

The graphic features a dark blue background with a complex, circular pattern of overlapping, semi-transparent bands in shades of teal, orange, and maroon. The pattern resembles a stylized maze or a series of concentric, fragmented rings. In the center, the word "RECENTER" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letter "R" is unique, with a small "D" inside its upper loop. Below "RECENTER", the text "ACD 43" is displayed in a similar white font, with a thin horizontal line underneath. At the bottom of the central text area, the dates "9.21-9.25" are written in the same white font.

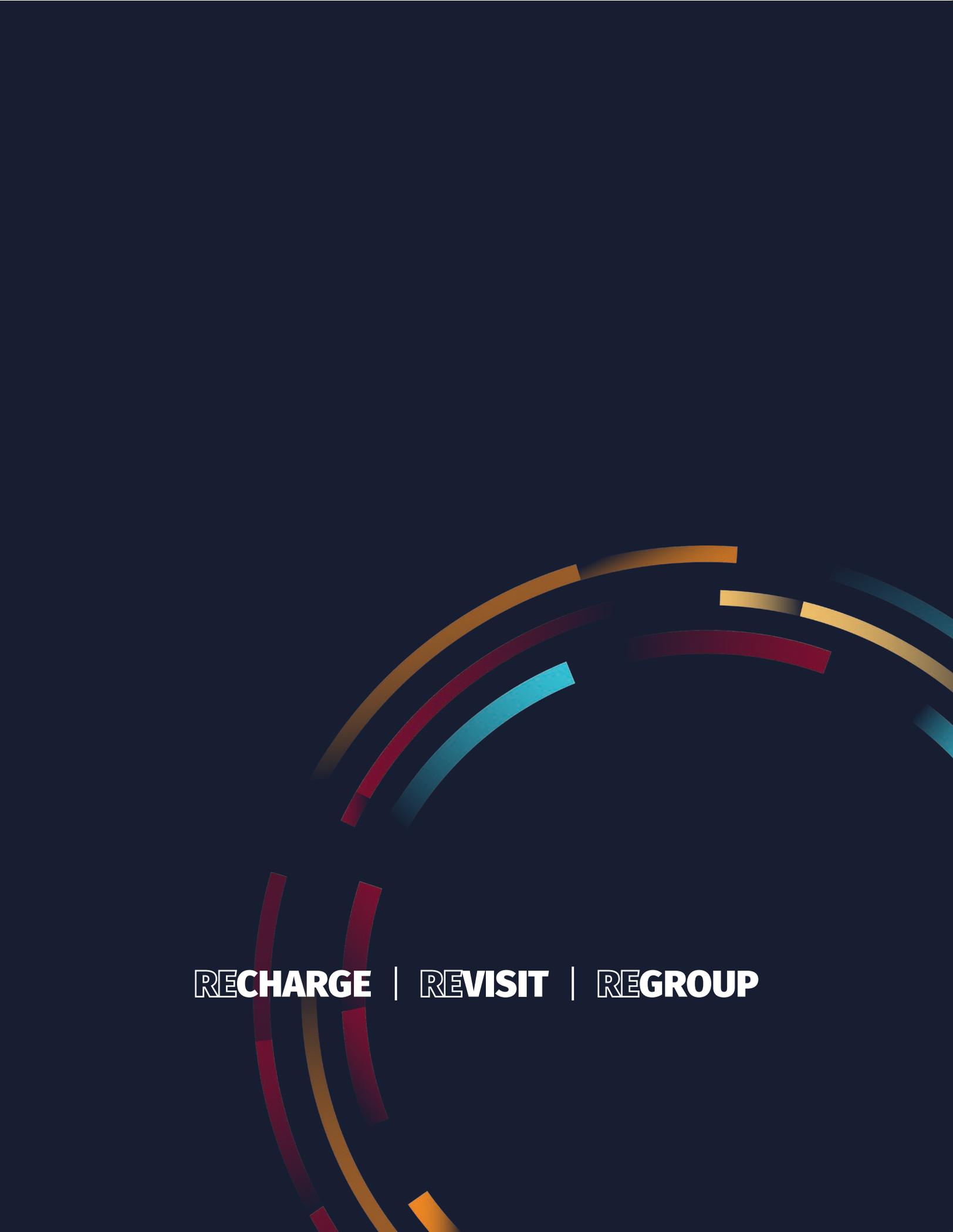
# RECENTER

ACD 43

9.21-9.25

A digital convening in partnership with NextCity.org + Spaces & Places

For more info & registration ([bit.ly link](#))



**RECHARGE | REVISIT | REGROUP**



# ACD 43

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# ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Moments of crisis demand an immediate response: planning, mobilizing, organizing, and producing. How might our way forward and the outcome be different, if instead, we respond first by reflecting on the past, thinking through what is most critical to address, and adopting new ways of working to match our situation? In times like these we need a reminder that slowing down is critical to moving forward with intention, staying true to our values, and lifting up the voices of those left out of the conversations. We must act, but only once we recenter ourselves, personally, professionally, and collectively as a field. first

This September 21-25th, amidst the dual crises highlighting generational and systemic injustices: a global health pandemic, and the national uprisings advocating for racial justice, the Association for Community Design will host its first-ever online conference. ACD 43: RECENTER will convene folk from across the country who are shaping perception and creation of the built environment. We will explore how we can address both these historical moments with renewed commitment to advancing equity and justice in our communities. We will hold space for healing, reflection, and reconnection with ourselves and others. We will revisit our values and the wisdom of those who have come before us. We aim to gather together organizers, advocates, and designers who have become leaders in immediate response, fighting for justice, and taking direct action to end racial injustice. This year, ACD 43: RECENTER, will be a unique opportunity to pause, focus on our intentions, remind ourselves why we do this work, reconsider how we do this work to prioritize justice and equity, take action, and create the change our communities deserve.

Sessions at RECENTER will make space for our identities outside of practitioners, engage one another to imagine how we might adapt our work, and examine the systemic injustices and inequities at the root of the symptoms we see. RECENTER will be structured around three thematic tracks; Recharge, Revisit, and Regroup.

# CONFERENCE TRACKS

## RE CHARGE

**RECHARGE** sessions will offer a pause; to reflect, connect with community, and replenish ourselves

This moment is defined by grief, fear, exhaustion, and loss. For BIPOC communities, it is nothing new. **How can we create space for ourselves and others to grieve, rest, laugh, commiserate, and reconnect to those close to us?** How can we understand ourselves in this time, not only as practitioners, but also as parents, neighbors, friends, partners, children, and siblings? How can we speak about what's difficult in order to move through it?

## RE VISIT

**REVISIT** sessions will uncover and expand on prior lessons in addressing justice and equity

This moment is a marker, bound by “a world before” and “a world after.” **What can we learn from past leaders who built collective movements and radical change amidst crisis?** How might we leverage the wisdom and methods of civil rights leaders to respond in ways that recenter community design around the issues of injustice and inequity that are at the heart of the change we seek? What is our highest calling during these unprecedented times?

## RE GROUP

**REGROUP** Sessions will allow us to question and refocus the intentions and outcomes of our work

This moment is bewilderment; how, why, where, and with whom we do our work is in flux, and demands reconsideration. What do these unprecedented times mean for the future of community design? How might we incubate new ways of thinking and working and adapt to respond in ways that align with our values? How might we reflect on the old challenges that have not changed that we still need desperately to address? **How can we use this time to create the future we seek?**

# CONFERENCE PARTNERS

Your conference registration supports the work of other equity-focused organizations nationally. Conference profits will be shared with our partners, Next City and Spaces & Places.



Next City is a nonprofit news organization that believes journalists have the power to amplify solutions and help spread them from one city to the next city.

Our mission is to inspire greater economic, environmental, and social justice in cities. Next City’s civic-minded reporting makes urban places more effective, equitable and sustainable. We supply change makers with information that fuels their fight for low-income neighborhoods. Because we focus the world’s attention on good ideas that we hope will grow, some label us as “solutions journalism.” For us, it’s just what we’ve always done since we were founded by three college students and their network of volunteers in 2003.

We are dedicated to producing journalism that is accurate, transparent, fair and impactful.



A grassroots network of urban planners, policymakers, and designers formed in 2016 to amplify work on the issues affecting communities of color that are too often not fully recognized or addressed by professional urban planning and design communities. That effort, with the support of a committee of volunteers, the APA Housing and Community Development Division, WXY Studio, NextCity, and others, has resulted in a series of ‘unconference’ convenings held in conjunction with the American Planning Association’s National Planning Conference each year.



# ACD43: SCHEDULE

 featured speaker

DATE

monday 9/21

tuesday 9/22

8:00- 9:00PST/11-12:00EST

**WELCOME**  
8:30PST/10:30EST

**Managing Stress during the COVID 19**

9:00- 10:30PST/12-1:30EST

**Atianna Cordova**  
WATER BLOCK +  
WATER BLOCK kids

**Oscar Perry Abello**  
NEXT CITY

11:00 - 12:30PST/2-3:30EST

**Juliana Pino**  
Little Village Environmen-  
tal Justice Organization

**Considering Language and Word Value**

1:00 - 2:30PST/4-5:30EST

**Memories as Catalysts for Social Change**

**Prioritizing the Creation of Community that Promotes Healing and Meets the Needs of Black Girls**

**EVENING SESSIONS**

**House Plant Bingo**  
@ 4:30PST/7:30EST

**Reflections on Rural**  
@ 3:00PST/6:00EST

**CREATIVE REACTION LAB TRAININGS**

12-3PST/3-6EST  
**How Traditional Design Thinking Protects White Supremacy**

akers



recharge session



general session

wednesday 9/23

thursday 9/24

friday 9/25

**Power of the Pause:**  
Reflection as a Practice  
of Decolonization

**Empathy Based Design  
During Turbulent Times**

**Spaces + Places  
Panel**

**You Can Never  
Go Home Again**  
The LES Skatepark,  
Then and Now

**Designing Fellowship:**  
Reflections on Sisterhood  
& the Practice of  
Community Design

**Black Land  
Matters Panel**

**Accompaniment &  
Training in Tribal  
Communities**

**Ujiji Davis Williams**  
SmithGroup

**Design as Protest**

**the Kinda Tiny Desk**  
@ 4:30PST/7:30EST

**Open Mic**  
@ 3:30PST/5:15EST  
**Back in my Body**  
@4:15PST/7:15EST

**The End Up**  
@ 3:00PST/6:00EST

9-12PST/12-3EST  
**Centering Power and  
Healing (BIPOC only)**

9-12PST/12-3EST  
**Equity by Design: The  
Role of Power in  
Shaping History +  
Narratives**

# **FEATURED SPEAKERS**





## ATIANNA CORDOVA

WATER BLOCK + WATER BLOCK Kids - New Orleans, LA

**SESSION TITLE:** “hashtag equity”

**DAY/TIME:** Monday 9:00-10:30PST/12:00-1:30EST

Atianna J. Cordova is a New Orleans native, and the founder of WATER BLOCK and WATER BLOCK Kids. WATER BLOCK is an urban design studio that works to advance

racial and environmental justice in our built environment through design, community engagement, and planning. This year, she also formally launched WATER BLOCK Kids, which teaches elementary age youth about architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning and real estate through a social justice lens. Atianna is recognized as LSU School of Architecture’s first McNair Research Scholar, a 2016 UC Berkeley Undergraduate Prize for Architectural Design Excellence Travel Fellow, a 2017 Salzburg Global Fellow, the co-winner of Propeller’s 2018 Water Challenge Pitch Competition, a 2018 and 2019 4pt0 Schools Fellow, and a 2019 C40 Women4Climate member for her work. Atianna received her M.Sc in Disaster Resilience Leadership from Tulane University, Bachelor of Architecture from LSU, and Certificate in Community Development Finance from the University of New Orleans.

## JULIANA PINO in conversation w/ Nancy Meza

Little Village Environmental Justice Organization - Chicago, IL

**DAY/TIME:** Monday 11:00-12:30PST/2:00-3:30EST

Juliana Pino is the Policy Director at the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO). At LVEJO, Juliana analyzes, researches, and advocates for environmental justice, climate justice, and economic justice in local, state, and federal environmental policy. Our campaigns cross many areas, including energy, food, water, air, land use, brownfields, toxics, transportation, workforce development, and others.

Her work focuses on: advancing energy democracy and community self-determination in regulatory and policy arenas; creating just transition with meaningful collaborative and participatory management of shared environmental resources; and centering front line community leaders as generators of transformative policy ideas and governance models. Additionally, Juliana is committed to facilitating and cultivating processes that promote social justice and public health, has experience in multi-party negotiation and mediation, and works to build robust decision-making frameworks that center the perspectives of those most affected by both broader structural oppression and the specific policies being deliberated. In 2017, Juliana was recognized in Energy News Network's 40 Under 40 for her work in the transition to a clean energy economy. In 2018, she was named one of Grist's 50 Fixers for her work in making the world a more just and sustainable place for all. In 2019, she was named an inaugural Rachel's Network Catalyst Award winner for women of color making an environmental impact in communities across the country.

She serves on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Environmental Council and is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Chicago. Prior to joining LVEJO, Juliana has contributed to the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Great Lakes Commission, and the U.S.-China Chamber of Commerce, among others. Juliana is guided by anti-oppression, is invested in anti-racism movement struggles, and is a big fan of animals.





Nancy is the Climate Justice Organizer at the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO). She was born in Los Angeles, California and was raised in the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago. She graduated from Farragut Career Academy High School and continued her studies abroad in Puerto Rico at the University of the Sacred Heart for 2 years. In 2013, she began actively volunteering at LVEJO, scaling her way up and becoming part of the LVEJO family officially in 2015.

**The mission of LVEJO** is to organize with our community to accomplish environmental justice in Little Village and achieve the self-determination of immigrant, low-income, and working-class families. Our vision is to build a sustainable community that promotes the healthy development of youth and families, provides economic justice, and practices participatory democracy and self-determination. LVEJO's theory of social change is centered upon the belief that when low income and people of color understand the root causes of their experiences of oppression, they have the power and agency to transform society.

## OSCAR PERRY ABELLO

NEXT CITY - New York, NY



**SESSION TITLE:** 5,000 Years of City Planning

**DAY/TIME:** Tuesday 9:00-10:30PST/12:00-1:30EST

Oscar Perry Abello is a New York City-based journalist covering alternative economic models and policies in cities for several publications, chiefly Next City — an independent, not-for-profit, online magazine where he is currently senior economics correspondent. He also contributes to Yes! Magazine, City & State New York, Impact Alpha, Shelterforce, and other outlets. Oscar is a child of immigrants descended from the former colonial subjects of the Spanish and U.S. imperial regimes in the Philippines. He was born in New York City, and raised in the inner-ring suburbs of Philadelphia. Oscar has a bachelor's degree from Villanova University, where he majored in economics and minored in peace and justice studies. He spent several years embedded in the international development industry before transitioning to into journalism full-time in 2015.



## UJIJJI DAVIS WILLIAMS

SmithGroup - Detroit, MI

**DAY/TIME:** Thursday 1:00-2:30PST/4:00-5:30EST

Based in Detroit, Ujiji Davis Williams is a practicing landscape architect and urban planner who focuses on landscape and urban design, master planning and strategic implementation. She is currently an Associate at SmithGroup, and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Detroit-Mercy School of Architecture. Burgeoning

as a researcher, Ujiji explores the intersection between landscape, place and racial identity, and the responsibilities of landscape architecture for historic reconciliation through design. In 2019, she won the ASLA Bradford Williams Medal of Excellence for her critical essay, “The Bottom: The Emergence and Erasure of Black American Urban Landscapes.” She holds a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture from Cornell University, and a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Michigan. She’s originally from Brooklyn.

### SESSION DESCRIPTION:

In a quaking moment where our country has exposed two crippling pandemics - Covid-19 and anti-black violence - response to climate change seems so much more prevalent and necessary. Our environments - both ecological and social - need a vigorous response toward a national healing. Designers play a significant role in facilitating this healing, in leading the charge toward reconciliation for a future that is healthy, inclusive and just. Ujiji will explore these ideas with through their own works and research to identify just where we might fit in.

# SPACES & PLACES

NATIONAL

**DAY/TIME:** Friday 9:00-10:30PST/12:00-1:30EST



Hear from our partner Spaces & Places on their grassroots beginnings using workshop tools like the BlackSpace Manifesto and assembling their first virtual convening this year.

**Aldea Coleman:** As the Policy Director for North Carolina's Department of Transportation (NCDOT), Aldea is responsible for managing strategic initiatives and policies that impact multi modal transportation projects. Aldea joined NCDOT after many years of national transportation and urban planning work. Her experience includes advocacy programming that resulted in safer street design for communities, and outreach initiatives that advocated for more culturally sensitive community design.



Aldea is a current board member for BlackSpace Urbanist Collective, a member of the American Planning Association's Legislative and Policy Committee, as well as a lead organizer for Spaces and Places. Aldea has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from North Carolina A&T State University and a Master in Geography from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

**Ifeoma Ebo:** Ifeoma Ebo is an experienced Urban Strategist that has harnessed design and management capabilities to lead projects in architecture, urban revitalization, community/large scale master planning and neighborhood development. She has held leadership positions in New York City government and is a highly sought-after consultant on equitable city design and sustainable development strategy for city governments and civic institutions internationally. She serves on Advisory Boards for the Mayor of Helsingborg, Sweden H22 Smart City Initiative, Association for Community Design and the NYC-based collective BlackSpace. She is a Visiting Critic and Lecturer at Cornell University and Syracuse University. Ifeoma holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University and a Master in City Design and Development from MIT.



**Antoine Bryant:** Antoine Bryant, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, APA, is a thought leader and community engagement expert with 25 years of experience in the design, development, engagement and empowerment of underserved communities across the US. Antoine is well-versed in the demanding language of government regulations and standards, having successfully completed and received funding for HUD 202, 811, and 203K projects, utilized CDBG and HOME funds, as well as Low-Income Housing Tax Credit projects. Intentional efforts are made at empowering disenfranchised indigenous populations and ensuring that they have a deliberate voice in the improvement and growth of their community.

As the 1st Executive Director of Row House Community Development Corporation (Row House CDC), he directed the construction of the award-winning Row House Duplexes, the newest quality affordable housing in Houston's Third Ward in over 15 years. Currently, Antoine serves as a Project Manager and Director of Business Development for the Houston office of Moody Nolan, a nationally-recognized architecture firm headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. The nation's largest design firm under African-American leadership, Moody Nolan is excited about our work in Houston, with two major educational facilities directly within historic African-American neighborhoods.

Locally, Antoine plays a tremendous role in the growth of the City, as a member of the City of Houston Planning Commission, as well as Secretary of the Old Spanish Trail/Almeda Redevelopment Authority (TIRZ #7). In the summer of 2016, he was the public engagement lead for APA's nationally recognized Community Planning Action Team's (CPAT) first international study, in Belize City, Belize. He was also the public engagement lead for a Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) with the AIA in Dubuque, Iowa in 2017. Antoine has a Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning from Cornell University, Masters from the University of Texas at Austin Graduate School of Architecture, and study-abroad experience in Tokyo, Japan.

**Spaces & Places** is a grassroots network of urban planners, policymakers, and designers formed in 2016 to amplify work on the issues affecting communities of color that are too often not fully recognized or addressed by professional urban planning and design communities. For the past four years, this network has created a series of 'unconference' convenings held across the US and virtually to amplify and work on these issues.

## BLACK LAND MATTERS

**DAY/TIME:** Friday 11:00-12:30PST/2:00-3:30EST

A conversation style session sharing the multitude in ways Black land-ownership is key to a just built environment, with a prioritization of Black trans experience, homelessness, and gentrification.

## DESIGN AS PROTEST (DAP)

NATIONAL

**DAY/TIME:** Friday 1:00-2:30EST/4:00-5:30EST

Design as Protest(DAP) is a coalition of designers mobilizing strategy to dismantle the privilege and power structures that use architecture and design as tools of oppression. Co-organized by BIPOC designers, DAP exists to reverse the violence and injustices that architecture, design, and urban planning practices have inflicted upon Black people and communities. During this ACD session, DAP organizers will share how they have launched a completely virtual national organizing network and harnessed design as a tool for advocacy and activism. They will also provide guidance and insight on how ACD43 participants can organize and build communities of trust and collaboration to effectively confront injustices in our professions and across our communities. Follow Design As Protest: [www.dapcollective.com](http://www.dapcollective.com), [@designasprotest](https://twitter.com/designasprotest), [#designasprotest](https://twitter.com/designasprotest), [#DAP](https://twitter.com/designasprotest)

## DAP

### ORGANIZERS



**De Nichols:** De Nichols is a design activist, social worker, and global lecturer who mobilizes creative changemakers to address issues within the built environment through the production of interactive experiences, digital media, and social initiatives. She serves as the Principal of Design and Social Impact at the Civic Creatives consultancy in St. Louis, MO, and she is a current Transnational Fellow with Monument Lab and the Goethe Institut.

**Taylor Holloway:** Designer, architect, and educator, Taylor Holloway uses design-driven approaches to promote equity in the built environment. As a biracial woman, first generation college graduate, and individual who has experienced the U.S. foster care system, issues of creative voice, belonging, and healing are personal to her. Her organization, Public Design Agency, utilizes design-thinking, public art, and architecture, to train future generations of designers, builders, & change-makers.



**Bryan C. Lee:** Bryan is an Architect, educator, writer, and Design Justice Advocate. He is the founder/Design Director of Colloqate Design a nonprofit multidisciplinary design practice, in New Orleans, Louisiana, dedicated to expanding community access to design and creating spaces of racial, social, and cultural equity. He has led two award-winning youth design programs nationwide and is the founding co-organizer of the DAP (Design As Protest) Collective. He was most recently noted as one of the 2018 Fast Company Most Creative People in Business, a USC Annenberg MacArthur Civic Media Fellow, and the youngest design firm to win the Architectural League's Emerging Voices award in 2019.





# **RECHARGE SESSIONS**

Digital space to pause, and reflect,  
meet someone new, reconnect with  
someone dear, share some laughs,  
and catch your breath

## MANAGING STRESS DURING the COVID-19

SESSION TIME: Tuesday 8:00-9:00PST/11:00-12:00EST



**Sharron Lewis** | Social Justice Writer/Performer  
Master of Education from Washington State University

**Maudie Wilson** | Educator/Songstress  
Master of Education + Co-Founder of Empower You Edutainment



Reconnecting, Rebuilding, and Restarting - This workshop will give practical tools and strategies that will help the participants achieve tips on living less stressful lifestyles during these challenging times. The presentation will explore self-care intervention through singing, spoken word, and storytelling that will promote positive mental health. There will be activities designed to bring the community together as we all take time to experience peace and tranquility together.

**Sharron Lewis** - An activist with over 20 years of workshop experience in stress awareness and relaxation. CEO of the non-profit Empower You Edutainment, whose mission is to empower/educate through the use of poetry, short stories, storytelling, theatre, dance, and healing circles. She is the Economic Development Chair for the NAACP Riverside Branch, where she works towards eradicating environmental racism, economic and social inequities.

**Maudie Wilson** - Maudie Wilson, Educator/Songstress, has a Master of Education, and she is the Co-Founder of Empower You Edutainment. Maudie uses singing as a tool to benefit physical and mental health. For years she has been teaching stress relief through singing the blues. She is on the Executive Committee of the NAACP Riverside Branch and the Branch's ACT-SO Chair. ACT-SO is a high school yearlong achievement program designed to encourage academic and cultural achievement among African-American scholars.

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## THE POWER of the PAUSE: Reflection as a Practice of Decolonization

SESSION TIME: Wednesday 8:00-9:00PST/11:00-12:00EST

**Shalini Agrawal** | Mother, educator, facilitator, and designer



Decolonizing our practices requires us to disrupt our biases and blindspots, and takes time for us to do so. In order to begin to dismantle our mindsets, we will hold a space of processing and decompression to build our personal self- practices. How might we reflect on the legacies of colonization and racism as it relates to its unreconciled impacts today? How might we identify and confront our truths? Centering on nourishment, we offer this intentional and welcoming space for participants to build personal strategies for

reflection, and to promote healing and liberation. ***Participants are asked to bring a beverage, candle and lighter, and journal.***

## EVENING SESSIONS

### **HOUSE PLANT BINGO**

**MONDAY 9/21: 4:30PST/7:30EST**

Show us your spider plant! Party with your pothos! Claim your cacti! Join horticultural hostess with the mostest Planner Kelsey Zlevor for 45-minutes of laughs and plant show-and-tell. Bring a beverage, bring your kiddos, and definitely bring your plants!

### **the KINDA TINY DESK**

**WEDNESDAY 9/24: 4:30PST/7:30EST**

Join musician and Landscape Designer, Zak Johnson for 30-minutes of live music. Hear some of your favorites from the 80s, 90s, and more. Tune in while you make dinner, serenade a sweetheart, or wind down from the day.

### **OPEN MIC**

**THURSDAY 9/24: 3:30PST/6:30EST**

Calling all writers, poetry lovers, and folx with good radio voices! Landscape designer, artist, and gardener Alexis Griffin invites you to share your favorite poem, a haiku you wrote last week, or that spoken word piece from your 20s. Or join and just listen in.

### **BACK IN MY BODY**

**THURSDAY 9/24: 4:15PST/7:15EST**

Stress takes a toll not only on the mind but the body too. Learn how to identify stress responses and practice a few strategies to recenter, rejuvenate, and reenergize. Hosted by School Psychologist, Annie Christenson and Planner Kelsey Zlevor.

### **THE END UP**

**FRIDAY 9/25: 3:00PST/6:00EST**

That's a wrap on ACD43, ya'll! Join the ACD Team for a family-friendly dance music set w/ New York's DJ Tara, find out ways to stay involved, connect with fellow attendees, and hear more about what's to come in 2020-2021 with ACD.



**GENERAL  
SESSIONS**

## MEMORIES as CATALYSTS for SOCIAL CHANGE

**SESSION TIME:** Monday 1:00-2:30PST/4:00-5:30EST



### **Katya Reyna** | Community Projects Manager

Depave - Portland, OR

Memories of displacement, loss, and discrimination are often present in designed sites. A decline in memory and story sharing has left these memories lingering on sites, open wounds waiting to be unearthed, discussed, and healed. These memories are hidden windows to the cultural identity or spirit of a place, experienced individually and collectively through generations. This project

proposes a new mode of site analysis that recognizes memories of displacement and racial tension as necessary aspects of understanding the value of design within community context. This method challenges current standards in landscape architecture practice by suggesting that we look beyond the physicality of a site and delve deeper through community and interdisciplinary partnerships.

Using Mindy Fullilove's analysis of "root shock" and Pierre Nora's concept of "sites of memory," a case study was conducted, examining how projects have implemented memory and story collection strategies. The case study provided a framework for a memory collection pilot study conducted at three community gatherings in the Chicago neighborhoods of Pilsen and Little Village. Both are Mexican immigrant neighborhoods facing rapid gentrification and fragmentation. A current proposal for a multi-modal trail would connect both neighborhoods. As a first step in community engagement and design, residents of the two neighborhoods were asked to map their memories - good and bad - and describe any other sentiments about their home. These were then aggregated into an analysis map depicting the untold narratives and collective memories of Pilsen and Little Village.

**Katya Reyna** - Katya was raised in Chicago and studied urban planning at University of Illinois at Chicago. She moved to Oregon in 2016 and attended University of Oregon where she earned a Master of Landscape Architecture degree. Through her work and research, Katya advocates for people who have been disenfranchised and excluded through historically racist design and development practices. She believes spaces should be a reflection of the community they serve and sees community design as an act of radical love and activism. She is a native Spanish speaker and has implemented outreach and design strategies to better reach and serve communities - most recently at Depave in Portland.

## CONSIDERING LANGUAGE and WORD VALUE

SESSION TIME: 11:00-12:30PST/2:00-3:30EST



**Joshua Budiongan** | Project Manager  
Detroit Collaborative Design Center

**Siboney Díaz-Sánchez** | Project Manager  
OppCo - Boston, MA



This session is an interactive conversation and introspective of our own learned vocabularies. Often, we utilize vocabulary that includes metaphors, phrases and words that can have roots in violence and racist narratives. While the intention at present use is not always rooted in violence, the nature and existence of a phrase very often can be. This session will facilitate discussion about violence in our language and what we can do collectively to decolonize our working vocabulary. The master bedroom carries a connotation, where primary bedroom or <insert name's> bedroom do not. In community design, we may feed two birds with one seed, rather than killing with one stone. Daily, we experience these terms in a variety of contexts

between work, academia, our lives at home, social settings, and beyond. Unlearning these phrases and replacing them with intention is a practice. Through conversation, we will revisit our vocabularies and identify potential violent histories and undertones.

The first portion of the session is a brief introduction that poses a question relevant to community and social justice designers — Why are we “meta” with the language we use, especially in the sensitive spaces many of us often work within?

The facilitators will share a brief list of example phrases before opening small group breakout discussions where participants can reflect on phrases they may use or hear.

We will all conclude in the main room to build a catalogue of phrases or words and alternatives before recentering on language as an intentional non-violent practice

**Josh Budiongan** - Josh is a Designer and Project Manager at the Detroit Collaborative Design Center (DCDC), where he works on neighborhood resiliency, community planning and design projects in communities across the city. From 2015 through 2017, he served as an Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellow in Detroit at Jefferson East, Inc. (JEI) helping kickstart their neighborhood based development activity and planning and design efforts across lower east side neighborhoods. Josh acts on the board of directors for the Association for Community Design, as board secretary for Bleeding Heart Design, and is a core organizer with Dark Matter University.

**Sibony Díaz-Sánchez** - Siboney is an architect and Enterprise Rose Fellow in the Boston area. She works to understand how architecture and design can best serve communities. From 2015-2017 Siboney served as Zoning Commissioner for District 1 in San Antonio. Most recently she helped complete a 63,000 square foot new construction facility for ChildSafe, a non-profit children's advocacy center while at Overland Partners. In San Antonio, Siboney dedicated her time to various non-profit arts organizations including the SAY Si Board of Directors, VIA Metropolitan Transit Community Council and the City of San Antonio Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee. She was a founding member and co-chair of the AIA San Antonio Latinos in Architecture Committee that advocated for multi-generational mentorship in design professions. She is currently working at Opportunity Communities, a community development corporation. Her work focuses on affordable housing development and community building because they are inherently connected. Siboney received her B.Arch from Cornell University. She insists that creative fields are viable vehicles for social change and is committed to prioritizing community voices in design processes.

**PRIORITIZING the CREATION of a COMMUNITY that PROMOTES HEALING and meets the INTERSECTIONAL NEEDS of BLACK GIRLS**

**SESSION TIME:** Tuesday 1:00-2:30PST/4:00-5:30EST



**Dr. Danielle Wright** | Founding Director  
Navigate NOLA

**Dr. Rashida Govan** | Executive Director  
New Orleans Youth Alliance



**SESSION IS INTENDED FOR BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) FOLX.** The Collaborative for African-American Girls & Women remains united in support of the global mobilization efforts that seek to bring justice to the Black lives that have been lost to racial terror, excessive force and police brutality.

As we navigate through this eruption of the horrifying state of race relations in this country, punctuated by the murder of George Floyd, we are committed to elevating the intersectional experiences of Black women and Black girls. #SayHerName is the lens through which we understand these experiences, ensuring that Black women

and Black girls' voices are prioritized in the fight for racial justice and healing.

For months, we have watched the COVID-19 pandemic throw gasoline on the fire of racial inequities in this country. The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on the lives of African-Americans is a sobering reminder of systemic racism and its pervasive and enduring impact on our health and well-being. We have entered into a tale of two pandemics. The return of civil unrest in response to police brutality, excessive force and racial terror is a global movement born out of collective trauma. Every day we are re-traumatized by images and videos in the media. The pain is inescapable. While we are exhausted, we remain committed to our own healing, and creating spaces of healing for our girls. To this end, The Collaborative for African-American will launch a series of facilitated healing circles for African-American adolescent girls. The intellectual inventory gathered from these healing circles will be used to shape policy recommendations that inform institutions on how to build their capacity to support Black girls.

**Dr. Danielle Wright** - Dr. Danielle Wright is a licensed clinical social worker and public health practitioner with over 10 years of experience in the areas of trauma, toxic stress, infant mental health, social and emotional learning and disaster mental health. She has a Doctorate degree of Social Work from Tulane University. She also has master's degrees in both Social Work and Public Health from Tulane University. Dr. Wright was trained in Infant Mental Health through LSUHSC Department of Psychiatry's Harris Infant Mental Health Fellowship. She also has a certification in Disaster Mental Health from Tulane University.

Dr. Wright has worked across various clinical mental health settings, public health settings, school settings and early childhood learning centers. She also served as an adjunct clinical field faculty member at Tulane University School of Social Work for four years. Dr. Wright has experience in program development, implementation and evaluation. She is the founding Director of Navigate Nola, the child well-being division of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice. Through this role, she is responsible for the oversight of the development and implementation of the social-emotional and community wellness programs that fall under the Navigate Nola Division. In addition to her role at Navigate NOLA, Dr. Wright is also a therapist, in private practice, at Atlas Psychiatry.

Dr. Wright is committed to making a difference in her community and enriching the lives of the New Orleans citizenry. She is a member of several volunteer service organizations such as the Links Inc., Crescent City Chapter. Danielle is a board member of Communities in Schools of the Gulf South, Inc. and a board member of the Tulane University School of Social Work Alumni.

**Dr. Rashida Govan** - Rashida Govan is an educator, activist and writer who has worked for almost 20 years in education and youth development. Rashida is a 2011 graduate of the University of New Orleans where she earned her Ph.D. in educational administration. She completed a postdoctoral position as project director of the International Study on Youth Community Organizing. Her other research interests include African American girls' adolescent development and college readiness, access and success. Rashida is deeply engaged in the New Orleans community and is credited with facilitating a number of community education programs including parent leadership trainings with the Fatherhood Consortium and the PRIDE Parent Leadership Academy, the Trayvon Martin Teach-In and the Assata Shakur Teach-In. Govan is the founder and executive director of Project Butterfly New Orleans, an African-centered girls rites of passage program that has served nearly 250 high school girls since its inception in 2009. Govan has extensive experience in policy and advocacy and has served as the policy and development consultant for the Urban League of Louisiana and has authored numerous publications including a family engagement toolkit, numerous policy briefings on education, criminal and juvenile justice, civic engagement, housing and other related topics. She is best known for her work on educational justice and has published several research reports including *Advancing Educational Equity in New Orleans Public Schools* and *Parent Perspectives: Parental Engagement in Education Reform*. She is also an editor and author of *The State of Black New Orleans: 10 Years Post-Katrina*. She has spoken widely on issues concerning girls and women and is a proud alumna of Morgan State University. Govan is currently the Executive Director of the New Orleans Youth Alliance, a youth intermediary that supports youth serving organizations in improving their quality, centering youth voice and racial equity in youth development practice.

## REFLECTIONS on RURAL

SESSION TIME: Tuesday 3:00-4:30PST/6:00-7:30EST

**Chau Pham**

Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS)

**Lindsey Briceno**

Epicenter

**Nick Guertin**

Coalfield Development

**Alicia Ginsberg**

Tatanka Funds, REDCO

**Emily Roush-Elliott** | Founding Partner

Delta Design Build Workshop (Delta DB)

**Michelle Stadelman** | Project Manager

Delta Design Build Workshop (Delta DB)

With rural communities accounting for only a fifth of the nation's population, the dynamics of community development are often overlooked when it comes to the rural affordable housing crisis. Despite lower costs of living, rates of poverty are proportionally higher in rural areas compared to metro areas. Rural communities also face unique challenges-- including high construction costs, lower rates of federal and private investment, and limited local capacity. Approximately, rural counties cover nearly four-fifths of the nation's land area, but estimates classify only 16% of all non-profits as rural in nature. This means that creative approaches are necessary in order to meet rural America's affordable housing / community development needs. The pandemic and BLM movement have also magnified systemic injustices- leading us to re-examine existing challenges, and refocus the way we work in order to advance equity.

This session brings together Rose Fellows currently working in rural locations and on Native lands to share common challenges we face as practitioners in community engagement, financing, and construction; as well as the challenges our communities face in public health, economic precarity, and racial injustice. Over the past few months, we have examined challenges in our individual environments and started collecting lessons learned from other organizations with the goal of creating case studies that showcase best practices in rural development. The intent is to build a road map for their broader application in the rural community development context. As we seek to deepen collective knowledge, we'd like to pause and reflect, have conversations with policymakers, designers, developers, and advocates on how to best address unique challenges in rural communities, in parallel advancing equity, social justice and anti-racist practice.

While many rural areas are indeed characterized by a significantly white population, we seek a broader discussion that illustrates the nature of structural oppression facing BIPOC individuals in the communities where each of our organizations work. This is a dynamic of critical importance, when considering that BIPOC individuals in rural communities experience some of the worst housing conditions in the U.S., and that Non-white and Hispanic rural households are three times more likely to live in substandard housing than white rural residents. At the same time, we recognize that the locus of confronting white supremacy must necessarily occur in white communities- and that rural community development organizations can play a key role in this.

How can community design build power and elevate the voices of vulnerable communities that are disproportionately impacted by the housing crisis? How can we support the well-being of our residents in the midst of a global health crisis? With limited capacity and resources, what are alternative approaches in our practice to catalyze change? Broadly, we will present the unique challenges of community development in the rural places where we work, including:

- Entrenched, and systemic issues that fall along racial and socioeconomic lines
- Community engagement / organizing across large geographies with dispersed populations
- Access to financing and capital for housing and community-supporting initiatives
- Multifamily housing and development density in rural, lower-density contexts
- As well as engage in an open discussion / panel on the areas of opportunity for each of the Fellows and their respective organizations.

**Chau Pham** - Chau Pham is responsible for creating design guidelines that will better integrate inclusivity, healthy housing, and green building practices for all INHS projects. Her work plan includes overseeing design and construction of affordable rental projects, and strategically locating & expanding development into priority communities in Tompkins and the six contiguous counties.

**Lindsey Briceno** - Lindsey's responsibilities within Epicenter are to oversee the development of affordable housing within Green River's rural context that includes a community driven design process and green design practices. She also oversees the implementation of strategies to develop unique financial structures to accommodate smaller developments as well as strategies to support both rental and for-sale properties. Many of these strategies tackle the lack of funding sources for small, rural development in Southern Utah.

**Nick Guertin** - Nick helps coordinate the planning, design, and construction for Coalfield's development initiatives. This program area includes the adaptive reuse of formerly vacant industrial and community buildings, as well as the development and management of affordable multifamily housing. Nick's work informs internal processes for a real estate portfolio totaling 600,000 square feet, and which currently spans four counties in southern West Virginia.

**Alicia Ginsberg** - Alicia is part of the team establishing and defining Tatanka Funds' Housing Initiative. They are working to demystify current tribal trust land processes and develop accessible avenues for home ownership while also creating more culturally relevant housing designs guided by the community. Additionally, her work plan includes assisting with the design of the first 60-acre phase for Keya Wakpala (REDCO's 590-acre resilient community), which focuses on housing and commercial development.

**Emily Roush-Elliott** - Elliott is a founding partner of the Delta Design Build Workshop (Delta DB). Delta DB is a social impact design build organization that builds equity through the built environment in the Mississippi Delta. The organization operates on the tenets that process is as important as product, waste is a social construct, and local leadership is necessary to realize impact. Emily is a licensed architect. She was awarded an Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellowship (2013-2015) that brought her, along with her partner Richard Elliott, to the Mississippi Delta. Emily received a Master of Architecture from the University of Cincinnati and a Bachelor of Science in Design from Arizona State University.

**Michelle Stadelman** - Michelle Stadelman was a 2017-2019 Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellow based with Hope Enterprise Corporation and Delta Design Build Workshop, working throughout the Mississippi Delta and other small, rural communities. She continues on in her position, linking the two organizations, following the conclusion of the fellowship. Prior to her role in Mississippi, she has worked for more than a decade throughout the U.S. and Rwanda with experience in both traditional and non-traditional architectural and educator roles. Michelle holds a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities and a Master of Architecture from the Boston Architectural College.

## EMPATHY BASED DESIGN DURING TURBULENT TIMES

**SESSION TIME:** Wednesday 9:00-10:30PST/12:00-1:30EST



**Zarith Pineda** | Founder  
Territorial Empathy



**Matt Gonzales** | Founder  
Integration and Innovative Initiative (i3)

The session will start with a short presentation on Territorial Empathy's mission, practice, and relevant projects - highlighting the importance of an intersectional approach to urban equity issues. We will then pivot to the presentation of our most recent research project "Segregation is Killing Us." After a comprehensive presentation of the project process, content, and impact, we will enter into the panel discussion featuring Matt Gonzales. He is the director of the NYU Metro Center I3 initiative focused on school segregation, and a policy leader at IntegrateNYC - our main community partners behind SIKU. He will talk about his role as a community organizer supporting youth advocates to advance this

research and other inclusionary policies around public school integration. We will then open up the floor to questions from the audience to further engage with participants questions or curiosities.

**Zarith Pineda** - Zarith Pineda is an architectural and urban designer and the founder of the nonprofit design collective Territorial Empathy, an organization that aims to mediate spatialized conflicts through research, data science, and design recommendations, based on the concept of applied empathy to “explore humanity” through a diverse range of projects. The topics investigated range from the migrating population from Central America and the Family Separation policy at the US/Mexico border, to the proposition of a monument in honor of the Hurricane Maria victims in Puerto Rico. Their most recent projects were investigations of the school segregation and the unequal impact of COVID-19 on the marginalized populations in NYC. In 2017, she was appointed to teach Digital Design Techniques, Urban Theory, and Data Visualization at Columbia University as an Adjunct Associate Professor. At Columbia her research on water diplomacy, spatial justice, and conflict urbanism awarded her the prestigious Lowenfish Memorial Prize. Zarith has practiced at a number of national/international architectural and urban design firms where she was involved in a broad range of institutional, residential, and planning projects. Zarith’s work has been published and exhibited in New York, New Orleans, Washington D.C., Paris, Brussels, Venice, Amman and Tel Aviv.

**Matt Gonzales** - Matt Gonzales is an educator, an advocate, and a policy analyst. He is founder, and director of the Integration and Innovation Initiative (i3) at NYU Metro Center, a project designed to support policy development and design, implementation, and advocacy for school integration. He is co-founder of the NYC Alliance for School Integration and Desegregation (nycASID), and serves as the Policy Coach for the youth-led advocacy group IntegrateNYC. As a member of Mayor de Bill Blasio’s School Diversity Advisory Group, Matt has helped to craft New York City policy on school integration, and was integral in helping draft a common definition for Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Education (CRSE) recently adopted by the DOE. He has worked closely with state education leaders to design the New York State Integration Project (NYSIP) grant program and has supported districts all across New York in developing integration plans. Nationally, Matt serves on the Policy Working Group and Steering Committee for the National Coalition on School Diversity and is an Advisory Board member for Integrated Schools, a grassroots parent network committed to integrated schools. He is a former special education teacher at Bancroft Middle School in Los Angeles, and earned his Masters in Education Policy from Teachers College, Columbia University in 2016. He earned his Bachelor’s in Urban Education and a Special Education Teaching Credential from California State University, Los Angeles.

## REGROUP

# YOU CAN NEVER GO HOME AGAIN: The LES Skatepark Then and Now

**SESSION TIME:** Wednesday 11:00-12:30PST/2:00-3:30EST



**Preeti Sodhi** | Urban Planner  
New York City, NYC



**Jessica Forsyth** | Co-Founder & Executive Director  
New York City, NY



**Wade Yates** | Coach  
Harold Hunter Foundation. Brooklyn, NY



**James Rewolinski** | Founder & Owner  
Labor Skateshop. Brooklyn, NY.



**Ted Barrow** | Moderator  
Berkley, CA

“Public spaces” are oftentimes spaces that are designed and managed to control the behavior of the user. Where you can sit, where you can play, where you can people watch- all of these choices are influenced and controlled by the design and configuration of spaces, such as through the placement of elements like benches and gravel and turf and grass. Skateboarders disrupt this balance, as their use of public space is often contested and can involve an appropriation or takeover of spaces, while transcending how architects, urban designers, planners, and governments typically conceptualize public spaces to be used. As Iain Borden notes in his book “Skateboarding, Space, and the City”, skateboarding, although not a crime, can be seen to threaten the status quo in cities but in different ways than activities like graffiti or homelessness. It “is neither explicit protest nor quiet conformism, game nor sport, public nor private, adult nor childish, and above all, precisely because it is a spatially and temporally diffused and dispersed

activity.” The threatening characterization of skateboarders; use of public space is similar to when POC enter “white space,” the racialized spaces in which people of color are typically absent or not expected. In such so-called white spaces, the presence of people of color can be perceived as out of the ordinary, dangerous, or criminal (PUBLIC SPACE, PARK SPACE, AND RACIALIZED SPACE, KANGJAE “JERRY” LEE, PH.D. JAN 27, 2020). In 2011 Architecture for Humanity (AfH) and Nike awarded a grant to redesign and rebuild New York City’s Coleman Oval Skatepark. This project was funded through GAMECHANGERS, a revolving grants program to fund the design and construction of “innovative, sustainable, and safe places to play” in communities that were disenfranchised or typically overlooked for this type of funding.

The project was structured through an Adopt a Park agreement, an interesting hybrid of public and private where a public park (managed by the NYC Dept of Parks & Recreation) would be designed by a community partner (Steve Rodriguez) and constructed with funds from a private entity (Nike/AfH). The original Coleman Oval Skatepark (known as the “LES” Skatepark and located in the Chinatown neighborhood of Manhattan’s Lower East Side) was plagued with issues including difficult to maintain prefabricated equipment and an uneven asphalt surface that often left black dust all over those that landed upon it. The redesign of the LES Skatepark aimed to balance the priorities of both the user, by safely recreating parts of the urban fabric that skaters enjoyed through custom concrete elements, but also the City, by placing those elements within the confines of a controlled, fenced space. The redevelopment of the park also provided an opportunity to demonstrate that there is no better expert than the user and that skateboarders should drive the creation of their own spaces.

This panel discussion will involve reflecting on the LES Skatepark as an enclave in the New York City skateboarding community eight years after the park’s reopening, especially for BIPOC youth. The panelists will explore the importance of taking a place-based approach, in this case Chinatown - an immigrant and working class community affected by recent rezonings and ensuing gentrification. The panel will also explore the importance of centering young people in relevant and meaningful planning and design and how the COVID 19 pandemic and protests surrounding the murder of George Floyd has affected those for whom skateboarding provides a sense of community and whose primary gathering space is the skatepark. Session participants will learn details about the skatepark’s design and development process, explore opportunities for further integration of the skatepark within the larger Coleman Oval park, and hear recommendations on how to approach similar projects within their own communities.

**Preeti Sodhi** - Preeti Sodhi is an urban planner with 10+ years working with communities across NYC to actualize their own vision for their built environment. As the former Project Director at Spaceworks, she led the development of cultural facilities that provided free/low-cost workspace for 10,000+ NYC artists and residents. As a Design Fellow with Architecture for Humanity, she directed the redevelopment of the LES Skatepark through a public private partnership with Nike and the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. Preeti is the Founder of Hello Voter, a civic engagement initiative connecting New Yorkers with local government through voter registration and education workshops and is an organizer with Design as Protest and Dark Matter University.

**Jessica Forsyth** - Jessica Forsyth has worked in mental health for nearly 20 years. She received her Ph.D. with distinction in Counseling Psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University, where her research focused on racism, racial identity, and racial/cultural issues in forensic psychology. As a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Healthful Behavior Change at NYU School of Medicine, she assisted in the management of multi-year clinical trials of community-based behavioral health interventions in the Black community to reduce racial disparities in hypertension, and conducted her own NIH-funded research on coping with racism among Black men in Brooklyn. In addition to her work with HHF, she is a research consultant, contributing to forensic expert reports for state and federal racial discrimination cases.

**Wade Yates** - Wade Yates is from Brownsville in Brooklyn, New York. In addition to his work with the Harold Hunter Foundation, he is a Skate Community Activist and Owner of Trophy Griptape.

**James Rewolinski** - James Rewolinski is the founder of Labor Skateboard Shop located in Manhattan. He holds a BA in Philosophy, an Urban Planning Certificate, and an MA in Geography, all from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

**Ted Barrow** - Ted Barrow is finishing his PhD. in art history at the Graduate Center, City University of New York. A lifelong skateboarder, Barrow has explored the historic and contemporary relationship between urban space and skate culture in his writing for decades, contributing to Thrasher Magazine, Slap magazine, Transworld, Jenkem, Free, and the New York Times. He has participated in the Pushing Boarders academic conference on skateboarding in 2018 in London and in 2019 in Malmo, and did switch backside tailslides for years under the Manhattan Bridge, at the LES skatepark.

## ACCOMPANIMENT and TRAINING in TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

**SESSION TIME:** Wednesday 1:00-2:30PST/4:00-5:30EST



**Alejandra Cervantes** | Design Researcher  
MASS Design Group. Boston, MA.



**Taylor Sinclair** | Landscape Designer  
MASS Design Group. Boston, MA

This session will share in-progress work and lessons learned from two projects from the Sustainable Native Communities Design Lab (SNCDL) within MASS Design Group (MASS).

Introduction: About MASS & SNCDL Our mission is to research, build, and advocate for architecture that promotes justice and human dignity. We are a mission-driven organization founded to support partners in delivering innovative capital projects that fundamentally improve lives and act as enablers of shared prosperity. MASS believes that approaching architecture as a purpose-built process

requires a simple but fundamental shift: we need to think not about what buildings are, but what they do. In 2019, MASS and SNCDL merged and opened an office in Santa Fe, New Mexico to serve native and rural communities more directly. Together MASS and SNCC have worked in over 20 countries and with over 25 sovereign nations. We work to bring healthy and culturally-responsive housing and facilities to tribes across the United States and closing the wealth gap in Indian Country will require quality housing that supports families and their communities. Working alongside tribal housing organizations and community members, our aim is to design a new standard for tribal housing development that is dignifying and context-specific. Our approach builds agency within Native communities to leverage participatory architecture as a wealth-building engine. By providing technical assistance and investing philanthropic resources at critical moments in housing development efforts, SNCDL will bolster wealth creation and sovereignty among Native communities.

Project 1: Indigenous Services Canada: Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative. MASS outlined curriculum and led workshops for the Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative (IHII). The Government of Canada allocates federal dollars each year to support Metis, Inuit and First Nations Housing and Infrastructure through Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). Those who receive annual funding for housing make decisions about how to spend it, including who to contract for services such as trades and inspections. ISC partnered with MASS to facilitate instructional seminars and create content for the IHII, this included development and delivery of technical information sessions to support 24 Innovators, their projects, and their Mentors to rethink how Indigenous communities develop innovative solutions to housing in Canada. The seminars were interactive and assisted the Innovators to carry on to the next steps of the initiative.

Project 2: Leveraging Sustainability: A Guide for Tribal Development, Design, and Construction. This 3-day curriculum is designed to provide technical assistance to support Tribally-Designated Housing Entities and Tribal Housing Authorities develop housing. Training and technical assistance is commonly delivered through intermediaries, in this case FirstPic, who work directly with the Office of Native American Programs at HUD. Through a series of lectures, interactive activities, and case studies, this curriculum builds on best practices and opportunities to realize healthier environments, economies, and more empowered communities to (Re)Define Sustainability. Participants will have access to tools, research, and expertise that can support their work so that participants will be able to take back actionable approaches to their projects, teams, and communities. This curriculum includes community-engagement strategies, participatory-design methods, best practices, lessons learned, robust case studies, finance and development content, and more. As communities and tribes define how sustainability looks for them, they can become more active participants in the design process. More housing is needed in Indian Country and after this workshop, participants following this curriculum will achieve this need and use the most thoughtful practices for our environment.

**Alejandra Cervantes** - Alejandra is a design researcher currently working at MASS Design Group. Born and raised in Mexico, she pursued architectural education in the U.S. and holds an M.S. in Architecture with a concentration in Research Practices from the University of Minnesota and B.Arch. from the University of Houston. At MASS, she is eager to amplify research, building on existing expertise, project work, and knowledge to respond to social justice issues. With a background in architecture practice and research, she is motivated to do work that promotes design inclusion across intersections of representation.

**Taylor Sinclair** - Taylor is a Landscape Designer at MASS, working out of their Boston office. Prior to joining, she graduated from the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Architecture, where she specialized in Landscape Architecture and Urbanism in Canada where she was born. Since joining MASS, she has worked on projects in Nigeria, Rwanda, Canada, and most recently in the US, where she's gained experience on community engagement and design through construction documentation. During her time at MASS, she relocated to Rwanda to work on projects but her passion for working with Native Communities brought her back to work in North America.

**DESIGNING FELLOWSHIP:  
REFLECTIONS ON SISTERHOOD and the  
PRACTICE OF COMMUNITY DESIGN**

SESSION TIME: Thursday 11:00-12:30PST/2:00-3:30EST



**Venesa Alicea-Chuqui** | Founding Principal  
NYVARCH. New York City, NY



**Ebony Dumas** | Urban Planner + DJ  
DC/MD/VA

**Taylor Holloway** | Architectural Design & Social Impact Strategist  
New Orleans, LA



**Camila Jordan** | Policy Maker, Urban and Community Advocate  
São Paulo, Brazil

**Melisa Sanders** | Architectural & Urban Designer  
St. Louis, Missouri



**Sarah Sao Mai Habib** | Interdisciplinary Artist & Designer  
Southern California



Reflecting upon the inaugural year of the 2019 ACD Fellowship, we unearthed what practices filled our year with intention, trust, collaboration, and growth. In our session we will share the key formats that we utilized to support and collaborate with each other across platforms and time zones. We will discuss the ways in which values and principles that evolved from the Fellowship supported our work outside and beyond ACD. Additionally, we will share how building trust enriched and deepened our work. With participants we will reflect on the successes and challenges of Community Design Practice, with a special consideration of women of color, immigrants, and individuals committed to creating a more equitable world. Participants will finish the session with guidance and tools for how we can develop and build new methods of creating fellowship and value-driven design practices.

**Venesa Alicea-Chuqui** - Venesa Alicea-Chuqui AIA, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP, an Architect, Educator and Advocate, is Founding Principal of NYVARCH Architecture, a NYC based Architectural Practice committed to working with local communities to develop sustainable and socially conscious designs, that can influence the development of healthy and resilient spaces. She was a 2019 Fellow of the Association for Community Design, the New York representative to the AIA Small Firm Exchange, and President of the CCNY Architecture Alumni Group, where she also teaches. She is committed to design justice, and an active contributor to the recently launched Dark Matter University.

**Ebony Dumas** - Ebony Dumas is an Urban and regional planner highly skilled at building consensus among multiple stakeholders for local and national projects in economic development, placekeeping, and neighborhood planning. Interested in creative and public spaces as they contribute to economic development, Ebony has also developed presentations on equitable solutions and community building for conferences, university groups, and national cultural institutions. Guided by more than 10 years of experience leading data driven iterative design processes and forming complex analyses, Ebony excels in using a variety of quantitative and qualitative techniques and methods for cohesive outcomes.

**Taylor Holloway** - Designer, architect, and educator, Taylor uses design-driven approaches to promote equity in the built environment. As a biracial woman, first generation college graduate, and individual who has experienced the U.S. foster care system, issues of access, creative voice, and healing are personal to her. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Wellesley College, a Master of Architecture from the University of Illinois, and is honored to be a 2020 NextCity Vanguard, a 2019 Association for Community Design Fellow, an AIA Jason Pettigrew Memorial ARE Scholar, and the 2013 AIA Chicago Martin Roche Travel Fellow. Her organization, Public Design Agency, utilizes design-thinking, public art, and architecture to train future generations of designers, builders, & change-makers.

**Camila Jordan** - Camila is an Environmental Engineer turned Urban Planner, Community Advocate, and Policy Researcher focused on designing systems change in cities, underserved communities, and across continents. As a Ginsberg Fellow at CHPC in NYC, she utilized cutting-edge technology to advocate for new perspectives from government officials in housing. She also was Director of The Basement Pilot in East NY, where she coordinated with government and nonprofit partners while servicing homeowners on the ground. In Brazil, Camila is leading TETO, a latin american NGO, that works with communities and volunteers towards poverty and emergency housing relief. She is a shameless book nerd, tree-hugger and aspiring yogi.

**Melisa Sanders** - Melisa Sanders is the founding Principal/Lead Designer of BlackArc, a multi-scalar design collaborative focusing on racial, economic, and social equity as a catalyst for community design. Combining over 7 years of experience in Interior Design, Architecture, and Urban Design, she approaches architecture practice with a holistic approach that encompasses how the built environment affects people, the environment, and community context. Additionally, she has taught various topics of Architecture/Urban Design at Washington University in St. Louis. In addition to teaching, Melisa has worked to support BIPOC students -- providing mentorship and creating a scholarship for BIPOC students to attend conferences representing their identities and design justice.

**Sarah Sao Mai Habib** - Sao Mai Habib is an interdisciplinary artist & designer. Habib's work engages the interaction between place, space, body, and the constructed borders within & between them. Her creative practice is an act of remembrance & honoring the resilience that allows her to be & to cultivate balance. This investigation & larger calling originate from a deeply personal place. Her work embodies a particular weaving of Vietnamese & Iraqi heritage within Turtle Island. Most recently, her practice includes writing, research, curation, and somatic contemplative work around the topic of repair/reparations on multiple scales.

The image features a series of overlapping, curved lines in teal, orange, and maroon colors, arranged in a circular pattern. The lines are of varying thickness and are positioned at different angles, creating a sense of movement and depth. The word "TRAINING" is centered in the lower-left quadrant of the image.

**TRAINING**



### [Creative Reaction Lab](#)

Our mission is to educate, train, and challenge Black and Latinx youth to become leaders in designing healthy and racially equitable communities. We're challenging the belief that only adults with titles (e.g. mayors, CEOs, etc.) have the power and right to challenge racial and health inequities. However, we're conscious that young leaders and adults alike must collectively design a world centered in equity.



## HOW TRADITIONAL DESIGN THINKING PROTECTS WHITE SUPREMACY

**SESSION TIME:** Tuesday 9/22: 12-3pm PST / 3-6pm EST

White supremacy and its values have been historically constructed into the social, political, and economic landscape of the world, seeping into professional norms and standards - including those found in design, design thinking, and other forms of creative problem solving. This virtual workshop will dive deeper into defining white supremacy and how it shows up beyond overt acts of hatred, explore how white supremacy is upheld in the ideologies and practices of "traditional" design thinking, and examine how our perspectives of design have been shaped and how we might shift design mindsets to more equitable, diverse, and inclusive practice.

BIPOC ONLY SESSION

## CENTERING POWER & HEALING: BLACK, BROWN + INDIGENOUS PEOPLE of COLOR as LEADERS in the EQUITY MOVEMENT

SESSION TIME: Wednesday 9/23: 9am-12pm PST / 12-3pm EST

From housing displacement and gentrification to discriminatory education systems and workplaces, oppressive and violent policies and social interactions, people of color are continually forced to confront harmful experiences both present and past. Recognizing that those with lived experience (and therefore expertise) with an issue are closest to the approaches to address them, it is essential that we center People of Color as leaders in the equity movement and cultivate spaces for amplifying power and healing. This session is for registrants who identify as People of Color and will provide a space to explore what it means to be a leader and Equity Designer in the equity movement, identify opportunities to amplify or shift power, and build community through shared experience and healing.

## EQUITY by DESIGN: THE ROLE of POWER in SHAPING HISTORY + NARRATIVES

SESSION TIME: Thursday 9/24: 9am-12pm PST / 12-3pm EST

“Systems produce what they were designed to produce.” (National Equity Project). History is our foundation for understanding the past. Rather than static fact, that understanding is both dynamic and designed. How might we design more equitable communities and systems through the lens of personal and organizational humility-building, amplifying narratives of those with living expertise and challenging narratives that uphold oppressive systems? In this virtual workshop, participants will examine the role of history in designing our understanding of the present and explore the power of perspective to redesign for justice and healing.



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Is a proven and powerful national housing organization that for the last 35 years has brought together nationwide know-how, partners, policy leadership and investment to multiply the impact of local affordable housing development. We deliver the capital, develop the programs and advocate for the policies needed to create and preserve well-designed homes that people can afford in inclusive and connected communities. The innovative Rose Fellowship program partners architects, landscape architects, and community-engaged artists with local community development organizations to facilitate an inclusive approach that results in sustainable, healthy, and affordable communities.



*Enterprise Community Partners:*  
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*Design Team:*  
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**Asakura Robinson - Austin, TX, + Houston, TX + Minneapolis, MN + New Orleans, LA**

Asakura Robinson is a planning, urban design, and landscape architecture firm dedicated to strengthening environments and empowering communities through innovation, engagement, stewardship and an integrated design process.



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ROBINSON

**Hinge Collective - Philadelphia, PA**

We are architects, landscape architects, planners, educators, and community organizers brought together by a mission to support communities in realizing public places, that reinforce what make those communities unique and powerful. As designers, we lend our skills sets and expertise to give structure and form to ideas generated by you - the experts on your own environment. As educators and organizers we are always working to make the power of design accessible to those who have traditionally been left out of design discussions and to bring contemporary theory and innovation to expand the benefit of new ideas to all people



**Open Architecture Collaborative / Pathways to Equity**

Open Architecture Collaborative is a global learning network mobilizing architects and designers with technical skills to build capacity with communities experiencing systemic marginalization.

Pathways to Equity is a design leadership experience for social and racial equity that builds public interest design knowledge through interactive workshops and hands-on field experience.



**Public Design for Equity - Bay Area, CA**

An equity-driven practice for equity-centered outcomes.

Public Design for Equity

**Cameron McCarthy Landscape Architecture & Planning - Eugene, OR**

Cameron McCarthy is a 23-member landscape architecture, planning, and urban design firm with offices in Eugene and Portland, OR. We plan and design spaces for people, whether during work, sport, or play, for learning or just living life. Our projects foster healthy communities and encourage users to move from place to place.

CAMERON McCARTHY  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING

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