FORWARD EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

2019 CONFERENCE

TWEET @PHILLYCDCS #EQUITABLEPHILLY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26TH | 8:00AM to 5:00PM
THURSDAY, JUNE 27TH | 8:00AM to 2:00PM

WWW.PACDC.ORG
Four years ago, PACDC members worked together to craft Beyond Gentrification, Toward Equitable Neighborhoods: An Equitable Development Policy Platform for Philadelphia. This was our agenda for the next City Council session and Mayoral Administration to ensure that long-term residents and small businesses benefitted from Philadelphia’s new development, investment, and growth.

At the time, federal funding for community development in Philadelphia had been in decline, and local funding had been stagnant. But because we worked together, and with allies, to advance our Equitable Development Policy Platform and partnered with strong champions in City Council and the Mayor’s Administration, things sure have changed!

We’ve won more than $353 million in added local funding over FY16 – FY23 for affordable housing and community economic development, from boosting the Philadelphia Housing Trust Fund to expanding the CDC Tax Credit program, increasing funds for commercial corridor programs, and more.

But we did even more together.

PACDC’s Community Development Leadership Institute has provided training, technical assistance and networking opportunities for more than 400 community development professionals and community leaders in Philadelphia and the region each year. These services provide practitioners with strategies and tools to advance equity as part of their work.
A FOREWORD ON EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM PACDC

We also deepened our work on the vital connections between community development and health. Over the last year we’ve worked with 10 hospitals and multiple local health departments to organize Southeastern Pennsylvania’s first joint Community Health Needs Assessment, organized the city’s first Health + Housing Summit, and published this year’s edition of PACDC Magazine on the subject.

We’re fiercely proud of what PACDC, our members, our allies, and institutional partners accomplished together. And we applaud the policymakers that listened and responded to our needs. **But our work is far from done. Philadelphia’s poverty rate is stuck at a shamefully high 26%**. Tens of thousands of families and individuals are desperate for a safe, stable, and affordable home. Job, wage, and business revenue growth is unequal and not reaching our lowest income workers, nor low- and moderate-income entrepreneurs. Some of our neighborhoods are still plagued with vacancy and blight, and our streets aren’t clean or safe enough.

The last four years show that when we work together, we win big. So we’re glad you joined us today for our **2019 Forward Equitable Development Conference**, where some of the most dedicated and innovative community leaders will share what they’re doing to create stronger, more sustainable, and vibrant communities and safer, healthier, and stable families. Today we’ll be listening to your ideas, the challenges you’re facing, and the problems you’re tackling head on. That will help PACDC chart a path for the next four years of policy wins, member services offerings, and institutional partnerships to support your work.

We’re ready to roll up our sleeves even higher as we head into the next four years. And we’re glad to be in the fight for a truly equitable city with you.

**PACDC STAFF**
Colleen Boyd, Administrative and Program Assistant  
Pamela Bridgeforth, Director of Programs  
Zakya Hall, Membership and Communications Coordinator  
Beth McConnell, Policy Director  
Garrett O’Dwyer, Health Programs and Special Projects Manager  
Rick Sauer, Executive Director  
Suzanne Sheeder, Director of Administration and H.R.

**PACDC BOARD**
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Rose Gray, Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha  
Jamila Harris-Morrison, ACHIEVEability  
Nora Lichtash, Women’s Community Revitalization Project  
Majeedah Rashid, Nicetown CDC  
Dina Schlossberg, Regional Housing Legal Services  
Janet Stearns, Project HOME  
Felix Torres-Colon, New Kensington CDC  
Kim Washington, Frankford CDC  
James Wright, People’s Emergency Center CDC
Dear PACDC Conference Attendees:

Welcome to the 2019 PACDC Forward Equitable Development Conference. Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health are honored to be your hosts. Every year, this conference attracts more and more people, eager to learn and engage with others on how we can make Philadelphia a more equitable place to live—it’s an honor to be a part of this journey.

At Jefferson, we’re motivated to help perpetuate equity across the City and move the needle when it comes to closing the gap in health disparities. In line with this, we founded the Philadelphia Collaborative for Health Equity (P-CHE), whose mission is to leverage health and related social determinants of health as a catalyst to help every Philadelphia family achieve success. Capitalizing on the work spearheaded by Jefferson’s Center for Urban Health, P-CHE has worked to listen to community members and organizations to identify factors impeding their health and collaboratively devise a plan for change. Since its creation, P-CHE has broken ground on a new immigrant and refugee clinic in South Philadelphia, conducted a community health needs assessment of the Latino communities living in North Philadelphia, and released a request for proposals for grants to address the highest priority needs from that assessment.

We look forward to building upon the relationships we’ve created over the last few months, establishing new ones, and continuing to learn together how we can effectively support the needs of our City’s most vulnerable residents. I’m sure the lessons and best practices we all take away from this conference will be crucial in helping to facilitate our joint efforts moving forward.

Thank you, PACDC, for your continued work in the community development space, and welcome again to all attendees.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jack Ludmir, MD
Executive Vice President for Equity, Philadelphia University + Thomas Jefferson University
Associate Provost for Community Engagement
Enterprise Director of Women and Children’s Service Line Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Executive Director, Philadelphia Collaborative for Health Equity
The City of Philadelphia’s Division of Housing and Community Development welcomes you to the 2019 Forward Equitable Development Conference.

We are pleased to partner with PACDC, Jefferson Center for Urban Health/Jefferson Health Systems, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

Every Philadelphia neighborhood is important. Our commitment is to work with our partners—at this conference and in the community—to help every neighborhood thrive.

The conversations you have here today will be an important part of that process. Creating equitable development is a goal we can achieve by listening to different voices, learning from each other, and working together. I look forward to hearing the outcomes of today’s session.

Anne Fadullon
Director, Department of Planning and Development
City of Philadelphia
Dear Attendees:

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia is pleased to cosponsor the 2019 Forward Equitable Development Conference. Our partnership with the Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations is one of the ways the Philadelphia Fed seeks to increase nonprofit capacity and promote inclusive growth.

Through our research, outreach, and programmatic initiatives, the Philadelphia Fed seeks to understand trends and promote strategies that allow everyone to gain the tools for economic success. We regularly host conferences that bring partners from financial sectors — banks, philanthropic funds, and lenders — to interact with entrepreneurs, housing advocates, and community development agencies to share knowledge and foster partnership. Our Economic Growth and Mobility Project convenes Research in Actions Labs, catalytic partnerships among public, private and philanthropic stakeholders in the Third District that address specific issues of economic mobility.

This conference will highlight valuable strategies on equitable development and how to create more inclusive spaces across all neighborhoods. We look forward to more opportunities to collaborate with community leaders, policymakers, and everyday citizens to improve economic opportunity for all. This week’s conference is an important contribution to that effort, and we hope you enjoy the day’s offerings.

Best,

Theresa Y. Singleton
Senior Vice President & Community Affairs Officer
Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia
2019 Equitable Development Conference Agenda

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26TH**

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

9:00 a.m.
Welcome, PACDC Membership Meeting, and Keynote Speaker Introduction

**OPENING KEYNOTE & Q&A: LIZ OGBU**

**POST-KEYNOTE PANEL DISCUSSION AND Q&A**
Liz Ogbu, Tonnetta Graham of Strawberry Mansion CDC, Maitreyi Roy of Bartram’s Garden, and Sarah Yeung Sarah Yeung of The Food Trust

**MODERATOR**
Tya Winn of Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia

11:00–12:30 p.m.
Round I: Concurrent Sessions

12:30–2:00 p.m.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MARKETPLACE VISIT & LUNCH
Lunch will be available in the Marketplace. Lubert Plaza, Connelly Auditorium, and the Fourth Floor Terrace are available spaces to eat.

2:15–3:30 p.m.
Round II: Concurrent Sessions

3:30–3:45 p.m.
Break - Refreshments available in the Community Development Marketplace

3:45–5:00 p.m.
Round III: Concurrent Sessions

5:00–6:30 p.m.
TRASH ACADEMY AT LUBERT PLAZA HAPPY HOUR RECEPTION
Mural Arts Philadelphia’s Trash Academy advocates and leaders will engage participants in conversations, games, and activities around the issue of trash and sustainability.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 27TH**

8:00-9:00 a.m.
Registration, Breakfast, and Networking

9:00–10:00 a.m.
MEDITATION AND CENTERING WITH KATELYNN AND LAUREN OF PHILLY YOGA FACTORY

Philly Yoga Factory teachers Katelynn and Lauren will lead an all levels yoga class. Expect a gentle stretch, some deep breathing exercises, and a brief guided meditation to focus the mind and prepare the body for your learning seminar. Philly Yoga Factory is a non-profit organization providing outreach yoga and fitness classes to communities in need or in crisis in the Philadelphia area and low cost drop in classes at our center city location.

10:00 a.m.
INTENSIVE SEMINARS
- Building Community Economy with Community Engagement
- Building our Clout through Community Organizing—When We Fight We Win
- Conducting Walk Audits
- Introduction to Healing Centered Engagement: What it Means for You and Your Communities
- Neighborhood Planning... A Case Discussion

Lunch will be served within seminar groups at a time determined by seminar facilitators.
MEET OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Liz Ogbu,
Founder and Principal of Studio O

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.

Liz is the 2019 International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Titan awardee. The IIDA Titan Award honors outstanding service to the interior design profession by an industry professional, manufacturer, or organization.
## Workshop Schedule

### Round I Workshops | 11:00–12:30PM

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adopting a Preservation Strategy for Philadelphia’s Affordable Rental Housing</td>
<td>HAMILTON 504</td>
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<td>HAMILTON 224/225</td>
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<tr>
<td>How Community Groups Can Win at the Zoning Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Impact of Housing and Green Spaces on Health</td>
<td>JAH M23</td>
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<td>Keeping It Local: Strategies for Connecting Philadelphia Institutions to Local Businesses</td>
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### Round II Workshops | 2:15–3:30PM

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<td>Facilitating Access to Capital and Economic Development through Affinity Group Lending</td>
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<td>Rail Park Equitable Development Plan</td>
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### Round III Workshops | 3:45–5:00PM

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<td>The Breathing Monument: The Art of Equitable Community Engagement at Mander Recreation Center</td>
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<td>Economic Development with Community Engagement</td>
<td>HAMILTON 505</td>
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<tr>
<td>Embedding Integrated, Employer-Connected Training Partnerships into Jobseekers’ Lives and Communities</td>
<td>JAH M24</td>
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<td>Funding Opportunity for Equity through Stormwater Management</td>
<td>CONNELLY AUDITORIUM</td>
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<td>Park in a Truck: Creating Equitable + Inclusive Neighborhoods</td>
<td>JAH 207</td>
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<td>Social Equity and Environmental Justice</td>
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<td>Visioning Neighborhood Based Co-Op Business Development</td>
<td>JAH 307</td>
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<td>Walk Audits: Engaging Residents to Improve Safety</td>
<td>JAH M25</td>
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### Intensive Seminars | 10:00AM

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<td>Neighborhood Planning… A Case Discussion</td>
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Adopting a Preservation Strategy for Philadelphia’s Affordable Rental Housing

Presenters: Rachel Garland, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia; Nora Lichtash, Women’s Community Revitalization Project; Carolyn Placke, Philadelphia LISC

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 non-profit, private, and public sectors have come together to develop “action-oriented” recommendations to preserve and protect affordable housing in Philadelphia.

Empowering and Advancing Agency in the Community

Presenters: Verónica Ayala Flores, Philadelphia LISC; Nora Elmarzouky, in.site collaborative; Donna Griffin, Community Capacity Builders; Stephanie Michel, North 5th Street Revitalization Project; Meeka Outlaw, Diversified Community Services

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. These include defining your challenge/opportunity, creating a work plan, identifying your assets, and 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 that they can ‘workshop’ with their peers.

How Community Groups Can Win at the Zoning Board

Presenters: Chuck Bode, West Powelton/Saunders Park RCO; Lucia Esther, West Powelton/ Saunders Park RCO; Steve Masters, JustLaws

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

Presenters: Leon D. Caldwell, Caldwell & Associates, LLC; Brad Copeland, Mt. Airy CDC; Jason Duckworth, Arcadia Land Company; Drew A. Harris, Thomas Jefferson University College of Population Health; Patrick Morgan, City of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

Leon D. Caldwell, Caldwell & Associates, LLC

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

Presenters: Della Harris, Families Forward Philadelphia; Karen M. Hudson, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; Joshua Park, University City District West Philadelphia Skills Initiative

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

Presenters: Pat Alexander Sanford, Alexander Perry Incorporated; Mariya Khandros, Economy League of Greater Philadelphia; Allen Riddick, Drexel University

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

Presenters: Mark Dodds, City of Philadelphia, Division of Housing and Community Development; Emily Dowdall, Reinvestment Fund; Stasia Monteiro, HACE; Janine Simmons, Reinvestment Fund

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 is 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.

 Reactivating Places of Worship as Community Hubs

Presenters: Michael Major, Called to Serve CDC; Aazim Muhammad, Sister Clara Muhammad CDC; Lindsey Ricker, The Food Trust; Heidi Segall Levy, Community Design Collaborative; Lena Thompson, Wharton–Wesley United Methodist Church and The Thompson Group

Infill Philadelphia, an initiative of the 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 team and community partner, and together they hosted robust community task force meetings to collect input on the best way to reimagine the space. In each of the three communities, fresh food access was uplifted as a critical issue that needed to be addressed through design. This interactive panel will discuss the role sacred places can play in supporting civic engagement, social cohesion, neighborhood equity, and food access.
Barrio Alegria: 4 Years of Community Engagement in Reading
Presenters: Kaylee Carpinteyro; Daniel Egusquiza, Barrio Alegria; Valois Joubert, Barrio Alegria; Arleny Pimentel, Barrio Alegria; Tony Veloz, South of Penn Taskforce

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 themes 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.

Facilitating Access to Capital and Economic Development through Affinity Group Lending
Presenters: Kersy Azocar, FINANTA; Jill Fink, The Merchants Fund; Heather Hanowitz, PIDC; Steve Kuzmicki, Southwest CDC; Sonia Smith, U.S. Small Business Administration

In the United States, more than 26 million households and families are excluded from traditional banking. Small business owners face barriers to accessing capital and improving or building their credit scores. FINANTA’s Affinity Group Lending (AGL) program provides small dollar, character-based loans and inclusive integrated business trainings to entrepreneurs in a group setting. The group is the mechanism that enables participants to obtain a loan. To date, AGL has deployed $6+ million over 141 cycles and in 1,324 microloans with the average AGL loan size of $4,428. In this session, presenters will share how AGL leverages the existing relationships between group members to obtain capital and graduate to other lending products.

Healthy Housing Interventions for Renters
Presenters: Sonja Dahl, Riley Griffin, and John McLaughlin of City of Philadelphia Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity

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.
Protecting Land for Community Gardens

Presenters: Ebony Griffin, Public Interest Law Center; Marlana Moore, Neighborhoods Gardens Trust; Julius Rivera, Collins Smith Barrick Playgarden; Myra Smith, Amber Street Community Garden; Victor Young, Five Loaves Two Fish Community Garden

Philadelphia has a long, rich history of community gardens, which often emerge when neighbors reclaim 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 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

Presenters: John Chin, Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation; James Crowder, PolicyLink; Sarah Yeung, The Food Trust

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.

Restored Spaces at Southwark School

Presenters: Shari Hersh, Mural Arts Philadelphia; Gamar Markarian; Sulay Sosa

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

Presenters: Russell A. Hicks, Ebony Suns Enterprises, LLC; Laura Rigell, Philadelphia Energy Authority; Ky Sanders, Serenity Soular; Chris Spahr, Centennial Parkside CDC

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

Presenters: Ross Clarke, Corporation for Supportive Housing; Sue McPhedran, Mission First Housing Group; Brian McShane, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Lisa Quintana, Merakey of Philadelphia County

Participants will learn about the basic components of supportive housing development, operations, and service provision. Discussion will also focus on Corporation for Supportive Housing’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.
Arts, Engagement, & Creative Place-making on the Move
Presenters: Cass Green, Mill Creek Community Partnership; Jerry Puryear, Fine Art Through Our Eyes

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.

The Breathing Monument: The Art of Equitable Community Engagement at Mander Recreation Center
Presenters: Tonnetta Graham, Strawberry Mansion CDC; Keir Johnston, Amber Art and Design; Adela Park, Fairmount Park Conservancy; Sara Zewde, Studio Zewde

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
Presenters: Zakria Aslam, Aslam Retail; ZarZo Lian; Lucio Rodriguez Guardado, El Sabor Catracho; Somaly Osteen, SEAMAAC; Andy Toy, SEAMAAC

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
Presenters: Brian Hastings, ARAMARK; Mark Karcz, District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund; Ryan Nissim-Sabat, UNITE HERE Philadelphia; Charles Reyes, Mayor’s Office of Education; Stephanie Webb, District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund

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 and connected to clear and attainable immediate outcomes and long-term financial health.
Funding Opportunity for Equity through Stormwater Management

Presenters: Craig Johnson, Interpret Green; Eliza Kelsten-Alford, Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia; Lauren Mandel, Andropogon; Stasia Monteiro, HACE; Jerome Shabazz, Overbrook Environmental Education Center/ Juveniles Active in Science and Technology Development Services, Inc.

Green Stormwater Infrastructure (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 by providing examples of how projects have been designed and additionally leveraged to maximize triple-bottom-line benefits while generating community buy-in across generations.

Social Equity and Environmental Justice

Presenters: Benjamin Cromie, CHPlanning; Carlton Eley, The Eley Group; Charnelle Hicks, CHPlanning; Anne Tyska, CHPlanning

Social equity, inclusion, and diversity present urgent needs among planners, economists, community activists, and corporations. Come hear from planners about how the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s Environmental Justice methodologies might be used to measure how low-income and minority communities might be affected from disparate development impacts.

Visioning Neighborhood Based Co-Op Business Development

Presenters: Jeanette Cuevas, Jamila Medley, and Nyambi Royster, Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance; Emily Wyner, Humblebee

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

Presenters: Yolanda Braxton, People’s Emergency Center; Jeffrey Dashna, Temple University; Kyle Hearing, Transportation Resource Associates; Emily Lucas, Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia; Misha Rodriguez, Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha

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 (PEC), 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.
TRASH ACADEMY @ LUBERT PLAZA HAPPY HOUR RECEPTION
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26TH | 5:00–6:30 P.M.

The trash and litter that deface the streets of our city, earning it the title of ‘Filthadelphia’, are an apt metaphor for the harmful perspectives imposed on people by our commodifying and discarding society that privileges some city environments over others. Trash Academy, a project of Mural Arts Philadelphia’s Restored Spaces Initiative, uses the issue of trash and litter as the vehicle to remedy these mistaken perspectives, involving participants in a collaboratory where their own research and creativity fuel a shared process of education, reflection, advocacy, and intervention. Providing a playful entry point to a discussion about a complicated issue, members from Trash Academy create games and activities designed to engage their audiences around the issue of trash.
**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, 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**

*Led by nationally recognized organizer and educator David Hunt & Christi Clark and Nora Lichtash of 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 citywide. 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**

*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.

**Introduction to Healing Centered Engagement: What It Means for You and Your Communities**

*Led by Tess Donie, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and Rodney Mobley, 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**

*Led by Lamar Wilson of V. Lamar Wilson Associates with support from Kimberly Allen, Wells Fargo Regional Foundation; Ben Bryant, Interface Design; Rose Gray, Asociación Puertorriqueños En Marcha*

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.
Wednesday Presenter Bios

**Pat Alexander Sanford** is the President, CEO and Founder of Alexander Perry Incorporated (API). Ms. Alexander Sanford has over 16 years’ experience in the design profession. She has received numerous awards, including the U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency award for Outstanding Entrepreneurial achievement, the Who’s Who of Executive Woman and the Prestigious Paragon Award. She has worked for a variety of clients including the Philadelphia Phillies Ballpark, Philadelphia Eagles, Academy of Natural Sciences, Wills Eye Hospital and the Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation. Ms. Sanford never forgets her public and civic duties. She is a founder, serves on the Board of Directors and is Vice Chair for the African American Chamber of Commerce, Member of the Women President’s Organization and the President’s Visiting Committee for the University of the Arts. She has been recently appointed to the Mayor’s Art Commission Board, and the Governor’s Minority Advisory Committee.

**Zakria Aslam** was born and raised in South Philadelphia. Zak’s parents migrated to the United State over four decades ago and decided to open a Middle-Eastern retail shop on the South 7th Street commercial corridor. Zak finished high school in 2005 and took over the family business since then. On top of a retail store, Zak is now managing a pizza store located in Chester, PA and a gas station located in Philadelphia. Zak’s goal is to be successful in the business world while contributing to economic improvement in the city where he lives.

**Verónica Ayala Flores** is Community Development Assistant at LISC Philadelphia. A native of Puerto Rico, Verónica has made Philadelphia her home over the past twelve years. She firmly believes in everyone’s ability to participate in a greater conversation; one that affects the way we live, and the pursuit to improve it. While studying architecture at Temple University, Verónica honed her passion for urban affairs into the creation of Building Relationships in Communities [BRIC]; a collective that creates stronger neighborhoods through inclusive projects and fostering relationships between traditionally separate communities. At LISC Philadelphia, Verónica is responsible for providing programmatic and administrative support to Equitable Community Development, Affordable Housing, and Economic Development. She serves as a continuing education instructor at Temple University and as chair for the Design Advocacy Group’s Equity Task Force.

**Kersy Azocar** is Vice President of Microlending at FINANTA. She joined FINANTA in 2008 and has over 15 years of experience in the financial industry. As a VP of Microlending, Kersy manages FINANTA’s Microlending Department for business, consumer and first-time homebuyer loan programs. The Microlending department includes FINANTA’s most recognized Affinity Group Lending program, which provides access to capital and financial education in a group setting. Since 2011, over 1,300+ clients have benefited from the program, with over $6 million in microloans. Prior to her current position, she worked at PHH Mortgage Corporation as a Mortgage Loan Consultant. In this position she interacted with loan processors, underwriters and Financial Advisors to provide home mortgage and other products, nationwide.

**Chuck Bode** moved to Philadelphia in 1968 and has been a full time community volunteer since 2016. Chuck’s volunteer service began with the Pennsylvania Railway Museum Association in Washington, PA in the 1960s where he rose to Associate Museum Director. In Philadelphia, he became Chair of the Delaware Valley Association of Railroad Passengers’ Light Rail Committee in 1985. He later served as Secretary and President where he learned many lessons later valuable for RCOs. Subsequently, he was one of the founders and Executive Director of the Philadelphia Trolley Coalition. In 2001, he was one of the founders of the Rail Users’ Network. He has been a Board Member since and now also serves as Membership Secretary. Chuck was on the Zoning Committee in West Powelton and was involved with the West Powelton/Saunders Park RCO from its founding until spring 2019. He facilitated its meetings, prepared the statements for ZBA hearings, and represented the RCO in community and City meetings.

**Leon D. Caldwell** is managing principle of Ujima Transformation Partners, LLC, a social impact real estate development company that builds affordable and market rate residential in addition to community co-sharing workspaces. Dr. Caldwell spent 15 years of his career as an associate professor at various leading research universities around the country. He is an award winning researcher and scholar activist. He also has 6 years of leadership in philanthropic evaluation having worked for Annie E. Casey and Debruce foundations. He is a fellow of the Association of Black Foundation Executives. His social impact real estate interests focuses on health, wellness, and economic mobility. His pivot into real estate development is a natural extension of applying community health strategies. Dr. Caldwell is also the founder and managing principal of Strategic Learning Partners, which provides social innovation design, technical assistance, and evaluation consulting practice.
Kaylee Carpinteyro is a resident of Reading, PA and a student at Penn State Berks, working on her bachelor’s degree in Professional Writing. She participates with Barrio Alegria in the Storytelling Through Dance project and the Leadership Development project.

John Chin is the Executive Director of the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation (PCDC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. He is committed to PCDC’s mission of preserving, promoting, and protecting Chinatown as a diverse ethnic community. For more than ten years, he has volunteered his time on the Holy Redeemer Chinese Catholic School’s fundraising committee. He serves on the boards of the Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations, Philadelphia Forward, Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board, Philadelphia Safe and Sound, the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors’ Bureau (PCVB), and Philadelphia Multicultural Affairs Congress. His long standing in the community has been an asset in building relationships with the many different interests in the community. His participation in advocacy and service organizations ensures that Chinatown’s issues are represented as part of broader efforts to effect positive change for the citizens of Philadelphia.

Ross Clarke is a housing finance professional with extensive CDFI lending and government administration experience. As a Community Investment Officer for Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), Mr. Clarke is currently the lending lead for the states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and also supports CSH’s work in New York. Mr. Clarke’s duties include originating and underwriting new supportive housing transactions and working with key stakeholders throughout the Metro Region to maximize resources for supportive housing production. Prior to joining CSH, Mr. Clarke was Executive Director, Inclusionary Housing for New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. Mr. Clarke also spent several years working for the Community Preservation Corporation, a not-for-profit CDFI lender, most recently as AVP, Manager of Lending Initiatives. Mr. Clarke holds a Master of Social Work degree with a specialization in Community Development and Affordable Housing from Washington University in St. Louis.

Brad Copeland joined Mt. Airy CDC in 2008 and has since led many of the organization’s key initiatives, particularly in real estate and community development. Under his leadership as Executive Director, Mt. Airy CDC introduced Supper Sessions on the Avenue, a popular weekly food-and-drink festival each September, and the organization served as lead partner on the renovation at Lovett Park, the public space adjacent to the local branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

Benjamin Cromie is a public outreach and event planning specialist at CHPlanning. He has organized and moderated several small and large-scale civic engagement projects. Additionally, he has seven years of marketing, fundraising, and management experience in the Greater Philadelphia nonprofit performing arts sector. Mr. Cromie also provides extensive expertise with geographic information systems (GIS) analysis for public and private infrastructure projects and multi-modal studies for neighborhoods, cities, and regional hubs. He has taught workshops on art and urbanism for the Fleisher Art Memorial, American Philosophical Society, and University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Cromie led community outreach and economic development initiatives specifically geared toward achieving measurable socially equitable outcomes. His experience includes work to increase small business vendor diversity and employment access in Philadelphia. Mr. Cromie holds a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Arts from The College of New Jersey.

James Crowder is a committed advocate for policies and programs that improve the quality of life for low-income families of color in distressed neighborhoods. He currently helps lead the All-In Cities program as a Senior Associate at PolicyLink. In this capacity, he provides research and technical assistance to coalitions across the country that are seeking to advance racial equity and economic inclusion. Prior to joining PolicyLink, James worked as a program officer for LISC Philadelphia. In that role, he helped draft a community-driven equitable development strategy to support residents in a gentrifying neighborhood of West Philadelphia. Prior to LISC he worked in the private sector as a consultant with BCT Partners providing technical assistance for cities in the HUD’s Choice Neighborhoods Program. James has also worked in the public sector, spending seven years in a variety of policy analysis roles with the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. He holds a bachelor’s degree in communications and a master of public policy degree from Rutgers University, as well as a master of arts in African American studies from Columbia University.
Jeanette Cuevas is a first generation Chicana, from north Georgia transplanted to Philadelphia. She is a Co-op Development Consultant working with the Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance (PACA). She provides technical assistance to co-ops in the region, and creates meaningful connections between social justice movements and the co-operative movement. A cornerstone of Jeanette’s political education is the history and power of radical traditions in the U.S. South, and in the power of grassroots liberation movements. Rooted in the intersections of her culture and experiences, Jeanette creates and supports systems that directly impact the lived reality of immigrant, low-income, and marginalized communities. The political and geographical landscape in which cooperatives are grown are fertile soil for social justice movements to build and grow, to provide outlets and visions for new ways of being.

Sonja Dahl is an AmeriCorps VISTA with the West Philadelphia Promise Zone, a place-based anti-poverty initiative that seeks to direct federal resources and convene community partners working on its five focus areas: housing, public safety, education, workforce and economic opportunity, and health and wellness. She works with neighborhood-level data to understand trends in the communities the Promise Zone serves and communicate them to partners and residents. She also coordinates the Promise Zone Research Connection, a group of residents and researchers seeking greater accountability for research projects in West Philadelphia. With a placement at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Sonja connects the Promise Zone to this year’s Regional Community Health Needs Assessment. Through this experience, she has become interested in connections between health and housing/community development, and has investigated ways to bring this intersection to place-based work in service of a more equitable city. Sonja received a BA in Sociology/Anthropology and Spanish from Swarthmore College.

Mark Dodds is a Senior Program Manager in the Policy and Planning Unit of the City of Philadelphia’s Division of Housing and Community Development. He is responsible for directing the development and implementation of housing and community development policy, programs, and grants. Mark looks to harness the power of data and spatial analysis to make policy and program recommendations. His work involves extensive engagement and collaboration with city, state, and federal agencies, funders, non-profit providers, advocacy groups, and community members to ensure programs are effective and goals are met.

Jeffrey P. Doshna is a professional planner, economist and community leader. He teaches courses in community and economic development, quantitative and qualitative research methods and supervises the graduate planning studio. He currently is the Chair of the Department of Planning and Community Development at Temple University, and since January 2019 he has served as a Councilman in Flemington, New Jersey. Doshna is actively engaged in practice as an American Institute of Certified Planner (AICP). He has served on the Flemington Planning Board since 2006, supporting the creation of its affordable housing element, its sustainability element, as well as the latest revision to the Borough’s Master Plan in 2010. Dr. Doshna holds Bachelor’s degrees in Economic and in Geography from The Johns Hopkins University, a Master of City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University, and a Doctorate in Planning and Public Policy from Rutgers University.

Kimberlee Douglas, RLA, ASLA, LEED GA is a licensed landscape architect and joined Jefferson in 2009 as full time faculty in the department of Landscape Architecture. Currently, Kim is an Associate Professor and Director of the program. She was recently awarded the Anton Germinshuizen Stantec Term Chair in Landscape Architecture, which allows her to continue research on the effects of contact with nature on children. This research is currently conducted in the Southwest part of Philadelphia in conjunction with Jefferson’s School of Public Health. The efforts are concentrated on designing and implementing green corridors for children to travel and play safely in Philadelphia neighborhoods. This program is committed to the education needed in confronting ecological as well as cultural and social issues that affect urban neighborhoods, particularly those in need of revitalization.

Emily Dowdall is Policy Director for the Policy Solutions group at Reinvestment Fund, a Philadelphia-based Community Development Financial Institution. Emily helps clients apply research results in making data-driven programming and investment decisions. Recent projects include the development of neighborhood investment strategies for Pittsburgh and Indianapolis, and an update to Philadelphia’s Market Value Analysis (MVA). She also oversees technical assistance provided to community-based organizations engaged in comprehensive neighborhood planning efforts. Previously, Emily led research efforts on critical issues facing Philadelphia and other cities for the Pew Charitable Trusts, producing reports on topics including gentrification, the role of public libraries, and property taxes. Before Pew, Emily held policy analysis positions at NYU and in New York City’s Office of the Mayor. She has a Master of City Planning degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a B.A. in Metropolitan Studies from New York University.
Jason Duckworth is President of Arcadia Land Company. Jason has received widespread recognition as a progressive developer and advocate of smart growth in the Philadelphia region. Under Jason’s leadership, Arcadia has pursued a strategy of infill redevelopment in walkable places such as Media, Narberth, Hatboro, and Haverford. Jason’s work on the New Daleville traditional neighborhood was the subject of author Witold Rybczynski’s 2007 book, Last Harvest. More recently, Jason was featured in Leigh Gallagher’s 2013 book, The End of the Suburbs: Where the American Dream is Moving. A frequent speaker on smart growth and housing markets, Jason volunteers his time to progressive land use organizations throughout the Philadelphia region.

Daniel Egusquiza is Executive Director of Barrio Alegria and oversees the South of Penn organizing and programming. Daniel Egusquiza was born in Lima, Peru. He attended the University of San Marcos in Lima, where he pursued a degree in literature but did not finish because he migrated to the United States when he turned 19 years old. He graduated from Northern Illinois University with a degree in Art and has always looked for ways in which art can educate, empower, and change a community. Daniel also works as the outreach coordinator for the Reading Public Library.

Carlton Eley is President of The Eley Group, and he is a subject matter expert on equitable development. In July 2018, Carlton resigned from the federal government following twenty years of service. He was the first urban planner hired by the Office of Environmental Justice at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and he managed a portfolio on equitable development. Since his departure from civil service, Carlton has served as Chair of the American Planning Association’s Social Equity Task Force. As Chair, Mr. Eley is helping the APA build a culture of commitment and professional competency for its 45,000+ members. His technical assistance work and public engagement efforts have earned citations from the American Planning Association and the National Organization of Minority Architects. Mr. Eley has a B.A. in Sociology/Social Work Curriculum from Elizabeth City State University and a M.S. in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa.

Nora Elmarzouky is a Co-Founder & Member of in.site collaborative. She is a cultural broker and organizer, who designs and facilitates programming around cultural sensitivity, Egyptian culture, education, immigration, diversity, philanthropy, and interfaith understanding. A dynamic speaker, Nora is also the co-founder of in.site, a collective of women dedicated to creating equitable and inclusive urban spaces. RE-humanization and collaboration are central to Nora’s work, as demonstrated through her partnership with Ebony Suns which explores energy democracy and the green economy. Nora utilizes a framework of bottom-up, community-driven development with Centennial Parkside CDC and managing Friends, Peace, and Sanctuary - a collaborative exhibition between Swarthmore College, and Syrian and Iraqi resettled individuals. She is a board member of YallaPunk, Barrio Alegria, and the East Parkside Residents Association; Impact100 founders fellow; and co-founder of PHL Niqash discussion group.

Lucia Esther moved to Philadelphia in the mid-70s to attend graduate school at Penn. She has lived in Spruce Hill and West Powelton since then. Lucia’s family had a tradition of community service that included founding the community church. In Philadelphia, Lucia served on the Board of the Cobbs Creek ice rink. Around 2010, several neighbors frustrated with both the local organization and the coming of gentrification formed a “Zoning Committee.” Lucia served as vice chair. Lucia also founded and organized the West Powelton/Saunders Park RCO in 2012. She was Chair and a Board Member until spring of 2019. She presented the community’s position at ZBA hearings concerning the neighborhood, and testified at City Council and the Planning Commission. She was on the steering committee for the City’s University City District Plan. She networked many of the surrounding community organizations, participated in the Promise Neighborhood and the Promise Zone.

Anne Fadullon is the Director of Planning & Development, a cabinet level position in the City of Philadelphia. Her department oversees the City’s planning, zoning, affordable housing, development assistance and historic preservation functions. Prior to joining the City, Anne was the Director of Real Estate Development at Dale Corporation where she completed both affordable and market-rate projects. She is a Past President of the Philadelphia Building Industry Association. Anne has a degree in Urban Studies and Economics from Lehigh University and a Masters in City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania.
Jill Fink has been an agent for social change throughout her career. She has a background in non-profit leadership, higher education, and social impact entrepreneurship with a history of improving organizational effectiveness through change leadership, strategic planning, coaching, and talent management. Jill’s work has always aligned with her values and a higher purpose. She’s dedicated much of her career to building cross-sector partnerships that engage stakeholders and partners in order to guide and support strategies that build capacity, increase effectiveness, and demonstrate impact. Jill owned Mugshots Coffeehouse, a founding B-Corp, for 13 years. She returned to the non-profit sector in 2011 and joined The Merchants Fund in 2018. She is an appointed member of the Mayor’s Food Policy Advisory Council and volunteers at Ronald McDonald House with her dog, Josie. She holds a Masters from Rutgers and certificates in leadership from Bryn Mawr and Wharton.

Rachel Garland is a staff attorney in the Housing Unit at Community Legal Services, Inc. in Philadelphia. Rachel represents tenants in their rent, repair and eviction cases. She specializes in subsidized housing, criminal records barriers to housing, domestic violence and housing issues, and preservation of affordable housing. She received her B.A. from Oberlin College and her J.D. from Temple Law School. Rachel began at Community Legal Services with an Equal Justice Works Fellowship to focus on housing barriers faced by victims of domestic violence.

Lamar Gore started as refuge manager at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in 2014, working with refuge staff to engage communities by “knowing” community partners on deeper level. The refuge work has included community leaders/organizations, city partners, and conservation partners, all working to connect the communities of the greater Philadelphia area to the refuge and other green spaces in the community. Prior to his time at John Heinz, he worked in the Northeast Regional Office as Assistant Refuge Supervisor, Chief of the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights, and Migratory Bird Biologist. He has also worked in the field as Assistant Regional Biologist, Assistant Refuge Biologist, and Biological Technician from Virginia to Vermont. Through his career, he worked on regional youth program development, diversity recruitment, urban program development, species and habitat restoration, and other projects. Lamar has a bachelor’s degree in Biology from Delaware State University and a master’s degree in wildlife biology at the University of Massachusetts.

Tonnetta Graham is a Philadelphia native who is a Founder and current President of the Strawberry Mansion Community Development Corporation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to neighborhood preservation, commercial, residential and economic development and planning. She has successfully lead community engagement efforts and negotiations on a wide variety of local projects that have led to community benefits that stabilize the neighborhood and empower its longtime residents. Her additional service efforts include board affiliations with the Strawberry Mansion Neighborhood Action Center, East Fairmount Park Coalition, Community Partnership School and the Audubon/Outward Bound Discovery Center. She also serves as an Instructor for the Philadelphia Citizen’s Planning Institute and is a contributor to its Citizen’s Tool Kit and Philadelphia’s Neighborhood Preservation Tool Kit. Tonnetta has a BS in Human Resources from Indiana University of PA and her MS in Higher Education and Organizational Leadership from Drexel University with additional certifications in Volunteer Management and Citizen Planning.

Cassandra Green (Cass) is currently Project Manager for New Kensington CDC, HACE and Impact Services DOJ-Crime Based Community Reduction Grant (CBCR) in the Kensington and Fairhill neighborhoods. She previously served as People’s Emergency Center CDC’s Director of Community Engagement & Partnerships managing its quality of life programming, Community Connectors, Drexel’s Action for Early Learning Outreach and Engagement, organized the Lancaster Ave Jazz & Arts Festival and creative-place-making initiatives. Cass’s career includes 27 years at the University of Pennsylvania serving as the senior business and building administrator for the Institute of Contemporary Art-ICA for 17 years. She is a multi-discipline artist, curator, and producer of the “Mill Creek Past, Present and Future” documentary. Cass co-founded the Mill Creek Community Partnership (MCCP) in 2004 and serves as its president along with having established the Fine Arts Through Our Eyes Community Arts Initiative in 2005. She incorporated ICG Consulting LLC in 2017 which specializes in arts/asset based community engagement.
Donna Griffin is President of Community Capacity Builders (CCB). She is a community and economic development professional committed to empowering communities for change through sustainable and equitable neighborhood revitalization. In 2010, Donna founded CCB to transform people and places. The CCB team uses a collaborative approach to achieve client goals, connecting their knowledge and ideas with her team’s expertise. Prior to CCB, Donna served as the Director of the City of Philadelphia’s Weed and Seed Project, an initiative designed to stimulate synergistic relationships among community and faith-based organizations, government agencies, businesses, and residents to improve the safety, housing, economic, social and built environment. In 2008 she earned a Community Economic Development (CED) Master’s Degree from Southern New Hampshire University.

Ebony Griffin is a staff attorney for environmental justice at the Public Interest Law Center. She focuses on projects that support low-income, historically disinvested communities and communities of color in advocating effectively for sustainable and equitable neighborhoods. Her current work includes the Eastwick Advocacy and Community Development project, the Garden Justice Legal Initiative, and a lawsuit to preserve the La Finquita Community Farm. In law school, she worked as a summer law clerk for the White House Council on Environmental Quality and also spent five months clerking for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance at the Environmental Protection Agency. After law school, Ebony clerked for the Honorable Judge Zoe Bush of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for one year. After clerking for Judge Bush, Ebony spent several years working as an environmental and safety regulatory associate at Enhesa Inc. in Washington DC. Ebony is a graduate of Howard University School of Law and received her Bachelor of the Arts degree in Spanish from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Riley Griffin is an AmeriCorps VISTA with the West Philadelphia Promise Zone, a place-based anti-poverty initiative that seeks to direct federal resources and convene community partners working on its five focus areas: housing, public safety, education, workforce and economic opportunity, and health and wellness. Riley supports the both the Public Safety Committee, the Health and Wellness Committee, and its three sub-committees: Access to Care, Behavioral Health, and Chronic Disease Prevention. This year, the Public Safety Committee has supported two initiatives that aim to improve relations between Promise Zone residents and the 16th Police District. The Health and Wellness Committee and its sub-committees are creating a toolkit to help Promise Zone residents navigate insurance and primary care systems in Philadelphia, coordinating produce deliveries to the community, and organizing a presentation series where behavioral health providers give presentations to the community about mental health and treatment resources. Riley has also organized several workshops for Promise Zone residents on grant writing, the health insurance marketplace, gun safety, and more. Riley received a BA in Anthropology from Bard College.

Heather Hanowitz is Vice President & Senior Loan Officer of Business Lending at PIDC. PIDC is Philadelphia’s public-private economic development corporation. Heather is responsible for the organization’s business development and lending activities to small and midsize commercial businesses in Philadelphia with an emphasis on minority- and woman-owned enterprises. Her team deploys flexible financing solutions ranging from $50,000 to $2 million. She is an experienced multilingual professional and has strong credit analysis skills built from a decade of progressive commercial lending activity and management. Heather also serves as Vice Chair of the Sustainable Business Network’s Board of Directors.

Mark Harrell started as the NAC Coordinator/ Community Organizer for the Southwest CDC (SWCDC) in March of 2014. This organization is contracted with the Division of Housing and Community Development to assist homeowners who are in jeopardy of losing their homes to mortgage and tax foreclosure. SWCDC is currently working towards keeping housing affordable so that those who currently live in Southwest can continue to live in southwest. He is the former Executive Director of Men United for a Better Philadelphia, a non-profit organization whose mission is to recruit men to conduct violence prevention outreach activities throughout the City. He served as the Director of Youth Programs and Associate Director of Development for the Mayor’s Office of Community Services. Mark was a Political Science major at Howard University and received a Master’s Degree in Human Service from Lincoln University.

Della Harris is an Employment and Life Skills Coordinator at Families Forward Philadelphia with many years of experience. She continues to be dedicated and committed to working with the population of ex-offenders and individuals and families experiencing homelessness to empower them in becoming independent and self-sufficient. In 2018 she was instrumental in collaborating with the Homeless Health Initiative, shelters and other stakeholders to create the Keys to Success (K2S) Initiative which provides employment opportunities and resources for adults and individuals in Philadelphia shelters.
Dr. Drew A. Harris is an Assistant Professor at the Thomas Jefferson University College of Population Health (JCPH) and Director of the Scholarly Inquiry-Health Policy track at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College. A researcher, author and presenter, he led JCPH’s effort to create the nation’s first Masters in Population Health for practicing health professionals and a new graduate program called Population Health Intelligence. Dr. Harris presents regularly on population health and health policy to regional and national audiences and is a featured speaker in the American College Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Cluster program. He is an active health advocate, publishing frequently in the Philadelphia Inquirer, Wall Street Journal and other publications on topical health policy issues.

Marcy N. Hart is a partner in the Real Estate Department at Fox Rothschild, a 900-attorney national law firm. Her practice combines more than 30 years of experience with real estate and corporate finance law. Marcy has advised clients on more than $8 billion in debt financings and equity raises for developers and investors. She has particularly deep experience with transactions that leverage Opportunity Zone incentives and historic, new market and renewable energy tax credits. She has advised on a wide range of projects, including large residential, commercial and industrial developments, residential communities, industrial facilities, entertainment and resort centers and educational, medical and retail complexes. Recognized as an innovator and leader, Marcy was named to The Philadelphia Inquirer’s 2019 list of “Influencers of Law.” She is a member of the Building Industry Association of Philadelphia and serves on the Board of Directors for CREW (Commercial Real Estate Women) Philadelphia.

Brian Hastings is the Regional Director for ARAMARK Sports & Entertainment. In this role, he oversees the company’s operations in the Philadelphia area, including Citizen Bank Park, the world-class home of the Philadelphia Phillies, Lincoln Financial Field, home of the Philadelphia Eagles, Wachovia Center, home of the Philadelphia Flyers and 76ers, and Philadelphia Convention Center. Hastings has more than 30 years of management experience with ARAMARK and has been involved with new stadium and arena openings throughout the company’s portfolio, including Citi Field in New York and Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia. Over his career with ARAMARK, Hastings has helped guide and manage many special events including MLB World Series, NBA All-Star games, NBA championship series, NHL Stanley Cup series and the Winter Classic.

Kyle Hearing is a Project Analyst for TRA, a firm specializing in transit consulting. In this role, Kyle audits operations and maintenance activities at transit agencies; conducts threat and vulnerability assessments for transit agencies; develops policies governing state oversight of transit operations; and oversees accident investigations. In addition to his work in the field of transportation planning, Kyle serves as an adjunct instructor at Temple University, teaching a course on the fundamentals of geographic information systems (GIS) for the Department of Planning and Community Development. Recently, Kyle co-authored a paper in Land, Prioritizing Suitable Locations for Green Stormwater Infrastructure Based on Social Factors in Philadelphia, which proposes a geospatial framework for maximizing the social, economic, and environmental benefits of green stormwater infrastructure investments. Kyle received a MS in City and Regional Planning from Temple University and a BA in Psychology from the University of Michigan.

Shari Hersh is a community artist and organizer. As Senior Project Manager and Founder of the Restored Spaces Initiative at the Mural Arts Program, Hersh researches and develops innovative projects in the public sphere. In partnership with artists, activists, youth and communities, Hersh facilitates a collaborative model of practice that emphasizes art and creativity as essential vehicles for catalyzing dialogue, building relationships and making decisions collectively. Her projects convene communities in collaboration with artists to create palpable positive impacts in neighborhoods and to affirm citizen rights to shape and use the city’s public spaces. Her work addresses the question, ‘How can we reknit social fabric through reshaping our communities, our environment and ourselves?’ Her recent efforts focus on socially engaged projects with youth, community and interdisciplinary collaborations that address issues such as housing, sustainability and access, and right to green spaces.
Charnelle Hicks is the founding principal at CHPlanning. The firm provides professional planning services for communities and infrastructure with specialties in the areas of neighborhood planning, economic development, mobility, housing, and sustainability. Ms. Hicks began her career as the senior land use and environmental planner for the City of Dallas, Texas and then served as the senior land use and environmental planner for the U.S. Virgin Islands. Ms. Hicks left the planning field for a brief period to work in management consulting for an accounting firm where she consulted on cost benefit, technology, innovation and change management. Later, upon founding CHPlanning, Ms. Hicks led efforts to protect and restore communities by planning for better neighborhoods. She has led numerous community planning efforts throughout Pennsylvania and has developed a specialty in social equity and sustainability. Ms. Hicks is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and she holds a Master of City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Bachelor Arts from Swarthmore College.

Russell A. Hicks is an active father, business coach and award-winning social entrepreneur. His social enterprise, Ebony Suns Enterprises, LLC, which is a sustainable consulting business that does training and project management in the green economy, has been funded by foundations like the Knight Foundation for Black Male Engagement, and won a national award from Cricket Wireless for their Community Star/Solo Entrepreneur. He is a U.S. Professional Fellow with the U.S. State Department, Board President of Partners of the Americas Pennsylvania Chapter, active with the Philadelphia Food Advisory Council, and a POWER Climate Change Fellow working with Centennial Parkside CDC and in-situ collaborative on energy democracy, green workforce development and community solar.

Karen M. Hudson, PhD, MSW, LSW is frequently honored locally and nationally for being a strong and fierce advocate dedicated to eliminating health disparities affecting children and families experiencing homelessness. She serves full-time as Program Leader of the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia’s Homeless Health Initiative (CHOP/HHI), an award-winning, volunteer health outreach/health promotion program that provides access to free health and wellness services, and health education to families and staff in homeless shelters. The program exposes health care professionals to greater knowledge about family homelessness and its impact on children’s lives and their health. Dr. Hudson has a love for teaching and is a Social Work Lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice. She earned her Ph.D. in Public Health from Walden University, concentration in Community Education. Her research interest is in fathers’ parenting roles with their children while they are residing in homeless shelters.

Craig Johnson has produced and directed more than 75 award winning interactive multimedia programs, videos and films and exhibits. These efforts have focused on the integration of engaging storytelling, creative design and innovative media technology. Craig’s studio, Interpret Green, develops program content that advocates for social justice, environment literacy, public health and experiential programs that connect children with nature. Recent work is focused on developing Nature Habitats and Learning Landscapes for school-grounds, parks, libraries and site specific venues. In these projects, Craig serves as the Habiteer to Project Director. His client list includes: The Smithsonian, The National Park Service, HACE, Independence Visitor Center, Fairmount Waterworks Interpretive Center, DuPont Environmental Education Center, Trust for Public Lands, Studio Ludo, Underground Railroad Museum at Belmont Mansion, PSEG: Energy & Environmental Resource Center, Perelman Center for Advance Medicine – PENN Medicine, African-American Museum in Philadelphia, and Merck Center for Arts Education.

Keir Johnston studied fine art at California State University at Northridge, and painted his first mural at the age of 18. He found the immense standing of the social impact and the profound community involvement an ideal way to express to a broader-reaching audience. Becoming an advocate on many social issues and community groups, he has worked collaboratively in the production of murals with life inmates at state penitentiaries, elderly, college students, youth in detention centers, elementary and high school students, mentally and physically disabled and the general public through teaching workshops.

Valois Joubert is Barrio Alegria’s Art Coordinator. In this role, she helps organize and produce arts programs outside of typical settings. She is also a photographer. She describes her job as providing spaces to get the community involved and change mindsets of how people view Reading, through the arts.
**Mark Karcz** has worked at the District 1199C Training and Upgrading Fund for the last year and a half in a variety of roles. As a coordinator he has helped to develop and administer training programs, run career and financial workshops, and has supported people receiving training for a variety of positions from culinary professionals, childcare workers, nurse aides, home health aides, direct support professionals and apprentices. Prior to working at the Training Fund, Mark spent many years working in Food and Beverage Departments in hotels, as cook, server, and room service server. As a hotel worker, he was active in his union and started teaching in UNITE HERE’s education program which led him to become a high school teacher and eventually back into adult education. Mark lives in Philadelphia with his wife and young daughter.

**Eliza Kelsten-Alford** is the Government Relations Manager for the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia (SBN). In this role, she oversees the development, implementation, and evaluation of the organization’s advocacy and policy work. Eliza joined SBN in 2018 after spending the last two years at the American Sustainable Business Council (ASBC) in Washington, D.C. As a Policy Manager at ASBC, Eliza advocated on behalf of sustainable businesses at the federal and state level on issues ranging from carbon pricing to healthcare reform. In addition to her government affairs work, Eliza spent two election cycles as a Project Manager for Petel & Co., a political direct mail firm, and two years doing operations and research for Benenson Strategy Group, a leading strategic research and consulting firm.

**Mariya Khandros** is the Director of Shared Solutions at the Economy League. Her primary responsibility is to oversee the development and implementation of Philadelphia Anchors for Growth and Equity, a project focused on increasing local purchasing by Philadelphia’s hospitals, universities and other major employers with the goal of creating jobs and reducing poverty. Prior to joining the Economy League, Mariya was an Economic Policy Analyst at the Office of the Philadelphia City Controller, where she supervised the analysis of the Five Year Plan, as well as other research projects focused on Philadelphia’s tax and economic policy. Additionally, she held positions with the Urban Affairs Committee at the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, NorthEast Treatment Centers, the Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust (PREIT), and A.T. Kearney (a management consulting firm). Mariya holds a Master of Public Administration from the Fels Institute of Government.

**Steve Kuzmicki** has been the Economic Development Project Manager at Southwest CDC since 2015. Steve graduated from the New School for Social Research in 1988 with a Master’s degree in Urban Planning and Policy Analysis. Steve has worked in the community development field in three major metropolitan areas, including Brooklyn, NY, Philadelphia, PA and Wilmington, DE. He has been involved in the development of many housing and economic development projects, been involved in local and regional strategic planning initiatives and has created and implemented numerous programs and initiatives designed to have a positive impact on the local economy and raise the quality of life for neighborhood residents.

**ZarZo Lian** is one of SEAMAAC’s food truck recipients who successfully became a sushi bar owner at a Giant retail store. She has over 5 years of experience working as an outreach worker and supporting Burmese clients with various needs. Zarzo came to the United States as a refugee from Burma. When she first arrived, there was a lot to learn. She came from a poor country where she learned to appreciate food. She had to work very hard to make sure she had food for her family to eat. She had a very difficult time getting a job here because of the language barrier. Fortunately, she found her first job making sushi at a small restaurant. She appreciates that opportunity, and she learned that good food makes people happy. Currently, ZarZo is working two jobs to make sure that she can support her kids and her family back in Burma. Her goal is to own a take-out restaurant and create jobs for refugees within her own community in South Philly where she can also serve healthy food to customers.

**Nora Lichtash** has been involved with the Women’s Community Revitalization Project (WCRP), a community-based development organization, since its founding in 1986 and has served as its Director since 1990. She has managed the organization’s growth from an annual operating budget of $75,000 to its current annual operating budget of $1.5 million. WCRP is recognized for the quality, innovation, and effectiveness of its housing and community development strategies; and as an organization which involves low-income women and their families in the process of community building, self-empowerment and change. Before working with WCRP, Nora worked at Lutheran Settlement House Women’s Program and was responsible for fund raising and resource development; as a grant writer and planner with the Philadelphia Council of Neighbourhood Organizations; and as a grant officer with the William Penn Foundation. She is one of the founders of the Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities and serves on the boards of the Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation, Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations and Philadelphia’s Housing Trust Fund. She also serves on the Affordable Housing Advisory Council for Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh.
Emily Lucas is the founding Director of Home Repair at Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia where she has worked for the past 12 years. Emily’s Repair Program has partnered with over 500 low-income homeowners since 2011, providing critical repair services to make homes safe, warm, and dry. Emily is committed to creating healthy, quality, energy efficient housing. She is a Building Performance Institute certified Energy Auditor and believes strongly in house-as-a-system principles to promote health and efficiency. Emily also has experience working with healthy housing and occupant driven repair services that prioritize occupant health, safety, and stability. Through her work at Habitat, Emily is currently engaged in several healthy housing initiatives, which include asthma reduction, and Aging in Place models. In addition to her professional work, Emily also recently graduated from Temple University with a Master’s Degree in City and Regional Planning. She plans to use her professional, academic, and community experiences to continue to advance her work in affordable housing and community development.

Rev. Michael Major is the Board President of Called to Serve CDC Inc., a nonprofit faith-based community development corporation working to revitalize a neighborhood in North Philadelphia. He is an associate minister at the historic Zion Baptist Church. He is employed at Susquehanna International Group (SIG), a global quantitative Wall Street trading firm, as a Senior Technology Business Analyst where he has worked for more than 23 years. Born to parents who had a passion for education though neither completed high school, Michael, a product of the Tioga community, greatly benefited from the ministry and programs of the Civil Rights leader the late Rev. Dr. Leon Sullivan and the Zion Church. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Computer and Information Science from Temple University, a Master of Divinity from Missio Seminary (previously Biblical Theological Seminary). Michael has completed course work toward his Doctor of Ministry degree at Missio Seminary.

Lynn Mandarano is a Professor in the Department of Planning & Community Development at Temple University’s Tyler School of Art. 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. 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.

Lauren Mandel, PLA, ASLA is an associate landscape architect and researcher at Andropogon, where she pursues her passion for productive infrastructure through design, research, and writing. Lauren contributes to the design and performance monitoring of projects to ensure that each built landscape provides its intended social benefits and ecosystem services. In 2017, she authored the U.S. General Services Administration’s Site Commissioning White Paper, a seminal report that recommends the verification of landscape performance for the federal agency’s future developments. Lauren is a contributing writer for Landscape Architecture Magazine and Urban Farm, and many of her articles aim to bridge the communication gap between scientists and practitioners. In 2013, she authored “EAT UP: The Inside Scoop on Rooftop Agriculture” (New Society Publishers), the first full-length book about rooftop food production, and founded EAT UP, LLC. Lauren holds a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania and a B.A. in Environmental Science.

Gamar Markarian was born to an Armenian Lebanese family. Gamar is a designer and urbanist interested in media and communication. She pursued an MS in Design and Urban Ecologies (2016) at The New School, New York where she also received a graduate certification in Documentary Media Studies in 2018. Her academic and work trajectory has moved across disciplines, from landscape architecture and urban design to strategic design and documentary filmmaking. With a passion for observational documentaries, Gamar uses her camera as an eye for urban research and investigations, which in turn reinforces her practice as a design strategist.
Kathleen Martin joined the Audubon Pennsylvania team as a Program Coordinator in January 2019, where she manages grant-funded projects that engage communities in local greening and habitat restoration efforts. These projects clean and beautify communities, improve and increase habitat for wildlife, reduce stormwater pollution, and increase awareness and understanding of the importance of bird conservation in the Philadelphia region. In 2015, Kathleen received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. For two years after graduating, she worked for the New York Tree Trust, a nonprofit partner of the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, on urban forestry projects in Brooklyn and the Bronx. Prior to joining Audubon, she was the Public Relations Associate at Philadelphia Parks & Recreation.

Steve Masters is the owner of JustLaws, a social impact law firm combining traditional legal services with strategic consulting around political and community engagement. He concentrates his practice in the areas of Zoning, Government Relations and Local Government Law and Political Law. In his zoning practice, Steve represents developers that want to incorporate public engagement as a competitive advantage. In his government relations and local government practice, Steve leverages his deep relationships with elected officials and the Administration to help small businesses, unions and nonprofits overcome their challenges with the city. In his political law practice, Steve guides progressive candidates, PACs and nonprofits on compliance with election, campaign finance and lobbying disclosure laws. Prior to starting JustLaws, Steve served as Council President Anna Verna’s zoning lawyer for over ten years, helping developers and concerned community groups settle their differences and reach community benefits agreements that stood the test of time. When negotiated solutions weren’t possible, Steve turned to the courts to win decisive legal victories for his clients. Steve has been a featured presenter for the Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations, the American Sustainable Business Council, and the Alliance for Justice and has led trainings for RCOs across the city. He earned his B.A. in Political Science from Yale University and his J.D. from Boston University School of Law.

Lawrence McComie has over 28 years of commercial lending, real estate finance and investment experience. At PIDC, Mr. McComie has the responsibility for originating, structuring, underwriting, closing, asset managing, and unwinding tax-advantaged and subordinated financing for large-scale real estate and community development projects. These financing products include New Markets Tax Credits, EB-5, HUD-108, US EDA, US EPA, PA DCED, and now Opportunity Zone gap financing. Mr. McComie helps to manage a $241 million portfolio of high impact investments in highly distressed communities.

John McLaughlin is an AmeriCorps VISTA for the West Philadelphia Promise Zone, a place-based anti-poverty initiative that seeks to direct federal resources and convene community partners working on its five focus areas: housing, public safety, education, workforce and economic opportunity, and health and wellness. For the Promise Zone, John has supported its housing committee and established a volunteer program, recruiting volunteers and connecting them to local opportunities. This year, the Housing Committee has sought to address racial discrimination in home lending. John has presented research on reverse mortgages, supported fair housing organizations, and organized events which seek to connect residents of color to housing counseling and supportive paths to homeownership. John has also worked to connect Promise Zone residents to home repair programs, but he noticed that most of these programs only benefit resident homeowners. John and the other members of the Promise Zone VISTA team have investigated how health organizations could best invest in healthy housing for renters in West Philadelphia. John received a BA in Sociology and International Studies from Johns Hopkins University.

Sue McPhedran joined Mission First in 2017 and manages development projects in the Philadelphia region. Sue is involved in determining the feasibility of new opportunities, securing project financing, interacting with public sector representatives, obtaining approvals, coordinating due diligence and closing with all funding sources, and working to ensure development is completed on schedule and on budget. Sue also represents Mission First in various external forums including conferences, panels, and professional organizations. Prior to joining Mission First, Sue was at an affordable housing development consulting firm where she supported a broad range of clients—nonprofit and for-profit—to conceptualize and implement affordable housing and other community development projects from start to finish. Sue also worked at a leading community development financial institution, where she managed the affordable housing lending group, oversaw technical assistance and consulting activities, and served as a housing lender. Sue is a graduate of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.
Brian McShane joined Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) in 2019 with over 15 years of experience in Homeless and Mental Health Services. As a Senior Program Manager based in Philadelphia, Brian is involved in and is overseeing projects in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey for the CSH Metro team.

Jamila Medley is a passionate advocate and educator for the advancement and growth of the cooperative economy. She is executive director of the Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance (PACA), which exists to improve the lives of people in the Philadelphia region by supporting democratically organized businesses, promoting the principles of the international cooperative movement, and growing the cooperative economy. In her work with existing and start-up co-ops, she provides support for leadership development, cooperative economics education, navigating group dynamics, and creating adaptive systems to support group process and learning. Jamila also works closely with cooperatives in areas of democratic governance, participatory management as well as outreach and education. She’s spent over twenty years serving mission-based organizations in the nonprofit and cooperative sectors. Jamila holds a M.S. degree in Organizational Dynamics from the University of Pennsylvania and earned her B.A. degree in Urban Studies at Connecticut College.

Stephanie Michel is the Director of the North 5th Street Revitalization Project (N5SRP) in Philadelphia. She leads planning and implementation efforts for the N5SRP’s key revitalization components: cleaning, safety, business assistance, and community development. As the Director, Stephanie applies her passion and talent toward engaging North 5th Street’s residents and merchants to work towards effective solutions to this vibrant corridor. Stephanie holds a B.A in Spanish and Sociology from Albright College. Stephanie is the recipient of the Billy Penn Who’s Next Community Leader Award, PACDC’s Rising Star Award, and Resources for Human Development’s One Step Away Steppy Award.

Stasia Monteiro is NAC Program Director at HACE CDC and serves Eastern North Philadelphia neighborhoods by supporting resident-driven initiatives to advocate for resources, services, and infrastructure improvements and inform community development projects on a local and municipal level. They began their career in education, working toward more equitable access and opportunity for children of all communities. Stasia applies their education background toward facilitating hands-on learning experiences yielding tangible community impacts and personal development with an intergenerational, intercultural population. With HACE CDC, they have co-developed and are implementing Philadelphia’s first ongoing Livability Academy, an 8-week community learning model that provides direct instruction on CPTED, SafeGrowth, Communications, Asset Mapping and other skills while fostering Leadership, Teamwork, and Consensus Decision-Making. Their dynamic, thoughtful approach to bolstering resident agency and equitable development supports Philadelphia’s goals of implementing sustainable engagement strategies that increasingly bring residents’ visions to fruition.

Marlana Moore is Land Preservation Project Manager at Neighborhood Gardens Trust (NGT). She focuses on property acquisitions and securing land tenure for community gardens, as well as stewardship and capital planning. In her previous positions, Marlana has worked in real estate development, community development and neighborhood revitalization in Trenton, New Brunswick, and Newark, NJ. Marlana holds a BA in Art History and a Masters of City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University. Philadelphia’s largest land trust, NGT, is dedicated to preserving and supporting community gardens and other shared open spaces across the city. NGT works with self-organized gardeners, community organizations, property owners, and the City of Philadelphia to secure ownership or long-term leases for community-managed open spaces to prevent the threat of development or other reuse. As of 2018, NGT has protected 45 gardens on 13 acres of land throughout Philadelphia.

Patrick Morgan is 1st Deputy Commissioner of Strategy & Engagement at Parks & Recreation for the City of Philadelphia. Patrick provides leadership for various units within the department, including Communications, Business Development & Concessions, Special Events, Leadership Development & Training, and Performance Management. Previously, Morgan was the Philadelphia-based Program Director for the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation where he led Knight’s investment strategy in Philadelphia working with local leaders to support a more informed, connected, and vibrant city. Prior to joining Knight, Morgan held leadership positions in Mayor Nutter’s administration, helping to oversee the merger of the Fairmount Park Commission and the Department of Recreation. He also serves as an adjunct professor at Villanova University.
Aazim Muhammad is President and CEO of Sister Clara Muhammad CDC. He has over 35 years of experience as an accomplished community economic development professional. Mr. Muhammad has worked for the Mayor’s Office of Community Services as well as the Mayor’s Office of Reentry for Ex-Offenders. He has also been a consultant to the Philadelphia Department of Commerce, Division of Housing and Community Development, Redevelopment Authority as well as the Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation. He is most proud of his work in nonprofit management, with such organizations as Germantown Settlement, Strawberry Mansion Citizens Participation Council, Universal Companies, and the Brewertyown Community Development Corporation, of which he was founder and Director. Presently he is the President and CEO of the Sister Clara Muhammad Community Development Corporation. He has balanced business skills in real estate, development, marketing and finance with community politics and cross-cultural communications.

Ryan Nissim-Sabat has been a Union Organizer for 19 years with UNITE HERE, the hospitality worker’s union. He coordinates the UNITE HERE Philadelphia Hospitality Academy. In that position, he has worked with hotel and food service companies to implement key recommendations in POWER’s report: Black Work Matters: Race, Poverty, and the Future of Work in Philadelphia – 1) End racial disparities in service sector workforces; and 2) Create pipelines from poor Philadelphia communities into unionized service jobs. Ryan organizes with the Union in the airport concessions and catering industry. In the past 5 years, over 60% of the 1,100 workers at PHL have unionized and raised the minimum wage for all PHL workers from $8 to $15 an hour, secured full-time work, affordable health coverage and won paid time-off for the first time. Ryan is married and the proud parent of two young children, Isaac and Sasha.

Somaly Osteen has more than eight years of experience working for multiple local and international non-profit organizations. Somaly started her career in the country of Cambodia while taking part as a community advocate, community engagement, and development. Currently, Somaly serves as a Community Development Specialist with SEAMAAC where she works within a diverse community filled with immigrants and refugees located in South Philadelphia. While providing assistance to help strengthen local businesses around the community, Somaly is also responsible for building strong relationships with the community where trust has been broken. The focus within the community has been to partner with different resources to strategically cater to the community’s needs. Somaly believes that sustainable development starts from each individual need and sustainable change through unity.

Meeka Outlaw is the Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) Coordinator at Diversified Community Services for the Point Breeze and Grays Ferry communities in South Philadelphia. She grew up in the Martin L. King’s Village section of Grays Ferry and still lives in the area. As the NAC Coordinator, Meeka connects people with services addressing homelessness prevention, energy conservation education, housing preservation, neighborhood safety, health and wellness, workforce development and economic opportunities. Meeka is proud to promote sustainability by youth mentoring, civic engagement and ensuring resident participation in city planning and development issues. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration with a minor in Sociology from Mansfield University and is pursuing a Masters in Education with a certificate in Early Childhood at Eastern University. She is also a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. In her spare time, Meeka loves spending time with family and trying to make her adult literacy vision come to reality.

Adela Park joined Fairmount Park Conservancy in December 2016, where she works primarily to facilitate the organization’s Arts & Culture program. Under this program, she focuses closely on East and West Fairmount Park, working on various projects like a community-based artist residency in Strawberry Mansion and the annual West Park Arts Fest in the Centennial District. Trained as a landscape architect, Adela previously served as an urban designer at Scout in South Philadelphia. There she managed the implementation of new and permanent public space improvements along the exterior of the historic Bok Building. Adela holds an MLA in landscape architecture and a certificate of historic preservation from the University of Pennsylvania, as well as a BA in metropolitan studies from NYU.

Joshua Park is a passionate leader with nearly 20 years of experience in education and recruitment. He’s spent his career increasing success outcomes by cultivating a positive, results-oriented culture and by building strong bonds with key partners. As the Senior Manager of Employer Services at the West Philadelphia Skills Initiative (WPSI), the workforce development arm of the University City District, Joshua’s work focuses on gathering performance data, sharing exceptional program results with institutional employer partners, and enhancing recruitment opportunities. Previously, as the Executive Director of Sylvan Learning’s Philadelphia territory, Joshua passionately promoted educational programs and services to parents, schools, and the community. He developed strategic partnerships to promote Sylvan’s brand and build awareness of programmatic services. Cultivating a strong school culture through employee development strategies and consistent staff engagement were of the utmost importance to Joshua. He holds a Master’s in Education from St. Joseph’s University.
Arleny Pimentel is the Parent Engagement Facilitator for the Reading School District. At any other time, you can find her at Barrio Alegría volunteering her time as Operations Director. She started her work with Barrio in 2014 during the Storytelling Through Dance pilot. Since then, she has been serving the community through different initiatives. She is a testament to the work Barrio is doing.

Carolyn Placke is LISC Philadelphia’s Program Officer for Housing and Health. Carolyn brings more than nineteen years of housing and community development experience to this position. She works to advance LISC’s priority housing activities, which include affordable rental housing preservation, home repair, and equitable development and workforce housing in gentrifying neighborhoods. Prior to joining LISC, Carolyn served as a Real Estate Owned sub-contractor for the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development; Senior Grants and Finance Manager for TRF Development Partners, Inc.; and Director of Housing and Community Development for Project HOME. Carolyn worked in restoration painting, housing renovation, and underground documentary films before completing her undergraduate degree. She received her Master of Arts in Urban Studies from Temple University.

Jerry Puryear has served as the Resident Teaching Artist with the Fine Arts Through Our Eyes Community Arts Initiative at Mill Creek Community Partnership for ten years. Spirituality and art have been two of the most predominant factors in his life. Through his work, Jerry synthesizes these areas to inspire the souls of humankind, to remind viewers that we are made in God’s image, and to demonstrate that we have the power to effect change — change the world that we live in, change who we are as individuals, and change people’s lives. His studies at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C. and later at Saint Joseph’s University (Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts) have served as his foundation in art education. Most of Jerry’s work is acrylic on canvas, but he uses whatever medium that he can find from plexiglas, wood or any upcycled material, because everything has value and can be made into something beautiful.

Lisa Quintana holds a Master of Science in Counseling Psychology from Holy Family University. In addition, she is a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner. The Psychiatric Rehabilitation skills that she possesses help her to promote community integration and facilitate a concrete understanding of those struggling with mental illness in the community. Lisa currently works as a Program Director within the Permanent Supportive Housing team and has worked for Merakey formally known as NHS for the past 14 years. She has worked in the capacity of a child advocate with the Guardian Ad Litem program in North Carolina, a Therapeutic Staff Support worker within the Bucks County school systems, a Case Manager working with adults and children in Bucks County PA, a Case Management Supervisor, a drug and alcohol therapist with court mandated offenders, and is Certified to teach K-12th grade. Lisa has a passion for working with those struggling with mental illness and a desire for ensuring that those without a voice are heard.

Charles Reyes is the Community School Coordinator at Murrell Dobbins through the Mayor’s Office of Education. Charles has the daily opportunity to give back, teach, and share his knowledge to current Mustangs. This is a dream come true and a chance of a lifetime for someone who tributes his life and educational platform to Murrell Dobbins Area Vocational Technical (AVTS) High School. Charles is a graduate and proud alum of the Dobbins High School class of 1993. In addition, Charles attended and graduated from Peirce College. Charles continued his education at Temple University, School of Education receiving his undergraduate degree in Adult and Organizational Leadership. Charles has always had a heart for his community and school returning each year to help navigate and support the young men at Dobbins through the male leadership forum.

Lindsey Ricker is a Project Associate at The Food Trust that supports local and regional Healthy Corner Store Initiative efforts, as well as consulting projects nationally. Prior to joining The Food Trust, Lindsey worked across a variety of sectors, with projects including: comprehensive public benefits application assistance with a focus on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), managing a grocery rescue program that diverted food from the waste stream and into the hands of vulnerable populations, corporate and strategic partner development, and capacity building efforts for a network of social service organizations. She graduated from Appalachian State University with a BS in Anthropology and Sustainable Development and is working towards a Master in Business Administration from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
Allen Riddick joined Drexel University as the Director of Supplier Diversity in 2018. At Drexel, Allen works to ensure equal and open contracting opportunities for Small, Minority, Women, Veteran, Service Disabled and LGBTQ+ owned businesses. Prior to Drexel, Allen served as the Category Manager of Supplier Diversity for Ricoh Americas Corporation, a global technology and office product company. From 2007 to 2015, Allen worked as Supplier Diversity Manager/Sourcing Lead for Alpha Enterprise Group. In 2014, he was recognized as the President’s Award Winner, an award given to employees that successfully demonstrate collaborative efforts that improve the companies bottom-line. Allen currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Women’s Business Economic Council, Institute of Supply Chain Management, and the Philadelphia Frontiers International. Allen is a graduate of the University of Delaware and is a Certified Professional in Supplier Diversity through National Association of Educational Procurement and the Supplier Diversity Institute.

Laura Rigell is Solar Manager at the Philadelphia Energy Authority (PEA) where she leads solar efforts, which include coordinating Solarize Philly, Philadelphia’s first citywide solarize campaign to help Philadelphians go solar at home; developing, implementing and fundraising for new solar job training programs; and supporting commercial, school and other solar work in Philadelphia. Laura also leads stakeholder engagement related to renewable energy and climate change for PEA.

Julius Rivera is a lifelong Philadelphian and special education teacher at the Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center. He spent the first half of his life in several economically disadvantaged neighborhoods in North Philadelphia and has spent the last two decades helping to build community in the quickly changing East Kensington section. He has worked with his wife, Melissa, and other neighbors to respond to physical and behavioral problems in the local playground. They also founded the Collins Smith Barrick Play Garden, a green space that offers not only opportunities for local neighbors and families to garden but also space for families to gather to read, eat, or celebrate together. The garden has undergone dramatic stages of transformation over the past twenty years, and with Neighborhood Gardens Trust’s support, it is receiving improvements that will positively impact visitor experiences. Although he may be known in the community as the drum guy or the playground guy, his biggest strength has been helping the community to seek creative responses to problems that arise and seeking ways of preventing problems from escalating.

Misha Rodriguez is a Special Project Coordinator at Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha (APM), a nonprofit in North Philadelphia dedicated to improving the quality of life of its community through direct service and outreach. For the past two years, she has worked with residents to improve walkability as well as advocate for transit equity throughout Eastern North Philadelphia through walk audits, pop up bus stops, walking routes and other creative placemaking initiatives. Ms. Rodriguez also works on a variety of other projects such as Comprando Rico y Sano, a program related to buying and preparing healthy food, leading walking groups and other healthy lifestyles programming. With a background in Anthropology and experience at nonprofits in both Lancaster and Philadelphia, Ms. Rodriguez is dedicated to working with community residents to improve quality of life, ensuring that residents are first and foremost the drivers of change in their neighborhoods.

Lucio Rodriguez Guardado migrated from Honduras to America in 2005. Upon arrival, Lucio’s first job was in a restaurant in Philadelphia. Lucio has always had a passion to serve Honduran cuisine for the Latinx community. After a decade of working hard, learning skills, and building experience on how to run a food business, Lucio decided to open his first restaurant in 2016. El Sabor Catracho serves great authentic Honduran food and contributes to the vitality of the South 7th Street Corridor. Lucio makes great effort to keep his business thriving and welcoming. In 2018, he decided to open a retail store located next to the restaurant. The store provides Hispanic’s seasoning, pastries, sweet treats, beverages, and Latin American football T-shirts. Altogether, Lucio loves everything about owning and working in the restaurant and retail store.

Maitreyi Roy is the Executive Director and landscape architect at Bartram’s Garden, a 45 national historic landmark and home of famed 18th century botanist John Bartram (1699-1777). Maitreyi leads the restoration and transformation of Bartram’s Garden as a vibrant civic common and garden for Southwest Philadelphia residents and a showcase river garden for the city and region. Prior to Bartram’s Garden, Maitreyi led public space revitalization efforts through her work at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and the City of Boston’s Parks and Recreation Department.
Nyambi Royster is a Co-op Education Consultant for the Philadelphia Area Cooperative Alliance (PACA). She has nearly two decades experience in Public Health, Community Education and Social Service experience working in and for marginal communities with The Philadelphia Housing Authority as a Certified Housing Specialist and Social Worker for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As a founding member of Soil Generation, her work includes supporting equity and social justice for community-managed green space, gardens, and farms through advocacy, grassroots organizing, and community education. Gardens, farms and green spaces are integral pieces of a healthy neighborhood, yielding many benefits. As an Urban Farmer, Nyambi envisions an equitable food system that values and maximizes the collective experience for Black and Brown Farmers, Growers, Producers, Distributors, Cooperatives and Families of Color.

Ky Sanders is a Solar States Installer and member of Serenity Soular, an initiative to make solar energy affordable for North Philadelphia households and train local residents for jobs in the green economy. After completing a solar installation apprenticeship at Serenity Soular in 2014, Ky helped teach high school students about solar power during sessions at Benjamin Franklin High School in Spring Garden and A. Philip Randolph Career and Technical High School in Nicetown. Ky believes that showing North Philadelphia residents they are capable of green jobs — an opportunity they may not have heard of before — can alleviate trauma and inspire growth in the neighborhood.

Heidi Segall Levy, AIA, SEED is Director of Design Services at the Community Design Collaborative. Heidi is a registered architect with 30 years of design and project management experience. She oversees all aspects of the Collaborative’s design services, including the core design grant program, as well as the Collaborative’s proactive design initiative, Infill Philadelphia, which she helped to establish in 2005. Before joining the Collaborative in 2001, she was a senior project architect with Kling and WRT, and an architectural designer with SOM’s Washington, DC office. She is an advisory board member of the Citizens Planning Institute and Philadelphia Playful Learning Landscapes and serves as a mentor for PennDesign’s Women in Architecture program. Heidi earned a Master of Architecture from Syracuse University and a BA in Psychology from Brandeis University.

Jerome Shabazz is the founder and Executive Director of Juveniles Active in Science in Technology Development Services, Inc. (JASTECH). JASTECH is a not-for-profit organization developed in 1998 to promote environmental justice, encourage sustainable design, and promote public health in urban communities. In 2002, JASTECH applied for and received a US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant under the Clean Water Act to establish the Overbrook Environmental Education Center (OEEC), a community-based center dedicated to preserving our built and natural environments. Under Mr. Shabazz’s direction, the OEEC has trained thousands of students on the Clean Water Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, and other topics that reduces human exposure to toxic substances at home and school. The OEEC is nationally known for its Environmental Justice and project-based learning programs. Prior to working in the non-profit sector, Mr. Shabazz worked for 25 years in Water and Gas utilities.

Janine Simmons joined Reinvestment Fund in 2018 as a Research Analyst, performing quantitative and qualitative research to support Policy Solutions’ work. She conducted much of the data analysis for the 2019 Philadelphia MVA and her other current projects include analytic support for a multimethod study of evictions in Philadelphia and an evaluation of access to quality child care in several Pennsylvania counties. Prior to joining Reinvestment Fund as an analyst, Ms. Simmons worked with the Policy Solutions team as an intern, and in this capacity gained training in the Market Value Analysis approach and contributed to the Limited Supermarket Access analysis. She holds a B.A. in Political Science and P.S.M. in Geographic Information Systems, both from Temple University.

Leslie Smallwood-Lewis is co-founder of Mosaic Development Partners, LLC, a Philadelphia based commercial real estate development firm. Her primary responsibilities include acquisition, entitlements, financial analysis, public funding and the overall development process. Mosaic works with municipalities, not-for-profit organizations, investors and fellow developers to transform and revitalize disenfranchised communities. Since its founding in 2008, Mosaic has developed over $54M of real estate projects and has created over 200 construction jobs and 100 full-time jobs. Leslie is a graduate of Brown University and received her Juris Doctorate from Villanova Law School.
**Myra Smith** is the garden leader of Amber Street Community Garden in Kensington. She has been a resident of Kensington since 1980, a retired government employee since 1992, former local business owner and block captain for 35+ years. She felt the need to become more actively involved, not only in her immediate area, but outside it as well. Myra is interested and actively involved in a wide range of issues relating to the community. She has received extensive training in community relations in and out of the city. She presently holds offices in civic and park associations, and most recently, has been a recipient of the PACDC 2019 Community Leader Award. Her interest and association in the area of green space, gardens, land development and preservation started in 2016. The Amber St Community Garden’s success and beauty has been recognized through awards and media coverage throughout the city. With Neighborhood Gardens Trust and Councilman Squilla, she has been fighting tirelessly to ensure the garden is preserved.

**Sonia Smith** joined the US Small Business Administration Eastern Pennsylvania District Office in 2013 as an Economic Development/Lender Relations/Public Information Specialist. She is a subject matter expert on women business owners, encore entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial reentry (ex-offenders) programs, microlending, mission-focused community-based lending, and exporting. She previously served as the Economic & Business Development Program Administrator for the County of Bucks, Pennsylvania. Prior to joining the government, she founded, financed and directed a technology company and then structured its sale to a publicly traded company after more than 10 years of operation. Ms. Smith has an extensive career in banking with Mellon Bank (now Citizens Bank) and CoreStates Bank (now Wells Fargo). Ms. Smith is a bilingual, first-generation American and holds a B.S. degree from Penn State in Quantitative Business Analysis with an Economics Minor. Sonia, a breast cancer survivor, volunteers with Fox Chase Cancer Center as an inspirational speaker and media personality.

**Sulay Sosa** is from Puebla, Mexico and has been living in Philadelphia since 2003. She studied business administration and is a community enthusiast. Sosa trained in community leadership at the Welcoming Center and has worked with the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia. She has two daughters and is an active member of their school, as well as an important leader in her community. Sulay is a Community Design Leader for Mural Arts’ projects at the Southwark School.

**Chris Spahr** is Executive Director of Centennial Parkside CDC. In this role, he emphasizes equitable redevelopment in the East Parkside neighborhood of West Philadelphia through supporting residents as they strive to preserve, promote and revitalize their neighborhood. Solar energy development plays an important role in creating organizational sustainability for the Centennial Parkside CDC and energy cost savings for East Parkside residents. Chris also serves as an Urban Innovation Fellow at the Drexel University Lindy Institute for Urban Innovation where he performs research on community owned renewable energy systems that support vibrant neighborhoods and empower people to reach their fullest potential.

**Shalimar Thomas** is the Executive Director of the North Broad Renaissance (NBR), a non-profit supporting revitalization efforts along North Broad Street, from City Hall to Germantown Avenue. With the support, feedback, and engagement of the community, NBR is working to keep North Broad clean, green and safe, making local hiring a priority, and improving the overall quality of life for all who visit, live, work and play on and around the corridor. Collectively, the NBR is laying the foundation for inclusive business attraction, and inclusive economic development. A graduate of Community College of Philadelphia and Temple University, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude, Thomas has been recognized as a Women on the Move by the City of Philadelphia, a Philadelphia Business Journal 40 Under 40 awardee, an Influential African-American Leader by the Philadelphia Tribune, a Women of Substance and Style by Joan Shepp, an outstanding African-American Woman by PECO and WURD, and one of the region’s most influential women in the non-profit sector by Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds-Brown and Vivant Art Gallery.

**Lenora Thompson** is President of the Thompson Group and Staff Parrish Relations Committee Chair at Wharton-Wesley United Methodist Church. During the last twenty-nine years, Lenora has been the primary architect in providing customized client centered training, facilitating, coaching and evaluating services to a vast array of clients across the country through her company, The Thompson Group. Lenora continues to provide services in the areas of organizational development, strategic planning, governance, leadership development, mentoring and sustainability. The Thompson Group has provided services to not only federal grantees but to many for-profit and nonprofit organizations at state and local levels. She has a plethora of experience in providing services to youth and former adult offenders with a focus on re-connecting youth and adults to education, work, family and the community. Lenora has worked with agencies receiving funding from the U.S. Department of Labor in the field of re-entry for almost thirty years as a Coach. She continues to serve on a variety of agency boards.
Andy Toy is the Community Development and Development Director for SEAMAAC whose mission is “to support and serve immigrants and refugees and other politically, socially and economically marginalized communities as they seek to advance the condition of their lives in the United States.” Among other duties, Andy has successfully led the Conceptual Plan for Mifflin Square Park moving towards implementing $5.3 million in improvements. Andy and the team also manage the SoPhie (South Philly East) Food Truck project. Previously, Andy was the Managing Director of the Eastern Tower/Chinatown Community Center project, a $77+ million mixed-use community development. Andy is recognized as a thought leader and innovator when it comes to community and economic development, building a successful Commercial Corridor Initiative at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation and before that building Philadelphia’s Brownfields Program.

Anne Tyska has over twelve years of project management experience, serving clients through outreach, program development and implementation, and environmental policy and planning. She specializes in environmental planning for sustainable development, aviation planning, and redevelopment planning. Ms. Tyska currently consults on-site for the Planning and Environmental Stewardship Unit at the Philadelphia International Airport (PHL). Ms. Tyska prepared environmental justice analyses for numerous projects including land development projects for the New Orleans International Airport and the Philadelphia International Airport here in Philadelphia. Ms. Tyska has also worked on numerous community development plans in Southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She holds a Bachelor of Public and Urban Affairs from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Tony Veloz graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in chemistry and music. Through music, he discovered the benefits of community building and created M.A.K.S., an organization that fundraises for nonprofits through music. He is also the South of Penn Coordinator and does community organizing work.

Stephanie Webb has worked at the District 1199C Training and Upgrading Fund for the past 14 years, holding positions as a GED, ABE and ESL instructor; case manager; database administrator; and lead career coach. She currently coordinates and manages a variety of occupational training programs serving youth and adults, incumbent workers, or unemployed or underemployed individuals. Stephanie develops workforce development and adult basic education curriculum and manages student assessment and the Financial Opportunity Center at the Training Fund. Stephanie holds three Master Degrees, in Adult Education & Communications Technology, in Corporate Communications, and in Instructional Technology Management. Stephanie lives in Philadelphia with her children.

Tya Winn is the Director of Project Planning for Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia. She has focused her career on real estate and community development; prioritizing affordable housing creation, economic development, creative place-making and urban revitalization. She has presented on her work at Design Philadelphia and at national conferences. In her free time, she is an advocate for design and affordable housing. She is the Past President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects (PhilaNOMA) and sits on the NOMA National Board as Conference Chair. She is Camp Director of Project Pipeline, an annual summer camp designed to expose youth to architecture and sustainability. She sits on the Board of Directors of AIA Philadelphia as Public Member/Director of Equitable Communities. In 2019, she joined the board of Families Forward, the largest family shelter in Philadelphia. Ms. Winn also sits on the advisory board of StreetBoxPHL. She was the 2016 recipient of the Stewardson Keefe Lebrun Travel Grant by the Center for Architecture Foundation, researching public housing internationally. Ms. Winn is the 2019 PACDC Rising Star honoree. Tya studied architecture at Syracuse University and received a Masters of Architecture specializing in Urban Design at the University of Pennsylvania. She is focusing her practice on the revitalization of urban communities and how experience of the built environment shapes perceptions of place.

Emily Wyner is the founding partner of Humblebee, a Philadelphia-based consultancy focused on capacity building and expansion in nonprofit organizations and progressive businesses. She is a skilled facilitator and communicator who spent her early professional years in women’s and public health. As the first-ever Business Integration Manager at Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC), she led change initiatives across 200+ community-facing programs and 2,000+ employees with the aim of more effectively wrapping services around each unique client. Emily holds a master’s in organization development and leadership from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, a bachelor’s in anthropology from Tufts University, and a certificate in positive psychology from The Flourishing Center. Emily serves on the Board of Directors of the South Philly Food Co-op, for which she served as the Capital Campaign Organizer from August 2018 - March 2019. An improv school graduate, she believes that play can be transformative.
Sarah Yeung is a consultant to the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation (PCDC), where she designed and now supports an initiative to create equitable development in the neighborhood in partnership with PolicyLink. Prior to her work on this initiative, she was the Director of Planning at PCDC and provided strategic oversight for various initiatives related to public space, affordable housing, and transportation access in Chinatown, as well as managing a real estate development portfolio which included the Crane, a mixed-use community center. She is currently a project manager at The Food Trust, where she manages local, state and national policy campaigns to increase access to healthy food and strengthen community food systems.

Victor Young is a lifelong Philadelphian who has served his community for over 35 years employed with the City of Philadelphia. He spent many years as a construction inspector and finally a district manager for the west and southwest Philadelphia highways unit. A proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Victor has promoted community involvement throughout his life. Working in partnership with a long time friend Dr. Beverly Giles Carter, he founded the nonprofit Community Health and Gardens Inc (CHG). In February 2013, CHG created and began sponsoring the Five Loaves Two Fish Community Garden. The garden is located at the north east intersection of North 55th St and Jefferson Streets in the East Overbrook section of West Philadelphia. This labor of love has created a food source for at least 30 families. At present, CHG supplies plants, seeds and raw materials needed to sustain the garden. They encourage each gardener to volunteer in the garden’s upkeep. They look towards the future in playing a significant role in building and creating more sustainable green space in our communities.

Sara Zewde is a founding principal of Studio Zewde, a design firm practicing at the intersection of landscape architecture, urbanism, and public art. The studio’s work is lauded for its design methodology that syncs site interpretation and narrative with a dedication to the craft of construction. The studio is devoted to designing enduring places where people belong. Sara holds a master’s of landscape architecture from Harvard University, a master’s of city planning from MIT, and a BA in sociology and statistics from Boston University. In parallel with practice, Sara regularly writes, lectures, and exhibits her work. She is the recipient of a number of awards, including the Silberberg Memorial Award for Urban Design and the Hebbert Award for Contribution to the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT. Sara was named the 2014 National Olmsted Scholar by the Landscape Architecture Foundation, a 2016 Artist-in-Residence at the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, and in 2018, was named to the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s inaugural “40 Under 40: People Saving Places” list. Her work has been exhibited at the 2016 and 2018 Venice Architecture Biennale, in the Brazilian and U.S national pavilions.
Thursday 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.

BEN BRYANT  
Director of Special Projects, Interface Studio, LLC  
Ben Bryant is the Director of Special Projects with Interface Studio, LLC, a planning and design firm with extensive experience helping cities understand how public spaces can be catalysts for city-wide and neighborhood-level change. Ben is a two-time winner of the Knight Cities Challenge and creator of the Swim Philly initiative, which reimagined 5 public pools in Philadelphia as vibrant public spaces where neighbors of different backgrounds can connect and cool-off in the summer. Swim Philly has since been replicated in Camden, NJ and in New York City at 5 city pools in low-income neighborhoods in summer 2018. Since 2016, Ben has been leading a team at Interface Studio to develop and deploy a measurement framework to understand the social impact of public space investments for the Reimagining the Civic Commons initiative.

CHRISTI CLARK  
Organizing Director, Women’s Community Revitalization Project  
The Women’s Community Revitalization Project (WCRP) is a Philadelphia-based grassroots community development corporation committed to social and economic equity for low-income women and their families. Christi oversees WCRP’s policy and community engagement work. She staffs the Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities, a coalition of faith, labor, disability, community and urban agriculture organizations that is working to win more resources for affordable, accessible housing and green space. Christi also supports WCRP’s community land trust, dedicated to creating permanently affordable housing. She has an 18 year history as a labor and community organizer and oversees WCRP’s organizing and outreach staff who implement both neighborhood and city-wide campaigns.

TESS DONIE  
Community Engagement Manager, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation  
Tess Donie is the Community Engagement Manager for Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR). In her new role, she works with PPR and Recreation Advisory Councils to build and strengthen their connection, and to manage a sustainable network of recreation volunteers. She also supports staff and community members around training/capacity building in best practices, PPR standards, processes, and sustainability for recreation centers.  
Tess previously served as the Associate Director of Community Engagement for New Kensington CDC where she oversaw the organization’s outreach and organizing strategies in Kensington. There she facilitated the formalization and leadership development of community-based organizations, created programs for community building and organizing, and co-developed a curriculum for trauma-informed community leadership development.  
Prior to working in Kensington, Tess worked in community-based programming in Guatemala and West Philadelphia. She is an experienced facilitator in community leadership, equity/restorative justice, and trauma-informed care. Tess is a graduate of Trinity College with BA’s in International Studies: Latin American Studies and Hispanic Studies, where she also played basketball.
JEFFREY P. DOSHNA, PHD, AICP

Department Chair, Department of Planning and Community Development, Tyler School of Art, Temple University

Jeffrey P. Doshna is a professional planner, economist and community leader. He teaches courses in community and economic development, quantitative and qualitative research methods and supervises the graduate planning studio. He currently is the Chair of the Department of Planning and Community Development at Temple University, and since January 2019 he has served as a Councilman in Flemington, New Jersey.

His primary research area is community economic development with a focus on community development finance. His current work explores the influences of neoliberalism on the practice of community development through programs like the Federal Healthy Food Financing Initiative. He has previously conducted research on microenterprise development, state economic development policy and efforts to promote entrepreneurship in low-income neighborhoods.

Doshna is actively engaged in practice as an American Institute of Certified Planner (AICP). He has served on the Flemington Planning Board since 2006, supporting the creation of its affordable housing element, its sustainability element, as well as the latest revision to the Borough’s Master Plan in 2010. He was Chair of the Flemington Environmental Commission in 2008, authored Flemington’s Natural Resource Inventory in 2010 and led the effort for Flemington’s initial Bronze-level certification within the Sustainable Jersey Program in 2011. He regularly volunteers his time and expertise to other local planning initiatives, and serves on the boards of a number of community non-profits.

Dr. Doshna holds Bachelor’s degrees in Economics and in Geography from The Johns Hopkins University, a Master of City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University, and a Doctorate in Planning and Public Policy from Rutgers University.

ROSE V. GRAY

Senior Vice President of Community & Economic Development, Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha

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 of 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. Gray 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 consists 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 University 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, Department of Planning and Community Development, Tyler School of Art, Temple University

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.
RODNEY MOBLEY
Community Engagement Associate, New Kensington CDC

Rodney was born and raised in West Philadelphia in a single parent dwelling, with his mother and older sister. At the age of 13, Rodney became homeless by choice. The home he once knew became a hostile environment that pushed him to pack his things and move to the streets of Philadelphia. He has been through many trials and tribulations from being profiled and arrested in his own community, to becoming a global citizen, giving back to communities in need across the world.

He currently works in North Philadelphia for New Kensington Community Development Corporation (NKCDC) as a Community Engagement Associate as of November 2017. Prior to his first year at NKCDC, Rodney worked in West Philadelphia as a Community Connector Outreach & Engagement Coordinator with the People’s Emergency Center Community Development Corporation. As the former Coordinator of a group of 23 emerging and active community leaders between the ages of 13–24, he has amplified his passion to tackle Urban Youth challenges that are current barriers in our modern time, and advocate for socioeconomic growth within our communities. He holds many accolades from having a Diploma in Wilderness Education and Medicine, to being certified in mental health and an expert in organizing Community Programming Curriculum.

SOMALY OSTEEN
Community Engagement Specialist, SEAMAAC

Somaly Osteen has more than eight years of experience working for multiple local and international non-profit organizations. Somaly started her career in the country of Cambodia as a community advocate undertaking community engagement and development. Currently, Somaly serves as a Community Development Specialist with SEAMAAC where she works within a diverse community filled with immigrants and refugees located in South Philadelphia. While providing assistance to help strengthen local businesses around the community, Somaly is also responsible for building strong relationships with the community where trust has been broken. The focus within the community has been to partner with different resources to strategically cater to the community’s needs. Somaly believes that sustainable development starts from each individual need and sustainable change through unity.

ANDY TOY
Community Development and Development Director, SEAMAAC

Andrew (Andy) Toy is the Community Development and Development Director for SEAMAAC, whose mission is “to support and serve immigrants and refugees and other politically, socially and economically marginalized communities as they seek to advance the condition of their lives in the United States.” Andy has successfully led the Conceptual Plan for Mifflin Square Park moving towards implementing $5.3 million in improvements. Andy and the team also manage the SoPhiE (South Philly East) Food Truck project. Previously, Andy was the Managing Director of the Eastern Tower/Chinatown Community Center project, a $77+ million mixed-use community development. Andy is recognized as a thought leader and innovator when it comes to community and economic development, building a successful Commercial Corridor Initiative at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation and before that building the city of Philadelphia’s Brownfields Program.

Andy is currently the Treasurer of The Merchants Fund, Board Member of The Public School Notebook, a founder of the Philadelphia Public School Giving Circle, as well as United Voices for Philadelphia, and was an appointee on the Philadelphia Zoning Code Commission. Andy holds a B.A. in Economics and a Master’s Degree in Public and Urban Policy, both from the University of Pennsylvania.

LAMAR WILSON
Principal, V. Lamar Wilson Associates, Inc.

Lamar has been engaged in the work of community economic development spanning forty years. He provides advisory services to entities engaged in community economic development, with a focus on affordable housing, neighborhood strategic planning and organizational strategic planning. Clients have worked with him to assess the feasibility of affordable housing projects and help secure equity and debt financing to support them. In addition, Lamar has assisted CDCs, philanthropic organizations, and financial institutions in crafting business plans to help guide their work activities and identify investment opportunities in their respective market areas. He has an undergraduate degree in Economics from Boston College (1974) and a Master of Urban Planning degree from the University of Michigan (1976).
ONE LAST THING...

Thanks for joining us for the 2019 conference. Lots of information, great people, amazing programs. What are some things you can take with you right now? (Complete as you see fit. Keep for yourself to refer back to or share with others.)

ONE key take-away:

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TWO workshop sessions or people you met you learned from or want to follow up with:

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THREE big (or little) ideas or approaches you can act on when you get back to your desk:

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We would also like to acknowledge the City of Philadelphia Division of Housing and Community Development, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, and Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health for their support of the Forward Equitable Development Conference.