

# Vernice Miller-Travis

## Professional Resume`

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### Skills / Qualifications

- Urban planning with a focus on environmental restoration and community revitalization,
- Leading practitioner in the fields of equitable development and environmental justice,
- Sustainable land-use development and community planning,
- Collaborative problem solving and multi-stakeholder decision-making,
- Cross-cultural conflict mediation and consensus building,
- Brownfields and Superfund site re-use and redevelopment,
- Green space design.

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### Education

1992-1993	Revson Fellowship, Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
1981-1982	Political Science Major, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES, NEW YORK, NY
1977-1980	Political Science Major, BARNARD COLLEGE, NEW YORK, NY

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### Professional Experience

#### *Senior Associate, Skeo Solutions*

**2010 – present**      **Charlottesville, VA**

As a Senior Associate in the Community Planning and Revitalization Group of Skeo Solutions I provide technical support to various U.S. EPA program offices, state and local governments, non-profit organizations and community residents in the areas of collaborative planning and design services, area-wide Brownfields revitalization, Superfund site reuse planning, sustainable community development, public participation in regulatory rulemaking and environmental justice. I am frequently sought after for my expertise in facilitating brownfields redevelopment, equitable development, community revitalization, multi-stakeholder planning and design processes, collaborative problem solving, alternative dispute and environmental conflict resolution, and environmental justice and equity. Examples of recent projects that I have facilitated include:

- **U.S. EPA Region 6 Statewide Environmental Justice Training Workshops** (2015 – Little Rock, AR, 2014 – Houston, TX, 2013 – Albuquerque, NM)
- **Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nations Working Session on Natural Resources/Oil Development Impacts** (EPA Region 8, The Affiliated Tribes of Ft. Berthold Indian Reservation, North Dakota)
- **Chavis Community Conversation** (City of Raleigh, Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources)

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- **Clean Air Act Rulemaking and Permitting Training for EJ Communities** (U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality, Planning and Standards, Research Triangle Park, NC, Atlanta, GA, Birmingham, AL, Boston, MA, Detroit, MI, New Orleans, LA, Oakland, CA)
- **Northern Birmingham Community Coalition** (EPA Region 4, Superfund program, North Birmingham, AL)
- **Urban Waters Federal Partnership National Training Workshop** (U.S. EPA, Office of Water, Washington D.C., 2011, 2013, 2014)
- **Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities technical assistance program on Supporting Equitable Development** (EPA Office of Sustainable Communities | Atlanta, GA, Baltimore, MD, Stamford, CT)
- **Freeport Community Planning and Superfund Reuse project** (EPA Region 5 Superfund and Brownfields programs, and City of Freeport, IL)

### *Principal Consultant, Miller-Travis & Associates*

*2009 – present      Bowie, MD*

Miller-Travis & Associates works to improve the quality of life in communities that have undergone economic disinvestment and environmental degradation. We have managed sustainable land-use planning and design projects, worked to influence policy changes in environmental law, statutes and regulations at the federal and state levels, and facilitated brownfields redevelopment planning projects. Areas of expertise include: regulatory rulemaking, hazardous waste site remediation, toxic air emissions reduction, green space design and development, healthy indoor school environments, and green jobs development.

Over the past 28 years I have contributed to significant advances in **environmental policy development**. Especially in the areas of environmental justice, hazardous waste site reuse, Brownfields redevelopment, **sustainable and equitable community development and design**, community revitalization, multi-stakeholder environmental problem solving, urban green space design, **land preservation** and Geographic Information Systems analysis of environmental, economic, racial and health disparities. My work has focused on environmental restoration and the inclusion **of low-income, people of color and indigenous communities in environmental policy development and decision-making** at the federal, state, local and tribal levels.

From 2009 until 2014, I served as a consultant to Earthjustice where I assisted with public engagement, policy analysis and advocacy for several proposed EPA regulatory rulemakings. Specific rules included: Coal Combustion Residuals (Coal Ash), Definition of Solid Waste, Non-hazardous Secondary Materials that are Solid Waste, Clean Air standards for Industrial Boilers, Incinerators and Cement Kilns. I also helped to launch their 50 States United for Clean Air campaign.

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As a member of the U.S. EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (1997-2001/2009 – present) I chaired the NEJAC's Waste and Facilitating Subcommittee, the School Air Toxics Monitoring Workgroup, and serve on the Integrating Environmental Justice into Permitting Workgroup.

I write, publish and lecture widely on the aforementioned subjects at national conferences, Colleges, Universities, and to national, regional and local audiences. In 2010, I also served as a principal co-author of the report entitled: ***Now is the Time: Environmental Injustices in the United States and Recommendations for Eliminating Disparities***, published by the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Since 2009, I have convened an ad-hoc coalition of civil rights and environmental justice advocates who meet regularly with the U.S. EPA Administrator and other agency leaders to discuss improvements in the staffing, functioning and operations of the agency's Office of Civil Rights, and on ways to improvement its external civil rights programs especially the investigation, review and adjudication of complaints filed under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

Currently I serve as a member of the U.S. EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, and as a Vice Chair of the Maryland State Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities. I also serve on the board of directors of The Smithsonian Museum's Anacostia Community Museum, Clean Water Action, Patuxent Riverkeeper, The North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers Land Loss Prevention Project, and We ACT for Environmental Justice of which I am the co-founder.

#### ***Executive Director, Environmental Support Center*** **2008 Washington, DC**

The Environmental Support Center provided financial support and technical assistance to thousands of grassroots environmental and environmental justice organizations across the country in an effort to expand the organizational capacity and development of these groups. Directed, managed and oversaw all areas of ESC's activities and operations including but not limited to, strategic planning and evaluation, financial administration, fundraising and development, program management, external relations and personnel issues.

#### ***Executive Director, Groundwork USA*** **2005-2007 Bowie, MD**

#### ***Consultant for Strategic Development and Outreach, Groundwork USA*** **July-November 2007**

Groundwork USA works to turn Brownfield sites and other underutilized land into green space including: public parks, urban river restoration and waterfront access, school-based gardens and play spaces, and trails. Responsible for overseeing the development of this organization into a cohesive national organization that delivers resources and technical

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support to the expanding network of Groundwork Trusts across the U.S. Responsibilities included national program and project development, identifying and securing financial resources to support those programs and projects, developing national partnerships and collaborations, identifying and selecting new Trust communities, and providing technical support to newly established Groundwork Trusts. Managed and grew the collaborative partnership with its sister organization Groundwork United Kingdom.

### ***Principal Consultant, Miller-Travis & Associates*** **2003-2005     Bowie, MD**

I served as a member of the All Appropriate Inquiry Federal Advisory Committee to U.S. EPA that wrote the implementing language for the ***Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Redevelopment Act***. This regulation was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President of the United States in 2002, and sought to clarify the liability issues associated with the clean-up and redevelopment of minimally contaminated vacant industrial and commercial properties across the country.

I also trained and mentored several communities on the elements of successful, sustainable Brownfields redevelopment projects. I provided technical assistance to support local community revitalization visioning processes linked to Brownfields redevelopment projects in Pittsburgh, PA, and Houston, TX. I also served as a member of the Independent Experts Advisory Panel established by the Annie E. Casey foundation that created the Demolition Protocol developed for the East Baltimore Development Initiative (EBDI). Working with an Engineering firm we developed a protocol to provide maximum protection from exposure to lead dust during the demolition of hundreds of row houses and other structures in the EBDI project area. This protocol was subsequently adopted by the City of Baltimore as formal policy governing structural demolition activities across the city.

### ***Program Officer, Ford Foundation*** **2000-2003     New York, NY**

As a member of the Community and Resource Development Unit of this global foundation, I launched their first ever environmental justice grant making portfolio. My mandate was to increase and enhance the capacity of the environmental justice constituency in the United States to influence domestic environmental and community development policy and practices. Over the course of three years I managed a grantmaking team that invested 12.3 million dollars into 65 grassroots groups, national civil rights and environmental advocacy organizations, and several community-university partnerships. Grants included the establishment of a network of capacity building intermediary organizations and regional foundations to help strengthen and grow the organizational and leadership capacity of environmental justice advocacy organizations and their allies.

### ***Director, Environmental Justice Initiative, Natural Resources Defense Council***

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**1993-1999**     *New York, NY & Washington, DC*

Developed and initiated NRDC's environmental justice strategies to fight the disproportionate burden of pollution borne by people of color and the poor, and for coordinating all environmental justice efforts within NRDC's various programs. Highlights included advocacy before the U.S. Congress for stand-alone Brownfields legislation to spur vacant land restoration and community revitalization and redevelopment; advised Clinton Administration staff on the drafting of the Executive Order on Environmental Justice (12898), and participated in the oval office signing ceremony with President Clinton on Feb. 11, 1994; and reauthorization of the federal Superfund (CERCLA) statute. Day-to-day responsibilities included national program development, national policy analysis and advocacy, coordination of a cross program environmental justice working group, coalition building, and public education.

***New York Coordinator, U.S. Citizens Network, United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)***  
***January-June 1992***

Served as New York/United Nations based coordinator of a network of over 600 U.S. NGO's and individuals participating in the month-long fourth and final Preparatory Committee Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit), that took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. The Citizens Network sought to influence the U.S. State Department to support international policies and treaties for sustainable and equitable development both at home and abroad. I was the staff lead for the planning and scheduling of issue briefings, symposia, mini-conferences and press conferences for hundreds of U.S. and international NGO's seeking to shape the outcome of this global conference. I then participated as a delegate to the UNCED/Earth Summit conference in Rio de Janeiro in June of 1992.

***Director of Development/Capitol Campaign Director/Special Projects & Events***  
***Coordinator, the Center for Constitutional Rights***  
***1987 to 1992***             ***New York, NY***

I managed fund-raising activities to support the programs and activities of this national civil rights legal advocacy organization, as well as the retirement of the 2.1 million dollar Capitol campaign. Responsibilities included research, proposal writing, foundation relations, donor development and maintenance, and special events coordination. As well as lecturing and providing public education on CCR legal cases of national significance. I was also tasked with specific development and fundraising responsibility to create and sustain the satellite CCR South office based in Greenville, MS which focused on expanding voting rights to low-income and people of color communities across the Mississippi and greater Delta region.

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*Research Assistant, Special Project on Toxic Injustice, United Church of Christ  
Commission for Racial Justice  
September 1986 to June 1987      New York, NY*

I served as the primary research assistant to the Research Director for the Special Project on Toxic Injustice, which in 1987, published the landmark report *Toxic Waste and Race in the United States*. Duties included: transferring data into maps demonstrating the location and distribution of hazardous waste sites across the country; editing numerous drafts of the report narrative; cover design and production of the final report.

*May 1992 – August 1992      New York, NY*

Research Assistant to Research Director. Assisted with the organization of transcripts from the fall 1991 First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, and the drafting of the proceedings from the Summit.

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### **Examples of Other Relevant Project Experience**

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- Co-designed and facilitated the West Baltimore Moving Forward: Implementing Solutions for Reinvestment, Renewal and Revitalization through Transit Oriented Development workshop for the Harlem Park/Edmonston communities (March 15, 2014). Delivered via technical assistance provided by New Partners for Smart Growth (as part of grant assistance offered through U.S. EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities)
- Facilitated the 2014 Equitable Development workshop for the U.S. EPA/Local Government Commission New Partners for Smart Growth conference (Denver, CO, Feb. 13, 2014)
- Currently facilitating the Northern Birmingham Community Coalition community revitalization and leadership development process for U.S. EPA Region 4's Superfund Reuse Planning Initiative at the 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue Superfund site in North Birmingham, Alabama (March 2013 – present)
- Facilitated the Public Leadership Group for the Chavis Community Conversation for the City of Raleigh department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources, to create a revised master plan for the historic John Chavis Memorial park (April 2012 - May 2014)
- Co-designed and facilitated the Equitable Development Institute at U.S. EPA's 2011 National Brownfields conference in Philadelphia, PA and Equitable Brownfields Redevelopment day-long workshop at the 2013 conference in Atlanta, GA.

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### **Relevant Associations / Awards**

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- American Public Health Association, Section on the Environment, Damu Smith Environmental Health Achievement Award, 2009

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- W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Kellogg National Leadership Program, Group XVI Fellow, 1997-1999
- Columbia University in the City of New York, Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning, Revson Fellowship, 1992-1993

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