

FORWARD EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

June 16th - June 17th

Presented in collaboration with the City of Philadelphia Division of Housing and Community Development, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Knight Foundation, and NeighborWorks America

PACDC 2021 Forward Equitable Development Conference

Hey there,

This year's Equitable Development Conference featured inspired and inspiring leaders sharing their insights on radical approaches to addressing inequity. The following materials highlight who these folks are, what they are doing and important resources and research that inform their work.

What struck us as particularly powerful in all of the work discussed over the course of the two day event was the power of imagination--whether that be in the mind of one person or shared across many. Imagination is the engine for freedom of all kinds--freedom of expression, freedom to move in the world regardless of skin color or who you love, freedom to achieve and maintain for yourself and your community dignity and hope for the future.

We hope that as you skim through or deep dive into the materials that you keep one of the key lesson's Dr. Shakti Butler referenced in her talk: be willing to accept not knowing as you seek to learn more and grow. It's a path towards powering up your imagination. It may save you or at the very least energize you.

Onward,

Pam Bridgeforth
Director of Programs

Thank You to our 2021 Conference Planning Committee

Fred Bañuelos
Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh

Nathaniel Borek
Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Claudia De Palma
Public Interest Law Center

Andrew Frishkoff
LISC Philadelphia

Bryan Fenstermaker
Passyunk Avenue Revitalization Corporation

Rose Gray
Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha

Susan Jouard
NeighborWorks

Melissa Kim
LISC

Melissa Long
Philadelphia Division of Housing and Community
Development

Lynn Mandarano
Temple University School of Environmental Design

Erin Mierzwa
Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Sarah Merritt
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts

Susan Matera
Jefferson University

Stephanie Michel
North 5th St. Revitalization Project

Samantha Porter
Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Felicia Rinier
Jefferson University

Dina Schlossberg
Regional Housing Legal Services

PACDC Forward Equitable Development Conference

Wednesday, June 16th

“Doors open” at 10:20

10:30: **Welcome from Rick Sauer, Executive Director**

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10:40-11:00: **Opening Activity: Breaking Barriers and Opening Possibilities**

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This interactive exercise will encourage participants to reflect on the world they imagine and eliminate the barriers to create that very world.

11:00: **Keynote Address and Q&A from Dr. Shakti Butler**

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Radical Imagination: Creating a Future (and Present) of Equity

What do we need to begin to heal individually and collectively and how is that healing tied to building radical imagination? This speech is an invitation for all of us to step into our inherent greatness as human beings so that we can imagine and build a future that is healthier, more connected, and sustainable.

11:45-12:00: **Break**

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12:00: **Radical Imagination in Action**

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What are one or two key steps/insights from this morning you can take into your work tomorrow?

12:30: **Key Takeaways and Preview of Tomorrow**

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Afternoon Activity: Scavenger Hunt!

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Step away from your computer, enjoy the sun, and find pieces of an Equitable Philadelphia that already exist in your neighborhood. Send your photos to pacdcevents@pacdc.org, or share them on social media using #EquitablePhilly.

PACDC Forward Equitable Development Conference

Thursday, June 17th

8:30: **Yoga with Adriana Adelé**

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Through yoga, Adriana holds space for intentional movement, deep rest & breath, radical self-inquiry, Black well-being, learning/unlearning & affirmation of our innate wholeness as individuals in service of the collective.

11:00: **Welcome from Pamela Bridgeforth, Director of Programs**

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11:05: **Panel Conversation: Finding Our Next Big Advocacy Effort and Q&A**

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Effective advocates for radical equity will share how their work evolved and what steps community developers can replicate or innovate in Philadelphia.

- Robin Rue Simmons, Alderman, City Of Evanston, IL
- Jacqueline Waggoner, President, Solutions division, Enterprise Community Partners
- Diane Yentel, President & CEO, National Low Income Housing Coalition
- Moderator: Beth McConnell, Director of Policy, Philadelphia Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity

12:00: **What's Next?**

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In breakout groups, participants will share their big idea(s) to achieve radical equity in housing policy, economic development, and health outcomes.

12:30: **Closing Remarks**

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4:00: **PACDC Membership Meeting**

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This closing membership meeting is open to PACDC members only. Receive an update on our work, learn to make summer cocktails with Bartender Barry, and network with one another.

Radical Imagination: Creating a Future and Present of Equity

Dr. Butler quoted Bayo Akomolafe, author of "We will Tell Our Own Story" p. 38

"What do you know I made it to my interpreter ashamed I could not speak my own language that we in the west inspired world seem to have forgotten how can we live healthier lives here in essence is what was said to me:

'You have forgotten that everything is alive and connected and you have rested in your faith that your pills will solve all your problems. Your modern projects have chased away the spirits. So, we have to go deep into the forest to find them again. But you will find them again. You will find new ways of living when you find the courage to embrace the dark and lose your way.' "

Transactional versus Transformational

[How to Identify Transactional Equity Efforts vs. Transformational Equity Efforts](#)

Transition Communities:

[Transition Streets - Living better together, one street at a time.](#)

[Characteristics of the Transition Movement \(transitionnetwork.org\)](#)

The Equity Toolkit:

[Racial Equity Tools | Home](#)

What's Next? Panel Discussion

Robin Rue Simmons, Jacqueline Waggoner, and Diane Yentel share how their vision for radical equity evolved and what steps community developers can replicate or innovate in Philadelphia. Beth McConnell moderated this panel discussion.

From Jacqueline Waggoner

- [The ACTION Campaign: A Call to Invest in Our Neighborhoods](#)
- [Greater LA Steering Committee No Going Back Report](#)
- [Strong, Prosperous, and Resilient Communities Challenge](#)
- [2020 Enterprise Green Communities Criteria](#)
- [2020 Enterprise Green Communities Criteria Cohort](#)
- [Enterprise's Policy Playbook](#)
- [Columbia University study on the benefits of vouchers](#)

From Diane Yentel:

- [HoUSed | National Low Income Housing Coalition](#)
- [American Jobs Plan](#)

From Robin Rue Simmons:

- [Evanston Reparations Activist Reflects On Juneteenth | WBEZ Chicago](#)
- [Adoption of Resolution 37-R-27, Authorizing the Implementation of the Evanston Local Reparations Restorative Housing Program and Program Budget](#)

2021 Conference Playlist

Is it just us, or does a fire playlist motivate you to create an Equitable Philadelphia?! We pulled together two hours of great music for our attendees to listen while you work this morning and bring that energy to the conference! Available Now on [YouTube](#), [Spotify](#), and [Apple Music](#).



Special Episode of Iron Sharpens Iron



Cass Green of New Kensington CDC and Somaly Osteen of SEAMAAC are joining Leon and De'Wayne for a very frank conversation on race and community organizing. Listen to this special episode of Iron Sharpens Iron at your convenience.

Iron Sharpens Iron is available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Anchor, and other major podcast platforms. You can find the transcript in the episode description.

[Listen Now](#)

PACDC Forward Equitable Development Conference

Featured Speakers



Adriana Adelé [she/they] is a yoga facilitator who studies and shares yoga as a practice of liberation. Through yoga, Adriana holds space for intentional movement, deep rest, Black holistic well-being, disruption of toxic dominant narratives, learning/unlearning, embodiment and affirmation of our eternal divine wholeness as individuals & in service of collective liberation. Her work helps adults and kids effectively integrate the practices and benefits of yoga including movement, meditation, and breathwork to their busy, messy, very real daily lives. Through this integration, we can transform the world into a more equitable, just, and free place for all. Adriana is a RYT-500, E-RYT-200, a yoga teacher trainer, and holds a bachelor's of neuroscience from Oberlin College.



Bartender Barry launched his own private bartending business during the summer of 2019. He received a certificate in mixology from the Aqua Vitae Bartending Institute where he is currently an instructor. He has also obtained his RAMP and ServSafe certifications to responsibly serve alcohol, keep guests safe, and maintain the integrity of the profession. A Bourbon Steward and Certified Whisky Ambassador, Barry enjoys attending whiskey tastings, visiting new restaurants with friends and hosting events that bring diverse groups of people together. He one day hopes to own his very own distillery and spirits brand.



Shakti Butler, PhD, visionary, filmmaker, transformative learning educator, wife, mother, grandmother and friend to many - is President and Founder of World Trust Educational Services, Inc., a non-profit transformative educational organization. Rooted in love and justice, World Trust produces films, curricula, workshops and programs that are catalysts for institutional, structural and cultural change. Shakti is an inspirational speaker, facilitator, trainer and lecturer who is sought after by schools, universities, public and private organizations, and faith-based institutions. Dr. Butler has produced five documentaries.

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Featured Speakers



De'Wayne Drummond has been involved in family and community engagement and leadership for most of his adult life. He has served his community in a wide variety of roles. He has served as the Chairman of the 24th Ward Democratic Executive Committee from 2010 to the present, the President of the Mantua Civic Association since 2012, a Political Liaison for The Philadelphia Federation of Teachers Union (PFT) and Indego Bike Share Ambassador. Over the last 14 years, De'Wayne worked his way from volunteer, to intern, to Head Start Policy Council and currently a full-time employee in the Office of Head Start of the School District of Philadelphia. De'Wayne serves as a role model for the young people of this City and this Commonwealth.



Cass Green is currently Project Manager for New Kensington CDC, HACE and Impact Services' DOJ-Community-Based Crime Reduction Grant (CBCR) in the Kensington and Fairhill neighborhoods. She previously served as People's Emergency Center CDC's Director of Community Engagement & Partnerships. Cass's career includes 27 years at the University of Pennsylvania, including serving as the Senior Business and Building Administrator for the Institute of Contemporary Art-ICA for 17 years. She is a multi-disciplinary artist, curator, and producer of the "Mill Creek Past, Present and Future" documentary. Cass co-founded the Mill Creek Community Partnership (MCCP) in 2004 and serves as its president along with having established the Fine Arts Through Our Eyes Community Arts Initiative in 2005.

PACDC Forward Equitable Development Conference

Featured Speakers



Beth McConnell has spent all 28 years of her professional career working to advance the public interest and social justice. She is currently the Director of Policy for the City of Philadelphia's Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity (CEO). Prior to joining CEO in January 2021, she was the Policy Director for the Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations (PACDC) where she led efforts to advance equitable development from 2013-2021. For five years prior, Ms. McConnell was also the Executive Director of the Media and Democracy Coalition. Beth was the State Director of the Pennsylvania Public Interest Research Group (PennPIRG) until 2017, advocating for state and federal policies to protect consumers. She is on the board of directors of SEAMAAC, PennPIRG, and PennEnvironment, was a founding board member of PhillyCAM in 2008, and is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.



Somaly Osteen graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business and Tourism Management. She has more than ten years of experience working for multiple local and international non-profit organizations. Somaly's career started in the country of Cambodia while taking part as a community advocate, community engagement, and development. Somaly currently serves as a Community Development Specialist/Corridor Manager with SEAMAAC, Inc. She works with a diverse community filled with immigrants and refugees located in South Philadelphia to build a strong local economy while helping community to be a better place for everyone. The focus with the community has been to partner with different resources to strategically cater to the community's needs and issues. Somaly believes that sustainable development starts with each individual while sustainable change comes through unity.

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Featured Speakers



Leon Robinson Jr. is a Philadelphia and Pennsylvania award-winning photojournalist for his work in Germantown and Mt. Airy neighborhood news publications. He has over 17 years' experience in grassroots organizing by working with community neighborhood advisory committees (NACs) as a program director and community organizer. He hosted the 2014 and 2015 West/Southwest Philadelphia Block Captains Forum and is a founding member of the CityWide NAC Alliance. Leon also founded PACDC's Iron Sharpens Iron training and support for grassroots organizers.



Robin Rue Simmons is a strategist, civic entrepreneur and alderman of Evanston's 5th Ward. Over the course of her entrepreneurial career, she has launched and operated multiple businesses and has developed dozens of affordable homes funded by the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Rue Simmons was elected 5th Ward alderman for the City of Evanston in 2017. Most notably, she led the passing of the nation's first reparations program. Ald. Rue Simmons is the director of innovation and outreach at Sunshine Enterprises, which has supported over 1000 neighborhood entrepreneurs in launching or growing a business. She also serves as chief strategist at Ujima Solutions Group, LLC, in addition to managing residential and commercial property that she owns. In her free time, she enjoys her family, new experiences and forest bathing.

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Featured Speakers



Jacqueline Waggoner is president, Solutions Division, for Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. During her tenure at Enterprise, she has deployed capital, intellectual resources and capacity building tools to achieve Enterprise's strategic and production goals, leading to more than \$1.3 billion in Enterprise investments locally. She has worked with partners to create local funds for affordable housing, advocate for low-income families and advance Enterprise's vision of providing affordable homes in vibrant communities. Jacqueline serves on a number of public, nonprofit and coalition boards, including the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission (vice chair) and its Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness (chair), the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, the Los Angeles Business Council and the Committee for a Greater LA. A Los Angeles native, she holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in urban planning from UCLA.



Diane Yentel is the President and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalitions. Diane is a veteran affordable housing policy expert and advocate with nearly two decades of work on affordable housing and community development issues. Before rejoining NLIHC (where she previously worked as a policy analyst), Diane was Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs at Enterprise Community Partners, where she led federal, state and local policy, research and advocacy programs. Prior to Enterprise, Diane was the director of the Public Housing Management and Occupancy Division at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), where she managed a team overseeing the development and implementation of nationwide public housing policies, procedures and guidelines. She also worked to advance affordable housing policies with Oxfam America and the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, and served for 3 years as a community development Peace Corps volunteer in Zambia.

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