

ONE CITY. ONE FUTURE.

BUILDING SHARED PROSPERITY FROM THE GROUND UP

November 30, 2017

BIOGRAPHIES – BREAKOUT SESSION PRESENTERS

John Atlas is the author of *Seeds of Change: The Story of ACORN, America's Most Controversial Antipoverty Community Organizing Group*. A longtime public interest lawyer, writer, and organizer, Atlas is a founder and current president of the National Housing Institute, which publishes Shelterforce, a magazine for anti-poverty activists and practitioners engaged in housing and community development. Atlas was the Executive Director of the award-winning Passaic County Legal Aid Society in NJ and a founding board member of NJ Citizen Action. His innovative legal services program helped empower community groups like Head Start and faith based groups, and helped hundreds of families threatened with losing their homes. His work has appeared in numerous publications including The Huffington Post, The Star Ledger, The New York Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, Tikkun, The Nation, Dissent, New Jersey Reporter, and Social Policy.

Pamela Bridgeforth brings more than twenty years of leadership experience in non-profit management, with an emphasis on strategic planning, fundraising, collaboration building and community outreach. Prior to joining PACDC in 2007, she led the Walt Whitman Arts Center, serving as Executive Director for nearly ten years. She currently serves as Board President for the Camden Repertory Theatre. In her role as Director of Programs, she oversees PACDC's member services programs, including the Community Development Leadership Institute serving more than 500 professionals and volunteers each year with trainings, technical assistance initiatives, and issue-convenings relevant to the community development field.

Donna J. Carney is the Director of the Philadelphia Citizens Planning Institute, the education and outreach arm of the City Planning Commission. She brings to this role over 25 years of project management and

design experience as an architect specializing in historic preservation and sustainable design. Her goal is to guide the development of educational tools to empower communities of people within Philadelphia to learn, grow, and improve the quality of their neighborhoods. Donna is a strategy designer and facilitator, aiming to engage all community stakeholders in creating a shared vision. She has developed educational and interpretive materials for municipalities, arts & historical non-profits, and the National Park Service.

Miriam Enriquez was born in the United States, but spent much of her childhood living in several different Latin American countries, including Nicaragua, her family's country of origin. Before joining the Office of Immigrant Affairs, Enriquez served as City Councilman-at-Large Dennis M. O'Brien's Director of Legislation and Policy, where she was instrumental in crafting and passing landmark legislation to protect consumers of immigration services in the city. Prior to her work on City Council, Enriquez served as an Assistant District Attorney at the Philadelphia D.A.'s Office. Enriquez received her B.A. with distinction from George Mason University and her J.D. from The Dickinson School of Law. Enriquez is fluent in Spanish.

Will Hall is the Financial Empowerment Program Manager at the City of Philadelphia, Office of Community Empowerment & Opportunity. In this role, Will oversees the Financial Empowerment Centers and other initiatives designed to improve the economic security of low- to moderate-income Philadelphians. Prior to joining CEO, Will was the Senior Housing Programs Manager at Clarifi. At Clarifi, Will oversaw housing counseling programs in Southeastern PA, Northern Delaware, and Southern New Jersey. Will worked with a number of loss mitigation and first-time homeowner programs.



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From 2010 – 2014, Will was a Consumer Bankruptcy and Foreclosure Prevention attorney practicing in State, Bankruptcy, and Federal District Courts in Southeastern PA. Will graduated from Temple University with a JD/MBA in 2010.

Carol Hemingway was born and raised in New Jersey. She came from a family of advocates and community change agents who taught her early on that if you want your community to look different or to be different, you must be willing to get out and do whatever is necessary to make it better. Carol served as President of the ACORN Pennsylvania board for many years, as well as a long-standing member of the ACORN National board. She was elected treasurer of that board in 2009. In Philadelphia Carol represented ACORN on different coalitions and boards, including the Parent Leadership Academy between 2006 and 2010. The Leadership Academy was a joint venture between the community and the School District of Philadelphia, with the goal of engaging more parents to work with their neighborhood schools. Carol is a firm believer that change in this country must come from the bottom to the top, especially since the bottom consists of low- and middle-income citizens that have the power of representative numbers.

Ariel Morales is the Community Organizer for the Women's Community Revitalization Project (WCRP), a grassroots community development corporation committed to social and economic equity for low-income women and their families. WCRP is recognized for building high-quality affordable housing and successfully involving women in revitalizing communities. Ariel oversees WCRP's base building and leadership development work. He facilitates WCRP's Advocacy Committee, a board committee that leads WCRP's housing campaigns including neighborhood campaigns to support the Community Justice

Land Trust. Ariel also supports the Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities, a 60-member coalition fighting for more money for Philadelphia's Housing Trust Fund.

Andy Morrison coordinates New Economy Project's coalition organizing and contributes to communications and development campaigns. He has organized a number of local, statewide and national coalitions of community, labor, civil rights, and faith-based groups to press for financial and economic justice. Andy was previously the campaigns director at New York Public Interest Research Group, where he developed policy, media, research and organizing strategies and trained students to be effective advocates on economic justice and consumer protection, government accountability and higher education affordability. He has written op-eds on financial justice issues for various media outlets, including The Washington Post and The New York Daily News. He graduated from Columbia University with a B.A. in Political Science and is currently pursuing his J.D. at CUNY School of Law.

Aazim Muhammad has over 35 years of experience as an accomplished community economic development professional. Mr. Muhammad has worked for the Mayor's Office of Community Services as well as the Mayor's Office of Reentry for Ex-Offenders. He has also been a consultant to the Philadelphia Department of Commerce, Division of Housing and Community Development, Redevelopment Authority as well as the Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation. He is most proud of his work in nonprofit management, with such organizations as Germantown Settlement, Strawberry Mansion Citizens Participation Council, Universal Companies, and the Brewerytown Community Development Corporation, of which he was founder and Director. Presently he is the President and



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CEO of the Sister Clara Muhammad Community Development Corporation. He has balanced business skills in real estate, development, marketing and finance with community politics and cross-cultural communications.

Casey O'Donnell, PsyD, is currently the President and CEO of Impact Services Corporation. Impact works to support individuals, families, and communities to build a safe and stable future. Over the last twenty years he has worked in the human services field leading systems change. In addition, Dr. O'Donnell has provided direct clinical care to children, adults, and families, and has assisted in conducting national research focused on the implementation of evidence based practices. Casey is a life-long Philadelphian currently living in the Northwest section of the city with his wife Sunshine and son Kieran.

Peter Pedemonto is a founding member and Director of New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia, and has been working in social justice movements since 2001. A first-generation US citizen, Peter is the son of English and Italian immigrants. Peter moved to Philadelphia to live and work with the House of Grace Catholic Worker, a faith-based intentional community that operates a free medical clinic, works for social justice, and has a house of hospitality for immigrants and refugees. Before coming to Philadelphia, he was the Director of Public Education and Outreach for an environmental organization in New York. Peter graduated from Fordham University with a Bachelors of Arts in English Literature.

Elbert Sampson is the Director of Education and Training for The Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians. He provides supervision to the instructional and case management staff and oversees compliance of contracts.

Elbert holds a degree in law and has a background in education management having served as the CEO of a Philadelphia charter school. Additionally, he was a Certified Financial Manager, providing financial planning and consulting services to high-net-worth individuals, non-profit organizations and businesses. Elbert studied Chinese in the People's Republic of China and while he practiced law he built a component of his law practice that entailed providing advisory services to businesses interested in operating in China. Elbert was awarded a prestigious Arts, Inc. Fellowship in nonprofit management and was a visiting scholar in Asian Studies at Temple University.

Oni Richards-Waritay currently serves as the Executive Director of the African Family Health Organization (AFAHO) where she is responsible for developing, implementing and managing health and human service programs for the African and Caribbean immigrant and refugee community in the greater Philadelphia area, as well as directing the administrative functions of the organization. She brings more than six years of program development and management experience to this position.

Oni previously coordinated the health programs at the Black Women's Health Alliance and served as a consultant in the Africa Program of the American Friends Service Committee, where she organized advocacy activities related to health, social and economic justice issues in Africa; with a particular focus on developing campaigns and speaking tours on debt cancellation for African nations. She spent time in Durban, South Africa creating programs and conducting fundraising activities for an orphanage serving children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS and conducting needs assessments related to healthcare needs in Liberia.



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Craig Robbins has been a community organizer for over 30 years. He worked for ACORN-the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now- from 1986 until 2009, serving in several roles including Community Organizer, Head Organizer, Regional Director and National campaign director. In 2010, Robbins, along with several former PA ACORN members and staff, founded ACTION United, a statewide organization in PA that follows closely the ACORN model of community organizing. Robbins currently works for the Philadelphia Unemployment Project. He lives in Southwest Philadelphia and has a daughter, Zina, a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Michael Roles has served as PennPIRG's Field Director for nearly two years, overseeing the organization's mission of protecting consumers from predatory financial practices, advancing election reform, and safeguarding public health.

Michael focuses most of his energy on advocating for strong financial safeguards and reaching out to Pennsylvanians about the critical work of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, our federal financial cop on the beat. Throughout his time with PennPIRG, he regularly lobbies state and federal decision makers, organizes alongside a broad network of diverse constituencies, and his work has been published and covered in both national and local news outlets.

Before joining PennPIRG, Michael served in various environmental roles, covering issues like clean energy, solid waste, and clean water. He served as the Vice President for Policy with the Environment Council of Rhode Island and is the 2014 recipient of the National Conservation Achievement Award for Youth Leadership.

Kerry Smith is a senior staff attorney in the Homeownership and Consumer Rights Unit at Community Legal Services of Philadelphia, where she represents low-income consumers victimized by abusive, predatory business practices and homeowners facing mortgage foreclosure. Ms. Smith also advocates on behalf of her clients before regulatory and legislative bodies. She is an expert on payday lending, and has led a statewide coalition that has worked successfully to keep predatory payday loans out of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Smith has a long standing commitment to consumer advocacy and public interest work. She joined CLS as an Independence Foundation Fellow after coordinating state-level consumer protection policy across the country for the National Association of State Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs).

Ms. Smith earned her undergraduate degree from Oberlin College and her law degree from Northeastern University School of Law, where she was awarded the distinction of Public Interest Law Scholar in recognition of her commitment to public service.

Sozi Pedro Tulante is the City Solicitor for the City of Philadelphia. He was appointed by Mayor Jim Kenney and confirmed by City Council in February 2016. As City Solicitor, he is Philadelphia's chief legal officer. In that role, he manages the nearly 200 lawyers and 300 total staff in the Philadelphia Law Department and, along with the Department's lawyers, represents the City in all lawsuits, advises the Mayor, City Council, and all departments, agencies, and commissions of the City. He graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School in 2001, and received his A.B. in 1997, cum laude, from Harvard College, where he was recognized with a John Harvard Scholarship. He is a proud graduate of Philadelphia's public schools and attended Mary McLeod elementary school, Russell Conwell Middle School, and Northeast High School.



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Le-Quyen Vu is Executive Director of the Indo-Chinese American Council. The Indochinese American Council (IAC) was founded in 1982 with the mission of helping disadvantaged, multi-racial, minorities, immigrants and refugees from all parts of the world to achieve social mobility through education, traditional art, and personal interaction. The IAC is building a community where education creates opportunities for children, youth, and adults. Adult education classes, after school programs for kids and youth, and summer education programs promote achievement and advancement within in the community. This leads to greater education and employment choices for all people, especially disadvantaged minorities and immigrants.



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