



WELCOME TO THE CITY CLUB AT PLAYHOUSE SQUARE



THE AIR WE BREATHE:
EXAMINING CLIMATE CHANGE'S
IMPACT ON AIR QUALITY

Friday, August 18, 2023 at 12 p.m.





Since May of this year, more than 5,000 fires have ravaged Canada causing environmental issues in several parts of North America. The 2023 wildfire season has already eclipsed Canada's previous annual record from 1989, with more than month left in the peak season.

Smoke from the wildfires spread quickly, crossing international borders, and settling over many US states and resulting in unhealthy air quality. Residents of Northeast Ohio have noticed the “campfire smell,” hazy skies, and disappearing downtown skylines. NOACA issued air quality warnings, and health officials urged Ohioans to limit their time outside or take necessary health precautions for those who must be outside.

People at higher risk for smoke-related health issues, such as the elderly, children, and those with preexisting conditions were affected the most by the air issues. The air quality forced many to either stay indoors or return to masking in order to stay safe. As with many effects of climate change - the effects are disproportionately shouldered by low-income and BIPOC communities. For some, staying indoors was not an option. And those who work outdoors or travel by foot, bike, or wait for public transit were disproportionately affected by the toxic fumes.

Today's panel examines climate change, air quality, and what can be done to protect the air we breathe.

Have questions? Send a text to 330.541.5794.

PANELISTS

Grace Gallucci

Executive Director & CEO, NOACA

Bryan Sokolowski

Chief of Monitoring, Cleveland
Department of Public Health,
Division of Air Quality

Divya Sridhar

Manager of Climate Resiliency And
Sustainability, Cleveland
Neighborhood Progress

MODERATOR

Zaria Johnson

Reporter/Producer, Ideastream
Public Media

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Friday, August 25 at Star Plaza - Playhouse Square

[CentroVilla25: Entrepreneurship & Investment in Cleveland's Hispanic Community](#)

Small businesses and entrepreneurs are vital to our communities. They generate jobs and contribute greatly to U.S. economic activity. BIPOC small businesses and entrepreneurs in particular bring diversity and cultural richness to the surrounding community, enriching marketplaces with unique products and services. In doing so, the money earned by these companies helps fuel the surrounding economy. One of the places highlighting the importance of BIPOC, and specifically Latino, businesses is [CentroVilla25](#).

CentroVilla25 is an adaptive reuse of a vacant 32,500 square foot warehouse and office building with an additional 12,500 square foot expansion. They strive to showcase Northeast Ohio's Hispanic community through job creation, business development, and creative spaces. The [Northeast Ohio Hispanic Center for Economic Development](#) is working to ensure CentroVilla25 becomes a reality for the Hispanic community of Ohio by April 2024.

Jenice Contreras is the Executive Director of the Northeast Ohio Hispanic Center for Economic Development. An established leader in small business and community development, as well as healthcare and nonprofit management, Contreras is a driving force in the revitalization of Cleveland's Clark-Fulton neighborhood (where CentroVilla25 will be).

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