

Good evening my name is Mike Harrington and I am the Assistant Director of the Tishman Environment and Design Center here at The New School. It's my pleasure to welcome you all to our campus.

The New School's mission is to prepare students to understand, contribute to, and succeed in a rapidly changing society. As a university where design and social research drive approaches to studying issues of our time, we seek to provide students with the tools needed to grapple with complex problems facing society and to pursue just and sustainable approaches to address these problems.

The Tishman Environment & Design Center is a university-wide center with more than 60 affiliated faculty representing every school at The New School. We are dedicated to research and practice that fosters design, policy, and social justice approaches to environmental issues in order to advance just and sustainable outcomes in collaboration communities.

We would like to thank The New Republic for reaching out to us and working with us to bring this event together. We appreciate their continued high level of commentary on the most pressing events of our time and it is quite impressive that they have been a part of our discourse for over 100 years -- We here at The New School are also marking our centennial anniversary - and we are very proud to host this evening's conversation and welcome our panelists tonight to talk about *the* most pressing topic of our day: climate change.

While there is not much good news to report these days on the topic of climate change, this is a critical time to have a discussion about how we learn and communicate about this issue, especially in light of the climate strike just a few days ago that brought 4 million people together from across the globe to demand action from our elected officials and governments. Young people right here on our campus and all around the world are demanding that we take more drastic action to slow down the rapidly accelerating effects of climate change that younger generations will have to endure in the coming decades. To put that in perspective, that is about 1 out of every 2,000 people on the planet with representation on every continent speaking with one voice to implement policies that will protect our frontline environmental justice communities, create a pathway to phase out fossil fuels and respect the rights of indigenous peoples and their lands, for starters.

Yet, with all of this going on, my mother told me that she would not have known about the strike if I had not told her about it. When I listened to my morning news reports (from multiple sources), this was not the number one story during last week; in fact it only got a minute of mention, if that in my news briefings. This was also the case in general news stories from US based sources; I saw more about the US president's constant gaslighting on any number of topics, the auto workers strike and why or why we should not start another war in the Middle East, possibly on the orders of Saudi Arabia. While these are definitely newsworthy topics, the dearth of stories about the strikes was noticeable. There is no good reason why climate change

should not be talked about every single day by our media outlets until we start to do something about it, but unfortunately in our country, I would argue that we are not great at talking about tough topics.

It is my hope that our panel discussion on how climate change should be covered is illuminating to all of you and inspires you to use your voices to advocate for increased and better coverage on the climate crisis and to support those who are doing the work to let the public know what is happening in terms of climate change and what we can do collectively to address this issue.

I would like to welcome the publisher of The New Republic, Kerrie Gillis, who will introduce our panel. Once again, thank you all for coming and please welcome Kerrie and our panel