



CREWS CONVENING PARTICIPANT MATERIALS

IN THIS DOCUMENT: *(click a hyperlink below to navigate to that particular section)*

1. [Convening Objectives](#)
2. [Pre-Convening Readings and Items to Review](#)
3. [Agenda for Sept 11-13](#)
4. [Key Logistics Information](#) (COVID protocols, addresses, lodging/parking info, and more!)

The information in this document supersedes all previous email communications. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to the planning team at [kate @ catalystcollaboratives.com](mailto:kate@catalystcollaboratives.com). We look forward to seeing you!

1. Convening Objectives

We are so excited and thankful you're able to join us for the 4th Annual [CREWS](#) Convening! The event will be hosted in concert with the US Water Alliance's One Water Summit in Milwaukee, WI.

As our first in-person CREWS convening since 2019, the objectives of this Convening are to:

- Connect water leaders and build power in solidarity across sectors.
- Promote grantee sharing of resources and learning.
- Strengthen the capacity of grantees to use climate and equity in their work.
- Celebrate progress and strategize about the work ahead.

Centering Our Humanity

We know there are a lot of moving parts involved in long-distance travel in the Covid era, and stepping away from work and loved ones. We care about you, your health, and your well-being. Please take care as you prepare and travel. Be gentle with yourself if things just don't go as planned. We are coming

together under the broad themes of Power in Solidarity, Movement Building, and Belonging. And, we honor and center the humanity in each one of us.

2. Pre-Convening Readings and Items to Review

In preparation for our time together, **please review these three (3) items before Monday morning.**

1. Pre-Readings: Nourishment for Heart & Mind

Engage in these pre-readings linked below, and then briefly write what they made you feel. There are no incorrect answers. Please bring these thoughts to the Convening.

- [Love as the Practice of Freedom](#) - bell hooks
- [Mass Culture and the Creative Artist; Some Personal Notes](#) - James Baldwin

2. CREWS Convening Community Norms / Working Agreements

The community norms / working agreement below is a living framework that has evolved since the 2018 CREWS Convening and subsequent events (both in-person and virtual). *We invite you to mark up this document with additions, edits, questions, or comments, and/or bring them to the Convening for consideration and discussion in community.*

- Be here and be present.
- Be inclusive and think well of each other.
- Make space for all voices represented. Share the space, be aware of time, and practice WAIT: (*Why Am I Talking? / Why Aren't I Talking?*)
- Keep confidentiality.
- Understand the difference between intent and impact.
- Use “oops” and “ouch” as needed.
- Avoid assumptions, ask questions.
- Address the ideas, not the person.
- React minimally, act maximally.
- Expect unfinished business.
- Commit to self-transformation and continual learning.
- Work together in solidarity and mutuality.
- Recognize power in the room. If you feel a power imbalance, please call it out in grace and with love.
- Acknowledge time limitations, especially in breakout rooms. Each breakout room should have a note-taker and a time-keeper. We'll use a “round robin” format to ensure everyone has a chance to speak.

3. Reflection Questions

Think of this as prompts and passages to help you get into the right frame of heart and frame of mind for attending and engaging at CREWS Convening. These reflection questions are broken out by themes that we'll travel through in our agenda together.

Stories of Self

- Who am I before my work begins?
- Who do I want to be after my work comes to an end?
- How might my own creativity and process help me get there?
- What's a value, insight, lesson, or principle I draw from my personal story(ies) that feels most important to share, or embody, with others in CREWS?

Stories of Us

- What is a challenge you have encountered in your work? (Maybe it's an issue in the community that you wanted to fix, or a roadblock you ran into while implementing a project or program.)
- What is a powerful lesson learned you want to share from that experience with CREWS colleagues?
- What kinds of things in your work have you been able to do in partnership together— with another person, group, or organization— that you couldn't do alone?

3. [CREWS Website](#) and [Convening Agenda](#) - September 11-13

- a. The [CREWS Convening Website](#) is where you'll find [our agenda](#), speaker biographies, CREWS Directory, information for One Water Summit, and additional CREWS-friendly resources. The information in this packet can also be found on the site.
- b. The **CREWS Site Visit** will take place on Tuesday afternoon, September 13 between 12pm and 3:15pm. For the first portion of site visit, CREWS grantee partners representing Milwaukee Water Commons, The New School, and Groundwork Milwaukee will provide an overview and tour of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) works in place at a local community agriculture site (Alice's Garden) and a park (Adam's Garden Park) located in Milwaukee's historically Black Harambee neighborhood. Following outdoor lunch in the gardens, and a brief visit to Milwaukee Water Commons' offices, the second portion of the site visit will feature **service learning** at the nearby Victory Garden Initiative (VGI), a 1.5-acre garden farm, where site tour participants will help harvest fall crops, package food for distribution in the community, and pull invasive weeds from garden beds. In the event of heavy rain, site tour participants will gather indoors in VGI's community room for collegial brainstorming, problem solving, and discussion of challenges and opportunities that VGI team members are working to solve.

Work clothes you don't mind getting dirty are encouraged, and work gloves will be provided for all volunteers.

4. Key Logistics Information

- a. **Attire & Supplies:** We invite you to join us in prioritizing casual comfort over formal business attire. Bring sensible shoes, clothes you can easily move around in, layers, and a raincoat (the 5-day forecast looks like rain and low 70s). All of this will help ensure you're comfortable moving through any weather, any venue, and any indoor/outdoor settings. Also, please **bring your own water bottle!**

b. **COVID Protocol and Testing information**

- **COVID-19 Testing**

- We request all attendees take a COVID rapid test and test negative within 48 hours prior to traveling to the event.
- All attendees must test negative daily throughout the CREWS Convening from Sun 9/11, Monday 9/12, and Tuesday 9/13.
- The Kresge Foundation will provide each attendee with 4 COVID-19 rapid tests and N-95 masks when you check in at the CREWS Convening Registration Desk.
- If you test positive, feel sick, or experience COVID-like symptoms within 14 days prior to traveling to, or while onsite in, Milwaukee, we ask that you not participate this year.

- **Vaccination Requirement**

- All in-person Convening attendees are required to be fully vaccinated to attend. A booster is strongly recommended but not required at this time.
- Kresge CREWS and US Water Alliance have partnered with Novir, a Milwaukee-based preventative health and screening company. We will be utilizing their INSTApass platform to upload credentials before the meeting. Within the next 24 hours, you will receive an email requesting you to complete your registration for INSTApass. Upon completing your registration, you will be prompted to take a short survey and upload the required credentials to attend the event. If you do not receive the email within 24 hours, please check your spam folder. If you have issues or questions, please contact Jason Schrader at jschrader@novir-usa.com.
- Novir is scheduled to be onsite at the Conference on Sunday, 9/11 from 8:00am to 7:00pm and Monday, 9/12 from 7:00am to 4:00pm in the

Kilbourn Room on the 5th floor of the Hilton Hotel. Attendees can access additional COVID 19 test and/or other PPE supplies during the convening. If you test positive for COVID during the convening, please notify Novir immediately.

- **Mask Requirements**

- All attendees are required to wear face masks over the nose and mouth indoors and in provided transportation for offsite programming, except when presenting, when eating or drinking in designated areas, and/or otherwise required by applicable law and guidance. Outdoor spaces will be available if attendees would prefer to eat/drink outdoors during mealtimes and breaks.

c. Locations & Addresses:

- On Sunday, 9/11 and Monday, 9/12, the CREWS Convening will be held at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center, 509 W. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53203.
- On Tuesday, 9/13, the CREWS Convening will join the US Water Alliance's One Water Summit activities taking place at the Wisconsin Convention Center, 400 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53203.

d. Arrival Information:

Registration will include check in to the CREWS Convening and/or US Water Alliance One Water Summit and pick up of COVID tests and masks. Registration will be open on the following dates and locations:

- Sunday, 9/11: 8:00am – 5:00pm: Hilton Hotel – Regency Ballroom, 5th Floor
- Sunday, 9/11: 5:00pm – 7:00pm: Hilton Hotel – Empire Ballroom, Upper Lobby
- Monday, 9/12: 7:30am – 4:00pm: Hilton Hotel – Foyer on 5th Floor
- *Early Arrivals on Sunday*
 - An open workspace with Wi-Fi and light refreshments will be available from 8am – 5pm for participants who arrive early at the Hilton Regency Ballroom on the 5th Floor.
 - An informal dinner buffet will be served between 5-8pm in the Empire Ballroom on the Hilton's Upper Lobby Level. We will have some lightly structured activities to help us get settled and (re)connected.
 - If you are staying at the Hilton or Hyatt, they offer luggage storage for guests who may be arriving earlier than the check-in time or have a few hours after checking out. Please visit the front desk.
- *Healing Room:* A quieter, contemplative space will be available on Sunday from 8am – 9pm as well as Monday in the Miller Room on the 4th Floor of the Hilton.

e. **Parking Options:**

- [Hilton Milwaukee City Center and Parking Lot](#)
509 W. Wisconsin Ave
- [Hyatt Regency Milwaukee and Parking Lot](#)
333 W Kilbourn Ave

f. **Lodging Information:**

CREWS participants will be staying either at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center or the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee. The Hyatt is less than a 3-minute walk to the Hilton and a block away from the Wisconsin Center. Our team will try our best to place all CREWS attendees at the Hilton, but please be aware that your accommodations may either be at the Hilton or the Hyatt:

- [Hilton Milwaukee City Center](#)
509 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53203
- [Hyatt Regency Milwaukee](#)
333 W. Kilbourn Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53203

- g. **Communications:** Join the conversation on Twitter using the hashtag #KresgeCREWS and tag @kresgenviro @kresgefdn @YeouJih.

A huge thank you to the CREWS 2022 planning team for helping to create a safe, restorative, and brave space for us to come together!

- Kate O'Brien and Janel Knightly from Catalyst Collaboratives and Minna Toloui from Upright Consulting Services who will facilitate and guide us through our days together;
- Bob Dean, Darryl Haddock, Eric Dobson, and Sabrina Chapa, members of the CREWS Convening Agenda Review Committee;
- Linda Le and Scott Berry from the US Water Alliance, who will help coordinate travel, venue relations, logistical support, and delegations;
- Marva McKnight and Carol Galle from Special D Events, who will help manage on and off site logistics and reimbursements;
- Lois DeBacker, Jessica Boehland, Shamar Bibbins, Alejandra Hernandez, Jill Johnson, Kaniqua Welch, Krista Jahnke, and Alejandro Herrera from The Kresge Foundation, who have been incredible thought partners and implementers in this work;
- Dr. Jalonne White Newsome who developed and shepherd CREWS for five incredible years;
- Our amazing partners from Milwaukee, WI, speakers, panelists, and performers;
- All of you as grant partners, philanthropic partners, and other friends!