Sixth Annual
Community Development Summit

May 17-18, 2016
Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA
At-a-Glance Agenda

Tuesday, May 17

8:30 AM ................. Registration Opens

10:00 – 11:15 AM ....... Breakout Session 1 (see page 22)

11:00 – 11:30 AM ........ Coffee and Networking in the Exhibitor Hall

11:30 AM – 3:30 PM .... Mobile Workshops (see page 21)

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM .. Lunch on Your Own

12:45 – 2:00 PM ....... Breakout Session 2 (see page 23)

2:15 – 3:30 PM ......... Breakout Session 3 (see page 24)

3:45 – 4:45 PM ......... Annual PCRG Member Meeting (Members only)

4:15 – 5:15 PM ......... Welcome Reception featuring F. Javier Torres
                       Kelly Strayhorn Theater

5:30 – 7:30 PM .......... FUTUREMAKERS Happy Hour
                       Kelly Strayhorn Theater Lobby

Wednesday, May 18

7:30 – 8:30 AM ........ Registration and Served Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 AM ........ Breakfast Program
                       featuring Ed McMahon

9:45 – 10:15 AM ...... Coffee and Networking in the Exhibitor Hall

10:15 – 11:30 AM ..... Breakout Session 4 (see page 26-27)

11:30 – 12:00 PM ..... Coffee and Networking in the Exhibitor Hall

12:00 – 1:30 PM ...... Lunch Program
                       featuring Charles Montgomery

1:45 – 3:00 PM ....... Breakout Session 5 (see page 28)

3:00 – 3:30 PM ......... Coffee and Networking in the Exhibitor Hall

3:30 – 4:45 PM ........ Breakout Session 6 (see page 29)

3:30 – 4:45 PM ......... Advocate and Negotiate for YOU!
                       (WHFPA Members only) (see page 27)

5:00 – 8:00 PM ......... Awards Ceremony and Reception
                       Adjourn
We are excited to once again be joined by 600 attendees, presenters, and supporters as we gather together to share, learn, and reflect on The Power of PLACE.

PLACE. It has the power to unlock or limit opportunities—economic, social, in the areas of education and health. We cannot deny its centrality in life outcomes because, for many, where one lives largely determines life trajectory. We must also acknowledge the agency of people to define, make, and grow place, for without people, place loses meaning. How do we empower people with the skills, resources, and capacity to transition places into equitable, healthy, and desirable communities for all? This question is what motivates the collaborative efforts of PCRG’s network and partners throughout the region.

We’re proud to say our membership has grown by 250% since we first launched the Summit six years ago. The next two days are not just an opportunity to showcase PCRG and the incredible work of its 56 member organizations, but to share the story of the profound impact community development as a whole has on neighborhoods and the lives of residents. Attendees of this year’s Summit can expect to receive exposure to industry best practices and national trends, be inspired to develop innovative tactics to enhance the quality of life of those they serve, and dive deeply into the role and importance of place in people’s lives.

We have a responsibility, and even a calling, to leverage the significance of our regional event to be an instigator of revitalization and progress for the people dedicated to community development. The ways that we in the industry interact, plan, and think are rapidly evolving. The millennial generation and digital age has dared us to create more innovative approaches and to work smarter, more strategically, and with more foresight. The immediate opportunities for redevelopment also challenge us to ensure prosperity for all of our communities and residents while providing for places that are evocative and respectful of our cities’ deep legacies. Just as the Summit’s reach and exposure grows each year, our collective mission to steward equitable reinvestment becomes increasingly important.

More than ever, the Summit’s remarkable growth would not be possible without partners like the Urban Land Institute - Pittsburgh District Council, and the incredible generosity of our sponsors. Your contribution enables PCRG to continue to attract nationally renowned keynote speakers, provide discounted registration to grassroots organizations and leaders, and continue to educate, influence, and celebrate the community development industry. 2016 is sure to be the most impactful Summit yet, energizing a network of industry practitioners all over the country.

Sincerely,

Ernie Hogan, Executive Director, PCRG
Dear PCRG Summit Attendees and Community Partners:

On behalf of the City of Pittsburgh, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Sixth Annual Community Development Summit! It is wonderful to have so many cross-sector leaders here to share in our work and come together under the theme of this year’s Summit, "The Power of Place".

Place is central to the work we do in the City of Pittsburgh. It is one of our p4 principles, along with People, Planet, and Performance. I am dedicated to making sure that our City grows in a way that is uniquely and identifiably Pittsburgh, centered on the places we cherish and the people who made them what they are. This challenge takes a broad network of partners and stakeholders, and my administration is committed to making sure the community has a seat at the table.

Our work in City government is focused not just on building places, but also connecting them. Through the potential of technology in our Smart Cities Challenge Application, and in design through our Complete Streets planning process, we are making a commitment to enhancing mobility and access between our communities.

Our city is full of dynamic and vibrant places, and places with the potential for great things. We are constantly striving to build the places that provide Pittsburgh residents with new opportunities. For those of you visiting Pittsburgh, I hope you get a sense of the places we cherish. For those who live here, I hope you hear from your neighbors about the places they come from. These are the places make us Pittsburgh. And what a powerful place that is.

In partnership,

William Peduto
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh
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Supporting neighbors. Building community.

For more than 140 years, BB&T has earned the trust of our clients with a local approach to banking. Understanding the fabric of our community. Being there when our neighbors need us. Encouraging what makes our community unique. That’s why we are proud to support Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group and their Annual Community Development Summit.
Special Thanks

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Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh

Lisa Belloli
Civic Square LLC

Rick Belloli
Civic Square LLC

Tamara Dudukovich
BNY Mellon

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Lawrenceville Development Corp

Jerome Jackson, Co-Chair
Operation Better Block

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Janera Solomon
Kelly-Strayhorn Theater

Tara Sherry-Torres
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John Watt
Barron, Murtha Schonberg /ULI Pittsburgh

Additional Thanks

LaShawn Burton-Faulk
Manchester Citizens Corporation

Don Carter
Remaking Cities Institute, Carnegie Mellon University

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Director of Policy, PCRG

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Thanks to our generous scholarship sponsors, 40 local community leaders were able to attend this year's Summit.

The Buhl Foundation

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ONE Northside
When the community works together, the community works

Bank of America recognizes Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG) for celebrating individuality while supporting the common goals that bring progress to us all.

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MAKING AN IMPACT

Helping people be successful is what we’re all about. So we’re proud to support the Community Development Summit and the important role the conference plays in our community.

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Investment advisory services are offered through CliftonLarsonAllen Wealth Advisors, LLC, an SEC-registered investment advisor.
WHEN YOU INVEST IN THE COMMUNITY, THE RETURNS ARE GUARANTEED.

At Huntington, we know how important it is to give back to the community. After all, we do more than just work here – we live and raise our families here too. And after everything this community has done for us, we’re just happy to be able to return the favor.
Making a difference.

These are challenging times for individuals, families, and entire communities. We believe in providing products and services that will make a difference in the lives of consumers and our communities. It is our mission to help our clients and communities thrive.

That is why KeyBank is proud to support PCRG and their mission to utilize its strength of engagement, advocacy, and policy formulation to focus its efforts on ensuring equitable access to land, capital, and mobility choices to improve the health and wealth of communities throughout Allegheny County.

Working together we can make a difference.

KeyBank
As a community bank, we understand the value and importance of investing in our neighborhoods. From Altoona to Butler, DuBois to Pittsburgh, we are proud to call western Pennsylvania home and to give back to our neighbors and friends.

Being great neighbors helps our communities grow.

When neighbors prosper, our communities prosper. At First Niagara, it is the belief that drives how our teammates embrace the communities in which they live, work and play. It is what guides us when we provide opportunities for individuals and businesses to grow, mentoring our children, or give a helping hand to those in our community in need. As we go about our daily lives in our communities, we believe when neighbors help neighbors, anything seems possible.

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BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER, ONE STEP AT A TIME.

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WesBanco Bank is proud to sponsor...

Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group

6th Annual Community Development Summit

The Power of Place

...and proud to support their commitment to educate, influence and celebrate the community development industry in Pittsburgh.

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NCRC and its grassroots member organizations create opportunities for people to build wealth. We work with community leaders, policymakers and financial institutions to champion fairness in banking, housing and business development.

NCRC is proud to support PCRG and its Sixth Annual Community Development Summit.

Together, we’re creating a more just economy.

NCRC and its grassroots member organizations create opportunities for people to build wealth. We work with community leaders, policymakers and financial institutions to champion fairness in banking, housing and business development.

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Lauren Connelly
Executive Director, Lawrenceville United

From the time she was pulling at the apron strings of her grandmother and community development matriarch, Aggie Brose (Deputy Director at Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation), Lauren Connelly’s professional and personal life has been rooted in growing and nurturing city neighborhoods. Public service is in Lauren’s blood; in addition to her legendary grandmother’s work, Lauren’s commitment to others has undoubtedly been impacted and shaped by both of her parents’ lifetime’s spent in service at the City of Pittsburgh.

Today, Lauren sits at the apex of community leadership in Pittsburgh, living and breathing neighborhood stewardship and civic pride. It is safe to say that Lawrenceville would not be “Lawrenceville” without Lauren at the helm. And her impact extends well beyond neighborhood boundaries.

As one of Pittsburgh’s foremost community development professionals, Lauren has gained a reputation as an effective neighborhood advocate with the rare ability to overcome challenges that can limit similarly effective community leaders. Because of this, Lauren has united policy-makers under LU’s vision, often transcending long-held political divisions between officials to work toward Lawrenceville’s success while also balancing multiple interests within the community that she represents.

After graduating from Allegheny College in 2006, Lauren immediately started working in public service, starting her career in the City of Pittsburgh Office of Neighborhood Initiatives from 2006 - 2009. In this role, Lauren quickly demonstrated her capability to build trust and consensus among opposing stakeholders in her work spearheading the Green-Up and Taking Care of Business initiatives.

After honing these skills in city government, Lauren was hired as Executive Director at Lawrenceville United in 2009. Since then, she has played a pivotal role in managing Lawrenceville’s rapid rebirth, utilizing inclusive community engagement to ensure that residents had the ability to curate redevelopment. Despite having an undeniable hand in shaping Lawrenceville’s nationally-recognized transformation, Lauren has leveraged this success to build up those around her, emphasizing the contributions of Lawrenceville United’s board, volunteers, partners, and membership.

Lauren currently serves on the Board of Directors for Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group, Lawrenceville Corporation Board of Directors, City of Pittsburgh's Disruptive Properties Appeals Board, Pittsburgh’s Saint Patrick’s Day Parade Committee, and is an active member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (A.O.H) Division 23. These positions within the city and local community allow Lauren to help improve the lives of those around her in unique and powerful ways, making her an asset to the quality of life within the City of Pittsburgh. Given her leadership in the Pittsburgh Irish American community, Lauren was recognized as a national “40 under 40 Irish American” by Irish Times Magazine in 2011. Last year, Lauren was honored with Pittsburgh Magazine’s “Forty Under Forty” designation.
New Voices Pittsburgh

La'Tasha Mayes
Founder + Executive Director

Integrated Voter Engagement (IVE) is an approach to engage black women (who are the rising vote electorate in the USA) year round on the issues that affect them. Rather than rolling out a “get out and vote” strategy around election time, New Voices door knocks and phone banks year round in order to learn about the issues they care about the most. This program not only serves to inform black women on upcoming elections, but also helps New Voices to build relationships with black women in order to further engage them on things happening in their neighborhood, city and region. It’s this ongoing engagement that builds trust and positions New Voices as a gateway to speak with black women directly, allowing their constituents to learn about various issues and make informed decisions about elections, policy topics, community meetings, etc.

7800 Susquehanna Street

Bridgeway Capital

Mark Peterson, Executive Director

In 2013, nonprofit Bridgeway Capital expanded its economic revitalization strategy by purchasing 7800 Susquehanna Street with the support of the Richard King Mellon Foundation. The goal is to re-purpose the former industrial building into a platform for economic renewal in the neighborhood of Homewood. Mark Peterson, Bridgeway’s President and CEO, said that “the building represents a major opportunity to improve business conditions in one of the region’s most challenging markets.”

7800 was originally a Westinghouse Electric facility built in the 1920s, but over the last several decades the building has housed a range of commercial tenants. When Bridgeway purchased 7800, most of the building was not being utilized. But Bridgeway did not stop there—they selected Ma’at Construction Group (Ma’at) as the general contractor for the first stage of the 7800 Susquehanna Street interior renovations. Ma’at emerged from the Community Empowerment Association (CEA) in 1997 in order to assist Homewood residents with training and employment. Co-owner T. Rashad Byrdsong understood that revitalization in Homewood had to include grassroots economic development. Byrdsong recalled that “Ma’at was a direct response to double-digit unemployment rates, specifically in a lot of disadvantaged communities. Ma’at Construction Group assembled a contract team with 85% minority contractor participation, the project represents a significant investment in a chronically underinvested area of Pittsburgh, 7800 creates a stable economic core in Homewood to attract additional investment and encourage commercial activity.

Today the project is developing businesses like Ma’at, which now leases space in 7800 Susquehanna Street to expand operations and provide educational opportunities for minority-owned construction businesses. Other businesses hosted at 7800 include Urban Tree, Bones and All, Radiant Hall, New Precision Technologies, and Impact Audio, as well as emerging visual artists like Peter Johnson, Melissa Lombardo, Elise Adibi, Alexi Morrissy, and Mia Henry, and community development enterprises like the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh, Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh, and the Homewood Business Center.
Don Reed often told people that he got into community development by being held hostage. When he worked for a Cleveland bank, he was the highest-ranking executive in the office on the day a group of activists jammed the lobby, refusing to leave until they were given a meeting with someone in management. Don sat down with the protest leaders and began a dialogue that led to a fruitful relationship between the bank and the community.

Don was the first modern CRA Officer in Pittsburgh. In 1988, when PCRG protested the merger application that would create Integra Bank, one of the community demands was that the bank hire a full-time CRA Officer. When the neighborhoods and the bank struck a deal on the substantive terms, Mayor Sophie Masloff hurriedly scheduled a press conference to announce the agreement. The bank’s newly hired CRA Officer jumped in his pick-up truck and drove in from Cleveland, not even stopping to change clothes. When Don was introduced to everyone for the first time, he stood there in jeans and a t-shirt because he said that being in the room for this moment was more important than what he was wearing.

If that didn’t tip us off that Don was not your average banker, our first real working meeting with him opened all of our eyes. In an era when bankers traveled to community meetings in packs as a sort of defense mechanism, Don to our astonishment came alone. Don wasted no time. He said, “I have 6 months to make change in this bank. After that I begin to lose leverage. What can we do NOW to change this institution for the better?” That did not sound like any banker we knew, or any banker we would EVER know. Don wanted to create positive change that would serve both the bank and the community.

The pace of change was rapid. By marketing to previously red-lined neighborhoods for mortgages, Integra built a profitable mortgage business from scratch in less than 2 years. The conversations broadened into small business lending, community-focused grant-making and diversity in the bank’s staff and vendors. Don was integral to all of these varied conversations, across all departments of the bank, challenging long held assumptions within the institution and finding ways to make positive change. Often he cited a basic principle: “Don’t ask for permission. Beg for forgiveness.” That six month window stretched into years of creative change.

Integra and Don Reed set a high bar that every other bank had to stretch to meet. Institutions that had been comfortable with their role in the community were suddenly confronted by a bank that had reached another level. The competition fueled innovation in a dozen different aspects. As one example, to improve direct outreach to residents, Integra at Don’s urging created the first homeownership workshops and presented them in two dozen different low-income communities. They were highly successful and within a year, seemingly every bank was running workshops on homeownership, credit repair and home repair loans!

Many in Pittsburgh owe their careers to Don’s guidance and gentle mentoring, and not just in banking or community development. He could help people see the opportunity in taking a chance, trying a new venture, or shifting the focus of one’s career. And his instincts were uncannily accurate. He mentored many before “mentoring” became a buzzword.

Don surprised us again by buying a home in Lawrenceville, long before that was the fashionable part of town. He wasn’t interested in the suburbs or a “safe” established city neighborhood. He wanted to be part of the communities he was working with. And he didn’t just live there. He became active in neighborhood groups and projects. After leaving banking, he partnered with Garth Jones to create the Slaughterhouse Gallery, establishing one of the first new ventures in that sometimes forgotten end of Butler St. This new phase of life mirrored his banking phase – he was quietly out in front, finding new opportunities in a place that others had rejected, and finding ways for others to be part of that community growth.

Don’s interests were incredibly varied: woodworking, Aikido martial arts, boatbuilding, bicycling and model trains as a few examples. In every case, Don had a knack for organizing a community around his interest, bringing people together to share their interest and enthusiasm, creating more from it than any one of them could individually. At heart, he was a community organizer.

Don Reed is remembered by those of us who worked with him as a man of genuine good humor, of creativity that folks could buy into, and of understated but reliable sincerity. He was comfortable in a meeting of bankers at the Duquesne Club, but he was equally at ease with a beer at a neighborhood tavern.

Don Reed was a rare man. He saw opportunities to change things for the better. He had the courage to seize those opportunities. He succeeded, and we are all profoundly better.
COMMUNITY BANKING AWARDS

**Dollar Bank**  
_in the_  
**African American Lending Category**

PCRG acknowledges Dollar Bank for the largest number and dollar amount of mortgage loans to African American borrowers by a large bank in 2014.

**Allegheny Valley Bank**  
_in the_  
**African American Lending Category**

PCRG acknowledges Allegheny Valley Bank for the largest number and dollar amount of mortgage loans to African American borrowers by an intermediate small bank in 2014.

**PNC Bank**  
_in the_  
**LMI Lending Category**

PCRG acknowledges PNC Bank for the largest number and dollar amount of mortgage loans to low- and moderate-income borrowers by a large bank in 2014.

**Allegheny Valley Bank**  
_in the_  
**LMI Lending Category**

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COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT AWARDS

**Joseph Foster**  
_in the_  
**Large Bank Category**

In recognition of your dedication to the Community Reinvestment Act, which has significantly impacted the quality of life for low- and moderate-income individuals and communities.

**Chris Oravetz**  
_in the_  
**Small Bank Category**

In recognition of your dedication to the Community Reinvestment Act, which has significantly impacted the quality of life for low- and moderate-income individuals and communities.
A strong community takes the support of many

UPMC Health Plan is proud to support the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group and the Sixth Annual Community Development Summit.
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- Technical Assistance and more...

TO LEARN MORE CONTACT:
Emmanuel T. Glover, Senior Vice President,
Corporate Director of Community Development,
at 330-996-6237 or emmanuel.glover@firstmerit.com

Member FDIC
The tours will be held on Tuesday, May 17, from approximately 11:30 AM – 3:30 PM. They will begin and end at the William Penn Omni Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh. Lunch will be provided.

A Busway Runs Through it: How Multi-Modal Systems Connect Communities and Catalyze Markets (includes a fair amount of walking)

This unique mobile workshop will explore questions in two places – each distinct, linked by rapid transit. We will start Downtown, where Envision Downtown will discuss the study conducted with Gehl Studio. Charged with crafting a “21st century vision for the sustainable and efficient development of a Downtown for all,” the resulting data is helping prioritize street life and pedestrian condition projects. Through a similar lens, Port Authority of Allegheny County’s Station Improvement Program assessed its 70+ stations to determine where upgrades could lead to ridership gains and transit-oriented development opportunities. We’ll discuss walksheds, station amenities, census data, and all the information that came together to evaluate stations on transit amenities, neighborhood orientation, and development potential and momentum.

We then depart for East Liberty, via the East Busway, to learn about how transit-oriented development and infrastructure improvements converged to create community-building assets, connect Obama Academy to transit, provide new, affordable housing, and the opportunity for a car-free/light lifestyle in one of Pittsburgh’s fastest-redeveloping neighborhoods. A robust discussion will be had about what the development has meant – good and bad – and the data and community processes that drove this change. We will also discuss how East Liberty’s revitalization movement came to embrace the Busway and what it’s meant for transit ridership and a rethink of rapid transit throughout Pittsburgh’s East End.

Panelists
- Sean Luther: Executive Director, Envision Downtown
- Andrea Elcock: Community Planning Coordinator, Port Authority of Allegheny County
- Todd Reidbord: Principal and President, Walnut Capital
- Rebecca Schenck: Sr. Project Specialist, Urban Redevelopment Authority
- Mark Minnerly: Director of Real Estate, the Mosites Company
- Claire Hosteny: Partner, East End Development Partners

It Takes a Village: Addressing Vacancy Through Community Partnerships in Pittsburgh’s Northside (bicycle tour)

There’s lots to love, because lots need love. And you can see it happening by bike – for free!

GTECH’s work with key partners over the past three years, in Pittsburgh’s Northside, has resulted in a community that emphasizes creativity and collaboration while tackling issues such as blight and vacancy. The bike tour will highlight GTECH’s Green Playces project which was completed in partnership with Propel Schools, as well as 2 of our Ambassador projects completed over the last three years. We’ll leave the Omni William Penn to pick up our swanky Healthy Ride bikes, then head to Northside. At the first stop, you will hear our partner Propel Schools discuss community involvement as well as creating and outdoor classroom for their students and how students informed those decisions. The tour will participate in a small maker camp, where a piece of artwork will be created to install on-site. Our second stop will be a GTECH Ambassador site, where Diana Bucco - Vice President of the Buhl Foundation – will discuss our Ambassador programming, the Northside Asset Mapping project work that’s facilitating a bike/walk transportation trail that highlights key assets in the community. Finally, GTECH Ambassador Lisa Freeman in Manchester will talk about the Ambassador program’s impact on the surrounding neighborhood in addition to the level of community engagement the Manchester Growing Garden has afforded the community. The tour will emphasize the collaborative process to accomplish a powerful neighborhood where community takes shape and people want to live, work and play in the area.

Panelists
- Ian Brown: Project Manager, Policy and Evaluation; GTECH Strategies
- Diana Bucco: Vice President, Buhl Foundation
- Lisa Freeman: Project Manager, Manchester Growing Together Community Garden
- Kristen Golomb: Director of Innovation, Propel Schools
- David White: Executive Director, Pittsburgh Bikeshare

From Concept to Implementation: The Campaign for Green Infrastructure, Community Investment, and Compliance (traditional trolley)

The Clean Rivers Campaign has dramatically changed the dialogue around and course of our region’s sewer investment from one that prioritizes gray infrastructure to one that is “green-first and green-preferred.” The presentation will begin with an overview framing the five-year community and coalition campaign to impact this shift toward a maximum investment in green infrastructure, the community benefits and amenities that come with it, and the current outlook on strategic sewer and stormwater management planning and implementation. The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and Nine Mile Run Watershed Association will then describe these green investments at varying scales and the nuts and bolts of taking an idea from concept to implementation. They will use real examples from our parks and neighborhoods to discuss that process as well as the community benefits that come from strengthening our urban fabric with green infrastructure.

Panelists
- Michael Hiller, LEED GA, Director of Policy & Outreach, Nine Mile Run Watershed Association
- Jennifer Rafanan Kennedy, Campaign Director, Clean Rivers Campaign
- Heather Sage, Director of Community Programs, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
- Odd Reidbord: Principal and President, Walnut Capital
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- David White: Executive Director, Pittsburgh Bikeshare

From Concept to Implementation: The Campaign for Green Infrastructure, Community Investment, and Compliance (traditional trolley)

The Clean Rivers Campaign has dramatically changed the dialogue around and course of our region’s sewer investment from one that prioritizes gray infrastructure to one that is “green-first and green-preferred.” The presentation will begin with an overview framing the five-year community and coalition campaign to impact this shift toward a maximum investment in green infrastructure, the community benefits and amenities that come with it, and the current outlook on strategic sewer and stormwater management planning and implementation. The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and Nine Mile Run Watershed Association will then describe these green investments at varying scales and the nuts and bolts of taking an idea from concept to implementation. They will use real examples from our parks and neighborhoods to discuss that process as well as the community benefits that come from strengthening our urban fabric with green infrastructure.

Panelists
- Michael Hiller, LEED GA, Director of Policy & Outreach, Nine Mile Run Watershed Association
- Jennifer Rafanan Kennedy, Campaign Director, Clean Rivers Campaign
- Heather Sage, Director of Community Programs, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
There are many rewards and challenges in the preparation of a new generation of learners! Pittsburgh’s urban students will be our 21st century citizens and leaders, ready to give back to our region. Access to high-performing schools is necessary for all students and families, as we expand, evolve and redefine education to best suit the needs of our students.

“Who is teaching our children?” Propel believes that it is the people that make the difference. This belief drives Propel’s commitment to recruit, train and employ a diverse teaching workforce who are passionate about urban education and who embrace Propel’s belief that every child can succeed. There are many challenges in recruiting a diverse group of teachers, but through the Pittsburgh Urban Teaching Corps, Propel is changing our region’s educational landscape by inviting new, more diverse voices into the classroom and providing a career pathway for those community members who share Propel’s belief in educational equity and social justice.

“Impressions and Expressions of Students.” While many schools are cutting back the arts, our fully-integrated arts program is a model to show that students need art – not simply for academic enrichment, but for the freedom to express emotion, dig deeper into the ‘self,’ and liberate their creative minds.

“Where are the kids after school?” After school time can be tenuous for urban families. A strong after school program is vital for students to have the place, time and catalyst to keep the learning growing and going in a safe and enriching environment. This environment can, should, and will assist students to achieve -- not just academically, but by making enrichment activities a major piece of the ‘out of school’ time. By giving students skills, tools and experiences that they may not access in any other way, we give a glimpse into their future.

Panelists
- Dr. Tina Chekan: Superintendent/CEO, Propel Schools
- Kimberly Roberts: Director of Talent, Propel Schools
- Lauren Hinish: Director of Arts, Propel Schools
- Rosemary Anderson: Director of After School Programs, Propel Schools
- Erika Gold Kestenberg: Associate Director for Community Partnerships and Practice, University of Pittsburgh Center for Urban Education

One component of a place’s power is the ease of movement to, from, and within it. It is a vital, yet often unaddressed community development issue. Access, equity, and mobility are greatly enhanced by multi-modal communities where people can take transit, walk, or bike. How do we make and connect such places? What partnerships help make it happen?

This session dives into how, why, where, and for whom multi-modal communities can be created. Port Authority of Allegheny County will discuss ways to catalyze ridership and transit-oriented development throughout its system, taking a best-practice, region-specific approach that will help communities and the agency alike approach multi-modal development. Pittsburgh Bike Share will discuss its station location approach and how it supports multi-modal travel, including the vital first/last mile connection. PBS will also discuss its efforts to ensure equitable access across its network and how easy-to-use, affordable active transportation is changing the connections within and between communities.

Panelists
- Brene Masciotra: Transit-Oriented Development Manager, Port Authority of Allegheny County
- David White: Executive Director, Pittsburgh Bike Share

The Hazelwood Community has recently transformed how the Power of People can change how Places are developed. The Hazelwood Initiative with Center of Life, Hazelwood community organizations, and in partnership with Make It Right Organization and PCRG, engaged the Hazelwood community residents to create a process for the redevelopment of the Historic Gladstone School Building. The Hazelwood Initiative, a local CDC, and Center of Life, a local social service organization, are purchasing the school building from the Pittsburgh Public School Board for use by the Hazelwood community. The Hazelwood community is an urban neighborhood which has experienced decline since the community steel mill closed in the late 1990’s. This brownfield site has been purchased by four foundations. The ALMONO site has been the focus of redevelopment and revitalization in Hazelwood. This Gladstone School Project transforms the discussion to focus on the heart of the neighborhood of Hazelwood by inviting the residents to create the vision and play an active part in the entire process.

Panelists
- Kristina DiPietro: Board Member, Hazelwood Initiative
- Alyssa Lyon: Community Coordinator, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group
- Tim Smith: Executive Director, Center of Life
The UrbanKind Institute presents this model of resident driven community building as an alternative to common models of community development that reverberate out positive impacts on family life, community health and well-being, job training and creation, placemaking, and culture. The session will be kicked off with an introduction to this concept and the collective work of the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, its members and the cross-cutting collaborations that are working to bring about a more just, equitable and sustainable local food system. Learn about both established and emerging food projects throughout Pittsburgh and surrounding municipalities, particularly in low-income neighborhoods. Learn about how innovative food business models, community-based food access and urban agriculture initiatives, planning processes and policy change are allowing us to re-imagine our local food system and build healthy communities. Panelists will present the case study of the collaboration of three community organizations – Operation Better Block, Homewood Children’s Village and the Bible Center Church – to create an innovative food infrastructure as an essential part of their comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy. As PFPC-affiliated organizations, they have drawn a broad cross section of partnerships at the neighborhood and city level to create a plan for community gardens, urban agriculture, aquaponics, local food-related business development, food-related workforce development, youth leadership and nutrition/health education, and equitable access to healthy food as core components of their strategy.

Panelists
- Dawn Plummer: Director, Pittsburgh Food Policy Council
- Heather Manzo: Extension Educator in Agricultural Entrepreneurship and Community Economic Development, Penn State Extension
- Stephanie Boddie: Post-Doctoral Fellow, Carnegie Mellon University’s Center for African American Studies and the Economy
- Kahili Morris: Community Development Coordinator, Operation Better Block

PLACE Hungry for Change: Food as a Catalyst for Community Development

Through visual presentation and engaging conversation, this session is designed to bring food into focus as a catalyst for community development that reverberates out positive impacts on family life, community health and well-being, job training and creation, placemaking, and culture. The session will be kicked off with an introduction to this concept and the collective work of the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, its members and the cross-cutting collaborations that are working to bring about a more just, equitable and sustainable local food system. Learn about both established and emerging food projects throughout Pittsburgh and surrounding municipalities, particularly in low-income neighborhoods. Learn about how innovative food business models, community-based food access and urban agriculture initiatives, planning processes and policy change are allowing us to re-imagine our local food system and build healthy communities. Panelists will present the case study of the collaboration of three community organizations – Operation Better Block, Homewood Children’s Village and the Bible Center Church – to create an innovative food infrastructure as an essential part of their comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy. As PFPC-affiliated organizations, they have drawn a broad cross section of partnerships at the neighborhood and city level to create a plan for community gardens, urban agriculture, aquaponics, local food-related business development, food-related workforce development, youth leadership and nutrition/health education, and equitable access to healthy food as core components of their strategy.

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POWER Resident-First Community Building

If we know what a community is, we know how members connect to communities; and we know that higher levels of connectedness are likely to increase an individual’s level of participation in the maintenance and upkeep of that community, why do we not apply this to community development efforts? This is the central question of work in the Hilltop neighborhoods of South Pittsburgh.

This session explores the applied research strategy of The UrbanKind Institute and their focus on specific community building efforts that research suggests will likely increase members’ sense of community connectedness. High “Sense of Community” scores yield increased levels of social capital and community engagement. These increases in social capital work to galvanize residents from displacement when eventual investments in infrastructure and housing stock occur. The relationships formed between members with high social capital allotments and their sense of community ownership and empowerment become the building blocks of communities where residents are likely to stay and participate in community revitalization efforts.

The UrbanKind Institute presents this model of resident driven community building as an alternative to common models of community development processes driven by the recycling of taxable properties and short-term financial returns on investments.

Panelists
- Jamil Bey: Founder and Director, The UrbanKind Institute
- LaShawna Russ: Community Coordinator, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group
- Terry Matuszak: Resident
- Mary Taylor: Real Estate and Placemaking Fellow, Neighborhood Allies
Facing stagnant incomes, rising housing costs, and shrinking public resources, cities nationwide are struggling to provide affordable housing for their residents. Consequently, many low-income households find themselves increasingly marginalized in their own communities. Constrained housing choices limit their access to opportunity, increase displacement risk, and reduce the potential for truly inclusive places. As a result, many communities simultaneously face housing and equity crises.

Feasible tools do exist, however, and this session will explore how communities can assess and address housing, from grassroots neighborhood strategies to statewide policy development. Best practices for identifying need and translating the results into implementable policy solutions, and tailoring these efforts to the goals and objectives of each community will be explored. We will also discuss how to utilize these policies to expand opportunities for marginalized groups. Case studies from a wide cross-section of places including Colorado Springs; Wake County, NC; Washington state; and Pittsburgh will be presented. We will emphasize real-world implications and each initiative’s final outcomes. Special attention will be paid to best-practice applicability to Pittsburgh.

Panelists
- Nick Fedorek: Housing and Community Development Specialist, Mullin & Lonergan Associates
- Councilman Daniel Lavelle: City Councilman, City of Pittsburgh Council District 6
- Ira Mabel: Housing and Community Development Specialist, Mullin & Lonergan Associates

**In Our Backyard: Integrated Housing Projects for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum**

Autism Spectrum Disorder’s (ASD) impact – for individuals, families, and communities - is reaching epidemic proportions, and supporting these impacts is increasingly challenging. Medical care alone costs $1.4 - $2.4 million, per person, over their lives. Those on the spectrum are 7 times more likely to come in contact with the law. There are those with ASD who can live independently and be gainfully employed, but the lack of minimal support means that less than 17% have jobs and, as adults, only 17% have lived away from their primary caregivers at some point. There also remains a stigma in employing someone with an ASD. Educational and behavioral supports for those with ASD, including commercial insurance, typically ends when they reach 21.

Despite all this, some in the housing and services communities have developed innovative ways to help individuals and communities. The key to impactful, long-term success is integration of home and community resources, breaking down historic silos between housing and supportive needs for those with an ASD. This new housing concept integrates housing for individuals with an ASD and their typical developing peers. Providing voluntary support for education, peer engagement, resume writing, employment identification, budgeting and identification of natural supports is a necessity for success. Another key component is a tenant council to support the development of an environment where all residents can socialize in a safe and supportive environment.

Panelists
- Elliot Frank: Founder and President, Autism Housing Development Corporation of Pittsburgh
- Karen Markle: Executive Vice President of Education and Autism Services, NHS Human Services
- David Noss: Principal, RSH Architects

**Asset-based Micro Planning and Action Plans Session**

Struggling to put your neighborhood plans into action? The City of Youngstown, Ohio and the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC) have created a simple, yet innovative approach to neighborhood revitalization through asset-based micro planning and the development of action plans. Using a data-driven approach to identify and prioritize housing, infrastructure, and crime issues affecting the neighborhood, plans are developed and neighborhood action teams are established to advance implementation efforts. Comprised of residents, institutional partners, city officials, and YNDC staff, these action teams are focused on achieving a real impact and creating mutual accountability and transparency among all partners. Learn how this place-based strategy is bringing new resources to distressed communities that would otherwise not receive such assistance, and how residents are becoming empowered to have a meaningful role in planning, implementation, and decision-making to secure the future of their neighborhoods.

Panelists
- Ian Beniston: Executive Director, Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation
- Deb Flora: Executive Director, Mahoning County Land Bank
- Tom Hetrick: Neighborhood Planner, Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation
- T. Sharon Woodberry: Director of Community Planning and Economic Development, City of Youngstown
- Marguerite Douglas: Financial Secretary, Lincoln Knolls Community Watch
3:45 – 4:45

PCRG ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (Members Only)

ROOM – Frick (Conference Level)

PCRG Members—Please come to the Annual Member Meeting, meet your new board of directors, and hear about the work that we have achieved as a coalition. Learn about the 2016-2017 policy agenda and hear about the NEW Community Growth Fund.

Agenda

> PCRG Board Election Confirmation Vote
> Accomplishments of 2015
> New Programs
> Address from Featured Speaker

4:15 – 5:15 PM

We Call This Place Home: The Future of Creativity, Place-making and Diversity

Off Site Session – Kelly Strayhorn Theater, 5149 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15206

Javier Torres discusses the vital and dynamic role of creative placemaking across sectors as a way to create opportunities for people both in their communities and beyond. The following questions will be examined during this session:

> What is the next step beyond creative placemaking?
> Where can nonprofit organizations and creative entrepreneurs collaborate with private development?
> How do organizations and entrepreneurs adapt to an economically evolving neighborhood?
> Who is represented in a “diverse audience?”
> How does the velocity and aesthetic of change shape affect neighbors?
> Why does a neighborhood become a destination?

5:30 – 7 PM

FUTUREMAKERS Happy Hour // DJ //

Kelly Strayhorn Theater Lobby
5149 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15206
In 2014, the Trumbull County Land Bank, a nonprofit CDC serving Warren, Ohio, was awarded demolition funding through the federal Hardest Hit Fund. This funding stream was earmarked for residential demolition, but unlike past demolition funding NIP allocated funds for green space and vacant lot reuse projects post demolition, an activity that was vital to the revival of Warren’s neighborhoods. TNP saw the need for these funds and turned to Warren’s residents to develop ideas and implement their plans with the technical assistance of TNP. This was the birth of Lots to Love, a grassroots resident driven vacant lot reuse program.

Lots to Love started with grassroots organizing to get residents thinking about vacant lots as potential assets to the community and how these lots could address needs in their neighborhoods. This gave residents the reigns to drive projects in their neighborhoods and use TNP and the Land Bank to give the monetary and technical support needed to move these projects forward. Residents were required to submit a plan for the site, a petition signed by surrounding property owners, a long term maintenance plan, and how the project would positively impact the community. It gives the residents a sense of ownership in their neighborhood and started a trend to make their communities more livable spaces. Whether it is the development of a community garden to combat the availability of fresh produce or a basketball court to offer youth the opportunity for recreation and relaxation, all of these projects are meant to better the quality of life for Warren residents.

Now starting its second year, Lots to Love has been a highly successful program come learn more about the collaboration between a nonprofit CDC, a land bank, and grassroots resident driven efforts that Warren’s vacant lots can be transformed into community assets.

Panelists
- Shawn Carvin: Trumbull County Land Bank Program Manager, Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership
- Lou Tisler: Executive Director, Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland
- Lisa Ramsey: Assistant Director, Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership

Big cities are cashing in on the resurgent interest in walkable, compact communities, but how can smaller municipalities and towns capitalize on these trends? How do we identify opportunity zones and improve quality of life—especially for the elderly and poor? What roles do mass transit and other non-car forms of transportation play? Most importantly, how do we pay for it and how do smaller communities build these partnerships?

Municipal and community leaders will learn about what role transit and walk-ability principles can play in the revitalization of long-disinvested communities with similar urban form to large central cities. The latest resources to bring housing, commerce, and transit together, including online assessment tools, zoning and planning approaches and equitable TOD will be discussed, as will funding opportunities like PA’s Multi-modal funds, Transit Revitalization Investment Districts, federal transportation funding sources, and others. Finally, how these projects can come together in smaller locales will be explored.

Panelists:
- Chris Sandvig: Policy Director, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group
- Lynn Colosi: Vice President, Transit Services; Delta Development Group
- Barb Giampini: Director of Planning, City of Greensburg (PA)
10:15 -11:30 AM SESSIONS continued

POWER Preparing Your Community for the Third Industrial Revolution

The Third Industrial Revolution, as described by internationally recognized economist Jeremy Rifkin, will bring a new era of economic growth through a communications-energy-transportation-internet convergence. We can already see the burgeoning effects on our economy through media’s ongoing democratization and buzz around smart buildings, grids, and transportation. Community-empowering trend exploitation, however, requires thoughtful land use, workforce development, and social infrastructure planning if we hope to fix the problems of the First and Second Revolutions rather than exacerbate them with new tech. How can communities prepare to take advantage of the shifts so that they do not get left behind?

This session will discuss the need for workforce, infrastructure, and entrepreneurship and provide real-world examples of how communities are planning for or implementing programs to position themselves accordingly. This session will be relevant to participants from any community, working at any scale (neighborhood to regional), and to participants across a diverse spectrum of issues, including environmental, workforce and training, land use planning, and community building.

Panelists:
- Aurora Sharrard: Executive Director, Green Building Alliance
- Grant Ervin: Chief Resiliency Officer, City of Pittsburgh
- Zaheen Hussain: Sustainability Coordinator, Millvale Community Library
- Chelsea Burket: Sustainability Communities Director, Fourth Economy Consulting

POWER Leveraging Funds for the Long Haul

Stable, long-term financing is essential to sustain community development for the long haul. The terms and requirements of permanent funding sources greatly influence the economics of real estate development and the mission objectives it can achieve. Hear from industry professionals who provide long-term debt financing and operating subsidy to community development projects like yours. Topics will include:

- Patient capital, including foundation program related investments (PRIs)
- Permanent debt financing for rent-restricted rental housing, including Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects
- Long-term sources of operating subsidy, including project-based vouchers administered by local Housing Authorities

The panel will discuss the benefits of incorporating these sources into a real estate project and share insights on how lenders, investors and public agencies underwrite projects from both a mission and economic perspective.

Panelists:
- Tamara Dudukovich, Vice President and Senior Community Lending Officer BNY Mellon - Moderator
- Mark Bibro, Executive Director of the Birmingham Foundation
- Bob Rice, Senior Vice President, Debt for the Community Development Trust
- David Weber, Chief Operations Officer of the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh

May 18, 2016 | 3:30 – 4:45 PM

Advocate and Negotiate for YOU!

Join WHFPA Steering Committee and Communications Co-Chair, Karyntha Cadogan as she shares the tools she has used to advocate and negotiate for herself in the workplace. Learning how to communicate with employers was once met with fear, but now Karyntha takes the responsibility to shape her career seriously … and enjoys it! Karyntha will be joined by WHFPA Members Chris Paul of Diamond and Associates and Vanessa Murphy of Trek Development.

Karyntha is a Senior Project Manager for Diamond and Associates and serves for-profit and nonprofit affordable housing developers in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Diamond and Associates is an affordable housing consulting firm that serves Pennsylvania and New Jersey. www.diamondandassociates.com

Please email whf.pa.2013@gmail.com to register for the panel.

“Advocating and Negotiating for YOU” was developed out of the WHF-PA Gender Bias Working Group that was created in November 2015.
1:45-3:00 PM SESSIONS

PEOPLE Futuremakers: Art as a Community Development Driver and Community Connector

This session will discuss the dynamic and needed role of creative placemaking across sectors as a way to create opportunities and new possibilities for populations that have traditionally been marginalized and left out of conversations about the importance and role of comprehensive community development. The panel will examine and discuss the following questions:

• What is the next step beyond creative placemaking?
• Where can nonprofit organizations and creative entrepreneurs collaborate with private development?
• How do organizations & entrepreneurs adapt to an economically evolving neighborhood?
• Who is represented in a “diverse audience”?
• How does the velocity & aesthetic of change shape and affect neighbors?
• Why & how does a neighborhood become a destination?

Panelists:
• Janera Solomon, Executive Director - Kelly Strayhorn Theater
• D.S. Kinsel, Boom Concepts
• Shey Rivera Rios, Director of Programs at AS220
• Bonnie Young Laing, Community Organizer - Hill District Consensus Group

PLACE Leveraging Community in Green Infrastructure Planning

Our region will be investing billions of dollars to comply with the EPA's Consent Decree for the Clean Water Act. This investment is meant to help keep our rivers clean but could be the way to rebuild our neighborhoods at the same time, challenging the ways we plan our communities. To meet our Consent Decree requirements, we will need to implement rainwater infrastructure to include both parcel-based green infrastructure as well as larger, shared infrastructure that functions as a hydrological system in our communities. This session presents three perspectives that describe upcoming system changes to rainwater and green infrastructure planning (large scale), how communities are crossing boundaries to work together in multi-municipal efforts (medium scale), and how neighborhood implementation projects can spur investment that leverages system change (small scale).

Panelists:
• Christine Mondor: Strategic Principal, EvolveEA
• Lisa Brown: Director, Saw Mill Run Watershed Association
• John Stephen: Principal, Ecosophic Strategies, LLC
• Ian Lipsky: Senior Hydrologist, eDesign Dynamics
• Megan Zeigler: Green Infrastructure Technical Coordinator, Pittsburgh Water Sewage Authority

POWER Organizing Around Transit Equity in Place and in Motion

What’s the common denominator between a more equitable approach to transit service delivery and putting community priorities first in a transit-oriented development strategy? Sustained, on-the-ground organizing and evidence-based advocacy.

In 2014, a station-area study in Pittsburgh’s Homewood neighborhood almost died before starting because of historic distrust between the community and City development institutions. How did this not only get back on track, but embrace the community’s wishes and prioritize people-first public improvements? We will discuss the process, how it integrated grassroots land use planning, and spurred a neighborhood wide discussion on equitable policy and development principles. We will also explore the challenges of building relationships in disinvested communities and ways to gain authentic participation.

That same year, Pittsburghers for Public Transit successfully mobilized transit riders not only to get service restored, but also impact route planning policies and processes. In response, Port Authority created service guidelines that include a process for collecting requests from the public and the criteria for how they would be evaluated – weighing equity equally with efficiency and effectiveness. Current efforts to impact decision-making around transit, land use, housing, and development decisions will also be discussed.

Panelists:
• Jerome Jackson: Executive Director, Operation Better Block Inc.
• Jonathan Kline: Principal, Studio for Spatial Practice
• Molly Nichols: Director, Pittsburghers for Public Transit
• Chris Sandvig: Policy Director, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group
3:30-4:45PM SESSIONS

PEOPLE Neighborhood Change & Displacement: The Voices of the Community

Families who have resided in a neighborhood for years are being uprooted to unfamiliar places. What are the stigmas attached to displaced families? What are some of the challenges faced when families are forced to find a new home? How do they adjust to a new community, and vice-versa? How do youth adjust to new schools? Does change and displacement perpetuate neighborhood violence? The session will address change and displacement, the impacts of gentrification on the community. The moderator and panelists will discuss the effects on children and families experiencing these changes. We will also explore the differences between embracing change and displacement and experienced professionals and real estate experts will share strategies for collaboration between community residents and community development agencies.

Panelists:
- Sharise Hemby-Nance: Co-owner and Co-founder, Handinhand Counseling Services, LLC
- Tess Kenney: Co-owner and Co-founder, Handinhand Counseling Services, LLC
- Derrick Tillman: Founder and President, Bridging the Gap Development, LLC
- Toinette Larkins: PA Licensed Real Estate Agent
- Angel Gober, Action United

PLACE Building Healthy Communities: New Partnerships in Public Health

Allegheny County ranks 34th out of 67 Pennsylvania counties on health outcomes. In addition, health inequalities related to race, place, and economic status exist County-wide. Although the Allegheny County Health Department works daily to close these gaps, many health determinants lie outside its formal jurisdiction. Circumstances under which people are born, grow up, live, work, and age, as well as the systems put in place to deal with illness are in turn shaped by a wider set of forces: economics, social policies, and politics. While there have been issue-specific successes over the past few decades, the County has not historically used a collective strategy to address longstanding community health problems. The Live Well Allegheny (LWA) campaign looks to change that.

Guided by a cross-sector stakeholder group, LWA seeks to catalyze healthy communities by encouraging private and public institutions to surround citizens with healthy options. This discussion will highlight some of the municipal and multi-sector partnerships that have developed through LWA, including how partners have leveraged health in service of blight reduction, food access, and the community impacts of trauma and vice versa. Using a “health in all policies” approach, LWA is transforming Allegheny’s 130 municipalities, 43 schools, and businesses into healthy environments. Health Department Director Dr. Karen Hacker and her co-panelists will also address some of the barriers to health-oriented community transformation.

Panelists:
- Abby Wilson: Deputy Director for Policy and Community Relations, Allegheny County Health Department
- An Lewis: Executive Director, Steel Rivers Council of Governments
- Dr. Karen Hacker: Director, Allegheny County Health Department
- Presley Gillespie: President, Neighborhood Allies

POWER Organizing to Preserve and Promote Hill District Art

The Greater Hill District Master Plan called for over 19 revitalization initiatives, one of which was a community arts plan. The plan’s purpose is to increase the quantity, quality and visibility of arts activity in the Hill District and in doing do strengthen, improve and reveal the Hill District’s culture, as well mark it as a place for Black people and to reward and strengthen the careers of artists already working there.

In 2014 a Hill District Arts Plan Committee was formed to create a community driven neighborhood level arts plan, composed of Hill District residents, artists, and key institutions, and artists who have done significant work in the neighborhood but live elsewhere. Members gathered data from more than 280 residents and external stakeholders, and held focus groups with over 20 Hill District artists. Data has been compiled and preliminary findings have been developed to inform a final plan.

The workshop will discuss: 1) our process to develop a Hill District Arts Plan, 2) review key findings, 3) the early stage strategies that are under development to guide arts-based place-keeping efforts, and 4) the associated promise and pitfalls of the effort.

Panelists:
- Bonnie Young Laing: Assistant Professor, California University of Pennsylvania Department of Social Work
- Justin Laing: Senior Program Officer, The Heinz Endowments
- Kendra Ross: Award-winning vocalist and Doctoral Student in Community Engagement at Point Park University
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Keynote Speakers

Ed McMahon

As the Senior Fellow for Sustainable Development, Ed McMahon leads ULI’s worldwide efforts to conduct research and educational activities related to environmentally sensitive development policies and practices. He is also a senior staff adviser for ULI’s Building Healthy Places Initiative, and is a sought-after speaker and thinker on health and real estate. His most recent major report, *Active Transportation and Real Estate: New Frontiers in Development*, was released this past spring.

Before joining the Institute in 2004, McMahon spent 14 years as the vice president and director of land use planning for the Conservation Fund in Arlington County, Virginia, where he helped protect more than 5 million acres of land of historic or natural significance. McMahon is also the co-founder and former president of Scenic America, a national nonprofit organization devoted to protecting America’s scenic landscapes. Before that, he taught law and public policy at Georgetown University Law Center for nine years, and served in the U.S. Army, both at home and abroad.

McMahon is the author or coauthor of 15 books, including *Conservation Communities: Creating Value with Nature, Open Space, and Agriculture; Better Models for Development in Virginia; Developing Sustainable Planned Communities; Green Infrastructure: Connecting Landscape and Communities; Land Conservation Finance; and Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities*. He also writes regularly for *Urban Land magazine*, *Citwire*, *Planning Commissioner's Journal*, and other periodicals.

Over the past 25 years, McMahon has helped communities in all 50 states with a wide variety of community planning and economic development issues. He serves on several advisory boards and commissions, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Maryland, the Governor’s Institute for Community Design, the Doris Duke Charitable Fund, and the Orton Family Foundation.

McMahon has an MA in urban studies from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a JD from Georgetown University Law School.

Charles Montgomery

Charles Montgomery creates transformative experiments, conversations and stories about cities, science, and human well-being.

He is the author of the award-winning book, *Happy City*, and founder of the consultancy of the same name.

*Happy City* examines the intersection between urban design and the emerging science of happiness. The book shows the striking ways that our cities can influence our thoughts, feelings and actions, and it offers a vision for urban renovations guided by evidence from around the world. The message is as surprising as it is hopeful: Doomsayers have warned that action to tackle the urgent challenges of climate change and energy scarcity will lead us into decades of hardship and sacrifice. But evidence in Happy City and Charles’s own projects suggests the opposite: that the happier city, the healthier city, the wealthier city and the green city are the same place.

Charles has advised planners, students, and policy-makers across Canada, the USA and England. He has also used insights in happiness science to drive high-profile experiments that help citizens transform their relationships with each other and their cities. In 2010, his Home for the Games initiative tested the limits of trust, enabling hundreds of residents to open their homes to strangers during the Vancouver Winter Olympics. Working with the BMW Guggenheim Lab, psychologist Colin Ellard, and the citizens of New York City, he used mobile phone applications to map the emotions of public space in the Lower East Side. At the Museum of Vancouver and elsewhere, Montgomery and his collaborators create participatory programs that help citizens treat their cities as hands-on laboratories.

Charles has won numerous awards for his writing on urban planning, psychology, culture and history in magazines and journals on three continents. Among his numerous awards is a Citation of Merit from the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society for outstanding contribution towards public understanding of climate change science.

Learn more at www.thehappycity.com.

F. Javier Torres

F. Javier Torres serves as Director of National Grantmaking for ArtPlace America. Previously, he was the Senior Program Officer for the Arts at the Boston Foundation for over three years. Under his leadership the Foundation’s arts strategy explored the role of culture as a tool for transformation, sustainability, and as central to the development of vibrant communities. In his tenure, Javier has successfully supported the Foundation in balancing the institution’s whole contributions to the field across several grantmaking mechanisms as they sought to impact the regions whole cultural ecology. In partnership with the Boston Foundation’s donors, Javier supported the Foundation in stewarding ten million dollars annually to the field. Prior to his role at the Foundation, Javier spent six years as the Director of Villa Victoria Center for the Arts, a program of IBA, a community based multi-disciplinary arts complex that operates as a regional presenter and local programmer for Latino arts. Currently, he serves as Secretary of the board of the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures, and is a board member for Grantmakers in the Arts. He has previously served as a board member for MASSCreative, a member of the MA Governor’s Creative Economy Council and Chair for the Boston Cultural Council.
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Rosemary Anderson is the director of Afterschool programs for Propel. She is a graduate of Indiana University and West Virginia University. Her background includes 37 years of classroom teaching, grant writing, and the development of 21st CCLC sites in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. She is a former Chair of the WV Commission for Professional Teaching Standards, a former delegate to the Third World Congress of Education International, and was a finalist for WV Teacher of the Year. She served as a Peer Reviewer of 21st CCLC sites with the WV Department of Education and was on the NEA Board of Directors. Currently she serves on the PSAYDN State Steering Committee and on the PSAYDN Policy and Communications Subcommittee and is serving as a PSAYDN Afterschool Ambassador. Rosemary holds teaching certificates in K-6, French 7-12, and Principal K-12.

Ian Beniston, AICP, HDFP is the Executive Director of the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC). Prior to becoming Executive Director, Ian spent five years as YNDC’s Deputy Director. Ian is responsible for the organization’s consistent achievement of its mission and the day to day operations. Ian brings ten years of neighborhood planning, development, and finance experience in the private, nonprofit, and public sectors. Previously, Ian served as Director of Policy for the Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative, where he worked to establish the YNDC. Ian holds a Master of City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Youngstown State University. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and a National Development Council Housing Development Finance Professional. He was a 40 under 40 award recipient in 2009, 25 under 35 award recipient in 2013, and a Next City Vanguard in 2014.

Jamil Bey, Ph.D., Founder and Director of The UrbanKind Institute, is a researcher, analyst, educator, and consultant whose specialty is challenging common assumptions about ordinary concerns. Trained as both a professional geographer and as an educator, Dr. Bey excels in spatial analysis and synthesis, pedagogy and instruction and securing broad-based community input. Guided by the belief that current residents are the primary stakeholders of any community, Dr. Bey uses an asset-based approach to analyze, assess, and promote stronger urban communities that build on existing community strengths. A core principle of his work is in the understanding that residents have the most to lose when developers target a community. As such, they should be included at the table as active participants in all discussions regarding their fate.

Mark Bibro is Executive Director of the Birmingham Foundation. The Birmingham Foundation was created in 1996 by the purchase of South Side Hospital by UPMC. Its service area matches that of the Hospital and its funding priorities are improving youth outcomes and supporting safety net services. Mark has operated several for profit companies as well as two nonprofits. Prior to coming to the Birmingham Foundation, Mark was managing partner of the Terminal Buildings, a 1 million square foot, 100 year old building in the South Side of Pittsburgh. Mark has served as a board member of 30+ nonprofit Board of Directors and has been president of eight, including East End Cooperative Ministry, Pittsburgh History and Landmarks, Friend of the Riverfront, St Vincent De Paul, Multiple Sclerosis Service Society, Louise Child Care.

Stephanie Boddie is a currently the 2015-2016 post-doctoral fellow at the Carnegie Mellon University’s Center for African American Urban Studies and the Economy (CAUSE) working on a book manuscript, Unfinished Business: Black Religion & the Entrepreneurial Spirit. She is also the senior consultant for Oasis Foods, a set of food-related business bringing fresh food to Homewood. She has served on several community development projects ranging from the Lutheran Mission Society, Compassion Center of Maryland to the exploration phase of a Community Improvement Village in Glasgow Village, Missouri to providing technical assistance to faith and community leaders in Annie E. Casey Making Connection sites. Her work has been cited in Time, Ebony and Jet Magazine. She also authored and co-authored several books, reports and articles including an award winning article, “Family-Centered, Community-based Asset Building: A Strategic Use of Individual Development Accounts.” Boddie serves on the Steering Committee of the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council.

Lisa Brown is the Director of Environmental Initiatives and Projects at Economic Development South and serves the Director of the Saw Mill Run Watershed Association. Ms. Brown works closely with the watershed communities to identify opportunities for implementation of Best Management Practices for stormwater mitigation, including Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development. Ms. Brown is a Ph.D. student at the University of Pittsburgh in Administrative and Policy Studies. She recently worked for the Collaborative for Evaluation and Assessment Capacity (CEAC), a research group within the School of Education. Her work with CEAC focused on evaluating program efficacy for small nonprofits as well as larger state-wide educational initiatives. Brown holds a BS in Biology from Chatham University, where she conducted research on the long term impacts of acid mine drainage on native plant populations in Western Pennsylvania.

Chelsea Burket, Director for Sustainable Communities at Fourth Economy, works with clients to help integrate community and economic development stakeholders and strategies. She stays abreast of current trends in engagement models, inclusive growth, and the social sector to bring to bear for her clients. Chelsea’s work is informed by her background in urban planning and community development. In Southwest Detroit she worked with nonprofits to ensure that development provided environmental and economic benefits. In Pennsylvania, she has worked with local governments to advance traditional neighborhood development, quality public art and civic design, and historic preservation. Chelsea serves on the boards of GTECH Strategies and The Sprout Fund. She has her Master’s in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan and Bachelor’s in Environmental Studies from Penn State.
Shawn Carvin is the Trumbull County Land Bank Program Manager with Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership (TNP). TNP acts as the primary facilitator for the disposition of Land Bank owned properties and was the first nonprofit CDC administering an Ohio county land reutilization corporation. Shawn also sits on the board of directors of the Trumbull Art Gallery (TAG) and Habitat for Humanity of the Mahoning Valley. Prior to his work with the TNP and the Land Bank, Shawn served four years in the United States Air Force as a meteorologist. He holds a BA in Geography and Meteorology from Youngstown State University.

Dr. Tina Chekan serves as the Superintendent/CEO of Propel Schools. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Ball State University, a Master of Education in Deaf Education from the University of Pittsburgh and a K-12 Principal Certification from Gannon University. She earned her doctorate in Administration and Policy at the University of Pittsburgh. She began her career with Propel Schools in 2003 as a kindergarten teacher at the Propel Homestead site. Since then, she has served as a Literacy Coach, Principal, and Assistant Superintendent. Under her leadership as Principal of Propel McKeasport, she received three Effective Practice Incentive Community Awards from the national organization, New Leaders for New Schools. Dr. Chekan was recently honored as a 2016 Business Women First Awardee by the Pittsburgh Business Times.

Barb Ciampini has been Greensburg’s Planning Director for 30 years. Her efforts have helped Greensburg reinvent itself and attract tens of millions in new investment. Barb develops and recommends planning policy to preserve, enhance Greensburg’s quality of life via the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan, which provides guidance to all city departments regarding urban design, land use, transportation, housing open space and a variety of other issues. The Multi-Municipal Plan also develops permanent controls—zoning, planning code controls, and other regulations that implement the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive plan, both though community-based planning efforts and citywide initiatives. Barb holds a Bachelor’s in Urban and Regional Planning from Penn State.

Lynn Colosi leads Delta’s team of transit professionals with project initiatives ranging from Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and Transit Revitalization Investment District (TRID) plans to route planning. Lynn started her transit career at the Port Authority of Allegheny County, spending 15 years working in the areas of operations, planning, and real estate. Prior to joining Delta, she and her partners ran Clear View Strategies, a boutique public transportation consulting firm.

Kristina DiPietro is a community activist and advocate, as well as a life-long resident of the Hazelwood community. She is currently serving as Chairperson of the Hazelwood Initiative Board of Directors and as a board member of Fishes and Loaves Cooperative Ministries/Meals on Wheels Program. Kristina also serves as the representative from St. Stephen Parish on the Greater Hazelwood Community Collaborative. Kristina retired from Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) as a Housing Management Representative II where she monitored for compliance multi-family housing programs. She previously was employed as Property Manager for Hazelwood Towers, a privately owned federally subsidized apartment building and was the Program Center Director for the Hazelwood YWCA.

Marguerite Douglas is a longtime resident of the Lincoln Knolls area located on the East Side of Youngstown, Ohio. She currently serves on the Board of the Lincoln Knolls Community Watch as the Financial Secretary. She is committed to enhancing the quality of life of fellow residents by working to encourage and maintain a safe, clean, and beautiful community and environment.

Tamara Dudukovich is the Vice President and Senior Community Lending Officer at BNY Mellon, with responsibility for arranging debt and equity financing for affordable housing in the Pittsburgh market. Throughout her career, Tamara has been engaged in transformative neighborhood revitalization efforts. As regional development director for a leading nonprofit housing developer, Tamara directed large-scale redevelopment projects in diverse markets. She has successfully leveraged federal, state, and local funding sources and worked collaboratively with government and community partners to create award-winning mixed income, mixed finance, and mixed use redevelopment projects.

Tim Duggan, ASLA, is a community planner and landscape architect currently developing new initiatives for Make It Right. Over the last three years, he has helped design and execute affordable LEED Platinum Landscapes and worked extensively with local community organizations, government and corporate partners on numerous projects from regenerative residential garden designs to city-wide infrastructure. His architecture career began with BNIM Architects focusing on community planning initiatives and sustainable urban designs. Tim is an expert in innovative storm water management techniques, sustainable land-use and community engagement in the planning process. He served as speaker and guest critic on sustainable site solutions at TED, GreenBuild, Congressional Black Caucus, WEFTEC and many others. He has served as adjunct professor and guest lecturer for Tulane University, Kansas State University and the University of Missouri in Kansas City. He was named one of Metropolis Magazine’s 2012 Game Changers for his ambitious experiments in landscape design.

Grant Ervin is the Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Pittsburgh, where he is responsible for engaging stakeholders from the region’s communities, local governments, civic sector, business sector, and other institutions; consult with an international platform of resilience experts; and collaborate with a global coalition of Chief Resilience Officers in cities around the world. He brings to Pittsburgh government 15 years of experience intersecting the worlds of environmental, community and economic development and infrastructure policy to create innovative and sustainable solutions for local governments, community development organizations and state agencies. Ervin served as the regional director for 10,000...
Friends of Pennslyvania, and public policy manager for Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group. Ervin holds a Bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from Washington & Jefferson College, and a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

**Nick Fedorek** is a Housing and Community Development Specialist at Mullin & Lonerger. He specializes in affordable housing, fair housing, demographic analysis, and spatial statistics. Nick has professional experience in community and economic development from the nonprofit, public, and private sectors, providing him with a comprehensive and holistic perspective on urban development and housing issues. Nick holds a Master's Degree in Community Development and Planning and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Geography, from Clark University. During his tenure as a graduate student, Nick taught quantitative and qualitative research methods, including workshops on GIS and Census data analysis. He has also held positions as a research analyst and coder at Carnegie Mellon University.

**Debora Flora** Executive Director of Mahoning County Land Bank (MCLB), the Fourth County Land Reutilization Corporation to be incorporated in Ohio. MCLB promotes healthy, sustainable neighborhoods by returning vacant, abandoned property to productive use. Current activities include acquiring vacant houses for renovation and managing $4.76 million of residential demolition activities with a reimbursement award from Ohio Housing Finance Agency. Debora is a lifelong resident of northeast Ohio and a graduate of Youngstown State University. She began her career reporting for The Vindicator, Youngstown’s daily newspaper. She was a founding member of the Board of Directors of Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation, serves on St. Brendan’s Parish Pastoral Council, and is member of the Rocky Ridge Neighborhood Association on Youngstown’s West Side, where she and her family reside.

**Elliot Frank** is the founder and president of the Autism Housing Development Corporation of Pittsburgh. AHDCP is developing, along with its partner ACTION-Housing Inc., the first Low Income Housing Tax Credit development with a preference for those on the autism spectrum. He has been involved with various organizations in the autism community for 18 years.

**Presley Gillespie** is President of Neighborhood Allies. Presley is responsible for working collaboratively with the Board of Directors, the community, key funders and staff, and has ultimate responsibility for the overall management of the organization. A nationally recognized leader in the field of community and economic development, he was founding executive director of the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC), the first city-wide community development corporation in Youngstown, OH. Presley came to the nonprofit sector after a successful 18-year banking career. Presley has served on numerous boards locally and nationally and currently serves on the Board of Directors of The Center for Community Progress, the Advisory Board of the Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership, and the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center Advisory Board. In 2015 Presley was selected by Mayor William Peduto as a Daniel Rose Fellow with the Rose Center for Public Leadership, a fellowship established to encourage and support excellence in land use decision making by local governments.

**Angel Gober** is a passionate organizer and community leader who works on issues of social and economic justice in the city of Pittsburgh. Angel is the Director of Organizing with Action United. Action United’s low to moderate income membership advocates for affordable housing, education, and environmental justice. She also serves as President of the Brightwood Civic Group, which is a community-based 501c3 organization working on improving housing stock and the quality of life of Marshall-Shadeland Residents.

**Dr. Karen Hacker** is Director of the Allegheny County Health Department, adjunct Professor in the Departments of Health Policy and Management and Behavioral and Community Health Sciences at the University Of Pittsburgh Graduate School Of Public Health and a Clinical Professor at the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Medicine. Throughout her career, Dr. Hacker has worked with community partners to catalyze change in both practice and research environments. Dr. Hacker was Executive Director of the Institute for Community Health and the Senior Medical Director for Public and Community Health at the Cambridge Health Alliance with appointments at Harvard Medical School and School of Public Health. Dr. Hacker received her undergraduate degree from Yale University, her MD from Northwestern University and her MPH from Boston University. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine at Boston City Hospital and her Adolescent Medicine Fellowship at Childrens Hospital of Los Angeles. She has extensive experience working with diverse populations as a public health leader, health care administrator, primary care physician and community based participatory researcher.

**Tom Hetrick** is the Neighborhood Planner for the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC). He collaborates with a team of professional staff to provide general planning services for the City of Youngstown, Ohio. The planning services include: resident engagement, development of neighborhood action plans, grant writing, and management of neighborhood action teams. Tom holds a Master’s degree in City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University and a Bachelor’s in Spanish Education from Youngstown State University. In addition to his work and studies in Ohio, he spent two years living in Asia followed by a year in Europe teaching ESL.

**Mike Hiller** is the Director of Policy and Outreach at the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association (NMRWA), located in Pittsburgh’s East End. Mike contributes towards NMRWA’s mission of restoring and protecting the watershed by working to implement sustainable stormwater projects and policies with municipalities, community leaders, and partner organizations. Prior to joining NMRWA,
he worked as an Urban Planner in the private, public and nonprofit sectors in Albany, NY and Portland, OR. He also currently serves as the Vice President of the Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce. Mike has a MA in Geography with a Graduate Certificate in GIS & Spatial Analysis from the University of Albany.

**Lauren Hinish** is Director of Arts at Propel Schools, as well as Project Manager for the Propel Pathways. Her creative approach to program design and innovative strategy has resulted in taking on various roles and projects in her 12 years with Propel. As a Visual Arts educator, she earned a CLO Charles Gray Award for her enduring commitment to quality programming in the Arts. She has worked as Project Director on two federal Dissemination Grants, facilitated successful partnerships with schools in urban Detroit, and has presented at the National Art Education Association Conference on Fusing Innovative Teaching with Emerging Technologies. Locally, she has been chosen to be a member of the Art Education Collaborative's Community of Learners for Art Education 2015-16. Hinish's formal education includes Denison University undergraduate studies in Studio Art; Drawing and Sculpture, with a Master's in Art Education program from Carlow University.

**Zaheen Hussain** is Sustainability Coordinator for the Millvale Community Library, working to forward Millvale's sustainability goals in the areas of food, water, transportation, and energy. One of his primary tasks is to help implement and update Millvale's EcoDistrict PIVOT Plan which was developed with the help of evolveEA and countless community members to develop a comprehensive plan to move forward in the direction of sustainability and resiliency. He is helping make Millvale a fresh food hub by working to bring back the farmer's market, increasing programming, participation, and yields from Millvale's community gardens, and encouraging both existing restaurants, as well as interested entrepreneurs to become a stronger part of the Millvale food scene. Prior to Millvale, Zaheen was a Program Coordinator for GTECH Strategies, helping to manage ReEnergize Pittsburgh Coalition. Zaheen is a University of Connecticut graduate with a degree in Environmental Science concentrating in Natural Resource Economics.

**Jerome Jackson** is the Executive Director of Operation Better Block, managing the planning and execution of all activities related to the mission of the organization and the direction set forth in the strategic plan. He provides leadership on activities related to community collaborations such as those with the Homewood Children's Village, A+ Schools, Allegheny Green Ways, GTECH, and our Junior Green Corps. Jerome supports the operation and administration of the Board of Directors and oversees fund development planning and implementation.

**Tess Kenney** is the co-owner and co-founder of HandinHand Counseling Services, LLC, a private counseling practice based in Pittsburgh, PA and founded in November, 2013. HandinHand Counseling Services is dedicated to promoting HOPE, HEALTH, and HEALING to individuals and families dealing with generational and situational obstacles. Mrs. Kenney is a native of Pittsburgh and has over 13 years of experience in the helping profession. She holds a Bachelor’s in Child Development/Family Relations from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a Master’s in Professional Counseling from Carlow University and is a Pennsylvania Licensed Professional Counselor. Mrs. Kenney was also featured in Pittsburgh's The Soul Pitt, The New Pittsburgh Courier, and was a guest on the “Women in Business” segment on Pittsburgh Cable Television (PCTV).

**Erika Gold Kestenberg, Ph.D.** is the Associate Director for Community Partnerships and Practice for the Center for Urban Education and the Program Coordinator for the Urban Scholars Program in the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh. Her degrees include a Doctorate in Education with a self-designed multi-disciplinary focus on Social Justice, a Master's degree and Teaching Certificate in Secondary Education and Social Studies, and a dual Bachelor's degree in Political Science and History with a minor in Psychology. She is also a product of the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Dr. Kestenberg has spent her life working in the field of education in urban spaces in schools and nonprofits throughout Pittsburgh and in Israel. Her work includes teaching, creating and managing educational programs, community engagement, curriculum writing, professional development, and advocacy, all with a grounding in equity and justice.

**D.S. Kinsel** is a Black Creative Entrepreneur and Cultural Agitator based in Pittsburgh, Pa. He expresses his creativity through the mediums of Painting, Window Display, Installation, Curating, Action-Painting, Non-Traditional Performance and Social Media. Kinsel's work puts focus on themes of escapism, space keeping, Urban Tradition, Pop Culture, Hip-Hop, Informalism And Cultural Appropriation. Kinsel Co-founded Boom Concepts, a combination work space/creative hub, which hosts Magic Organs Studio Space and Jenesis' production facilities, and Salon Space. Outside of the studio, he works with youth, community artists and community partners to identify ways for youth to express issues of social justice through Drama, Dance, Music, Visual Art and Technology, served as Pittsburgh MGR Youth Empowerment Arts In Action Program Coordinator and MGR National Social Media Coordinator. He regularly provides training to nonprofits on Best Practices around utilizing social media to become a stronger presence within the community. D.S. is a board member of Pittsburgh Center for Creative REuse and serves on the advisory board for The Heinz Endowments Transformative.

**Jonathan Kline** is an urban designer whose work focuses on advancing the form and culture of cities. Jonathan's work ranges from guiding the creation of mixed-use developments integrated with transit, to planning for complex urban neighborhoods, to imaging how to transform urban mobility. Through over a decade of teaching and research as an Adjunct Professor at Carnegie Mellon University, Jonathan has explored the future of cities more speculatively. He has also worked on research projects at the Remaking Cities Institute and the Studio for Creative Inquiry. As a volunteer he is part of the Riverlife Riverfront Design Committee. Jonathan is also a trained artist. Jonathan was born in Pittsburgh and received degrees from Carnegie Mellon University (BArch) and The Pennsylvania State University (MFA Painting & Drawing).
Bonnie Young Laing, faculty member at California University of Pennsylvania in the Department of Social Work, holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, an MSW with a concentration in community health and mental health from West Virginia University and a doctor of philosophy degree in social work from Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Laing’s scholarship is focused on community practice with particular attention to social and economic justice. She has published work in the areas of community organizing, labor/community coalitions, community development in African American communities, slums and affordable housing and culturally competent macro (community) practice. Dr. Laing has 13 years of college teaching experience and has more than 20 years of experience in macro community practice, much of which has been with the Hill District Consensus Group. She is a native of Pittsburgh’s Hill District. In 2010, Dr. Laing won an Inaugural Champion of Change Award from the Three Rivers Community Foundation for her work in Economic Justice.

Justin Laing has been involved in the world of arts and culture with a specific focus on the Hill District since being one of the founders of The Village 4: an Afrikan Cultural Center, an organization dedicated to immersing participants in liberatory Black cultural practices such as capoeira, food buying clubs and celebrations of national heroes, in 1993. Justin went on to be the Assistant Director of Nego Gato, Inc. an Afro Brazilian arts organization based in the Hill District. In 2006 Justin joined The Heinz Endowments’ Arts & Culture Program where he continues to work. Justin has remained active in the life of the Hill and is the author of the blog, Hillombo, giving his take on various issues he sees as a resident of the Hill District. Justin received his B.A. in Black Studies & Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh and a Masters in Public Management from Carnegie Mellon University’s Heinz College.

Toinette Larkins is a PA Licensed Real Estate Agent. She has worked in the real estate industry ranging from construction and property management to title insurance and mortgages since 1998. She completed her education at The Academy of Real Estate Careers with certificates of completion in Real Estate Fundamentals and Real Estate Practice. Toinette has been responsible for assisting several first time homebuyers with becoming homeowners, sellers with finding buyers to purchase their homes and countless investors looking for properties to rehab which she enjoys and continues to welcome new opportunities. Larkins resides in Pittsburgh.

Robert Daniel Lavelle was elected into office November 2009 representing City Council District Six. He brings a spirit of collaboration to the office that he has demonstrated in his work to date. His goal is to ensure the district is made attractive, safe, and prosperous for everyone. Originally from the Hill District of the City of Pittsburgh, he attended Pittsburgh Public Schools, graduated from Schenley High School, and earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Kent State University. He worked as a Legislative Aide for City Councilman Sala Udin, Chief of Staff for the 19th Legislative District’s Honorable State Representative Jake Wheatley, Jr, and served with Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) where he learned the inner-workings of government and how to best implement public policy that benefits neighborhood residents. He is currently the chair of Public Safety committee, serves as the vice chair on the Urban Redevelopment Authority Board, as well as serving as a board member of Wireless Neighborhoods, Oakland Business Improvement District, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, Riverlife and Pittsburgh Community Services, Inc.

An Lewis is a public administration professional with over 20 years of experience. Ms. Lewis currently serves as the Executive Director of Steel Rivers Council of Governments which represents 19 municipalities in Allegheny County’s Monongahela Valley. She serves on several boards and committees devoted to community and neighborhood economic revitalization. In addition, Ms. Lewis is skilled in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). She teaches various GIS and community development courses at several local universities.

Marian Lien has been Executive Director for Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition for 1.5 years. A transplant from Los Angeles, she holds degrees in Biochemistry and Ethnic Studies, as well as a Master’s in Public Policy and Management. Lien has had 20 years of experience managing medical clinics, writing hospital policy, and directing a diversity education center at Central Washington University.

Ian Lipsky has been a Senior Hydrologist with eDesign Dynamics since 2007, where he has been responsible for modeling, assessing, and designing complex hydrologic conditions for stormwater management planning, potable water conservation, and water reuse systems. His work also includes hydrologic and contaminant transport modeling, exposure modeling, ecological risk assessments, constructed wetlands design, remediation planning, contaminated site assessments, state and federal permitting, and Natural Resources Damages. Mr. Lipsky also performs cost estimates for green infrastructure implementation for both retrofits and new construction, landscape alterations, private property and right-of-way utility installations, and extensive habitat restorations.

Alyssa P. Lyon Originally from The Bronx, New York, Alyssa’s undying love for the city of Pittsburgh has influenced and guided her into community and economic development where she focuses her efforts towards community organizing and urban planning. She believes that neighborhoods function best when they’re are provided with equal resourcing opportunities, contain economically thriving businesses and organizations, and are successful at producing and retaining inhabitants who are proud of their living spaces & fellow residents. She is currently a candidate for a Master of Public Management degree at Carnegie Mellon University, Heinz College, and holds BA in Communications and Africana Studies and certificates of Leadership and African Studies from the University of Pittsburgh. She worked in Larimer during their comprehensive neighborhood planning stages for which they received a HUD grant for revitalization efforts. She’s spent time in the Hill District, where she created a historic preservation strategy.
for the community’s aging assets, such as Playwright August Wilson’s home and the New Granada Theater. Alyssa is a board member for the African American Alumni Council at the University of Pittsburgh and member of the Larimer Consensus Group’s One Voice action team.

Ira Mabel is a Housing and Community Development Specialist with Mullin & Lonergan, where he has worked on a number of housing studies at state, county, and community levels. He focuses on fair housing, special studies, and projects with complex technical components. Prior to joining Mullin & Lonergan in 2014, Ira was a member of a Chicago-based planning firm. He has contributed to urban planning projects across the Midwest, ranging from rural farming communities to growing college towns to post-industrial cities. Primarily working on long-range comprehensive plans, he also gained experience in neighborhood planning, downtown planning, corridor planning, urban design, and public outreach and community engagement for municipalities, counties, and other organizations. Ira received a Master’s Degree in Urban Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a BS in Electrical Engineering from Boston University.

Heather Manzo is a regional food system and community economic development educator with Penn State Extension, specializing in the business and marketing needs related to agriculture and land use. Based at the Penn State Center Pittsburgh, she is heavily involved in all aspects of agricultural value chain optimization. She provides technical assistance at the individual and community level, is part of the Penn State Direct Marketing Ag Team, and teaches a variety of classes for new farmers and food startups. She works at the national level on select USDA initiatives, participates in professional associations, serves on several local boards, and is a contributing member of the National Community, Local, Regional Food Systems CoP. Prior experience includes leading and implementing organizational level sustainability plans, LEED project management, and international research projects in horticulture and agriculture. Educational credentials include a MSc in Sustainable Systems and a BSc in Business and Marketing. Heather serves as chair of the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council and serves on its Steering Committee.

Karen Markle, MA, BCBA is the Executive Vice President of Education and Autism Services at NHS Human Services. She has more than 24 years of experience in the mental health field, with 20 years specifically dedicated to children and families impacted by an autism spectrum disorder.

Breen Masciotra serves as the Transit-Oriented Development Project Manager at the Port Authority of Allegheny County. A community development professional with ten years of experience working with and for neighborhood organizations, some of Breen’s former roles include: Regional Outreach Manager with Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group and Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse. She is currently the president of the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation Board.

Christine Mondor is an eternal optimist regarding the power of design in shaping a sustainable environment. She has been active in shaping places, processes and organizations nationally and internationally for over fifteen years through her work as an architect, educator, and activist. Her diverse experience enables her to work across project types, from design of buildings and landscapes to educational efforts to sustainability planning. As Strategic Principal of evolveEA and a registered architect, she has taught architecture, landscape design and sustainability concepts at Carnegie Mellon University, Slippery Rock University, and at Chatham College. Christine currently serves as Chair of the Pittsburgh Planning Commission, President for the Green Building Alliance Board of Directors, is a member of the Global Ecodistricts Protocol Advisory Committee and sits on the Penn State University Stuckeman School Advisory Board. She has been recognized for her leadership and enthusiasm by Pittsburgh Magazine with Women in Business Award. Christine received her Bachelor of Architecture degree from Carnegie Mellon University and studied architecture and sustainable design in Scandinavia. Christine is a registered architect and a LEED Accredited Professional.

Kahlil Morris has managed the day-to-day operations of Junior Green Corps since its inception in 2010. A Homewood native and graduate of Slippery Rock in Communications, Mr. Morris began his career with adjudicated youth. Since his arrival at OBB to work with the Green Corps, Mr. Morris has received numerous certifications, including from Will Allen’s Growing Power in Wisconsin, LEED Certification, Certified Tree Tender – Tree Pittsburgh, and a Certification in Green Wall construction by George Irwin of Green Living Technologies. During his tenure, Junior Green Corps has grown from a community beautification program that primarily maintained lots into an environmentally focused program for youth ages 14-18 that teaches remediation, sustainability, food production, and maintenance of Green Wall.

Sharise Hemby-Nance of the Homewood/East Liberty section of Pittsburgh is an alumna of George Westinghouse High School, holds a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania; a Master’s Degree from the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Social Work; and is a Pennsylvania Licensed Social Worker. She’s interested in the human mind as well as the impact our relationships and environments have on our lives. Throughout her career, she has become aware of the struggle individuals face when advocating for themselves. Hemby-Nance finds fulfillment through assisting individuals in using their voices. She is the co-owner and co-founder of HandinHand Counseling Services, LLC. She recently published Vitamin C: Healing for the Mind, Body and Soul. She was recently featured on Pittsburgh Cable Television’s (PCTV) Women in Business segment, Pittsburgh’s Soul Pitt, The New Pittsburgh Courier, honored with an Entrepreneurial Leadership Award at Vision Towards Peace’s 2nd annual Passion Meets the Award Gala on September 17, 2015 and won a second place award for Vitamin C in the self-care/medicine category from the Author’s Zone 2014 Pittsburgh Author Awards.
2016 Presenter Bios

**Molly Nichols** is the Director of Pittsburghers for Public Transit (PPT), a grassroots organization of public transit riders, workers, and residents who defend and expand public transit. She started volunteering for PPT in 2012, helping to lead the campaign to stop the cuts and secure state funding. She became the community organizer in 2014--supporting communities in their campaigns for adequate and affordable transit service. Molly’s time in Pittsburgh, first as Program Manager of Public Allies at the Coro Center, and then as a PhD student and instructor at the University of Pittsburgh, has informed her current work as a transit activist--committed to intersectional organizing for social, environmental, and economic justice.

**David Noss, AIA, LEEP AP**, is a principal with RSH Architects. He has over 20 years of design and management experience in a wide range of projects of various scale, scope and building types. His commitment to the community goes beyond the firm as an active board member of several nonprofit organizations and a mentorship program for graduate students.

**Dawn Plummer** is Director of the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, based at the Penn State Center Pittsburgh. Since 2014, Dawn has strengthened the Council as a regional mechanism for food systems decision-making, priority setting and cross sectoral collaboration that aims to build a just, equitable and sustainable food system. Dawn has connected SWPA’s food system to state and national networks of change makers such as the PA Governor’s Food Security Partnership, Johns Hopkins Center for Livable Future Systems Network project, PolicyLink and the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic. Over the last 15 years, Dawn has served in various leadership roles working on issues of poverty, food, sustainable agriculture, health, human rights and community development. Dawn has an MA from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and a BA from the University of Pennsylvania. Dawn currently serves on the ACHD Chronic Disease Prevention Working Group and Outreach and on the Education Committee of the City-County Human Relations Commissions’ Affirming Fair Housing Task Force.

**Lisa Ramsey** is the Assistant Director for Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership. She manages all fiscal responsibilities for the organization, including securing funding, reporting, and tracking. She assists in the development of long term organizational planning, in the creation of programming strategies, and with daily operations. She is a graduate of Youngstown State University with a BA in Geography and of Hiram College with an MA in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis on Community Development and Public Art.

**Bob Rice** is the Senior Vice President-Debt Programs for the Community Development Trust, a national investor in affordable housing. Mr. Rice serves as a lead relationship and transaction manager for all of CDT’s Debt Group Program. Mr. Rice joined CDT in 2004 as an Associate in CDT’s Debt Program. Prior to joining CDT, Mr. Rice was Associate Director of the Chicago Mutual Housing Network, where he managed affordable housing development, training, and education activities. He was also a consultant with the S. B. Friedman & Company, a Chicago-based real estate and development consulting firm. Mr. Rice has a BA in Urban Studies from DePaul University and an MA in Urban Planning and Public Policy from the University of Illinois-Chicago.

**Shey Rivera Rios** is a multi-genre artist and Director of Programs at AS220, an internationally-renowned cultural center in Providence, Rhode Island. Her work takes the form of mixed media installation, music, poetry, performance, and video. She is part of the performance duo ISLANDS, with artist Jason Curzake. Along with Curzake and artist/poet Sussy Santana, she launched the Fluxus Moon Cabaret series in 2013, featuring the work of 20 artists from diverse media. Shey is a founding member of the Latina feminist poetry collective Las Tenoras and her artwork has been featured in Puerto Rico, Boston, and throughout Rhode Island. Her literary work has been published in several publications, including the first Queer Puerto Rican literary anthology, Los otros cuerpos: Antología de temática gay, lésbica y ‘queer’ desde Puerto Rico y su dióspora (“The Other Bodies: Anthology of Gay, Lesbian and Queer Literature from Puerto Rico and its Diaspora”). Shey is the founder of Crudo, an independent arts and culture digital magazine focused on contemporary Latin-American art and culture. She specializes in arts management and is a strong advocate for artists as critical agents of change in society, as well as the value of artist-run organizations.

**Kimberly Roberts** is the Director of Talent at Propel Schools in Pittsburgh, PA, with responsibility for recruitment and hiring. She is a passionate and committed professional who has successfully launched and recruited the first cohort of Propel Schools’ new Teacher Residency Program – the Pittsburgh Urban Teaching Corps. She also serves as the Chair of the Propel Diversity and Safety Committees and as a member of the Recognition Committee and Teacher Pathways Steering Committee. Kimberly has previously held roles at the Girl Scouts of Western Pennsylvania, Environmental Leadership Program in Washington, DC, the National Training and Information Center (NTIC) in Chicago, IL and the AFL-CIO. Kimberly holds a Bachelor’s in Political Science from Rutgers University. She resides in Pittsburgh and has two teenage daughters.

**Kendra Ross**, an award-winning vocalist, composer, arranger, recording artist, activist and scholar, is passionate about the nexus between arts advocacy and social justice. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in Music Business and Technology from New York University. Kendra is a co-writer and artist on “Which Side Are You On” released in 2015 by Kweil and noted hip-hop artist and scholar, 9th Wonder for their collaboration entitled, INDIE 500. Kendra is widely acknowledged as a seasoned and insightful music business executive and sought after facilitator having developed workshops aimed at providing independent artists with a guide to navigating the music business. She has experience in various administrative and creative roles at some of the most influential companies in the entertainment business, including Columbia Records, Virgin Records, Motown Records, Sean “Puffy” Combs’ Daddy’s House Recording Studio, and Levine Communications. Most recently Kendra has held progressively responsible positions...
with Universal Music Group. Kendra is currently a doctoral student in Community Engagement at Point Park University in Pittsburgh. Her current research focus is centered on how community-based art might serve as an intervention into the school-to-prison pipeline.

LaShawna Russ is PCRG’s Community Coordinator in Beltzhoover. Russ is building on the model of community engagement that she developed and honed in Beltzhoover in 2015 into five additional Hilltop neighborhoods in 2016.

Chris Sandvig builds relationships with public, private, and nonprofit leaders to address broad issues with neighborhood-level implications, always with an eye toward balancing economic development and the priorities of the communities he represents. A major focus is transit and transit-oriented development, which is advanced through PCRG’s GoBurgh program. GoBurgh develops tools and policies to leverage catalytic transit investments into vibrant, inclusive, equitable communities. Chris is a long-time transit advocate and commutes via bike or bus almost daily. Prior to PCRG, Chris spent nine years in corporate business development for industrial and commercial engineered HVAC systems. He holds a Bachelor’s in Industrial Engineering from Penn State and a Master’s in Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon.

Dr. Aurora Sharrard is the Executive Director and Vice President of Innovation for Green Building Alliance (GBA), a nonprofit that inspires the creation of healthy, high performing places for everyone by providing leadership that connects knowledge, transformative ideas, and collaborative action. A GBA staff member since 2007, Aurora continues to drive organizational innovation while advancing GBA’s strategic plan, programs, staff, and stakeholder relationships. A nationally recognized green building expert, Aurora has served GBA under several titles, always providing innovative solutions, strategic thinking, and real world application. In her GBA tenure, Aurora most notably co-founded the Pittsburgh 2030 District, wherein buildings in Downtown Pittsburgh and Oakland aspire towards measured high performance of 50% reductions in energy use, water consumption, and transportation emissions by the year 2030, cementing Pittsburgh as a national leader in healthy and high performing places. She also provides broad and deep technical support to innumerable local green building projects, most notably the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Phipps Conservatory Center for Sustainable Landscapes, and Lower Hill Redevelopment.

janera solomon is the Executive Director of the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, a historic live arts venue in Pittsburgh now in its seventh year of presenting progressive, evocative new works in dance, music, film, education and cultural programming. Recognized for her transformative leadership and contributions to the revitalization of East Liberty, janera managed the merger of the Kelly Strayhorn Theater and the Dance Alloy in 2011, while maintaining affordable dance instruction at The Alloy School and creating a series of diverse programs designed to inspire and engage a wide range of audiences. janera has contributed significantly to the artistic development and career advancement of numerous dancers and choreographers supported by Kelly Strayhorn’s residency programs. An experienced curator, janera worked with the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival and developed the First Voice International Black Performing Arts Festival produced by the August Wilson Center for African American Culture in 2007. She has worked on a range of cultural projects including content development and programming for Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco, project management for the August Wilson Center, branding at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, and program planning for the National Museum for African American History and Culture in Washington D.C.

John Stephen is the principal of Ecosophic Enterprise, a professional thinking and action firm applying ecosystem services to build wealth and quality communities. He was an Executive Team member of the Living Waters of Larimer Project, a co-Director of the Nine Mile Run Greenway Project, Project Director for the Rachel Carson Trail Network, and a founder of the Friends of the Riverfront.

Sonya Tilghman Executive Director of Hazelwood Initiative after 3 years working as a consultant focusing on community economic development (CED), she is a highly motivated and dedicated professional with over 20 years of progressive and successful experience in the CED industry, contributing in and across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. She has a well-developed and broad skill set in underwriting and financing affordable housing and urban commercial development, including origination of grants and loans, as well as management of grant, loan, and CRA compliance. She previously held senior level positions at both Fifth Third Bank, and Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania. Tilghman previously worked for Urban Redevelopment and Housing Authorities of the City of Pittsburgh, as well as East Liberty Development, Inc., where she gained knowledge and experience in using CDBG, HOME, and other public funding programs. Sonya received a B.A. in Psychology from DePauw University and a M.S. in Public Policy & Management from Carnegie Mellon University, certifications from the National Development Council in both Economic Development Finance and Housing Development Finance. She was named one of Pittsburgh Magazine’s 40 Under 40 in 2003 and one of the New Pittsburgh Courier’s Fab 40 in 2011.

Derrick L. Tillman, Founder and President of Bridging the Gap Development, LLC (“BTG”), leads the company’s mission to rebuild sustainable communities through residential & commercial development by “bridging the [real estate and employment] gap[s]” in a community. In order to achieve this goal, BTG develops a variety of projects including multi-family affordable housing, market rate rental and homeownership properties, as well as commercial retail. The firm has been able to use their business acumen to innovatively train many unemployed and underemployed individuals with construction and/or weatherization skills. BTG, itself a Minority Business Enterprise, is committed to providing opportunities to other M/W/DBE and/or Section 3 companies.
Diwas Timsina is the founder and President of youth-based nonprofit Children of Shangri-Lost (COSL). COSL's mission is to raise awareness and educate people about refugee and immigrant populations’ stories in Pittsburgh and across the country. Originally from the Kingdom of Bhutan, a landlocked country in East Asia, Timsina was born and raised in a refugee camp in Nepal. A senior at Penn State Greater Allegheny campus, studying Information Science and Technology, Timsina is also on the Men's Soccer Team and is Founder/President of the Multicultural Club.

Lou Tisler joined Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland as Executive Director in July of 2005. Prior to joining NHS, he was the first Executive Director of the First Suburbs Development Council whereby he was instrumental in originating public/private partnerships, as well as developing additional resources for economic and community development activities. In 2004, Mr. Tisler was selected by the American Marshall Memorial Fund for its German Marshall Fellowship program that provides a unique opportunity for policy and opinions leaders from 14 European countries and the United States to gain an in-depth understanding of societies, institutions and peoples across the Atlantic. Mr. Tisler has a Master’s of Business Administration in Management and Labor Relations and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from Cleveland State University.

Tara Sherry-Torres A Creative Entrepreneur, TEDx Talk speaker, Pittsburgh Magazine 40 Under 40 recipient and one of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's 2015 People to Meet. For over 10 years Tara has been working in community-based organizations in New York City and Pittsburgh, with an emphasis on community and economic development. Originally from Brooklyn, NY, Tara’s passion for people and places led her to pursue her Master in Social Work from The University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, concentrating in Community Organizing. In January 2014 Tara founded Cafe Con Leche because she missed her Puerto Rican roots and envisioned creative ways to engage Latinos, educate the Pittsburgh region on the economic power of Latinos and help Pittsburgh companies connect with Latino consumers. Currently, Tara sits on the Board of Directors for the Pittsburgh Land Bank.

David P. Weber Chief Operations Officer of the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh., He is responsible for the operation of the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Programs, as well as monitoring of privately managed mixed income properties and the Homeownership Program. He is also responsible for the oversight of the HACP’s Moving to Work Program and other special initiatives. With over 20 years of service at the HACP, Mr. Weber has worked in multiple areas including: resident services, finance, grants and contracts, inter-governmental communications, and regulatory and legislative analysis. Mr. Weber has over 25 years of experience in community organizing, organizational development, strategic planning, human services, grant writing, grant management, program planning, and evaluation.

David White serves as the Executive Director of Pittsburgh Bike Share. Prior to Pittsburgh Bike Share, David worked with the City of Pittsburgh as a Business Technology Analyst and a GIS Analyst. David is a lifelong cyclist who has always been fascinated by the gains that can be made at the intersection of the public, private, and government sectors. David lives with his wife and children in Pittsburgh's Stanton Heights neighborhood. He has a master's degree from Carnegie Mellon in Public Policy and Management.

Abby Wilson Deputy Director for Policy and Community Relations at the Allegheny County Health Department, where she leads a team of lawyers, preparedness experts, and communications professionals advancing measurable health outcomes among the 1.2 million people living in and around the city of Pittsburgh. In 2014 she completed her term as founding director of the federal government’s first design-led innovation lab, where she worked with The White House and over a dozen agencies to develop more user-friendly policies and services. She previously led LUMA Institute’s public and social sector program, whose clients include the U.S. General Services Administration, the City of Grand Rapids, the American Cancer Society, United Way and the Pittsburgh Foundation. Abby holds a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology from Columbia University, an LL.M. in Public International Law from University of Utrecht and a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh.

T. Sharon Woodberry serves as the Director of Community Planning and Economic Development for the City of Youngstown, OH. Much of her focus is directed towards the city’s major commercial corridors and working with Youngstown’s Community Development Agency and the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC) in implementing community plans. Sharon earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration from Eastern Michigan University and has spent over 15 years with the city working in various economic development capacities.

Megan Zeigler As the Green Infrastructure Technical Coordinator for the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, Megan is responsible for establishing design standards and protocols on how to construct, operate and maintain new stormwater facilities within the City of Pittsburgh. She brings practical hands-on experience from owning a small landscaping business as well as strong community design and engagement knowledge to the team. She holds a Masters in Landscape Architecture from the University of Georgia and a BA in Environmental Studies from the Warren Wilson College.
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