

organize instrumental changes across campus such as creating mutual aid programs and academic accommodation policies. Nathan has conducted community-based research on alternatives to community safety and divesting from police dependence, caste issues experienced and resisted by Dalits in South Asia, and exploring the role of LA Chinatown in the historic and contemporary spaces of history-making. In addition to his involvements at Oxy, Nathan has worked with organizations advocating for environmental justice, education, and labor issues around LA. He is also involved with Chinatown Community for Equitable Development combating gentrification and displacement in Chinatown. After graduation, Nathan will be enrolling in UCLA's Master's in Social Welfare program. Nathan would like to especially thank Professor Martha Matsuoka, Reverend Susan Young, and his friends and family who have continuously inspired and sparked his passion and commitment to address issues in our communities.

2023
Community
Action Award
Recipients



Urban & Environmental Policy Institute
OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE

About the Awardees

DILIAN ASKEW (CSLC Major, UEP minor) was born in Los Angeles and raised in Tacoma, WA. She returned to L.A. to attend school at Occidental College, where she is currently the Director of FEAST, Occidental's student-run organic garden, and is a Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture major and Urban and Environmental Policy minor. After graduation, she will continue working for Koreatown Storytelling Program, an intergenerational, multilingual, and multiethnic oral history project that teaches ethnographic and storytelling techniques to high school students and elders to investigate and document cultural practices and racial, economic, and health inequities in the Koreatown community. She has always been drawn to the art of storytelling and the important role it plays for individuals and cultures and hopes to create spaces where listening to and telling stories is accessible for all. In her free time, Dilan loves to run, listen to podcasts, and have regular FaceTime calls with her family. She would like to extend thanks and appreciation to Professor and UEPI Program Director Rosa Romero, Sarah Carbonel, Katherine Kim, and her friends and family for their support and mentorship.

ISA MEREL (UEP Major, Spanish Studies Minor) is a small town Oregonian passionate about food, sustainability, and environmental justice. Her work with Campus Dining as the lead intern for sustainability research and implementation has allowed her to explore and deepen her passion for these subjects. During her time as the lead intern, she helped to coordinate a variety of food justice and waste diversion oriented events to increase student engagement around these issues. To further student involvement, she started the Sustainable Oxy Citizens Club with a mission of educating students on sustainability practices and environmental appreciation. SOCC has brought over 70 students to the Hollywood Farmers Market, taught students to use public transportation, participated in a variety of

volunteer events, and hosted a climate justice concert and panel. Isa is devoted to a lifetime of this work and is honored to be recognized for her efforts. She'd like to extend her gratitude to the mentors, friends, and colleagues that have supported and encouraged her over the years.

At Occidental College, ISABELLE RUSSELL (Spanish Studies and UEP, Double Major) has engaged the Oxy community around localized food systems and interned with local non-profits to expand climate resilience in LA. As Campus Dining's FSWG and Sustainability Liaison, Isabelle organized off-campus events to engage students with urban farms and localized food systems; published monthly Food and Sustainability Newsletters to highlight workers and local businesses in Oxy's food chain; and redesigned and rewrote the Food at Oxy Guide to preserve institutional knowledge around the Real Food Challenge and student-led sustainability initiatives. Last year, Isabelle interned with Council for Watershed Health (CWH) where she learned about and engaged with the importance of community-centered green infrastructure projects. These experiences have profoundly informed Isabelle's understanding of the importance of leveraging community power to advance both food and environmental justice in the LA Region. After graduation, Isabelle will continue to work full-time for CWH as ReDesignLA's Project Coordinator. She would like to thank Professors Sharon Cech, Rosa Romero, Bhavna Shamasunder, Viviana MacManus, and the entire Spanish Department for their endless support and encouragement.

Nathan Tam (UEP Major) is a San Francisco native and has taken numerous roles on and off campus conducting research, organizing, and collaborating with others. He is committed to building community solidarity, supporting organizing efforts, and utilizing storytelling as forms of resistance and collective healing. Nathan has been a member of the Diversity and Equity Board helping