

SUPERIOR ARTS INSTITUTE & THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND
PRESENTS

The background of the poster is a dark, textured surface, possibly a body of water or a wet ground, reflecting the sky and trees. On the left, a wooden post is partially visible, with a torn, white mask and a small orange flower attached to it. The title "TOWN HALL" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters, with "TOWN" on the top line and "HALL" on the bottom line. To the right of "HALL", the words "RESOLUTION 50" are written vertically in the same font.

TOWN HALL

RESOLUTION 50

A STAGE PLAY BY SAMIR NICHOLS BASED ON ENVIROMENTAL RACISM



ARTISTIC STATEMENT



SAMIR NICHOLS
Executive Director
Superior Arts Institute

IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE I SAT IN MY BASEMENT WITH THE AMBITIOUS IDEA OF BUILDING A ROBUST ARTISTIC AND INFLUENTIAL PRESENCE CITY-WIDE [CAMDEN] THAT CATERED AND WAS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INDIVIDUALS THAT COMPRISE OUR GREAT CITY. FOR YOUNG CAMDEN ARTISTS, LIKE MYSELF, WHO BELIEVED THAT ART COULD CHANGE THE WORLD; THIS HOME WOULD NURTURE THE ARTIST WHO RECOGNIZES THAT THEIR GIFT OF PERFORMING ALSO BEARS A SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. SINCE 2013, OUR PROGRAM "ADVOCACY THROUGH ACTING", HAS PRODUCED OVER 100 PUBLIC PERFORMANCES IN CAMDEN WITH THE SUPPORT OF CAMDEN SCHOOLS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OUR RESILIENT COMMUNITY OF ARTISTS AND FRIENDS. THROUGH THEIR ART, WE HAVE

BEEN ABLE TO SHARE MANY DIFFERENT STORIES AND PROMOTE SOCIETAL CHANGE IN WAYS THAT MOVE OUR AUDIENCES TO ACTION, SPARK DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS, AND PROMOTE SELF-HEALING. I AM PROFOUNDLY AND CONTINUOUSLY IMPRESSED WITH WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN WE DELIBERATELY CHOOSE EQUALITY. AND BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT EQUALITY IS A CHOICE, AWARENESS IS URGENT. ART--DELIBERATE AND COMMANDING, HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE THE MASSES. ON BEHALF OF SUPERIOR ARTS INSTITUTE, I SUBMIT TOWN HALL: RESOLUTION 50, WITH HOPE THAT THE HARD WORK, RESEARCH, AND DEDICATION OF OUR HUMBLE PRODUCTION TEAM, EMPOWERS YOU TO TAKE PRIDE IN BEING AN ACTIVE VOICE IN YOUR COMMUNITY. AND WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT CHANGE BEGINS WITH ONESELF, WE HOPE TO ENCOURAGE THE FORCES THAT DRIVE CRITICAL CHANGE TO LOOK INWARD AND ACROSS AT EACH OTHER, DEMAND THE TRUTH AND CHOOSE EQUALITY.



"I want to thank Samir Nichols for being a great partner within our city and bringing awareness to some of our injustices and environmental issues."

Mayor
VICTOR CARSTARPHEN

EXECUTIVE STATEMENT



OWEN FRANKLIN
PENNSYLVANIA STATE DIRECTOR,
THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND HAS HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO BE WELCOMED INTO CAMDEN AS A PARTNER IN CREATING PARKS AND TRANSFORMING SCHOOLYARDS THAT RESPOND TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES WHILE HONORING THE VIBRANCY, RESILIENCE AND HOPE OF THE COMMUNITY. WE HAVE MAPPED, STUDIED AND CREATED PLANS TO ADDRESS CAMDEN'S COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS. NOW, THROUGH THEATRE AND FILM, CAMDEN RESIDENTS HAVE A STAGE TO SHOW THE WORLD WHAT IT IS LIKE TO DEAL WITH EXTREME HEAT, AIR POLLUTION, AND FLOODING ALL IN THEIR BACKYARD.

WE KNOW THAT THROUGH INVESTING IN LOCAL LEADERSHIP, STORYTELLING AND HONEST DIALOGUE, THE COMMUNITY CAN ACHIEVE GREATER SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND SPATIAL SOVEREIGNTY TO DRIVE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE. WE ALSO KNOW THAT THE ARTS PROVIDE A CREATIVE FREEDOM TO COMMUNICATE COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT TOPICS LIKE ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM IN A WAY THAT INVITES VIEWERS TO BE A PART OF THE STORY ITS TELLING.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT DREW US TO SUPERIOR ARTS INSTITUTE. AS RESIDENTS AND LEADERS OF CAMDEN, THEY ARE VESSELS FOR THE CITY'S EXPERIENCES OF ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICES AND RESILIENCY. IN THE PRACTICE OF STORY GATHERING AND TELLING, WE HAVE SEEN CAMDEN RESIDENTS, LEADERS, AND ARTISTS CONTINUE TO SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER AND HELP GALVANIZE IPL'S PROGRAMMATIC GOAL OF LEVERAGING PUBLIC SPACE AND ART TO CATALYZE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE. WE ARE INCREDIBLY PROUD OF THE WORK SUPERIOR ARTS AND IPL HAVE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER AND EVEN MORE EXCITED TO ENFOLD THE CAMDEN COMMUNITY IN BUILDING A MORE JUST, GREEN, AND HEALTHY CITY.

MEET THE CAST



AZZARI MYERS - APRIL

AZZARI MYERS IS A 11TH GRADE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AT MASTERY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL. AZZARI IS 16 YEARS OLD AND HER GOALS IN LIFE ARE TO GROW UP AND BE A PUBLIC SPEAKER FOR INEQUALITY IN THE WORLD OR TO BE A NURSE AT HOME VET. SHE'S RECENTLY BEEN INTO SPORTS SUCH AS BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL AND TRACK AND FIELD. AZZARI SPENDS MOST OF HER TIME PRACTICING BASKETBALL AND PUTTING HER MIND INTO SCHOOLWORK AND THINGS SHE LOVES.



VIRGE (JAMALL) PHILLIPS

JAMALL PHILLIPS IS A 14 YEAR OLD TEENAGER WHO IS ENROLLED AT CREATIVE ARTS HIGH SCHOOL AS A 9TH GRADE FRESHMEN. HE ENJOYS HIMSELF AFTERSCHOOL WITH HOBBIES SUCH AS GAMING AND PRACTICING MUSIC. GUITAR ALONG WITH VIOLA IS SOME OF THE MUSIC HE PRACTICES AND RECENTLY IS STARTING TO GET INTO TRACK. DREAMING BIG HE HOPES TO BE A FAMOUS MUSICIAN ONE DAY.

MEET THE CAST



CARMI JACKSON - CJ

Carmi Jackson is an 11th grade high school student from Camden, New Jersey. He works with Youth 4 Justice to get restorative justice for youth in New Jersey. He is working with Youth 4 Justice on the fines and fees project. He is a 15 year old 11th grader, due to skipping 10th grade. He was the valedictorian of his 8th grade class. He looks to be a successful person later in his life, and wants to be involved in social, racial, and youth justice programs.



EVA VANTERPOOL - NEFFERETTI

Eva is a 15 year old junior at Moorestown Friends School in Moorestown, NJ. She has participated in many sports teams, clubs, and other extracurricular activities. In her free time she likes to cook, bake, read, and spend time with loved ones. Her passion for activism is what led her to join the #150YEARSISENOUGH campaign with NJ Youth for Justice Camden Youth Council. She continuously advocates for prison abolition and reinvesting prison funds into underprivileged communities. The work we do has opened my eyes to so many flaws within our prison and justice systems that she wishes to fix in the future.

STORMWATER MAN

Great landscape architects think about how to prevent flooding and puddling. they try to

Can you spot how some features in the built environment mimic those in the natural cycle?

Label the parts of the natural water cycle shown above using the words below:

evaporation
transpiration

precipitation
infiltration

condensation
stormwater runoff

Can you find the various ways to conserve or capture stormwater?
Place the letter from the image next to the corresponding word below:

NATURAL CYCLE

- ___ Forest
- ___ Wetlands
- ___ Lake
- ___ Ocean
- ___ River
- ___ Meadow

URBAN CYCLE

- ___ Urban Trees
- ___ Pervious Pavement
- ___ Rain Barrel
- ___ Sewage Treatment Plant
- ___ Storm Drains
- ___ Rain Garden / Bioswale
- ___ Green Roof

What urban systems mimic natural systems? Draw a line from the list on the left to similar systems on the right.

MANAGEMENT ADVENTURE

How rain and snow will impact an outdoor space.
to mimic the natural water cycle in their design.

How can the design
environment resemble
natural environment?

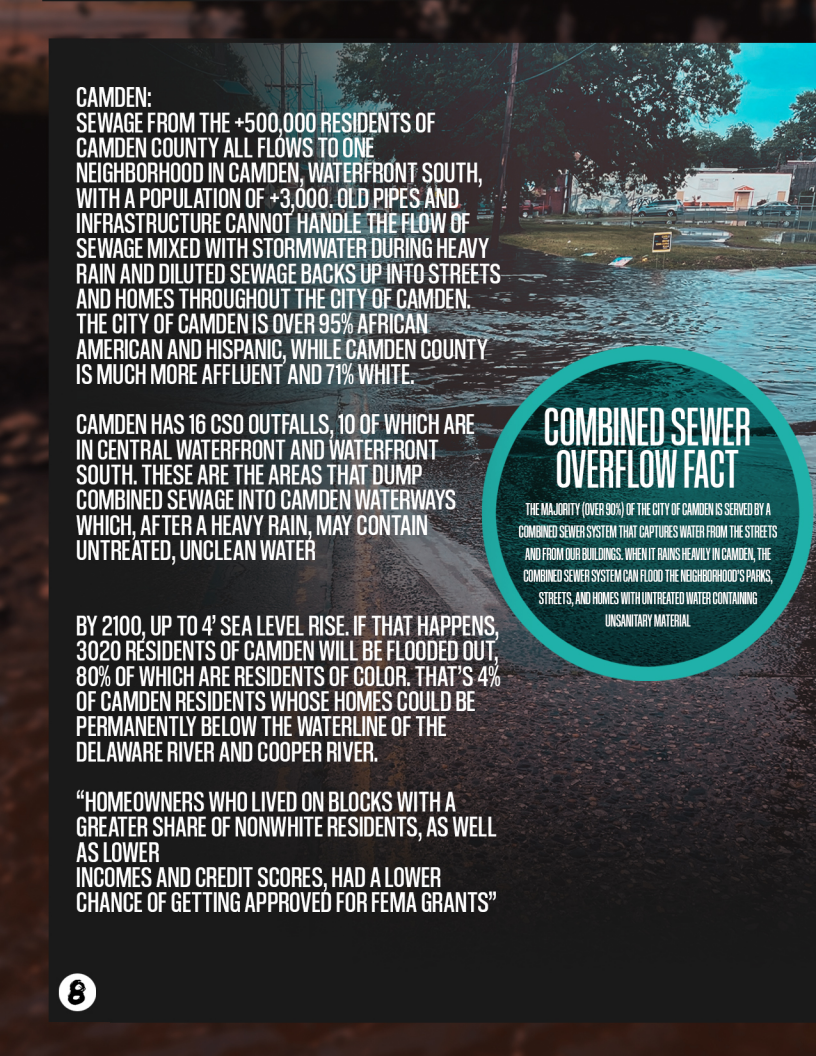
outfall pipe

dam

combined sewer

treated wastewater

How do we want to capture or absorb
as much rain water as possible before
it reaches the sewage treatment plant?



CAMDEN:
SEWAGE FROM THE +500,000 RESIDENTS OF CAMDEN COUNTY ALL FLOWS TO ONE NEIGHBORHOOD IN CAMDEN, WATERFRONT SOUTH, WITH A POPULATION OF +3,000. OLD PIPES AND INFRASTRUCTURE CANNOT HANDLE THE FLOW OF SEWAGE MIXED WITH STORMWATER DURING HEAVY RAIN AND DILUTED SEWAGE BACKS UP INTO STREETS AND HOMES THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF CAMDEN. THE CITY OF CAMDEN IS OVER 95% AFRICAN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC, WHILE CAMDEN COUNTY IS MUCH MORE AFFLUENT AND 71% WHITE.

CAMDEN HAS 16 CSO OUTFALLS, 10 OF WHICH ARE IN CENTRAL WATERFRONT AND WATERFRONT SOUTH. THESE ARE THE AREAS THAT DUMP COMBINED SEWAGE INTO CAMDEN WATERWAYS WHICH, AFTER A HEAVY RAIN, MAY CONTAIN UNTREATED, UNCLEAR WATER

BY 2100, UP TO 4' SEA LEVEL RISE. IF THAT HAPPENS, 3020 RESIDENTS OF CAMDEN WILL BE FLOODED OUT, 80% OF WHICH ARE RESIDENTS OF COLOR. THAT'S 4% OF CAMDEN RESIDENTS WHOSE HOMES COULD BE PERMANENTLY BELOW THE WATERLINE OF THE DELAWARE RIVER AND COOPER RIVER.

“HOMEOWNERS WHO LIVED ON BLOCKS WITH A GREATER SHARE OF NONWHITE RESIDENTS, AS WELL AS LOWER INCOMES AND CREDIT SCORES, HAD A LOWER CHANCE OF GETTING APPROVED FOR FEMA GRANTS”

COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW FACT

THE MAJORITY (OVER 90%) OF THE CITY OF CAMDEN IS SERVED BY A COMBINED SEWER SYSTEM THAT CAPTURES WATER FROM THE STREETS AND FROM OUR BUILDINGS. WHEN IT RAINS HEAVILY IN CAMDEN, THE COMBINED SEWER SYSTEM CAN FLOOD THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S PARKS, STREETS, AND HOMES WITH UNTREATED WATER CONTAINING UNSANITARY MATERIAL

CAMDEN

NORTH CAMDEN AND CENTRAL WATERFRONT ARE IN THE NEW JERSEY STATE 90-95 PERCENTILE FOR CANCER RISK. CRAMER HILL AND WATERFRONT SOUTH ARE IN THE NEW JERSEY STATE 80-90 STATE PERCENTILE FOR CANCER RISK

NATIONAL

ASTHMA IS LINKED WITH EXPOSURE TO PARTICULATE MATTER (PM) POLLUTION. "AMONG CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA, BLACK CHILDREN ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE HOSPITALIZED, MORE THAN TWICE AS LIKELY TO HAVE AN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISIT, AND FOUR TIMES MORE LIKELY TO DIE DUE TO ASTHMA THAN WHITE CHILDREN"

FROM THE AP:

FINE PARTICLE POLLUTION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVER 100,000 DEATHS NATIONALLY IN THE US.

"SCIENTISTS CALCULATE THAT HISPANICS ON AVERAGE BREATHE IN 63 PERCENT MORE OF THE POLLUTION THAT LEADS TO HEART AND BREATHING DEATHS THAN THEY MAKE. FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS THE FIGURE IS 56 PERCENT, ACCORDING TO A STUDY PUBLISHED MONDAY IN THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES."

NON-HISPANIC WHITES ARE EXPOSED TO 17% LESS POLLUTION THAN THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR.

AFRICAN AMERICANS ARE 79% MORE LIKELY THAN WHITES TO LIVE NEXT TO INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION SOURCE

AIR QUALITY FACT

THE WATERFRONT SOUTH NEIGHBORHOOD IS IN THE NATION'S HIGHEST PERCENTILE (95-100%) OF EXPOSURE TO AIR TOXICS, WHICH IS LINKED WITH HIGHER RISK OF CANCER AND OTHER SERIOUS HEALTH EFFECTS.

ARE YOU OUTRAGED?

URBAN HEAT FACT

HISTORICALLY CAMDEN HAD ABOUT 6 DAYS A YEAR WHERE IT FELT LIKE 100 DEGREES; IN THE NEXT 15-30 YEARS, THAT NUMBER WILL RISE TO 35 DAYS A YEAR. AND BY 2070, THAT NUMBER RISES TO 61 DAYS A YEAR.

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FLOODING FACT

AT CURRENT CARBON EMISSION RATES, CAMDEN COULD FACE UP TO 4 FEET OF SEA LEVEL RISE BY 2100. IF THAT HAPPENS, 3,020 RESIDENTS OF CAMDEN (4% OF THE POPULATION) WILL HAVE HOMES PERMANENTLY BELOW THE WATERLINE OF THE DELAWARE RIVER AND COOPER RIVER.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT NOW

IF YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE MOVEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN CAMDEN AND MORE, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:



CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF MOLINA ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY SCHOOLYARD WITH THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND ON NOVEMBER 10!



VIRTUALLY ATTEND THE CAMDEN ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT HOSTED BY THE COOPER'S FERRY PARTNERSHIP



PLANT A FREE TREE FROM NEW JERSEY TREE FOUNDATION TO PROVIDE SHADE TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND CAPTURE CARBON



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE IN YOUR LOCAL ELECTIONS ON NOVEMBER 2!

LIST OF NONPROFITS

NEW JERSEY TREE FOUNDATION
NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
CENTER FOR AQUATIC SCIENCES
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSFORMATION
ROOTS TO PREVENTION
CAMDEN URBAN AGRICULTURE COLLABORATIVE

FOR MORE SCAN



Camden County Commissioner
JEFF NASH, ESQ

"Communities of color have been historically disadvantaged by racist and unjust environmental policies, having direct implications for the health, safety, and wellbeing of residents in places like Camden. The Commissioner Board has been fighting to restore Camden's green spaces, reduce pollution, and ensure that residents of the city have a safe place to live, work, and play."

MEET THE PARTNERS

CREATIVE TEAM



SPONSORS



FUNDERS

