

Increasing Upward Mobility for Residents: How Local Leaders Are Using Urban's Upward Mobility Framework

Speaker Biographies

Stephen Baiter, is the Executive Director of the East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA), a regional cross-sector economic development organization with more than three decades of experience supporting strategic economic development across Alameda and Contra Costa counties. East Bay EDA's has more than 150 members from business, government, labor, nonprofit organizations, research institutions, and other entities who work together to make the East Bay one of the most diverse, globally competitive, and innovative business environments in the world. Stephen has more than 20 years of experience leading and supporting successful multi-stakeholder, public/private partnerships and has an extensive track record with building regional networks and designing strategies to help businesses and residents in our local communities. Stephen previously served as the Chair of the California Workforce Association (CWA), a statewide organization representing a variety of public, private, and nonprofit stakeholders in California and nationally. He has served on the board of directors of multiple organizations focused on education, economic empowerment, and workforce development. He has a BA in Political Science from Boston College and a Master's in Public Administration from California State University – East Bay.

Kimberly Burrowes, is a technical assistance manager in the Research to Action Lab at the Urban Institute. Burrowes's research has focused on advancing racial equity in parks and public spaces, practices and policies for affordable housing solutions, and participatory engagement. Burrowes thinks about how to provide an equity framing to local policy solutions for the built environment, using placemaking and community engagement tools. Within her technical assistance role, Burrowes works with local government agencies and nonprofits to build their capacity to tackle policy challenges. She has advised local agencies on the equity impacts of placemaking, community-based nonprofits focused on housing stability and equity, county-level criminal justice system agencies, and most recently, resident engagement approaches for municipalities exploring financial empowerment plans. Before joining Urban, Burrowes worked with the urban development and disaster risk management unit at the World Bank, focusing on projects in the Caribbean and East Asia. Before that, she worked on affordable housing policy at the Massachusetts Housing Partnership in Boston and the Island Housing Trust on Martha's Vineyard. Burrowes has a BA in geography and international development and an MA in community development and urban planning from Clark University.

Martha Fedorowicz, is a training and technical assistance manager 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.

Emma Fernandez, is a policy associate in the Research to Action Lab at the Urban Institute, where she focuses on advancing mobility from poverty, inclusive recovery, and racial equity. She works with local government agencies and nonprofits to provide policy advising and technical assistance.

Before joining Urban, she worked in civic technology policy for the City of San Francisco and in research on behavioral science interventions in social services and education at MDRC. She also served as fellow in the City of Boston's Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics, and as a FoodCorps service member promoting local food access and education in schools. Fernandez received a bachelor's degree in public policy from Princeton University and a master's degree in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley.

Keith Fudge, is a senior policy program manager in the Research to Action Lab at the Urban Institute. He directs a body of work focused on increasing mobility from poverty. Previously, he managed technical assistance projects for Urban's Pay for Success Initiative. He also managed the Evidence-Based Policymaking Collaborative, a partnership of experts from four research organizations that provided insight into strategies for applying rigorous evidence to the policymaking process, particularly at the federal level. Previously, Fudge worked in the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Policy Development and Research, where he supported research and communications efforts. He was a founding staffer and senior project manager for the White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities. Fudge has a BA in English from the University of Michigan and an MPP from the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

Erica Greeley, is Vice President of Economic Mobility at Feeding America. Feeding America® is the largest hunger-relief organization in the United States. As a network of more than 200 food banks, 21 statewide food bank associations, and over 60,000 agency partners, including food pantries and meal programs, we helped provide 5.2 billion meals to tens of millions of people in need last year. Erica's portfolio focuses on addressing food security over the long term by supporting economic mobility pathways for neighbors and communities facing hunger. Prior to Feeding America, Erica held several senior positions at Independent Sector, the national leadership forum for charities and foundations, where she led projects to understand drivers of success across the nonprofit community and map nonprofit networks. In addition, Erica served as the Deputy Director for the National Council of Nonprofits, an organization representing over 20,000 local organizations, with responsibility for programs, public policy, and communications. She began her career running afterschool programs for girls in under-resourced neighborhoods in San Jose, CA. Erica is an adjunct faculty member at Georgetown University's Center for Public and Nonprofit Leadership. She holds an MPP from the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown and a B.A. from Wesleyan University.

Kosar Jahani, is a Senior Program Officer on the US Economic Mobility and Opportunity team at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where she focuses on research and data strategy. In this role, she collaborates with a diverse array of researchers to develop insights and actionable tools that drive the advancement of economic mobility. This work has included partnering with the Urban Institute to develop the Upward Mobility Framework and its associated metrics. Her role builds on her experience working at the intersection of research and practice, including as the Director of Impact at Samasource and a research analyst at Cornerstone Research. Kosar is a graduate of UC Berkeley and The Fletcher School at Tufts University.

Beth McConnell, is the Director of Policy, at the City of Philadelphia Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity (CEO). Beth has been the Director of Policy at CEO since January 2021, where she leads the office's efforts to advance policies that create opportunities for upward mobility from poverty and to address the causes and conditions of poverty and inequality. Prior to CEO, she was the Policy Director for

the Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations where she led efforts to secure hundreds of millions of new local dollars for affordable housing and neighborhood commercial corridor revitalization. As the Executive Director of the Media & Democracy Coalition until 2012, she brought together over three dozen organizations to advocate for net neutrality, community media, and against corporate media and tech mergers. Beth is on the board of directors of SEAMAAC, PennPIRG and the PennPIRG Education Fund, and PennEnvironment.

Ben Mindes, is the Deputy Chief of Staff at the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) in DC Government. In his role, he leads, coordinates, and oversees DMPED's budget and a variety of economic equity and strategy projects, including the Strong Families, Strong Futures direct cash transfer program, the Housing in Downtown program, and the District's disparity study. In addition, he co-led the District's five-year economic development strategy (the "Comeback Plan" that serves as a foundation for Mayor Bowser's third term priorities and co-authored the city's Upward Mobility Action Plan. Ben is a native Washingtonian and lives in Brightwood Park with his wife and dog.

Aqua Y. Porter, is the Executive Director, of Rochester- Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI) in Rochester, New York. Aqua is a well-respected executive with over 30 years of experience in corporate and non-profit leadership positions. She is the Executive Director of RMAPI (Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative), a collective impact focused on increasing upward mobility and prosperity for the City of Rochester and Monroe County residents. In addition to her professional achievements, Aqua is an active member of various organizations in her community. She has been an Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. member for 40 years and is President of the Rochester Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. She also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Susan B. Anthony Museum and House, Inc. Aqua's personal interests include reading, shopping, traveling, and practicing yoga. Her strong interpersonal skills allow her to build and lead strong teams who deliver exceptional results. Aqua is a mature, confident, and innovative executive who is dedicated to improving the lives of others in her community.

Margery Turner, is an Institute fellow at the Urban Institute, focusing on new research and policy programs. She previously served 10 years as Urban's senior vice president for program planning and management and 11 years as director of the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center. 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 BA in political science from Cornell University and an MA in urban and regional planning from the George Washington University.