

ONE CITY. ONE FUTURE.
BUILDING SHARED PROSPERITY FROM THE GROUND UP

November 30, 2017

Breakout Sessions

#UnitedWeProsper

1. Community-Controlled Affordable Housing: Community Land Trusts as a not-so-new Anti-Gentrification Tool

William Penn Room

Originating in the 1970s as a way to safeguard land for black farmers in the South, Community Land Trusts are now being hailed as an anti-gentrification tool in rapidly developing urban areas. While CLTs are not new, the model has risen to national attention in recent years as a promising strategy as many cities struggle to stem the tide of rising property values and displacement of low-income families. By restricting the resale of homes to a price that low-income families can afford, CLTs remove housing from the speculative market. Moreover, community members are a key part of the governance of CLTs, with a requirement that residents serve on the Board and participate in the decision-making process. This breakout session will feature a presentation on the Community Justice Land Trust model adopted by the Women's Community Revitalization Project (WCRP) and their complementary approach to organizing residents for affordable housing in Philadelphia.

Presenter:

- **Ariel Morales**, Community Organizer, Women's Revitalization Project (WCRP)

2. Building Community Power through Consumer Protection

Hannah Penn Room

Consumer protection can be thought of as a set of regulations that ensure individual market transactions are fair and transparent for the average consumer. Pay day lenders, unscrupulous mortgage lenders, and homes-for-cash scams are examples of shady business practices that often disproportionately affect low-income consumers. In addition to highlighting the most serious threats facing consumers, this session will highlight ongoing and past successful efforts to protect consumers through community engagement.

Moderator:

- **Will Hall**, Financial Empowerment Program Manager, City of Philadelphia, Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity

Presenters:

- **Kerry Smith**, Senior Staff Attorney, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
- **Michael Roles**, Field Director, PennPIRG
- **Andy Morrison**, Campaigns Director, New Economy Project



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3. When Community Organizing places your Agency in the Crosshairs: Learning from the Destruction of ACORN

Owen Biddle Room

ACORN was one of the largest and most effective community organizers in the country. It was at the center of nationwide campaigns to register voters in underrepresented communities, fight for environmental justice, and challenge discriminatory practices. Shortly after the election of President Barack Obama in 2008, ACORN became a lightning rod in conservative media, which accused it of everything from fraud and corruption to stealing the election. Hidden cameras and doctored footage were used to falsely implicate staff in illegal activity, and helped to create a distorted picture of the agency that was eventually echoed by mainstream media outlets. This session will use ACORN as a case study on the threats that community organizers are likely to face in the current political climate. How can organizers protect themselves from becoming victims of similar attacks, and how should their allies respond when presented with potentially damaging evidence from highly questionable sources?

Presenters:

- **John Atlas**, author of *Seeds of Change: The Story of ACORN, America's Most Controversial Antipoverty Community Organizing Group*
- **Craig Robbins**, Philadelphia Unemployment Project, Former Executive Director, Philadelphia Office of ACORN
- **Carol Hemingway**, former President of PA ACORN

4. Strengthening Community Engagement and Organizing through Capacity Building

West Room

This session will highlight the work of two initiatives currently underway in Philadelphia that are designed to build the capacity of community residents to engage in organizing, planning, and community development. The Citizens' Planning Institute is a seven-week instructional program run by the Philadelphia City Planning Commission that provides training in zoning, land use and the development process, teaching community residents how to get involved in planning activities and decision making at the neighborhood level. Trauma Informed Community Development (TICD) is a pilot project being undertaken jointly by Impact Services, New Kensington CDC, LISC and the Scattergood Foundation. This place-based initiative uses a trauma informed framework to give residents the ability to understand and address underlying stressors in their communities, and participate in a form of community development that goes beyond bricks and mortar.



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Moderator:

- **Pamela Bridgforth**, Policy Director, Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations (PACDC)

Presenters:

- **Donna Carney**, Director, Citizens Planning Institute
- **Casey O'Donnell**, Executive Director, Impact Services
- **Aazim Muhammad**, Recent Graduate of the Citizens Planning Institute

5. Standing with Philadelphia's Immigrant Communities in a time of Uncertainty

Monthly Meeting Room

How are immigrant families coping with recent changes in federal policy that are making it more difficult to travel, reunite with family members, and gain employment, and what new hardships are these measures imposing on low-income immigrant households? What is the status of federal challenges to our city's position on undocumented immigrants and what, if any, federal funds are in jeopardy? This session will try to answer these and other questions facing immigrants in the current climate. Representatives from non-profit agencies that serve both new immigrants and established immigrant communities will be on hand to discuss the impact that policy changes are having on families and how communities are banding together to offer support. The Philadelphia City Solicitor's Office will provide an update on actions taken by Philadelphia and other cities in response to federal crackdowns on so called "sanctuary cities".

Moderator:

- **Miriam Enriquez**, Executive Director, City of Philadelphia, Office of Immigrant Affairs

Presenters:

- **Sozi Pedro Tulante**, City Solicitor, City of Philadelphia
- **Oni Richards-Waritay**, Executive Director, African Family Health Organization
- **Elbert Sampson** Director of Training and Education, Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians
- **Le-Quyen Vu**, Executive Director, Indo Chinese American Council
- **Peter Pedemonti**, Director and Co-Founder, New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia



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