Hurricane Relief and Recovery: Fostering Human and Physical Infrastructure Resilience

Speaker Biographies

Philip Berke is a professor of land-use and environmental planning in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning at Texas A&M University and director of the Institute of Sustainable Coastal Communities at College Station. His work lies at the intersection of land-use planning, urban ecology, and community resilience to environmental hazards. He is the coreipient of several best article awards and honorable mention awards from the Journal of the American Planning Association, coauthor of a book selected as one of the 100 Essential Books in Planning for the 20th Century by the American Planning Association, and was a Senior Fulbright Scholar in New Zealand. In 2013, he received the Award for Excellence in Doctoral Student Mentoring by the University of North Carolina Graduate School. His research is currently supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and US Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate.

Angela Blanchard, president and CEO of BakerRipley, is a globally recognized expert practitioner in community development, disaster recovery, and effective long-term integration for immigrants and refugees. Blanchard’s breakthrough strategies have revitalized neighborhoods in Houston, while providing a powerful model for cities across the globe facing the complex challenges of community transformation. Frequently sought out by international nonprofit organizations and government leaders, Blanchard’s achievements in community revitalization have received numerous accolades, including awards from top institutions, three invitations to the White House, and extensive press coverage. She has been profiled in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and the Atlantic and on CNN and NPR. Fast Company magazine named Blanchard one of the most creative people in the nation. She is a nonresident senior fellow in the Centennial Scholar Initiative at the Brookings Institution and serves on the board of the Business Innovation Factory and the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University.

Cashuna Hill is executive director of the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC). A civil rights attorney specializing in fair housing litigation, Hill previously represented victims of housing discrimination in staff attorney roles with GNOFHAC and the Oregon Law Center’s Portland office. Hill’s law school years provided a framework for what would become a career working to dismantle housing segregation—and the accompanying lack of access to opportunity—at the root of America’s enduring inequities. In her current role, she leads advocates working to eradicate housing discrimination by providing direct services and conducting policy advocacy campaigns. Among other duties, Hill leads GNOFHAC’s partnership with the City of New Orleans in implementing the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule released by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2015. She received her undergraduate degree from Spelman College and her law degree from Tulane University Law School. Hill is a New Leaders Council fellow and an Op-Ed Project Public Voices fellow. Her writing has been published by Next City and the Hill.
Carlos Martín is a senior fellow in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where he leads research and evaluations on the physical qualities of housing and communities and the industry that builds them. Martín, a trained architect and construction engineer, uses his technical training to connect the nuts and bolts of housing—technology, design, workers, and materials—to its social outcomes for residents and the cities in which they live. His areas of expertise include green housing policies, disaster mitigation, low-income housing quality, the construction workforce, and development regulations. He has experience with descriptive analysis, qualitative implementation studies, evaluation technical assistance, and experimental evaluations for public, nonprofit, and philanthropic clients in the United States and abroad. Publications from his past research projects include Housing Recovery on the Gulf Coast, Phase II; The Feasibility of Developing a National Parcel Database; and The State of the Residential Construction Industry. Before joining Urban, Martín was assistant staff vice president at the National Association of Home Builders for Construction Codes and Standards, SRP professor for energy and the environment at Arizona State University’s Del E. Webb School of Construction and School of Architecture, and coordinator for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing. Martín received his BSAD in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his MS and PhD in civil and environmental engineering from Stanford University.

Marion Mollegen McFadden is vice president of public policy at Enterprise Community Partners, where she leads research, tax, federal appropriations, and state and local policy advocacy teams. Previously, she was deputy assistant secretary for grant programs and a supervisory attorney at the US Department of Housing and Urban Housing (HUD), where she worked on disaster recovery from 9/11 to Hurricane Sandy and beyond. At HUD, McFadden oversaw affordable housing and community development programs, including the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships program, the Housing Trust Fund, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), Indian Housing Block Grants, and CDBG Disaster Recovery funds, including the 2016 National Disaster Resilience Competition grants. She formed and facilitated multiple public-private partnerships, including with the Rockefeller Foundation to support communities planning for disaster resilience, with GitHub to bring technology education and resources to public housing residents, and with the nonprofit organization KaBOOM! to create a design competition to retrofit cities and other built spaces to accommodate play for better health of residents. McFadden holds a BA from Northwestern University and a JD, magna cum laude, from Howard University School of Law.

Margery Austin Turner is senior vice president for program planning and management at the Urban Institute, where she leads efforts to frame and conduct a forward-looking agenda of policy research. A nationally recognized expert on urban policy and neighborhood issues, Turner has analyzed residential location, racial and ethnic discrimination and its contribution to neighborhood segregation and inequality, and the role of housing policies in promoting residential mobility and location choice. Among her recent publications is the book Public Housing and the Legacy of Segregation. Before joining Urban, Turner was deputy assistant secretary for research at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from 1993 through 1996, focusing HUD’s research agenda on the problems of racial discrimination, concentrated poverty, and economic opportunity in America’s metropolitan areas. During her tenure, HUD’s research office launched three major social science demonstration projects to test strategies for helping families from distressed inner-city neighborhoods gain access to opportunities through employment and education. Turner has a BA in political science from Cornell University and an MA in urban and regional planning from the George Washington University.