

# Advancing Racial Equity in Our Communities: Local Resilience Planning

## Speaker Biographies

**Daniella Levine Cava** was elected Miami-Dade County's first-ever woman Mayor in November 2020. She enters the Mayor's office following a 40-year career as a relentless advocate for South Florida families in public service and elected leadership. As Miami-Dade County's Mayor, she oversees a metropolitan government with more than 28,000 employees serving nearly 3 million residents, managing an annual budget of approximately \$9 billion. Since taking office, she has worked to protect lives and livelihoods by deploying a countywide operation to distribute coronavirus vaccines efficiently and equitably across Miami-Dade; appointing the County's first Chief Medical officer; and working closely with city leaders and the business community to spread a unified pandemic response message. In collaboration with the Board of County Commissioners, she is working to distribute millions of federal dollars in American Rescue Plan relief funds to support small businesses and residents impacted by the pandemic, invest in critical infrastructure projects, and kickstart long term recovery.

**Mary K. Cunningham** is vice president for metropolitan housing and communities policy at the Urban Institute, where researchers and policy experts work to diagnose problems and identify solutions on issues including homelessness and access to affordable housing, fair housing and discrimination, community and economic development, land use and zoning, racial segregation, and housing and climate change. She has studied housing and homelessness for more than 20 years and has led several evaluations of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's homelessness and assisted-housing programs, including those related to permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention, and housing choice vouchers. 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 composed of nationally recognized academics and policy researchers. She has authored numerous reports, including *A Research Agenda for Ending Homelessness* and *Homelessness Counts*. Cunningham has been cited in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, has been a guest on *The Weeds* podcast, and was recently interviewed on *CBS Morning News*. She started her career as a caseworker for families with housing vouchers at Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership (now Metro Housing|Boston) and has an MPP from Georgetown University.

**Dr. Atyia Martin** is the CEO and Founder of All Aces, Inc., an alternative to traditional diversity, equity, and inclusion consulting firms. She is also the Executive Director of the nonprofit, Next Leadership Development, supporting resilience for Black leaders and communities through resource, education, and relationships. Her personal mission is to unleash the invisible power that every person and organization has to intentionally act to disrupt oppression. Dr. Martin has over 20 years of experience applying the principles of racial and social justice with organizations, leaders, and communities. She has facilitated efforts to address injustices within the workplace, climate resilience, emergency management, public health, and homeland security. Dr. Martin is published in scholarly journals and is the author of *We Are the Question + the Answer: Volume I*. Additionally, she is a Distinguished Senior Fellow at Northeastern University's Global Resilience Institute. Dr. Martin is an experienced emergency manager with an Inclusive Workplace Culture Specialty Credential from the Society for Human Resource Management, an Associate of Arts in Serbian Croatian from the Defense Language Institute (DLI), Bachelor of Science from Excelsior College, a Master of Homeland Security Leadership from the University of Connecticut, and a Doctorate of Law and Policy from Northeastern University.

**Sara McTarnaghan** is a senior research associate in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute and practice area lead for Urban's work on [climate and communities](#). McTarnaghan's research focuses on climate change and resilience, immigrant inclusion and integration, and urbanization and international development. As a trained urban planner, she examines the connections between the built and natural environments and social and economic outcomes, especially for people and communities disproportionately affected by the increasing frequency and severity of climate impacts and disasters. As a bilingual researcher, she has conducted multiple studies about the inclusion of immigrant communities in the social safety net and state and local policy levers for supporting immigrants. Currently, McTarnaghan is overseeing the global outcome evaluation of the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities network, which tracks changes in municipal governance and planning to support resilience in participating cities. Additionally, she is the urban research lead for an evidence-based learning program for the US Agency for International Development that will inform the agency's urban programming. She previously led a comprehensive evidence review of housing policies and practices in Latin America and the Caribbean for Habitat for Humanity as an input to the United Nations Habitat III conference in 2016. Before joining Urban, McTarnaghan worked at the nonprofit TECHO supporting housing and community development interventions across Latin America. She earned an MS in community and regional planning and an MA in Latin American studies from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Jorge Morales-Burnett** is a research analyst in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute. He is a member of the Climate and Communities practice area where his research focuses on local governance, urban resilience, and international development. Morales-Burnett's portfolio includes the global outcome evaluation of the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities program, the evaluation of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's technical assistance programs, and the creation of rural community typologies to inform investments based on local assets. Morales-Burnett has a BA in economics and urban studies from The University of Texas at Austin.