

GF23
09.19.2023
Setting the Stage



Xiye Bastida

Co-Founder, Re-Earth Initiative

Xiye Bastida is a 21-year-old Mexican climate justice activist. She is a member of the Otomi-Toltec Indigenous community, located in the highlands of Central Mexico. In April of 2020, she convened and co-founded Re-Earth Initiative to highlight frontline communities and advocate for solution-oriented efforts. Bastida has been a leader in the youth climate movement since she started organizing climate strikes and protests in 2019. In September of that year, she co-organized a 300,000 person climate strike in New York. In 2021 she spoke at the Biden Climate Summit in front of 40 heads of state, and later that year she closed the World Leaders Summit at COP26.



Sylvia Earle

President and Chairman, Mission Blue/The Sylvia Earle Alliance

Sylvia Earle is President and Chairman of Mission Blue / The Sylvia Earle Alliance. She is a National Geographic Society Explorer in Residence, and is called Her Deepness by the New Yorker and the New York Times, Living Legend by the Library of Congress, and first Hero for the Planet by Time Magazine. She is an oceanographer, explorer, author and lecturer with experience as a field research scientist, government official and director for several corporate and non-profit organizations.



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John Vermilye

Co-founder, Gallifrey Foundation

John Vermilye is the co-founder of the Gallifrey Foundation and founder of Fair Carbon. Vermilye is an entrepreneur, environmentalist and philanthropist. He is co-chair of the Gallifrey Foundation, which supports marine conservation and social enterprise education. He has been active in marine conservation issues for over 40 years and was co-founder of the Mare Nostrum Foundation with Dr. Luc Cuyvers. He recently identified a gap in the accreditation process for blue carbon projects and created FairCarbon to provide a more inclusive and democratic process.

