

11th Annual  
Sustainability  
Conference

# Building and Planning for a Healthy and Equitable Future

Hosted by:

American Society of Civil Engineers (Pittsburgh Section)

Environmental and Water Resources Institute (Pittsburgh Chapter)

Sustainable Pittsburgh



In Partnership with:

Local Government Academy, City of Pittsburgh, and American Public Works Association



May 6-7, 2021

Online



**Carolyn Kousky, PhD**  
**Executive Director**  
**The Wharton Risk Center, University of**  
**Pennsylvania**

Dr. Carolyn Kousky is Executive Director of the Wharton Risk Center at the University of Pennsylvania, where she also directs the Policy Incubator. Her focus is disaster and climate risk management. Kousky's research examines multiple aspects of disaster insurance markets, disaster finance, public policy surrounding issues of risk management, and policy approaches for building climate resilience. She is the vice-chair of the California Climate Insurance Working Group, a university fellow at Resources for the Future, and a non-resident scholar at the Insurance Information Institute. She has a BS in Earth Systems from Stanford University and a PhD in Public Policy from Harvard University.

## Breakout Facilitator



### **Adam Whelchel, PhD** **Director of Science** **The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut**

Dr. Adam Whelchel's twenty-eight-year career in leadership positions has catalyzed partnerships with strategic direction while with government agencies, private firms, academic institutions, and nonprofits in the United States, China, Europe, Southeast Asia, the Caribbean, and Africa. Whelchel is an author, facilitator, and dynamic communicator called upon to assist diverse groups from around the world with team building, strategic planning, and community building. Recently, he served as the lead facilitator on the Puerto Rico Climate Adaptation Plan and as a Lead Author for the third U.S. National Climate Assessment. In addition, Whelchel is the founder of Community Resilience Building which has helped over 400 municipalities and academic institutions across 9 states, to date. Whelchel currently serves as the director of science for the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.



### **Allison Acevedo** **Director Environmental Justice** **Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection**

Allison Acevedo is the Director of Environmental Justice for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. She was previously the strategic planning consultant and an attorney with the U.S. Department of Labor prior to coming to DEP. Acevedo also operated a consultancy providing guidance on education, program development, policy and strategic planning for nonprofit organizations.

Acevedo served as Director of Education of United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey and, as a staff advisor to Rep. W. Curtis Thomas and former Senator Allyson Y. Schwartz.

She co-founded the Philadelphia Black Giving Circle and is a member of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Early Childhood Coalition. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Swarthmore College and a Juris Doctor and Master of Laws in Taxation from Temple University Beasley School of Law.



## Panelist



### **Jamil Bey, PhD** **President and Chief Executive Officer** **UrbanKind Institute**

Dr. Jamil Bey is the President & CEO of UrbanKind. On a mission to create social justice, he is focused on improving communities and creating change. He endeavors to establish Southwestern Pennsylvania as a place where Black children and families can prosper and thrive.

In addition to Dr. Bey's role as UrbanKind's visionary and his myriad of charitable efforts, Dr. Bey serves on many boards and councils throughout Pittsburgh. Dr. Bey serves on the boards of The Pittsburgh Housing Opportunity Fund and The Forbes Fund Advisory Council. He is a founding board member at Landforce and is on the Steering Committee of the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council and the Advisory Council for the Penn State Center Pittsburgh.

Additionally, Dr. Bey is the founder of the Black Environmental Collective and co-founder and current president of the Beltzhoover Consensus Group. As a former high school teacher in Clairton and McKeesport, Dr. Bey is inspired by the many young people he works with. Through this alliance, he finds he is challenged to do better, work smarter, and find new ways to create space and opportunities for future leaders to shine.

## Panel Moderator



### **Darnetta Craig** **Senior Project Manager at Colliers Engineering & Design** **Chair, American Society of Civil Engineers-PIT** **Diversity & Inclusion Committee**

Darnetta D. Craig was born and raised on the North Side within the City of Pittsburgh. Craig attended Pittsburgh Public Schools and graduated from David B. Oliver High School. She went on to earn her Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh in 1996. Craig has over 20 years in the water and wastewater industry. She specializes in the design of water distribution systems, wastewater collection systems, and pump stations. Craig is a proud new team member of Colliers Engineering & Design where she is the Wastewater lead for the Pittsburgh office. Craig is also the new Diversity & Inclusion Chair for ASCE Pittsburgh Chapter and is also a new member in Strong Women Strong Girls (SWSG), Pennsylvania Municipal Authority Association (PMAA), and Southwestern Pennsylvania Engineering Outreach (SPEO).



### **Majestic Lane** **Chief Equity Officer and Deputy Chief of Staff** **City of Pittsburgh**

Majestic Lane serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief Equity Officer for Mayor William Peduto. As Chief Equity Officer and Deputy Chief of Staff, Lane leads the Peduto administration's focus on opportunity for all residents of the City of Pittsburgh concerning education, workforce development, safe & healthy communities, and digital inclusion. Additionally, he leads the administration's engagement with national organizations regarding equity and inclusion strategies. Prior to serving as Deputy Chief of Staff, Lane was the Deputy Chief of Neighborhood Empowerment where he coordinated the administration's neighborhood equity efforts through community driven development and affordable housing initiatives.

## Panelist



### **Noble Maseru, PhD** **Executive Director** **Center for Health and Equity, University of Pittsburgh**

Noble A-W Maseru served for more than a decade as health commissioner for the City of Cincinnati Health Department where he oversaw more than 400 employees in seven divisions; seven preventive and primary health care centers; twenty-two school-based health centers; environmental, surveillance, chronic disease prevention and public health preparedness programs; and healthy communities initiatives. Maseru devoted his energies to achieving a healthier Cincinnati with the overall goal of elevating the department's health equity impact on Cincinnati--particularly vulnerable and underserved populations.

Previously, he served as director and health officer for the City of Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion; vice president with the Greater Detroit Area Health Council, Southeast Michigan's leading coalition of business, labor, health care providers, consumers, and government; a consultant with USAID Africa Division; the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation; and the faculty at Clark Atlanta University School of Social Work. His work with the Public Health Sciences Institute at Morehouse College to promote academic and research collaboration between Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) led to the establishment of the Academy of African American Public Health Programs. Maseru was also the founding director of the Morehouse School of Medicine's Master of Public Health Program.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, a Master's degree in Public Health from the Emory University School of Medicine, and a doctorate in Health Policy from Clark Atlanta University.

## Keynote



### **Carol Haddock** **Director** **Houston Public Works**

Carol Ellinger Haddock is Director of Houston Public Works, the largest American Public Works Association accredited agency in the nation. Haddock leads almost 4,000 employees in transforming the culture and operations of the Department, with the purpose, “together we create a strong foundation for Houston to thrive.” Haddock has led the organization through a cultural transformation by providing resilience training for all employees.

Haddock is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Texas with a Civil Engineering Bachelor’s degree from Rice University. She also has a Master’s degree in Public Administration from the University of Houston. Prior to joining Houston Public Works, Haddock worked in private consulting, for the Harris County Flood Control District, and as a Congressional Fellow for the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.



## Featured Speaker and Panelist



### **Grant Ervin** **Chief Resilience Officer and Assistant Director for** **the Department of City Planning** **City of Pittsburgh**

Grant Ervin serves as the Chief Resilience Officer and Assistant Director for the Department of City Planning for the City of Pittsburgh. Ervin oversees the integration of sustainability and resilience into City services, programs and policy. He works to make the City of Pittsburgh a smart, sustainable and resilient city by fostering partnerships, leveraging assets and finding creative ways to solve civic problems. Prior to joining the City of Pittsburgh, Ervin served as the Regional Director for 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, a statewide sustainable development policy organization; and as Public Policy Manager for Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG), a community-based organization serving Pittsburgh's 90 neighborhoods.

In his role with the City of Pittsburgh, he oversees the development of the City's energy transition strategy, climate policy, environmental social and governance (ESG) analysis, district scale sustainability and circularity.

Ervin serves on the board of directors of EcoDistricts, Pittsburgh Allegheny County Thermal (PACT) District Heating Company, American Institute of Architects (AIA) Pittsburgh Chapter, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA). He is a member of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN).



### **Marissa Aho** **Chief Resilience Officer** **City of Houston**

Marissa Aho, AICP, serves as Houston's Chief Resilience Officer. In this role she leads the resilience-building efforts for the City of Houston including the development and implementation of Living with Water Houston, Resilient Houston, and the COVID-19 Addendum to Resilient Houston. Aho previously served as Los Angeles' first Chief Resilience Officer beginning in 2015, where she led city-wide resiliency efforts, including development of the Resilient Los Angeles strategy. Prior she was an urban planning and land use consultant at two private firms in Los Angeles for 10 years. She serves on the global steering committee for the Resilient Cities Network. She also serves as an advisor to the Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science and Society. Aho developed and taught a graduate urban planning studio on resilience at University of Southern California Price School of Public Policy. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Communications, Legal Institutions, Economics and Government (CLEG) from The American University in Washington D.C. and a Master of Planning degree from the University of Southern California.



### **Alex Kaplan** **Executive Vice President of Alternative Risk** **Amwins Group**

Alex Kaplan is Executive Vice President of Alternative Risk for Amwins Group, the largest wholesale insurance distributor globally. He leads the development and execution of innovative risk transfer solutions, such as parametric insurance, that transform financial risk across all segments of society. Kaplan is also responsible for developing new products and capital sources for Amwins, its retail customers and their clients.

Prior to joining Amwins, Kaplan was Head of Swiss Re's North America Public Sector Solutions unit. In this role, he assisted governments and international financial institutions in their management of financial risks, helping society create effective responses to major challenges, including natural catastrophes and climate change, while transforming the industry's approach to these risks.

Kaplan served as the Deputy to the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs for the United States Department of the Treasury. Prior to that, he was Manager of Government Affairs of the Organization for International Investment, representing US subsidiaries of foreign companies. Kaplan also served on the staff of the Committee on Ways and Means in the U.S. House of Representatives, working on tax and economic policy.



### **David Rosenblatt** **Chief Resilience Officer** **State of New Jersey**

David Rosenblatt is the State's Chief Resilience Officer and Assistant Commissioner for the Climate and Flood Resilience (CFR) Program in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Rosenblatt, with forty-two years in DEP, previously served as Assistant Commissioner and Administrator of the Engineering and Construction program. He has also served as Chief of the Atlantic Coastal and South Jersey Bureau in the Division of Watershed Management.

Rosenblatt and his CFR Program staff are developing the Statewide Climate Resilience Strategy and the Coastal Resilience Plan, as directed by Governor Murphy's Executive Order 89. Rosenblatt previously managed the preparation of The New Jersey Governor's Delaware River Flood Mitigation Task Force Report and The Report to the Governor: Recommendations of the Passaic River Basin Flood Advisory Commission.

Rosenblatt holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the Rutgers College of Agriculture and Environmental Science and a Master of Arts in Teaching from The College of New Jersey.



### **Ariam Ford** **Executive Director** **Grounded**

Ariam Ford is a City Planner by trade and self-driven by choice. She is deeply passionate about equitable development, community planning, and land-use policy. Her professional work has focused on community-led land use interventions, resident empowerment, civic education programs, geospatial statistics, and GIS mapping.

Ford holds a Master of City Planning from Boston University and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Virginia. An active resident of the Overbrook neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Ford serves on the board of the Watersheds of South Pittsburgh and the Overbrook Community Council. Most recently, Ford was honored to join the board of Propel Schools.





**Jim Kelly**  
**Deputy Director, Environmental Health Bureau**  
**Allegheny County Health Department**

Jim Kelly is the Deputy Director, Environmental Health Bureau, of the Allegheny County Health Department. The Environmental Health Bureau comprises the Air Quality, Food Safety, Plumbing, Housing & Community Environment and the Water Pollution Control and Solid Waste Management programs.

Kelly has 22 years' experience with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Air Protection Branch including 11 years as the state air quality planner. He joined the Air Quality Program of the Allegheny County Health Department as the Planning Section Chief and entered the role of Deputy Director of Environmental Health in January of 2017.

Kelly has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from West Virginia University Institute of Technology, and a Master of Science in Environmental Public Policy from the Georgia Institute of Technology.



### **Will Pickering** **Chief Executive Officer** **Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority**

Will Pickering was named the Chief Executive Officer of the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) in June 2020. Prior to becoming CEO, he served as the Deputy Executive Director and Director of Public Affairs at PWSA. Prior to joining PWSA in fall 2016, Pickering was Manager of Communications and Government Relations at DC Water. There, he managed the communications program and spearheaded DC Water's interactions with the federal, District and neighboring local governments. Pickering has also held several positions in the local and federal government. He has a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Santa Clara University and received his Certificate in Public Management from George Washington University.

## Panel Moderator



### **Joylette Portlock, PhD** **Executive Director** **Sustainable Pittsburgh**

Dr. Joylette Portlock is the Executive Director of Sustainable Pittsburgh, a nonprofit working to advance sustainability policies and practices in southwestern Pennsylvania. Prior to her role at Sustainable Pittsburgh, Dr. Portlock served as Associate Director of Science and Research at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and as Executive Director of Communitopia. She holds a Bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in anthropology from MIT and a PhD in genetics from Stanford University. Her work focuses on building community around sustainability topics, with a particular interest in making important scientific, technical, or complex information accessible and useful. Dr. Portlock currently serves on the Allegheny County Board of Health. She was an advisor to Project Drawdown, and serves in many other roles in the community, including as an advisory board member of the Black Environmental Collective. Dr. Portlock has lived and worked in the Pittsburgh region since 2007.

## Panelist



### **Megan Ziegler** **Vice President of Planning and Policy** **Green Building Alliance**

Megan Zeigler is the Vice President of Planning & Policy for the Green Building Alliance, where she focuses on regional sustainable community development. Zeigler has worked in academia, local government, and nonprofit sectors in her career as well as being a small business owner. This cross section of experience enables her to see the integral collaboration needed to create and implement impactful policy change.

Zeigler holds a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Georgia and a Bachelor of Art in Environmental Studies from Warren Wilson College.

## Featured Speaker



### **Howard M. Neukrug** **Executive Director** **The Water Center, University of Pennsylvania**

Howard Neukrug is the Executive Director and founder of the Water Center at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also the Professor of Water Practice, focusing on re-imagining our cities to become more water-sensitive by balancing green, blue, and grey technologies and urban management strategies that optimize economy, equity, water quality and quantity, environmental justice, and resilience.

Neukrug also serves as the Principal of CASE Environmental LLC, supporting cities, utilities, and nonprofits in water policy and utility management; Chair of the Delaware River Commission's Advisory Board on Climate Change, and Senior Advisor to the Global Water Leaders Group and chair of its CEO-Network of Leading Utility Leaders of the World.

Mr. Neukrug is the former Commissioner and CEO of Philadelphia Water. He was also the Founder and Director of Philadelphia's Office of Watersheds, where he directed the "Green City, Clean Waters" program. For the American Water Works Association (AWWA), Neukrug led the development of the laws and regulations associated with the Lead and Copper Rule and implemented best practices for Philadelphia.

Neukrug holds a degree in Civil and Urban Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and is a registered Professional Engineer for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Neukrug is also a Board-Certified Environmental Engineer and an Honorary Diplomat in Water Resources Engineering.



# Planning Committee



**Jason Baguet**  
Principal Engineer  
Sci-Tek Consultants, Inc.

Jason Baguet is a Principal Engineer at Sci-Tek Consultants, Inc. with diverse civil engineering experience for water and wastewater treatment and collection, site development, dams and water resources, and power generation industries. Jason enjoys supporting sustainability initiatives, contributing to resolving regional wet weather issues and contributing to regional planning projects that make a difference in local communities. Jason also serves as the Chair of Environmental Water Resources Institute (EWRI) - Pittsburgh Chapter and is actively involved in CEOs for Sustainability, where CEOs of the Pittsburgh region's leading companies share best sustainable business practices and collaborate in growing the ranks of those around the region.



**Tom Batrone**  
Senior Technical Director and Regional Office Lead  
AKRF

Tom Batrone is a Professional Engineer and serves as a Senior Technical Director and Regional Office Lead at AKRF in Pittsburgh. His 15-year career encompasses water, sewer, and green stormwater infrastructure engineering design projects in cities throughout the Northeast and Midwest. He currently serves as the American Society of Civil Engineers Pittsburgh Section President-Elect and is a participant on several national committees within the Environmental Water Resources Institute. In his spare time, you can find him writing on his blog, the Pittsburgh Urban Flooding Journal, where he dissects all things flooding from historical stories to present day stormwater management issues.



**Ben Briston**  
Professional Engineer  
Wade Trim, Inc.

Ben Briston is a Professional Engineer with Wade Trim, Inc. His main focus is in Water Resources engineering. He is currently a board member for the American Society of Civil Engineers Pittsburgh Section, and is past-chair for the Environmental Water Resources Institute - Pittsburgh Chapter.



**Ana Flores**  
Associate Project Manager  
Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority

Ana Flores is an Associate Project Manager with the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority. Her focus has been in stormwater management with much of her work centered on the Sawmill Run Integrated Watershed Management Plan and managing Stormwater Capital Projects for improved water quality in the Pittsburgh Region.

Flores received a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Resources Engineering from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF).



**Jim Price**  
Senior Project Manager  
Sustainable Pittsburgh

Jim Price manages the Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification program, a statewide performance recognition program for municipalities managed in partnership with the Pennsylvania Municipal League. He also organizes and facilitates the Sustainable Community Development Network, a professional network for municipal, community development, and elected leaders in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Jim holds a Bachelor of History in Political Science from Cleveland State University and a Master of International Development with a focus on development planning and environmental sustainability from the University of Pittsburgh.



**Gregory F. Scott**  
Senior Project Manager  
CDM Smith

Gregory (Greg) F. Scott is currently serving as the Chair of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Energy Environment & Water Policy Committee (EEWPC). He also served on the Environmental Water Resources Institute (EWRI) Governing Board and served on the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Report Card (PARC) Committee for its 2006 release of the PARC. Scott was Chairman of the 2010 PARC, was lead author of the 2014 and 2018 PARC Wastewater Grade Report, and chaired the Construction Legislative Council of Western Pennsylvania in 2013-2014. He is currently serving as the Pittsburgh Section Legislative Affairs Committee Chair and is the Chairman of the Technical Program Subcommittee for the ASCE Annual Convention.

Scott is a senior project manager for CDM Smith with over 28 years of experience in civil engineering. He is responsible for the management of civil municipal, water and wastewater projects in Southwestern Pennsylvania.