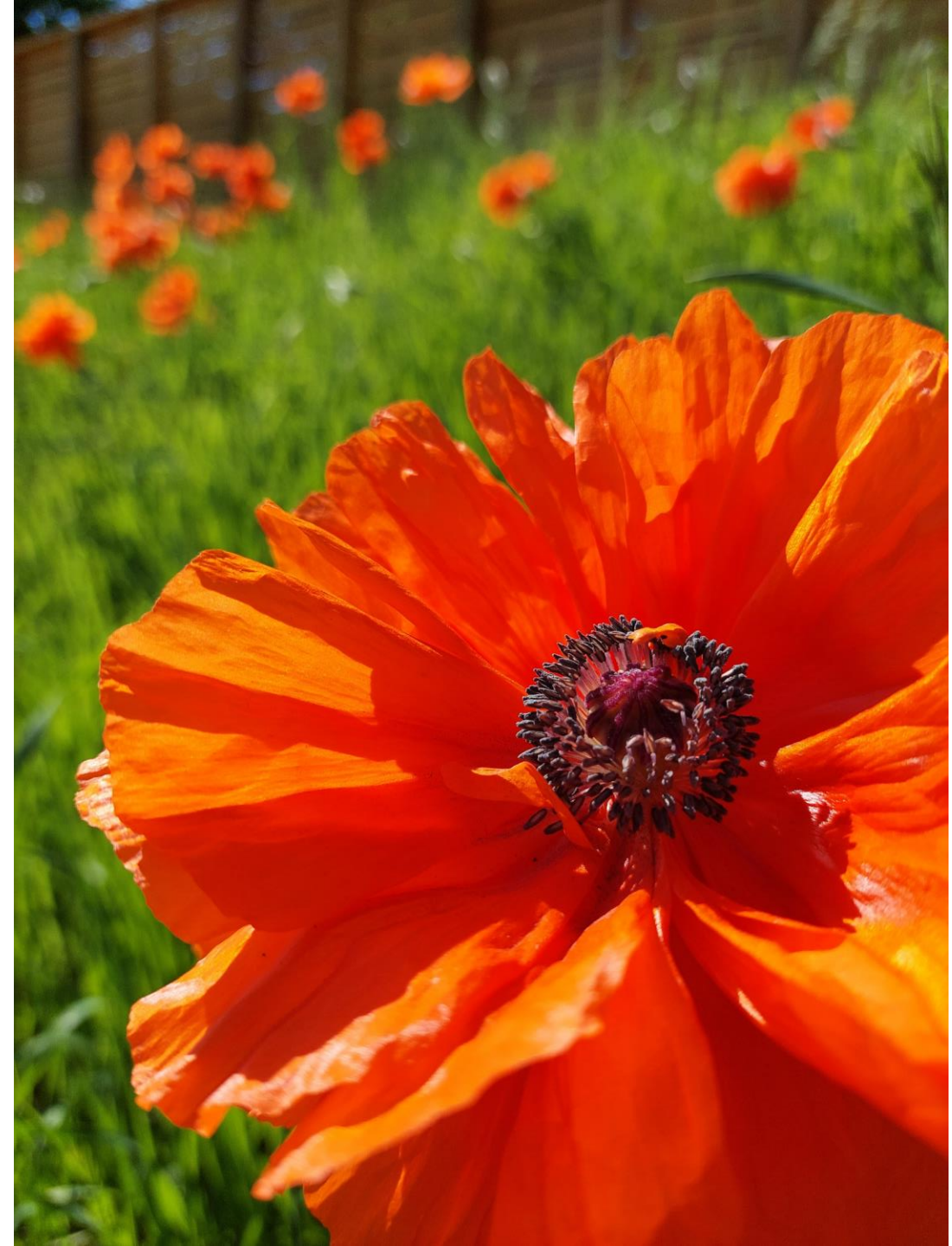
- Climate change impacts us all, but not equally
- Policy is one of the biggest levers for systemic change
- There is not enough involvement of disproportionately impacted communities in climate policy-making because processes aren't always designed to be inclusive
- Colorado is required to engage and prioritize disproportionately impacted communities and policies should reflect the expertise of those who experience the impacts of climate injustice
- Climate policy is often hard to follow, jargony, technical, and therefore unfortunately very inaccessible
- Only full public engagement will support accountability

# CPAL & Boulder County: Guidelines

- **Targeted action:** large state level climate policy opportunities in 2023
- **Mutual learning:** Policy staff show you the ropes and learn what's important to the community
- **Community expertise:** Collaborative members are the experts on their communities and a conduit to for engagement opportunities
- **Independent community voice:** Boulder County shares our positions but we don't direct you. Your voice is your own.
- **Independent organizing:** Boulder County can support CPAL members in navigating the public process, but we cannot organize
- **Equity-informed safe space:** continual learning; forgiving of mistakes; assume positive intent.

# Lets do policy!!!

- No one is born doing policy
- Cross cultural barriers in navigating policy
- Learning by doing
- Asking the big questions
  - “How will this rule protect me?”
  - “What if there is a violation of the rule?”
- Working through frustration
- Staying on target
- Celebrating the arc towards justice





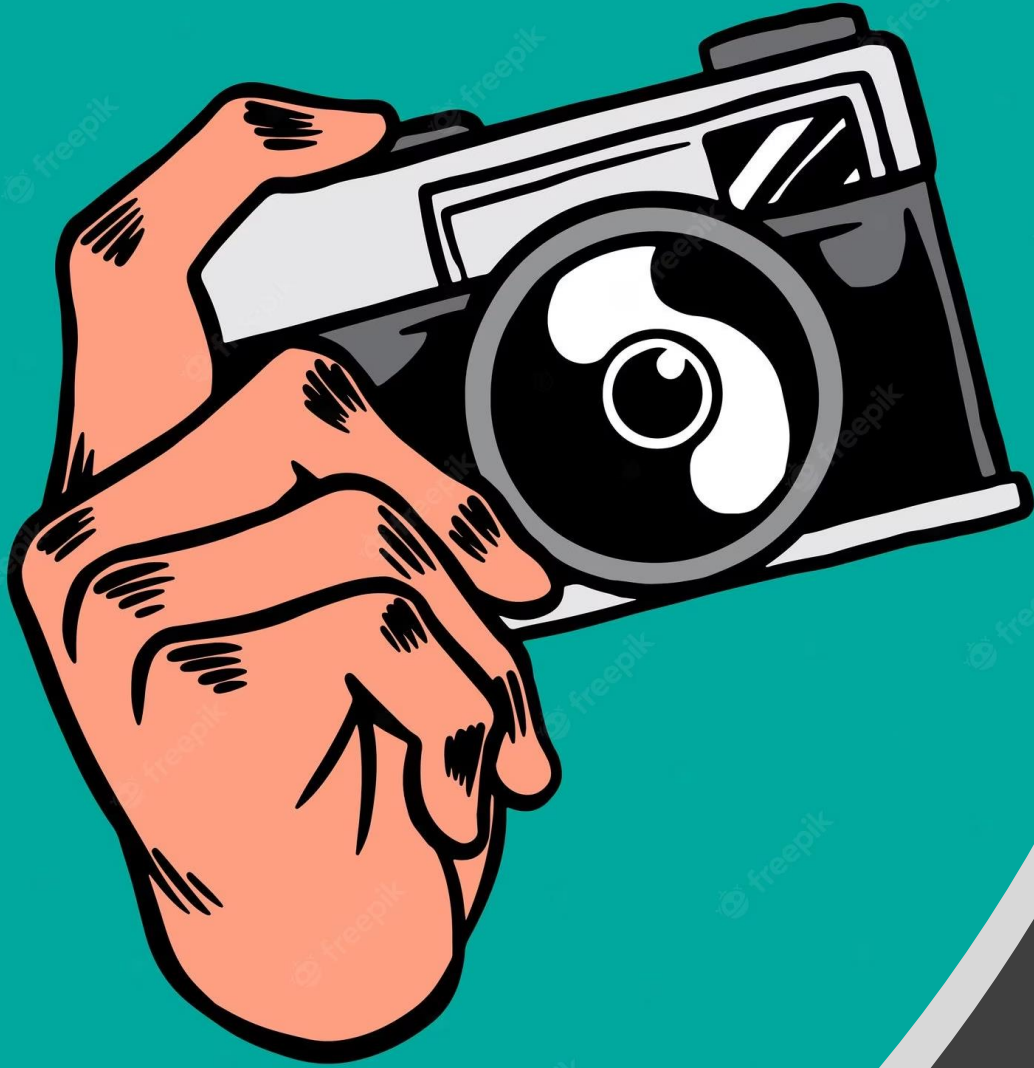
# CPAL Meeting & Engagement Agreements

- **Listen actively** — respect others when they are talking. (2 min. max – just like public comment!)
- **Speak from your own experience** instead of generalizing (“I” instead of “they,” “we,” and “you”).
- **Do not be afraid to respectfully challenge** one another by asking questions, but refrain from personal attacks — focus on ideas. We are not here to debate, but rather to present our positions to the state, not each other.
- **Participate to the fullest** of your ability — community growth depends on the inclusion of every individual voice.
- **In response to someone else’s story**, share your own story and experience.
- **The goal is not to necessarily agree** but rather to gain a deeper understanding.
- **Be conscious** of body language and nonverbal responses: They can be as supportive as words.
- **Expect and Accept** non closure – courageous conversations

# Closing Thoughts

- Questions/do you want to share reflections from dinner?
- Confirming our regular meeting time (Monthly)
- We will send out a menu of current policies and you choose the ones you want to engage in for the next meeting's agenda
- We'll be updating CPAL's website with these options
- GoogleDrive
  - Contact info spreadsheet
  - Note board
  - Glossary
  - Guidelines
  - Important docs





Group Photo and  
Adjournment!