

## SOL Nation June Newsletter



**From** Sol Nation <hello@solnation.org>  
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# SOL Nation Newsletter

June 2025



Every World: Po Na Kongo is a high-impact cultural fundraiser and immersive experience—presented by DRC Apeparel and The Garden of Synergy—designed to engage Charlotte's vibrant creative ecosystem while driving global solidarity. Rooted in celebration and collective purpose, this event fuses fashion, live art, music, dance, and culinary excellence to uplift the brilliance of African and diasporic culture.

With a focus on sustainability, cultural equity, and community enrichment, Po Na Kongo is more than an event—it's a movement. The inaugural Every World: Po Na Soul lights up Superstarz Charlotte on June 28, 2025—timed in honor of the DRC's Independence Day. A significant portion of proceeds will directly support creative platforms in the Democratic Republic of Congo, including Bala Bala Arts Academy and Liputa Fashion Week, empowering the next generation of African designers, dancers, and cultural influencers.

Guests will experience electrifying performances, immersive art activations, African face painting, Congolege DJ sets, and a rich array of African cuisine. An authentic marketplace bursts with handcrafted fashion and artisan goods, culminating in DRC Apeparel's walkthrough fashion show and an electrifying finale by Congo Vibes, bringing the soul of Congo to life through powerful rhythm and authentic drumming.

[Learn More](#)



## Featured Programs & Events

### 2025 Ambassador Cohort



### What is the Ambassador Cohort?

The Sol Nation Ambassador Program is designed to engage individuals who have a desire to reduce the Green Gap, advocate for climate justice issues and support and amplify Sol Nations mission, vision and various programs. Being an ambassador offers chances for networking, developing skills, accessing life skill resources, and even earning monetary stipends.



### SOL Nation Welcomes Enjolie Bush As 2025's Cohort Facilitator!!

"Hello! I'm Enjolie, a Charlotte-based Earth & Environmental Science educator, curriculum designer, and environmental advocate dedicated to empowering youth to lead with purpose and power. I currently serve as a Distinguished High School Science Teacher and AVID Educator & Coordinator with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, where I've proudly led for over 11 years.

My passion lies at the intersection of education, conservation, and community. I designed the first Earth & Environmental Science curriculum in CMS focused on how urban development has changed Charlotte — giving students the tools to understand, analyze, and reimagine the city they live in. That work planted the seeds of my mission: to help students see the environment not as something distant, but as something they belong to and can protect. Black communities deserve clean spaces with breathable air and free of trash.

I chose to facilitate the Sol Nation Ambassador Program because I believe our youth are not just future leaders — they are right now leaders. I've seen firsthand how powerful it is when young people are given the space to think critically, organize boldly, and lead with heart. This program brings together everything I stand for: environmental equity, cultural power, and collective action. I'm here to help them sharpen their skills, root into their purpose, and rise as climate justice stewards."

- Enjolie Bush

## What To Expect From Our 2025 Cohort

This year's Sol Nation Ambassador Program is all about transforming passion into power.

*From June 16 to August 16, ambassadors will:*

- Explore real-world environmental justice issues in their own communities
- Develop leadership and organizing skills through hands-on trainings, field trips, and public engagement
- Connect with changemakers, creatives, and climate professionals to build pathways into sustainability careers
- Co-create impact projects like community clean-ups, sustainable placemaking, and advocacy campaigns

This cohort is not just here to learn — they're being equipped to lead. With core frameworks like organizing, communication, environmental justice history, and Sol Nation's legacy of culture-centered activism, ambassadors will emerge with both clarity and confidence.

## Sidewalk Mural Project June 20th | 11am-1pm



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services collaborated with Charlotte artist and educator Jamil Dyair Steele to create a mural shaped by community input that depicts how pollution travels from our streets to our streams—and the positive steps the community can take to protect our local waterways. From June 13-21, an 80-foot sidewalk mural is being painted along Beatties Ford Road, near the Rosa Parks Place Community Transit Center, to raise awareness about how daily actions affect Charlotte's streams and lakes.

The mural was in collaboration with the Charlotte Placemaking Hub, a program that helps residents bring public art and neighborhood improvements to life.

Stop by the community event to view the mural in progress, meet the artist, and chat with the Storm Water Services team. Enjoy light snacks and pick up educational materials and volunteer information.

[Event Page](#)

[View Article](#)

## Community Clean Up & Canvas June 28th | 10am - 12pm



# Community Clean Up

From Streets to Solutions: Where Sustainability Meets Community Care.

## June 28th | 10am - 12pm

Historical Westend - Address TDB

Volunteer Sign-up:  
[bit.ly/solcollective](https://bit.ly/solcollective)

  
solnation.org | [hello@solnation.org](mailto:hello@solnation.org)

[Learn More](#)

[Sign Up to Volunteer](#)

### Why Community Clean Up?

Black communities deserve clean spaces with breathable air and free of trash.

SOL Nation would like to thank everyone who came out to support the start of this important initiative.

Together, we're not just cleaning streets—we're building stronger, healthier communities and fostering conversations that drive real change. Your efforts are helping to create a future where every neighborhood can thrive.



**Everyone deserves the opportunity to enjoy the community they live in.**

Everyone deserves to not just live in their community, but to enjoy it. A neighborhood should be more than just a place to sleep—it should be a space where people can gather, relax, and feel proud of their surroundings. Too often, Black and Brown communities are overlooked when it comes to clean, green, and welcoming public spaces. Residents shouldn't have to leave their neighborhoods to find parks worth visiting, streets free of litter, or spaces designed for leisure and connection.

Investing in and caring for our own communities means creating places where people want to spend time, not just pass through. When a neighborhood is clean and well-maintained, it fosters pride, safety, and a stronger sense of belonging. Everyone deserves access to beauty, peace, and joy—right where they live.



**Become A SOL Nation Member**

By becoming a Sol Nation Member, you directly support our work in grassroots organizing, environmental education, policy advocacy, and sustainable solutions that uplift historically marginalized communities.

Your support helps us build a future rooted in justice, resilience, and climate equity.

[Learn More](#)

FOR THE LAND, THE AIR, THE WATER AND THE PEOPLE.

WELCOME TO SOL NATION

FOR THE LAND, THE AIR, THE WATER AND THE PEOPLE.




FOR THE LAND, THE AIR, THE WATER AND THE PEOPLE.

Welcome Reniah Carroll! She's leading efforts to restore environmental dignity in the Historic West End through research, outreach, and hands-on community action.

Reniah Carroll

SOL FELLOW AT SOL NATION

FOR THE LAND, THE AIR, THE WATER AND THE PEOPLE.

## Greener Roads for All: Making EVs Work for Every Community

EVs can help by reducing pollution, but these communities often can't afford them, don't have enough charging stations nearby, or miss out on financial help.

Read Full Blog





## The Air We Breathe, The Stress We Carry: Why Environmental Justice Is Mental Health Justice

Imagine living in a neighborhood where you can't open your windows for fresh air, where the only park is filled with litter, or where your home isn't insulated against extreme heat or cold. That kind of daily tension wears on people—and it adds up.

[Read Full Blog](#)

## Reviving The Historic West End: Renaissance Vs. Gentrification

Tiffany shares why the West End doesn't need gentrification — it needs a community renaissance led by the people who've called it home for generations.

[Read Full Blog](#)





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