

A large group of approximately 50 people of various ages and ethnicities are posing for a group photo in front of a large mural. The mural depicts a Black man with a voluminous afro, wearing a patterned shirt, with his arms outstretched horizontally. The background is a yellow wall with some faint, partially visible text on the left side, including "she", "iful", "e wa", "rooted", "at", "helter", "s", "ing", and "urn". The group is arranged in several rows, with some people kneeling in the front and others standing behind. Many people have their arms raised in the air. The scene is lit with warm, yellowish light, possibly from streetlights or building lights at night.

VANGUARD LEXINGTON

PRESENTED BY

**NEXT
CITY**

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WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2003, **Next City** is a nonprofit journalism organization that believes in the power of storytelling to amplify solutions, helping spread workable ideas from one city to the next city. We inspire social, economic and environmental change in cities, enabling a network of doers to lead the way toward a more sustainable, equitable future.

"Next City is a terrific resource for learning about practices and successes in other urban places, as well as what to look out for with potential potholes. Very thoughtful, well presented and **helpful for those of us who care about our urban environment and humanity.**"

Next City Reader, *Reader Survey*



VANGUARD

Next City's Vanguard Conference is the premier formative experience for rising urban leaders committed to cultivating equity and sustainability in cities for the next generation. Vanguards aren't just talking the talk. Every day, they work to counteract historical patterns of social, economic and environmental injustice in cities.

For over 600 individuals and counting, this conference has become an invaluable touchstone in their professional development. This is your chance to stand with them, in a moment they'll never forget.



HOST CITY: LEXINGTON

Vanguard gathers 40 rising urban leaders working in the United States and around the world. Each year, Next City selects a different host city. So far, 15 conferences have been held across 15 cities:

- Washington, DC
- Philadelphia, Penn.
- St. Louis, Mo.
- Cleveland, Ohio
- Chattanooga, Tenn.
- Reno, Nev.
- Houston, Texas
- Montreal, Canada
- Newcastle, Australia
- New Orleans, La.
- Newark, NJ
- Sacramento, Calif.
- Greensboro, NC
- El Paso, Texas
- Richmond, VA

Next up: Lexington, Kentucky! With the support of VISITLex and CivicLex, Next City is proud to bring Vanguards in 2024 to this vibrant example of a city at the intersection of urban and rural life. We're looking for supporters to help bring the conference to fruition.



VISITLEX



CivicLex

2024 LEXINGTON HOST COMMITTEE

The Vanguard program is run by Next City in partnership with a Host Committee. Members are nominated by our local host organizations and align with Next City's values.

Host committees are made up of a diverse group of stakeholders from as broad a range as the Vanguards – including urban planning, community development, entrepreneurship, government, transportation, sustainability, design, art and media.

The Vanguard host committee helps select meaningful venues and inspiring speakers for our panels, tours, dinners, and workshops.



HOST COMMITTEE

LEXINGTON, KY

Ivy Brashear

Ph.D. Student, College of Communication
& Information, University of Kentucky

Jeffrey Fugate

Associate Professor of Extension,
University of Kentucky School of Architecture

Hannah LeGris

Urban County Councilmember, 3rd District

Christian Motley

Vice President, Partnerships & Community
Impact, Results for America

Mary Quinn Ramer

President, VisitLEX

Lakshmi Sriraman

Founder and Artistic Director,
Shree School of Dance

Adina Tatum

Executive Director, Julietta Market

Dan Wu

Vice Mayor, City of Lexington

Richard Young

Executive Director, CivicLex

WHEN AND HOW

Timeline of Planning

January-February. Form Host Committee

March. Open Vanguard Applications

Spring. Scout Venues & Recruit Speakers

May. Select Vanguard Cohort

August. Virtual training with Vanguards before their arrival.

September. Welcome Vanguards to Lexington.



WHEN AND HOW

Conference Format

Opening Reception » As a prelude to the conference, Vanguards take part in a lightning round of introductions to their work.

Day 1 » Historic overview of the Host City » Tour the Host City, experiencing neighborhoods through the lens of conference theme.

Day 2 » Meet with community organizations, attend and participate in panel discussions, and connect with local innovators. » Local Ambassadors meet with Vanguards to share insights on the challenges they face. Sharing experiences helps create a long-term bond between Vanguards and the community. » **Keynote address.**

Day 3 » Vanguards present a range of their work through the lens of the conference theme and share back insights from their experience.



EQUITABLE CITIES REPORTING FELLOWSHIPS

After the conference ends, Next City's work isn't finished!

We're expanding access to journalism's power via a one-year fellowship for journalists of color in the host city of the Vanguard conference.

This paid one-year position offers an opportunity to explore beats these journalists see as missing in the world, as well as track the conference themes.

*From top left: Equitable Cities Fellows and Alums
Maylin Tu, Barry Greene Jr., Deonna Anderson, Oscar Perry Abello,
Roshan Abraham and Christian De Jesus Betancourt*



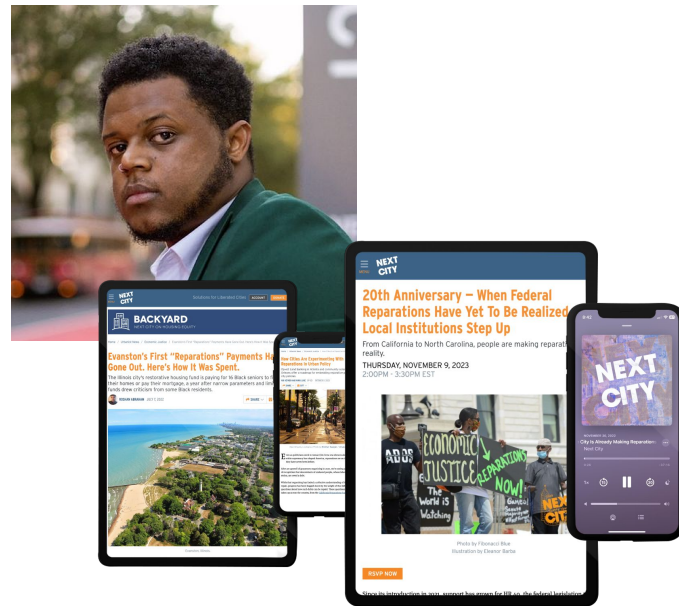
CURRENT FELLOW: BARRY GREENE JR. —Richmond, VA

The conference in Richmond explored solutions for truth, reconciliation and reparations. Greene has so far written two of the year's top 20 stories. They include reporting on a church expanding affordable housing and a look at HBCU investments. The position was created in part with support from Liberation Ventures.

[Help us find allies for a Lexington position focused on urban-rural interdependence.](#)

“ Support for reparations has doubled in the past two decades, and continues to grow. As the momentum of the movement builds, **we need storytellers** who are demonstrating why reparations — and building a culture of repair — are so necessary, showing the general public how much is already happening, and bringing the stories of the brilliant leaders in this movement to life.”

— Liberation Ventures Co-Founder and Managing Director Aria Florant



WHO ARE VANGUARDS?

The conference brings together professionals working across disciplines and sectors. Each Vanguard class includes policymakers and politicians, architects and urban planners, artists and media makers, all selected via a competitive application process.



READ THEIR
BIOS AT
[NEXTCITY.ORG/
VANGUARD](https://nextcity.org/vanguard)

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING: VANGUARD ALUMS



Maya Ford

Founder of FordMomentum!

2019 Vanguard Sacramento Alum

"Have you ever had an idea you've struggled to express? I suffer from this. It seems easy, but there are invisible barriers to my ability to navigate the steps to make my solution tangible. The hunt can be maddening because I do the work to clarify my vision. I read, talk, sniff, and dig. But sometimes, I just can't get there. Next City understands this about creative, solution-oriented people.

"The Vanguard Conference brings us together to observe, learn, exchange, and witness the complexities of our time and space. They do this on the principles of servant leadership, allowing each intention and result to benefit all stakeholders in a regenerative way. **My conference was the first time I met people who reflected the best of me in a professional environment.** The diversity of ethnicity, age, geography, gender, and skill made me feel whole and safe. I got to talk about my role in developing the new world from my perspective without anyone challenging my authenticity or capacity."

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING: **RETURNING ALUMS**



Paola Aguirre Serrano

*Founder of Borderless Studio,
2015 Vanguard Reno Alum*

“Being a Next City Vanguard was a game-changer in my journey as an urban designer. After my Vanguard experience in Reno in 2015, I felt tremendously inspired to make a bold move and to launch Borderless, an urban design and research practice invested in spatial justice and equitable design.

“I felt such an infusion of energy and was meaningfully reminded that I’m not alone in doing this work.”

Vanguard is an incredible network of brilliant and committed folks working on multiple fronts. Year after year, I keep coming back to the conference, both for inspiration and shared learning opportunities.”

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING: VANGUARD TURNED HOST



Cecelia Thompson

*Executive Director for Action Greensboro,
2021 Vanguard Conference Host*

"I had the privilege of participating in the 2013 Next City Vanguard cohort in Cleveland. Looking back, it was such a rich opportunity to stretch my perspective of urban development, community building, organizing, diversity, equity, and inclusion. The network I was introduced to included seasoned leaders in the fields of planning, architecture, tech, and government, and they were inspiring and welcoming to those of us who were novices in the urban planning space. **Vanguard connected me with civic leaders across the country, which propelled me to make a difference back home.**

"It was especially gratifying to host the 2020 Vanguard Conference in Greensboro, knowing that emerging leaders would be connected to Next City and all it provides through my city's lens."

NOTABLE VANGUARD ALUMNI

The Vanguard network includes mayors, heads of planning departments, and founders of leading design firms devoted to social justice.



JUSTIN GARRETT MOORE
Program Officer, Mellon Foundation



PETER SVARZBEIN
Councilmember, City of El Paso, TX



ERIC SHAW
Director of Housing, San Francisco



NICK BOWDEN
Founder, Replica



LIZ OGBU
Designer and Artist



ANDREW RODRIGUEZ
Councilmember, City of Walnut, CA



MARITA GARRETT
Mayor of Wilkinsburg, PA



BRYAN LEE JR.
Principal, Colloqate Design

MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT BY



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WHAT'S NEXT?

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO SHARE THE TRUE STORY OF LEXINGTON
AND HELP YOU REACH OUR NETWORK OF URBAN LEADERS, CHANGEMAKERS AND DREAMERS.

BECOME A SPONSOR

LEX
ON KENTUCKY