CANDACE CLARK

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

- Community organizer, agroecologist, and AfroFuturist practitioner with 12+ years of experience across agriculture, sustainable development, and communications
- Committed to food and land justice from the south side of Chicago to the deep *and* global south
- Known as Kandeaux the Farm Plug — a conduit, facilitator, and purveyor of emergent strategies

EDUCATION

Tuskegee University Tuskegee, AL

PhD, MS — Integrative Development & Public Policy *April 2026*

Thesis: Melanination 2030 & Beyond: Investigating Perceptions of Sustainable Development on the West Side of Montgomery, AL

BS — Agricultural Business; Minor: International Relations *May 2017*

American University Washington, DC

MA — International Affairs *December 2019*

United Nations University for Peace Costa Rica

MA — Natural Resources & Sustainable Development *December 2019*

The Piney Woods Country Life School *Piney Woods, MS | May 2013*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Solar Installation Basics Training (IBT) Atlanta, GA

Graduate, Clean Energy Workforce Program — Cohort 2 *July 2026*

- Selected from 70+ applicants for a competitive, paid solar installation training program (GRID Alternatives / C.A.S.T. Collective, supported by Google)
- Earned OSHA 10, First Aid/CPR/AED, and IronRidge Certified Installer credentials
- Completed 120 hours of hands-on training in panel wattage and racking systems at the Lifecycle Building Center's simulated installation lab in Atlanta

Clarke Street Fund & Fresh Greens Market *Montgomery, AL*

Community Organizer & Advocate *July 2024 – Present*

- Served as direct community liaison for 10 pilot families, conducting regular check-ins and coordinating tailored resource connections
- Curated 1–2 community events monthly averaging 15–20 participants; maintained active partnership with the Montgomery County Public Library to expand West Side community access
- Co-founded a 40-organization place-based coalition and co-organized a 3-day conference convening 50–60 partners, residents, and stakeholders

Tuskegee University — Carver Integrative Sustainability Center *Tuskegee, AL*

Sustainable Food Resource Specialist *January 2021 – Present*

- Organized, supported, and connected coalitions of growers, markets, and consumers around sustainable development solutions in Tuskegee and abroad
- Curated year-round virtual sustainability engagements (Earth2TU); coordinated four EarthWeek celebrations (2020–2023)
- Managed an intergenerational team of 13 stakeholders working cohesively nationwide
- Co-produced educational radio show Growing the Green (4 seasons, 2022–2024)
- Identified, cultivated, and managed relationships with funders; facilitated deliberative dialogues for development of self-determined food systems
- Supported and connected international communities to food system projects; supported establishment of Agroecology Center at Tuskegee University

Urban Grower's Collective (UGC) *Chicago, IL*

Grounds for Peace Pilot Project Coordinator *March 2019 – September 2020*

- Coordinated logistics to supervise and support up to 30 transitional workers in the greening and beautification of 50 vacant lots across Chicago's South and West sides
- Organized and facilitated three community listening sessions including political officials and local organizers
- Coordinated daily with the City of Chicago and Heartland Alliance
- Assisted in the creation and implementation of management and evaluation processes

After School Matters — Summer Youth Program *Chicago, IL*

Summer Youth Program Instructor — South Chicago. *June 2018 – August 2018*

- Recruited and interviewed 15 students for employment; co-delivered UGC curriculum to 30 students in a farm setting
- Managed daily attendance and farm operations for 30 students ages 14–18
- Co-coordinated and revised daily lesson plans with students; organized three high school visits

Dreaming Out Loud, Inc. *Washington, DC*

Fannie Lou Hamer Fellow *November 2017 – December 2017*

Community Outreach, Advocacy & Policy

- Inaugural fellow; developed processes and procedures for community outreach and created an outreach toolbox
- Facilitated a day-long community outreach training; drafted and edited shared community kitchen business plan
- Participated in DC Food Policy Council; initiated the creation of the East of the River Food Security Network

Carver Integrative Sustainability Center — Summer Experience *Tuskegee, AL*
Production Agricultural Worker *May 2017 – August 2017*

- Managed daily farm operations including seed sorting, transplanting, planting, and harvesting
- Engaged with farmers' market customers; maintained sales inventory; helped develop veggie crate program
- Marketed to local and regional restaurants, grocery stores, and food hubs

USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services | International Services *Riverdale, MD*
Student Trainee *May 2014 – May 2017*

- Edited USDA directives; developed cross-generational presentations; assisted with FOIA requests
- Participated in Nutria Eradication Project (MD) and Airport Bird Strike Patrol
- Prepared and coordinated international capacity-building workshops; managed approximately 1,000 employee profiles
- Assembled technical materials and program data for surveys, reports, and presentations

USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services *Harrisburg, PA*
Field Technician *May 2015 – August 2015*

- Wildlife damage management; goose harassment and round-up
- Tracked, baited, and sampled feral swine for disease analysis
- Engaged in Threatened & Endangered Species Protection Program; conducted Avian Influenza disease sampling in wild birds

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

United Nations University for Peace
Costa Rica | Spring & Fall 2018

- Applied field-based and policy-oriented skills in sustainable development and natural resource management
- Engaged in agroecological practice through the student garden; conducted ecological and ecotourism analysis across diverse Costa Rican landscapes
- Evaluated sustainability initiatives through site visits and applied research; developed skills in environmental assessment and land stewardship

International Comparative Rural Policy Studies
Barcelona, Spain | June – July 2017

- Awarded by Tuskegee University; participated in a 13-day intensive on rurality, agriculture, and environmental governance
- Collaborated with 30 graduate students and 20 faculty from international universities
- Conducted comparative rural policy analysis between Catalonia and the U.S. Black Belt; engaged theme 'Rural–Urban Linkages Facing Global Challenges'

Yerba Buena Farm
St. Mary, Jamaica | December 2016 – January 2017

- Led immersive sustainable beekeeping and agroecology practice; managed 30 top-bar hives
- Produced and processed value-added products including lotions, balms, crèmes, and propolis
- Founded the first student-run, campus–community apiary at Tuskegee University

Agriculture Research, Tuskegee University
Arusha, Tanzania | January 2015

- Designed and administered farmer interviews; developed culturally responsive research instruments
- Conducted qualitative comparative analysis of sustainable agricultural practices; advanced agricultural education through community engagement with two local orphanages

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources & Related Sciences
Costa Rica | May 2014

- Cultivated cross-cultural partnerships; applied sustainable agricultural and environmental techniques
- Coordinated and supported eight students in an international field setting; mentored four first-time international travelers
- Demonstrated adaptive leadership, strategic problem-solving, and intercultural communication

PUBLIC SPEAKING & MEDIA

United Nations FAO — World Food Forum, Planet Forward | Panelist | Oct 2022
Watch Recording

CFPAC Food Justice Summit — 'I for Imagination' | Panelist | 2021
Watch Recording

CFPAC Food Justice Summit | Panelist | 2019
Watch Recording

MANRRS Annual Conference — Hemp & Cannabis in Agriculture | Panelist | 2021
Conference Agenda

TU History Research Symposium — Soul Style: Fashion & the African American Diaspora | Moderator | Feb 2020
Symposium Info

TU History Research Symposium — Soundtrack of a Nation: Race, Rhythm & Historical Inequality | Moderator | Feb 2021
Symposium Info

M4MM x HBCU — Grass is Greener: Smart Panel & Screening | Panelist | April 2021
Watch Recording

SMART — Women in Cannabis Series | Featured Speaker

Event Info

SMART CannaClub — Virtual Cannabis Career Fair | Cultivation Host | May 2021

Event Info

Chicago Humanities — Community Gardens as Neighborhood Resources | Featured Speaker | 2019

Event Info

NAFSN — Featured Activist, Produce N Protest

Read Feature

The Farmers I Know Podcast | Guest

Listen to Episode

2FAS Podcast | Guest

Listen on Spotify

Clear as Smoke Podcast | Guest | 2019

DuSable Museum — Presenter | 2019

Tuskegee University Homecoming 2020 | Featured Participant

MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

Earth2TU — Founder & Executive Producer | 2020–2026

EarthWeek — Executive Producer | 2019–2026

Growing the Green (Educational Radio Show) — Founder & Co-Host | 2022–2024

Farm Plugs Unite Pod — Co-Founder & Co-Host | 2020–2024

CannakwanzaaCon — Founder & Producer | 2021–2023

Booker's Butcher — Producer & Writer | 2024

MelaniNation — Co-Founder& Host | 2015–2017

Piney 104.3 — Radio Personality | 2011–2013

LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES

- Young Climate Leaders of Color - Inaugural Cohort *January 2023 – December 2023*
- Planet Forward - Inaugural HBCU Correspondent *April 2022*
- Prince Charitable Trust - Inaugural Aya Wisdom Council *September 2021 – March 2022*
- CISC Communications Director *January 2021 – February 2022*
- Black Belt Deliberative Dialogue Group - Co-President *August 2015 – May 2017*
- MANRRS - Community Service Chair *August 2015 – May 2017*
- TULIP Community Garden - Member *August 2015 – May 2017*
- Tuskegee University Beekeeping Club - Founder & Liaison *August 2016 – May 2017*
- 'Dream Marches On' — Tuskegee Civil Rights Tour Coordinator & Leader *March 2015*
- Tuskegee University Freshman Orientation Leader *August 2014 – May 2015*
- BET College Tour Representative — TU Homecoming *October 2014*

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- PAWC Case Study *November 2024*
- Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension Fellow *January 2020 – February 2022*
- Earthship Biotecture BIPOC Scholarship — Inaugural Recipient *April 2021*
- National Black Farmers Association Scholarship Recipient *November 2016*
- Tuskegee University Most Transformative Female Award *February 2015*
- Tuskegee University Honor Roll *August 2013 – May 2017*
- USDA 1890 Scholar *August 2013 – May 2017*
- Educational Excellence and Global Competence Award *April 11, 2012*
- *All International Experiences Above were sponsored through a scholarship, fellowship or award*