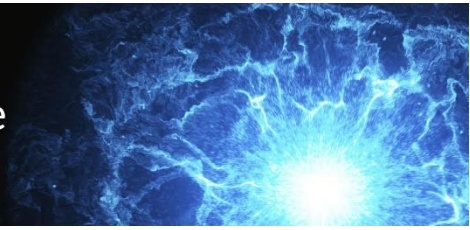




**Wisconsin Public Utility Institute**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



## **NAOMI DAVIS**

### **Blacks in Green**

Naomi aims to reinvent her childhood “sustainable square mile” here in the age of climate crisis. She is the founder/president of Blacks In Green (BIG™), an urban theorist, attorney, activist, and proud granddaughter of Mississippi sharecroppers. Now based in Chicago, Naomi was born and raised in the walkable village of St. Albans, NY.

Through Blacks In Green, she serves as a bridge and catalyst among communities and their stakeholders in the design and development of green, self-sustaining, mixed-income, walkable villages within Black neighborhoods so that every household within can ultimately walk to work, walk to shop, walk to learn, and walk to play, and so that neighbor dollars circulate to reduce greenhouse gases. Naomi’s heritage forms the foundation for BIG’s courses in Grannynomics™, The 8 Principles Green-Village-Building™, and The Sustainable Square Mile™ which Naomi authored and teaches nationally in lectures and workshops and at universities. She conveys the risks of global warming, the health/wealth opportunities of the new green economy, the power of neighbors to lead in their city’s enviro-economic policy and practice, and the primacy of land ownership. Naomi served on Governor-Elect Pritzker’s Transition Team - Powering Illinois’ Future; on former Chicago Mayor Emanuel’s Transition Team for Energy, Environment, and Public Space; and was selected as a sustainability thought leader at Groupon’s First Annual Chicago Ideas Week. She is a respected community advocate for equitable development in the communities surrounding the Obama Presidential Center and has lived and worked in the West Woodlawn neighborhood of Chicago since 2010. Naomi is a graduate of Fisk University and of the UIC John Marshall Law School, which joined the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2019.