



Marcelo Bonta is an entrepreneurial, trailblazing, dynamic and visionary leader with more than two decades catalyzing, inspiring, and leading justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) change efforts in the environmental, conservation, and climate movements. Originally trained as a conservation biologist, Bonta decided to dedicate his career to JEDI after finding himself the sole person of color at a national wildlife organization. He founded the [Center for Diversity and the Environment](#) (CDE) and ran it for a decade (2005-2015), providing transformational trainings and programs for hundreds of leaders and dozens of organizations. Marcelo is also the founder of Environmental Professionals of Color (EPOC) network. In 2008, he co-wrote with Charles Jordan a visionary article, entitled “Diversifying the American Environmental Movement.” His work has been featured in numerous publications, including The New York Times, High Country News, The Oregonian, Prism Magazine and Colors NW.

In 2015, he shifted his focus to philanthropy. Embarking on a two-year fellowship with the Portland, Oregon–based [Meyer Memorial Trust](#), he helped develop a new environmental funding strategy with equity at its core. Though grantmaking might seem removed from urgent social-justice challenges, he says the [choices foundations make](#) can dictate the fate of communities of color and will shape the evolution of the current environmental movement. This truth, says Bonta, makes it critical for foundations to fully embrace and support justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Marcelo currently runs his own JEDI consulting firm and, in 2019, launched JEDIHeart.com—a blog for the environmental, conservation, and climate movements about navigating J.E.D.I. with love.

Experienced as a blogger, consultant, funder, executive, social entrepreneur, equity change manager, coach, facilitator, trainer, adviser, conservation biologist, fundraiser,

writer, and speaker, Marcelo continually seeks opportunities to successfully protect people and our planet through the impactful implementation of JEDI strategies.

Read Marcelo's latest blog post | [Dear White People: 6 Guidelines for Impactful Actions in Support of the Black Community](#)

And his report | [Transforming a Movement: How foundations can support effective diversity, equity, and inclusion \(DEI\) capacity building efforts in environmental organizations](#)