
CURRICULUM VITAE

PEGGY M. SHEPARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WE ACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Institution and Location	Degree	Year Conferred	Field of Study
Howard University, Washington, DC	B.A.	1967	English
Baruch College, New York, NY	Graduate Courses	1983-1985	

Positions

09/69-71 **Reporter & Home Furnishings Editor, Indianapolis News**
Wrote home features and reported on women's issues: day care, sex education.

10/71-73 **Text & Photo Researcher, Time-Life Books, Inc.**
Responsible for text accuracy; reported/researched for text essays; propped and supervised photo sessions for how-to pictorial sequences; liaison between consultants and in-house writers.

01/74-10/7 **Copy Editor, The San Juan Star, Scripps Howard Co.**
Edited local and wire services copy for English-language daily; wrote headlines, captions; rewrote cityside copy; supervised backshop on lobster shift.

04/76-77 **Associate Editor, Redbook Magazine, Charter Publ. Co.**
Edited and developed monthly home design features and bi-annual supplements, for woman's book of 4.5 million circulation.

04/77-78 **Editorial Coordinator, VERVE Magazine, Earl Graves Publ. Co.**
Developed lifestyle magazine from dummy to launching. Coordinated advertising, production, art, circulation and direct mail promotion; developed national network of stringers; advertising calls selling concept at industry conventions.

08/79-7/93 **New York State Division of Housing & Community Renewal**

08/78-3/80 **Consumer Affairs Specialist**
Commissioner's speech writer. Wrote press releases, newsletter, and annual reports.

03/80-3/83 **Consumer Affairs Director**
Editor/writer for annual reports, newsletters brochures and posters.

07/83-5/85 **Special Ass't to the Commissioner**
Voting representative on state interagency task forces: Adolescent pregnancy, Development Disabilities Planning Council, Council on Home Care Services, Homeless Youth, Commission on Child Care and National Congress of Neighborhood Women.

05/85-3/88 **Director of Public Information for Rent Administration**
Managed a central office and five borough offices dispensing technical assistance and information to landlords and tenants on rent control and rent stabilization programs.

03/88-7/93 **Special Ass't for Government & Community Affairs**
Educated state legislators on legislative initiatives and responded to their inquiries on agency programs.

07/93-4/94 **Women's Coordinator, NYC Office of the Comptroller**

Initiated and coordinated press conferences involving this constituency on issues of concern. Developed relationships with targeted press. Placed constituencies on radio and television shows to highlight issues of concern to Comptroller and these organizations, VIPs and community activists working on issues of women's empowerment, women's health, women's social services' delivery and the environment. Made recommendations to the Comptroller on initiatives to be taken regarding relevant issues. Coordinated special awards events. Coordinated and chaired Women's and Environmental Advisory Boards. Advanced, accompanied, or represented Comptroller at all events sponsored by these constituencies.

11/94-Present **Executive Director & Co-founder, West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc. (WE ACT for Environmental Justice)**

Manage and directed startup of 1st African-American -led environmental community-based non-profit organization in New York State. Founded in 1988, WE ACT operated as a volunteer organization until staff was hired in Nov. 94. WE ACT informs, educates, and mobilizes residents on environmental health and quality of life issues, and works to secure environmental justice in communities of color. WE ACT works to impact public policy at the local, state, and national levels. Responsible to board of directors for fundraising, program operation, and administration. Responsible for public and press relations, promotion, and speaking engagements. Organization employs a staff of 15 and an annual budget of \$1.3 million.

Memberships & Affiliations

Co-Investigator, Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health, Mailman School of Public Health
Community Partner, Mailman School of Public Health, NIEHS Center for Environmental Health in Northern Manhattan

Member, Mt. Sinai Children's Environmental Center Advisory Board

Member, Bellevue Occupational & Environmental Medicine Clinic Advisory Committee

Member, Harlem Center for Health Promotion & Disease Prevention Advisory Board

Member, Center for Excellence In Environmental Toxicology External Advisory Bd., University of Pennsylvania

Member, NIEHS Public Interest Liaison Group

Member, Environmental Leadership Project Advisory Board

Member, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation Environmental Justice Advisory Committee

Board of Directors, Children's Environmental Health Network

Board of Directors, NY League of Conservation Voters and LCV Education Fund

Board of Directors, U.S. League of Conservation Voters and LCV Education Fund

Board of Trustees, Environmental Defense

Board of Directors, NY Earth Day

Board of Directors, Audubon NY

Board of Directors, Public Health Association of New York City

Former President, National Women's Political Caucus- Manhattan 1992-1996

Co-Founder, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance

Co-Chair, Northeast Environmental Justice Network

Former Chair, U.S. EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)

Former Member, National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council of the National Institutes of Health

Honors

1970 Indiana Press Club Award for "Teens Fight The Drug Battle"

1971 Burlington House Awards, two citations for lifestyle and design features

1990 New Yorker for New York Award from Citizens Committee of New York

1991 Life of the City Award from New York Woman Magazine

1993 Environmental Women of Action Award (NYS) from Tambrands, Inc.

1993 Earthling Award for Environmental Justice - City Club of NY

1993 People Who Make a Difference National Wildlife Magazine

1993-95 Selected Participant, NYC Mega Cities Urban Leadership Project

1997 Susan B. Anthony Award from National Organization of Women (NOW) NYC Chapter

1998 Earth Day Award for Excellence In Environmental Advocacy from Earth Day NY

1999 Waterfront Visionary Award
2003 Heinz Award For the Environment
2004 Dean's Distinguished Service Award, Columbia Mailman School of Public Health
2004 Rachel Carson Award, Audubon NY
2005 Feinstone Environmental Award administered by SUNY at Syracuse , Environmental School of Forestry
2006 Calver Award, American Public Health Association
2008 Dream of Equality Honoree, Asian Americans for Equality
2008 Women of Excellence Award, The State of New York

Publications

Vasquez V., Minkler M., Shepard P. *Promoting Environmental Health Policy Through Community Based Participatory Research: A Case Study from Harlem, NY*. Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine 2006, Vol.83, No.1 doi:10.1007/s11524-005-9010-9

National Research Council and Institute of Medicine (2005). *Ethical Considerations for Research on Housing-Related Health Hazards Involving Children*. Committee on Ethical Issues In Housing-Related Health Hazard Research Involving Children Youth and Families, Bernard Lo and Mary Ellen O'Connell, Editors.

Shepard P., Northridge M. et. al. *Preface: Advancing Environmental Justice through Community-Based Participatory Research*, Environmental Health Perspectives 2002; Vol.110, Supp.2:139-140.

Northridge M., Shepard P., *Comment: Environmental Racism and Public Health*, American Journal of Public Health 1997; 87: 730-731

Northridge M., Shepard P., et. al. *Commentary: Diesel Exhaust Exposure Among Adolescents in Harlem: A Community-Driven Study*, American Journal of Public Health, 1999, 89: 998-1002

"Issues of Community Empowerment: Urban Environmental Justice," Fordham Urban Law Journal, 1994; 21: 739-755.