EQUITY, RESILIENCE & THE ANACOSTIA RIVER CORRIDOR

CONFERENCE & IDEAS FORUM SUMMARY

May 30, 2018
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On May 30, 2018, the Anacostia Waterfront Trust partnered with Resilient DC and the Urban Waters Federal Partnership to host a one-day conference and ideas forum titled “Equity, Resilience & the Anacostia River Corridor.” The purpose of this event was to convene experts, leaders and practitioners in park programming and urban planning to share experiences and best practices in building equitable and resilient urban waterfronts.

Long a historic barrier dividing the District of Columbia into separate and unequal parts, the Anacostia River Corridor is now “taking off.” Major investments in infrastructure and remediation efforts have significantly improved the health of the river, and the Anacostia’s western shores are now home to DC’s fastest growing neighborhoods. The largest areas of developable land remaining in the District are along the Anacostia River. Across the river, the National Park Service plans to create a “Signature Urban Park” with more than a thousand acres of riverfront park space.

Meanwhile, the primarily African American neighborhoods east of the river have the lowest incomes, highest poverty rates and highest unemployment rates in the District. Rapid change in the District’s central corridor gives immediacy to civic discourse around how to maximize not only the corridor’s economic value, but its long-term public value for all DC residents. Some advocates fear that, by raising land values in neighborhoods adjacent to the river, the improvement of the corridor may push out residents who suffered through its darker years.

Today’s Anacostia River Corridor is a real-life case study, with real-life implications, of the intersection of urban rivers, urban parks, urban resilience, gentrification and equitable development, all in the heart of the nation’s capital city.

The May 30th Conference and Ideas Forum explored ways that the Corridor might build its resilience by maximizing the public benefits of the river and its parks while minimizing the negative impacts of gentrification, including the potential displacement of current residents.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This event would not have been possible without the generous support of:

The Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation

This event was hosted in partnership by:

The Anacostia Waterfront Trust
The Anacostia Waterfront Trust promotes the creation of a world-class Anacostia waterfront that enhances equity, improves resilience and unites the District of Columbia. AWT collaborate with partners to coordinate and implement efforts to improve the water, land and communities of the Anacostia River corridor.
Resilient DC
In 2016, Washington, DC was selected from more than 1,000 cities around the world to become part of the 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) network, along with cities like Paris, New York, Bangkok, and Buenos Aires. As part of the 100RC network, the city receives technical and financial support to develop and implement a resilience strategy for handling natural and man-made challenges. Mayor Muriel Bowser established the Office of Resilience to build Washington, DC’s resilience to both catastrophic shocks and chronic stresses in order to ensure that DC thrives in the face of change. This includes the ability to withstand any natural or man-made challenges that threaten our communities and tackle the social challenges that come with being a fast-growing city.

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership
The Urban Waters Partnership reconnects urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies. The Partnership also collaborates with community-led revitalization efforts to improve our Nation’s water systems and promote their economic, environmental and social benefits. The Anacostia Watershed is one of 19 Urban Waters locations throughout the United States.

The Federal City Council
Established in 1954, the Federal City Council is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the improvement of the District of Columbia. Comprised of the area’s top business, professional, education and civic leaders, the Council works with the District and federal governments to develop and implement solutions to important community problems. By serving as a trusted partner for civic improvement, and by bringing to bear the knowledge, experience, access, and resources of its members, the Council plays a critical role in the advancement of the District of Columbia.

Perkins Eastman
Perkins Eastman is a global architecture firm guided by the belief that design can have a positive and lasting impact on people’s lives. Perkins Eastman designs for a sustainable and resilient future, and to enhance the human experience through the built environment.
## AGENDA

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<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Doug Siglin, Executive Director, Anacostia Waterfront Trust</td>
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<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Anthony Williams, former DC Mayor, Executive Director and CEO of the Federal City Council</td>
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<td>Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Congressman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Delegate to Congress from the District of Columbia</td>
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<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Panel 1</td>
<td>Carlos Perez, Perez Planning and Design, Atlanta</td>
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<td>Promoting Equity and Resilience: Best Practices in Urban Parks</td>
<td>Diana Allen, NPS Healthy Parks Healthy People Coordinator</td>
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<td>Maritza Dominguez, Living Classrooms Foundation, Baltimore</td>
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<td>George Matysik, Philadelphia Parks Alliance, Philadelphia</td>
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<td>Moderated by Rich Dolesh, VP for Strategic Initiatives, National Recreation and Park Association</td>
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<td>11:25 AM</td>
<td>Keynote Introduction</td>
<td>Kevin Bush, Chief Resilience Officer, District of Columbia</td>
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<td>Keynote Address</td>
<td>Majora Carter, Urban Revitalization Strategist, Social Entrepreneur, and Peabody Award Winning Broadcaster</td>
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12:45 PM  **Panel 2**  
Limiting Resident Displacement: National Best Practices and Policies  
Corinne LeTourneau, Associate Director, 100 Resilient Cities, the Rockefeller Foundation, New York City  
Sheryl Davis, Executive Director, Human Rights Commission, San Francisco  
Cicely Garrett, Deputy Chief Resilience Officer, Resilient Atlanta  
Brentin Mock, Staff Reporter, City Lab, Pittsburgh  
Gustavo Velasquez, Senior Director, Urban-Greater DC, The Urban Institute, Washington  
Moderated by Yesim Sayin Taylor, Executive Director, DC Policy Center

2:10 PM  **Panel 3**  
Five Local Programs Working To Make a More Equitable And Resilient Anacostia River Corridor  
Jim Foster, Anacostia Watershed Society  
Vaughn Perry, Building Bridges Across the River (11th Street Bridge Park)  
Tina O’Connell, Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens  
Tal Alter, Nationals Youth Baseball Academy  
Steve Coleman, Washington Parks and People  
Moderated by Tommy Wells, Director, DC Department of Energy and Environment

3:20 PM  **Closing Remarks**  
Annie Donovan, Director, US Treasury Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund

3:45 PM  **Next Steps**
The May 30th event was held in the United States Capitol Visitor’s Center and introduced by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton. The Congresswoman launched the event by presenting to the audience an official resolution submitted to the House of Representatives to recognize 2018 as the “Year of the Anacostia,” recognizing the Washington metropolitan area’s efforts and partnerships to restore the Anacostia River watershed. The Congresswoman was introduced by former DC Mayor Anthony Williams, who championed the city’s re-focus on the Anacostia River during his time in office. The Anacostia Waterfront Initiative that he started has led to significant redevelopment of the waterfront and concentrated efforts to revitalize and restore the Anacostia river.

“Resolved. That the House of Representatives... supports the designation of the “Year of the Anacostia.”
Rich Dolesh of the National Recreation and Park Association opened the first panel with a brief introduction. He argued that parks can have amazing potential to anchor and utterly transform urban areas—citing the impact of the High Line in New York City and Millennium Park in Chicago—but they can present challenges, too. While parks can serve as a forum for ideas and “cradle for democracy,” there can be disparity in people’s access to safe and healthy open spaces. While parks can be free places to pursue healthy and fun activities, their improvement can lead to “environmental gentrification.”

Dolesh cited the theory of “just green enough,” which encourages city planners to avoid swiftly improving parkland to prevent skyrocketing land values and costs of living. He questioned approaches that lead to two separate classes of parks.

He posed to the panel a question of how to create transformative parks while avoiding negative impacts, and suggested that public engagement was at the heart of the issue.
MARITZA DOMINGUEZ: PARKS CAN BE TRUE COMMUNITY HUBS

Maritza Dominguez of the Living Classrooms Foundation in Baltimore, MD, shared her work transforming shared public space into community hubs that:

- Address food insecurity through urban gardening
- Restore habitat through re-vegetation
- Create spaces for social and emotional learning
- Provide relevant programming for all ages and create jobs for youth

Dominguez highlighted the Southeast Youth Collaborative as an example. Led by the Baltimore City Mayor’s of Office of Employment and Development, this coalition of nine organizations employed youth aged 14-21 years to design and lead health and wellness programs in parks for people of all ages.

Participating youth built their self-awareness, communication, relationship and other social and professional skills while providing valuable services to park visitors, which prepared the youth for higher-paying jobs in the future.

Dominguez highlighted the importance of asking how a neighborhood park’s users actually want to use the park. She said to be present and listen, and then provide programming that aligns with user’s priorities. The programming itself will be a public benefit, but so will the capacity building, civic engagement and youth employment that made it possible.

“Needs assessments are on-going. How do park users actually want to be outside? What opportunities do youth have to connect and contribute?”
DIANA ALLEN: WE ARE SICK. PARKS CAN HELP US HEAL

Diana Allen of the National Park Service’s Healthy Parks, Healthy People program explored how nature can support people’s physical and psychological healing.

Allen illustrated a correlation between healing in the medical profession and how parks can help communities. She presented four phases of healing:

1. Coagulation. Stop the bleeding.
2. Defensiveness. Inflammation.
3. Proliferation. Fill the wound, cover it.

Allen argued that rivers can be a force of healing for a divided city. She encouraged the audience to not focus on covering the wounds of the past, but rather think about the next phase of healing.

The Healthy Parks, Healthy People program engages communities to connect them to parks. The National Park Service is currently in Phase 2 of implementing this program, with promising practices coming out of initial field work. Tara Morrison, Superintendent of Anacostia Park in DC, is key to the steering committee of the Healthy Park, Healthy People 2.0 plan.

Some strategies that have taken systematized approaches to engaging communities and connecting them to parks include the Park Rx program, which encourages physicians to “prescribe” physical activity and visits to parks to address health issues.

Another example includes community garden programs that have been launched at civil war battlefield sites.

In San Francisco, local, state and national entities joined together to promote people getting out to local parks every Saturday.
George Matyzik is the Executive Director of the Philadelphia Parks Alliance. He argued that community spaces have a hyper-local nature, which can lead to ownership or neglect, depending on the resources available.

In Philadelphia, the Parks Alliance led a “Rebuild” initiative that explored how recreation centers could become not just improved spaces, but tools in the fight against poverty and true centers of the community.

Their strategy focused on revitalizing parks and recreation centers by engaging residents and empowering them to make decisions about shared spaces while promoting economic opportunities they might provide.

In an attempt to “flip the script” that is commonly heard about communities disconnected from decision-making, the Rebuild initiative knocked on doors in Philadelphia communities to ask “What do you want to see in your local park?” Initial responses were often “we could use more soccer nets or basketball courts,” but when asked what else could happen in the space to make the community more resilient, people came up with ideas.

This engagement strategy led to residents becoming advocates for their own parks. For example, one recreation center created the Philly Space Girls, a STEM program for young women aged 8-12 years old. The recreation center had to expand beyond its traditional programming focused on recreation (often geared towards boys), to focus on STEM education and girls. This idea came out of the advisory council created for each recreation center by the Parks Alliance.

“We used to program based on built environment, but now we build the programs and then have the built environment follow.”
CARLOS PEREZ: MAXIMIZE RETURN ON INVESTMENT BY PURSING SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE

Carlos Perez is the president of Perez Planning + Design, LLC in Atlanta, GA. Perez drew a connection between the parks of Atlanta and Washington, DC, where parks were originally designed to address public crises (like overflowing sewage) but are now being transformed to revitalize the city in new ways.

The Atlanta BeltLine is a former railroad corridor converted into a network of trails and parks that has led to over $1 billion in development within a half mile.

Historic Fourth Ward Park, part of the BeltLine, was designed to absorb stormwater during rain events, and was a cheaper solution to addressing stormwater than an alternative plan to build an underground tunnel. The park not only outperformed the $15 million more expensive tunnel option, but it also incentivized $500 million of new development nearby.

In order to minimize the negative effects of new development related to parks, park creators can look at more than just design and function of parks themselves, Perez argued. The Trust for Public Land led a

THE POWER OF PARKS

Park System Mission, Vision, Goals, Objectives
community engagement campaign around the redevelopment of Rodney Cook Sr. Park in Atlanta, a park planned to address flooding issues and trigger revitalization of Vine City, which led to the plan for the $45 million park to include $10 million of support for affordable housing and the creation of an Anti-Displacement Tax Fund, a privately-funded program to help prevent displacement of longtime residents.

Another local example of private development harnessed to increase the equitable benefits of parks is the Rita Bright Youth and Family Center in Columbia Heights, Washington, DC. The Department of Parks and Recreation undertook a study of the possibility to lease their land to a private developer to fund a $46.8 million mixed-use development that would include a 60,000 square foot recreation center, with the DPR receiving $5-7 million (and a new recreation center) out of the deal. The housing above the recreation center would be affordable housing and be tied to the creation of a new homeless shelter nearby.

Perez argued that the key to harnessing the power of parks was to focus on building the social, economic and environmental resilience of public space, rather than simply providing leisure-focused open areas. This could come in the form of multi-generational recreation centers or floodable parks. Perez encouraged the public sector to find new ways to fund this kind of park, including more public, private and philanthropic partnerships.

He also pointed out that parks, as public community gathering spaces, are an ideal venue to engage with residents about the future of their neighborhood, and to do so early in any planning process.

“Bring me in early, and I’m your partner. Bring me in late, and I’m your judge.”
KEVIN BUSH: STRENGTHENING THE DISTRICT’S IMMUNE SYSTEM

Kevin Bush introduced the keynote speaker of the Conference & Ideas Forum after a brief introduction to his work. As DC’s first Chief Resilience Officer, Bush leads citywide efforts to build resilience to shocks and stresses and oversee the development and implementation of a comprehensive Resilience Strategy.

Mayor Bowser established the Office of Resilience to build DC’s resilience to both catastrophic shocks and chronic stresses in order to ensure that DC thrives in the face of change. This includes the ability to withstand any natural or man-made challenges that threaten our communities and tackle the social challenges that come with being a fast-growing city.

Chronic Stresses

Stresses weaken the fabric of a city on a daily or cyclical basis. Examples include:

- inequality,
- the high cost of housing,
- climate change, and
- stressed transportation networks.

Acute Shocks

Acute shocks are sudden, sharp events that threaten a city. Examples include:

- infrastructure failure,
- heat waves,
- cyber-attacks,
- severe storms,
- terrorist incidents,
- and floods.
As part of the 100RC network, the city receives technical and financial support to develop and implement a resilience strategy for handling natural and man-made challenges.

Currently underway, DC’s resilience strategy will be a holistic, action-oriented plan to build partnerships and alliances as well as financing mechanisms, and will pay particular attention to meeting the needs of vulnerable populations.

“Honor the Anacostia River” is one of five different discovery areas for Phase 2 of the Resilient DC strategy. Resilient DC has formed multi-sector working groups around this and the other each discovery area, engaging approximately 100 organizations. These five working groups will conduct analysis and diagnostic work that advances new understanding and identifies new opportunities. Findings from these discovery areas will inform how the District designs and prioritizes initiatives for the forthcoming Resilient DC Strategy.

The goal for this conference is to inform the work of those organizations and the strategies ultimately included in DC’s resilience plans.
Majora Carter is a leading urban revitalization strategy consultant, real estate developer, and Peabody Award winning broadcaster. She is responsible for the creation & implementation of numerous green-infrastructure projects, policies, and job training & placement systems. Her work is characterized by an emphasis on talent-retention on the corporate and community levels.

As the keynote speaker for this gathering, Carter argued that “low-status” communities should pursue talent retention and wealth creation in the same way that large businesses do.

Carter illustrated what she means by “low-status” neighborhoods: places where the schools are worse, crime is higher, incomes are lower and often where noxious land uses are located. These neighborhoods often fall into what Carter called “poverty level economic maintenance,” or systems that encourage people who live there to stay poor and unhealthy. Pharmacies, pawn shops, rental centers, and other

“Gentrification starts when people are told that their neighborhood has no value, not when doggie daycare and white people show up.”
businesses commonly seen in “low-status” neighborhoods profit from low-income clientele and operate in ways that keeps residents under financial burden.

This, and the many other factors associated with concentrated poverty, leads to a hopelessness of residents about their community, and a feeling that the only way to succeed is to make it out of the neighborhood. Yet, like a business, when a community loses its talented, driven and successful people, it loses significant potential reinvestment in the neighborhood. The ambitious child that strives to leave home for elsewhere is less likely to reinvest in the family house, for instance.

Meanwhile, predatory investors hope that residents do not see value in their community in this way, so that they leave while it is still inexpensive, selling their homes for less than they will be worth later. “Gentrification didn’t just start,” Carter argued. “It’s been happening for 20 years. Gentrification starts when people are told that their neighborhood has no value, not when doggie daycare and white people show up.”

What if, Carter argued, communities operated like corporations? Big tech companies invest a lot of resources in retaining talent, whereas low-status communities seem to operate on a “failure-retention model.”

Carter argued that we need to broaden the idea of who should be doing real estate development, and who should be making wealth from the transformation of a community. She expressed frustration with the non-profit industrial complex, which has a “distaste for doing it for the money, which somehow feels less ‘authentic.’”

“Neighborhood preservation is often mistaken with culture,” Carter argued. “But our ancestors wanted us to be successful. Is poverty something worth preserving? Is it a cultural attribute?”

Carter asked people in her South Bronx neighborhood what kinds of things they
wanted to see in their neighborhood. At first people provided responses like more pharmacies, more services and more community centers, all of which Carter called “markers of poverty.” But once she pushed the residents to think of things they truly aspired to have in the neighborhood, they “said the same thing that middle class people would say.”

Cool places to hang out. Housing that matches my income. Nice parks. Family restaurants. People like me that I can aspire to be like. Year round social gathering places. Beauty and high quality built environment. Businesses that produce jobs. Places that feel good.

This research form the basis of Carter’s work. As a young professional, she led a community movement to create the Hunts Point Riverfront Park, a waterfront park that restored the South Bronx’s access to its river. Hunts Point Riverside Park cleaned up a polluted section of the Bronx River to create a recreational waterfront park connecting to the Bronx River Greenway, and it beat out Millennium Park in Chicago to win the Rudy Bruner Silver Medal award in 2009.

Later, Carter created a coffee shop in her neighborhood (“Poor folks love Frappuccinos.”) The shop became a community gathering spot and a place to work or do business. It was one of very few 100% locally owned businesses in the neighborhood when it opened.

She also helped launch a small company in the South Bronx that created entry level tech jobs. This business was intentionally placed on a street corner behind large windows so that passers by could see people of color working in the tech industry. The company hosts gaming tournaments that attract young people from the neighborhood, which also exposes them to the potential future of employment in the tech industry.

Carter has called her work “self-gentrification,” which has created opponents who target her for being a “Trojan horse” for future development.

Yet Carter believes that communities should build their own wealth and create the neighborhoods they desire.

“When I’m talking about equity,” she said, “I’m talking about money. Straight up.”

Carter focuses on facilitating opportunities for wealth creation in underserved neighborhoods like the South Bronx, using the same tools that people who already have wealth use, like real estate
development. “Once you have that kind of equity, it’s easier to push for the other type.” Carter argued that people who own their homes need to keep their property to maintain their investment in their neighborhoods and retain their wealth in their families. She argued that striving only for new affordable housing perpetuates a transient, landless class. “We should prepare people for wealth creation, and retain talent in our communities.”

She closed her presentation by arguing that cities have fallen short by not deliberately creating jobs and wealth with their otherwise well-intentioned investments in building “resilience.”
GUSTAVO VELASQUEZ: BUILD MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING, EVERYWHERE

As a Senior Director with the Urban Institute, a DC-based think tank, Gustavo Velasquez has studied equity in the District and other cities around the country. Between the last two censuses, DC increased its indicators of economic growth but decreased in diversity indicators as minorities left the city. Meanwhile, the amount of income that people spend on housing in the District has risen from 30% to around 50%. Despite the District’s efforts to preserve and produce affordable housing, including the Housing Production Trust Fund, the supply in DC simply can’t keep up with demand, Velasquez argued.

Meanwhile our regional efforts to address housing “have been really dysfunctional,” leading to the “suburbanization of poverty” as lower-income residents move out of the city core. Velasquez pushed for the creation of more affordable housing, not only in low-income areas but also in upper Northwest DC, where policies like more inclusionary zoning and tenant’s right to purchase could be expanded upon. He called for the audience to inspire mayors like DC’s Muriel Bowser to advocate for more affordable housing in wealthy neighborhoods, because “it is the right thing to do.”
He encouraged people to think smart about equitable development and not rush into solutions. For example, a community land trust is a great way to allow people to purchase affordable properties, but it limits their opportunity to grow wealth.

**Corinne LeTourneau: Inter-Agency, Coordinated, Place-Based Approaches**

Through her work with 100 Resilient Cities, Corinne LeTourneau has helped cities all over the world build their resilience to shocks and stresses. She emphasized the need to address both acute shocks (like an earthquake or terrorist strike) as well as chronic stresses, including the housing affordability crisis that is permeating through cities across the globe.

LeTourneau noted that cities don’t often have a lot of square footage to build their way out of their housing problems on their own, but instead need to partner regionally for system-wide solutions. The Fairmount Corridor in Boston is one example of working across sectors to coordinate investment in housing, green space, schools and transit all at the same time. Boston Mayor Marty Walsh has made this inter-agency coordination a priority by making department chiefs accountable for reaching the goals of the plan for other agencies as well as their own.

Another example from Boston demonstrated how cities can investigate inequities in their own services. When residents complained that their streets were not swept as often as in other neighborhoods, it was discovered that streets were swept more frequently in neighborhoods where residents frequently made 311 reports about cleanliness, which tended to be wealthier areas. The city had to completely change its model to ensure streets were cleaned regularly in all neighborhoods, abandoning the 311-based system that was used more frequently by some residents than others.
BRENTIN MOCK: THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF IDEAS TO LIMIT DISPLACEMENT, BUT THEY FACE A LOT OF RESISTANCE

As a staff reporter with CityLab, Brentin Mock has researched and covered “no shortage” of ideas to limit displacement being implemented around the country. He reports on inclusionary zoning and other policies, and how “those policies are getting a lot of resistance from landlord associations and developers.”

Even residents and advocates are sometimes frustrated with inclusionary zoning policies, which require a certain number of units in new residential development to be affordable, saying things like, “There are hundreds of us here. Why are only 10 affordable units being made available?”

Mock argued that resentment comes from a generational history of displacement. “The history of the African American and Latino experience in the U.S. is largely constructed by displacement and being told where you can and cannot live.”

Part of the challenge with affordability, Mock said, is that wages have not kept up with cost of living. “Anger that should be targeted toward jobs and companies that refuse to employ or raise wages gets unfairly targeted at housing community.” This is just one of a large stew of factors that lend themselves to this problem and the negative feelings associated with it.

Regarding the fear of displacement of residents from certain neighborhoods, Mock argued that it is just as important to understand where people are moving to. He echoed Velasquez, arguing that the burden of building affordable housing is being placed on the communities forced to have this conversation about gentrification, but not on wealthier suburbs, who tend to pass laws and zoning ordinances to keep their wealth sequestered. “Part of the conversation has to be about adding density to whiter, wealthier neighborhoods. White wealthy neighborhoods need to come into contact with other human beings,” Mock said.

“The history of the African American and Latino experience in the U.S. is largely constructed by displacement and being told where you can and cannot live.”
**SHERYL DAVIS: EMPOWER RESIDENTS TO COME UP WITH THEIR OWN SOLUTIONS**

Sheryl Davis is the Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. She spoke about the result of urban renewal efforts in her city, citing stories of residents forced to sell their homes for $5,000 only for those homes to sell for $3 million to new residents in the future. “People have lost hope,” Davis said, arguing that people should take a trauma-informed lens when talking about the affordability and displacement crisis. Davis argued that “we need to own that something was done wrong to a group and we may have to admit that we did something wrong to them.”

She called for more authentic community engagement, and that city planners should be expected to be yelled at. “People call for community engagement, but then they call the police if people actually show up.” To avoid this, Davis argued for using the “Collective Impact” model, brining in partners early and empowering people who are suffering from these issues to come up with solutions. For example, youth in San Francisco were tasked with building solutions to address problems with policing, and the city ultimately adopted nearly half of the youth’s proposals.

“Community engagement is not just about getting people in the room, it’s about empowering them to change policies,” she said. “They should already be in the room because they belong there.”

**CECILY GARRETT: THIS EVENT SHOULD BE HELD IN ANACOSTIA**

Cecily Garrett is the Chief Resilience Officer in Atlanta. She opened by echoing Sheryl Davis’ sentiment, arguing that “most residents have the best solutions.” With support, she argued, the best ideas can come from the inside, not outside, and those ideas can be empowered by groups elsewhere.

Garrett then polled the audience to see who in the room lived or worked in the neighborhoods along the Anacostia River that were being discussed. Less than 25% of the room raised their hands. “This event should be held in Anacostia. You should be able to see it happening from the street,” Garrett said.

She then asked if technology companies, startups or tech hubs could be formed to address some of the issues that people face in their neighborhoods. For example, she proposed that a group could work with people on small issues that are important to them, perhaps creating an app that allows people to take pictures of evidence of rats to report to the city.
Tommy Wells, Director of the DC Department of Energy and Environment, introduced and moderated a panel of local leaders who currently work to restore the Anacostia River, activate or create park spaces, or use their work to create opportunities for residents.

JIM FOSTER: PROTECT WHAT’S REALLY IMPORTANT TO US

Jim Foster, Executive Director of the Anacostia Watershed Society, provided a teaser for the water quality “report card” that his organization releases every year, which for the first time would include a passing grade for the Anacostia River in 2018. (By the time of this publication, it was revealed to be a “D”.) He described the pollution of the Anacostia River as a vast environmental injustice, the price for which was paid for by the suffering of DC residents and the solutions for which will be paid for by taxpaying residents now.

“I want the river to be clean,” Foster said. “I want to protect what’s really important to us.”
STEVE COLEMAN: YOU CAN’T HAVE EQUITY WITHOUT RESILIENCE, AND VICE VERSA

Steve Coleman, Executive Director of Washington Parks and People, argued that people and parks are often two of the most forgotten assets in cities. He described his organization’s dedication to both, giving the example of the effort to restore Watts Branch, a tributary stream of the Anacostia River, with a 10-point park revitalization plan that connected people to their parks. He argued that parks were extremely important tools to build community health, and that while recreation centers get kids playing, they can’t get them outside like a park can.

He argued that “you can’t have resilience without equity, and vice versa,” citing Washington Parks and People’s efforts to train and employ people in green jobs through a Green Corps program that has graduated 220 people, 80% of which have found employment in the green sector.

Coleman argued that people need physical projects in their neighborhoods, something to point to and be proud of, and they need a place to come together to build “democratic health.”

TINA O’CONNELL: IMPROVING THE INTERFACE BETWEEN PARK AND COMMUNITY

Tina O’Connell is the Executive Director of the Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, part of the National Park Service’s Anacostia Park and the only National Park in the country dedicated to growing and celebrating aquatic plants.

O’Connell talked about the visitors to the aquatic gardens, which is located next to a community that includes several affordable housing apartment complexes. “The older generation used to come and visit a lot;” she said. “Not so many young people.” So now the Friends group is focusing on attracting youth and all ages. O’Connell asked visitors what they would like to see in the park, and heard that there were too few after school programs offered nearby. The Friends group responded by starting its NatureFest program in partnership with the DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative, which has brought hundreds of families and children to the park each year.

Now O’Connell is working on looking at the physical infrastructure of the park, which is “very unwelcoming” but has “lots of potential” for improvement. She is currently working with graduate students from the University of Virginia and local design experts to think about the interface between the park and the community.

VAUGHN PERRY: IMPROVING THE INTERFACE BETWEEN PARK AND COMMUNITY

Vaughn Perry is the Equitable Development Manger with Building Bridges Across the River’s 11th Street Bridge Park project. Perry spoke of his memories of DC’s history as the “chocolate city,” when the teachers and police officers of his childhood looked like him. He also remembered, as a resident of Ward 5, being warned by his parents not to cross the Anacostia River.
Now an east-of-the-river resident and parent himself, Perry agreed to work on what he jokingly referred to as “the mythical idea of the 11th Street Bridge Park” only after he experienced the genuine community engagement process led by the group behind the planned park.

“They actually included what the community wanted,” Perry said, referring to the plan for the park that will span the Anacostia River when built. “They said, ‘We want you to help us design it,’ and they created a Design Oversight Committee.” The design and programming of the space came directly from the community’s input.

“They then said, ‘Well listen, this physical infrastructure is great, but what can we do to ensure residents who are here can continue to survive and thrive here when it’s built?’” The group launched working groups focused on small businesses, workforce development and housing, which grew into the Equitable Development Plan that Building Bridges Across the River is now implementing. The group has attracted major investment in their projects, like the $10 million that JP Morgan Chase recently invested in small minority- and locally-owned businesses, affordable housing, and training Ward 8 residents for construction jobs.

But they are also learning from their mistakes. For example, they recently added a cultural strategy to their Equitable Development Plan after recognizing the importance of preserving and celebrating the local stories and culture, in addition to focusing on economic factors.

**TAL ALTER: BUILDING A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS**

Tal Alter leads the Nationals Youth Baseball Academy, an institution launched as part of the community benefits agreement between the District of Columbia and the Washington Nationals baseball team.

The $19 million building is located on part of Fort Dupont Park in southeast DC, and provides programming for 150 children during 140 days out of the year. The academy recently graduated its first cohort of 8th graders.

The mission of his organization is to increase academic achievement, and Alter spoke of the importance of using the well-regarded brand of the Washington Nationals to build opportunities for people as much as possible. The organization has recently become more engaged in larger conversations about community development, seeking the best way to use the significant investment in the Baseball Academy to be a bridge between the public and private sector and best serve community needs.
Annie Donovan is the Director of the US Treasury’s Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, and the closing speaker for the Conference & Ideas Forum. Donovan described the CDFI Fund and how it directs resources into equitable development efforts here in the Anacostia River corridor, and across the country.

Started in 1994, the CDFI Fund pulls together public, private and philanthropic resources, to create investment “products” that make investors feel comfortable about risks and projected returns—both social and economic.

The CDFI Fund brings together the public sector, which has scarce resources, and the private sector, which can tolerate higher risks than the public sector, and has made over $3 billion in awards to 1,100 certified CDFI’s throughout the country.

To become a certified CDFI, an organization must serve with a social mission, invest in target markets with at least 60% of their assets invested in low-income communities. The resources provided by the CDFI Fund help finance homes, build credit histories, improve local health, provide financial services and offer financial training for people.

Regarding the Anacostia River corridor, two CDFI’s recently received $10 million investments through JP Morgan Chase, including the Washington Area Community Investment Fund (WACIF), a non-profit loan fund, and City First, a private bank. Part of these resources will go to create a local land trust, and are intended to support the $50 million that the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (or LISC, a national organization with a local office) has committed to help keep residents in Historic Anacostia and nearby communities in their neighborhoods.
BIOS: SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

**Doug Siglin**, *Executive Director, the Anacostia Waterfront Trust*

Doug Siglin first became interested in the intersection between water and social justice as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Zaire in the 1970s. A former House staffer and Government Relations Director for a The Nature Conservancy, the World Wildlife Fund, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, this is his 21st year working on improving the Anacostia River corridor as a professional and as a volunteer.

**Anthony Williams**, *Executive Director and CEO, Federal City Council*

Tony was the Mayor of Washington D.C. from 1999 to 2007. The Anacostia River corridor was one of his top priorities as Mayor. Before his election as Mayor, he was the District's independent Chief Financial Officer. Tony had previously held positions in federal, state, and local government in New Haven, Boston, and St. Louis, and was nominated by President Clinton to be the first CFO for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He holds a BA from Yale, an MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School, and a JD from the Harvard Law School.

**Eleanor Holmes Norton**, *Congresswoman, District of Columbia*

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton is a third-generation Washingtonian and a graduate of Dunbar High School. After receiving her bachelor’s degree from Antioch College in Ohio, she simultaneously earned her law degree and a master’s degree in American Studies from Yale University. She has been the assistant legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union; an adjunct assistant professor at New York University Law School; chair of the New York City commission on human rights; chair of the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; a senior fellow at the Urban Institute; and she remains a tenured professor of law at Georgetown University. She was elected to the 102nd Congress in 1990 and the 13 succeeding Congresses. She is the recipient of more than 50 honorary degrees, and has served as a trustee on a number of public service boards, including the Rockefeller Foundation and the Board of Governors of the D.C. Bar Association, as well as the boards of other civil rights and national organizations.

**Kevin Bush**, *Chief Resilience Officer, District of Columbia*

As DC’s first Chief Resilience Officer, Bush leads citywide efforts to build resilience to shocks and stresses and oversees the development and implementation of a comprehensive
Resilience Strategy. Bush has extensive experience building coalitions to design and execute award-winning resilience initiatives, including: Rebuild by Design, the National Disaster Resilience Competition, and the Multifamily Better Buildings Challenge. He previously led efforts at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to plan for the impact of climate change. Bush also served on President Obama’s Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force and at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. He has also been both a Presidential Management Fellow and City of Chicago Mayoral Fellow. Bush is a widely recognized expert in urban resilience, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster recovery, affordable housing, and infrastructure. Bush holds a Masters of Urban Planning from the University of Michigan and a Bachelors of Arts in Business from Michigan State University.

Majora Carter, Majora Carter Group

Majora Carter is a leading urban revitalization strategy consultant, real estate developer, and Peabody Award winning broadcaster. She is responsible for the creation & implementation of numerous green-infrastructure projects, policies, and job training & placement systems. Her work is characterized by an emphasis on talent-retention on the corporate and community levels. Clients include industry leaders in many fields, municipal and federal government agencies, and leading educational institutions across the US.

At Sustainable South Bronx, Carter deployed MIT’s first ever Mobile Fab-Lab (digital fabrication laboratory) to the South Bronx - where it served as an early iteration of the “Maker-Spaces” found elsewhere today. The project drew residents and visitors together for guided and creative collaborations. After establishing Sustainable South Bronx and Green For All (among other organizations) to carry on that work, she opened a private consulting firm to help spread the message and success of social enterprise and economic development in low-status communities - which was named Best for the World by B-Corp in 2014. From this vantage point, Majora co-founded the now 750+ member Bronx Tech Meetup, as well as the StartUpBox Software Services company which is rebuilding the entry level tech job pipeline by using market forces and established business practices to help diversify the US tech sector. Clients include Digital.nyc, PlayDots, and GIPHY, among others. Majora Carter has helped connect tech industry pioneers such as Etsy, Gust, FreshDirect, Google, and Cisco to diverse communities at all levels, and she continues to drive resources that value diversity into the communities left out of previous economic growth trends.

Annie Donovan, Director, US Treasury Community Development Financial Institutions Fund

Annie Donovan has been the Director of the US Treasury Department’s Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) since November 2014. Director Donovan has deep roots in community development and finance. She was most recently Chief Executive Officer of CoMetrics, a social enterprise providing high quality, affordable business intelligence tools to small businesses and
nonprofits seeking to improve financial management, better measure social impact, and increase their capacity for innovation. Prior to CoMetrics, Director Donovan was Senior Policy Advisor to the White House, working collaboratively with the Office of Social Innovation and the Council on Environmental Quality. She has also been Chief Operating Officer of Capital Impact Partners, a certified CDFI where she was instrumental in creating the high performing teams and strategic plans that positioned Capital Impact as a market leader in the areas of education, health care, long terms care and affordable homeownership finance. She has been a thought leader and a board member of many of the highest performing organizations in the community development sector, including serving as President of the New Markets Tax Credit Coalition, and has published papers and articles for the National Academy for Public Administration, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Forbes, and the Skoll World Forum on Social Entrepreneurship. She is a long-time Capitol Hill resident and has an undergraduate degree in Economics and an MBA in Finance.

**Rich Dolesh, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, National Recreation and Park Association**

Richard Dolesh is the Vice President for Strategic Initiatives at the National Recreation and Park Association, the national non-profit organization representing public parks and recreation in America. Rich worked 30 years in parks and natural resource management at the local and state level in Maryland prior to coming to NRPA where he has served as the Chief of Public Policy and Vice-President for Conservation. Rich facilitates implementation of NRPA’s three strategic pillars—conservation, health and wellness, and social equity. His recent work includes exploring the role of parks in adapting to the impacts of climate change, engaging park systems in green infrastructure stormwater management, and assessing the impact of private funding for public parks. Rich is a frequent contributor to NRPA’s Parks and Recreation Magazine and has written for other publications including The Washington Post and National Geographic Magazine.

**Carlos Perez, President, Perez Planning + Design**

Carlos F. Perez, PLA is the president of Perez Planning + Design, LLC (PP+D), a research-based planning and design firm based in Atlanta, Georgia that specializes on the planning and design of the public realm. PP+D’s professional focus is in working collaboratively with municipalities, agencies, non-profit organizations, and the public on the development of parks, open space, and recreation system master plans, park master plans, and active transportation master plans and facility designs. Carlos has consulted with over 40 cities throughout the United States including Washington D.C.; Seattle, Washington; Raleigh, North Carolina; Miami-Dade County, Florida; Gwinnett County, Georgia; Norfolk Parks, Virginia; San Diego, California; and Atlanta, Georgia. Carlos is also involved in various professional organizations in his home town Atlanta, Georgia. He is a Board Member and Vice-President of the Atlanta
non-profit and parks advocacy organization Park Pride; a Founding Board Member of the Atlanta Chapter of Young Professionals in Transportation; and a member of the Urban Land Institutes Center for Leadership Class of 2014. He also speaks regularly at conferences sharing his passion, experience, and lessons learned. Carlos received a Bachelor’s Degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Florida, a Master’s in City and Regional Planning, and a Master’s of Science in Architecture with a Concentration in Urban Design from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Maritza Dominguez, Site Director, Living Classrooms Foundation

Maritza Dominguez is the Director of the Park House for Living Classrooms Foundation, as well as the lead for health and wellness programming. Her background as a licensed clinical social worker, her ability to speak three languages, and her experience in non-profit management helps her to excel in designing programming for a community center and collaborating with partners to strengthen communities with healthy programming. Particularly with immigrant communities, urban gardening and having a safe place for family time help strengthen a family’s ability to make progress through challenging transitions. Maritza’s personal passion lies with developing social skills and healthy relationships through social emotional learning. Mindful walks, mindful gardening, yoga and similar activities help her and the surrounding community deal with stress. Prior to this role, she Co-Founded the Alliance for Community Teachers and Schools (ACTS) in Baltimore City, which provides professional development to parents and teachers in urban settings through grassroots community organizing.

George Matysik, Executive Director, Philadelphia Parks Alliance

George Matysik serves as Executive Director of the Philadelphia Parks Alliance, the leading advocacy, public policy, and community engagement non-profit for public spaces in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Since joining the Parks Alliance in September 2015, George led the successful advocacy efforts for largest investment in public space
in the city’s history, through the $500 million Rebuild Philadelphia initiative, and has fostered a dramatic increase in community engagement at the city’s 150+ recreation centers through the Parks Alliance’s Recreation Community Initiative. A lifelong Philadelphian, George is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned his degree in Urban Studies. George most recently served as Director of Government Affairs and Public Policy for Philabundance, where he led the development of Fare & Square, the nation’s first non-profit grocery store. George simultaneously served as President of country’s preeminent senior hunger relief organization—the National CSFP Association—and was founding Executive Director of Feeding Pennsylvania, a collaborative non-profit of the Commonwealth’s food banks.

**Yesim Sayin Taylor, Executive Director, DC Policy Center**

Yesim Sayin Taylor is the founding Executive Director of the D.C. Policy Center. With over ten years of public policy experience in the District, Yesim is recognized by policymakers and advocates as a source of reliable, balanced analyses on the District’s economy and demography. Yesim previously worked for the District’s Office of the Chief Financial Officer, leading the team that scored the fiscal impact of all legislation the District considered. She holds a Ph.D. in economics from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, and a bachelor’s degree in Political Science and International Relations from Bogazici University, located in Istanbul, Turkey.

**Corinne LeTourneau, Associate Director, 100 Resilient Cities**

Before joining 100 Resilient Cities, Corinne LeTourneau worked for over ten years in the government and non-profit sector advancing innovative urban strategies and solutions. Most recently, Corinne served as Director for Policy and Planning for Community Solutions, a national non-profit organization dedicated to working on solving complex problems that impact vulnerable people and communities. She managed government relations, designed and implemented programs, and led the strategic direction of the organization’s community revitalization initiatives. Prior to that, Corinne served as the Director of Special Projects for the New York City Department of Transportation where she worked on operational and policy initiatives, including the development of an agency-wide strategic plan that led to the implementation of several green infrastructure projects. Corinne brings vast experience in urban policy to the 100RC team, specifically in issues related to transportation, infrastructure, homelessness, housing, and neighborhood poverty.

**Cecily Garrett, Chief Resilience Officer, Resilient Atlanta**

In early 2017, Cecily Garrett became the Deputy Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Atlanta. Prior to joining the Office of Resilience, Cecily served as a community builder, facilitator and program manager for 8.5 years at the Atlanta Community Food Bank, one of Atlanta’s largest local nonprofits. A lifelong volunteer and servant leader, she is involved with the local community and beyond as a LEAD Atlanta
Alumna, Common Market Georgia Board Chair, Kipp Ways Academy Board, Atlanta BeltLine Partnership’s AB67 Board, US Green Building Council Market Leadership Advisory Council, Second Helpings Board, and Georgetown University Alumni Board of Governors. Cicely holds a B.S.B.A. degree with a concentration in Finance and New & Small Business Management from Georgetown University and a Master of Public Policy degree with a concentration in Non-profit Management from The George Washington University.

Sheryl Davis, Executive Director, San Francisco Human Rights Commission

Sheryl Evans Davis is the Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. Director Davis served as Commissioner between 2011 and 2016, including a tenure as Vice Chair of the Commission. She previously was Executive Director of Collective Impact, a community-based organization in San Francisco, where she oversaw Mo’MAGIC, Magic Zone, and the Ella Hill Hutch Community Center. Mo’MAGIC, a collaborative of non-profit organizations, addresses challenges facing low-income children, youth and families in the areas of economic development, community health, and violence prevention. Magic Zone provides education and wraparound services to K-12 students and transitional aged youth. The Ella Hill Hutch Community Center provides community-building services and workforce development opportunities to neighborhood residents. During her tenure at Collective Impact, Director Davis forged private and public-sector partnerships to provide critical health and social services to historically underserved communities across San Francisco. She holds a BA degree from San Francisco State University and Master’s in Public Administration from The University of San Francisco.

Brentin Mock, Staff Reporter, CityLab

Brentin Mock is a Pittsburgh-based staff writer for CityLab.com, where he covers justice-related issues in American cities. He formerly served as the Justice Editor for Grist and as national correspondent for Colorlines.com. Prior to that he was a Voting Rights Watch reporting fellow for The Nation. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, and has also lived and worked in New Orleans and Washington.

Gustavo Velasquez, Senior Director, Urban: Greater DC, Urban Institute

Gustavo Velasquez is director of the Urban Institutes’s Washington-Area Research Initiative, a cross-center initiative and multidisciplinary program of evidence and policy analysis focused on the national capital region. Before coming to Urban, Velasquez served for nearly three years as assistant secretary for fair housing and equal opportunity at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, where he led efforts to promulgate the landmark Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule, a key tool for cities, states, and other HUD funding recipients to reduce inequality and disparities in access to opportunity. Previously, Velasquez worked in executive roles in the administrations of DC mayors Anthony Williams, Adrian Fenty, and Vincent Gray. He also has nonprofit experience as
Executive Director of the Latino Economic Development Center, a local community development organization in Washington, DC, and Congreso de Latinos Unidos, the leading social service provider to Latinos in Philadelphia. He earned a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Pennsylvania.

Tommy Wells, Director, DC Department of Energy and Environment

Tommy Wells has led the DC Department of Energy & Environment since 2015, after serving eight years as the DC Councilmember representing Ward 6. With a career in public service that spans 32 years, Tommy’s commitment to District residents--particularly children--is unwavering. In 1991, he took the helm of the DC Consortium for Child Welfare, where he helped to create neighborhood-based family service collaboratives to coordinate the delivery of city and nonprofit resources to underserved District residents, a groundbreaking program to match foster families with children affected by HIV/AIDS, and the creation of the DC Family Court. Tommy earned his law degree from the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University in 1991 and a master’s degree in social work from the University of Minnesota in 1983.

Jim Foster, Executive Director, Anacostia Watershed Society

Jim Foster is the President of the Anacostia Watershed Society, an organization working to restore the Anacostia River. Its mission is to protect and restore the Anacostia River and its watershed communities with the goal of making the river fishable and swimmable by 2025. Through its education, engagement, and demonstration efforts, Anacostia Watershed Society improves the watershed, the communities, and the habitat. Mr. Foster is presently on the DC Leadership Council for a Cleaner Anacostia River. Additionally, he is a graduate of the Watershed Stewards Academy where he learned about rainwater management solutions and started the National Capital Region Watershed Stewards Academy. Mr. Foster has a B.S. from Penn State University in Environmental Resource Management.

Vaughn Perry, Equitable Development Manager, 11th Street Bridge Park

Vaughn Perry is the Equitable Development Manager for 11th St Bridge Park Project. His role is to oversee and implement the deliverables for the Equitable Development Plan. A DC native, Vaughn has been a resident and homeowner in Ward 8 for over 18 years. Vaughn’s research interests focus on ecojustice pedagogies, community engagement, and green job/skill development. Previously, Vaughn worked for the Anacostia Watershed Society, where he led the National Capital Region - Watershed Stewards Academy providing community leaders with the resources to serve as a point in their community on stormwater issues. Vaughn holds a Bachelor’s degree in IT from Strayer University and a Master’s Degree in Project Management from George Washington University.
**Tina O’Connell, Director, Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens**

Tina O’Connell is the director of the Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. She joined the organization in 2012 as its first paid staff person and has since grown the organization to connect people to the park through stewardship, public engagement and education. In 2015, Ms. O’Connell helped launch the park’s NatureFest Spring Break camp and other free programming specifically targeting communities in Ward 7. She is dedicated to working in partnership with the National Park Service to ensure the park is well-maintained, well-enjoyed and welcoming to all. Ms. O’Connell has held a series of positions helping connect diverse communities to nature. Previously she worked at the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) managing training and education programs across 27 research reserves. She earned a Masters degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Ms. O’Connell enjoys trail running, camping, reading, and exploring the District with her husband and her three children.

**Tal Alter, Executive Director, Youth Baseball Academy**

For the past five years, Tal has served as Executive Director of the Youth Baseball Academy and has been responsible for organizing, stewarding, and implementing the vision of the Youth Baseball Academy from start-up through building to scale. Operating out of a nine-acre campus in the Ward 7 neighborhood of Ft. Dupont Park, the Academy uses baseball and softball as vehicles to foster positive character development, academic achievement, and improved health among youth from underserved communities. Starting in his new role in January, Tal is now overseeing a merger between the Academy and the Washington Nationals Dream Foundation, the intention of which is to fully utilize the Nationals brand to create positive impacts for the DC Region. Alter played baseball at Haverford College and has a Master’s degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he studied organizational leadership and non-profit management.

**Steve Coleman, Executive Director, Washington Parks & People**

A longtime leader in the urban parks movement, Steve Coleman is the cofounder and director of Washington Parks & People, a citywide alliance of community partnerships seeking to advance park-based community health, equity, and vitality. Over nearly three decades, Parks & People has helped communities and agencies across the capital to reclaim and rejuvenate 230 diverse under-served green spaces, including playgrounds, trails, streambanks, schoolyards, stormwater mitigation, community gardens and minifarms, and parks of all sizes and types. Parks & People has been working on the parks east of the Anacostia River for over 20 years.