

Green Infrastructure Workforce Development - Stakeholder Advisory Board

Atlanta CREW (Culture-Resilience-Environment-Workforce) Project

Program: Climate and Cultural Resilience (C&CR) began in 2017 as a project to examine the collective identity of the Southwest Atlanta community and its residents in relation to the natural and built environments. This work was done by conducting a cultural assessment of the civic landscape, as well as climate assessment denoting environmental assets and vulnerabilities - both of which serve to support a community resilience plan and provide recommendations for green infrastructure (GI) investments. Outcomes from C&CR include: community engagement, stormwater and GI education, and identification of priority sites for GI through Neighborhood Flooding Surveys completed by residents.

Southface, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA), and WonderRoot are undertaking a second phase of the C&CR project. This new phase, known as "Atlanta CREW", builds on the success of C&CR by providing GI installation and operations and maintenance (O&M) trainings to City of Atlanta residents, with priority to Southwest Atlanta. We seek to develop a skilled local workforce, thereby reducing un/underemployment with living wage jobs, empowering communities while improving water quality and mitigating urban flooding and resulting displacement and safety issues within the watershed.

Outcome: Atlanta CREW will provide GI training for up to 60 people in the City of Atlanta, with priority given to Southwest Atlanta residents. There will be up to 10 people per training cohort (6) with all trainees completing the installation and O&M courses. As part of the training, participants will support the installation of up to eight GI projects in the watershed, gaining hands-on experience in various GI practices. Participants will receive a stipend of \$35 per day for up to four days. The project period is 18-months: January 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. Deliverables to be produced include a full final report, GI training manual and curriculum, GI job placement guidance, artistic design guide for GI, and an ArcGIS Environment Storymap.

Purpose: The GI Workforce Stakeholder Advisory Board for Atlanta CREW will serve as a critical champion and advisor to Southface, WonderRoot, and WAWA in the design and execution of the GI workforce development and job training program. The median household income in Southwest Atlanta is \$23,911, less than half of the City of Atlanta. Communities in this area are underemployed, losing 6,486 jobs and 4,503 workers between 2002 and 2015, while overall the City gained jobs and workers. Through the provision of GI trainings, community engagement, and project implementation, we seek to enhance our collective ability to educate and reach underserved and under-resourced communities, and equitably develop a GI workforce.

Members of the Advisory Board share in service to our missions and program goals by providing our organizations with their professional expertise; diverse knowledge of industry perspectives; connections to local, national and international resources, colleagues, and peers; and their human resources capacity. The Advisory Board will have the opportunity to assist in customizing a workforce training for the GI industry and growing the GI workforce. Board members will function as ambassadors for the program and sponsor by assisting the team in matters affecting planning, outreach, curriculum, and job placement. Members consist of employers, representatives of public agencies, professionals, community organizations and leaders, elected officials, and stakeholders who are committed to a vibrant and inclusive sustainable economy in Atlanta.

Stakeholder Advisory Board Commitments:

- Invited and strongly encouraged to attend monthly meetings for the first three months, and then quarterly meetings thereafter, and be available to provide advice via email and/or telephone.
- Invited and strongly encouraged to participate in quarterly job fairs for graduates of GI courses.
- Requested to provide support for: curriculum development; partnership and resource development; green infrastructure career pathways; job placement; social enterprise; environmental workforce development
- Those who may want to take a more active role may volunteer additional time and resources.

Stakeholder Advisory Board Benefits:

- Access to a skilled workforce that has received hands-on training in GI installation and operations and maintenance.
- Opportunity to select and provide input to the GI training curriculum, and have access to curriculum and materials.
- Support the development of a vibrant and inclusive sustainable economy in Atlanta with potential for replication in other areas of the country.