

NEXT
CITY

Next City Vanguard



Orleans New Orleans 2018

**THE INTERSECTION OF
COMMERCE AND CULTURE**



About Next City and Vanguard

Next City is a nonprofit organization with a mission to inspire social, economic and environmental change in cities through journalism and events around the world. Our vision is for a world in which cities are not in crisis, but are instead leading the way toward a more sustainable, equitable future. Next City provides daily online coverage of the leaders, policies and innovations driving progress in metropolitan regions across the world. In addition to our online journalism, we produce events, including the Vanguard conference. Vanguard is an annual gathering of the best and brightest young urban leaders working to improve cities across sectors, including urban planning, community development, entrepreneurship, government, transportation, sustainability, design, art and media.

Each year, Next City selects applicants — whose bright ideas for cities, experience in the field and ambition for the future all show great promise — to become members of the new Vanguard class. Along with alumni, the host and Next City staff, Vanguards convene to collectively learn and think about how to tackle the challenges our cities face. After hosting Vanguard conferences in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, St. Louis, Cleveland, Chattanooga, Reno, Houston, Montreal and Newcastle, Australia, Next City is pleased to present the 10th conference in New Orleans, where the New Orleans Business Alliance played an integral role in shaping this unique event. ♣

Welcome to Vanguard!



There is a certain magic about the Vanguard Conference. Or so I'm repeatedly told by Vanguards. This is my very first conference. But it must be true that some mysterious quality brings the smartest people from across many disciplines, many career levels, to meet in one place. Some indescribable effect of that meeting even lures many back for the Vanguard alumni track.

I became Next City's executive director in August, and Vanguards are one of the reasons I'm excited by our organization's potential. After 10 years, thousands of applications, and 10 conferences,

there are now 400 or so of you. What I see for us together is tremendous growth for the organization and lasting transformation in our cities, making them more equitable, sustainable and resilient, modeling the change we believe is possible across the globe.

I believe in possibilities because I believe in people like you, who are advocates for that future. What advocates can't do without, however, is information.

As a young man and aspiring journalist, I won a scholarship from the PTA. The board had a little ceremony in the high school library, and they asked a version of that big, looming question: "What do you want to do with your life?" I declared proudly that I would become a journalist and go to Washington. The answer sticks with me because I spoke with such certainty that I could indeed change the world.

I did go to D.C., where I was eventually named managing editor for online of National Journal magazine. But that idealistic kid in me learned a hard lesson. Many lobbyists and lawmakers didn't read our stories with a mind that could be changed by well-researched insights. Some simply gleaned facts to gird their opinions in battle. We were, I realized, more like arms dealers sending weapons to both sides in the gridlock.

That's a big reason I went to Los Angeles, where I would become editor in chief of The Advocate magazine, the longest running LGBTQ publication in the United States. What I now say for sure, having covered marriage equality and the evolution of American culture, is that movements do change Washington. Journalism is the lifeblood of movements — informing followers, elevating best practices and thoughtfully challenging assumptions.

Next City is that lifeblood for so many movements working toward greater equity and inclusion, whether we are spotlighting sustainable infrastructure, creative placemaking or affordable housing. This year marks the 15th anniversary of Next City's founding and a decade and a half of identifying solutions to the great problems we face across the globe. Cities are our nation's laboratories, and we amplify the best ideas with engaging and optimistic narratives that can otherwise disappear from the journalism landscape. We do that work because if quality journalism reaches the right people — people like you — it will change the world.

Sincerely,
Lucas Grindley
Executive Director, Next City
nextcity.org

Welcome from Quentin



Welcome Vanguards,

Thank you for traveling to New Orleans to attend the Vanguard conference, and for tackling the important issues you are committed to addressing.

There's a belief that if you work on things that are bigger than yourself, you will live a life of purpose. You all are purposeful people, and we're proud for the opportunity to get to know you and to sponsor this event.

More than most, you know the problems cities like New Orleans face. I suspect you're intimately familiar with the specific problems we face here. Accelerating the diversification of our economy, affordable housing, crime, education, income and wealth disparity, transportation and talent development are some of the most prevalent.

As you tour the city and work through the program, please know that there are a great many New Orleans residents who work hard to tackle these issues, starting with Mayor LaToya Cantrell.

At the New Orleans Business Alliance, we stand at Mayor Cantrell's side in our role as the public-private economic development organization for the city of New Orleans. We are committed to addressing economic development holistically, inclusively and with the intentionality envisioned by the mayor that is actually driving the main focus of this conference — in a city of yes, creating a New Orleans economy that works for everyone.

There are incredible opportunities and unlimited horizons for New Orleans if we welcome everyone to the table. And, we're addressing those possibilities in ways that are not always a focus for typical economic development organizations.

During your time in our city, you'll visit the Claiborne Corridor, one of our most dynamic, but underserved neighborhoods. We are working to revive that community, and others, through our Strategic Neighborhood Development Initiative. You'll also find that we are working to grow one of the city's most famous assets, our cultural economy.

I could go on, but I won't take up your time with a long letter. You are here to help your peers to conceptualize change so let's get to it! Just know that for the New Orleans Business Alliance, economic development only matters because people matter, particularly, enhancing their economic security.

Thank you again for attending the New Orleans Vanguard Conference.

With great expectations for your contributions to solving the challenges that with your help, New Orleans will conquer.

Quentin L. Messer, Jr.
President & CEO,
New Orleans Business Alliance
nolaba.org

From the Mayor



Dear Vanguard,
It is my absolute pleasure as the mayor of the city of New Orleans to welcome you to the Vanguard Conference.

You might know New Orleans for our world-famous cuisine, live, local music and Saints football, but we want you to know us for our changing economy, too. We're proud of the strides we're taking to diversify in an intentional and equitable way. As you're here to explore inclusive economic development, we're especially honored to host your conference in our city.

New Orleans is in the midst of an economic rebirth. We're branching out from our legacy industries to create thousands of jobs in the digital industry. DXC Technology, Accruent, GE Digital, Lucid, Acrew, Align and so many more are choosing New Orleans because they see our city as the ideal intersection of culture and commerce.

As we celebrate our 300th birthday, our tricentennial, diversity is more important to us than ever. This is why we're honored to host Vanguard. We embrace our uniqueness, and we're proud to share our successes, but we need your new ideas to keep moving forward, together.

The energy of our city is unmatched and the magic unparalleled. We invite you to experience every moment of it. Thank you for visiting New Orleans. We hope you enjoy your stay, and return often to our wonderful city.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "LaToya Cantrell".

Sincerely,
LaToya Cantrell
Mayor City of New Orleans

BECAUSE EVERYONE DESERVES A GREAT PARK



At NRPA, we believe everyone deserves a great park. Our initiatives in conservation, health and wellness and social equity provide communities everywhere with increased access to parks, open space, nature, healthy meals, physical activity and more. To learn more about our life-changing work, visit us online at nrpa.org.



Important Info

Staff Contact Info

Sara Schuenemann
267.770.6870

Stephanie Bell
228.243.9545

Getting Around

In addition to Lyft and Uber, taxis are available from United Cabs at 504.522.9771.

If you come via car, parking can be expensive downtown, ranging from \$25-40 a day and more overnight. One trick is to park in a neighboring area of downtown, such as by the New Orleans Jazz Market on Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard, and taking a Blue Bike downtown. Be sure to read all signs before leaving your car and check out nola.gov/dpw/parking for enforcement details.

Airport Transportation

The Airport Shuttle (one way \$20 / round trip \$38) goes from the airport to downtown, but can be time consuming. At the airport, buy tickets from agencies in the baggage-claim area. For your return to the airport, call a day ahead and arrange for a pickup.

Jefferson Transit (take the E2 Airport Downtown Express for \$2; service until 6:52pm) and Regional Transit Authority (take bus 39 to Canal Street for \$1.25) have limited service to and from the airport, but note that the drop-off location will not be right at the hotel and the trip can take a long time.

Taxis are available at the airport for a flat fee of \$40 to downtown hotels.

Lyft and Uber typically cost about \$30-40 for a trip downtown. There is a designated car-share pick up area in the parking lot across the street from baggage claim.

Accommodations

Aloft NOLA
225 Baronne St, New Orleans, LA 70112

Aloft NOLA is in the Downtown Central Business District neighborhood. It is adjacent to the French Quarter and also is close to the Warehouse / Arts District.

Emergency

Ambulance: 911

Fire: 911

National Sexual Assault Hotline: 800.656.4673
Police (nonemergency): 504.821.2222

If you're downtown, you may utilize the Downtown Development District Public Safety team, including SafeWalk services, by calling 504.415.1730.

As you would wherever you travel, please exercise street smarts and avoid secluded areas, particularly after dark. Groups are safer, and pedestrians don't have the right of way, so exercise caution.

Lost & Found

Airport: 504.464.2671

Bus: 504.940.5586

Streetcar: 504.827.8399

If you lose your wallet, notify your credit card companies and report it at the nearest police precinct by dialing 311.

If you lose something anywhere else, call New Orleans Police nonemergency line at 504.821.2222. Filling out a police report may help for insurance purposes.

Board in Attendance



Eric Shaw
D.C. Office of Planning

Eric D. Shaw was appointed by Mayor Muriel Bowser to serve as Director of the D.C. Office of Planning January

2015. As director, he manages a staff of 75, who are responsible for neighborhood and systems planning, urban design strategies, data and mapping, historic preservation and development review.



Efreem Bycer
LinkedIn

Efreem Bycer works at LinkedIn where he leads a set of partnerships with government agencies and civic organizations to

help connect workers to economic opportunity. His background is in economic and workforce development, civic and government technology, and government administration. In his spare time, Efreem is an avid runner, snowboarder and homebrewer. He's a 2013 Vanguard and lives in San Francisco with his wife and daughter.



Jess Zimbabwe
NLC and ULI

Jess Zimbabwe is director of urban development at the National League of Cities (NLC) and founding executive director of the Daniel

Rose Center for Public Leadership — a partnership of NLC and the Urban Land Institute. Previously, Jess was the director of the Mayors' Institute on City Design and community design director at Urban Ecology, providing pro bono community planning and design assistance to low-income neighborhoods in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is a licensed architect, a certified city planner, a LEED-Accredited professional, the past board chair of Next City, and a member of the urban planning faculty at Georgetown University.



Casius Pealer
Tulane University

Casius Pealer is an architect and attorney with over 20 years of community and economic development experience. He currently

serves as director of Tulane's Master of Sustainable Real Estate Development (MSRED) program, based in the School of Architecture. Casius is a commissioner for the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) and is licensed to practice law in New York and D.C. He holds a JD from the University of Michigan and an M.Arch from Tulane University.

Conference Schedule

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

*New Orleans BioInnovation Center
@1441 Canal Street*

**Welcome event presented by the
Downtown Development District**

Mix and mingle with fellow Vanguards and hear introductory remarks from Lucas Grindley, Next City; and Kurt M. Weigle, Downtown Development District.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

We'll leave the hotel for the day early in the morning (don't worry—there will be coffee first!) to walk 45 minutes to breakfast. Please come prepared with everything you need for the whole day and evening, and expect a lot of exercise.

7:30 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.

Aloft Bar @ 225 Baronne St
**Coffee and tour introductions
presented by the Aloft Hotel**

7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

**Walking tours to the Port of New Orleans
with guides from the Albert & Tina Small
Center for Collaborative Design**

Tour routes include: Canal Street Corridor, Local Government, and Monuments and Museums.

8:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

*The Port of New Orleans @
1350 Port of New Orleans Pl*

We'll enjoy breakfast from Pepperoni's Cafe followed by a welcome from the Port of New Orleans with Brandy D. Christian, president and CEO of the Port of New Orleans. Lamar Gardere, executive director of the Data Center,

will present the history of New Orleans through the data center's tricentennial prosperity index.

10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

**Claiborne Corridor Cultural Innovation
District: A Project of the Greater New
Orleans Funders Network Equitable
Development Action Table**

Asali DeVan Ecclesiastes, Director of Strategic Neighborhood Development New Orleans Business Alliance presents the Blg Idea Workshop.

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

*Bywater Institute @
1370 Port of New Orleans Pl*

**Panel discussion: Where the River
Meets the Road: Equitable Growth
Along New Orleans' Highest Ground.**

A panel discussion about development challenges facing one of the world's busiest port systems, the mighty Mississippi's impact on resilience efforts across the region, and equity concerns for historical communities along the River. Mark Davis, Director of the Bywater Institute, Suzanne Mobley, Public Programs Manager, Albert and Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design, Director of Advocacy, Colloqate, Bryan Lee, Bryan C. Lee Jr, Director of Design, Colloqate, Emily Federer, Environmental Services Manager, Port of New Orleans .

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Liberty's Kitchen @ 300 N Broad St #101

Catch a Tulane shuttle bus to lunch presented by Liberty's Kitchen with Asali DeVan Ecclesiastes and Nyree A. Ramsey. Opening remarks from Dennis Bagneris, program manager, Liberty's Kitchen.

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

**Panel Discussion: The Politics of
Food in a Foodie City. How does the
city with a globally renowned cuisine
create more equity in access to and
issues around food and hunger within
the city limits?**

Moderator: Bill Sabo, director of food, music and technology at the New Orleans Business Alliance. Panelists: Haley Burns, founder and executive director, Fund 17; Burnell Cotlon, owner, Lower 9th Ward Food Market; Jeffrey Schwartz, executive director, Broad Community Connections, WF and Liberty's Kitchen; and Sanjay Kharod, executive director, New Orleans Food and Farm Network.

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Blue Bikes @ 2725 Lafitte Ave

Walk to Blue Bikes for remarks from Geoff Coates and a ride along the Lafitte Greenway presented by Blue Bikes and NRPA.

3:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

*Claiborne Corridor Cultural
Innovation District*

Tour the Corridor with Big Idea Workshop group discussions. Explore the themes of economic development, housing affordability, cultural preservation, transportation choice and access, environmental sustainability, and safe and healthy neighborhoods with local ambassadors working on these issues.

5:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Plessy vs. Ferguson Marker

Moment of Silence at the Plessy vs. Ferguson Marker, which commemorates the first post-Reconstruction legal challenge to government-sanctioned segregation.

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

**Keynote: Brandan 'Bmike' Odums
and Gallery Walk**

Quentin L. Messer, Jr., New Orleans Business Alliance and Camelback Ventures will share remarks followed by a keynote presentation from Brandan "Bmike" Odums. Odums will share his history as a visual artist, filmmaker and community leader, where his work explores the intersections of creativity, social awareness and pop culture.

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Parleaux Beer Garden @ 634 Lesseps St
**Dinner presented by Camelback
Ventures**

Walk to Parleaux Beer Garden for dinner. Rides back to the CBD presented by Lyft.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

First thing in the morning we will leave the hotel for the day to walk 30 minutes to breakfast, so please come prepared with everything you need for the entire day and evening. It is unlikely that we will have time to stop back to the hotel before the evening events, which include a public presentation by the Vanguards.

7:30 a.m. – 8 a.m.

Aloft Bar @ 225 Baronne St
Walking Tour

Meet for a walking tour to breakfast at Cafe Reconcile. Tour the Oretha Castle Haley Corridor and explore transit equity.

8 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

*Cafe Reconcile @ 1631 Oretha Castle
Haley Blvd*

**Breakfast presented by Cafe Reconcile,
Tulane School of Architecture and
Sonder.**

Hear from Ashleigh Gardere, executive vice president and COO, New Orleans Business Alliance; Peter Bowen, New Orleans general manager, Sonder; Beth

Schaefer Caniglia, the Solutions Journal and four 2018 Vanguards: Keith Benjamin II, Haley Burns, Omayra Rivera Crespo and Ebrahim Varachia.

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

BREAK

10 a.m. – 11: 15 a.m.

Panel discussion: Affordable Housing as an Equitable Growth Strategy

New Orleans' famous culture is rooted in racial and economic diversity, but as the city's economy continues its post-Katrina revival, lack of intentional forethought around housing policy threatens to uproot that very diversity. This panel will examine past, present and potential policies to preserve and create affordable housing in New Orleans. Moderator: Casius Pealer, director of Master of Architecture & Urban Design, Tulane University. Panelists: William Bradshaw (Vanguard alum), co-founder & president, Green Coast Enterprises; Andreanecia Morris, executive director, HousingNOLA; Jenga Mwendu (Vanguard alum), deputy director, Crescent City Community Land Trust; and Royce Duplessis, state representative, 93rd District.

11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Palmisano @ 1730 Tchoupitoulas St

Catch a Tulane bus to lunch, which will be presented by the Solutions Journal. After lunch, spend the afternoon working with your Big Idea Workshop group on your proposal and presentation.

3:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Ashé Cultural Center @ 1712 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd

Walk or catch an RTA Bus back to Ashé Cultural Center (bus #91 runs every 15 minutes) for Big Idea Workshop dry runs. You'll get the chance to practice your presentation in front of Next City staff.

6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Next City Big Idea Workshop and reception, presented by the National Recreation and Park Association

Each team will have seven minutes to present their ideas to a public audience. One outstanding idea will be recognized, and prizes awarded.

8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Dinner at Restaurants in the Lower Garden District

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH

8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Pythian @ 234 Loyola Ave

Vanguards and Alumni meet for Breakfast

We'll meet one last time to eat breakfast, reflect on our week, and have breakout sessions with Vanguards and alumni. Lucas Grindley, executive director of Next City, will share closing thoughts.

12 p.m.

Conference ends

Brandan "Bmike" Odums Keynote Speaker



Brandan "Bmike" Odums is a highly sought after visual artist and filmmaker who uses

these chosen mediums to tell stories and make statements that transform the minds of viewers as well as the spaces in which his work appears.

In 2016, Odums debuted his first solo show in New Orleans in a 35,000-square-foot warehouse named #StudioBe, welcoming hundreds of visitors a week as well as school tours from around the region.

In 2013, Odums completed a series of graffiti murals depicting iconic African-American civil rights leaders at the Hurricane Katrina damaged Florida Avenue public housing complex in New Orleans' Ninth Ward. Given the name #ProjectBe, the space unexpectedly received national attention, bringing spectators from all over to see the art before the deserted complex's set demolition date.

Following the success of #ProjectBe, Odums came across another abandoned five-story apartment building on the West Bank in New Orleans in 2014 and

began working on #ExhibitBe. The completed space was the largest street art gathering in the South gaining national attention and welcoming over 30,000 visitors during its three-month opening.

Odums' other passions lie in the New Orleans community. He is the founder and director of 2-Cent Entertainment LLC, a New Orleans based youth education social enterprise that produces mixed media content and workshops in the overlap between pop culture and social awareness. Partnering with organizations like Scholastic and Better World Books to give away tens of thousands of books to local youth, 2-Cent services countless youth in New Orleans. 2-Cent Summer Session, a media arts camp in New Orleans, is currently entering its fourth year.

As a filmmaker, his music videos he directed have appeared on MTV, VH1 and BET. Odums has been honored as one of "20 artists you should know" by complex.com, has received a presidential volunteer award from the White House, and was a Joan Mitchell Foundation Fellowship recipient.

Next City Vanguard Conference Equity as a Growth Strategy

The theme of this year's Vanguard conference — Equity as a Growth Strategy — is at the heart of Next City's mission to inspire better cities. Through our daily journalism, we report on policymakers, artists, community activists, entrepreneurs, researchers, planners and elected officials whose work grapples with the destructive hallmarks of unchecked global capitalism: namely, increased income inequality and unequal access to transportation, housing and capital.

Next City advocates for a community-led process where engagement is deep and wide. Neighborhoods are ecosystems where residents are the experts and keepers of neighborhood assets. In planning for the success and growth of every community, we must plan with residents, not for them. As the post-Katrina recovery continues, New Orleanians must tackle pressing problems including poverty, gentrification, shifting industry and healthcare access.

According to The Data Center, as recently as 2016, the poverty rate among black New Orleanians was 32 percent, compared to a poverty rate among white New Orleanians of 9 percent.

Black households earned 63 percent less and Hispanic households earned 47 percent less than white households in the city limits.

And although the percentage of African-American owned businesses in New Orleans has increased from 21 percent in 1997 to 40 percent in 2012, the share of income those businesses received has stayed stagnant at 2 percent over that 15-year period.

To achieve equitable growth in areas that have been traditionally underdeveloped and systemically disinvested, we must build the capacity of residents to take advantage of economic opportunity, and leverage market-based tools used in other, successful commercial corridors.

More than 80 new Vanguards and alumni convene this week. Next City asks these talented, visionary leaders to contemplate the challenges of a city deeply enmeshed in dismantling centuries of race-based marginalization and inequality. All conference attendees should consider the questions: How do you attract investment that is economically feasible and responsive to the environmental issues of vulnerable neighborhoods? And how do we improve the built environment while preventing displacement and securing equitable benefits for existing residents?

Big Idea Workshop The Claiborne Corridor

Presented by the
National Recreation & Park Association



Next City and the Vanguards convene in New Orleans, ready to be inspired by the thought leadership that has already brought positive change to the Crescent City. Our diverse, impressive cohort comes together to leverage their collective experience and bring a tangible, lasting benefit to the city. Over the course of three busy days we listen, we share, and then we innovate. This is the heart of the Big Idea Workshop.

This year, our Big Idea spotlights the Claiborne Corridor Cultural Innovation District (CID), a 25-block transformation of the area under the elevated I-10 expressway along Claiborne Avenue, from Canal Street to St. Bernard Avenue. Following 50 years of redlining, urban renewal, and countless other racist and harmful federal, state and local policies, Corridor residents currently experience the city's deepest disparities and negative outcomes. The CID represents the effort to rebuild with green infrastructure and reclaim the neighborhood as a thriving space for culture, commerce and play.

Vanguards have received background material about New Orleans and the Corridor in advance of the workshop. On Thursday afternoon, our group will hear a presentation from Claiborne Corridor stakeholders, and then walk or bike a stretch of the Avenue, accompanied by sponsors and neighborhood ambassadors who will serve as interpreters and guides.

During Friday's half-day workshop, six Vanguard groups (assigned pre-conference) will work with neighborhood ambassadors, who offer deep local knowledge. Each group will tackle a challenge faced by residents and businesses along the Corridor. Residents have identified their six priority issues as:

- + Economic Development
- + Housing Affordability
- + Cultural Preservation
- + Transportation Choice & Access
- + Environmental Sustainability
- + Safe & Healthy Neighborhoods

Teams will synthesize their professional expertise, Corridor explorations, conference learnings and local information to generate solutions for each team's identified challenge. Following this brainstorm, Vanguard teams will have time to craft seven- to 10-minute PowerPoint "pitches" that will be presented to the entire group — including city and community representatives — at a public event that evening.

Presentations will be evaluated by a panel of local experts, and a winning team announced. The goal is to advance each of these proposals toward execution in the weeks and months following the conference.

Next City Staff



Lucas Grindley
Executive Director
Lucas Grindley is executive director for Next City. He is the former president of Pride Media and oversaw

leading LGBTQ brands Out magazine, The Advocate, PRIDE, Out Traveler, Chill magazine and Plus magazine. Grindley was also editor in chief of The Advocate, the longest-running LGBTQ magazine in the country. In 2016, NLGJA named Grindley “LGBT Journalist of the Year” with its Sarah Pettit Memorial Award. He came to Pride Media in 2011 from Washington, D.C., where he was managing editor for online at National Journal magazine, covering politics and policy making. He now lives in Philadelphia with his husband and twin daughters. He also serves on the board of directors for Extraordinary Families, a nonprofit helping create more families like his through foster-adoption.



Kelly Regan
Editorial Director
Before joining Next City, Kelly Regan worked for two decades in magazines, books and digital publishing.

As an editorial manager at Google, she assembled and directed content teams that prototyped and launched the Destinations at Google travel channel, as well as the Explore recommendation engine on Google Maps. As editorial director of the Frommer’s Travel Guides, she launched a color publishing program and managed a list of about 125 books per year. She is

a longtime freelance editor and writer, specializing in science, travel, educational publishing and dream interpretation. She holds a B.A. in government from Georgetown University and an M.S. in journalism from Columbia University.



Oscar Perry Abello
Editor

Before becoming Next City’s editor in 2018, Oscar Perry Abello was a contributing writer and Equitable Cities Fellow for Next City. Since 2011, Oscar has covered community development finance, community banking, impact investing, equitable and inclusive economies, affordable housing, fair housing and more for media outlets such as Shelterforce, B Magazine, Impact Alpha and Fast Company. Over the course of two and a half years of reporting for Next City, 372 out of 521 sources he interviewed were women and/or people of color. Oscar holds a B.A. in economics from Villanova University.



Sara Schuenemann
Director of Events and Development

Sara Schuenemann is a marketing and events mastermind with more than 10 years of experience supporting small businesses, artists and nonprofits. She has worked with artists to donate tooth-related artwork for a dental surgery fundraiser, planned a flash mob for the Philadelphia Fringe Festival and raised money for children orphaned by the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.



Jeff Muckensturm
Senior Audience Engagement Manager
Before joining Next City, Jeff Muckensturm was the Communications Director for

Healthcare-NOW!, a carpenter, and a community member of Leavenhouse (a Catholic Worker community that provides food and housing for the homeless) in Camden, New Jersey. He has a B.A. in urban studies and regional planning from Rutgers University-Camden and a M.A. in regional, economic and social development from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. Follow him on Twitter @JeffMuck.



Eleanor Barba
Office Operations Assistant

Since graduating from Corcoran College of Art + Design in Washington, D.C., Eleanor Barba has worked in administrative positions for a variety of organizations including the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Old St. Joseph’s, Philadelphia’s first Catholic church. She continues to practice drawing, painting and printmaking in her studio, and applies her creative skill set to keep Next City’s operations running smoothly.

NOLABA Staff



Stephanie Bell
Vice President, Investor Relations
A Louisiana native by birth, Stephanie Bell is passionate about the Bayou State. Getting to

work with passionate New Orleanians and advocate for our local industries and economy is what makes her position, vice president of investor relations at New Orleans Business Alliance, so rewarding. Prior to NOLABA, Stephanie led the communications department as director of outreach and alumni engagement for the Delgado Community College, a Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business program. Through this role and others, she developed a strong sense of devotion for the small business sector. These experiences also gave her a deep appreciation for how public and private partnerships can be so effective and impactful. Bell has extensive experience in community engagement, marketing and operations. She received her MBA and a B.S. in business administration with a focus in marketing from the University of Southern Mississippi.



Asali DeVan Ecclesiastes
Director, Strategic Neighborhood Development

Asali DeVan Ecclesiastes is a mother, daughter, wife, educator, event producer, spoken word artist and community servant. Most know her by her many pursuits, but the way this writer knows herself and the world around her, is through her exploration of “the word.” Rooted

in the cultural soil of New Orleans and watered by the writings of her literary idols, Kalamu ya Salaam, Sonia Sanchez and Toni Morrison, Asali has grown to bask in the sun of her literary heritage — from the sages who transformed pharaoh to God in Ancient Khemet, to the spy boys who chant the way clear for their big chiefs on Mardi Gras day. Having performed her brand of “activist poetry” and conducted workshops for universities, conferences and slam venues across the country, she is highly sought as a speaker and writer on community development issues.

As the Claiborne Corridor program manager, she leads the place-based community development of the city’s historic African-American neighborhoods, focusing on economic opportunity and cultural preservation.

No matter her endeavor, Asali continually seeks opportunities to forward her mission of creating a platform for societal change through art and her vision of social justice for all humanity.



Alejandra Guzman
Vice President, Performance Management and Strategy
Alejandra Guzman has developed her

work experience mostly in the private sector where her main focus has been to develop and operate intersectorial partnership programs combining non-government organizations (NGO), government agencies and private sector companies focused on solving community and economic development challenges in the United States, Mexico and other Latin American countries. In 2016, she began targeting her efforts to the 350,000-plus members of the greater

New Orleans community whom she serves daily through the New Orleans Business Alliance as vice president or performance management and strategy.



Sally Lindsay
Business Development Strategist
Sally Lindsay fell in love with cities and design as an urban studies major at Columbia

University. During her time in school, she did immersive abroad experiences in Shanghai, Beijing, Ahmedabad, São Paulo and Cape Town to shape a more comparative framework for her development perspective. She moved to New Orleans as part of the Venture for America fellowship, which connects recent college graduates with entrepreneurial careers in cities looking to build momentum in their startup ecosystem. She is a business development strategist at the New Orleans Business Alliance. In particular, she leads an initiative called NOLA Health Innovators that bolsters health-tech entrepreneurship in the city by forming strategic partnerships between major healthcare leaders in the city and high-growth startups from around the country. She is also an avid bike rider, costume crafter, podcast listener and postcard collector.



OUR CONNECTIONS RUN DEEP

Port of New Orleans is a modern multimodal Gateway for global commerce and an in-demand cruise port.

Our competitive edge comes from our ability to deliver **seamless, integrated logistics solutions** between river, rail and road.



PORT NOLA
THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS

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2018 Vanguards



Fallon Aidoo
Jean Brained Boebel Chair in Historic Preservation and Assistant Professor of Planning and Urban Studies, University of New Orleans

New Orleans

Fallon Aidoo is an educator, scholar and practitioner of resilience planning. Her recent appointments — Louisiana Landmarks Society trustee and UNO's chair of Historic Preservation — follow decades of teaching, researching and consulting on adaptive reuse of infrastructural heritage. She advances equitable reinvestment advising the public realm projects of cities, conservancies and communities.



Marc Asnis
Urban Designer, City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Portland, OR

Marc Asnis is an urban designer with the city of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. He advises on long-range strategic planning projects, focusing on ecological urbanism and telling the story of future cities using emerging forms of media. Marc is LEED accredited and holds degrees in architecture from Washington University in St. Louis and University of Oregon.



Keith Benjamin II
Director of Department of Traffic and Transportation, City of Charleston Mt. Pleasant, SC

Keith Benjamin is the director of the Department of Traffic and Transportation for the city of Charleston, South Carolina. His work aims to co-empower a coalition of diverse partners to promote safe access for all modes of transportation, operate at the intersections of community, and unapologetically raise the banner of equity.



Derrick Braziel
Managing Partner, MORTAR Cincinnati, OH

Derrick Braziel serves as a founding partner and managing director of MORTAR, an organization dedicated to helping underrepresented entrepreneurs in Cincinnati. Derrick's work has led to recognition from YES! Magazine, Next City, Politico, the Stanford Social Innovation Review and NBC Nightly News. He is an Echoing Green Fellow and was named to Forbes' 30 under 30 list for Social Entrepreneurs and the Cincinnati Business Courier's 2018 40 under 40 list.



Haley Burns
Founder and Executive Director, Fund 17 New Orleans

Haley Burns leads Fund 17, a nonprofit transforming hustles into sustainable livelihoods. Since founding the organization in 2012, Haley has led multiple community research projects and designed a variety of programs all focused on empowering informal entrepreneurship in the 17 wards of New Orleans.



Chase Cantrell
Executive Director, Building Community Value Detroit, MI

Chase L. Cantrell is the executive director and founder of Building Community Value, a Detroit-based nonprofit dedicated to implementing and facilitating real estate development projects in underserved Detroit neighborhoods. In collaboration with academic and community partners, Building Community Value serves as a catalyst for sustainable social and economic development that engages distressed communities in creating impactful, resident-led change.



Calli Cenizal
West Coast Transportation Policy Manager, Lyft San Francisco, CA

Calli Cenizal is an advocate for sustainable mobility and equitable urban development. With seven years of experience in multimodal planning and transportation policy development, she currently works as the West Coast transportation policy manager for

Lyft. Previously, she worked for Nelson\Nygaard, helping cities and agencies advance creative transportation solutions.



Kelvin Cheung
CEO, Good Lab Hong Kong

Kelvin Cheung studied international development, started a charity FoodCycle in the UK that is in 34 cities, ran a social enterprise incubator and now is CEO of Good Lab, a service innovation training and project consultancy. After years in development, he sees integrated change with government as essential for our future.



Shani Christopher
National Director of Sales and Operations, EcoLogic Solutions Elmwood, LA

Shani Christopher serves as the director of sales and operations at EcoLogic Solutions, a green cleaning products manufacturer. She recently launched RePurpose Food Co., using rescued produce to create healthy, affordable baby food in New Orleans. Shani holds a B.S. in biological engineering and is passionate about sustainable, equitable development.



Jessica Ciel
Filmmaker Sacramento, CA

Jessa is an artist and filmmaker based in Sacramento. Ciel's recent projects include directing the short film Like Home, and working on the Oscar-nominated film Lady Bird. Ciel holds an MFA in photography from Cranbrook Academy of Art, and a B.A. in film from CSU Los Angeles.



Joseph Colón
City Planner, City of New Orleans

Joseph Colón is a native Angelino who attended Tulane University. At the Tulane

School of Architecture, through leadership on campus and studying abroad in Barcelona, Joseph developed a love for urban design and community engagement. After graduating, he was hired at the New Orleans City Planning Commission — after meeting his then-future boss at a community forum.



Ujiji Davis
Site Designer, SmithGroupJJR Detroit, MI

Ujiji Davis, Brooklyn born, is a landscape architect and urban planner currently

living in Detroit. There she focuses on landscape and urban design, master planning and strategic implementation projects. Her current research regards the importance of arts and culture, race, and vernacular landscapes in the urban realm.



Chase Fisher
Project Analyst, Gulf Coast Housing Partnership Montgomery, AL

Chase Fisher works on affordable housing, community development and creative placemaking projects in Montgomery, Alabama. He is an entrepreneur and problem solver who develops and utilizes innovative financing strategies for low-income community revitalization. Chase is on ULI's National Creative Placemaking working group and leads an ArtPlace America grantee organization.



Michael Ford
Owner/Design Director, Brandnu Design Madison, WI

Michael Ford, known as The Hip Hop Architect, explores architecture and

urban planning through the lens of hip hop culture. Ford is the design director at BrandNu Design and his work has been featured in a variety of places including The TODAY Show, Rolling Stone and ESPN's The Undeclared.



Rachel Frierson
Programs and Community Outreach Manager, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy Detroit, MI

Rachel Frierson is

the director of programming for the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy, the nonprofit organization responsible for developing the Detroit RiverWalk and the Dequindre Cut. Rachel oversees and implements the diverse program offerings that activate the Detroit Riverfront to create a world-class gathering space for 3 million visitors annually.



Kristen Gordon
Economic Development Deputy, Office of Los Angeles City Council Member Marqueece Harris-Dawson Los Angeles, CA

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Kristen Gordon is an urban planner committed to equitable development. She serves as an economic development deputy for L.A. City Council Member Marqueece Harris-Dawson. Gordon holds a B.A. in urban studies from UC Irvine and a Certificate in Real Estate from USC Ross.



Gia Hamilton
Director, Joan Mitchell Center New Orleans, LA

Gia M. Hamilton is known for her visionary ability to identify and cultivate

support systems. A cultural steward, design thinker and applied anthropologist, Hamilton has spent the last two decades straddling the nonprofit world and corporate America, leveraging her expertise in resource-based economic strategy to move forward new models in capacity building and fundraising.



Darrell Hawks
Executive Director, Friends of Mill Ridge Park Nashville, TN

Dareell is the Executive Director of the Friends of Mill

Ridge Park, an organization dedicated to enhancing and preserving outdoor space in Southeast Nashville for the health, recreation and cultural enrichment of the community. He puts his business background to work developing and leading innovative programs and social enterprises that serve and empower others.



Benjamin Helphand
Executive Director, NeighborSpace Chicago, IL

Ben Helphand is the executive director of NeighborSpace, a

nonprofit land trust in Chicago that holds space for community stewarded gardens. He is also one of the originators of the Bloomingdale Trail, a former rail embankment transformed into an elevated park. Originally from Oregon, he holds a

degree in the history of religion from the University of Chicago.



Jasmine Humphries
Community Engagement Specialist, Community Police Partnering Center Cincinnati, OH

Jasmine C. Hum-

phries is a holistic community development specialist helping build communities from the inside-out and outside-in. Her work ranges from teaching yoga, to youth leadership development, to urban planning advocacy and education. She is the founder of Voices In the Built Environment (ViBE), Heal 'n Build, and the Cincinnati chapter of Red Bike & Green.



Steven Jackson
Community Development Director, David Raines Community Health Centers Elected Official, Caddo Parish Commission Shreveport, LA

Steven Jackson is a local elected official in Caddo Parish, Louisiana. He is most passionate about creating sustainable policies that improve the socioeconomic plight of working and low-income individuals. Jackson is a community health coordinator at David Raines Community Health Centers where he focuses on connecting uninsured and underserved populations to affordable primary care services. Most recently, Jackson announced his bid to be mayor of his hometown Shreveport, Louisiana.



Grace Kyung
*Special Projects
Director, Trailnet
St. Louis, MO*

Grace Kyung is the special projects director at Trailnet, an active living advocacy organization. She is passionate about developing and supporting community-based partnerships that work to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in transportation. She is planning an interconnected multimodal network to connect minority neighborhoods to key St. Louis civic and community assets.



Jennifer Litwak
*Executive Director,
Housing on Merit
San Diego, CA*

At the helm of Housing on Merit, Litwak has successfully managed the closing of over \$283 million in multifamily acquisitions and overseen the preservation and renovation of over 2,150 units of affordable housing in California and Washington, D.C. In 2017, Litwak was profiled by the Daily Transcript's Influential Women Report as one of the most influential women in San Diego County. In 2016, Litwak was chosen as one of the Top 100 Business Professionals in San Diego and in 2015 she was recognized as one of Real Estate Forum's 50 Under 40 in the commercial real estate industry. She has a B.A. from Wake Forest University, a J.D. from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, and is pursuing an Executive Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership from John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.



Bridget MacIntosh
*Consultant/Vice
President,
Festivals & Events
Ontario
Hamilton, Ontario*

An award-winning arts manager, Bridget MacIntosh's work blends her love of culture and cities together. She is the former event manager for the city of Hamilton, past producer of the Toronto Fringe Festival and was recognized as a Top 40 Under 40 Hamilton Business Leader. She currently serves as the vice-president of Festivals & Events Ontario and continues to work on major city-building events such as Nuit Blanche (Toronto).



Kim McKnight
*Environmental
Conservation
Program Manager,
City of Austin Parks
and Recreation
Department
Austin, TX*

Kim McKnight is an environmental conservation program manager for Austin's Parks and Recreation Department. Her work includes historic preservation planning and cultural resource management. Her current projects include the Seaholm Waterfront Redevelopment and the historic Brush Square Master Plan, and her past work includes award-winning master plans for Austin's municipal cemeteries and Pease Park.



Kristen Michaels
*Executive Director,
CONNECT-University
of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA*

Kristen Michaels is the executive director of the Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT) which brings together the city of Pittsburgh and 43 surrounding communities to collaboratively address common policy issues. She's the co-founder of For Good PGH, which works to promote tolerance and inclusion and support underserved populations, and Free Store Wilksburg, which serves neighbors in need.



Alexandra Mills
*Port Covington
Development Team
Baltimore, MD*

Alexandra Mills is a proud former public school educator passionate about uplifting low-income communities of color. She is committed to serving the extraordinary city of Baltimore and works in partnership with schools and leaders across nonprofit and business to develop and implement initiatives that promote purposeful community and economic development.



Bethany Miller
*Program Officer-
Education Program,
The Kresge
Foundation
Detroit, MI*

Bethany Miller is a program officer for The Kresge Foundation's Education Program which aims to increase college attainment in cities. Previously, she led evaluation at the Helios Education Foundation and held positions with MDRC and

The American Council on Education. She has an MPA from Princeton University and a B.A. from Smith College.



Sarina Mohan
*Director of Educa-
tion and Outreach,
Preservation Re-
source Center of New
Orleans
New Orleans, LA*

Sarina Mohan is the director of Education and Outreach at the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans. She earned a master's city and regional planning degree with a focus on community development from Rutgers University and has been working in the field of historic preservation for over a decade.



Rasheedah Phillips
*Managing Attorney,
Community Legal
Services of
Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA*

Rasheedah Phillips, Esq. is managing attorney of the Housing Unit at Community Legal Services of Philadelphia. A recipient of the 2017 NHLP Housing Justice Award and 2017 City & State PA 40 under 40 Rising Star award, Rasheedah is also the co-creator of The AfroFuturist Affair and Community Futures Lab projects.



Omayra Rivera Crespo
*Community Designer
Architecture Profes-
sor, Polytechnic
University
San Juan, Puerto Rico*

Omayra Rivera Crespo studied architecture in Puerto Rico and the U.S. but obtained her Ph.D

in Barcelona. She's the author of a book about participatory processes in the design and construction of collective housing, and works with participatory design and placemaking with the collective "Taller Creando Sin Encargos," students of architecture and communities in Puerto Rico.



Sandra Rothbard
*Freight Lead,
Sidewalk Labs*

Sandra Rothbard is a freight transportation planner and advocate. Having spent the last decade

working for governmental agencies on solid waste management, emergency logistics, and goods movement policies and project implementation, she now supports organizations as an independent consultant. Sandra earned a master's in urban planning, reinforcing her passion for urban sustainability, resiliency and community involvement.



Mansi Sahu
*Partner, StudioPOD
Design LLP
Mumbai, India*

Mansi Sahu is the co-founder of StudioPOD, a multidisciplinary firm in Mumbai, specialized in city planning and urban design, that blends people-oriented design principles in creating community master plans, transportation planning studies, urban landscapes and sustainable architecture. Mansi's strength lies in working collaboratively with local communities, city governments and stakeholders to create innovative planning strategies for complex urban issues.



Daphany Sanchez
*Executive Director,
Kinetic Communities
Consulting
Brooklyn, NY*

Daphany Rose Sanchez is a New York native, who has been

passionately working as an energy equity advocate for almost ten years. Daphany founded Kinetic Communities in 2017. Kinetic Communities is a New York social enterprise Benefit Corporation which advocates and implements strategic energy equity market transformations for diverse New York communities. By working with energy and affordable housing industry partners, Daphany connects, educates and simplifies energy efficiency opportunities for under-served New Yorkers.



Anton Seals
*Co-Founder & Lead
Steward, Grow
Greater Englewood
Chicago, IL*

L. Anton Seals Jr., a South Shore Chicago native, is a

strong cultural voice of his generation, organizer, educator, community connector, filmmaker and entrepreneur. Anton's work is dedicated to service and active engagement through the use of media arts, community organizing and empowerment to dismantle oppressive system impacting divested and oppressed communities. Anton is co-founder and lead steward (executive director) of Grow Greater Englewood, a social enterprise focusing on building an equitable and resilient local food system that fosters protections of vacant land in divested communities and focuses on connecting those residents with collective community wealth-building opportunities.



Rutledge Simmons
*Acting Executive Vice
President, General
Counsel and Secretary,
NeighborWorks
America
Fairfax, VA*

Rutledge Simmons is acting executive vice president, general counsel/secretary of NeighborWorks America, a national nonprofit providing technical and financial assistance to a network of community development organizations. He has served as chair of an ABA Committee on Community Economic Development, a member of the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, and on the boards of nonprofits combating homelessness. He is interested in new ways to foster comprehensive community development via social enterprises and public-private partnerships. He is a graduate of Harvard University and Columbia Law School.



Peter Svarzbein
*City Councilor,
City of El Paso
El Paso, TX*

Peter Svarzbein is a photographer, curator and disruptive media specialist. A graduate of the renowned Eddie Adams Photojournalism Workshop, Svarzbein earned his MFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York. At SVA, Svarzbein created the El Paso Transnational Trolley Project. This self-created activist/artist project is the impetus for Svarzbein's current public service. His work with community leaders resulted in TXDOT committing \$97 million to construct a intra city trolley route and refurbish the original streetcars that ran between El Paso and Juarez.



Ebrahim Varachia
*President &
Co-Founder,
Patronicity
Detroit, MI*
Ebrahim Varachia is the president and co-founder

of Patronicity. Based out of Detroit, he recognized a city filled with people passionate about growth, empowerment and change. He believes the cornerstone between a great idea and it coming to life is often times the funding, and started Patronicity as a civic crowdfunding platform to inspire growth and change through cities and towns, both urban and rural across Michigan and the country. Growing Patronicity to be more than just a civic crowdfunding platform, he has led Patronicity to change the way grants are administered and how communities come together to envision, build and create more sustainable and impactful projects meaningful to them. Being an entrepreneur coupled with his passion for sustainable community development, he enjoys learning of great new initiatives happening around the country started by other entrepreneurs, innovators, artists and activists.



Libby Wann
*Program Assistant-
Inclusive Economies
Future of Work team,
The Ford Foundation.
Brooklyn, NY*

Libby Wann is a member of the Future of Work team at the Ford Foundation. She is particularly interested in issues surrounding economic justice, food justice and regional food systems. Prior to Ford, Libby worked at the Global Volunteer Network in New Zealand. Libby holds a master's in public policy and a bachelor's in cultural anthropology and art.



Adrien Weibgen
*Staff Attorney,
 Community
 Development Project
 New York, NY*

Adrien A. Weibgen is a co-founder of and staff attorney in the Equitable Neighborhoods practice of the Community Development Project. CDP partners with directly impacted residents organizing to support the self-determination and thriving of low-income New Yorkers. Adrien previously worked at the ACLU Racial Justice Program and Race Forward.




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Daniel Winston
*Vice President-
 Business Develop-
 ment, Sfara, Inc
 Washington, D.C.*

Dan Winston is an entrepreneur and civic leader with a passion for transportation. He's helped launch transit systems, co-founded a ride-sharing startup, and currently leads business development for a tech start-up making driving safer. When he's not working, Dan's a candidate for commissioner in his D.C. neighborhood.




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Flynn Zaiger
*CEO, Online
 Optimism
 New Orleans, LA*

Flynn Zaiger is the founder and CEO of Online Optimism, a digital marketing agency in New Orleans. Their team of 12 (nine employees and three paid interns) is all millennials. Flynn supports the entrepreneurial scene in the city, speaking about advertising, analytics and the hectic life of managing a startup.

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Vanguard Alumni



Lena P. Afridi
*Director of
Economic Development at ANHD
New York, NY*

Lena P. Afridi is the director of economic development at the Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development. Lena has extensive experience merging data, policy and grassroots organizing. Lena integrates quantitative research, geographic analysis and coalition-based campaign planning to inform ANHD's goal of economic justice in New York City.



Paola Aguirre
*Bordless Studio |
Workshop
Chicago, IL*

Paola Aguirre is an architectural and urban designer, educator and the founder of Borderless Studio, a Chicago-based collaborative and interdisciplinary design consultancy. Her professional experience includes working with government, universities and architecture/urban design offices in Mexico and the United States. Paola's transnational background and strong collaborative approach focuses her research and design practice on inter-disciplinary exchange, urban systems integration and participatory processes.



Ashley Atkinson
*The Office of Los Angeles Mayor
Eric Garcetti
Los Angeles, CA*

Ashley Atkinson is a planner with an economic develop-

ment focus and more than a decade of experience in Los Angeles-area municipal agencies. As planning performance manager in the Los Angeles Department of City Planning, she is working to develop metrics for planning and recommend policy and process changes based on data analysis. She is also serving as director of the American Planning Association's Los Angeles section for 2016-2019.



Demelza Baer
*The New Jersey
Institute of
Social Justice
Newark, NJ*

Demelza Baer is a policy counsel for the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, where she directs the Economic Mobility Initiative. She previously worked as a policy counsel for the Washington Legislative Office of the American Civil Liberties Union, and as an assistant counsel for the U.S. House Judiciary Committee.



Westley Bayas III
*The Urban League of
Greater New Orleans
New Orleans, LA*

Westley Bayas III is the principal owner of Magnolia Strategies, a mission-driven public affairs and policy consulting firm. Bayas currently works with the city of New Orleans and the Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana on a variety of endeavors. A New Orleans native, Bayas is involved in numerous local organizations and boards.



Imron Bhatti
*U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban
Development
Oakland, CA*

Imron Bhatti is the Presidential Management fellow at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. His career has focused on how urban planning can ameliorate or exacerbate inequities in access to opportunity.



Brandy Bones
*ICF
Philadelphia, PA*

Brandy Bones is a senior manager at ICF where she works with communities across the country to plan, design and implement disaster recovery, affordable housing, and neighborhood revitalization programs focusing on low-income and vulnerable populations. She is a Democratic committee person, board treasurer of her civic association in South Philadelphia and heads up street cleaning services for her neighborhood. She is a certified planner, has a B.A. from Colgate University and earned an MBA from the University of Florida in 2015.



Tre Borden
*Principal,
Tre Borden / Co.
Sacramento, CA*

Tre Borden is Principal of the place-making and creative consultancy Tre Borden / Co. His team curates events, public art projects, community-based programming and space activations with an eye towards equity and engagement.



Will Bradshaw
*Green Coast
Enterprises
New Orleans, LA*

Will Bradshaw is the co-founder and president of Green Coast Enterprises. He also teaches real estate development at the Tulane University School of Architecture. He lives in New Orleans with his wife, Rebekah, and their two children.



Daniel Brook
*Author
New Orleans, LA*

Daniel Brook is a journalist and author who writes about architecture and urbanism. His latest, "A History of Future Cities," was published by W. W. Norton in 2013. He has also written for publications including The New York Times Magazine, The Nation, Harper's, Slate, Metropolis and Next City.



Howard Conyers
*NASA Stennis
Space Center
New Orleans, LA*

Howard Conyers works to increase minority participation in STEM education, historic home ownership and preservation, and southern food history preservation. These activities are a dichotomy from his career as an engineer with NASA. Howard holds a B.S. in bio-environmental engineering and an M.S./Ph.D in mechanical engineering.



Ennis Davis
*Modern Cities
 Jacksonville, FL*
 Ennis Davis is a community activist focused on facilitating urban revitalization through social engagement and placemaking. In addition, Ennis is the chair of APA Florida's First Coast Section, a mayoral appointee to the board of the Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Commission and co-founder of tactical urbanist group, TransformJax. Ennis holds a bachelor's in architecture from Florida A&M University and is a senior transportation planner with Alfred Benesch & Company.



Naomi Doerner
*Seattle Department
 of Transportation
 Seattle, WA*
 Naomi Doerner is a racial justice advocate, coalition builder and transportation planner. In 2017, she joined the City of Seattle's Department of Transportation as the transportation equity program manager. At SDOT, she provides strategic advisement and transportation equity expertise on mobility pilots, programs, projects, policies and planning efforts. Over the last 10 years, Naomi has held numerous leadership roles, including being principal and co-founder of Seneca Planning, a transportation equity consultancy. She earned her M.U.P. from NYU, serves on the advisory boards of ioby, PlayBuild New Orleans and the Vision Zero Network, and co-organizes with The Untokening, a mobility justice leadership of color development network she and colleagues co-founded. Naomi lives and works in Seattle.



Kia Ervin Williams
*Director of Strategic
 Partnerships,
 Education Opens
 Doors
 Dallas, TX*
 Kia Ervin is a branding expert

with nearly 15 years of experience. She specializes in developing unique opportunities for industry leaders in a myriad of professions. Her work expands their brand by developing strategic partnerships and increasing their philanthropic engagement. Currently she is the executive director of Accelerate Delaware where she is responsible for retaining millennials in the state through social and professional engagement strategies.



Alex Feldman
*U3 Advisors
 Philadelphia, PA*
 Alex Feldman is a vice president at U3 Advisors, a nationally recognized consulting practice that

specializes in real estate and economic development strategies around anchor institutions. Since joining U3 in 2009, Alex has served as a project manager for the firm's Midtown Detroit anchor strategy where he helped lead the design and implementation of the \$5 million Live Midtown employee housing incentive program, and the formation of the community development organization Midtown Detroit, Inc.



Michael Freedman-Schnapp
*Forsyth Street
 Brooklyn, NY*
 Michael Freedman-Schnapp works for Forsyth Street Advisors, an advisory

and asset management firm focused on affordable housing, real estate and municipal/impact investment. He leads the firm's clean energy advisory practice and is advising the city of Baltimore on launching a neighborhood-focused public-private impact investment fund. He is an adjunct professor at both the Pratt Institute's Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment and the NYU Wagner School of Public Policy. Michael was previously director of the Policy and Innovation Division and director of Policy of the Office of Council Member Brad Lander, both at the New York City Council. He received his B.A. in archaeology from the University of Virginia and M.U.P. from NYU Wagner.



Cristina Garmendia
*City of St. Louis
 St. Louis, MO*
 Cristina Garmendia currently serves as the Equity Indicators project manager for the city of St.

Louis. She has degrees in architecture from Washington University and public policy from Harvard, where she founded the Harvard Journal of Real Estate. She co-founded Tolemi (formerly OpportunitySpace), a government technology company.



Cristina Garza
*Mission Economic
 Development
 Corporation
 Mission, TX*
 Cristina Garza, as program director of the Mission Economic

Development Corporation, curates and leads all STEAM and entrepreneurship initiatives for the city of Mission, Texas, which is located along US/Mexico border. Cristina is committed to fostering community and economic development through technology and art.



Taz George
*Federal Reserve
 Bank of Chicago
 Chicago, IL*

Taz George is committed to developing public policies that support sustainable access to credit in underserved communities, especially for affordable housing. A native of Baltimore, he recently joined the Community Development and Policy Studies division of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago as a research analyst.



Gabrielle Horton
*Crooked Media
 Los Angeles, CA*

Gabrielle Horton is passionate about expanding how we talk about people, politics and place — and how we leverage that power into equitable policymaking. An Inglewood, California, native, she recently joined Crooked Media, the media company behind the most popular political podcast, "Pod Save America." Gabrielle is a graduate of Spelman College and the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan.



Lou Huang
Streetmix
Brooklyn, NY

Lou Huang is an urban designer, open source software developer, user interface engineer, recovering architect and professional internet trickster. He is the founder and CEO of Streetmix, a collaborative platform where urban planners and community members design streets and public space together.



Allison Joe
California Strategic Growth Council
Sacramento, CA

Allison S. Joe, AICP is the chief of staff for Sacramento City Council Member Jay Schenirer, ground zero for implementation of policy efforts related to inclusive economic development, affordable housing, climate change and sustainable transportation. She previously served as deputy director of the CA Strategic Growth Council — a multidisciplinary state agency charged with dot connecting, cat herding, and providing local technical assistance around climate policy and land use.



Allie Kast
Keep Indianapolis Beautiful
Indianapolis, IN

Allie Kast serves as a community engagement program coordinator at Keep Indianapolis Beautiful where she works with neighborhoods and communities across the city to help people and nature thrive. She works to ensure that community needs are being heard and met, while creating a greener and more sustainable city. Her work experience is in local and

state government, policy analysis, nonprofits and strategic planning.



Bryan Lee
Colloqate Design
New Orleans, LA

Bryan Lee is a designer, a design-justice advocate and the founder and director of Colloqate Design, a nonprofit multidisciplinary design practice. As the founding organizer of the Design Justice Platform, he organized the Design As Protest National Day of Action. Lee led two award-winning architecture and design programs for high school students through the Arts Council of New Orleans (local) and the National Organization of Minority Architects (national), respectively. He's also a member of the National AIA Equity + the Future of Architecture board committee, and was the 2013 AIA Diversity Recognition Award recipient, the 2014 NOMA member of the year, a 2015 Next City Vanguard Fellow, a 2015 International British American Project fellow, a 2016 TED speaker, a SXSW Eco keynote speaker, a 40 under 40 National Trust award winner, and one of the Fast Company's Most Creative People in Business in 2018.



Adrian Lipscombe
Urbanlocity
LaCrosse, WI

Adrian Lipscombe is currently getting her Ph.D. at the Community and Regional Planning program at the University of Texas at Austin, concentrating her studies on attitude and behavior of minorities towards transportation and land use. She has her Masters in Architecture and is the principal of Urbanlocity Design firm. She resides in La Crosse, Wisconsin, while finishing her dissertation.



James Llamas
Traffic Engineers, Inc.
Houston, TX

James Llamas is a transportation planner and engineer (PE) at Traffic Engineers, Inc. (TEI) in Houston where he works primarily on the firm's transit, street, sidewalk, and bike planning and engineering projects. James also serves on the boards of directors of Houston Bike Share and the Midtown Management District.



Nolan Marshall
Downtown Development District of New Orleans
New Orleans, LA

Nolan Marshall has led two for-profit companies: Good Citizen, a consulting firm specializing in political, outreach and engagement campaigns, and NAM-IT, a promotional and printable products company. Nolan works to strengthen the DDD's relationships with downtown stakeholders and other governmental and economic development agencies.



Josh McManus
Detroit, MI

Josh McManus is fascinated with and driven by problem-solving for places, people and purpose. Josh assists corporations, foundations and large nonprofits in reimagining post-industrial American cities. He is a constant advocate for using design processes to advance social, cultural and economic progress. Josh's current work focuses on the revitalization and entrepreneurial development of Detroit and other post-industrial cities.



Lynnette McRae
Metropolitan Planning Council
Chicago, IL

Lynnette McRae is a community development practitioner with experience supporting local efforts at comprehensive community revitalization across the country. At the Metropolitan Planning Council, her work centers around the regional intersections of housing, community development, transit-oriented development and equity. She has previously led federal implementation efforts around the White House Promise Zones and Strong Cities, Strong Communities initiatives. She has received degrees from Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Michigan, and is passionate about empowering youth and traveling.



Sara Mokuria
UT Dallas Institute for Urban Research Policy
Dallas, TX

Sara Mokuria is a senior research associate with The Institute for Urban Policy Research at the University of Texas at Dallas, where she brings high-level experience in project management, program design and community engagement, combined with lifelong passions for justice, equity, and arts and culture. Sara is a co-founder of Mothers Against Police Brutality. She is a sought-after educator, community organizer, project manager and facilitator. Mokuria is a Dallas native and is committed to helping her city become a beacon of racial and economic justice. She holds a Bachelor's degree from New School University and two Master's degrees from Simmons College. She has

worked as a local coordinator for the Race Forward: Facing Race Conference and Alternate ROOTS: ROOT Weekend, project manager for Trans.lation Vickery Meadow, board member at The Dallas Peace Center, and co-creator of Young Leaders, Strong City. Mokuria has taught both high school and college at the University of Texas at Dallas. Currently, she serves on the International Mechanism Coordinating Committee for the U.S. Human Rights Network.



David Thomas Moran
Geosocial Photographer & Urban, Mobile Game Designer
Orlando, FL

David Thomas Moran is a co-founder of Omnimodal, an Orlando-based Mobility as a Service (MaaS) tech company and social enterprise. He is also a doctoral student in the Texts & Technology Ph.D. program at the University of Central Florida with a research specialization in infrastructure citizenship and mobility app UX/UI.



Jenga Mwendo
Crescent City Community Land Trust
New Orleans, LA

Jenga Mwendo serves as deputy director of Crescent City Community Land Trust, securing permanently affordable housing and commercial development in New Orleans. She is also the founder of Backyard Gardeners Network and has worked since 2007 to strengthen the Lower Ninth Ward and the larger Black community of New Orleans.



Paul-David Perry
COLAGE
Nationwide

Paul is the co-founder & CEO of Diaspora Collective, a next-generation collective of leaders and entrepreneurs transforming the social sector. His focus at Diaspora Collective is building capacity and driving capital for leaders and organizations among the new American majority led by women and people of color. Paul has served as a teacher, school leader, nonprofit executive, and social-impact strategist. He is most recently a graduate of Harvard University's doctoral program in Education Leadership (EdLD).



Andrew Rodriguez
City of Walnut
Walnut, CA

Andrew Rodriguez is serving as a city councilman in his hometown of Walnut, California. Elected at 23 years old, he is currently one of the youngest elected municipal officials serving in California. A land use planner by profession, Andrew considers himself a new urbanist, and is a leader on sustainable land use policies in Southern California. He is an alumnus of Rutgers University and is currently a Master of Real Estate Development candidate at the University of Southern California.



Kirk Rose
Anchorage Community Land Trust
Anchorage, AK

Kirk Rose is the CEO of the Anchorage Community Land Trust (ACLT) in Anchorage, Alaska. Under his leadership, ACLT was named the

National Development Council's "most Innovative community development project" in the United States. His family resides in Anchorage, but are equally at home exploring Alaska's wild places.



John Joe Schlichtman
DePaul University
Chicago, IL

Dr. John Joe Schlichtman is an urban sociologist who is motivated by the potential of equitable, just and productive community development. His research has focused on understanding the dynamics of macro-level processes such as globalization and gentrification: how stakeholders resist or exploit them, the decisions residents make in navigating them, and their influence on the urban landscape. In the book "Gentrifier" (2017) with Jason Patch and Marc Lamont Hill, Schlichtman works to develop a more nuanced and productive theorization of gentrification that can directly inform action and policy. He is also developing a global ethnography for the Globalization and Community Series at University of Minnesota Press.



Tara Mei Smith
Extra Terrestrial Projects, Inc
New York, NY

Tara Mei Smith is the co-founder and executive director of Extra Terrestrial Projects, a nonprofit dedicated to connecting city dwellers with environmental stewardship, place and wildlands through culture and play. Extra Terrestrial Projects equally weighs social equity, environmental stewardship and economic growth. She is currently working on the equitable development

of green infrastructure in Durham, North Carolina.



Boris Suchkov
MTA New York City Transit
New York, NY

Boris Suchkov, AICP is a project manager in the Operations Planning Division of MTA New York City Transit. He considers it his mission to use any opportunity to improve employee collaboration, break down functional silos, and increase access to performance analytics for better internal decision-making at the agency. Currently, Boris is managing one of the initiatives of the Fast Forward corporate plan, which promises a top to bottom renewal of the New York City subway operational structure. He has been a board member of Young Professionals in Transportation NYC and a longtime bicycle/pedestrian safety advocate.



Anjali Taneja
Casa de Salud
Albuquerque, NM

Anjali Taneja is a family physician and DJ who is passionate about community based healing and re-imagining healthcare. She is the Executive Director of Casa de Salud — a culturally humble, anti-racist clinic providing in accessible integrative healthcare, and engaging in advocacy and community organizing in Albuquerque, NM. She also works as an ER doctor at a rural hospital in Navajo Nation. She founded CureThis — an online platform for healing justice discussions, was a founding board member of the National Physicians Alliance, and is currently an RWJF Clinical Scholar.



Stephanie Thomas
TruFund Financial Services, Inc
New York, NY
 Stephanie works to expand community development lending opportunities for small businesses, MWDBEs, and nonprofit organizations for TruFund Financial Services, Inc. She plays a key role in managing strategic relationships with various community stakeholders, municipal partners and elected officials to support financial empowerment and inclusion, capital access, and community development efforts.



Stratton Tingle
SoundCorps
Chattanooga, TN
 Stratton Tingle is executive director of SoundCorps, a nonprofit focused on building the music economy of Chattanooga, Tennessee, through initiatives that help local music industry professionals start businesses, expand existing music industry infrastructure and recruit new business to town. Tingle is also a musician who performs with many music projects.



Jay Wall
RallyRally
Toronto, ON
 Jay is a designer dedicated to city-building and social change. As the principal and creative director of RallyRally, he has led the design of brand identities, websites, publications and campaigns for issues ranging from equitable urban planning to climate action. Jay is a tactical urbanist, an advocate of participatory city planning, and has been

recognized by Spacing magazine as one of Canada's top public space champions.



Marlon Williams
Living Cities
Brooklyn, NY
 Marlon Williams joined Living Cities in February 2017 as the assistant director of public sector innovation working on the Integration Initiative and other special projects. Marlon's career has focused on improving the economic, social and physical wellbeing of all urban residents with particular emphasis on increasing access and opportunity for low-income families and communities of color. He specializes in the leadership of multi-agency and multi-sectoral initiatives that require the coordination and mobilization of numerous stakeholders towards achieving progress on initiatives that cannot be achieved by any one entity working in isolation.



Cali Williams
NYC Economic Development Corporation
Brooklyn, NY
 Cali Williams is an urban planner and economic development specialist with experience leading the implementation of complex multi-million dollar infrastructure projects, building consensus and convening diverse stakeholders. She is the director of Sunnyside Yard and senior vice president at the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), a new role created to coordinate the city's efforts around creating a vision for the 180-acre rail yards.



Lilith Winkler-Schor
Roots of Renewal
New Orleans, LA
 Lilith is a co-founder of Roots of Renewal, a neighborhood development nonprofit that provides construction work training for formerly incarcerated young adults. Born in Munich, Germany, raised in Seattle, and currently living in New Orleans, Lilith has a deep interest in cities. She is trained in social policy and studio art and her research focuses on public housing, incarceration and poverty.

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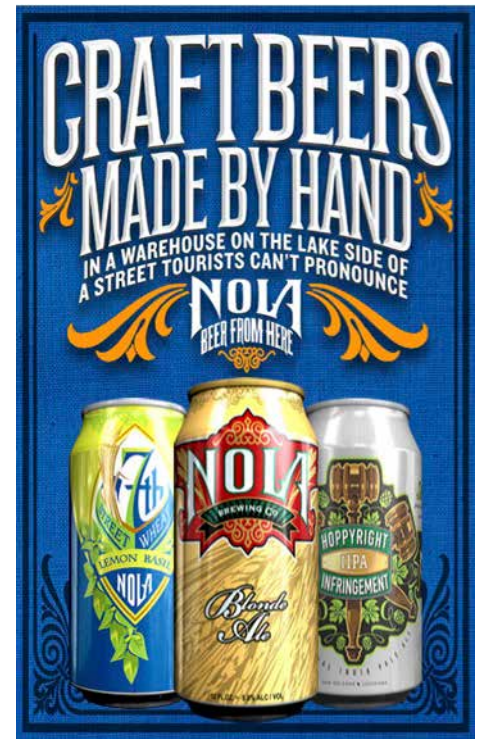
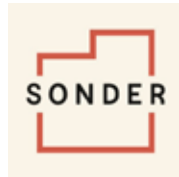
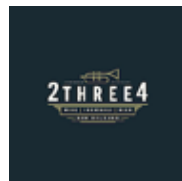
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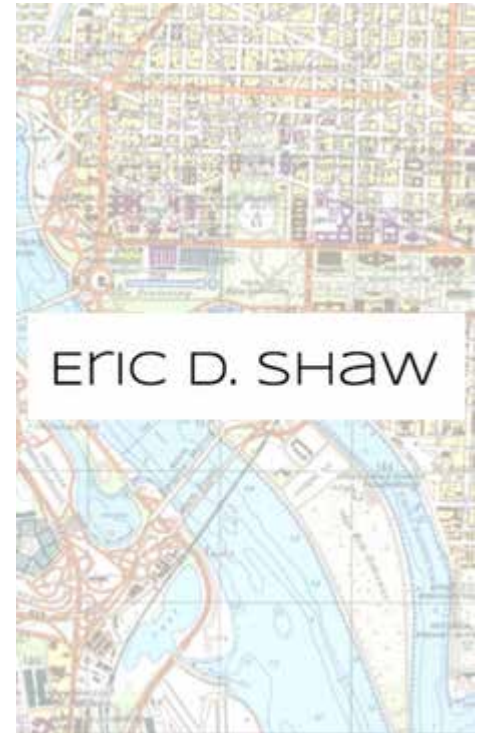
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60 SIDEWALK CAFES

23 MUSEUMS & ART GALLERIES

10 MAJOR INDUSTRIES

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