# Asheville's Climate Justice Initiative

## City Council Update

September 28, 2021

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Sustainability Officer
Office of Sustainability

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# Key Takeaways ...

**PHASE I**

Defining Climate Justice + Equity w/ BIPOC community leaders is close to completion

**PHASE II**

Presently compiling feedback + data to create a draft screening tool for the City to use

Staff will return to Council in January 2022 to present the Climate Justice Screening Tool + Final Report

# Asheville Climate Emergency

In January 2020 Asheville City Council declared a Climate Emergency. Resolution 20-25 states that a Climate Justice Plan be created to consolidate the various separate sustainability goals and department initiatives.

**Asheville's Climate Threats and Hazards**

1. **Flooding**
2. **Landslides**
3. **Wildfire**
4. Water Shortage
5. Nuisance Flooding, Runoff & Erosion
6. **Extreme Heat**
7. Multiple Supply Chains Threats

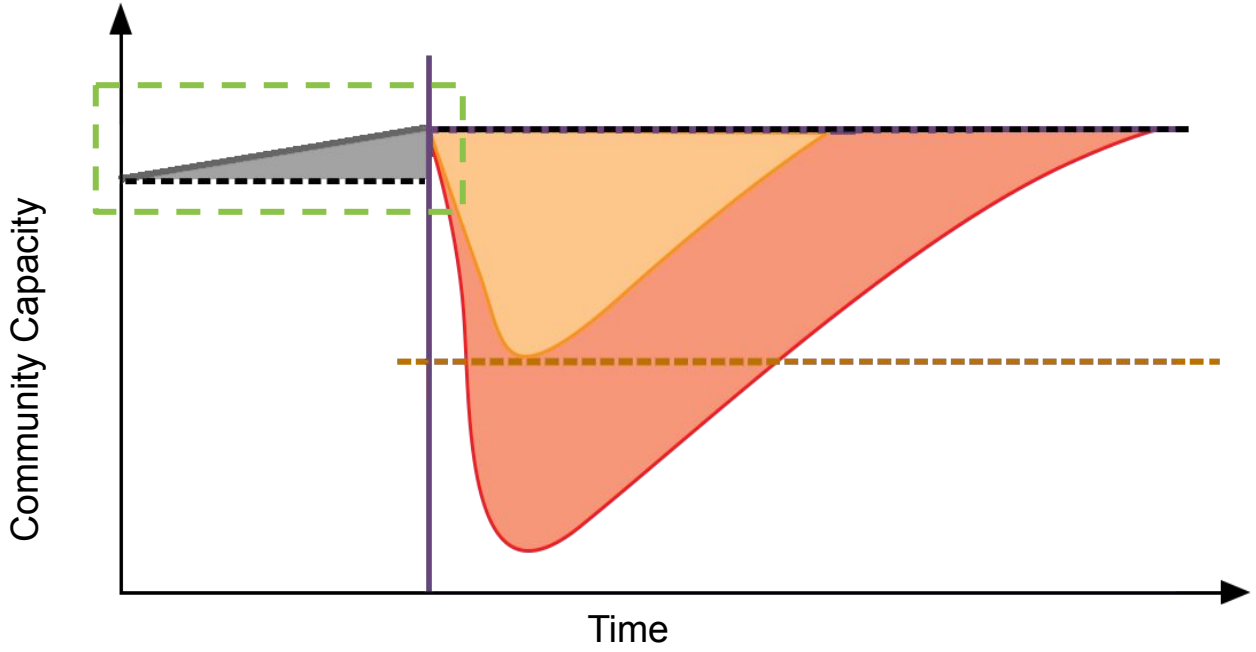


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# Planning for Climate Resilience

U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit
toolkit.climate.gov

1. Explore Threats
2. Assess Vulnerability & Risks
3. Investigate Options
4. Prioritize & Plan
5. Take Action




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# Urban Sustainability Directors Network

| City | Document | Lessons Learned |
|---|---|---|
| San Antonio, TX | San Antonio Climate Ready | Equity Advisory Committee was predominantly local businesses and community members |
| Raleigh, NC | Community Climate Action Plan | Climate Justice was defined by members of the Environmental Advisory Board |
| City of Richmond, VA | RVA Green 2050 | Frontline Community Leaders |

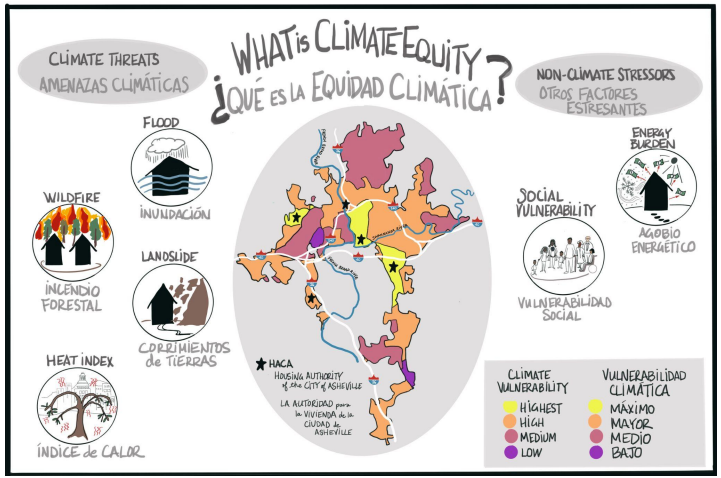
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# Defining Climate Equity



I. Listening + Learning Sessions
II. Story Circles
III. Youth Artists Empowered: The Faces of Change

Marisol Jimenez, CEO,
Tepeyac
Consulting




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# Listening + Learning Sessions

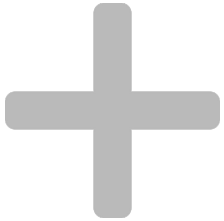
| | |
|---|---|
| **RECOMMENDATION** | Center the Most Impacted in Emergency Planning |
| **RECOMMENDATION** | Position BIPOC + Frontline Voices in Decision Making Roles |
| **RECOMMENDATION** | Dismantle and Transform Systems |
| **RECOMMENDATION** | Engage in Restorative Justice |
| **RECOMMENDATION** | Raise Awareness and Educate |

# Story Circles

## Climate Justice Methodology

**Asheville's Climate Threats and Hazards**

1. **Flooding**
2. **Landslides**
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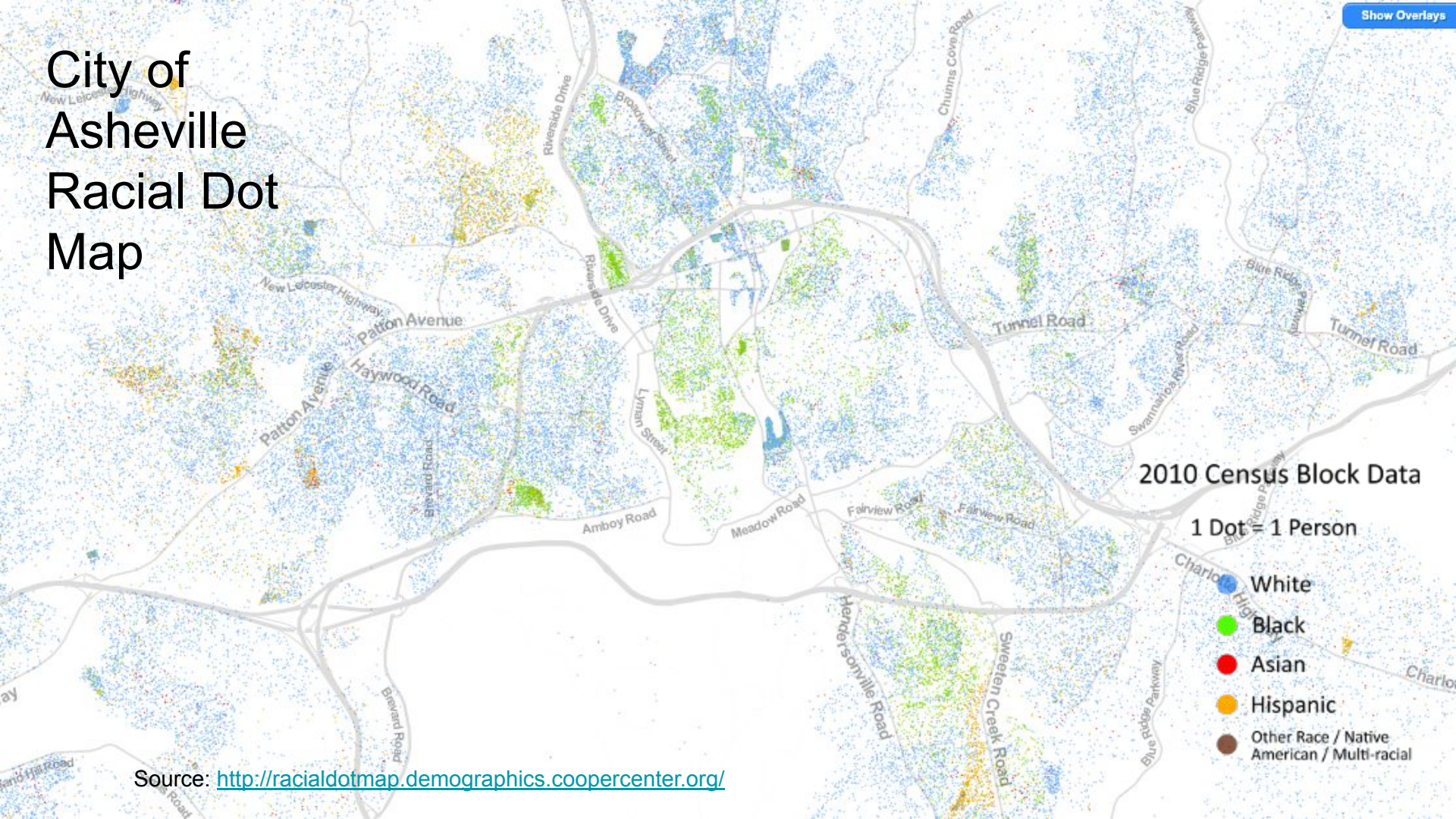


**Equity**

1. CDC Social Vulnerability Index
2. HOLC Redlining
3. Racial Demographic Data [Buncombe County Block Groups]
4. RMI Energy Burden

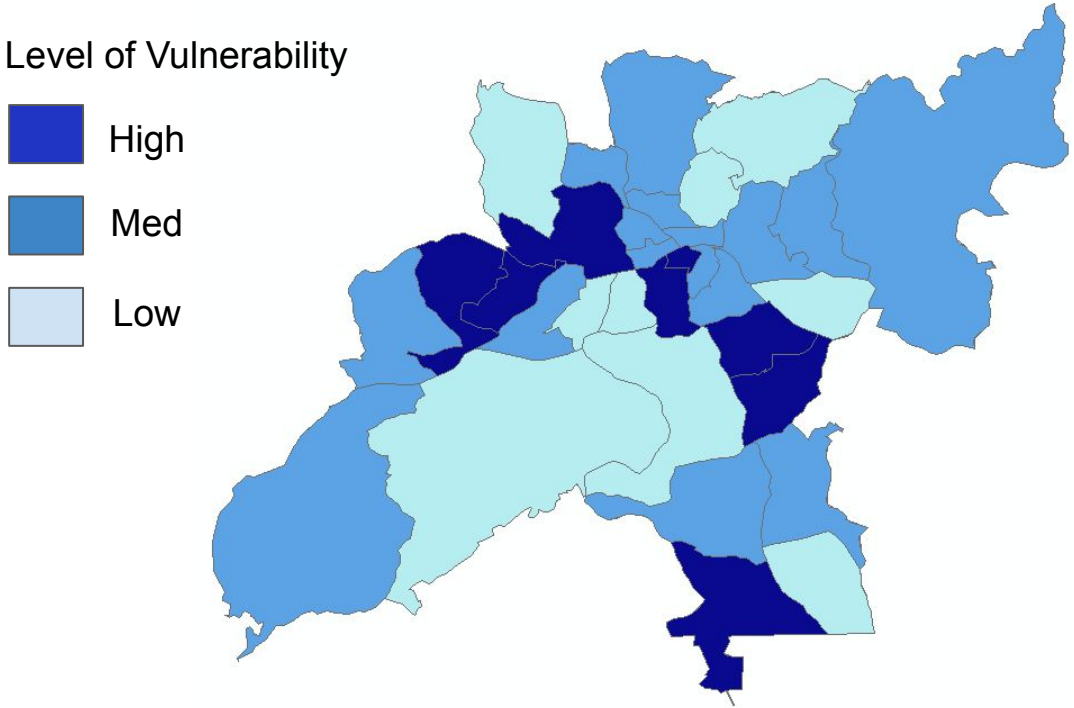
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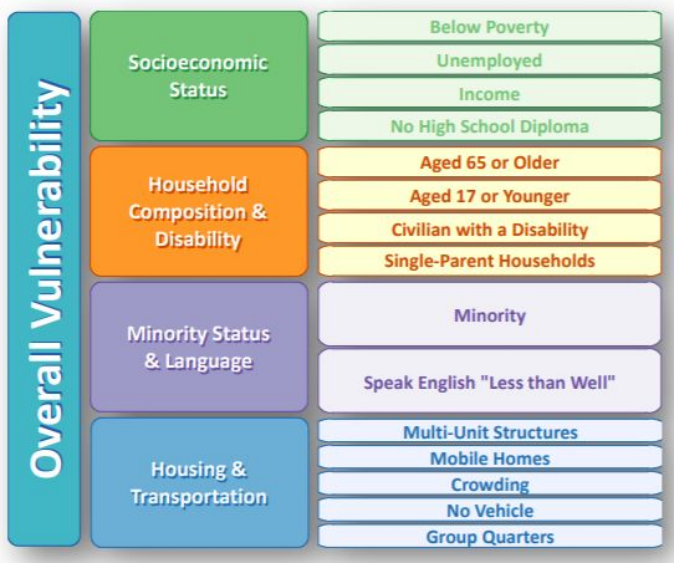
# City of Asheville Racial Dot Map




Source: http://racialdotmap.demographics.coopercenter.org/

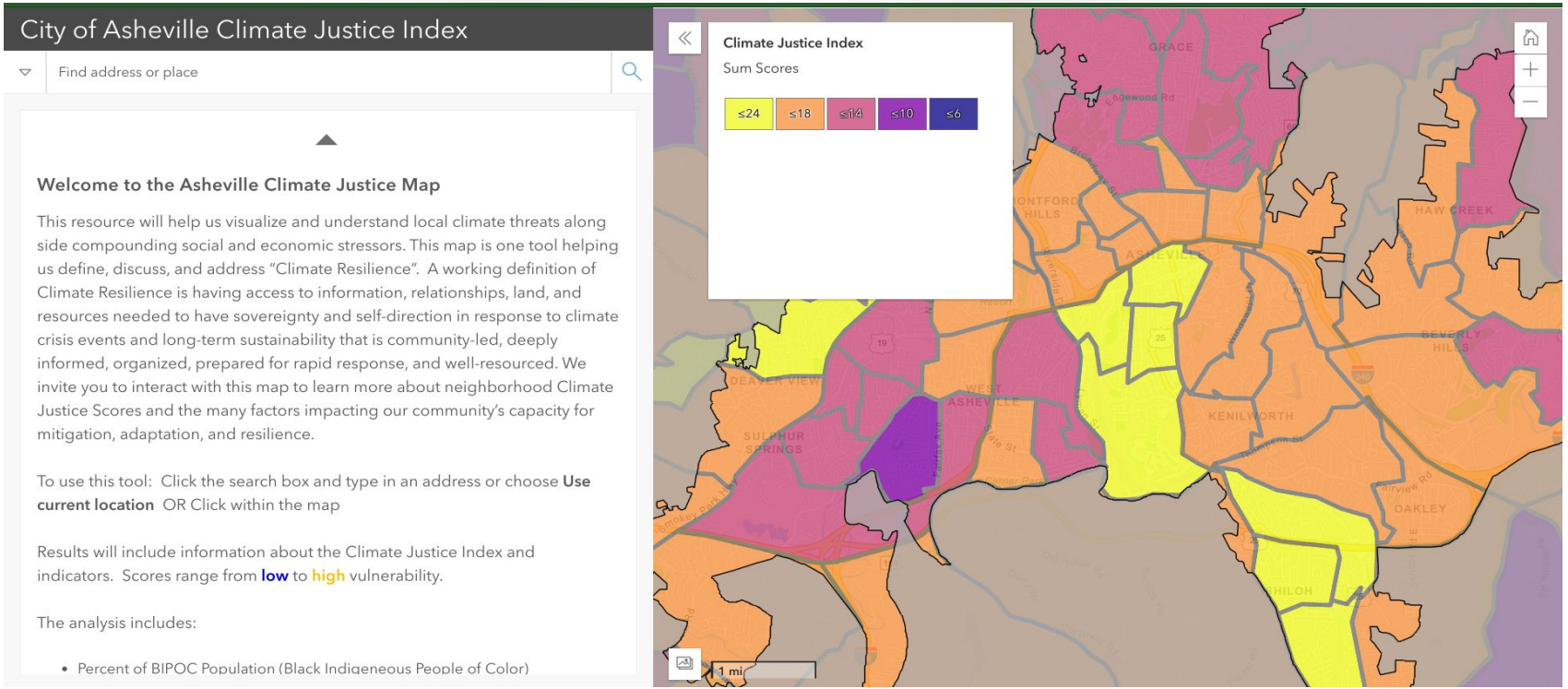
# Overall Social Vulnerability Index




https://svi.cdc.gov/Documents/Data/2016_SVI_Data/SVI2016Documentation.pdf

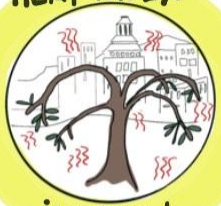
# Climate Justice Data Map



# SHILOH

## CLIMATE THREATS
## AMENAZAS CLIMÁTICAS

HEAT INDEX



INDICE de CALOR

LANDSLIDE



CORRIMIENTOS de TIERRAS

FLOOD

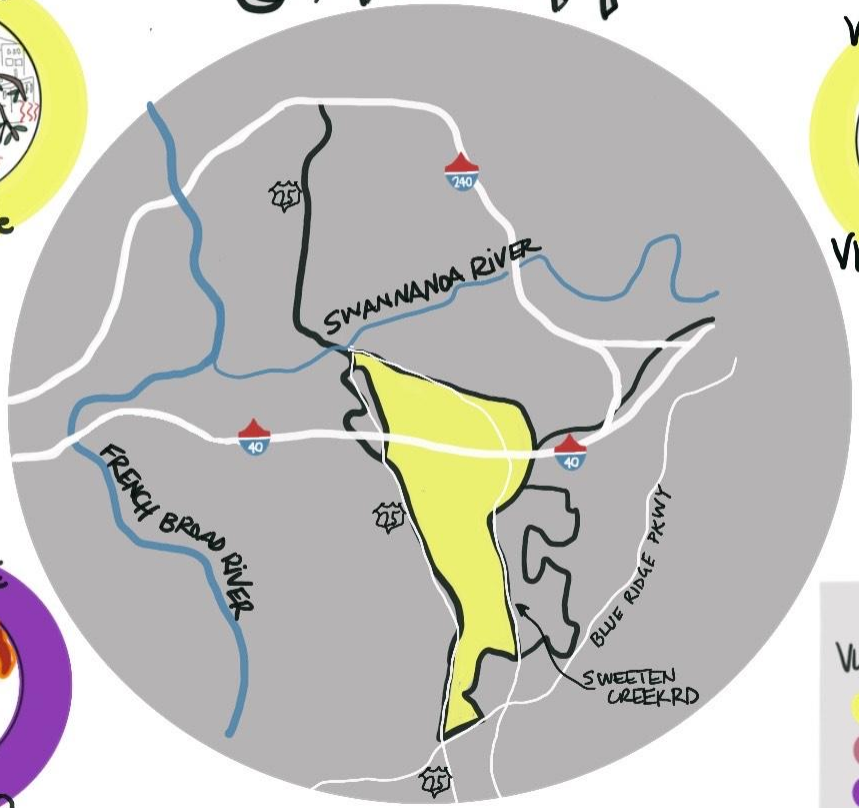


INUNDACIÓN

WILD FIRE



INCENDIO FORESTAL




## NON-CLIMATE STRESSORS
## OTROS FACTORES ESTRESANTES

SOCIAL VULNERABILITY



VULNERABILIDAD SOCIAL

ENERGY BURDEN



AGOBIO ENERGÉTICO

| CLIMATE VULNERABILITY | VULNERABILIDAD CLIMÁTICA |
|---|---|
| HIGH | MÁXIMO |
| MEDIUM | MEDIO |
| LOWER | MÁS BAJO |

# Youth Artist Empowerment

"The Faces of Change"

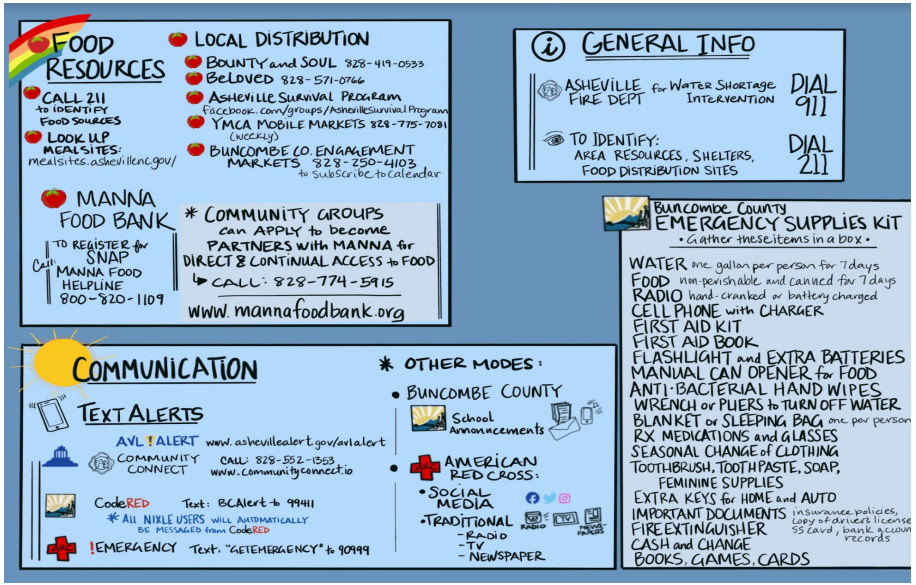
I. Teaching Artist + Mentors
II. Climate Justice Map + Neighborhood examples of Climate Justice
III. Compiling Images
IV. Public Art Display



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# Next Steps...

- Creation of the Climate Equity Screening Tool
- Continued work around Food Emergency + Neighborhood Planning
- Folding in the Climate Justice Initiative for Emergency Planning + Preparedness w/ Emergency Operations Center [EOC]
- Fold in findings of the Climate Justice Initiative into the City's Reparations Process
- Implement the Climate Equity Screening Tool
- Office of Sustainability will be back with a Final Report + viewing of Climate Justice Screening Tool January 2022




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