

**DOWNWINDERS AT RISK**

**2021-2022**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**CLEANER AIR.  
BETTER DEMOCRACY.**





## Letter from the Director

In just 12 months Downwinders at Risk will be 30 years old. That's a remarkable achievement for a locally-based grassroots group that has no state or national affiliations. Our transformation has also been exceptional. We've morphed from a rural and suburban-centered single-issue group governed by an all-white board into DFW's leading environmental justice and clean air organization administered by a team that's now two-thirds People of Color.

Instead of a single issue, we're involved in a wide variety of program work. We're building high-tech tools, doing groundbreaking original research, and organizing in the the most polluted neighborhoods. This range wouldn't be possible without the devotion of our board members, who give so much of their unpaid time and energy to make sure we don't miss a beat.

Nor would it be possible without your loyalty to Downwinders. Some of you have been with us since the beginning. Some of you have found us in the last five years. Your continued support for what we do and the way we do it here in Texas is critical to our survival over the *next* 30 years. Thank you.

## Note from Board Chair

2022 was a year of transitions. Transitioning to post-COVID organizing, adjusting to a less hostile EPA, transitioning out Board members at the end of their terms, and bringing new members on Board. I finished my first 3-year term as Board Chair and have the honor to continue as Chair for the next 3 years.

Many of the programs that we initiated when I first joined the Board 5 years ago are now maturing and transitioning to their next phase. SharedAirDFW deployed 10 air monitors in Southern Dallas this year. The Neighborhood Self-Defense Project has produced two neighborhood plans and is now implementing them through campaigns, city-supported zoning changes, and code amendments. The vision we had for this group 5 years ago is being realized and showing even more how necessary we are.

The major transition we are positioning ourselves for, however, is to increase our staff capacity. For almost 30 years we have been the only group to pay a full-time organizer focused on environmental protections in DFW. The demand for our work is greater than our ability to meet the need. We know what to do, we just need your support in doing it at the capacity necessary for maximum impact.

We appreciate all the support over the years and hope we can continue to rely on your support to do this much needed work. We are proof that small stuff adds up, but we can't do it without your help. Our wins are your wins, so please enjoy the much deserved break and celebrate what we have accomplished together this year.

Cheers!



# OUR ORGANIZATION

## MISSION

Downwinders at Risk Education Fund is dedicated to taking effective action on behalf of those being harmed by air pollution. Our goal is to build a strong grassroots constituency and create new strategies for clean air in North Texas. We do this by informing, connecting, and mobilizing citizens to become active participants in the decision-making that affects the air we breathe. In doing so, we improve both the quality of our air and the quality of our democracy.

We're committed to working for environmental justice with communities impacted by the worst pollution; to deliver the best science to those communities; to making decisions about pollution and polluters more democratic; to providing solutions to the problems we spotlight, and to funding staff devoted to grassroots empowerment.

### SCIENCE



### EMPOWERMENT



### WATCHDOG



## OUR PROGRAM WORK

**In Dallas-Fort Worth there's no group doing more to advance environmental health and justice**

We're building a regional independent air monitoring network that gives the public information in real time 24/7/365

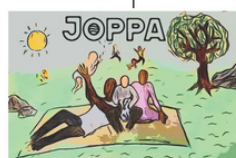


We train residents on how to use our fleet of handheld portable air monitors....

...and then let them check out those monitors to use free of charge.



**Downwinders Portable Monitor Training and Education program**



With Texas A&M we sponsor the **Joppa Environmental Health Project**, an historic study of the links between air pollution and health in the former Freedman's town.

**Respiratory Clinical Care**

The Joppa Project also provides respiratory medical care in a neighborhood cut-off from hospitals and clinics.



We provide community organizing and professional planning free of charge to neighborhoods fighting pollution.



We help establish new neighborhood groups, who take on their polluters & sometimes

**parkforfloralfarms**



...replace them with parks



We help neighborhoods rollback racist zoning.



We co-founded a coalition of neighborhood groups to fight for community-led planning.

**COALITION FOR NEIGHBORHOOD SELF-DETERMINATION**  
**No Plans For Us Without Us.**



# REVERSING RACIST ZONING: NEIGHBORHOOD SELF-DEFENSE PROJECT



Learn more here: <https://neighborhoodselfdefenseproject.wordpress.com/>

## SINGLETON CORRIDOR NEIGHBORHOOD-LED PLAN & REZONING

The NSDP supports residents in developing land use plans that reflect their visions and values by addressing environmental injustices in land use. The Singleton Corridor plan was completed in November '21 and presented to the City planning department in Spring '22. The city plan commission will initiate a public rezoning process December 2022.



## SINGLETON CORRIDOR NEIGHBORHOOD-LED PLAN



Floral Farms, Once Home to Shingle Mountain, Finally Gets a Chance to Remove Industry



## FLORAL FARMS NEIGHBORHOOD-LED PLAN & REZONING

The Floral Farms Neighborhood-Led Land use plan was completed in November '20. As part of the implementation, the community proposed future zoning changes that align with their plan. The "Authorized Hearing" to rezone the community began with the first neighborhood meeting in September '22 and the second meeting is scheduled for January '23. We continue to work with Neighbors United/Vecinos Unidos to ensure their plan is respected in this process and with ongoing zoning cases.

## COALITION FOR NEIGHBORHOOD SELF-DETERMINATION

The Coalition formed in May 2022 to reinstate the neighborhood planning policy in support of Floral Farms. Since then, we have successfully advocated for changes to the zoning code for batch plants, helped draft the new neighborhood planning policy, led to amendments in the process of city-led community engagement efforts, and successfully lobbied for changes in the prioritization of neighborhood rezoning to account for equity and environmental justice. We also filed a HUD complaint against the city of Dallas on racist land use policies.



# PROMOTING PUBLIC HEALTH REDUCING POLLUTION EXPOSURE

Learn more here: <https://www.downwindersatrisk.org/>



## GAFS GOTTA GO / GAF VETE YA CAMPAIGN

A recommendation from the Singleton Corridor Neighborhood Plan was to remove the largest source of pollution in West Dallas, GAF Shingle Factory. The campaign launched in September 2021 and has amassed dozens of supporters. GAF has agreed to leave, the question now, is when.



NEWS > ENVIRONMENT

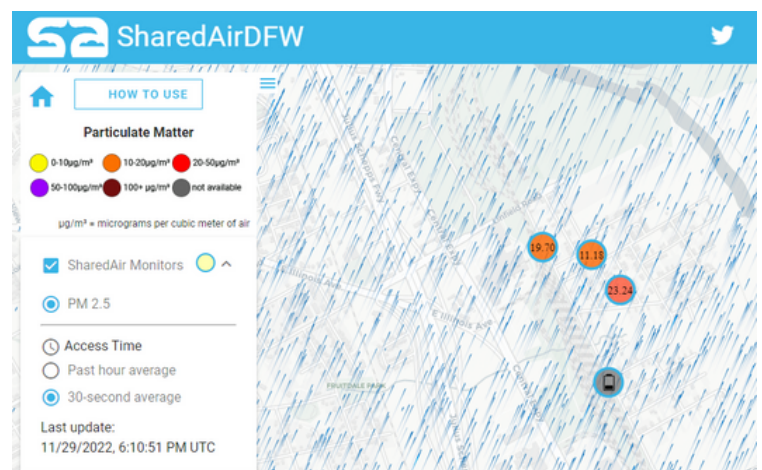
**Joppa study measuring effect of air quality on health is a first in Texas, researchers say**

## JOPPA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

This year's focus in the 3-year public health study in partnership with Texas A&M University and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, was on data collection. The Joppa resident steering committee led outreach to obtain study participants in the survey and airways testing, as well as hosted several public health events in the community.

## EXPANSION OF SHARED AIRDFW NETWORK MONITORS IN JOPPA

There are now four SharedAirDFW particulate matter pollution monitors hosted in the Joppa neighborhood. The remaining 6 will be placed throughout this next year, making it the most thoroughly monitored neighborhood for air pollution in Dallas.



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS



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**GAFs Gotta Go Campaign**

**Paul Quinn College Urban Research Initiative**

**SharedAirDFW Network**

**Texas Energy Justice, Equity & Democracy Coalition**

**Taproot Earth**



**SMALL STUFF ADDS UP.  
DONATE TODAY.**



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