

Using the Capital for Communities Scorecard to Boost Social Impact and Equity

Speaker Biographies

Adriana Abizadeh is the executive director of the Kensington Corridor Trust (KCT) in Philadelphia. The mission, duty and purpose of the KCT is to utilize collective ownership to direct investments on the corridor that preserve culture and affordability while building neighborhood power and wealth in Kensington. With deep interests in public policy Adriana has taken every opportunity to utilize her privileged position as a nonprofit leader in order to speak out for what she believes in and to lift the voices of impacted community members. Immersed in policy initiatives, she has facilitated community collaboration to address the intersectionality between immigration status, housing, poverty, and race. All of Adriana's professional working experience has been in the nonprofit sector and she is passionate about serving others. Adriana has a BA from Rutgers University in Political Science with a minor in Security Intelligence and Counter Terrorism. She also has an MS in Public Policy from Drexel University. She has committed herself to serving on several boards that reflect some of her deepest passions: immigration, racial and health equity, and youth development. When Adriana isn't serving her community, she is at home with her two children and their two dogs.

Xavier (Xav) de Souza Briggs is a senior fellow at Brookings Metro. He is also a senior advisor and co-founder of What Works Plus, a collaborative of philanthropic donors promoting equity and resilience through America's generational investments in infrastructure and climate action. Prior to joining Brookings, Briggs served for six years as vice president of the Ford Foundation, redesigning and managing its inclusive economies and markets work globally along with regional program teams based in China, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. Previously, Briggs was professor of sociology and urban planning in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he launched the popular open-source tools of the Community Problem Solving Project and Working Smarter in Community Development and served as head of MIT's Housing, Community, and Economic Development Group. From January 2009 to August 2011, he helped run the White House Office of Management and Budget, as program associate director handling policy, budget, and management issues for roughly half the cabinet agencies of the federal government and many independent agencies.

Sharon Carney serves as Chief of Staff at the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development in Washington, DC. In this capacity, she oversees the agency's \$142 million operating budget, policy and legislative affairs, business development, operations, and an interagency portfolio that includes housing and community development, city planning, small business, and the creative economy. In prior roles at the agency, she led development of the District's economic strategy, implementation of the federal Opportunity Zones incentive, and other special projects focused on inclusive economic development. Sharon has spent her career working to create equitable cities through cross-sector partnerships and evidence-based, community-driven solutions. Prior to public service, she spent 10 years in the nonprofit sector, including roles at the Urban Institute and the Furman Center for Real Estate & Urban Policy at New York University.

Martha Fedorowicz is a policy associate in the Research to Action Lab at the Urban Institute, where she works with local government agencies, philanthropic organizations, and nonprofits to conduct policy research, provide technical assistance, and translate research into practical tools for policymakers. Her

policy areas of interest include economic development, affordable housing, mobility from poverty, and community engagement. Before joining Urban, Fedorowicz was a special projects administrator with the City of Lansing's Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement and a summer policy associate in the City of Detroit's Department of Neighborhoods. Fedorowicz has a bachelor's degree in political science and French and a master's degree in public policy from the University of Michigan; she also served as a youth development Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco from 2012 to 2014.

Lisa Bhathal Merage is Co-Founder, Chief Impact Officer, and Managing Partner of Revitate. She previously served as CEO of RAJ Swim, the Bhathal family's 50-year-old women's swimwear business. During her tenure, the firm successfully sold to private equity in what remains the largest private equity buyout in the swimwear industry. She was honored as the 2012 Mercedes Benz Fashion Week Swim Presents "Designer of the Year," and 2015 Modern Luxury magazine "Altruist of the Year." She has appeared in numerous fashion and business media segments, including CBS, NBC, FOX, and E! Entertainment Television. Lisa is presently a board member of the Orange County Museum of Art and previously served as on the boards of Gen Next, Sage Hill School, and St. Mary's School. She is a graduate of USC's Marshall School of Business and holds a Certificate in Social Impact Strategy from the University of Pennsylvania.

Kathryn (Kate) Reynolds is a principal policy associate with the Research to Action Lab at the Urban Institute. Her work focuses on affordable rental housing, housing stability, and equitable community and economic development. Since March 2020, Reynolds has led Urban's efforts to understand the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the rental housing market. She is an adviser to the American Bar Association's Task Force on Eviction, Housing Stability and Equity. Previously, Reynolds served on the White House Council for Strong Cities, Strong Communities, a council founded by President Obama to help achieve economic recovery in US cities. As the council's deputy director, Reynolds oversaw implementation of the Strong Cities, Strong Communities initiative in 14 cities nationwide and managed a council of representatives from 19 federal agencies. She was a 2011–13 Presidential Management Fellow. Reynolds holds a master's degree in public administration from New York University's Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, where she focused on public policy and urban development. Reynolds is an adviser to the American Bar Association's Task Force on Eviction, Housing Stability and Equity.

Brett Theodos is a senior fellow and director of the Community Economic Development Hub at the Urban Institute. His work focuses on economic and community development, neighborhood change, affordable homeownership, consumer finance, and program evaluation and learning. His research includes evaluations of the Economic Development Administration, New Markets Tax Credit, Small Business Administration loan and investment programs, Opportunity Zones, and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Choice Neighborhoods, Community Development Block Grant, and Section 108 programs. He is studying how capital flows (or fails to flow) into communities, including the role of mission finance actors like community development financial institutions. He leads projects researching how entrepreneurs can access capital. Theodos has conducted studies of neighborhood change and geographic mobility. He is evaluating several place-based initiatives. He's led studies of affordable homeownership supports, including shared equity models like community land trusts. In the financial capability space, he's led studies of financial coaching, financial curriculum, and rules of thumb for decisionmaking. He's explored the geography of debt. Theodos is working to grow nonprofit capacity in performance measurement. He directs Measure4Change, which provides technical assistance and facilitates a community of practice for nonprofits and has led randomized controlled trial evaluations of youth workforce and education preparedness programs. Theodos serves on the Board of the Center for Community Progress, the Douglass Community Land Trust, and the Housing Authority of Prince George's

County. Theodos received his BA from Northwestern University, MPP from Georgetown University, and PhD in public policy from George Washington University.