

Stable Housing Is a Critical First Step toward Racial Equity

Speaker Biographies

Mary Cunningham is vice president for metropolitan housing and communities policy at the Urban Institute, where her research focuses on homelessness, housing, concentrated poverty, and efforts to improve self-sufficiency and overall well-being among families with low incomes. She has expertise in several US Department of Housing and Urban Development homelessness and assisted housing programs, including permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, emergency shelter, Housing Choice Vouchers, and the Family Self-Sufficiency, HOPE VI, and the Moving to Opportunity demonstrations. She directs studies examining the impact of housing vouchers on child welfare involvement, the impact of supportive housing on high-need families in the child welfare system, and a homelessness prevention program for at-risk veterans. From 2005 to 2008, Cunningham launched and directed the Homelessness Research Institute, the research and education arm of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. She also cochaired a research council on homelessness comprising nationally recognized academics and policy researchers. She has authored numerous reports, including *A Research Agenda for Ending Homelessness* and *Homelessness Counts*. Cunningham has a master's in public policy from Georgetown University.

Arthur Jemison is the principal deputy assistant secretary of the Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). CPD administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), CDBG disaster recovery funds, and the HOME Investment Partnerships, Homelessness Assistance Grants, and Emergency Solutions Grant programs. Jemison joined HUD from the City of Detroit, where he was group executive for planning, housing, and development. In that role, he led the city's equitable growth efforts and worked with directors of the Housing and Revitalization Department, the Planning and Development Department, the Detroit Land Bank Authority, Detroit Housing Commission, and the Bridging Neighborhoods program. Before that, Mayor Duggan recruited Jemison in early 2014 to be the director of Detroit's Housing and Revitalization Department. There he led strategy for and deployment and management of the city's housing policy and HUD entitlement funding. Before coming to Detroit, Jemison served as deputy undersecretary and deputy director at the Department of Housing and Community Development for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He has held various positions in the public and private sectors, many related to city planning and urban development, including his role in the District of Columbia's Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development.

Monique King-Viehland is associate vice president for metropolitan housing and communities policy at the Urban Institute. She leads new work on racial equity and housing justice and works with researchers on policy, communications, and business development to grow compelling bodies of work. She also works to embed racial equity across the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center's practice areas. King-Viehland previously served as executive director of the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA). She was the first woman and African American to take the helm of the 40-year-old agency. She led the agency through significant transformation, including the merger of the Community Development Commission and housing authority into one unified agency to augment cross-agency

thinking and client service, increase organizational effectiveness, and reposition the agency as a forward-thinking industry leader in the provision of housing, community, and economic development. She also enhanced LACDA's efforts to fight the homelessness and affordability crises. In 2019, she was recognized as an LA power woman by Bisnow. King-Viehland has 20 years of experience in housing, community, and economic development. She is a member of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness and a member of the Policy Advisory Committee for the California Roadmap HOME 2030 initiative. In late 2020, she served as a member of the US Housing and Urban Development Agency Review Team for the Biden-Harris Transition Team. King-Viehland graduated with honors from Smith College and has a master's in public policy from Carnegie Mellon.

Mel Martinez is chairman of the Southeast US and Latin America for JPMorgan Chase & Co. After more than a decade of public service, Martinez joined JPMorgan Chase & Co. in July 2010. He represents the firm to clients throughout the Southeast—from individuals and businesses to large corporations, governments, and nonprofit organizations. Martinez was elected to the United States Senate in 2004. Representing Florida, he served on several committees including Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs. While serving in the Senate, Martinez led efforts to reform Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and was a trusted voice on foreign policy issues throughout the western hemisphere. Before his time in the Senate, he served as the 12th secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As the first Cuban American to serve in a President's cabinet, he became known for his efforts to increase homeownership for all Americans and to end chronic homelessness. He also served as Mayor of Orange County and practiced law for 25 years before public service. In addition to his role with JPMorgan Chase & Co., Martinez serves on the boards of Marriott Vacations Worldwide and as lead director and NVR Inc. He received both his BS and JD from Florida State University.

Rasheedah Phillips currently serves as the managing attorney of housing policy at Community Legal Services (CLS) of Philadelphia. She began her career at CLS in 2008 in the community economic development unit, providing legal advice and representation to and engaging in community lawyering on behalf of small child care for-profit and nonprofit organizations. She has trained on racial justice and housing law issues and skills throughout the country, having previously served as the senior advocate resources and training attorney at Shriver Center on Poverty Law. Phillips is the recipient of the 2017 National Housing Law Project Housing Justice Award, the 2017 City & State Pennsylvania 40 under 40 Rising Star Award, the 2018 Temple University Black Law Student Association Alumni Award, the 2018 CLS Equal Justice Award, and the 2019 Barristers Association of Philadelphia Outstanding Young Attorney Award. She is a 2016 Shriver Center's Racial Justice Institute fellow, 2018 Atlantic fellow for racial equity, and a 2020 Givelber distinguished public interest lecturer, and she was recently awarded a research fellowship with Vera List Center for Art and Politics at The New School. Phillips is a 2005 graduate of Temple University and a 2008 graduate of Temple University Beasley School of Law.

Noel Andrés Poyo most recently served for 14 years as executive director of the National Association for Latino Community Assets Builders (NALCAB), a nonprofit membership organization serving as the hub of a network of more than 120 community and economic development organizations that serve geographically and ethnically diverse Latino communities. Since 2015, he has concurrently served as chief executive officer of Escalera Community Investments, NALCAB's subsidiary asset management company

that controls social investment funds designed to capitalize affordable housing projects and small businesses. Poyo's 22-year career has focused on integrating immigrants and people with low incomes into the mainstream financial services and real estate sectors of our economy and on improving the livability and economic resilience of low-income neighborhoods and affordable housing communities. He has played diverse roles in the implementation of community development projects valued at more than \$1 billion. From 2015 to 2017, Poyo served as 1 of 15 members of the Community Advisory Council for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. He has extensive experience advising the executive leadership of some of the nation's largest banks and numerous nonprofit lenders and social investors. Poyo is a graduate of Yale University.

Anthony Simpkins joined Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago as president and chief executive officer in November 2020. Simpkins is a leader in Chicago's affordable housing community and has long served the city. As managing deputy commissioner of Chicago's Department of Housing, he administered housing and community development policies, programs, and strategic investments. In 2014, he was appointed a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County by the Illinois Supreme Court and served until 2016. Previously, he was deputy commissioner for the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development, focusing on asset management, intergovernmental affairs, housing preservation initiatives, and economic development policy. Simpkins began his legal career as a Skadden Foundation fellow at the Legal Assistance Foundation and Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing, where he represented renters who were victims of illegal evictions called "lockouts." He also worked for the Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities, the Chicago fair housing organization founded by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. As a 2011 emerging leader for the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Simpkins coauthored a published report on immigration. He is a board member and past president of the Muslim Bar Association of Chicago, the first association of Muslim lawyers in the US, and a former board member of the Cook County Bar Association, the country's oldest association of African American lawyers. He is also a board member of the Downtown Islamic Center and the RTW Veteran Center and former managing editor of the *Journal of Islamic Law and Culture*. Simpkins earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois and a master's degree in political science and a law degree Loyola University.

Sarah Rosen Wartell is the third president of the Urban Institute since it was founded in 1968. During her tenure, Urban celebrated a milestone anniversary by moving into a state-of-the-art research and convening facility and launched its Next50, a strategy to advance upward mobility, equity, and shared prosperity by bringing the power of knowledge to help changemakers accelerate solutions. Under Wartell's leadership, Urban aims to leverage cutting-edge technology and data science, understand and confront structural racism, and deliver timely, relevant, and actionable research to communities, capitals, board rooms, and wherever innovators are pursuing bold ideas. Previously, Wartell was deputy assistant to the president for economic policy and deputy director of the National Economic Council. She also worked in various roles at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. After government service, Wartell was the founding chief operating officer and then executive vice president of the Center for American Progress. Her work focused on the economy and housing markets, and she directed the Mortgage Finance Working Group and the Doing What Works government performance program. Before her tenure in government, she practiced law with the Washington, DC, firm Arnold & Porter. Wartell currently serves on the boards of Enterprise Community Partners and the Georgetown Day School, Bank

of America's National Community Advisory Council, and the Sadie Collective's Advisory Board. 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 (now known as Prosperity Now). 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 the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs. She has a law degree from Yale Law School.