Join the Movement Towards An Equitable Philadelphia

PACDC Community Development Leadership Institute’s 2019 FORWARD EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26TH & THURSDAY JUNE 27TH, 2019

Join 300 community developers, small business entrepreneurs, health practitioners, researchers, artists, educators, and activists committed to working toward a more equitable Philadelphia.

Conference attendees will explore innovative pathways to ensuring all Philadelphia’s residents and businesses prosper, network with others striving to undertake equitable development, and be uplifted and energized through moving stories of success and lessons learned. Keynote and workshops on Wednesday, June 26th, and in-depth learning seminars on Thursday, June 27th.

CONFERENCE SPONSOR PARTNERS:

Register Here
2019 Equitable Development Conference Agenda – Subject to change

Wednesday, June 26th

8:00-9:00 am: Registration, Breakfast, and Networking in the Community Development Marketplace (Open All Day)

9:00-9:15 am: Welcome and Keynote Speaker Introduction

9:15-10:00 am: Opening Keynote and Q&A by Liz Ogbu

10:00-10:15 am: Break

10:15-11:00 am: Post-Keynote Panel Discussion and Q&A

11:00-12:30 pm: Community Development Marketplace Visit & Lunch

12:30-2:00 pm: Round I: Concurrent Sessions

2:00-2:15 pm: Break

2:15 – 3:30 pm: Round II: Concurrent Sessions

3:30 – 3:45 pm: Break

3:45- 5:00 pm: Round III: Concurrent Sessions

5:00-6:30 pm: Facilitated Closing Exercise at Lubert Plaza & Happy Hour Reception

Thursday, June 27th

8:00-9:00 am: Registration, Breakfast, and Networking

9:00-10:00 am: Morning Exercise

10:00 am: Intensive Seminars

Lunch will be served within seminar groups at a time determined by seminar facilitators.

2019 Equitable Development Early Bird Conference Pricing (Until May 31st)

PACDC Members

• Wednesday: $99
• Wednesday and Thursday: $169

Non Members

• Wednesday: $139
• Wednesday and Thursday: $209
Meet Our Keynote Speaker: Liz Ogbu

A designer, urbanist, and spatial justice advocate, Liz is an expert on social and spatial innovation in challenged urban environments globally. From designing shelters for immigrant day laborers in the U.S. to a water and health social enterprise for low-income Kenyans, Liz has a long history of working with communities in need to leverage the power of design to catalyze sustained social impact. Her work blends human-centered design research methodologies, equitable architecture and community development strategies, design thinking frameworks, and social justice agendas. She is founder and principal of Studio O, a multidisciplinary design consultancy that works at the intersection of racial and spatial justice. In addition to her practice, Liz has been adjunct faculty at California College of the Arts, UC Berkeley, and Stanford’s d.school as well as the Visiting Porter Chair in Urban and Environmental Planning at the University of Virginia’s School of Architecture. Previously, she also served as the Droga Architect-in-Residence in Australia, investigating urban marginalized populations and community development practices in the country.

Liz has written for and been profiled in publications such as the Boston Globe, Metropolis, The Atlantic’s CityLab, and the Journal of Urban Design. Her projects have been featured in museum exhibitions and received numerous design awards globally. Among her honors include TEDWomen Speaker, IDEO.org Global Fellow, Aspen Ideas Scholar, Senior Fellow of the Design Futures Council, and one of Public Interest Design’s Top 100. She earned architecture degrees from Wellesley College and Harvard University.
Wednesday, June 26th Breakout Sessions

Adopting a Preservation Strategy for Philadelphia’s Affordable Rental Housing

According to the City of Philadelphia’s first housing action plan, "Housing for Equity: An Action Plan for Philadelphia," 14,500 existing publicly-assisted affordable apartments may be at risk, needing significant renovations, and/or reaching the end of their affordability period. This presents a unique challenge for Philadelphia as the city is moving from a period of disinvestment to reinvestment. Developing strategies to preserve existing affordable rental housing in changing neighborhoods is central to ensuring equitable growth and development in our neighborhoods and throughout the city. This roundtable will explore the factors contributing to Philadelphia's emerging affordable housing preservation crisis, and how the nonprofit, private, and public sectors have come together to develop "action-oriented" recommendations to preserve and protect affordable housing in Philadelphia.

Arts, Engagement, & Engagement on the Move

Mill Creek Community Partnership’s Fine Art through Our Eyes Community Arts Initiative will be facilitating a hands-on "Mood Quilt" with its F.A.T.O.E ArtBus. The ArtBus serves as a respite for conversations around preservation, gentrification, community assets, equity and social capital in a non-traditional meeting setting. Through these three-dimensional conversations, residents can also be inspired to embrace changes taking place throughout our neighborhoods in a creative non-traditional form. The interactive art making will focus on color, scent and symbols and how our individual moods and personalities can be reflected. Creatives will use symbols, colors and scents to create 2 patches, one that will be used to create a communal "Mood Quilt" and the other can be taken to commemorate their experience.

Barrio Alegria: 4 Years of Community Engagement in Reading

In 2015, Reading, PA became certified under the national STAR Community Rating System, qualifying the City as a 3-STAR Community, recognized for national excellence in sustainability. However, Reading scored lowest in Equity and Empowerment. Barrio Alegria was inspired by this assessment to dig deeper into the problem of Latinx participation and outreach and identified several themes that contributed to the dynamic that disempowers them through community outreach. For example, these include the historic reliance on a Latino ‘strongman’ who positions himself as the sole speaker for a very diverse culture and the conflicted cultural identity of immigrants. Barrio programming focuses on pre-leadership development work and found that many members of the Latinx community have strong self-limiting beliefs that must be overcome before they would ever dream of themselves as leaders. This session will explore best practices to engage residents to explore these issues and what these self-limiting beliefs mean for the engagement of diverse communities.

The Breathing Monument: The Art of Equitable Community Engagement at Mander Recreation Center

Learn about the community-centered approach for creating a Vision Plan for Mander Recreation Center, where equity and excellence guided this Strawberry Mansion design and engagement initiative. Hear from four individuals involved in the creation of a conceptual design plan for the Mander Recreation Center and its surrounding 22-acre campus in East Fairmount Park. This section of Fairmount Park serves the adjacent Strawberry Mansion neighborhood, a predominantly African-American community of over 35,000 residents. Working together, the Strawberry Mansion CDC and Fairmount Park Conservancy took
a unique approach to selecting a design team and conducting community engagement to ensure that the resulting vision would reflect the priorities, culture and needs of the community in place.

**Economic Development with Community Engagement**
SEAMAAC will share some of what they have learned over the past few years in tying together their work in planning improvements at Mifflin Square Park (the largest green space in a dense, very diverse low/moderate-income neighborhood in South Philadelphia East of Broad Street) and the nearby South 7th Street neighborhood commercial corridor. It's important to see that the work is interconnected and that as things improve, we find ways to ensure that those living in the community reap the benefits. Important aspects in our work include having deep language capacity to reach many who are normally left out of the conversation and finding strategies to engage a diverse audience who may never speak to one another. It's also important to recognize, support and elevate the unique small businesses and potential businesses that bring life to the community.

**Embedding Integrated, Employer-Connected Training Partnerships into Jobseekers’ Lives and Communities**
This roundtable discussion explores the development of a working partnership for education and training between an employer, a union, a “Community School,” and a training provider. Participants will learn how two union-affiliated training programs partnered to leverage the expertise of both to provide a unique opportunity to connect job-seeking students to high-demand jobs offering family sustaining wages. What sets this program apart are three key elements: a specific employer, identified up-front and committed to hiring participants upon program completion; the fusing of contextualized academic refreshment with occupational training and career/financial coaching; and the co-location of training with a “Community School” at Dobbins High. To avoid the pitfalls of traditional workforce development programs, this approach is grounded in the community, connected to clear and attainable immediate outcomes, and long-term financial health.

**Empowering and Advancing Agency in the Community**
This session shares highlights from Community Connections, a LISC program designed to help grassroots community groups hone their community engagement practice. A team of facilitators will walk participants through key concepts, methods and tools relating to what community engagement can do and why it matters; defining your challenge/opportunity; creating a work plan; identifying your assets; documenting and evaluating your work. Activities and discussions will draw out the collective knowledge/expertise in the room. Participants are encouraged to come with a project or idea for a project, which they can 'workshop' with their peers.

**Equitable Development & Inclusive Growth in Opportunity Zones**
This interactive workshop will provide an overview of Opportunity Zones and how this new federal tax incentive can promote investment and equitable development in Philadelphia. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding and discuss how increased Opportunity Zone investment of private capital may impact our communities. Presenters will listen and engage with attendees on this topic offering diverse, expert perspectives on Opportunity Zone activities and what Philadelphia is doing to promote equitable development in its neighborhoods. In addition, this session will feature a Philadelphia case study project that provides a concrete example of how Opportunity Zone funds can drive equitable growth and achieve positive impacts in Philadelphia’s communities.
**Funding Opportunity for Equity through Stormwater Management**

GSI is often applauded for providing not only a lower cost solution to stormwater management but also for its additional social, economic, and environmental co-benefits that accompany its implementation. But how does this play out in practice? When approached as a participatory and living process, GSI can be leveraged as a tool and driver for building and developing more equitable and resilient communities. This panel and roundtable will explore the intersection of GSI and equitable development, providing examples of how projects have been designed and additionally leveraged to maximize triple-bottom-line benefits while generating community buy-in across generations, to ultimately demonstrate how GSI can be used as a tool to support equitable development.

**Healthy Housing Interventions for Renters**

The central goal of this presentation is to advocate for healthcare organizations to increase their involvement in equitable development by broadening their conception of what qualifies as a health resource, particularly the quality and affordability of local rental housing. Using examples from Philadelphia, New York City, and Toledo, OH, presenters will outline three existing programs that address unsafe and insecure housing and food insecurity. They will then facilitate a discussion about how healthcare organizations can sponsor similar programs to prevent avoidable hospitalizations and poor health outcomes among their patient populations, while also decreasing healthcare costs. With thoughtful, cross-sector collaboration between healthcare, housing, and community development partners and equity at the forefront, we can work towards greater health and quality of life for renters in Philadelphia and beyond.

**How Community Groups Can Win at the Zoning Board**

Whether your goal is to expand affordable housing, strengthen business corridors, or protect vulnerable homeowners from gentrification, CDCs and community organizations need an effective zoning strategy to shape equitable economic development in their communities. This session will start off with a review of the basics of zoning law in Philadelphia and the role of CDCs, registered community organizations and affected neighbors. Next, participants will take a look at new zoning code provisions and key court decisions over the past few years, especially ones that impact the role and powers of community stakeholders. Finally, the group will share stories about the wins and challenges experienced at the Zoning Board and identify winning strategies.

**The Impact of Housing and Green Spaces on Health**

This panel discussion will examine the link between poorly developed and maintained housing and green spaces on health including chronic diseases, mental health, increased emergency room visits and hospitalizations. The quality and proximity of green space in urban, dense communities are important and significant to increase people’s connectivity, health, and wellbeing and to decrease social isolation. Cities across the country are incorporating equitable development approaches to design and build healthy, green, and inclusive neighborhoods to create livable communities. The purpose of this session is to share and discuss strategies on how to create livable communities that are healthy, accessible, affordable, and inclusive, and to prevent displacement.

**Improving the Lives of Families Experiencing Homelessness**

This workshop will describe the development of efforts of the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Homeless Health Initiative (HHI), a community health outreach program to support and enhance the health, wellness and overall functioning of families experiencing homelessness. HHI provides free
medical and dental services to children living in homeless shelters. The program represents a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to improve access and healthcare of children in shelters thereby reducing health disparities. Additionally, programming is guided by trauma informed care practices. This session describes HHI’s programs and community collaboration efforts that provide access to community resources and services that improve health, economic benefits, and quality of life.

**Keeping It Local: Strategies for Connecting Philadelphia Institutions to Local Businesses**

Philadelphia’s title as the poorest large city is a frequently cited fact. At the same time, our city is blessed with an array of the nation’s leading hospital and university anchor institutions. Many of these institutions are located in zip codes surrounded by high unemployment and poverty. Anchor institutions purchase over five billion dollars of goods and services, with approximately half of this amount leaving the city of Philadelphia. Directing a portion of these contracts to local businesses would build local wealth and catalyze job creation. While working with local institutions can provide a pathway to growth for local businesses, institutional purchasing can be opaque and inaccessible. The panelists will speak from their unique perspectives as head of a local purchasing collaborative, director of supplier diversity at a local university, and business owner about ways to overcome these barriers. The discussion will be focused on strategies to open supply chains to more local businesses, approaches that businesses can use to gain institutional contracts, and ways that neighborhood organizations can support them in that process.

**The New Geography of Affordability**

The session will focus on what communities can do with the results of a new analysis showing general price appreciation in neighborhoods across Philadelphia even as the number of residents living below poverty continues to grow. That these trends put pressure on lower income residents in appreciating neighborhoods is the subject of much discussion. Also critical but getting much less attention are the impact of these trends on the shrinking number of neighborhoods that remain generally affordable to households earning below the city’s median income. Representatives from HACE, Philadelphia’s Division of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and Reinvestment Fund will guide session participants through an interactive process of reviewing the new Market Value Analysis data, sharing potential responses, discussing promising resources, and moving toward an actionable vision for the future.

**Park in a Truck: Creating Equitable + Inclusive Neighborhoods**

Park in a Truck will bring nature back into everyday life by linking adjacent available lots to create block-by-block green networks—corridors of high quality outdoor spaces. Building parks is traditionally an expensive and complicated undertaking often conducted without local engagement and support. PiaT takes a different approach. To ensure real community buy-in, local residents are engaged at all phases of the planning, implementation and ongoing maintenance process of the parks. The park is designed, built and managed by the community. Participants of this session will learn to create a design process that ensures designing, building and maintaining green space cultivate civic pride, evaluate parks and green networks, and promote the economic value of parks as parts of a sustainable, robust and resilient community.

**Protecting Land for Community Gardens**

Philadelphia has a long, rich history of community gardens, often when neighbors re-claim abandoned land by transforming it into vibrant gardens and other open space. Despite the environmental, social, health, and economic benefits gardens provide, many are at-risk because the land is are owned by the city or private property owners. Rapid development and rising land values in recent years threaten these
precious community resources. This session will present the opportunities and challenges of preserving community gardens in Philadelphia, with a focus on community organizing and legal tools. Dynamic garden leaders will also tell their stories, both of transforming vacant land to vibrant community spaces and their struggles and triumphs securing and protecting the land.

Rail Park Equitable Development Plan
This session will highlight the approach that PolicyLink and Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation are using to create an equitable development strategy for Chinatown residents as the Rail Park continues to be redeveloped. In this session, representatives from PCDC and PolicyLink will discuss their approach to developing an equitable development plan for the Philadelphia Rail Park. The topics covered will include, but are not limited to: how to develop a comprehensive community engagement strategy; how to leverage local data to inform decision-making; and promising equitable development strategies currently being employed in cities across the country. This session has significant implications for equitable development including: strategies for engaging immigrants and those with limited English proficiency; lessons learned from similar equitable development projects across the country; and benefits and challenges in creating an inclusive stakeholder advisory committee.

Reactivating Places of Worship as Community Hubs
Infill Philadelphia, an initiative of Community Design Collaborative, engages communities in re-envisioning their neighborhoods, leveraging existing assets, rethinking the use of older spaces, and addressing the practical concerns of specific sites and the communities around them. The seventh phase of this initiative, Sacred Places/Civic Spaces, specifically explored how to reactivate under- or unused places of worship as community hubs to preserve them as historic assets, avoid sale or demolition, and best serve their communities. Through this process, each of the three selected places of worship were partnered with a design firm and community partner to hold robust community task force meetings on the best way to reimagine the space. Fresh food access was uplifted as a critical issue that needed to be addressed through design in each of the three communities. This interactive panel will discuss the role sacred places play in supporting civic engagement, social cohesion, food access, and neighborhood equity.

Restored Spaces at Southwark School
Mural Arts Philadelphia’s award winning Restored Spaces Initiative will share how it uses socially-engaged public art as a platform for neighborhood change through the initiative’s project at Southwark School and will invite the audience to participate in new game-playing methodology. The Restored Spaces Initiative’s work at the Southwark School uses new strategies and methodologies that increase long-term stewardship and utilization of public spaces and facilitate opportunities for individuals and groups to shape positive change in their communities. Through this session, participants will be guided through concrete examples of how community participation and collaboration is considered and shaped within the framework of projects that bring many partners together to shape a specific environment and understanding of relevant environmental concerns. Participants will be asked to consider their work through a series of questions and conversations and will also have the opportunity to experience the particular game-playing technique designed by the artists.

Solar Energy as a Pathway to Community Development
Within the City of Philadelphia, there are city sponsored programs and non-profits that are working to introduce solar energy in low-income neighborhoods as a way to lower energy bills, create new jobs, and build energy democracy. As part of the Philadelphia Energy Authority’s Solarize Philly program, a strong effort is being made to make sure households of all income levels can benefit from clean energy
and be hired into green jobs. Meanwhile, community-based organizations such as Serenity Soular and the Centennial Parkside CDC are investing in local solar energy production as a way to create energy savings for businesses, institutions, and neighborhood residents while generating revenue and creating jobs for local community development projects. This session will challenge its audience to consider how solar energy plays a role in the community development process.

**Supportive Housing 101**
Participants will learn about the basic components of supportive housing development, operations, and service provision. Discussion will also focus on CSH’s Dimensions of Quality Supportive Housing and the financial resources available for funding supportive housing projects. Project examples will be highlighted to show potential models for project financing.

**Using the EPA Environmental Justice Framework**
Learn how the US EPA Environmental Justice framework can be applied to social equity, inclusion, and diversity in the community development context. Social equity, inclusion, and diversity have emerged as popular topics among planners, economists, community activists, and corporations. Come hear from planners about how Environmental Justice methodologies might be used to measure how low-income and minority communities might be affected from disparate development impacts. Our panel will provide context about Environmental Justice and how it is routinely considered in impact analysis required under the US National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and how it has been used to reverse a historic pattern of making federal investments that undermine low-income and minority communities.

**Visioning Neighborhood Based Co-Op Business Development**
Food co-ops, worker-owned childcare centers, credit unions and housing co-ops have existed in Philadelphia’s neighborhoods for decades. These community and/or worker-owned enterprises equitably distribute profits, re-circulating money to local stakeholders rather than extracting it to absent shareholders. In this session, presenters and participants will explore the co-op business model and place-based co-op development efforts. Participants will be asked to break up into small groups to discuss needs the co-op model can address, what opportunities they see in their community to get residents involved in cooperative economics, explore how to approach a neighborhood in a co-op development opportunity, and identify opportunities and challenges to do so.

**Walk Audits: Engaging Residents to Improve Safety**
Many lower income residents live in neighborhoods that have experienced decades of disinvestment, which has resulted in deteriorated sidewalks, faded crosswalks, dangerous intersections, lack of bus shelters, and other features that impact their daily activities. This workshop will highlight two recent projects where Planning and Community Development students at Temple University have conducted walk audits for Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha (APM) and People’s Emergency Center CDC, which have led to positive outcomes for community members. With APM, students conducted sidewalk audits on Germantown Avenue to assess the ease of residents’ access to core community assets such as schools, stores, and recreation areas. With PEC, students used the Clean Air Council’s walk audit tool to evaluate nine dangerous intersections along Lancaster Avenue. After the two case studies are presented, the audience will be broken into small groups to discuss the experiences of walking in their own communities, and formulate strategies to engage residents in identifying problem areas and solutions.
Thursday, June 27th: Intensive Seminars

Attendance will be capped at 20 participants per seminar unless otherwise noted.

Building Community Economy with Community Engagement
Led by Andy Toy and Somaly Osteen, SEAMAAC
Take a tour of the South 7th Street commercial corridor and adjacent Mifflin Square Park to hear about the challenges and successes of working in a very diverse community. The SEAMAAC team and other stakeholders will share some of their strategies to reach a broad range of stakeholders in the planning work and how they’ve been able to build key support for the major Rebuilding of Mifflin Square Park. In addition, see the diverse South 7th Street commercial corridor up close, where every business but one is run by immigrants from at least 10 different countries and languages. And see and hear about current plans to better organize around cleaning and safety, design improvements (from a recent Community Design Collaborative set of recommendations), events and promotions, and programming, including the SoPhiE Food Truck. We will be sampling some of the delicious ethnic cuisine on South 7th Street as well!

Building our Clout through Community Organizing— When We Fight We Win (2 ½ hours)
Led by nationally recognized organizer and educator David Hunt and Nora Lichtash, Women’s Community Revitalization Project
This will be an interactive session focusing on working at a community level to support people in bringing about meaningful change in their neighborhood or city-wide. The session will cover identifying common concerns, developing an analysis and empowering people who are affected by that issue to come together and build their power. Participants can be new to community organizing or come to this session to sharpen their skills.

Conducting Walk Audits (2 ½ hours)
Led by Dr. Jeffrey Doshna and Dr. Lynn Mandarano, Tyler School of Art, Temple University
Wednesday’s session documented two successful examples of using walk audits by local community development corporations. In this Thursday field learning, participants will be trained on the use of the tool. The training will start with a brief overview at Jefferson. The group will then travel to an intersection in a nearby neighborhood, where the facilitators will demonstrate how to do an audit. Teams will then disperse to other nearby intersections, and conduct their own mock audit, each under the supervision of a facilitator. All teams will then return to Jefferson to share lessons learned.
Accessibility note: The training will require participants to traverse approximately 5-7 blocks from the conference (1001 Locust Street) to the field location. Philadelphia streets in this area do meet ADA requirements. The majority of the training will be conducted outdoors, without the benefit of amplification. Limit 16 participants

Introduction to Healing Centered Engagement: What It Means for You and Your Communities (3 hours)
Led by Tess Donie and Rodney Mobley of New Kensington CDC
This will be an interactive discussion-based workshop introducing concepts related to the impacts of trauma, stress, and oppression. The session will provide new tools for individuals, organizations, and communities to promote healing and empowerment. It will bring a new lens to explore the concepts of safety and power in our communities.
Neighborhood Planning... A Case Discussion (3 hours)
Led by Kimberly Allen, Wells Fargo Regional Foundation; Rose Gray, Asociación Puertorriqueños En Marcha; Scott Page, Interface Design; and Lamar Wilson, V. Lamar Wilson Associates
Join in an interactive conversation examining the envisioning, development and implementation of a multi-year revitalization plan by an Eastern North Philadelphia community. The team of Wilson Associates, Interface Studio, APM and the Wells Fargo Regional Foundation will walk through key components to prepare for, take on, and carry out action plans. Bring your experiences, questions and ideas to learn from one another and help inform the neighborhood planning process and the products envisioned by residents and other community stakeholders who helped shape them.
Seminar Facilitator Bios

Kimberly Allen
*Senior Vice President/ Senior Program Officer, Wells Fargo Regional Foundation/CDC*
Kimberly Allen was the founding staff member of the Well Fargo Regional Foundation and CDC and continues to oversee more than $6 million in annual grants and investments for long-term community revitalization in low-income communities across the region. Kimberly holds a BA from University of Maryland in organizational psychology and dynamics, is a 2006 graduate of Leadership Philadelphia, and serves on several boards and committees.

Jeffrey Doshna, PhD, AICP
*Department Chair, Department of Planning and Community Development, Tyler School of Art, Temple University*
Jeffrey P. Doshna, Ph.D., Department Chair, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Planning and Community Development. He teaches courses in regional development, community development, community-based organizations, quantitative and qualitative research methods, and supervises the graduate planning studio.

His primary research area is community economic development with a focus on community development finance. Currently, he is researching the influences of neoliberalism on the practice of community development; his doctoral dissertation examined the development of the Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative and the subsequent Federal Healthy Food Financing Initiative, which both support the construction of supermarkets in low-income neighborhoods. He has previously conducted research on microenterprise development, state economic development policy, and efforts to promote entrepreneurship in low-income neighborhoods. He has participated in grant-based research for the US EPA, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, NJ Department of Human Services, the US Economic Development Administration, the International Labour Organization, and has been published in the Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship.

Dr. Doshna holds a BA in Economics from The Johns Hopkins University, having also completed requirements for the major in Geography. He holds both a Master’s in City and Regional Planning and a Doctorate in Planning and Public Policy from Rutgers University. He is a member of the American Planning Association and the Association of American Geographers.

Rose Gray
*Senior Vice President of Community & Economic Development*
Rose V. Gray is the Senior Vice President of Community and Economic Development at Asociación Puertorriqueños En Marcha (APM), a non-profit community development corporation in North Philadelphia. Since joining the organization in 1990, Ms. Gray has been actively engaged in the revitalization of eastern North Philadelphia, a diverse community that has historically been comprised by Latinos and African Americans. She is responsible for overseeing all aspects of APM’s community-based revitalization plan, from community organizing to planning and development. In addition to the physical redevelopment work, Ms. Gray manages APM’s rental and commercial portfolio, in addition to a housing counseling program which provides budgeting, pre- and post-mortgage counseling, credit repair, weatherization and basic system repair programs to persons of low and moderate income.
During her tenure at APM, Ms. Gray has successfully leveraged over $200 million in investments to implement a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy. She has developed over 350 units of affordable housing, which include low-income housing tax credit projects and the successful Pradera home development, a 153-unit homeownership zone within walking distance of Borinquen Plaza, a 44,000 square foot retail center (also developed by APM) that includes a supermarket, Laundromat and a credit union. In addition, Ms. Rose was responsible for the Paseo Verde Transit Oriented Development mixed-use development, which houses 120 units of market/affordable rental units and 30,000 square feet of retail/office space that consist of a Federally Qualified Health Center, a pharmacy, fitness gym, community center, and APM headquarters. The Paseo Verde TOD received triple LEED Platinum status in 2014 and is the first LEED Platinum Neighborhood Development in the Nation and second in the World.

Ms. Gray is a civic leader. She was one of seven delegates appointed by Governor Ridge to the “Summit for America’s Future.” She is a member of the Governor’s Advisory Board on Community and Economic Development, and serves on various boards and committees, TRF New Market Advisory Board, the Urban Land Institute, the Design Collaborative and was a past Board President for the Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations. Ms. Gray was appointed to the Commission on Aging by Mayor Michael Nutter in 2011 and was re-appointed in 2016 by Mayor Jim Kenny. Ms. Gray is a Guest Lecturer at Temple University, the University of Pennsylvania, Haverford College and Rutgers New Brunswick Campus.

David Hunt
Founder, Hunt & Associates

David is a nationally recognized teacher and leader in organizing for social change. He has been trained in many small and large group facilitation methods which serve him well as a nationally sought after speaker, facilitator, trainer, planner, thinker, community and organization builder.

In 1996, David Hunt & Associates was founded to serve as an institution dedicated to citizen empowerment and community development. Much of his research, training and methodology were born during his three-year W.K. Kellogg Foundation National Leadership Fellowship. David uses a wide variety of techniques and tools including storytelling to create sacred space where the voices and visions of all that are gathered can be shared and heard.

Prior to starting David Hunt & Associates, David served for eight years, 1988 -1995, as the Executive Director of the Chicago Rehab Network, a 25-year-old coalition organization of Chicago’s community development corporations dedicated to Community Development without Displacement. Along the journey David has won many awards in addition to his W.K. Kellogg National Leadership Fellowship: Crain’s Chicago Business “People under 40 to watch”, The Chicago Organizers of the Year Award from the John D. and Catherine T. McArthur Foundation and the Woods and Weiboldt Foundations. From 1998 to 2012, David served as one of four principal trainers of the Midwest Academy, one of the nation’s oldest and most prestigious organizing for social change training institutions.
Nora Lichtash  
*Executive Director, Women’s Community Revitalization Project*

Nora has worked with the Women’s Community Revitalization Project (WCRP), a multi-racial community development organization committed to social and economic equity for low income women and their families, since its founding in 1987. Working first as a volunteer, and then as its director. She has managed the organization’s growth from an operating budget of $50,000 to its current annual operating budget in excess of $1.5 million.

WCRP is known for the quality, innovation and effectiveness of its affordable housing and community development strategies; and as an organization that involves low-income women in the process of community building, self-empowerment and change. Most recently the women of WCRP have been speaking out and organizing to make sure that long-term residents in North Philadelphia have the ability to remain in the community and not be pushed out due to high property values and rents. As part of this work they have created the Community Justice Land Trust. Nora has helped to create a group that builds power and honors leadership, dignity and justice in the community.

**Lynn Mandarano, PhD**  
*Professor, Temple University, Tyler School of Art, Department of Planning & Community Development*

Dr. Mandarano holds a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania, MBA in Management Science from Iona College, and BS in Mechanical Engineering from Cornell University. For her dissertation research she developed a comprehensive framework for assessing outcomes of collaborative environmental planning programs and applied it to evaluate the effectiveness of habitat protection and restoration in the New York/New Jersey Harbor under the voluntary National Estuary Program.

Her research continues to explore how collaborative institutions, city agencies, communities and individuals develop human capital (i.e., knowledge and scientific information), social capital, political capital, and other capacities to address complex environmental and social concerns. Her work has been published in leading planning journals including the, Journal of Planning Literature, Journal of Environmental Planning and Management, Journal of Planning, Education and Research, Local Environment, Planning Practice and Research, and Society and Natural Resources among others.

Prior to becoming a professor, Dr. Mandarano worked for more than 20 years as a professional consultant in the fields of environmental engineering and environmental policy for US municipal, county and state governments, private business, and international clients. In 1998, Mandarano started her own consulting practice, The Natural Resource, which is certified as a woman-owned business enterprise in Pennsylvania and Philadelphia.

**Scott Page**  
*Principal, Interface Studio*

Scott Page founded Interface Studio to test and develop a unique and innovative set of urban design ideas. Scott is an urban designer and planner with degrees from the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Design and the Georgia Institute of Technology Architecture Department including a year of study at the Ecole Des Beaux Arts in Paris. Scott has more than twenty years of diverse experience ranging from...
city-wide master planning to site specific design and redevelopment strategies. He has been a leader in developing innovative neighborhood plans targeted toward enhancing communication, awareness and empowerment at the community level. Scott is a lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design and his research on urban design, emerging technologies and sustainability has been presented and published both in the United States and Europe.