

*You have arrived at:*

# Small Grants, Big Change

# *Welcome!*

We will get started  
soon.



EPA MID-ATLANTIC REGION 2022 SUMMIT

Working Together to Build a Better, More Equitable Region

# Friendly Reminders Before We Get Started

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- ✓ Put a request for help in the chat
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Meeting ID: 161 236 9807
- ✓ Email Cynthia Hunt at [hunt.cynthia@epa.gov](mailto:hunt.cynthia@epa.gov)

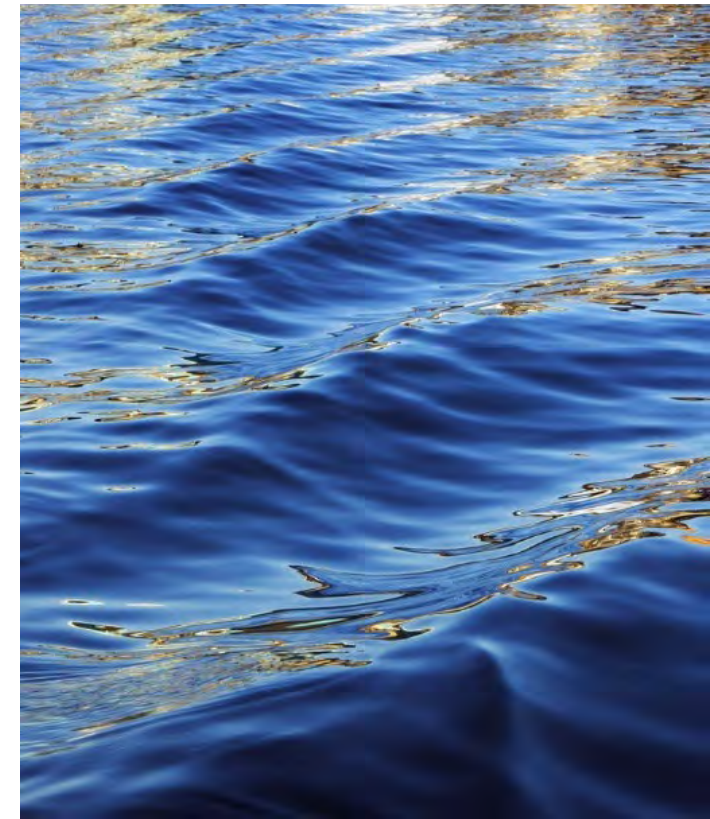
*This session is being recorded and will be made available after the summit.*



# EPA R<sub>3</sub> Summit

Small Grants, Big Change: Successfully Leveraging Small Environmental Justice Grants & Other Resources

Alice, Niketa & Tobias Coles



# In This Presentation – We Plan To

- Bring the Community Based involvement of the EPA full circle
- Share our story of Struggle and Change while Harnessing and Leveraging all resources possible
- Describe grassroots efforts & productive partnerships
- Relate, social justice (injustice), environment justice (injustice) and community development





# Bayview's Story – Proposed Maximum Security Prison to be Built in 1994

## 1) STRONG OPPOSITION from diverse stakeholders:

- our 300-year-old African- American Community,
- the local Realtors,
- Churches,
- environmentalist,
- and local farmers

2) UNITED FRONT - After 10 months of new acquaintances, meetings, fundraising and much research; the local government decided not to accept the prison.

3) HOPE - If we could defeat the placement of a maximum security prison. . . WHAT ELSE CAN WE MASTER? WHY LIVE LIKE THIS!?

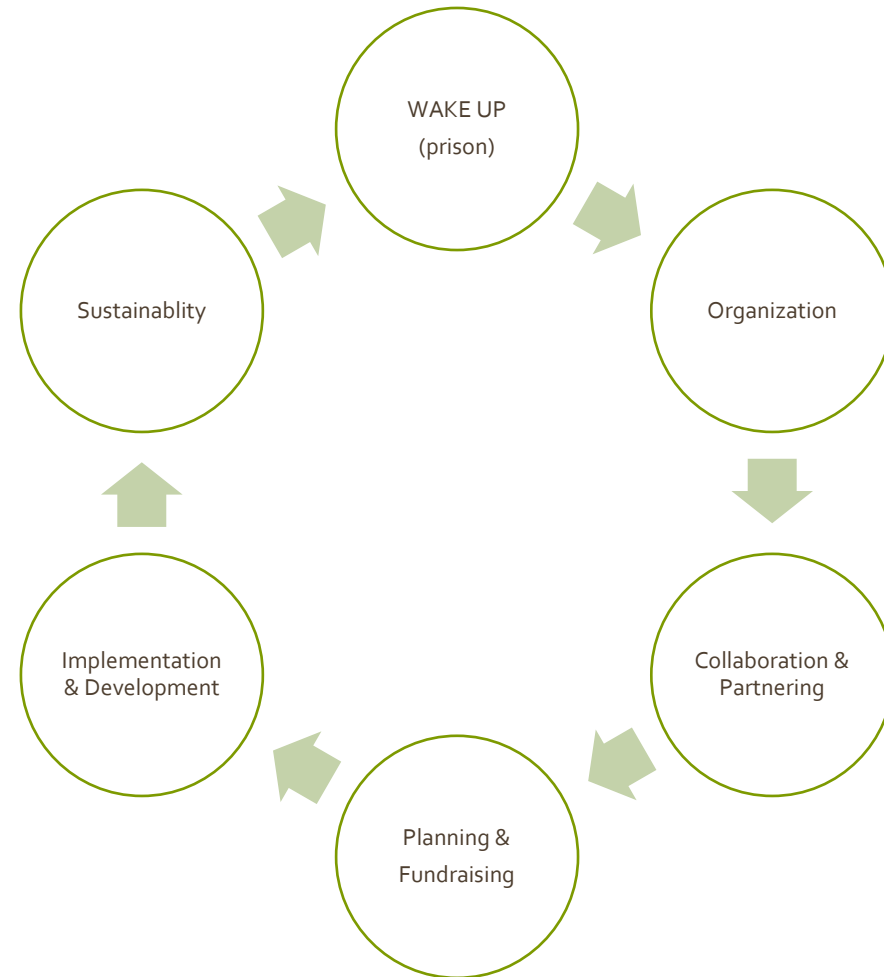
4) We Organized!!

**BAYVIEWCITIZENS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, INC. was formed 1998**

# The Bayview Story cont'd.

Collaboration: Alice and other grassroots community leaders began to join the local organizations that we believed would benefit our mission and formed Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) for strong partnerships

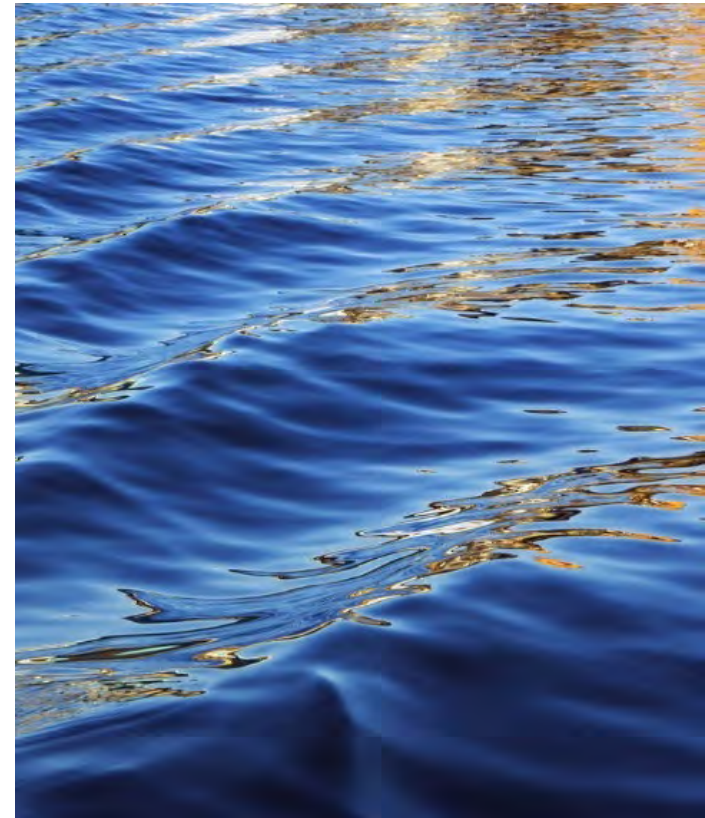
- Community leaders assessed all of the public health challenges, environment justices, deplorable living conditions and educational levels
- 4 Basic Needs were Identified
  - Housing, Education, Economics, & HealthAll were found with great deficiencies





# Partnerships Leverage - Garnering Expertise

Great Strengths, Diversity, Awareness , Particular Expertise



# Holistic Approach- Stakeholders with a Vested Interest

## Federal

### **EPA (EJ Small Grants)**

- Funded environmental needs planning for clean water and wastewater disposal

### **USDA**

- Rural Utilities Service ( R.U.S.)- Funded sewer & waste waster
- Rural Housing Services ( R.H.S.) – Funded Construction of Multi-Family 515 & Single Family 502
- Community Facilities (C.F.) – Funded Streets & Lights

### **HUD – Gov. Gilmore/ Appropriation**

- Economic Development Initiative, ( E.D.I.)
  - Community Center, Garden, Farmer’s Market, Shophouse
- Capacity Building
- Staff Support



# Holistic Approach- Stakeholders with a Vested Interest

## State

### **Virginia (VA) Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)**

- Community Development Block Grant Community Improvements (C.D.B.G.)
- Indoor Plumbing & Replacement Construction (I.P.R.)
- Lease to purchase/ Home ownership Construction (H.O.M.E.)
- Rural Community Development Initiative (R.C.D.I. )

### **Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA)**

- Home Buyer Education
- Mortgage
- Tax Credits

### **Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (SERCAP)**

- Temporary wells
- Hydrants
- Drainage field repair
- Retention Pond

# Holistic Approach- Stakeholders with a Vested Interest

## Institutes of Higher Education and Private Sector

### Universities

**Mercy Housing-** Land acquisition

**S.A.R.A.-** Farm and Gardens

**Walker Foundation-** Green House & Environment

**Kellogg's Foundation-** Capacity Building & Education

**Church of the Brethren-** Capacity Building Community Programs

**Mary Reynolds Babcock-** Staff Support, Travel, Capacity Building

# Holistic Approach – Start at the Top!

**Local Supervisor/ The Board of Supervisors-** Local Government- Protocol & make applications

**Planning District Commission-** windshield survey of the community/ identified funding, process application served as fiscal agent

**The Nature Conservancy (TNC)-** Fundraising, Education, Formed Development Team. Conservation & fiscal agent private sector/ allowed us to sit down with 20 potential funders- Conservation of coastal reserve / Preservation

**Local Civic Groups-** Research & Analysis

**MEDIA- NAACP-** Promoted the need/ story

**The Local Department of Health-**water, wastewater housing and permits (criteria)

# *Where are we now ??? Bayview 2022*

## **Current Environmental Issues**

- 6 Diesel Generators/ Air Pollution (Existing)
- Communication Tower (Existing)
- Donated Trash Dumpsters (Existing)
- Transmittal Generators (Planned)

## **Neglect**

- Still Families without Indoor plumbing with no access to clean water
- Streets ( potholes, drop-offs) threatens EMT's School busses and public transportation access
- Storm Water Management (Retention pond/Safety issues)

## **Hope and community activism!!**



# EPA IMPACT CONCLUSION

EPA Environmental Justice Small Program Grant (1995) was the principle source to the Bayview takeoff.

That principal source for our funding introduced us to our art of leveraging which lifted us to another level!

Whereas we begin to make applications, presentations, and documentations of our efforts and desires. This was a point of No-return.

And today we're seeking the same repetition for community revitalization at the next level prioritizing Environmental Issues, Renewable Energy, Innovation, & Technology

As we work through diverse cultures and nationalities, we see this as a new joint venture for a sustainably future.

Hello Tomorrow

## THANK YOU EPA !!!!

# BAYVIEW CITIZENS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, INC

## Learn with Us!

- *The Bayview Experience can be used as a world class model*
- *Our story was showcased on CBS 60 Minutes, The New York Times, The Washington Post, African International Television, The British Broadcast, Canadian Broadcast, Bullfrog's "This Black Soil" and the Associated Press.*
- *Alice Coles, [Bigger Game Player Alice Coles](#)*

*"In better we grow with  
towards a sustainable future"*

A RENEWED COMMUNITY

*Please email your questions to*  
[EPA-Mid-Atlantic-Summit@epa.gov](mailto:EPA-Mid-Atlantic-Summit@epa.gov)



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