



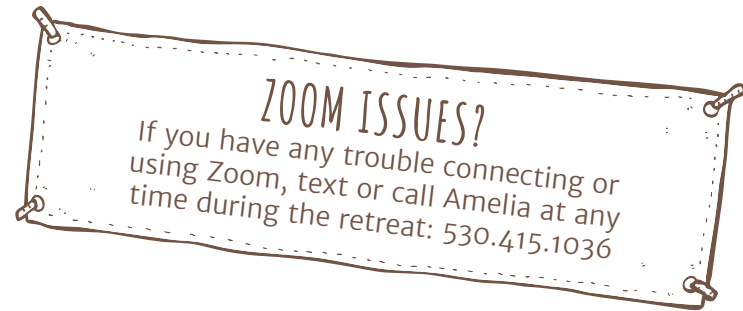
California ReLeaf Virtual Network Retreat

May 13, 2020

*empowering grassroots efforts and building strategic
partnerships that preserve, protect, and enhance
California's urban and community forests*



Agenda



9:15 Zoom Room Open

9:30 Soft Launch

Cindy Blain, California ReLeaf Executive Director

Attendees, please rename your profile on zoom with your first and last name and your organization. Then, share an exciting or challenging project you're working on in the chat box.

9:40 In the Tree Canopy, A Virtual Tree Climbing Experience

Chad Brey, Certified Arborist and Tree Climbing Champion, A-Plus Trees

9:55 Zoom Tech Overview

Eva Oliver, Zoom Facilitator

10:05 Welcome

Desirée Backman, California ReLeaf Board President and Program Director, UC Davis Institute for Population Health Improvement

Update from CAL FIRE Urban & Community Forestry

John Melvin, Staff Chief for Resource Protection and Improvement

10:15 Keynote: The Power of Story

Katie McCleary, Paper Wings Consulting Founder

**10:30 Grounding and Resilience through Meditation:
Instructions & Resources**

Nikki Mirghafori, Buddhist Teacher & Artificial Intelligence Scientist

Breakout Discussions



Agenda Cont'd



Stretch break! Get up and move around!

11:10 Recent Research Studies & Implications for Greening Communities

Bill Sullivan, University of Illinois Professor

Breakout Discussions

- *Given your experience and your areas of work, how can you put the information this session into practice?*
- *Can you suggest a public policy change that should grow from the information presented in this session?*
- *How might the information in this session impact your own activities and behaviors?*

12:00 Recess

Optional Lunch Networking

1:00 Public Grants & Funding: What We Know Now

Chuck Mills, California ReLeaf Public Policy & Grants Director

1:20 Panel Discussion: Talking with Funders

Host: Katie McCleary, Paper Wings Consulting Founder

Niva Flor, Sacramento Region Community Foundation Chief Impact & Strategy Officer

Francisco Castillo, Union Pacific Senior Director of Public Affairs

Michael Spurgeon, Albert & Elaine Borchard Family Foundation

Breakout Discussions

- *What about this conversation surprised you or was new to you?*
- *What are your past experiences in approaching these types of funders?*
- *What did you learn today that can help you in your future conversations with funders?*

2:45 Closing Circle in Gallery View

Speakers



CHAD BREY

Chad Brey isn't just a champion climber and Certified Arborist for A-Plus Tree, who takes pride in every climb and cut. He also isn't just the guy in our ear pestering us about safety all the time. Nope, Chad ALSO runs a TreeCircus.

Every year since 2009, Chad and his buddy Timmy Womack host "TreeCircus" at the California State Fair for 17 days straight. The mission of TreeCircus is to awaken the world to the fun possibilities of urban forest tree care. While we can't be in Sacramento this year with Chad and Timmy showing you how to climb trees, Chad put together a cool video of what it feels like to hang out in the tree canopy.

DR. DESIRÉE BACKMAN

Desirée is the Program Director of the UC Davis Institute for Population Health Improvement at UC Davis System. In this role, Desirée and her team work to improve the health of all Californians and improve quality in the health care system. Desirée has secured grants and contracts worth over \$255 million, and has served on a variety of expert panels and work groups at Loma Linda University, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Cancer Institute.

Desirée also has a passion for the environment, and she was the Deputy Director of the Sacramento Tree Foundation, where she directed all programs and services to establish an optimal urban forest for the greater Sacramento region. Desirée earned her doctorate in public health from Loma Linda University.

FRANCISCO CASTILLO

Francisco Castillo manages Union Pacific Railroad's (UPRR) state legislative strategy and community relations activities. Castillo serves on the national leadership team of a non-profit education organization working to support great teachers and empower parents. From 2004-2011, he served in senior roles for then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, First Lady Maria Shriver, and again for Newsom in the Lieutenant Governor's Office.

More than a decade ago, he began his career helping young people prepare for successful careers. He served as a job developer at the non-profit Mission Language & Vocational School in San Francisco, which offered job training, career guidance, and job placement services to hundreds of low-income, non-English speakers every year. Castillo is an active community member and volunteers his time serving on several boards and commissions in the Sacramento Region including the West Sacramento Planning Commission, Yolo County Children's Alliance and Sacramento Covered.



Speakers



DR. NIVA FLOR

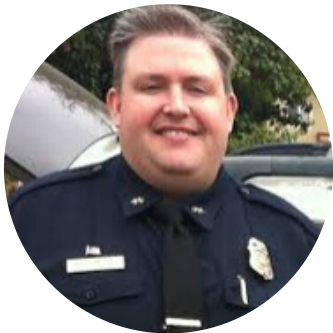
Dr. Flor brings more than a decade of community engagement, interactive cultural programming, workshop and curriculum development experience to her role at the Sacramento Region Community Foundation. Before joining the Foundation, she served as the Community Partnership Manager at the Oakland Museum of California. During her tenure, she expanded strategic partnerships with community and cultural organizations and led a creative team in developing collaborative public art projects in neighborhoods historically underserved by the Museum. Flor has also participated in post-Katrina community planning and economic development work in New Orleans and conducted community-based participatory research in Brazil, the Caribbean and South Africa.



KATIE MCCLEARY

Katie McCleary is a social entrepreneur and changemaker driven to make the world less lonely and more connected through the sharing of authentic stories by diverse and unique voices. She is the founder of Paper Wings Creative Consulting and 916 Ink, impact-based organizations that transform ideas and stories into tangible experiences that enrich human lives and strengthen communities. She's been around the block a few times as a social innovator, entrepreneur, and leader.

Mashable.com named Katie a "Real Miss America" as one of 15 women in the nation for her innovative work with vulnerable populations. She has published comic books about historical disinvestments in low-income communities, uplifted the voices of more than 4000 at-risk youth by featuring them in over 100 professional anthologies, amplified the stories of incredible men incarcerated in Folsom prison, and helped first generation college-bound young men of color write their tickets into prosperity. She serves on the school board of Visions in Education and as a Board Trustee for Sacramento Splash, an environmental education nonprofit. Her book, *The Anatomy of Connection: The Art and Science of Expansive Relationship Building* is forthcoming.



JOHN MELVIN

John Melvin works for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) managing the Urban and Community Forestry Program (U&CF). John graduated from Humboldt State University in 1999 with Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Forestry and a minor in business. John worked in private industry utility forestry for two years prior to joining CAL FIRE in early 2002. He was a Regional Urban Forester for 7 years before becoming the State Urban Forester. In 2016 John was promoted to Staff Chief for Resource Protection and Improvement.

Speakers



NIKKI MIRGHAFORI

Nikki Mirghafori, PhD, is an Artificial Intelligence scientist and a Buddhist teacher. Nikki is a lineage holder in the Theravada tradition, empowered by the Burmese master Venerable Pa Auk Sayadaw, as well as the Spirit Rock Meditation Center and Insight Meditation Society. She serves on the Teachers Council and Board of Directors at the Spirit Rock Meditation Center in Woodacre, as well as the Insight Meditation Center in Redwood City, and teaches Dharma internationally. For almost three decades, Nikki has also been a researcher and inventor in AI, holding multiple patents and coauthoring 40+ scientific research articles. She has directed international research programs as the Principal Investigator, taught graduate courses at UC Berkeley, and been a scientific advisor to Silicon Valley technology startups. Recordings of her talks and guided meditations are available at audiodharma.org



CHUCK MILLS

Chuck has been an integral part of California ReLeaf for over 20 years, and was a founding Board Member for the organization when it incorporated as a nonprofit in 2004. He brings a wealth of knowledge and 28 years of experience in natural resource conservation to the organization. Currently, he manages California ReLeaf's grants program and public policy portfolio. Prior to joining the California ReLeaf staff in August 2010, Chuck spent 3½ years with the California Council of Land Trusts and 12 years at the Trust for Public Land in program management and advocacy.



BILL SULLIVAN

Bill Sullivan gets to wake up every morning and do things he loves— (1) teach students in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Illinois how to create healthy, sustainable places, (2) conduct research that explores the extent to which, and in what ways, urban design impacts human health and wellbeing and get to share the findings with scientists, designers, and policymakers, (3) be an active member of many community and professional organizations. These include being a member of the Education Justice Project, the University YMCA board of directors, a Senior Fellow at the National Council for Science and the Environment, and a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Environmental Design Research Association, and the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture. [You can read about his research here.](#)



MICHAEL SPURGEON

Michael Spurgeon is a member of the Board of Directors at the Albert and Elaine Borchard Foundation, a family-based foundation dedicated to promoting research, education, social justice, and the arts and improving the human condition. He is the founding board chair of the literacy and arts nonprofit, 916 Ink, and is a tenured professor of English at American River College, where he teaches composition, literature, and creative writing and serves as the Editorial Advisor to the American River Review. He has authored two chapbooks and four short stage plays, and his writing has appeared in multiple regional and national journals. Michael's first novel, *Let The Water Hold Me Down*, was published in 2013 by Ad Lumens.

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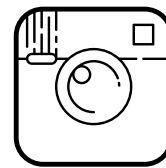
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Network Reminders

1. COVID IMPACT SURVEY

If you haven't already, please take this quick 8-question survey about how the pandemic is impacting your organization, and what California ReLeaf can do to help

www.surveymonkey.com/r/2PYGX9R

2. NETWORK RENEWAL FORM

Please take a minute to renew your network membership for 2020! This helps us make sure we're up to date with your leadership, contact info, and program areas

californiareleaf.org/renew-membership/

3. ANNUAL NETWORK SURVEY

Keep an eye out for the Annual Network Survey, due July 3rd! We'll be asking some new questions this year that will help guide the resources we provide in 2021. We value your feedback, so thank you in advance for taking the time to share!

