

Maximizing Federal Funds for Local Equity: Lessons for Community Leaders

Speaker Biographies

Simeon Banister is the president and CEO of Rochester Area Community Foundation. Banister's career before the Foundation spanned public and private sectors and included the New York State Senate, the state Department of Taxation and Finance, the State University of New York, and several private commercial real estate firms. He joined the Community Foundation in 2017 as a program officer for equity and later vice president of the Community Programs department, which oversees grantmaking and community leadership. In October 2021, Banister was named executive vice president. Banister played a key role when the Foundation and United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes launched the Community Crisis Fund in March 2020 at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic hit. He co-led the committee that met every day for several months to review and approve grant requests. Nearly \$7 million was distributed by that committee during the first year of the pandemic. Banister took the lead in establishing the North Star Coalition, which is aligned with Urban Institute to help ensure that post-pandemic recovery dollars are used to create opportunities that will benefit historically excluded residents. Banister has been recognized for his contributions. *Rochester Business Journal* named him to the 2019 Forty Under 40 class and the Power 100 list in 2023 and 2024. He was named to *City & State New York's* first-ever Western New York Power 100 list in 2021. A graduate of North Carolina Central University and the Princeton Theological Seminary, Banister is a sought-after speaker, most recently on Rochester's history of redlining and racial inequities.

Carm Basile is Chief Executive Officer of the Capital District Transportation Authority. CDTA, is an Albany, New York-based mobility management company, serving customers throughout six counties in New York's Capital Region. Basile has worked at CDTA since 1981 and was named CEO in 2009. As CEO, Basile has company-wide responsibility for transit development, daily operations, and finances. The company's annual operating budget is \$135.7 million. Basile works with the CDTA Board of Directors to develop innovative strategies to deliver high quality services, programs, and facilities to the people of the Capital Region. He has led the transformation of the company into a community-based provider of mobility, increasing ridership, visibility, and brand awareness. The CDTA brand is now a recognizable icon throughout the region. CDTA was named the Best Mid-Size Transit System in North America in October 2017. Most recently, CDTA received the 2024 Changemaker Award from the Capital Region Chamber. CDTA is the first government entity to receive this award. Under Basile's leadership, the organization has grown Universal Access agreements with area colleges and businesses, increased mobility options for the Capital Region by adding on-demand services, a regional bikeshare program that features more than 600 electric and regular bikes at 100 stations and an all-electric carshare program. Basile was born and raised in Springfield, Massachusetts. He graduated from Worcester State College in Massachusetts with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Urban Studies. He lives in Latham with his wife Sheila. They have two sons.

Malik Evans is the City of Rochester's 71st Mayor. He previously served on the Rochester City Council as an at-large member and on the Rochester City School Board including several years as its president. Prior to becoming Mayor, Mayor Evans worked as an officer in the banking industry for more than 20 years, holding various leadership positions at M&T Bank Corporation and ESL Federal Credit Union. He developed a focus to ensure the financial sector responded to the needs of all customers with equity and

fairness by ensuring all individuals and businesses have access to the knowledge, tools and information that will help them build a stronger financial future.

Stephanie Silva is an Affordable Housing Development Officer with the City of Boston's Mayor's Office of Housing ("MOH"). She manages the review and underwriting of affordable housing development projects across the City of Boston, including those developed under the Transforming Publicly-Owned Land initiative. Prior to joining MOH, she led the architectural design and construction project management of numerous historic renovation and new construction projects in St. Louis, MO. Her research work focuses on the intersection of housing and environmental risk and resiliency, including a co-authored paper on the potential for cooperative land ownership to enable the climate adaptation of manufactured housing communities. She holds a Master in City Planning from MIT, and a B.A. in Architecture from Washington University in St. Louis.

Christina Plerhoples Stacy is a principal research associate in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute where she specializes in urban economics, equity, and inclusion. Her work focuses on the intersection of economics and urban spaces and how housing, transportation, local economies, health, and crime interact. Stacy is currently studying whether and how rent control and inclusionary zoning can increase the supply of affordable housing and access to opportunity for people with low incomes and for people of color. She is also leading a randomized controlled trial of an unconditional and conditional cash transfer program coupled with job training aimed at reducing youth violence. And she is evaluating a two-generational school and program in Puerto Rico that serves both youth and their families. In the transportation realm, Stacy is studying how autonomous vehicles can best be regulated to increase equity, and she is working with a team to create tools to simulate the impacts of various transit modifications on equity at the local level. She is also working with a community group in South Dallas to identify case studies of other regions that have increased transportation equity in communities of color to inform best practices for the Dallas region. Stacy is also leading projects more broadly related to philanthropy, including an evaluation of a racial-equity-and-justice funding initiative and an evaluation of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Culture of Health Prize. Finally, Stacy is working with partners throughout the country to provide data and evidence to help local leaders utilize federal recovery dollars in an inclusive and equitable manner. Stacy serves on the board of the Alexandria Housing Development Corporation. Before joining the Urban Institute, Stacy earned her bachelor's degree from Boston College, her master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, and her PhD from Michigan State University in agricultural, food, and resource economics.