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## **Dr. Mildred McClain**

Dr. Mildred McClain AKA Mama Bahati, a 50-year veteran of the People's Movement for Justice and Self Determination worldwide, currently serves as the Executive Director for the Harambee House / Citizens for Environmental Justice which she founded in 1990. Mama Bahati has worked in the fields of education, community development, public health, environmental justice, and people's liberation struggles for over 5 decades. She has championed youth leadership development through the Black Youth Leadership Development Institute since 1988, where over 3,000 young adults have been trained and put to work for their people.

Considered an environmental justice pioneer Dr. McClain has engaged with communities all over the world, assisting in building their capacity to speak for themselves as well as participate substantively in decision-making processes that impact their daily lives. For 30 years she has fought for environmental justice in marginalized and disenfranchised communities throughout the USA. She has worked tirelessly to bring attention to the plight of people of color who live near nuclear weapons production sites and to address the impact of radiation.

She is a high school graduate of the Commonwealth School of Boston, Graduate of the University of Massachusetts -- Boston, has a Master of Education from Harvard and Antioch and a Doctorate in Education from Harvard School of Education. She is the 2017 Recipient of the Sierra Club's Robert Bullard Environmental Justice Award and the American Public Health Association's Damu Smith Environmental Health Achievement Award.

Mama Bahati is a devout believer and a staunch Pan-Africanist. She has been serving God since the age of 12, when she was baptized in Second Arnold Baptist Church, Savannah, Georgia. She has studied meditation, healing arts, Tai Chi, yoga, and African Spiritual Practices since 1969. She is a mother, grandma, great grandma, and godmother.

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.  
Follow this format for each person. **DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.**

NAME: Dr. Mildred McClain

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login):

POSITION TITLE: Executive Director

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
Harvard Graduate School of Education	Ed.D.	June 1983	Organizational Development and Educational Administration
Harvard Graduate School of Education	M.A.	June 1974	Education
Antioch Graduate School	M.A.	June 1974	Education Administration
University of Massachusetts	B.A.	June 1973	Education

A. Personal Statement – I have been a teacher, educator and trainer for the past 45 years, working for local, national and international organizations and networks. I am an environmental justice pioneer, recognized as one of the most effective leaders in community capacity building and training for environmental decision-making and social change. Born in Georgia and educated in Massachusetts I am a competent, caring and well-qualified professional working to ensure that policies and practices of the public and private sectors are environmentally friendly and fosters community sustainable development.

I created and implemented a community capacity building initiative for African Americans & low-income stakeholders in GA & SC in collaboration with Savannah State University. The project was funded by the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency for 10 years, and created a dynamic community engagement/environmental justice protocol that still exist. Under my leadership, the Harambee House has been awarded several grants from EPA: CARE Levels I & II (\$100,000 / \$300,000), Collaborative Problem Solving (\$100, 000), and two EJ Small grants, (\$20,000 & \$25,000). All grants focused on some aspects of Workforce Development, Training and Capacity building through creative collaborative partnerships with community, academic institutions, government and businesses.

I have successfully trained over 3000 young people in leadership & economic development through the Black Youth Leadership Development Institute (BYLDI), an organization I co-founded in 1986. Many of the Institute graduates own and manage their own businesses, hiring people from their own neighborhoods.

I served as the project manager for the Worker Education & Job Training Program for the past 9 years. I created major partnerships with various organizations and agencies that assist in the implementation of the program, which includes: City of Savannah, Georgia Ports Authority, Youth Futures Authority, Ashland/Hercules, Colonial Oil, Step UP Savannah, and the Centers for Working Families; and with DOE, EPA, EPD and the CDC.

I continue to communicate with 80% of all graduates from the Worker Education and Job Training Program. They continue to come to the Harambee House to volunteer as well as to seek services they are eligible for through the Center for Working Families including job search/placement, counseling, financial literacy training, and access to social services based on their eligibility. With a \$10,000 grant from Step Up Savannah we were able to consistently track trainees and services provided with the "Efforts to Outcome" (ETO) program.

I wrote and was awarded a grant from the Kellogg Foundation to conduct research on the correlation between exposure to environmental toxins and criminal/ aggressive behavior. The goal of the research is to investigate the potential link or lack thereof, between Aggressive Behavior and Heavy Metal / Toxic Metals contamination in the Savannah area. The results may help inform policy to develop comprehensive intervention strategies that can ultimately lead to the reduction of aggressive behaviors in the city of Savannah, Georgia, the United States and the world, particularly in indigent and underserved communities prone to environmental pollution.

I have the qualifications, leadership and research skills necessary to successfully carryout the proposed project working closely with Dr. Afriyie- Gyawu Evans, professor at Georgia Southern University. I have worked with the promotion of Community Based Participatory Research for over 12 years and received a 5-year grant from Kellogg for the research that is currently underway. Worker Education and Job Training Program graduates will assist with this research. They will collect dust samples from the attic and window sills of the homes and analyze them for heavy/toxic metals including lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium, copper, zinc, manganese, and aluminum which have been associated with neurological disorders in scientific literature.

I work with Step Up Savannah as a partner. Step Up Savannah is a non-profit organization created and funded by the city to increase employment and income among the city's poor. I also represent the community based training organization on the Governors' Savannah Steering Committee for his new initiative GA PRI which provides a "seamless" set of services (including workforce training) to citizens returning to community from the prison system.

I am gifted to be able to motivate people to be their best self and to dare to be a practitioner of excellence in everything and to see an environmental career as the new frontier of making honest money while helping to clean up, protect and preserve the environment. I help our trainees believe that becoming an Environmental Remediation Technician with a strong suit of construction & weatherization is a good and mobile job, profession and entrepreneurial opportunity.

\* We have a tool to evaluate our program and review records documenting the number of trainees seen, whether they have received assistance, job placement and determine if their quality of life has changed.

## **B. Positions and Honor**

2017 ..... American Public Health Association, Environmental Leadership Award  
2017 ..... Sierra Club, Environmental Leadership Award  
1998 ..... National Council of Negro Women  
1997 ..... Keystone Environmental Leadership Award  
1995 ..... Owner Afrika in Savannah  
1995 – Present ..... Executive Director. Harambee House/ Citizens for Environmental Justice  
1994 ..... Bannerman Fellow

### Additional Trainings Presented

May 2-4, 1997, Waveland, MS Coordinated the People of Color and Disenfranchised Communities Environmental Health Summit,

Conducted two (2) Train-the-Trainer courses for Savannah River Site Stakeholders

Conducted Public Participation Training Workshops for stakeholders living in affected communities near the Savannah River Site

Developed the P3 Public Participation Preparation/Community & Leadership Development Training Curriculum

Developed a series of educational materials on environmental issues.

Conducted Worker Education and Job Training Program as a sub-contractor to Dillard University/Deep South Center for Environmental Justice – 250 graduates of certified Environmental Technicians- 2005- 2015

### Forums & Conferences Moderated

Conducted conferences on the Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Dialogue Committee Report

Conducted two Youth Leadership Development and Environmental Organizing Institute in Senegal/Gambia,  
West Africa

Organized public forum for Centers for Disease Control on the development of the Savannah River Site Health  
Effects Subcommittee

Conducted EPA cluster workshops for Chatham, Glynn, & McIntosh counties in Georgia

Participated in the World Uranium Hearing--Salzburg, Austria

Initiated Working Group on South Africa for the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council of EPA

Developed environmental project in Dakar, Senegal/West Africa

### **C. Selected Peer-reviewed Publications and Patent Citations**

NONE

### **D. Research Support**

NONE