



## Meet our growing team

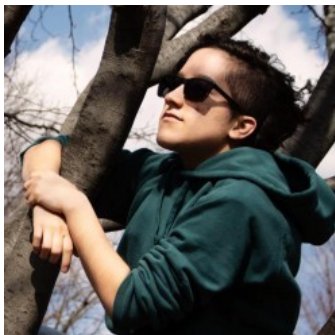
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### Our new staff members



#### Jerel Ferguson Community Outreach Manager

Jerel will be serving as our Community Outreach Manager, building a love of trees to residents throughout Boston. Jerel is no stranger to community-focused nature-based work. He has worked for Urban Farming Institute and The Food Project. He has a love of nature, trees, and the Great Outdoors. He encourages urban youth and families to participate in and experience an active life in the outdoors by hiking, biking, camping, and more. Jerel is also a Certified Herbalist, a forager, an established outdoor leader, and a farmer and gardener; he co-manages two gardens and a farm in Roxbury. In his spare (?) time, Jerel serves on the Board of Directors for the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative and Dudley Neighbors Incorporated, is a 2018 Graduate of the Food Solutions New England Leadership Institute, and is Program Director for the Urban Outdoors Association. Jerel has three children and a dog.



#### Malú Rivas-Chavez MassCEC Summer Intern

Malú spent most of their youth in Wellington, Florida where they fell in love with the abundant green spaces surrounding them through the lens of their camera. They are a senior at Tufts University majoring in Environmental Studies in the communications track. Their goal is to make information as accessible as possible to their communities, particularly to underserved groups through Spanish translation and graphic design. They began to work towards a more equitable Boston through their involvement with Building Audacity, an organization focused on youth-led change with projects in areas such as food equity and education. They are looking forward to advancing their goals further through tree equity as an intern with Speak for the Trees Boston where they'll be writing newsletters, doing social media, and running community events.

## Please welcome Danielle and Grey to our Board



### Danielle Kaplan

Danielle Kaplan is the Director of Operations & Finance at InnerCity Weightlifting (ICW), an organization reducing street violence by amplifying the voice and agency of people most impacted by systemic racism and mass incarceration. Danielle is also the founder and maker of DaniJayne, a line of upcycled cosmetic cases, sold locally in Cambridge, MA. She earned a BA in Economics and Dance from Connecticut College with Summa Cum Laude honors. She is passionate about finding creative ways to protect the environment, and is excited to bring her nonprofit management experience to Speak For the Trees, an organization doing just that.



### Grey Lee

Grey Lee has promoted and consulted for high-performance buildings since attaining his LEED credential in 2002. He has trained thousands of people on LEED, WELL, Living Future Accreditation, and other standards and programs, enabling an international network of professionals to advance ESG, improve environmental outcomes, and foster sustainable communities. He holds a MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School, a MSc. in Real Estate Economics & Finance from the London School of Economics, and a BS in Environmental Studies from the University of Vermont. He gardens, walks his dog, and plays bluegrass with his wife in Cambridge, MA.

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Welcome to the office!



We are excited to be able to continue our work from our new, in-person location at [Fields Corner Business Lab](#) in Dorchester. We're super close to our first project on Geneva Avenue and are grateful for the opportunity to be able to work together in person. In the neighborhood? Drop by and say hi.

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## Boston Urban Forest Friends meeting this Friday, June 11



Join the [Boston Urban Forest Friends](#) this Friday June 11th at 11am-12pm for our next meeting. Dr. Neenah Estrella-Luna will be joining us for a discussion about equity within Boston's Urban Forest Plan. You can [register here](#) in advance to get the zoom link. After

registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting and will be able to add it to your calendar.

Register

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## Learn about the new Municipal Reforestation Bill

We wanted to thank Senator Creem and Representative Ehrlich for introducing [An Act Establishing The Municipal Reforestation Program](#). This bill will set up a structure to provide funding for municipalities throughout the Commonwealth to create a robust urban tree canopy cover in strategic locations, especially in treeless neighborhoods. Some of the goals of the bill include strengthening climate resilience by strategically incorporating trees into green infrastructure projects and prioritizing the expansion of the urban tree canopy cover in environmental justice neighborhoods.



Sounds interesting? Join Speak for the Trees and the Gas Leaks Allies Tree Working Group on Tuesday June 22nd from 12pm-1pm to learn about this Bill (S.504/H.905). Hear from experts on what this bill does, why this bill is needed, and how it will combat urban deforestation across the Commonwealth. [Register here](#) to attend. Looking to help get the word out? Reach out for collateral material to share in your networks.

Register

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## Savor the Square: Open-Air Market Saturday, June 12th

**SAVOR THE SQUARE**

**ROXBURY OPEN-AIR EVENT!**  
**JUNE 12TH**

**BLAIR LOT** in  
Nubian Square, Roxbury MA

**12- 3pm**  
Use **#SavortheSquare** on social media!

Join us for food, inspiring performances, and more!  
Vendor Village curated by **Black Owned Bos.**  
Music curated by **BAMS Fest.**

[tamcc.org/savor-the-square](https://tamcc.org/savor-the-square)

Logos: Black Owned Bos., Boston Black Heritage Society, bpda, Roxbury Main Streets, TACC, Eastern Bank, BlueHub Capital, BerkshireBank, Northeastern University, CHYNAH TYLER STATE REPRESENTATIVE.

Remembering Christopher Stone, author of  
 “Should Trees Have Standing?: Toward Legal  
 Rights for Natural Objects”



Professor Christopher Stone, a faculty member of the University of Southern California law school since 1965, recently passed away at age 83. His most influential piece, an article titled "[Should Trees Have Standing?: Toward Legal Rights for Natural Objects](#)", was a launching point for the environmental movement as it advocated for the legal protections of forests and other natural features. He wrote, "I am quite seriously proposing that we give legal rights to forests, oceans, rivers and other so-called 'natural objects' in the environment — indeed, to the natural environment as a whole." Read more about him [here](#).

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**Love what we do?**  
*Join us in growing Boston's urban forest*



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Speak for the Trees  
1452 Dorchester Ave  
Dorchester, MA 02122

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