

JULIA DRAPKIN

ISeeChange

Funded with support from the Jerome L. Greene Foundation

2019 Climate Fellow



BIG BOLD IDEA

Inform and improve climate adaptation and infrastructure design by mobilizing communities to share stories and data about climate impacts.

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

ISeeChange is a civic resilience platform for communities to collect and share their own personal climate stories, photos, and weather measurements. This real-time data is combined through sensor networks and natural language processing to illustrate community-scale climate trends. Cities, engineers, insurers, and researchers use this data to inform climate adaptation planning, public safety, and infrastructure design, enabling them to build solutions that work best for communities. ISeeChange is seeding an international neighbor-to-neighbor movement that provides the local context, downscaled data, and public trust that empowers communities to adapt to climate change together.

PERSONAL BIO

Dedicated to connecting communities to one another and their changing environment, Julia Kumari Drapkin is the CEO and founder of ISeeChange. Julia created ISeeChange in 2012 after over a decade reporting natural disasters and climate change science across the globe and in her own backyard on the Gulf Coast. Julia, a founding member of the American Geophysical Union's Science to Action working group, also serves on the board of the National Federation of Community Broadcasters and has consulted for Resources for the Future and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Prior to working in journalism, Julia spent seven years doing field research anthropology and archaeology in Central America. It was there that she first appreciated the expertise everyday people have in their own backyards and how much we miss when their voices aren't included. Julia's work with ISeeChange has won national and regional journalism awards and was recognized by the Obama administration's Climate Data Initiative. In addition, Julia was included among MIT Solve's 2018 cohort, and was named among Grist's 50 Fixers in 2019. Julia is a 2019 Echoing Green Fellow.

Organization/Fellow Location

New Orleans, United States

Impact Location

North America

United States

Organization Structure

For-profit

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