



# ENVIRONMENTALISTS RISE FOR QUEER LIVES

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POLICY TRACKS: Arts and Literature &  
Media and Communications





The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and programs to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to practice leadership through actions.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women's Leadership website at <http://iwl.rutgers.edu>

# Goal Statement



Provide Rutgers Students for Environmental Awareness (SEA) with evidence on the need for their activism to expand in initiatives for LGBTQ+ populations.



Make evident that the environment is a queer issue through an interactive digital slides presentation.



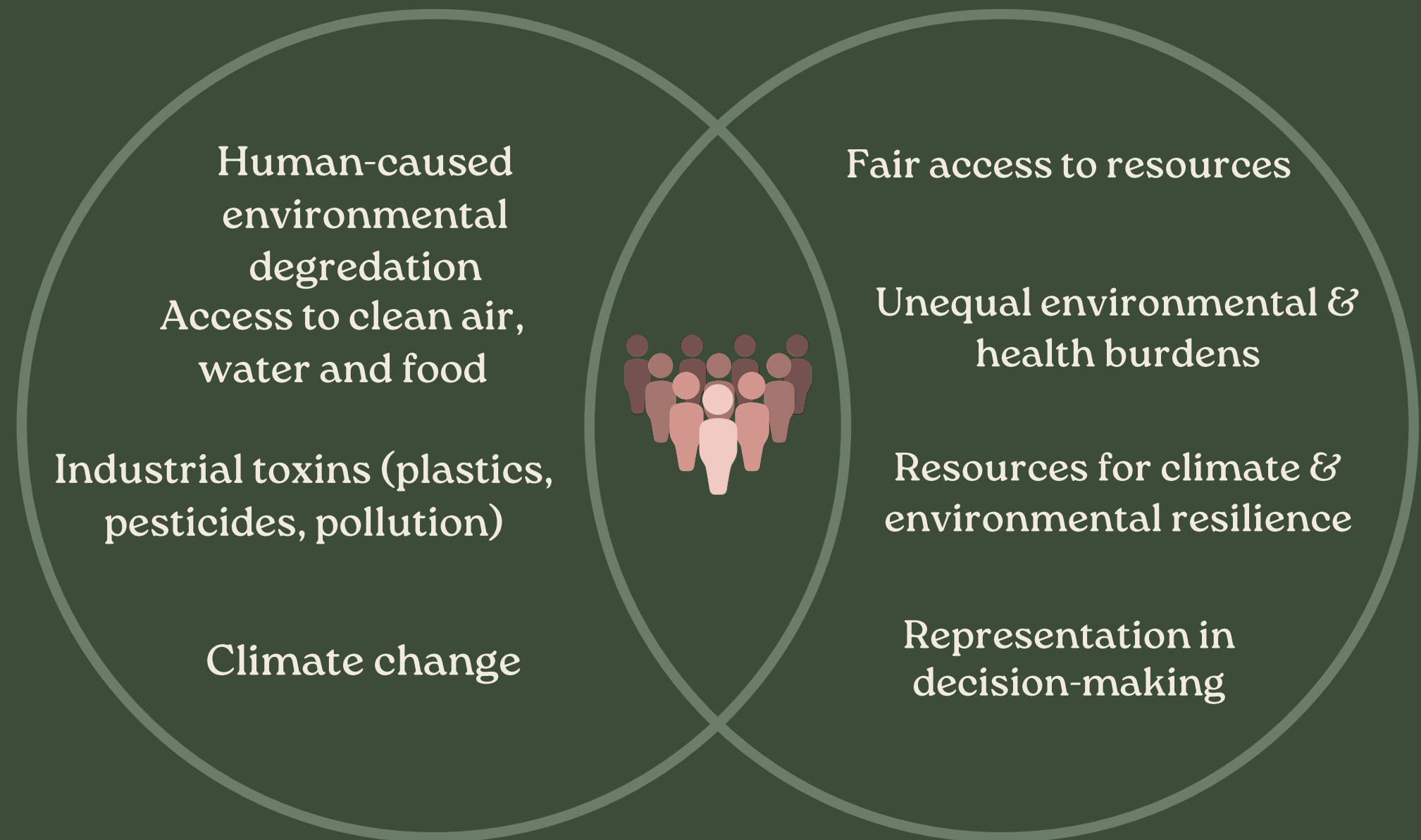
Address the interconnectedness of environmentalism with the work of queer activists to provide audience with examples of tangible acts.

Rutgers SEA is a predominately queer space, but we aren't talking about queer issues in our activism.

## Look closer at the overlap impacting LGBTQ+ populations

Environmental Issues

Social Justice



# Extreme weather events causes homelessness and threatens people experiencing homelessness

## Hurricane Katrina



1.5 million people displaced



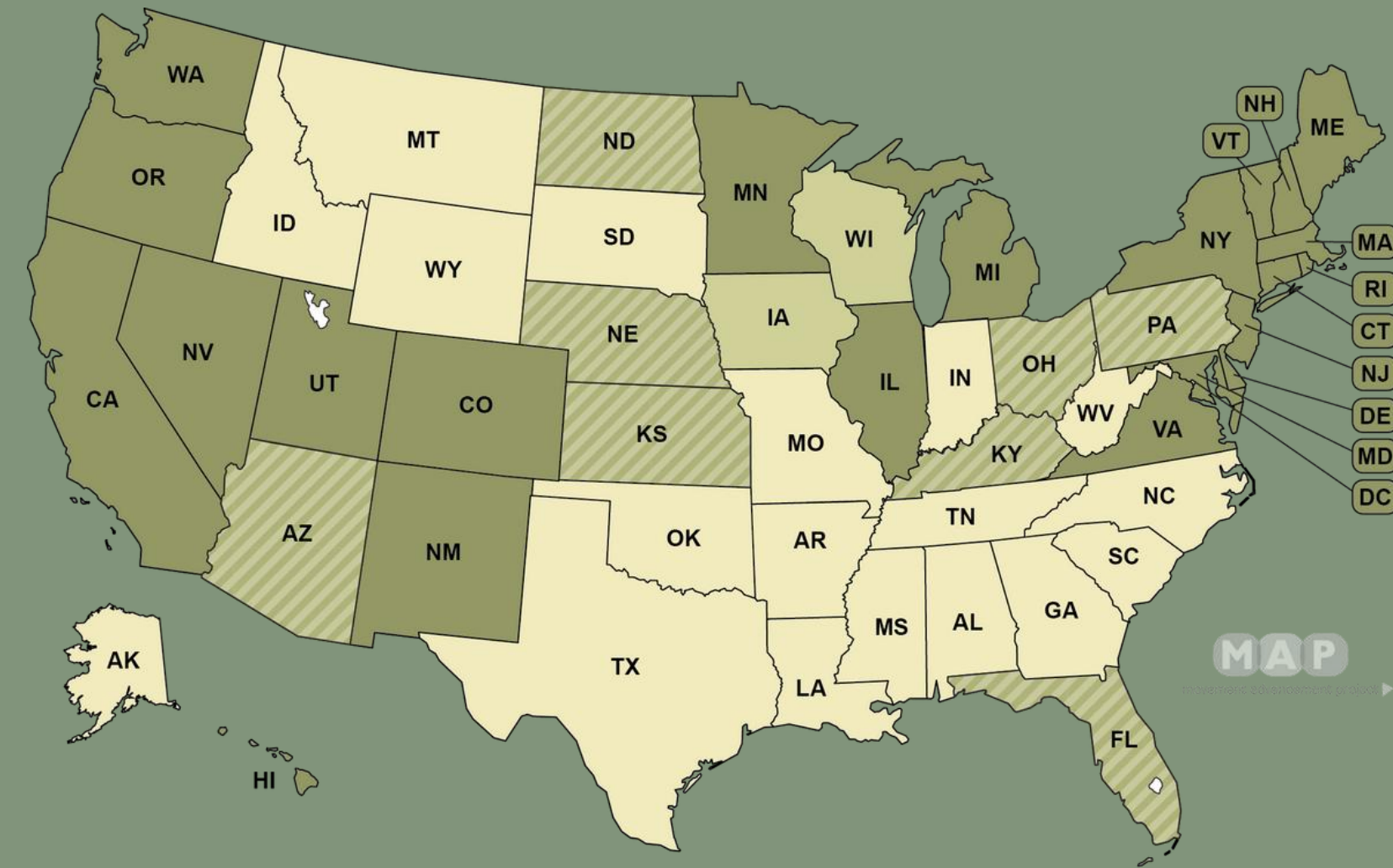
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) slow disaster response left tens of thousands of people without food, water and shelter for days



Government funded emergency shelters are allowed to voluntarily establish policies, leaving LGBTQ+ persons open to discrimination



LGBTQ+ persons were blamed by some religious leaders for the disaster and were thereby excluded from disaster response policies. Additionally, HIV positive persons faced stigma and discrimination in receiving adequate health care (Bell and Goldsmith)



U.S. Territories

American Samoa

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Guam

Puerto Rico

U.S. Virgin Islands

No explicit prohibitions for discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in state law (18 states, 4 territories)

(Movement Advancement Project,

# TIMELINE



September

2025

PHILLY AIDS  
THRIFT STORE  
20TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
BLOCK PARTY

September

2025

INTERVIEW  
OWNER OF  
PHILLY AIDS  
THRIFT STORE

October

2025

CREATED  
CAMPAIGN  
IN SEA

October

2025

PIN-MAKING  
EVENT IN SEA

October

2025

GEOGRAPHIC  
INFORMATIC  
SYSTEMS

November

2025

RESEARCH &  
DEVELOP  
PRESENTATION  
SLIDES

November

2025

PROMOTE  
PRESENTATION

November

2025

PRESENT

# Advisors



Carlos Ulises Decena (he/him)  
Undergraduate Program Director  
Department of Women's, Gender, and  
Sexuality Studies  
Professor, Latino and Caribbean Studies  
Rutgers University

Leonore Carpenter (she/her)  
Associate Professor of Law  
Rutgers Law School - Camden



RUTGERS

Institute for Women's Leadership



# Collaborator

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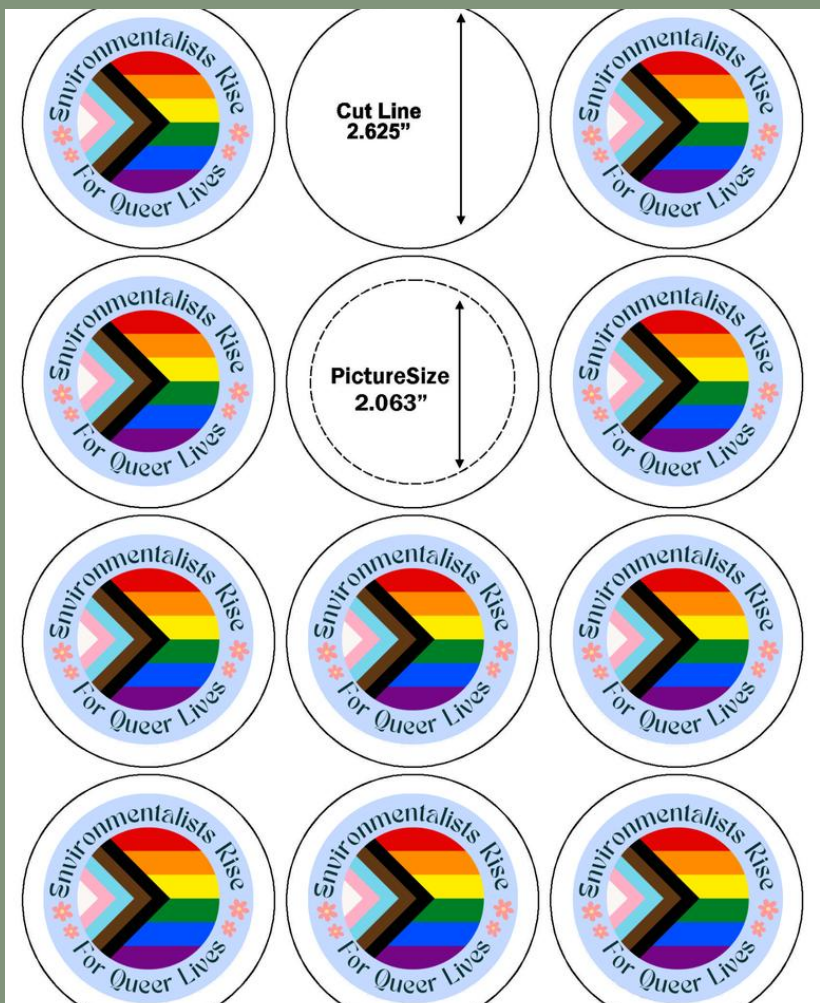
Christina Kallas-Saritsoglou (she/her)  
Co-Founder/Manager  
Philly AIDS Thrift Store



Megan Lotts (she/her)  
Art Librarian  
Rutgers University



Susan Oldenburg (she/her),  
Research/GIS Specialist  
Rutgers Libraries



**PIN \* MONDAY OCTOBER 20TH 8:45 - 10:00 PM**

**MAKING**

**Environmentalists Rise For Queer Lives**

**SNACKS & SUPPLIES PROVIDED**

**GEORGE H. COOK ROOM, COOK STUDENT CENTER**

# Hosted pin-making event at SEA's weekly meeting

- Crafted playlist for the event
- Purchased snacks, treats and drinks
- Handmade over 200 pins
- Gave out pins at presentation



**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH**  
8:45 - 9:15 PM  
GEORGE H. COOK ROOM

**ENVIRONMENTALISTS  
RISE FOR QUEER  
LIVES**

**PRESENTATION:**

- CONFRONT GAPS IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE RESEARCH, ACTIVISM, AND POLICY TO ADDRESS THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF LGBTQ+ POPULATIONS.
- HIGHLIGHT HOW LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES ARE UNIQUELY IMPACTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.
- OFFER TANGIBLE ACTIONS FOR SUPPORTING BOTH THE PLANET AND LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES.

# ★ Promotion ★

- Graphically design event flyer, SAP logo & presentation slides
- Share event flyer on social media
- Email blast 25+ Rutgers faculty, departments & student orgs
- Create Instagram account for SAP

**ecoqueerrise** ...  
Social Action Project  
2 posts 14 followers 1 following

Expanding environmental activism for LGBTQ+ justice  
Campaign in @rutgers.sea  
Social Action Project Leadership @amillieagle

rutgers.sea Join us next Monday, Nov 10 | 8:45–9:15 PM | George H. Cook Room in the Cook Campus Center for "Environmentalists Rise for Queer Lives," an interactive presentation informing us on how we can expand our activism to uplift and support queer lives.

✨ Stick around for a chance to win sustainable prizes from LGBTQ+ owned businesses ✨ & take home Philly AIDS Thrift Store branded condoms and SEA-made pins!

## SHOP WITH A PURPOSE

### Thrift Stores in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS

**Out of the Closet**

The primary goal is to raise money for the worldwide network of clinics and services provided by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care services are directly funded by 96 cents of every dollar spent.

475 Atlantic Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11217

**PAT Giovanni's Room**

PAT Giovanni's Room sells both new and used LGBTQ+ goods and combines a vintage thrift store and a queer bookstore. The store donates the proceeds to local HIV/AIDS groups. It is the oldest operating Feminist & LGBTQ+ bookstore in the country!

345 S 12th St, Philadelphia, PA 19107

**Philly AIDS Thrift**

The Philly AIDS Thrift provides a broad range of donated goods, with all sales going to HIV/AIDS related programs and organizations.

710 S 5th St, Philadelphia, PA 19147

**Housing Works**

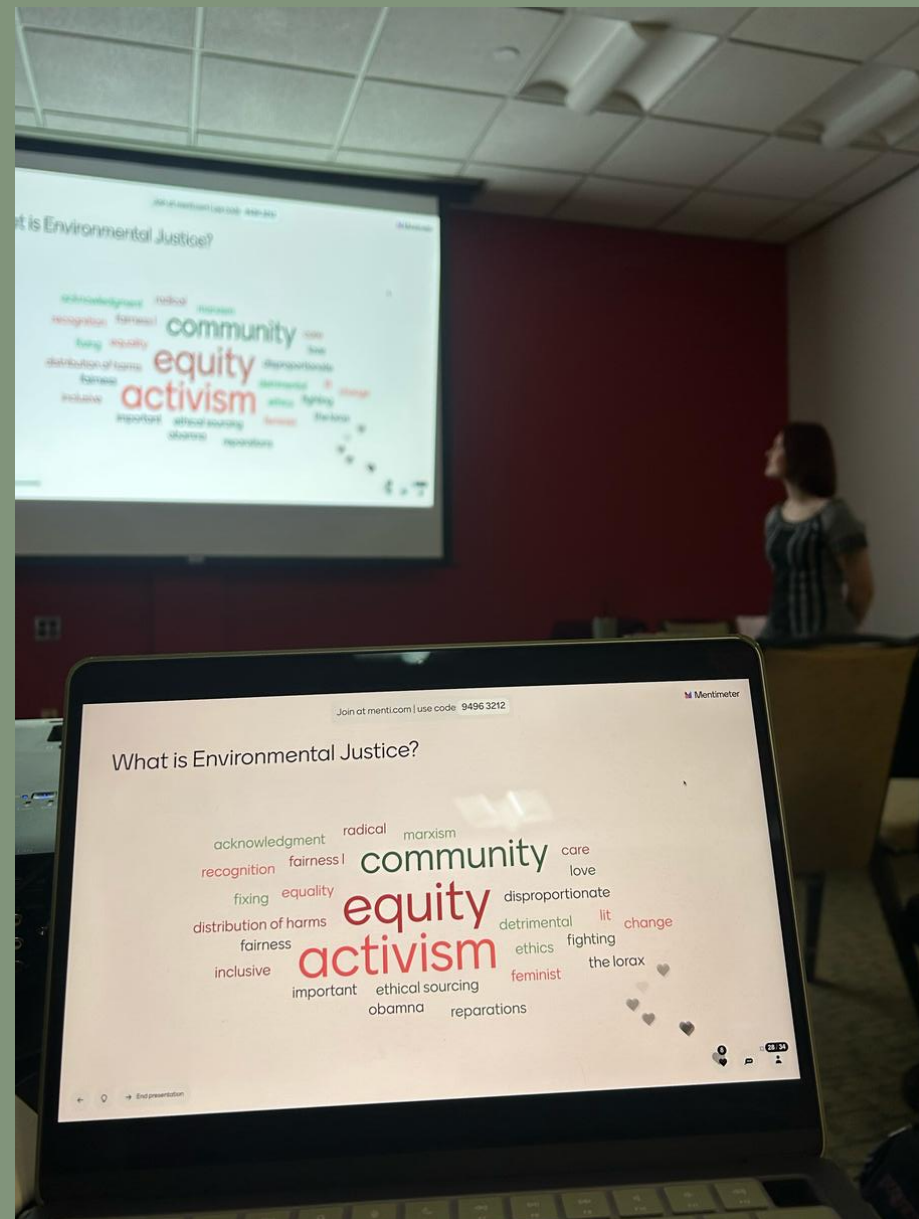
The main goal is to supply essential funding for Housing Works' social enterprises, which sustain its housing and healthcare services for individuals living with and impacted by HIV/AIDS.

245 W 10th St, New York, NY 10014

**We shop together. We sustain lives together.**

# Impacts & Evaluation

40+ attended presentation



## 01 Mentimeter

- 34 participants
- 5 questions in total

When asked If the environment is a queer issue:

**%73 answered yes**

**%25 answered unsure**

## 02 Kahoot

- 40 participants
- 10 quiz questions
- Top 5 scorers won giveaway prizes from Ray's Reusables and South Street Art Mart

★ When asked if the environment is a queer issue:

**%100 answered yes**



# Feminist Leadership

★ Reimagining a movement

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★ Intersectionality

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★ Coalition Building

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★ Pleasure in activism

★ Community orientated

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★ Tangible

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# Personal Development

## Research

Geographic Informatic Systems

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Interviewing

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Data Vulnerability

## Arts

Graphic Design

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Photography

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Multimedia Engagement

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Pin-Making

## Project Implementation

SMART Goal Setting

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Public Speaking

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Adaptability



# What's next?

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- ★ Campaign continuing in SEA: passing down leadership
- ★ Project archived in SEA's Google Drive & Canva Pro
- ★ SEA spring trip to Philly AIDS Thrift Store
- ★ Student projects inspired by presentation
- ★ Post on Instagram

Thank You!

# Acknowledgments



**Sasha Taner, Ph.D.**  
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Professor of Social Action Project Seminar

**Amy Higer**  
Professor of Women, Work and Community

**Rebecca Mark**  
Professor of Women and Leadership

**Rebecca Mark**  
Professor of Women and Leadership

**Emily Haran**  
Director, Administration and Communication



- El Palmer, SEBS 2029
- Bruna Williams, SEBS 2029
- Alexis Schneider, Bloomfield College 2024



- Morgan Garrow, Co-President
- Lauren Koo, Co-President
- Delia Lasek, Media Manager & Campaign Lead of ArtSEA

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