

proposals. The first and perhaps most important is *respect*: “Governments and foundations are busy making decisions about how to tackle climate displacement,” said Frances Acuña of Austin, Texas, “but nobody is talking to us and drawing upon our experience and knowledge. That’s got to change.”

Additional proposals concerned reckless development, the slow speed of home buyouts, gentrification, and systemic racism. Kristin Marcell of the convening Climigration Network summarized the inequities experienced by low income and marginalized communities: “[Infrastructure](#) in these neighborhoods is often poor, impacting home values. Bank loans are hard to obtain. Add to that redlining and unfair home appraisals, and you have generational racial discrimination in both housing and disaster relief.” For successful migration to occur, these injustices need to be remedied.

Finally, the grassroots leaders addressed the necessity of state and federal coordination. Successful migration will require cooperation between departing and receiving communities; the latter will need assistance almost as much as the former. They are asking Congress and the President to establish a Climate Migration Agency within a new **Department of Climate Change** to help plan, facilitate and support U.S. migration and community revitalization. Hilton Kelley, a nationally recognized climate justice leader from Port Arthur Texas, put it this way: “As Ida and other recent hurricanes show, there is no greater threat to health, justice, and family safety than climate change, and we need a federal response equal to the scale of the crisis. We are here -- ready to meet, talk, pull up our sleeves and get to work.”

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[Anthropocene Alliance](#) is the nation’s largest coalition of frontline leaders fighting for climate and environmental justice. The [Climigration Network](#) is an initiative of the Consensus Building Institute, a nonprofit that helps stakeholders collaborate to generate breakthrough results on tough social, environmental, and economic issues.

Contact: Dr. Stephen F. Eisenman
Co-Founder, Anthropocene Alliance and Director of Art and Policy
s-eisenman@northwestern.edu

Harriet Festing
Co-Founder, Anthropocene Alliance and Executive Director
harriet@anthropocenealliance.org