

Boosting Upward Mobility: Metrics to Inform Local Action

Speaker Biographies

Shaun Donovan is the former director of the US Office of Management and Budget under President Obama, where he oversaw regulations that reduced inequality, expanded health care, improved education, and fought climate change. Donovan served as secretary of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from 2009 to 2014, where he led the fight against the nation's unprecedented foreclosure crisis. Before joining the Obama administration, he served as commissioner of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, worked in the private sector on financing affordable housing, and was a visiting scholar at New York University. He also served in the Clinton administration as deputy assistant secretary for multifamily housing at HUD and as acting Federal Housing Administration commissioner. Donovan holds bachelor's and master's degrees in public administration and architecture from Harvard University.

David Harding is a professor of sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. He studies poverty and inequality, urban neighborhoods, education, incarceration, and prisoner reentry. He uses both qualitative and quantitative methods. His current projects include the social and economic reintegration of former prisoners; neighborhoods and prisoner reentry; the effects of incarceration on crime, employment, and health; causal inference for contextual-effects research; for-profit colleges, educational attainment, and labor market outcomes; and the role of neighborhood context in adolescent romantic relationships and sexual behavior. He is currently the interim director of the Social Sciences D-Lab. Harding received his doctoral degree in sociology and social policy from Harvard University.

Rucker Johnson is the chancellor's professor of public policy in the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley, and faculty research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. As a labor economist specializing in the economics of education, Johnson considers how poverty and inequality affect life chances. Johnson was one of 35 scholars to receive the prestigious 2017 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship. His research has appeared in leading academic journals and been featured in mainstream media outlets, and he has been invited to give policy briefings at the White House and on Capitol Hill. He recently published *Children of the Dream: Why School Integration Works*. He is committed to fusing insights from multiple disciplinary perspectives to improve our understanding of the causes, consequences, and remedies of inequality in the US. Johnson earned his doctoral degree in economics at the University of Michigan. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in applied econometrics and topical courses in race, poverty, and inequality.

Erika C. Poethig is vice president and chief innovation officer at the Urban Institute. She leads the Research to Action Lab, an innovation hub serving decisionmakers and creative thinkers eager to effect social change. The Lab draws on the breadth and depth of Urban's research insights to test new strategies; develop cutting-edge tools, programs, and trainings; and provide strategic advice to public, philanthropic, nonprofit, and private-sector leaders. Before joining Urban, Poethig was acting assistant secretary for policy, development, and research at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. During her tenure in the Obama administration, she was also deputy assistant secretary for policy development and was a leading architect of the White House Council for Strong Cities and Strong Communities. At the MacArthur Foundation, she was associate director for housing. She was also assistant commissioner for

policy, resource, and program development at the City of Chicago's Department of Housing. In the 1990s, she developed Mayor Richard Daley's campaign to combat predatory lending, prevent foreclosures, and stabilize communities. Previously, she was associate project director of the Metropolis Project, which produced the Metropolis 2020 agenda for regional leadership around the major issues faced by the metropolitan Chicago area. Poethig serves on the boards of Mercy Housing and the College of Wooster. Poethig was a Phi Beta Kappa member at the College of Wooster, was a Fulbright scholar at the University of Vienna, and has a master's degree with honors in public policy from the University of Chicago.

Ryan Rippel oversees the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's national work to strengthen pathways out of poverty and ensure all people can access the American dream. Over the past four years, Rippel has led the foundation's learning initiative on poverty in the US, which included establishing the US Partnership on Mobility from Poverty; conducting site visits and meetings with families, local leaders, and advocates in more than three dozen communities around the country; and creating several partnerships to generate new data and public goods in service of those addressing barriers to opportunity. Rippel is an adjunct professor at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, where he created and coleads a course on local government law and urban revitalization. He also serves on the boards of the Missouri Foundation for Health and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri. He is a graduate of Harvard College, the University of Cambridge, and Harvard Law School.

Jessica Trounstine is the UC Merced Foundation Board of Trustees presidential chair at the University of California, Merced. She studies American politics, primarily focusing on subnational politics in large cities. Trounstine examines the process and quality of representation and is particularly interested in how political institutions enhance or limit residents' abilities to achieve responsive government. She takes a mixed-methods approach to her scholarship, including using historical analysis, qualitative data, and quantitative methods. Trounstine holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, and a doctoral degree in political science from the University of California, San Diego.

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 issues of 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 served as 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 different strategies for helping families from distressed inner-city neighborhoods gain access to opportunities through employment and education. Turner has a bachelor's degree in political science from Cornell University and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the George Washington University.

Sarah Rosen Wartell is the third president of the Urban Institute since it was founded in 1968. During her tenure, Urban has "elevated the debate" by bringing more of its insights from research to federal, state, and local government and practice; becoming a leader in research communications and data visualization; and undertaking an ambitious program of business systems and technology modernization. Previously, Wartell was deputy assistant to the president for economic policy and deputy director of the National Economic Council. At the US Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1993 to 1998, she advised the

federal housing commissioner on housing finance, mortgage markets, and consumer protection. Later, she was a consultant to the bipartisan Millennial Housing Commission. After government service, Wartell was the founding chief operating officer and then executive vice president of the Center for American Progress. Before her tenure in government, she practiced law with the Washington, DC, firm Arnold & Porter. Wartell serves on the board of the Center for Law and Social Policy and on Bank of America's National Community Advisory Council. She previously served on the boards of the Low Income Investment Fund, the Center for Urban Science and Progress at New York University, and the Corporation for Enterprise Development. Her areas of expertise include community development, consumer finance, asset building, and housing finance. Wartell has a bachelor's degree with honors in urban affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and a doctoral degree from Yale Law School.