

Housing Insights: A New Tool for Preserving Affordable Housing in Washington, DC

Speaker Biographies

Matt Bailey is a technology strategist and organizer working at the intersection of open government, civic engagement, and public policy. His work has ranged from information security to open data and from crowdfunding to service design. As cofounder of Code for DC, Bailey helps build the capacity of DC's technology community for social good. He works in the White House Office of the Chief Information Officer, leading its policy team. He has also been director of technology innovation for the DC government and a user experience manager for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, where he focused on closing the loop from citizens' financial complaints to the marketplace using open data.

Polly Donaldson is director of the DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). She oversees more than 180 employees and 14 program areas and manages a \$250 million operating budget to preserve and produce rental and homeownership opportunities for District residents while revitalizing underserved neighborhoods. Donaldson's nonprofit career spans nearly 30 years, with senior management experience in homelessness, affordable housing, and international community development. Before joining DHCD, Donaldson was executive director of the Transitional Housing Corporation (THC) for over 10 years and THC Affordable Housing Inc. since 2005. Donaldson served on the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness in 2009 and was reappointed in 2013. She is the former board president of the Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development, an umbrella group of affordable housing developers. In 2012, she also served on the Comprehensive Housing Strategy Task Force assembled by former mayor Vincent Gray. In 2014, Mayor-elect Muriel Bowser named Donaldson cochair of the transition team's Affordable Housing Committee. In addition to her duties as DHCD director, Donaldson is chair of Mayor Bowser's Affordable Housing Preservation Strike Force.

Stephen Glaude is president and chief executive officer of the Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development, an association of 140 organizational members that fosters just and equitable community development solutions that address the needs and aspirations of low- and moderate-income District residents. Glaude has served in government, business, and the nonprofit sector. In the federal government, he has been deputy undersecretary at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, director of discretionary grants at the US Department of Health and Human Services, and special assistant to the president at the White House. Locally, he was director of community affairs in the Executive Office of the Mayor under Vincent Gray and director of constituent services under city council chairman Gray. Glaude also was director of Great Expectations Healthy Start Program under New Orleans mayor Marc Morial. Glaude has been president and chief executive officer of the National Association of Neighborhoods, the National Congress for Community Economic Development, and Men Can Stop Rape Inc. Glaude has also owned and operated three for-profit businesses, a vegetarian catering service, a trucking company, and a consultant firm. He is a graduate of Morgan State University.



Peter A. Tatian is a senior fellow in the Urban Institute’s Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center. He researches housing policy and community development. Tatian leads NeighborhoodInfo DC, a neighborhood data system and civic engagement tool for the District of Columbia that is part of Urban’s National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership, and leads the development of the DC Preservation Catalog. He also advises nonprofits on performance management and evaluation and heads Urban’s work providing technical assistance on data collection and use to grantees of the US Department of Education’s Promise Neighborhoods initiative.

Gustavo Velasquez is director of the Urban Institute’s Washington-Area Research Initiative, a cross-center initiative and multidisciplinary program of evidence and policy analysis focused on the national capital region. As a reliable source of evidence and advice, Urban’s Washington-Area Research Initiative provides insights from research to policymakers and practitioners in ways both relevant and actionable. Velasquez served for nearly three years as assistant secretary for fair housing and equal opportunity at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He served on behalf of the president as the strategic lead of the fair housing and inclusive community agenda for the Obama administration. During his tenure, HUD achieved groundbreaking enforcement victories in fair lending and in major housing discrimination cases. Velasquez led efforts to promulgate the landmark Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule, a key tool for cities, states, and other HUD funding recipients to reduce inequality and disparities in access to opportunity. Velasquez worked in executive roles in the administrations of DC mayors Anthony Williams, Adrian Fenty, and Vincent Gray. He also has nonprofit experience as executive director of the Latino Economic Development Center, a local community development organization in Washington, DC, and Congreso de Latinos Unidos, the leading social service provider to Latinos in Philadelphia. Velasquez has served in numerous boards and committees of financial institutions, civil rights groups, and educational organizations at the local and national levels. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a master’s degree in public administration.