

Protecting the “Third Place:” The Pandemic’s Impact on Commercial Corridors and How to Support Them

Speaker Biographies

Jorge González is a research analyst in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute. He is interested in investigating how the built environment, infrastructure, and other neighborhood assets contribute to the well-being of communities. Prior to joining Urban, González worked for the Mexican federal government assessing and coordinating initiatives to repurpose unused government-owned land and rail infrastructure into sustainable urban developments. Gonzalez earned his BA in International Relations from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México and his MPP from the University of Chicago as a Fulbright grantee.

Jein Park is a research assistant in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center with the Community and Economic Development practice area. Her research interest focuses on economic empowerment through the combination of government policies and community-based initiatives. Before joining Urban, Park conducted field research in Chicago on e-commerce’s impact on small businesses and how retail vacancies affect neighborhoods. She has also participated in sustainable urban development research on the Galapagos Islands. Park graduated from the University of Chicago with BAs in public policy studies and sociology. Her honors senior thesis studied how commercialization transformed a desolate meatpacking district into Chicago’s trendiest consumption destination.

Kendra Macias Reed joined the Franklin Boulevard Business Association and the Franklin Neighborhood Development Corporation as Deputy Director in April 2020, bringing with her over 15 years of experience in business banking, community development and city planning, and small business management and operations. She and her husband currently own and operate a residential construction company in Sacramento. In addition to her current role, Kendra serves on the City of Sacramento’s Planning and Design Commission as the District 5 appointee.

Emily Talen is Professor of Urbanism at the University of Chicago, where she teaches urban design and directs the Urbanism Lab. She holds a PhD in urban geography from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a master’s in city planning from Ohio State. She is a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners, and the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship. Talen has written extensively on the topics of urban design, New Urbanism, and social equity. Her books include *New Urbanism and American Planning*, *Design for Diversity*, *Urban Design Reclaimed*, *City Rules and Neighborhood*. She is co-editor of the *Journal of Urbanism*.