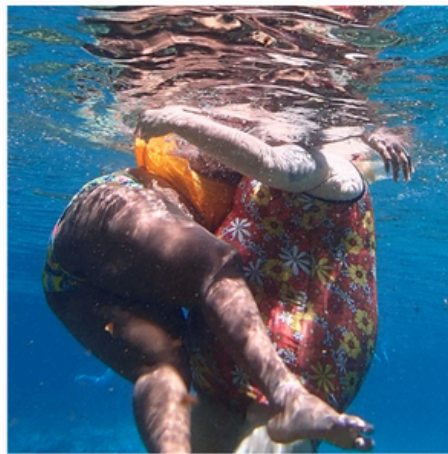


CAN'T STOP CHANGE

QUEER CLIMATE STORIES
FROM THE FLORIDA FRONTLINES

Resource Guide 2025



What's in this Guide?



This resource guide was created to accompany *Can't Stop Change: Queer Climate Stories from the Florida Frontlines*. *Can't Stop Change* is a feature-length documentary film produced by Queers for Climate Justice (Q4CJ).

- FILM OVERVIEW
- SCREENING SUGGESTIONS
- PRE-SCREENING INTRODUCTION
- POST-FILM DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
- ORGANIZER RESOURCES
- LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES
- EDUCATOR RESOURCES
- PROJECT LINKS & CONTACTS
- GRATITUDE



Film Overview



As Florida's violent legislation dominates headlines, LGBTQ2S+ communities are also on the frontlines of accelerating climate change. *Can't Stop Change: Queer Climate Stories from the Florida Frontlines* weaves interviews with 15 LGBTQ2S+ artists, organizers, and educators across Florida (and the new Florida diaspora) into an intersectional queer climate justice narrative.

Can't Stop Change shares stories of queer and trans resistance, resilience, and brilliance in the face of rising seas, stronger storms, and escalating state violence. The story maps a web of entanglements between the legislative violence to our bodies and lands, and uplifts the dreams, strategies, and joy of queer, trans, and two-spirit organizers. Amidst so much unknown, *Can't Stop Change* shares an emergent hope: moments of disaster create opportunities for immense transformation, where what once seemed impossible becomes possible. As we look towards future hurricane seasons and legislative cycles, how can we work with the changes to come to shape the futures we want?

About Us: Production Team



Vanessa Raditz
(they/them)
Co-Director/Producer/
Co-Editor



Natalia Villarán-Quñones
(ella/she/her)
Co-Director/Interviewer



Yarrow Koning
(they/them)
Co-Director/Impact
Campaign Coordinator



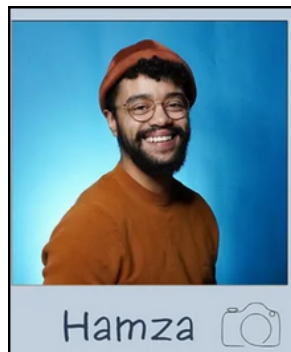
Shoog McDaniel (they/them)
Co-Director/
Cinematographer/
Illustrations



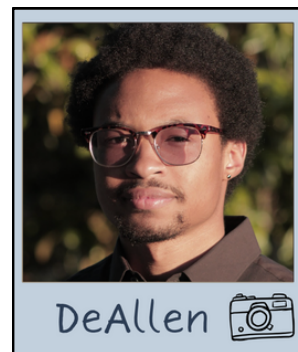
Jess Martínez (they/them)
Co-Director/Audio Technician/
Spanish Translations



V Starks (he/they)
Associate Producer/
Interviewer



Elias Hamza Acevedo (he/him)
Co-Editor



DeAllen Glenn (he/him)
Cinematographer

Full bios for production team members are available on the [Can't Stop Change website](#).

About Us: Collaborators



Barbara Perez (she/her)
PhD Student in Comparative Studies
Florida Atlantic University



Houston Cypress (he/they)
Artist and Environmentalist
Love the Everglades Movement



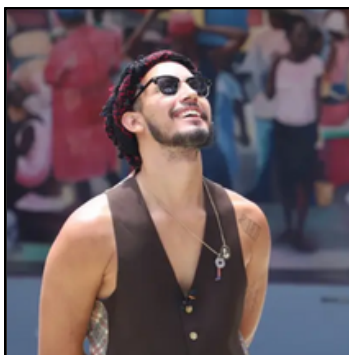
Lakey Love (they/them)
Co-Founder, Florida Coalition
for Trans Liberation



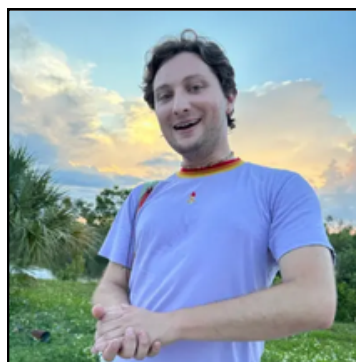
Jimmy Dunson (all pronouns)
Coordinator & Co-Founder
Mutual Aid Disaster Relief



Valencia Gunder (she/her)
Co-Director, The Smile Trust
Executive Director, The Black Collective



Libre Sankara (they/elle/comrade)
Cultural Worker and Organizer



Lee Pivnik (he/him)
Artist and Co-Director
Institute of Queer Ecology



Paige Mahogany Parks (she/her)
Founder
Transgender Awareness Project

About Us: Collaborators



Osvaldo Fonseca (he/him/él)
Community Engagement Manager
Del Ambiente



Nasim (they/he/she)
Wildlife Biologist & Artist
Aves y Poesía



V Starks (he/they)
Cultural Worker & Artist



Robin Harris (she/her/they)
Organizer, Writer, & Public Speaker
Central Florida Mutual Aid



Shoog McDaniel (they/them)
Artist, Photographer, & Storyteller
Hazy Acres



GeeXella (they/them)
DJ & Cultural Organizer
Duval Folx

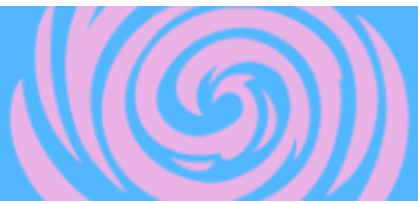


Terra (she/her)
Mutual Aid Organizer
Friend of Manny Terán (Tortuguita)



Rebecca (she/they)
Environmental Educator
Swamped in the Glades

Screening Suggestions



Can't Stop Change is best watched in community with others, as the film is intended to spark critical conversations about LGBTQ2S+ experiences and resistance. The production team created these guidelines for groups organizing screenings in their communities.

Before the Event

1. Prioritize Accessibility: Prioritize accessibility in all aspects of the event. Make sure to consider:

- Accessibility for mobility devices (e.g. wheelchairs, canes, walkers)
- Seating options for all body types (e.g. disabled bodies, fat bodies)
- Language accessibility (e.g. interpretation, multilingual flyers)
- Accessibility for Deaf/Hard of Hearing attendees (e.g. ASL interpretation, subtitles)
- Accessibility of restrooms (including gender neutral restrooms)
- COVID safety protocols (e.g. requiring masks, hand sanitizer, air circulation)
- Transportation access (e.g. public transportation access, rideshare/carpool options)

For more guidance on planning accessible events, consult the following resources:

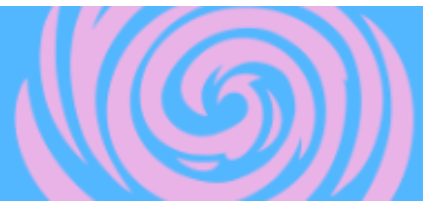
- [How to Make Your Social Justice Events Accessible Checklist](#) (Rooted in Rights)
- [Accessibility Checklist](#) (Punch Up Collective)
- [Enable Dignity: Accessible Systems, Spaces, and Events](#) (Stim Punks)
- [The Trans Dimension Guide to Inclusive Events](#) (Geeks for Social Change)
- [How to Build Language Justice](#) (Antena Aire)

2. Select a date and time: Select a date and time that work best for the audience(s) you're hoping will attend your event. If you'd like to combine the screening with a Q&A, community conversation, or other activity, **plan at least 2.5 hours for the event.**

3. Secure a Space: Finding a venue is often the most challenging part of hosting a film screening. While theaters will often provide the most comfortable viewing experience, non-traditional venue options may be more cost-effective. Some venue ideas are: libraries, community centers, colleges and universities, non-profit organizations, mutual aid centers, LGBTQ+ affirming churches, and art studios or galleries. Before booking the venue, ask the following questions:

- **What is the actual total cost?** On top of the rental fee, venues may require a refundable deposit and/or fees for cleaning, equipment use, and administration.
- **What are the venue's food and drink policies?** Some venues may prohibit food or require use of specific catering companies.
- **Does the venue have A/V equipment? Will staff be available for A/V support?**
- **How accessible is the venue?** (See Suggestion #1 for more accessibility considerations).
- **Who is responsible for setting up, tearing down, and cleaning up the space?**
- **What is the capacity of the space?**

Screening Suggestions



- 5. Decide on RSVP/Ticketing Process:** Decide what process will work best for attendees to RSVP. Do attendees need to RSVP, or can they simply show up at the event?
- 6. Promote the Event:** To get the word out, consider using different promotion methods. These may include social media posts, printed flyers in public spaces, directly inviting local organizations, word-of-mouth, listservs, text message threads, and more. When promoting, make sure to include date, time, location, RSVP link, contact info, and accessibility information.
- 7. Test Out A/V Equipment:** Before the event begins, run a full A/V test. If the venue does not manage the A/V, designate an event organizer to run the A/V and troubleshoot issues that may come up.

During the Event

- 1. Welcome & Introduction:** When welcoming attendees, include important accessibility and comfort information, such as the location of restrooms. Share an overview of the event. This resource guide includes a pre-screening introduction that can be used to introduce the film.
- 2. Intermission (optional):** *Can't Stop Change* can be shown all the way through, or an intermission can be added between Chapter 4 (Mouth of a Shark) and Chapter 5 (What Lies Beneath).

After the Event

- 1. Post-Film Activities:** Consider hosting a community engagement or mutual aid activity before or after the screening. Some ideas include:
 - Facilitating a community discussion
 - Hosting a Q&A with the production team
 - Supporting local mutual aid projects, such as making hygiene kits for the homeless, phonebanking, disaster preparedness planning, or making go bags.
 - Volunteering at a local community garden
 - Writing letters to prisoners
 - Getting out in nature together
- 2. Share Your Experience:** If you'd like to share stories or photos from your screening with the production team, you can email them to queerecoproject@gmail.com. Testimonials about the impact of the film are especially appreciated, as they can be used to help promote it to new audiences.

Pre-Screening Intro



This optional introduction from the Co-Directors team can be used to introduce the film.

Thank you for coming out to watch *Can't Stop Change: Queer Climate Stories from the Florida Frontlines*. This documentary emerged out of the conversations and relationships between frontline Floridians and the production team as they embarked on a road trip from Miami to Tallahassee. Originally envisioned in April 2023 as a mini-documentary, the project has since blossomed into a feature-length film featuring interviews with 15 queer, trans, and two-spirit collaborators on their fears, hopes, joys, and visions for a liberated world.

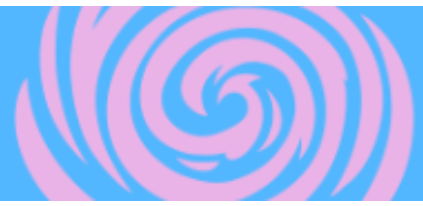
In recent years, Florida's legislative attacks on LGBTQ2S+, BIPOC, and other marginalized communities have come to dominate national news. Additionally, Florida has become a symbol of the urgency of the climate crisis, most notably through stronger hurricanes and sea level rise. *Can't Stop Change* explores the entanglements between these issues, revealing that violence against bodies and lands is interwoven. *Can't Stop Change* is a deeply place-based film, with storytelling of Florida history, culture, and ecology. Yet its messages are relevant for all of us as we navigate the multiple threats of climate crisis, late stage capitalism, white supremacy, and the resurgence of fascism.

Please note that this documentary does explore themes that may be distressing to viewers. The film includes footage of hurricane destruction along with frank discussions of disaster militarism, police brutality, colonization, and anti-trans violence. Yet the film also celebrates resistance and joy, weaving in scenes of queer and trans bodies connecting with each other and the more-than-human world. The production team hopes viewers won't leave feeling hopeless, but rather inspired by the brilliance of the collaborators who shine so brightly in this film.

These times we are living in are unstable, tumultuous, and heartbreaking. So much is changing and so much is being unveiled. This film is an offering to everyone who is actively shaping these changes through their resistance, labor, joy, and dreams. It is our hope that communities inside and outside of Florida can use this film as a tool to support organization, education, and imagination for a liberated world. We know we can't count on the state to support us; instead, we must care for each other and hold each other through the upheavals.

Thank you. Please enjoy *Can't Stop Change: Queer Climate Stories from the Florida Frontlines*.

Organizer Resources

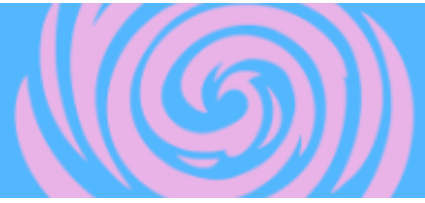


To support ongoing organizing efforts in Florida, the production team has compiled an online spreadsheet of resources related to disasters, mutual aid, climate justice, and policy. It also includes resources created by the film’s collaborators. This spreadsheet is a living document and will be updated periodically. The full spreadsheet can be accessed at bit.ly/csc-org-guide.

DISASTERS & MUTUAL AID/DESASTRES Y AYUDA MUTUA				
Title	Author(s)	Language(s)	Media Type	Description
DISASTER RELIEF AND RESPONSE				
2023 Hurricane Season Guide	Imagine Water Works	English	Guide	Checklist and tips for packing, taking care of your home, making evacuation decisions, and more
A Katrina Reader: Readings By & For Anti-Racist Educators and Organizers	The Katrina Reader Team	English	Website	Collection of resources to unpack the role of race and racism in Hurricane Katrina
A People’s Framework for Disaster Response: Rewriting the Rules of Recovery after Climate Disasters	Resilience Force and the New Florida Majority	English	Report	Framework for disaster response movements rooted in collective liberation
¿Cómo prepararse para un huracán?	Ayuda Legal PR	Español	Sitio web	Preparación para un huracán
Creating a Healthy Home: A Field Guide for Cleanup of Flooded Homes	National Center for Healthy Housing	English	Guide	Guide to cleaning up flooded homes
Florida Disaster	Florida Government	English	Website	State-run disaster resources website
Guía de Preparación Comunitaria para Huracanes	Estuario	Español	Sitio web	Guía de preparación comunitaria para huracanes
Mutual Aid Disaster Relief Resource Page	Mutual Aid Disaster Relief	English	Website	Extensive list of resources related to mutual aid and disaster response work
Mutual Aid Disaster Relief Workshop Facilitation Guide	Mutual Aid Disaster Relief	English	Facilitation Guide	Guide to facilitating a workshop on mutual aid disaster relief and launching a group in your area
Prepárate para un huracán	Eco Exploratorio	Español	Sitio web	10 consejos para la temporada de huracanes
Ready Together	Transition USA	English	Website	Website on community-based disaster resilience
Ready Together: An Emergency Preparedness Handbook for You and Your Neighbors	Transition USA	English	Handbook	Extensive guide to developing emergency preparedness networks in your community

To recommend resources for the spreadsheet, please send the resource title, author(s), and relevant links to queerecoproject@gmail.com. Spanish language resources are especially welcome.

Discussion Questions



The following questions are offered as suggestions for post-screening discussions. Organizers are encouraged to select the questions most relevant to their context. Questions are grouped by themes.

Personal Connections

1. What is your personal relationship to Florida? How are these changes (climate change, legislative change) impacting that relationship?
2. How do these stories from Florida connect to experiences in the place(s) you call home?
3. What stories from the film resonated most with you, and why?
4. Were there any moments in the film that you found especially challenging? Why?
5. How did watching the film impact your understanding of your own positions and privileges related to climate and legislative changes?

Diving Deep

6. Who or what do you think is behind the recent surge in legislative and other forms of violence? How are these forms of violence connected to systems of oppression, such as white supremacy, patriarchy, colonialism, and capitalism?
7. What's being undone by climate and legislative changes? What possibilities are opening up?

Dreams and Strategies

8. What strategies for shaping change shown in the film resonated most with you? What other strategies for shaping change are important to you?
9. What are you dreaming up for the future (of Florida, of your area)? What actions can you take (or are you already taking) to make that dream a reality?
10. What skills, resources, and connections do you have to contribute to the fights against climate crisis, repression, and legislative violence?

Legislative Resources



Legislative Overview

Throughout the film, collaborators reference repressive legislation introduced and/or passed in Florida between 2021 and 2023. Since 2023, the legislative landscape across the U.S. has gotten even more dire for LGBTQ2S+ and other marginalized communities. Transgender people, especially trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming youth, have been especially targeted.

Much of the legislation introduced to date can be grouped into the following categories:

- **Restrictions on gender affirming care** (e.g. criminalizing gender affirming care for youth; removing gender affirming care from insurance coverage)
- **Censorship of queer and trans communities** (e.g. restrictions on classroom instruction; attacking LGBTQ+ teachers and students; banning drag performances)
- **Restrictions on participation in public life** (e.g. prohibiting trans people from having the correct gender marker on state identification; bathroom bans)

Additionally, Florida has passed legislation explicitly targeting other marginalized communities, particularly Black communities, communities of color, and immigrant communities. This results in even greater harm towards those who hold intersectional identities.

Anti-trans and anti-queer legislation is not unique to Florida. Politicians across the country are enacting a campaign of violence against queer and trans communities, often modeling legislation in their states after Florida. These attacks are frequently supported by religious organizations (especially white Christian nationalist groups) and corporate entities, including fossil fuel corporations. What's happening in Florida matters for LGBTQ2S+ people and other marginalized groups everywhere.

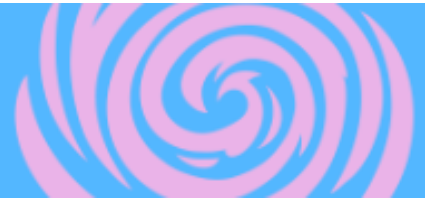
Legislative Resources

The legislative landscape for LGBTQ2S+ people is changing rapidly. The specifics of legislation discussed in the film may have changed since filming. Additionally, each state is experiencing its own legislative battles. For deeper analysis of these issues, the production team recommends:

- [Erin in the Morning](#): Trans journalist Erin Reed writes about trans issues and often analyses anti-trans legislation.
- [Trans Formations Project](#): This volunteer-run organization tracks anti-trans legislation across the country as it emerges.
- [The Anti-Trans Hate Machine](#): This podcast series from TransLash Media is a deep dive into the motivations and key players behind the surge in anti-trans legislation.
- [Queers 4 Climate Justice Instagram](#): @queers4climatejustice shares queer climate justice resources.

More resources are included in the “Policy Resources” tab of this spreadsheet: bit.ly/csc-org-guide.

Educator Resources



Can't Stop Change: Queer Climate Stories from the Florida Frontlines can be shown in its entirety or in chapters. Chapter summaries and themes are provided in this guide. Educators are encouraged to use the recommended media to build out lessons and curricula accompanying the film. The production team thanks Florida Atlantic University PhD candidate Barbara Perez for her work on this guide.

Chapter Summaries and Themes

Chapter 1 (Introduction) The Real Florida

Summary: In this chapter, viewers are invited to visit the Real Florida, a Florida that is home to and shaped by LGBTQ2S+, BIPOC, immigrant, and working class communities. Viewers are introduced to the “Three Floridas” and the different ecologies and justice struggles of the state.

Main Themes: Diversity, Intersectionality, Place, Home, Positionality, Standpoint

Recommended Media:

- [In Florida, Queer Youth Battle Bigotry and Climate Change](#) - Lani Daes
- [Hurricane Ian Media Coverage of LGBTQ+ Communities in Southwest Florida](#)
- [Some trans people turn to crowdfunding to leave Florida after anti-LGBTQ+ laws](#) - Thalia Beaty
- [Transgender adults in Florida are blindsided that a new law also limits their access to health care](#) - Thalia Beaty
- [A guide to Ron DeSantis's most extreme policies in Florida](#) - Nicole Narea and Li Zhou

Chapter 2: Florida as Home

Summary: Interviewees discuss their relationship to Florida as home, and how that relationship is being impacted by climate change and recent policy changes. Viewers learn about the Everglades, Florida's Indigenous peoples, and recent waves of immigration.

Themes: Ecology, Place and Connection to Place, Pedagogy of the Land, History of the Land, Indigeneity, Settler Colonialism, Immigration, Sea-level rise, biodiversity loss.

Recommended Media

- *Disposable City: Miami's Future on the Shores of Climate Catastrophe* - Mario Alejandro Ariza
- [“As Miami Keeps Building, Rising Seas Deepen Its Social Divide”](#) - Mario Alejandro Ariza
- Environmental Justice in South Florida Zine - Barbara Perez
- [Razing Liberty Square](#) - Climate gentrification in Miami documentary
- [What Endures](#) - Houston Cypress
- [Know the History of the Land you Inhabit](#) - University of Florida
- [Mountains](#) - Film by Monica Sorelle about Little Haiti
- [River of Grass](#) - Short film by Sasha Wortzel about the Everglades

Educator Resources Continued

Chapter 3: Unnatural Disasters

Summary: Interviewees discuss their experiences during and in the aftermath of hurricanes. They discuss how the failures of the state to provide aid led to a reliance on neighbors and mutual aid networks. They discuss the “unnaturalness” of disasters: that the disastrous aspects of hurricanes are not merely caused by the wind and rain, but by political, economic, and social factors.

Themes: Social Construction of Disasters, Environmental Justice, Mutual Aid, Community, Environmental Racism, Resilience

Recommended Media

- *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis* - edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson & Katharine K. Wilkinson
- *Building Power While the Lights are Out: Disasters, Mutual Aid, and Dual Power* - edited by Jimmy Dunson
- [Fire and Flood: Queer Resilience in the Era of Climate Change](#) film
- [Are Hurricanes to Blame for Massive Destruction in Black and Brown Neighborhoods?](#) - Robin Harris
- [Opinion: FEMA and Red Cross are Not Champions](#) - Robin Harris
- [Let Them Drown: The Violence of Othering in a Warming World](#) - Naomi Klein

Chapter 4: Mouth of a Shark

Summary: Interviewees share their complicated relationships with Florida amidst increased legislative violence, particularly attacks on trans rights, and discuss why they chose to stay or leave the state.

Themes: Xenophobia, Discrimination, Inequity, Policy

Recommended Media

- Home - Warsan Shire (poem)
- [The Anti-Trans Hate Machine: A Plot Against Equality](#) - Podcast by Translash
- [This is What Transgender Eradication Looks Like](#) - Erin Reed
- [Violence on the Land, Violence on Our Bodies: Building an Indigenous Response to Environmental Violence](#) - Women’s Earth Alliance and Native Youth Sexual Health Network
- [Anti-Trans Bills Tracker](#) - Online tool tracking anti-trans legislation state-by-state

Educator Resources Continued

Chapter 5: What Lies Beneath

Summary: Interviewees discuss the dynamics of power and oppression in Florida. Viewers learn about the draining of lands in South Florida, and the intricate interactions of patriarchy, capitalism, and coloniality that drove this short-sighted effort. The chapter ends by exploring the impact of these forces in anti-trans bills today, including ongoing funding from fossil fuels.

Themes: History, Policy, Critical Thinking, Education, Colonialism

Recommended Media

- *Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right* - Jane Mayer
- [The GOP's coordinated national campaign against trans rights](#) - Nicole Narea & Fabiola Cineas
- [ALEC Leaders Boast about Anti-Abortion, Anti-Trans Bills](#) - Alex Kotch
- [Leading Free Market Policy Network Enabling Anti-LGBTQ Hate](#) - Alex Kotch
- *Call Your "Mutha": A Deliberately Dirty-Minded Manifesto for the Earth Mother in the Anthropocene* - Dr. Jane Caputi
- [Feed the Green: Feminist Voices for the Earth](#) - Film by Dr. Jane Caputi
- [When Earth Becomes An "It"](#) - Marilou Awiakta (poem)
- [Dismantling Racism Workbook](#) - Colorado Department of Education
- [Environmentalism's Racist History](#) - Jedediah Purdy
- *Exile and Pride: Disability, Queerness, and Liberation* - Eli Claire
- *History of the World in Seven Cheap Things* - Raj Patel

Chapter 6: Awake

Summary: This chapter examines the links between disaster militarism and the police state, connecting struggles in Florida to other places, including experiences in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Atlanta's Stop Cop City movement. Interviewees discuss Black radical history in Florida and why the concept of "woke" is being weaponized by politicians.

Themes: Power of Language, Knowledge, Resistance, Disaster Militarism

Recommended Media

- *Integrating Mindfulness into Anti-Oppression Pedagogy*- Beth Berila
- *Teaching to Transgress* - bell hooks
- *Teaching Critical Thinking* - bell hooks
- *What is Critical Environmental Justice?* - David Naguib Pellow
- [The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House](#) - Audre Lorde
- [Principles of Environmental Justice](#)
- *The Saliency of Species Difference for Feminist Theory* - Maneesha Deckha

Educator Resources Continued

Chapter 7: Dream Up

Summary: This chapter celebrates the power of queer and trans joy to carry communities through times of crisis. Interviewees discuss queer ecologies and the radical potential of queer gatherings, whether in the streets, in the swamps, or on the dance floor.

Themes: Mitigation, Adaptation, Resilience, Mutualism and Mutability, Queer Ecologies, Speculation, Imagining, Dreaming, Futures

Recommended Media

- *Queer Ecologies: Sex, Nature, Politics, and Desire* - Bruce Erickson & C. Mortimer-Sandilands
- *Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity* - José Esteban Muñoz
- [Metamorphosis](#) (Institute of Queer Ecology) Film Series
- *Dwellings* - Linda Hogan
- *Parable of the Sower* - Octavia Butler
- [A Message from the Future with AOC](#)

Chapter 8 (Closing): Shaping Change

Summary: The documentary closes with visions of hope for the future. The interviewees discuss the inevitability, need, and naturalness of change and the power communities have to shape the future.

Themes: Resistance, Activism, Change, Transformation, Radical Possibility

Recommended Media

- The Kids Are Alright (Part II) with Libre X. Sankara - Podcast Episode
- [What is Mutual Aid?](#) (short video introduction for classrooms) - Dean Spade
- [Just Transition Framework for Change](#) - Climate Justice Alliance
- *A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities that Arise in Disaster* - Rebecca Solnit
- [“Reclaiming Abuelita Knowledge As a Brown Ecofeminista”](#) - La Loba Loca
- *Earth Democracy: Justice, Sustainability and Peace* - Vandana Shiva

Gratitude



May this work be in service of healing & transformation.

The *Can't Stop Change* production team is deeply grateful to all of the people and places who made this film possible. We are honored that our film collaborators entrusted us with their powerful and important stories. We hope this film will nourish the continued growth of mycelial networks that can support us as we move through these tumultuous times. Thank you, each and every one of you, for your commitment to collective flourishing and liberation.

Important Project Links

- Film Website: www.queerecoproject.org/cant-stop-change
- Queers for Climate Justice Instagram: [@queers4climatejustice](https://www.instagram.com/queers4climatejustice)
- Digital Press Kit & Promotional Images: <https://bit.ly/csc-press-kit>
- Donations: <https://bit.ly/donate2csc>
- Other Links: <https://linktr.ee/cantstopchange>

Contact Information

Screenings Information

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General Information & Media Requests

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