



MANGUARD

HOUSTON 2016

NEXT
CITY

Important Info

Staff Contact Info

Sara Schuenemann
267.770.6870

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609.647.1538

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269.547.8993

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281.832.1379

Getting Around

Hotel town car: for downtown use
Zipcar: for quick errands
Uber: for late-night rides back to the hotel

Airport Shuttle

Super Shuttle
\$2 discount to IAH and HOU
<http://groups.supershuttle.com/nextcityvanguardconference.html>

Accommodations

Magnolia Hotel Houston
1100 Texas Ave,
Houston, TX 77002

Local Amenities

Phoenicia Specialty Foods
1001 Austin Street
Houston, TX 77010

24 Hour CVS
402 Gray St
Houston, TX 77002

Hotel Emergency

713.221.0011

Lost & Found

lostinhouston@magnoliahotels.com

Social Buzz

#VanguardHTX
Inspire a national conversation and make
sure your ideas are heard by using the
hashtag #VanguardHTX.

From The Mayor of Houston

Dear Next City Vanguards:

Welcome to Houston!

We are delighted to have such a talented, committed and innovative group of thinkers and doers here for the Vanguard conference. We know Houstonians have much to learn from each of you, and we hope that in your time here, our city and our people provide you with valuable experiences to take back to your own communities. We eagerly anticipate seeing what your exchange of ideas produces this year.

Our city is in the midst of unprecedented growth. Over the next 30 years, our region's population is expected to grow to 10 million people. That expansion gives Houston unparalleled opportunities as it seeks to capitalize on its position as a thriving city, but it also presents us with many challenges.

We're already taking steps to manage – and take advantage of – that growth. In 2015, our transit system began service on two new light rail lines, and it completely reconfigured its bus routes to ensure they better serve riders. We recently opened our first protected bike lane, and our parks system is undergoing a major transformation. In the past year, we passed Houston's first General Plan and updated the Arts and Cultural Plan. Houston is undergoing a major urban renaissance and honing in on the best ways to direct its next steps.

Despite these milestones, hurdles remain. The recent Kinder Houston Area Survey revealed that 65 percent of area residents believe traffic is getting worse. The city also faces the task of ensuring that all residents benefit from our economic success. Figuring out how to accommodate our growth so it serves as an asset rather than a liability will be a critical question that Houston's leaders must answer in the coming years.

Houston is known for its opportunity and diversity. We hope that you have a chance to experience a slice of each during your time in the city. We have a thriving arts scene, world-class restaurants and a large museum district. I encourage you to make the most of your visit.

The task of improving and strengthening our cities is certainly one that will take all of our efforts. I applaud you for the work you've already done in your hometowns, and I look forward to seeing the results of this year's conference.

Enjoy Houston!

Sincerely,



Sylvester Turner
Mayor





Welcome, 2016 Vanguards

Y'all ready for a life-changing experience? Over the next four days, you will meet amazing people, see incredible sites, share personal experiences and build friendships that will last a lifetime. Today, you join a growing community of urban leaders from across the Americas who have decided to be the change they seek. Take the time to get to know each other well, and do well, by continuing these collaborations beyond the boundaries of Houston.

Next City is proud to convene Vanguard 2016 in cooperation with the Kinder Institute at Rice University and a host committee that's a "who's who" of Houston. Speakers, activities and events will inspire and motivate you to take on projects in your city that will make a measureable difference. This

year, Vanguard focuses on equitable growth, and brings in Robert Bullard, the father of environmental justice, to issue a clarion call for more engagement.

In a city that is both sprawling and densifying, you and other Vanguards will experience first-hand the changes cities around the world are facing, including addressing affordable housing and health care, pressures on infrastructure, a growing desire for more arts and culture, and the potential conflicts between new development and historic preservation. Walking tours, panel discussions featuring current and alumni Vanguards, and a NEW “embedded program” that will heighten senses as well as build networks of progress await you.

At Next City, we always strive to ensure that our conversations lead to impact. With that in mind, Vanguard 2016 will culminate in Houston’s first Big Idea Challenge. This is the chance for you, the best and brightest urban thinkers, to prototype a design intervention that, when successful, will be replicated elsewhere. We’re excited, because in Houston, everything is big, which makes our Big Idea Challenge an even bigger deal.

2016 Vanguards, we have another surprise for you. This year a number of our Vanguard alumni will be organizing a parallel program in Houston, and available to provide advice and insights as you desire. Take advantage of the opportunity to meet some of our finest alumni, and remind them that 2016 Vanguards are the best!

We at Next City look forward to sharing a lifetime of Vanguard experiences with you, starting today in Houston. And, we hope that the information, lessons, networks and memories from Vanguard 2016 will inspire you to advance social, economic and environmental change in your city. Let’s go!



Tom Dallessio
President, CEO + Publisher
Next City



From Bill Fulton

Hello Vanguards!

Welcome to Houston! On behalf of the staff of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research and Rice University, let me say how excited we are to have you here. This week promises to be filled with provocative conversations, hard work and ideas that we hope will benefit you, your hometowns and our city. We are thrilled to host the conference alongside Next City.

You've come at the right time. A lot is happening in Houston. In fact, you might say that the Houston region is in the midst of an urban revolution.

Metro Houston is the fastest-growing large metro in the country. And Houston is also one of the country's most diverse cities. The region is home to a vast range of people from different backgrounds, and in recent years our regional economy has diversified beyond energy and now boasts a blossoming medical and technology sector. With the help of innovative public-private partnerships, we are undertaking a massive effort to create a network of connective green spaces along hundreds of miles of bayous. The city of Houston is working with citizens to build out the next step of the city's first-ever General Plan. Between new light rail lines, a revolutionary bus realignment, a bike plan and an emerging set of sharing economy systems, our transportation system is allowing more and more Houstonians to make trips without getting into their car.

But, like all major cities, Houston is confronted by a number of challenges as well. From overstretched and overlapping public services, to the struggle to provide an effective education to all our schoolchildren, major obstacles threaten our ability to sustain prosperity across the region.

Houston's two realities – our success and our challenges – make the theme for this conference, "equitable growth," especially powerful. The Kinder Institute is committed to studying cities, identifying what works and what doesn't, and collaborating with partners to ensure that our urban regions become stronger each day. That's a vision we think we share with Next City and with each of you. And it's one that we hope to learn more about in the coming days.

Thank you for joining us for the Vanguard conference and bringing your ideas, energy and commitment to improving cities along with you. We are excited to share our city with each of you and look forward to a productive conference.



Sincerely,

Bill Fulton

Director, Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Rice University





About Next City and Vanguard

Next City is a nonprofit organization with a mission to inspire social, economic and environmental change in cities by creating media 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, host committee members 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 and Reno, Next City is pleased to present the seventh annual conference in Houston, Texas, where a host committee of local urban leaders has played an integral role in shaping this unique event.

Host Committee



CECI ARREOLA

Real estate manager at the Rice Management Company, which oversees Rice University's \$5.5 billion endowment fund. She is

responsible for the portfolio of direct assets and assists with oversight of the broader real estate portfolio. Prior to Rice, Arreola worked at Lionstone Investments. She is an MBA candidate at the University of Texas and has a B.A. from Rice University.



CLAUDIA AGUIRRE-VASQUEZ

As senior vice president and chief program officer for Neighborhood Centers Inc., Aguirre-Vasquez is responsible for unifying programs

that support strengthening community engagement, improving financial well-being and increasing educational attainment in our communities. She also serves as superintendent of schools, overseeing the Head Start program and Charter School District.



RADU BARBUCEANU

Radu Barbuceanu is the community liaison for the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs in Houston, Texas. He has worked in local

government for almost two years and has contributed directly to the Houston Arts and Cultural Plan as well as projects that serve all 11 Houston Council Districts.



WHIT BONES

Event and communications specialist at the Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Bones has 10 years of experience in community

engagement, programming, event coordination and experiential marketing. Bones is a community organizer who got his start as the founder of the Fresh Produce Art Collective and DotDotDot ArtSpace in Lawrence, Kansas. Bones previously programmed events for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.



MARGARET WALLACE BROWN

As deputy director for the city of Houston's Planning & Development Department, Margaret Wallace Brown guides policy

and implements programs that strengthen and enhance the Houston community. Her responsibilities include: annexation policy; neighborhood and historic preservation regulations; and developing community-education programs. Margaret has a B.S. in architecture from the University of Houston.



LINDSAY DENEAULT

Lindsay is an independent healthcare innovation strategist. She previously worked as a business strategist at the Texas Medical Center's

TMCx accelerator and at Rice University's OwlSpark Accelerator. She has a B.S. in biomedical engineering from Virginia Commonwealth University and an MBA from Rice University.



CASEY DURAND

An assistant professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at the UTHealth School of Public Health,

Durand researches the effects of the built environment and public policy on health behaviors, including physical activity and diet.



JONATHON GLUS

CEO of the Houston Arts Alliance (HAA), Houston's local arts agency and a public-private partnership with the city of Houston. HAA provides strategic

initiatives to advance the arts, culture and creative sectors, and economic impact studies for use by business, government, academia and public policy makers. Prior to joining HAA, Glus was the executive director of Arts and Culture in Pasadena, California.



CAROLIE GOESER

The chair of learning and interpretation at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Goeser has created new initiatives in gallery interpretation and audience and

community engagement. She is currently managing leading-edge research to assess visitor engagement within the museum's broad base of constituents.



RYAN HOLEYWELL

Senior editor of the Kinder Institute, Holeywell runs the Institute's Urban Edge blog. An award-winning journalist, Holeywell has appeared on CNN, NPR and CNBC to discuss his work. He's spent more than 10 years reporting for news outlets in Texas and Washington, D.C., including the *Houston Chronicle* and *Governing* magazine.



MONTE LARGE

A real estate developer and social entrepreneur, Large serves on the board of the Midtown Management District and works for Midway Companies.

Large has rehabilitated and preserved buildings in Midtown and the East End. He is a community development fellow with American Leadership Forum and co-founder of SPARC Growth Houston. He has an M.S. in real estate development from Columbia University.



ZAKCQ LOCKREM

A principal and director of planning for Asakura Robinson, Zakcq brings innovative public participation strategies to his planning work. He

has been an adjunct professor of urban planning at Texas Southern University and co-founded Social Agency Lab. He is a 2015 Next City Vanguard alum and has a B.S. in urban affairs from Boston University and an M.S. in urban planning from Harvard



RAJ MANKAD

Raj Mankad is editor of *Cite: The Architecture + Design Review of Houston*, a publication of the Rice Design Alliance. His writing

helped bring about the launch of Sunday Streets HTX and the planned connection of commuter buses from Houston to Galveston. He completed a Ph.D. in literature and creative writing from the University of Houston.



BREW MCKENNA

Chief of staff of the Texas Medical Center, McKenna serves as a trusted advisor to the president and CEO. Prior to Texas Medical Center, McKenna worked in political and

nonprofit fundraising. She serves on the Good Counsel High School Alumni Board and EMILY's List EmPower Board of Directors. She graduated from James Madison University with a B.A. in English.



SUSANNAH MITCHELL

Susannah Parnin Mitchell earned her bachelor's degrees from North Carolina State University in both art and design and political theory,

and her MBA from the University of New Hampshire. Over the past decade, she's managed for-profit, nonprofit and startup galleries and arts spaces. Now, settled in Houston, Susannah is the director of the newly designated Washington Avenue Arts District, Houston's newest state-recognized cultural district which is home to what is believed to be the highest concentration of working artists in the U.S.



KATHY PAYTON

A native daughter of Fifth Ward and CEO of the Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corporation, Payton oversees the comprehensive

revitalization of Houston's Historic Fifth Ward. She works with a diverse 15-member board to meet the needs of both pioneering and new residents. Payton works to build collaborative efforts among community stakeholders to improve the quality of life in the Fifth Ward.



JEFF REICHMAN

Founder and principal at January Advisors, a consulting firm that works at the intersection of technology and community. Reichman is also

the founder of Sketch City, a nonprofit dedicated to data and technology innovation. His civic engagement and civic tech work has been honored by the League of Women Voters, the *Houston Business Journal* and the White House.



ASSATA RICHARDS

Director of Sankofa Research Institute (SRI), a nonprofit that "creates knowledge to build community." Employing community-based

participatory research, SRI collaborates with academic researchers, community organizations and funders to generate empirical evidence informing social change. Richards holds a Ph.D. in sociology and has extensive training in quantitative and qualitative methods.

**DIANE SCHENKE**

President of the Greater East End Management District and longtime East End resident, Schenke is the former president and executive director of The Park

People, the Gulf Coast program manager for The Nature Conservancy and the executive director of The Grand Parkway Association. Prior to these positions, Schenke worked as an environmental lawyer.

**ELLEN SCHWALLER**

Ellen is passionate about health equity in place. As the community health and design coordinator for the Built Environment and

Health Impact Assessment Unit at Harris County Department of Public Health and Environmental Services, she leads stakeholder engagement efforts to find bottom-up and top-down opportunities to create health-promoting neighborhoods.

**ANDRE SAM-SIN**

An active recording artist and entrepreneur, DJ Sun works to introduce people to music they may not normally experience, but in a way that "makes

sense." He hosts a podcast, Everyday is Sunday, and has organized mixed media events at Asia Society Texas and MFAH. He is also the owner/developer of the popular bar and music venue, The Flat.

**KYLE SHELTON**

Program manager and fellow at the Kinder Institute, Shelton has a Ph.D. in urban history. He specializes in transportation policy, urban developmen

and urban governance. His research and writing have been featured in the *Journal of Urban History*, the *L.A. Times*, the *Houston Chronicle* and CityLab.

**RIVES TAYLOR**

A principal in the Houston office of the international design firm Gensler. Taylor is a firmwide director of high performance/sustainable design. Taylor has

also taught for both the Rice School of Architecture and the University of Houston Hines College of Architecture for over 25 years, coaching sustainable design, building technology and materials, and professional practice.

**AIMEE WOODALL**

President of the Black Sheep Agency, a cause-driven brand strategy firm focused on activating people around things that matter. An advocate for local community,

a *Houston Business Journal* 40 Under 40 recipient, and League of Women Voters "Rising Star," Woodall is dedicated to elevating Houston. Black Sheep has worked with for-profit and nonprofit entities from the city of Houston to the White House.

Conference Schedule

TUESDAY, MAY 10

- ▶ OKRA Charity Saloon
@ 924 Congress Ave.

5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Meet up with fellow Vanguards, alumni and staff at OKRA Charity Saloon for an informal gathering to kick off the events.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

7:30 A.M. - 8:00 A.M.

- ▶ Magnolia Hotel @ 1100 Texas Ave.

Breakfast

We will be leaving the hotel for the day after breakfast, so please come prepared with everything you need for the whole day and evening. If time allows, you may be able to stop back at the hotel before the evening events. Boxed lunches will be provided during your embedded program.

8:00 A.M.

Meet in the lobby of the Magnolia Hotel to walk to the library

8:15 A.M. - 10:15 A.M.

- ▶ Jesse H. Jones Central Library
@ 500 McKinney St.

Check-in

Welcome speakers

Introductory Mad Libs

10:15 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Transportation to embedded programs

Groups form in breakfast room to depart. Shuttles leave from plaza in front of library building. Those taking public transportation follow Vanguard facilitators.

11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Embedded programs and boxed lunches

Group A: Project Row Houses @ 2521 Holman St.

Group B: Greater East End Management District/Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corp

@ 3211 Harrisburg Blvd.

Group C: Neighborhood Centers @ Harbach-Ripley Neighborhood Center, 6225 Northdale St.

Group D: Avenue CDC @ Avenue Terrace, 4004 Irvington Blvd.

Group E: Connect @ 6856 Bellaire Blvd, St. Luke's United Methodist Church

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Tour: Big Idea Challenge site visits

Group A, Project Row Houses: Our Park, 2600 Alabama St.

Group B, GEEMD/FWCRC: Empty lot at corner of Lyons Avenue and Jensen Drive, 2756 Lyons Ave.

Group C, NCI: Rufus Cage Historic School, 1417 Telephone Rd.

Group D, Avenue CDC: 6302 Fulton St., across from the Melbourne/North Lindale Red Line Metro Station

Group E, Connect: City of Houston PWE property, adjacent to Southwest Schools, 6400 Westpark Dr.

5:00 P.M. - 5:45 P.M.

Transportation to Magnolia Hotel

5:45 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Shuttle from Magnolia Hotel to arts panel

6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

- **The Silos At Sawyer Yard @ 1502 Sawyer St.**

Panel Discussion: Drawing in the Neighborhood

Creativity is an important part of citizen engagement. Panelists will talk about their roles as artists and arts-and-culture connectors in their communities, and how art can be a positive force amid neighborhood change. *Welcome: Jonathon Glus; Moderator: Caroline Goeser; Panelists: Debbie McNulty, Lovie Olivia, Alice Mizrachi & Tre Borden.*

8:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Reception and food truck dinner

THURSDAY, MAY 12

- **Bioscience Research Collaborative (BRC) @ 6500 Main St.**

8:00 A.M.

Meet in Magnolia Hotel lobby to travel to train to the BRC

8:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

Breakfast

Meet up for breakfast and mingle with the Neighborhood Centers staff

9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

Panel Discussion: Urban Planning's Role in Universal Health Care

The roots of urban planning in the U.S. are inextricably connected to improving the health of city residents. While agency silos have separated health and planning in many ways, panel experts will discuss how professionals from both disciplines work together to prevent illness, combat the rise of chronic diseases and ensure access to a healthy lifestyle for all of a city's residents.

Welcome: Claudia Aguirre-Vasquez; Moderator: Ellen Schwaller; Panelists: Adele Houghton, Casey Durand, Anjali Taneja, David McGee.

10:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Train to Astrodome

- **NRG Park @ 1 NRG Park**

11:15 A.M. - 11:45 A.M.

Tour: Astrodome

11:45 A.M. - 12:45 P.M.

Food truck lunch at NRG Park

12:45 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

- **NRG Center @ 1 NRG Park**

Panel Discussion: Yesterday's Structures, Tomorrow's Equity

From repurposing shuttered schools to renovating defunct factories, preservation approached with equitable development in mind can create spaces that benefit all of a city's residents. Our panelists will talk about navigating that model path, touching on everything from financing to the maze of municipal licensing and inspection.

Welcome: Beth Wiedower; Moderator: Minnette Boesel; Panelists: Assata Richards, Monte Large, Steven Marcus & Howard Conyers.

2:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

► **Midtown**

Introduction to the Big Idea Challenge:
Meet with local government officials and
stakeholders to discuss your Big Idea
Challenge site and brainstorm ideas. Each
group will be headed to a different cafe in
midtown to check out Houston's walkable
urbanism.

► **Museum District rail station**

*Group A, Project Row Houses - MFAH -
MFAH Café @ 5601 Main St.*

*Group B, GEEMD/FWCRC - Asia Society -
Jade Stone Café @ 1370 Southmore Blvd.*

*Group C, Neighborhood Centers - Jung
Center @ 5200 Montrose Blvd.*

► **Ensemble/HCC rail station**

*Group D, Avenue CDC - Double Trouble @
3622 Main St.*

► **McGowen rail station**

*Group E, Connect - Weights and Measures
@ 2808 Caroline St.*

4:30 P.M.

► **MFAH @ 1001 Bissonnet St.
(pickup location subject to change)**

Shuttle to Project Row Houses

5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

► **Project Row Houses
@ 2521 Holman St.**

Tour Project Row Houses

Reception with Vanguard alumni

6:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

► **El Dorado Ballroom
@ 2310 Elgin St.**

BBQ dinner and keynote by Robert Bullard

FRIDAY, MAY 13

► **Bethel Church Park
@ 801 Andrews St**

8:00 A.M.

*Meet in lobby of Magnolia Hotel to walk
to Bethel Church Park*

8:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

*Kolaches and coffee at Bethel
Church Park*

9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

Panel Discussion: Equal Opportunity Water

The manmade disaster in Flint, the recent
flooding in Houston and the natural
destruction of Hurricane Sandy in New
York and New Jersey share at least one
common thread: water. How we manage our
resources and environment – and whether
we do so equitably – is a challenge that's a
matter of life and death. Our panelists will
address conservation, green infrastructure,
environmental justice and more in light of
impacts in Flint, Houston, New York City and
beyond. *Welcome: Joe Turner; Moderator:
Rachel Powers; Panelists: Jaime González,
Molly Robinson, Justin Scheid & Ifeoma Ebo.*

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Tour: Buffalo Bayou Park

12:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

► **Gensler
@ 711 Louisiana St. #300**

Working Lunch And Planning Sessions

Big Idea Challenge planning sessions: Teams
will work together to develop a short-term
solution for long-term impact. These four
hours will be spent at the Gensler offices
working on the evening's presentations.

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

- **Discovery Green
@ 1500 McKinney St.**

Group A, Group B

Groups will take turns practicing their presentations in front of Vanguard alumni and a few host committee members.

- **Magnolia Hotel @ 1100 Texas Ave.**

Freshen Up

Group C, Group D, Group E

Take this time to get ready for the evening. It will be your last chance to relax before the evening's events.

5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

- **Discovery Green
@ 1500 McKinney St.**

Group C, Group D, Group E

Groups will take turns practicing their presentations in front of Vanguard alumni and a few host committee members.

- **Magnolia Hotel @ 1100 Texas Ave**

Freshen Up

Group A, Group B

Take this time to get ready for the evening. It will be your last chance to relax before the evening's events. Be sure to get back to Discovery Green by 6 p.m.

6:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

- **Discovery Green
@ 1500 McKinney St.**

Each team will have 10 minutes to pitch their ideas to a public audience and a panel of judges. Presentations will be evaluated and the winning idea announced.

8:30 P.M.

- **Dine Arounds (Multiple Locations)**

You are on your own tonight to enjoy dinner at any local restaurant of your choice downtown.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

8:30 A.M.

Meet in Magnolia Hotel lobby to walk to the Last Concert Cafe

8:45 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

- **Last Concert Cafe
@ 1403 Nance St.**

8:45 A.M. - 9:15 A.M.

Breakfast

9:15 A.M. - 9:45 A.M.

Presentation by Zipcar

9:45 A.M. - 11:15 A.M.

Panel Discussion: Navigating the All-Access City

Transportation options are seemingly booming in the U.S. and around the world. Call an Uber. Share a bike. Yet, many urban-dwellers are still cut off from easy access to a transit stop — and therefore job opportunities. Pedestrians, drivers and cyclists squabble over the routes through our cities (and the safety of those spaces). Commuters face the first mile/last mile problem. Panel experts will talk about the challenges and rewards of designing successful multimodal transportation networks. *Welcome: Zipcar, Moderator: Christof Spieler; Panelists: James Llamas, Jay Crossley, Stephen Benson & Danicia Malone.*

11:15 A.M. - 11:45 A.M.

Closing talks with Vanguard alumni

Carlos Moreno, Kate Didech, Juan Mendive & Jay Wall

11:45 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Next City closing statements

Advocating for Equitable Growth in Cities

The theme of this year's Vanguard conference – equitable growth – is at the heart of Next City's mission to inspire better cities. Through our daily journalism, we report on policymakers, advocates, researchers, planners and elected officials working to reverse the socially destructive global trends of increasing income inequality and unaffordable housing, and to promote access to transportation and opportunity for marginalized communities. Equitable growth is also central to the work of our Houston hosts at Rice University's Kinder Institute, who are committed to working with all Houstonians to identify and resolve the city's pressing problems, including poverty, shifting industry and healthcare access.

With its booming growth and increasingly urban orientation, Houston is a city that has an opportunity to shape the conversation surrounding equitable growth in the U.S. and beyond. The city is currently rethinking policy about development, transportation and placemaking on a vast scale. According to the recent 35th annual Kinder Houston Area Survey, 66 percent of Houstonians surveyed said that the government should take action to reduce income differences between the rich and poor in America, up from 45 percent in 2010. The proportion calling on government to make sure that everyone who wants to work can find a job reached 76 percent in this year's survey, up from 69 percent in 2009.

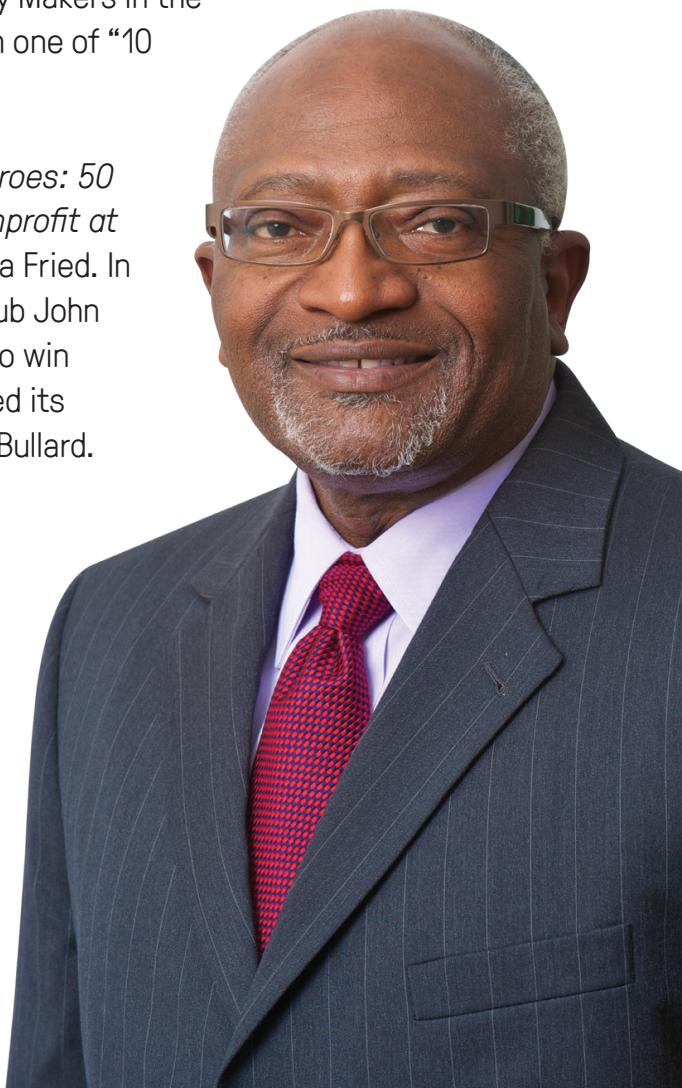
By gathering dozens of talented, forward-thinking Vanguards, Next City and the Kinder Institute aim to consider collectively challenges faced across today's rapidly urbanizing world. Regarding Houston specifically, we charge all attendees to consider the question: How can a metro region that is sprawling and densifying at the same time, with a growing economy, a thriving arts scene, world-class restaurants and a large museum district adapt for the future by addressing traffic congestion, equitable and inclusive development, immigration, sustainability and resilience?

Keynote Speaker

Robert D. Bullard is dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University in Houston. He is often described as the “father of environmental justice.” Bullard received his Ph.D. from Iowa State University. He is the author of 18 books that address sustainable development, environmental racism, urban land use, industrial facility siting, community reinvestment, housing, transportation, climate justice, emergency response, smart growth and regional equity.

He has testified as an expert witness and served as a technical advisor on hundreds of civil rights lawsuits and public hearings over the past three decades. In 1990, he was the first environmental justice scholar to receive the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Conservation Achievement Award in Science for *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class and Environmental Quality*. Bullard was featured in the July 2007 CNN People You Should Know. In 2008, *Newsweek* named him one of “13 Environmental Leaders of the Century.” And that same year, Green America (then Co-op America) honored him with its Building Economic Alternatives Award (BEA). In 2010, The Grio named him one of the “100 Black History Makers in the Making” and Planet Harmony named him one of “10 African American Green Heroes.”

In 2012, he was featured in *Everyday Heroes: 50 Americans Changing the World One Nonprofit at a Time* (Welcome Books, 2012) by Katrina Fried. In 2013, he was honored with the Sierra Club John Muir Award, the first African-American to win the award. In 2014, the Sierra Club named its new Environmental Justice Award after Bullard. His book, *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class and Environmental Quality* (Westview Press, 2000), is a standard text in the environmental justice field. And in 2015, Iowa State University presented him its National Alumni Merit Award.



. BIG IDEA CHALLENGE HOUSTON 2016

Each year at the Vanguard conference, the Big Idea Challenge is an opportunity for Next City and Vanguards to make a tangible, lasting impact on our host city. For our third annual challenge, Vanguard teams will compete in designing implementable ideas for underutilized public land in Houston.

Building on the embedded fellow experience, teams will be the same as assigned for the embedded program and properties will be in the neighborhood of embedded host organizations. Vanguards will get a chance to visit their challenge site, which was selected in concert with city council members, after the embedded workshops. (Background on sites and ideas to inspire teams were provided to Vanguards prior to conference; please see a Next City staffer if you need these materials.) They'll also have the opportunity to talk with city and community representatives in a follow-up session.

There's time built into the conference so each team can meet, brainstorm and develop a presentation on their plan. Teams must prepare a seven-to 10-minute PowerPoint presentation to show to Houston community members at a public event on Friday night. Presentations will be evaluated on creativity, feasibility, community impact and overall delivery. A judging panel will select the winning idea. In the months following Vanguard, Next City will work with the Kinder Institute to begin to implement the winning plan in Houston, supported by a \$10,000 grant.

EMBEDDED FELLOWS

HOUSTON 2016

This year, we're introducing the embedded fellows program, which we hope will be continued at conferences for years to come — both to further our mission of inspiring positive change in cities, and to provide attendees with a professional growth experience. Next City Vanguards will have the opportunity to share their talents and expertise with each other and our host community by "embedding" at five Houston organizations: Connect, Project Row Houses, Greater East End Management District/Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corp., Neighborhood Centers and Avenue CDC. (In-depth background on each was provided to Vanguards prior to conference; please see a Next City staffer if you need these materials.)

Five Vanguard groups (assigned pre-conference) will work closely with the organizations during a half-day workshop to provide each with invaluable brainpower on addressing the challenges they face in their neighborhoods and across Houston.

Embedded hosts don't expect final, implemented solutions to the problems they discuss with Vanguards. Rather, these organizations are excited to have the thoughts and energy of the Vanguard class brought to bear on topics they've grappled with for many years. Each looks forward to having a group of thinkers come in and offer new voices and perspectives they can apply to solution implementation going forward.

Next City Staff



TOM DALLESSIO

*President,
CEO & Publisher*

Tom is the president, CEO and publisher of Next City. Before joining the organization in 2015, he directed the

Center for Resilient Design at the College of Architecture and Design at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Prior to that, he ran the Regional Plan Association's New Jersey office, and served as a senior adviser on land use for two New Jersey governors. Tom is a licensed professional planner, and a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, as well as an adjunct professor at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, where he teaches land use planning and infrastructure planning.



ARIELLA COHEN

Editor-in-Chief

Ariella Cohen is an award-winning journalist with 11 years of experience reporting on urban change, politics and policy. Prior

to joining Next City, she co-founded New Orleans' first online investigative news outlet, The Lens, and worked as a staff reporter for the *Brooklyn Paper* in New York. She has reported on disaster recovery, urban development and city politics in Port au Prince, Jerusalem and in cities across the U.S. She prefers the bus.



JANINE WHITE

Executive Editor

From infrastructure to economic development to culture, Janine oversees Next City's Daily content. Her experience

includes gigs at an alternative medicine book publisher, an A&E weekly, and a daily newspaper. Most recently, she served as exec editor and online news editor at *Philadelphia magazine*, where she covered everything from elections to the city budget to real estate.



JEFF MUCKENSTURM

*Audience
Engagement Manager*

Before joining Next City, Jeff 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, NJ. 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.

**KELSEY E. THOMAS***Assistant Editor*

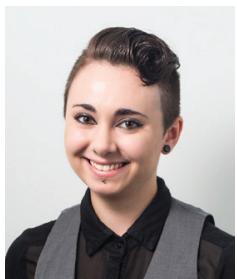
Before coming to Next City in 2015, Kelsey was an editorial assistant at *Kinfolk Magazine* in Portland, Oregon. During college

Kelsey reported for the *Mail Tribune* in Southern Oregon, covering crime, politics and the occasional ukulele camp. She has lived in nine zip codes, but is happy to call 19102 home.

**ANTHONY SMYRSKI***Creative Director*

Tony has designed books and other projects for clients such as Thames and Hudson, Powerhouse, Steve Powers, the Pew Foundation,

Deloitte and Federal Express. In 2005, he and Dan Murphy founded the experimental media project Megawords and were awarded the Pew Fellowship in the Arts in 2012.

**JESSICA GREGAN***Special Assistant*

Jessica joined Next City in July 2014. She has worked on marketing and events for a variety of nonprofits in the areas of

conservation, youth empowerment, political engagement, and LGBT rights. She has a B.S. in liberal studies with concentrations in public management and peace & conflict studies from West Chester University.

**SARA SCHUENEMANN***Director of Events and Development*

Sara is a marketing and events mastermind with more than ten 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.

**OSCAR PERRY ABELLO***Fellow*

Oscar Perry Abello is a New York City-based journalist. Since 2011, his writing has appeared online for publications such as *Fast Company* and Next City, covering economic development, public policy, philanthropy, crowdfunding, financial inclusion, impact investing, cooperative businesses and more. He has a bachelor's in economics from Villanova University.

**JEN KINNEY***Contributing Writer*

Jen Kinney is a regular contributor to Next City. Her photographic and written work, which often explores the

links between physical spaces, social structures, and mythmaking, has also appeared in *Satellite Magazine*, High Country News online and others. "City Under One Roof," a contemplation on life and architecture in Whittier, Alaska, received the Center for Documentary Studies' 2013 Lange-Taylor Prize.

Vanguards



GEORGE ABBOTT

► Miami, FL

Special Assistant to the Vice President, Communities and National Initiatives, and Interim Program Director, St. Paul, John S. and James L Knight Foundation

George Abbott leads the Knight Cities Challenge, an annual \$5 million call for ideas to make the 26 cities that Knight Foundation invests in more vibrant places to live and work. Abbott is also currently serving as Knight's program director in St. Paul, Minnesota. Abbott previously worked in creative placemaking and political campaigns.



SCOTT ALLEN

► New York, NY

Lead/Project Designer, Perkins+Will

Scott is a lead designer for the global architecture, planning and design

firm Perkins+Will. Through a series of award-winning design projects and buildings he is developing an international reputation for architectural solutions that are economically practical yet idealistic and utopian. He has spoken at events hosted by TED, The World Architecture Festival, the PRATT Institute and the DFM Summit, to name a few.



STONLY BAPTISTE

► San Francisco, CA
Co-Founder and Principal, Urban.Us

Stonly Baptiste is co-founder and principal at Urban.Us, the venture fund for startups that make cities better. Stonly also helped create and teach the first urban-focused entrepreneurship course at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Stonly previously founded five companies, speaks three languages, and programs in two.



DANA BERNARD

► Astoria, NY
Senior Analyst, Citi

Dana is an experienced community development and housing professional, currently serving as assistant vice president of community development for Citi. Prior, she worked as a program specialist for the D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development. She has an M.S. in public policy and management from Carnegie Mellon University, and a B.A. in political science from University of Delaware.



**MATTHEW
BERNSTINE**
► *Saint Louis, MO*
*Urban Designer +
Project Manager,
Washington
University in
Saint Louis*

Matt is an urbanist, designer and lecturer. He is passionate about creating sustainable urbanism[s] in both practice and research. He recently joined Washington University in Saint Louis to guide their civic design efforts. Most recently, Matt was the project manager for one of the winning designs in the Changing Course International Design Competition.



CID BLANCO
► *Rio de Janeiro,
Brazil*
*Regional Technical
Advisor,
UN Habitat*

Cid Blanco has a Master's in architecture and urban planning and 16 years of experience in governmental institutions at the local and national level, especially in housing and urban development policies. He is currently working as regional technical advisor in the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the UN-Habitat.



TRE BORDEN
► *Sacramento, CA*
*Principal, Tre Borden
Creative Consulting*

Tre Borden is a Sacramento-based art consultant, placemaker and producer. His projects innovate opportunities for the region's creative class to engage with the public and private

sectors by working closely with developers, community organizations and civic agencies. Using art to activate dormant spaces and underserved neighborhoods is his specialty.



RAABIA BUDHWANI
► *Washington, D.C.*
*Innovation
Program Manager,
International and
Philanthropic
Innovation, U.S.
Department of
Housing and Urban
Development*

A planner and former diplomat, Raabia serves as an innovation program manager at the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development where she advances international and philanthropic partnerships to create sustainable and equitable communities. Previously, she led a federal place-based team to launch the White House Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) Initiative in Macon-Bibb County, Georgia, and support community goals through cross-sectoral and interagency collaboration.



**JACQUELINE
BURTON**
► *New York, NY*
*Program Associate,
Ford Foundation*

Straddling domestic and international work, Jackie designs strategy and acts as the coordinator of Ford's New York City and New Orleans grant portfolios and also supports the foundation's engagement in the UN SDG and Habitat III processes. She speaks Spanish and holds an MUP in International Development from NYU.

**HOWARD CONYERS**

► New Orleans, LA
*Structural
Dynamicist, NASA
Stennis Space Center*

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 bioenvironmental engineering and M.S./Ph.D. in mechanical engineering.

**JERRY DICKINSON**

► Philadelphia, PA
Attorney/Federal Law Clerk for Chief Judge Theodore A. McKee, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

Jerry Dickinson is a lawyer and legal scholar, focusing his advocacy and writing on the intersection between land use law, housing and urban poverty. A former Fulbright Scholar, he advocated on behalf of inner-city squatters in unlawful removals in South Africa and, while practicing at Reed Smith LLP in Pittsburgh, he founded and coordinated the firm's Housing Rights Project representing indigent tenants in eviction proceedings. He'll be joining the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law as a law professor following his federal clerkship.

**IFEOMA EBO**

► Brooklyn, NY
Strategic Initiative Specialist, NYC Department of Design and Construction

Ifeoma Ebo is a built environment professional that has harnessed her diverse capabilities in design, research and coordination to contribute to international projects in human settlement development, urban master planning, public facilities design and urban systems analysis.

**JULIE FAVREAU**

► Montréal, Québec, Canada
Project Manager, Société d'habitation et de développement de Montréal

As a specialist in urban revitalization and real estate development, Julie Favreau leverages real estate and urban planning to create shared value that benefits citizens, businesses and cities alike. Her goal is to transform the way we live together through real estate. With her background as a lawyer and in strategic management, she currently works as a project manager at Société d'habitation et de développement de Montréal, a nonprofit para-municipal corporation devoted to social and economic revitalization.



TAZ GEORGE
► Chicago, IL
*Research Analyst,
Community
Development and
Policy Studies,
Federal Reserve Bank
of Chicago*

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.



CRYSTAL GERMAN
► Rogers, AR
*Self-Employed
Entrepreneur*

Crystal German works with communities to develop innovative solutions to support

women and people of color as assets for healthy sustainable communities. Her career spans finance, economic development and inclusion positions within private and public sectors. In 2014, her work building a national minority business development program earned her the distinction as a BALLE fellow.



INGRID HAFTEL
► Brooklyn, NY
*Program Manager
for Community
Education, The
Center for Urban
Pedagogy (CUP)*

Ingrid Haftel manages community education programs at the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP), a Brooklyn-based nonprofit that uses

design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement, particularly among historically underrepresented communities. Before joining CUP, Ingrid was curator of exhibitions at the Chicago Architecture Foundation, where she developed creative public projects on urban planning and design.



**GABRIELLE
HORTON**
► Los Angeles, CA
*Deputy, City of Los
Angeles - Mayor's
Office*

A third generation Angelino, Gabrielle currently serves in the Office of Public Engagement for Mayor Eric Garcetti. Passionate about urban communities of color, her work specifically focuses on bridging the gap between South Los Angeles' predominantly 1.3 million black and Latino residents and the administration's "Back to Basics" agenda – focused on strengthening the local economy and making City Hall more efficient and effective.



ADELE HOUGHTON
► Houston, TX
*President, Biositu,
LLC*

Adele leverages her interdisciplinary background as an architect, green building consultant and public health professional to bring a health-based approach to green building design and climate change policy. Her consulting company, Biositu, LLC, uses spatial analysis of community health data to develop actionable recommendations tailored to their social and physical context.



NINA IDEMUDIA
► Los Angeles, CA
*Planning Assistant,
City of Los Angeles*

Nina Idemudia, a native from Detroit, holds a Master's in planning from the USC and an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan. She has multiple planning honors, including two APA Los Angeles awards for her public outreach work with youth. Currently she works as a planning assistant with the city of Los Angeles.



GARRETT JACOB.S.
► Oakland, CA
*Executive Director,
Open Architecture
Collaborative*

Garrett is the executive director of the AFH Chapter Network. He previously worked with Code for America coordinating the peer network and fellowship programs. Trained as an architect in post-Katrina New Orleans, Garrett strives to understand the holistic implications of design decisions and how our built environment comes together.



LAURA JASINSKI
► Cambridge, MA
*Director of Programs
and Planning, Rose
Kennedy Greenway
Conservancy*

Laura has become a valued member of Greenway leadership for her ability to manage complex projects and collaborate with city, commonwealth and community stakeholders. She serves as the liaison

to Boston's design community to ensure that Greenway priorities influence citywide planning initiatives and public realm activation.



KINDY KRULLER,
► Chicago, IL
*Senior Planner, Forest
Preserves of Cook
County*

Kindy Kruller is committed to the development of great spaces and protection of natural lands through community engagement and policy development. She is the senior planner for the Forest Preserves of Cook County, whose 70,000 acres of diverse ecosystems provide more than 5 million residents with outdoor recreation and experiential learning opportunities.



JAMES LLAMAS
► Houston, TX
*Senior Associate,
Traffic Engineers, Inc.*

James Llamas is a transportation planner and engineer-in-training 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 board of directors of Houston Bike Share.



KATHARINE LUSK
BOSTON UNIVERSITY
► Boston, MA
*Executive Director,
Boston University
Initiative on Cities*

Katharine leads an academic research center focused on advancing transformative mayoral leadership, catalyzing city/university partnerships and closing the gap between research and practice. She was a brand strategist and researcher for Fortune 500 companies, before serving as a mayoral advisor where she launched Boston's citywide pay equity initiative, 100% Talent.



ROHIT MALHOTRA
► Atlanta, GA
*Executive Director
and Founder, Center
for Civic Innovation*

Rohit Malhotra is the founder and executive director of the Center for Civic Innovation in Atlanta, his hometown city. His background is in social entrepreneurship, digital communications, open data and community organizing. Most recently, he served as an Ash Innovation fellow in the White House Office of Management and Budget.



DANICIA MALONE
► Indianapolis, IN
*Communications
Manager &
Development
Specialist,
Indianapolis
Neighborhood
Resource Center*

Danicia Malone is a lifelong student, embarking on her Ph.D. to research the

user-experience of race. Danicia's work investigates the context of "Race & Space – Growing Critical Cultural Capacity in the Built Environment."

She is a creative director, interaction designer and planner based in Indianapolis, Indiana.



RAJ MANKAD
► Houston, TX
*Editor, Cite and
OffCite.org, Rice
Design Alliance*

Raj Mankad is Editor of *Cite: The Architecture*

+ *Design Review of Houston*. His writing helped bring about the launch of Sunday Streets HTX and the planned integration of commuter bus systems from Houston to Galveston. He completed a Ph.D. in literature and creative writing from the University of Houston.



STEVEN MARCUS
► Gary, IN
*Building
Commissioner, City
of Gary*

Steven D. Marcus is building commissioner for the city of Gary, Indiana. He is also active in the community, serving as president of the Urban League of NW Indiana, Young Professionals. Steven holds a Master of Architecture, with expertise in: leadership, program management, urban affairs and public policy.



DAVID MCGHEE
► Flint, MI
Program Officer, The Skillman Foundation

David McGhee leads The Skillman Foundation's youth development

portfolio. Prior to joining the Foundation, McGhee served as congressional liaison for U.S. Representative Dan Kildee and as a program director for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Born and raised in Flint, Michigan, David's work with youth and communities and role as a thought-leader has been recognized across the state and beyond.



TITUS MOOLATHARA
► Philadelphia, PA
Librarian, Free Library of Philadelphia

Titus Moolathara is a librarian at the Free Library of Philadelphia. He initiated the Free Library's Prison Services program that reaches out to incarcerated patrons, their children and families. He is passionate about engaging this vulnerable population with their neighborhood libraries to provide them with a range of critical programs and services based on the wealth of the neighborhood library resources.



ALICE MIZRACHI
► West Nyack, NY
*Self-Employed
Contemporary Artist,
Education Director
and Muralist*

Alice Mizrachi is a New York-based

interdisciplinary artist and educator. Her work explores the interconnectedness of community through the lens of compassion and empathy. She has been commissioned as a mural and installation artist by nonprofits and private clients globally, and her paintings have been featured in galleries and museums.



CHELINA ODBERT
► Los Angeles, CA
*Executive Director,
Kounkuey Design
Initiative*

Chelina Odert is co-founder and executive

director of the award-winning design and community development firm, Kounkuey Design Initiative. She leads urban and rural development projects in underserved communities throughout Africa and the U.S. Her research, writing and practice focus on the intersection of participatory planning and design, and on economic development. Chelina holds an M.A. in urban planning from Harvard University.

**CHRISHELLE PALAY**

► Houston, TX
*Houston Co-Director,
Texas Low Income
Housing Information
Service*

Chrishelle Palay is the Houston co-director at Texas Low Income Housing Information Service, where she provides fair housing policy expertise to local community organizations. She facilitates dialogue between various interests to address ongoing concerns in historically underserved communities. Chrishelle holds a Bachelor's of Architecture from Prairie View A&M University and practiced architecture for 10 years prior to becoming a housing advocate.

**TARA PHAM**

► St. Louis, MO
CEO, CTY

Tara is founder and CEO of CTY, an urban data company. Prior to civic technology, Tara

had previously worked in public health/urban design research, music media and arts administration. She is also an organizer of Sloup, a monthly soup dinner that crowdfunds grassroots creative projects, one bowl of soup at a time.

**JOHNICA REED
HAWKINS**

► Cambridge, MA
*Graduate Student &
Entrepreneur, Harvard
University*

Johnica Reed Hawkins is a native of Fort Worth, Texas, and has lived, worked and studied across six continents. As a writer

and researcher she works to decolonize the narrative of place, bringing critical analysis and nuanced storytelling to travel writing.

NICOLAS RIVARD

► San Antonio, TX
*Urban Designer,
Overland Partners*

Nicolas is an urban designer and civic activist in San Antonio, Texas. He

currently manages Place Changing – an interactive storytelling initiative blending design and journalism. Nicolas recently helped start Public Space East, a nonprofit focused on social justice and public space in San Antonio's near Eastside.

**COLIN ROBERTSON**

► Reno, NV
*Charles N.
Mathewson Curator
of Education, The Don
Clark Group*

Colin Robertson is the director of

communications and strategy for The Don Clark Group, an architect-led impact (re) development company in Reno, Nevada. He leads communications efforts related to academic and policy-based conversations and defines the company's triple bottom line-oriented impact strategies. Colin was formerly the curator of education at the Nevada Museum of Art and a 2015 Vanguard Conference host committee member.



MOLLY ROBINSON
► Salt Lake City, UT
Urban Designer, Salt Lake City Corp.

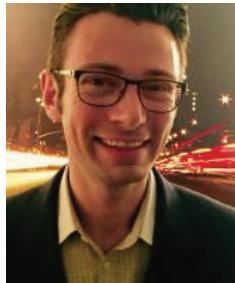
Molly is the urban designer for Salt Lake City. Emerging from a background

in environmental conservation, she believes that good urban design can inspire public life, cultivate ecological consciousness, and enliven the pedestrian experience. Utilizing meaningful public engagement techniques, her work is dedicated to connecting people to place.



JIMMIE SANDERS
► Philadelphia, PA
Deputy Director of Operations- Office of the Managing Director, City of Philadelphia

Jim Sanders is the former deputy director of operations for the city of Philadelphia's public safety and community development platform under Mayor Michael Nutter. He has over 10 years of successful management and operational leadership in public and private sector entities.



JUSTIN SCHEID
► Washington, D.C.
Deputy Director, International and Philanthropic Innovation, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Justin Scheid is deputy director for international and philanthropic innovation at HUD. Justin collaborates with philanthropy and the nongovernmental sector to generate lessons, evidence and best practices in housing and community development, while aligning and leveraging resources to improve HUD's work and seek creative solutions to improve and scale outcomes.



JOHN SCHLICHTMAN
► Chicago, IL
Assistant Professor, DePaul University

John Joe Schlichtman is an urbanist at DePaul University and holds a Ph.D. in sociology from NYU. His interests relate to addressing street-level injustices with solutions that are not only progressive in theory, but feasible in practice. He's working on two books that both relate to gentrification and community development.



S. SURFACE
► Seattle, WA
*Program Director,
Design in Public*

S. Surface is program director at Design in Public, organizing the Seattle Design Festival and curating civic programs and exhibitions at the Center for Architecture and Design. Surface previously worked as an architect with super-interesting!, an organizer with Architecture for Humanity and Artist Studio Affordability Project, and a researcher with C-LAB and NetLab at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.



ANJALI TANEJA
► Albuquerque, NM
*Executive Director,
Casa de Salud*

Anjali Taneja is a family physician and DJ who is passionate about community based healing, shifting power in healthcare, and achieving collective liberation. She is the Executive Director of Casa de Salud – a culturally humble, anti-racist organization providing accessible integrative healthcare and advocacy in Albuquerque. She also works as an ER doctor at a rural hospital in Navajo Nation. She founded CureThis – an online platform for healing justice discussions, and was a founding member of the National Physicians Alliance.



CHRIS VALDEZ
► Houston, TX
*Founder, Managing
Partner, Creative
Director, Primer Grey*

Chris Valdez leads strategy and creative direction at a

Houston brand consultancy, Primer Grey, where he and a team develop work with a people-first approach, helping to make words and design solve human problems. Chris has most recently contributed work to campaigns for the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO) and First Lady Michelle Obama, and works daily with entrepreneurs and leaders across a variety of industries and sectors. Chris is a design advocate through Project1560.org and a court-appointed special advocate (CASA) working with youth in the care of the state of Texas through Child Advocates.



MATT WEINBERG
► Washington, D.C.
*Special Advisor,
U.S. Small Business
Administration, Office
of Investment and
Innovation*

Matt is an Obama appointee in the U.S. Small Business Administration, where he serves as a Special Advisor in the Office of Investment and Innovation. He works on federal programs aimed at commercializing early-stage technology and fostering startup growth across the country. Prior to SBA, Matt worked for the city of New York where he managed citywide programs focused on developing New York's technology sector.

Alumni



EFREM BYCER
(2013)
► San Francisco, CA
Director of Economic Development, Code for America

Efrem Bycer is the director of economic development at Code for America. Previously, he was an economic development manager at the San Diego Regional EDC where he led public policy efforts and EDC's engagement with the Global Cities Initiative. Additionally, Efrem is the founder of BoardNEXT, an innovative program to prepare young professionals and underrepresented groups for and connect them with nonprofit board service.



ENNIS DAVIS
(2013)
► Jacksonville, FL
Urban Planner, moderncities.com

Ennis Davis, AICP is an urban planner and board member of the Northeast Florida

Regional Transportation Commission. A civic activist committed to improving urban communities, he's also the co-founder of ModernCities.com, MetroJacksonville.com and Transform Jax.



KATE DIDECH
(2015)
► Oakland, CA
Urban Planning and Design Associate, Dyett & Bhatia

Kate Didech is an attorney, planner and landscape designer

who has spent much of her career in the public sector. Recently, Kate has applied her skill set to making zoning ordinances more actionable and navigable for Flux Metro, an application that renders 3D visualizations of the maximum buildout permitted under zoning ordinances. She now consults for municipalities across California on a variety of long-range planning, urban design and zoning matters.



ALEX FELDMAN
(2015)
► Philadelphia, PA
Vice President, U3 Advisors

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.

**LOU HUANG (2013)**

► Brooklyn, NY
Project Lead, Mapzen

Lou Huang develops open data and open source software for urban planning and civic engagement.

He has previously worked as an architect and an urban designer before finding civic technology. He was a 2013 fellow at Code for America, where he created Streetmix. Currently he is a project lead at Mapzen and lives in Brooklyn.

**ALLISON JOE (2013)**

► Sacramento, CA
*Deputy Director,
California Strategic
Growth Council*

Allison S. Joe, AICP works on California

land use, development and conservation policies for Governor Jerry Brown. She is the policy and program lead for the country's first program to publicly fund integrated affordable housing, transportation and sustainability projects. An urban planner and economist by training, she has worked in public infrastructure finance and economic development. She recently completed two terms on the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission.

**GUILLAUME LAVOIE (2015)**

► Montréal,
Québec, Canada
*City Councillor,
Montréal*

Guillaume Lavoie is a city councillor in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Elected in 2013, he is the official opposition's spokesperson

for finance, government relations and international relations. He is also vice president of the finance and administration committee at City Hall. Before entering politics, Guillaume Lavoie worked in public diplomacy, public policies and international relations.

**BRYAN LEE, JR. (2015)**

► New Orleans, LA
*Place & Civic Design
Director, Arts Council
of New Orleans*

Bryan Lee, Jr. is an architectural

designer, artist, writer and devoted advocate for social justice through design. Throughout his professional career, Bryan has been dedicated to promoting diversity within the profession and relentless in his efforts to elevate the design process as an effective catalyst for community change. He is currently the place and civic design director for the Arts Council of New Orleans.

**ADRIAN LIPSCOMBE (2014)**

► Austin, TX
*Project Manager,
City of Austin*

Adrian Lipscombe is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of

Texas at Austin, specializing in behavior and attitude of minorities in transportation and the built environment. As the principal of planning and design firm Urbanlocity, she concentrates on design, transportation and community planning for bike and pedestrian routes and infrastructure. She was project coordinator for the Active Transportation Division for the city of Austin.



**ZAKCQ LOCKREM
(2015)**
► Austin, TX
*Principal and Planning
Director, Asakura
Robinson*

Zakcq Lockrem is a principal and director of planning for Asakura Robinson, a planning, urban design and landscape architecture firm based in Austin, Houston, New Orleans and Tokyo. In his work, he focuses on the experience of urban space and the role of public space in shaping civic engagement.



**NOLAN MARSHALL
(2012)**
► New Orleans, LA
*Director of Public
Affairs and
Policy, Downtown
Development District
of New Orleans*

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.



**CARLOS MORENO
(2014)**
► Tulsa, OK
*Graphic Designer, CAP
Tulsa*

Carlos Moreno is a graphic designer, community volunteer, entrepreneur, civic technologist and a magic-bean buyer. Carlos is the in-house graphic designer at CAP Tulsa, the largest anti-poverty agency in Oklahoma. He serves on the board of Smart Growth Tulsa and is the co-captain of Tulsa's Code for America brigade.



**JUAN SEBASTIAN
MENDIVE (2015)**
► Laredo, TX
*Operations Manager,
NeighborWorks Laredo*

Juan Sebastian, an urban planner, is an avid community advocate who strongly believes that true urban change begins at the neighborhood level. He serves on the city of Laredo Planning & Zoning Commission and is the president of the St. Peter's Historic Neighborhood Association. Through his professional and volunteer endeavors, he hopes to make a difference in his beloved hometown. Riding public transit in big cities is his pastime.



**KAREESHMA ALI
MERCHANT (2013)**

► Chicago, IL
*Urban Design
Associate at Farr
Associates*

Kareeshma Ali is a human-centered

designer, researcher and planner using an empathetic approach to mold places and ideas. Kareeshma's social impact design work is informed by her experience in architecture, urban design and planning – and deep interest in graphic design and communications. She is interested in the mind-body-environment connection and how design can positively change behavior to create more sustainable environments.



**SARA MOKURIA
(2015)**

► Richardson, TX
*Senior Research
Associate, UT Dallas
Institute for Urban
Policy Research*

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.



SARAH RAY (2014)

► Washington, D.C.
*Manager, McKinsey &
Company*

Sarah Ray is a manager in McKinsey & Company's Washington, D.C.,

office. She advises public, social and private sector organizations on strategy, operations

and delivery in developed and emerging markets, including the U.S., Europe, Balkans and Caribbean. She has experience across all levels of government, on topics including economic development, innovation, infrastructure, transportation, housing and health care.



**EMILY SADIGH
(2010)**

► Berkeley, CA
*Project Manager,
Alameda County
Sustainability*

Emily Sadigh designs strategies for the

public sector, businesses and universities to go green and build learning systems for sustainability. As a local government change manager, independent consultant and Toyota TogetherGreen fellow, she crosses sectors to connect innovators to partners and resources. She is a Harvard-trained educator and certified biomimicry specialist.



JAY WALL (2015)

► Toronto, Ontario,
Canada
*Creative Director,
Studio Jaywall*

Jay is the founder of Studio Jaywall, a social impact

design team based in Toronto and working internationally. He specializes in creative direction and communications design for initiatives at the intersection of urban, environmental and social issues. Jay participated in the 2015 Vanguard conference, where his team developed a winning proposal for urban renewal in Reno, Nevada.

Participating Board Members



JESS ZIMBABWE
*Founding Director,
Rose Center for
Public Leadership in
Land Use at National
League of Cities
Washington, D.C.*

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, certified city planner, a LEED-accredited professional, board chair of Next City and a member of the urban planning faculty at Georgetown University.



ERIC SHAW
*Director, District
of Columbia Office
of Planning,
Washington, D.C.*

Eric D. Shaw is the director of the D.C. Office of Planning.

As director he manages and sets the strategic vision for: planning, urban design, data and mapping, historic preservation and development review. He is a strong proponent of equitable development and community-led implementation of plans.

Eric has also worked in the public, nonprofit and philanthropic sectors in Silicon Valley and Miami. Shaw earned a B.A. in international development and policy studies from the University of California, Los Angeles, and an M.A. in urban planning from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. He is member of the 2013 Vanguard class.

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Crystal German | Self-Employed

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