

## California Strategic Growth Council: 2024 Catalyst Conference

# Progress in Place: From Power Building to Project Implementation

With historic investment through the Inflation Reduction Act and California's Climate Budget, "Progress in Place: From Power Building to Project Implementation," promotes community and local capacity, while anticipating challenges associated with project development and implementation. The sessions reflect the urgency to make place-based investments that center and support disinvested communities, at the speed at which federal and state funds are being deployed.

February 1 - 2, 2024 | Sacramento, California

## 3.1 Empowering the Next Generation of Climate Leaders

### Session Leads/ SGC Staff Support

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### Session Overview

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Extreme weather such as droughts, floods, and heatwaves, and their effects on food and water insecurity exacerbate inequalities and disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, among them young people and children who will be exposed longer to the negative effects of climate change, such as air and water pollution and extreme heat. Young people are not only victims of climate change. They are also valuable contributors to climate action. Young people are increasingly aware of the challenges and risks presented by the climate crisis and of the opportunity to achieve sustainable development brought by a solution to climate change. Young people's unprecedented mobilization around the world shows the massive power they possess to hold decision-makers accountable. This session explores strategies to convene, engage, connect, and empower young people around the world to take action on climate change across four different areas: youth leadership, workforce development, youth and the arts, and readying youth for climate challenged governance.

We will be joined by Diana Fu, Environmental Planner for the SF Estuary Partnership; Michael McCormick, President and Partnerships Lead with Farallon Strategies, LLC; and Phoenix Armenta, Senior Manager for Climate Equity and Community Engagement at the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

## Session Outcomes

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The aim of this session is to facilitate deeper conversation and thinking as it relates to how to engage youth (K-12 and college-aged) and early career professionals in climate adaptation and mitigation fields. While there is often a strong desire to include young people in climate adaptation and mitigation spaces, meaningful youth engagement that is empowering and not just performative is limited.

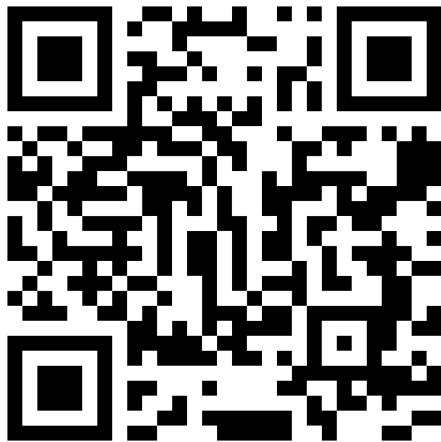
This session will explore current and future opportunities for youth engagement across the following fields: leadership, the arts, governance & policy work, and workforce. Each breakout session will explore three fundamental questions:

- What is the current state of the field and best practices as they relate to the area of youth engagement mentioned above?
- What is possible and practical given our current political climate?
- What can visionary youth engagement look like, and how do we get there?

This session is meant to be an exploratory and visionary imagining of how we can meaningfully create youth-centered voice across these four topic areas.

## Session Resources

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<https://linktr.ee/MyceliumSGC>