I am honored to be selected by ECC’s esteemed Board of Directors as the next President and CEO of such an impactful organization. Working with our distinguished team, Emerald Cities Collaborative is poised to expand its network, tools, and institutional framework to ensure that all communities have equitable access to clean environments that are resilient to climate impacts and the economic infrastructure to sustain families and businesses.

Emerald Cities Collaborative is pleased to announce that, after an extensive national search, we have selected Meishka L. Mitchell, AICP, PP, as our new President and CEO. Meishka brings the experience and qualities needed to shepherd Emerald Cities into its next phase of organizational growth.

Emerald Cities has realized a tremendous track record and considerable growth over the last years advancing high road economies that work at the intersection of environment, economic and equity. Our inaugural president, Denise Fairchild, Ph.D., is passing the torch to Meishka to pursue her new venture as a 2021 Climate Breakthrough Awardee, and states: “As I look back over the last dozen years, I am proud of what we have accomplished. More importantly, I am very confident in the leadership of our new President/CEO to take ECC into the "Next Generation" of work advancing justice-centered climate solutions.”

Meishka has over 18 years of visionary leadership in climate justice and equitable and inclusive neighborhood development. Before joining Emerald Cities Collaborative, Meishka served as Vice President of Camden Community Partnership, a nonprofit community and economic development organization in her hometown of Camden, New Jersey. At Camden Community Partnership, Meishka cultivated a resident-driven approach to neighborhood planning and development of parks and open spaces, infrastructure, historic preservation, and placemaking.

An “accidental environmentalist”, Meishka has spent her career tackling environmental injustice in frontline communities. She has led efforts to address water equity, illegal dumping, air quality, brownfields redevelopment, and green energy with a focus on community education and engagement. She is committed to the expansion of the term “environment” to be inclusive of urban environments and BIPOC communities. Meishka has established several national award-winning sustainability collaborations that have become replicable models for collective impact in underserved communities. She is also a known advocate and sought out speaker for climate justice.

Under Meishka’s leadership, Emerald Cities will continue to build and support multi-stakeholder coalitions to advance climate, economic and racial justice, while enhancing the spirited work of our team and frontline communities to implement equity-based climate solutions to transform our built and natural environments.

Please join us in welcoming and congratulating Meishka!

Emerald Cities Team