

**RCE Greater Atlanta Youth Network
SDG Projects in the Atlanta Community Grant
Winners - Summer 2020**

Grants were awarded to four projects led by both youth and non-youth that work to address the SDGs in the Atlanta community. Funding for these grants was made possible with support from the Turner Foundation. These grants are linked with our network's goal of increasing education (through the free virtual [Youth & The Sustainable Development Goals course](#)) and activism around the SDGs, with an intentional focus on nurturing youth engagement and leadership.

Plant & Parlay

Blurb

Plant & Parlay forges meaningful conversations that impact and inspire young adults to catalyze change in socially innovative and creative ways. Our 60 minute bi-weekly episodes feature stories from young social entrepreneurs on how they're innovatively making a difference using art, music, and pop culture. This podcast is for all social entrepreneurs, global citizens, individuals, and organizations looking to engage and mobilize your community on issues you care about.

#SDG4 #SDG10 #SDG11

Bio

Cam Christian
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Director of Community Engagement and Co-Founder of Plantlanta

Cam is a music producer, songwriter, and artist by trade but a communitarian first. Aside from being heavily active within the RCE, he coordinates youth programs for the Gwinnett County Parks & Recreation department, is serving on the board of the [Eco-Action](#), and is a member of the [Farmer's Jam Band](#). Cam ultimately wants to be able to create a culture and community of doers and changemakers through art and creativity.

PublicWatch ATL

Blurb

PublicWatch ATL will function as a resource providing accessible information about the intensity, scale, and recurrence of incidents of police brutality and racial profiling throughout the metro Atlanta area. This will be done by carefully combing through statistical data on a county-by-county basis for occurrences of racially motivated police violence and excessive use of force, numerical counts of active cases against individual officers per county related to such instances, equivalent instances of overreach and rates of arrest by immigration authorities and arrest percentage relative to total county and municipality population. This information will then be formatted into basemap layers using Esri GIS (Geographic Information System) on a Wix site so that this info is easily viewable, searchable and usable by the metro Atlanta area's predominantly person of color population.

#SDG10 #SDG 11 #SDG16

Bio(s)

Skyler Stirling
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Atlanta Regional Commission, Oglethorpe University

Skyler is a political science major and international relations minor at Oglethorpe University. He is currently working as a natural resources group intern at the Atlanta Regional Commission. In the long term, he would like to pursue graduate studies in the international relations/foreign policy field and research the resilience of international institutions in the face of climate change.



Liliana Esquivel
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GreenSky Finance, Oglethorpe University

Liliana is a political science graduate from Oglethorpe University, and recently got accepted into Georgia State's Law Program. She is currently the front desk coordinator for GreenSky, an Atlanta-based fintech company. In the long term, she would like to pursue either immigration or environmental law.



Recycled Art as Activism

Blurb

Recycled Art as Activism is a project organized by two Kennesaw State University students, Cam Lorys and Allison Yates, and hosted on the KSU campus. In its initial semester, the project will consist of an art competition, comprised of art pieces made entirely from recycled materials. The pieces entered will have a theme of social justice. The purpose of this competition is to raise awareness about all SDGs relating to the environment and to issues of equity. The artwork will be shown in a gallery-like setting. At the event, there will be time for any affiliated programs to speak about sustainable development if they so desire. There will also be space for any programs or organizations to set up an information booth about their own organization. This competition is an exciting opportunity for students and community members to become involved in activism.

#SDG10 #SDG12 #SDG13

Bio(s)

Cam Lorys
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Kennesaw Student University

Cam is a senior at KSU and an alum of CIFAL Atlanta's inaugural Distinguished UN-SDG Ambassador program. Cam's experience with the SDGs began when she was the captain of her high school debate team. She traveled to Japan to participate in an international debate conference centered on issues of sustainability. She is excited to see the *Recycled Art as Activism* project come to fruition because she is eager to bring the 2030 Agenda to the Atlanta community. When Cam is not busy with projects or school, she enjoys hiking, writing, and spending time with friends and family.



Allison Yates
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Kennesaw Student University

Allison is a junior at KSU and an alum of CIFAL Atlanta's inaugural Distinguished UN-SDG Ambassador program. Allison's passion for advocacy began with her debate career as the captain of the KSU team where she has realized how important it is to be educated and educate others. Her ambassadorship introduced her to the SDGs and thus galvanized her into using her role in activism to promote the SDGs in her community. Allison is also a dedicated Honors College Peer Mentor, avid campaign volunteer, and secretary of a political organization.



Read-to-Me (R2M)

Blurb

R2M combines youth literacy and STEM education related to gardening and horticulture to a target population of children (kindergarten - 5th grade) in a low-income, food desert community where a high proportion of children read at significantly below-grade-level. Bi-weekly, a selected "reader" will read a featured book to the kids that has a connection to gardening, followed by hands-on activities to reinforce the learning from the book. The kids are then given books that they choose and can keep on a variety of subjects to encourage a love of reading. The kids who engage in the program sharpen their reading skills, learn about STEM subjects through the books and activities, and develop an increased awareness of the importance of nutritious food for a healthy lifestyle.

#SDG2 #SDG3 #SDG4

Bio(s)

Joan Wilson

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Assistant Director for the Urban Health Initiative (UHI) and Associate Director for the Global Collaborating Center for Reproductive Health (GCC/RH)

Joan is a public health leader focused on food access, global women's health and international human rights. Joan has a long history of engagement with her local and "world" community. Some of her current projects involve addressing literacy and food insecurity issues in urban Atlanta and teaching business skills, leadership principles, and STEM subjects to inner-city youth in an entrepreneurial program that she co-developed. As an established teacher and trainer, her educational activities have touched military troops learning aviation and aerospace subjects, as well as graduate students, medical students, and medical residents learning about the social determinants of health. She is currently working toward a Juris Master degree with a focus in Global Health Law and International Human Rights from Emory Law School. She is board certified in Healthcare Administration and a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Brandon Young

Founder of Cruz's Fishermen Inc.