



# RESPONSIBLE REVITALIZATION

Fall Planning Workshop

Friday, December 4, 2020 -- 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

## AGENDA

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- 8:30 a.m.**                    **Welcome**
- Chuck Wemple, Houston-Galveston Area Council
- 8:40 a.m.**                    **Opening Remarks**
- Dr. Junia Howell, University of Pittsburgh
- 9:10 a.m.**                    **Mini Break Activity**
- 9:20 a.m.**                    **Equitable Housing Panel Discussion**
- Luis Guajardo, Kinder Institute for Urban Research (moderator)
  - Laura Clemons, Collaborative Communities
  - Keath Jacoby, Vision Galveston
  - Libby Bland, Asakura Robinson
- 10:00 a.m.**                   **Equitable Jobs Panel Discussion**
- Claudia Aguirre, BakerRipley (moderator)
  - Dr. Melanye Price, Prairie View A&M University
  - Sheena Salvino, Pasadena Economic Development Corporation
- 10:40 a.m.**                   **Mini Break Activity**
- 10:50 a.m.**                   **Equitable Transportation Panel Discussion**
- Monique Johnson, City of Sugar Land (moderator)
  - Brian D. Smith II, City of Houston
  - Richard Petty, Link Houston
- 11:30 a.m.**                   **Closing Remarks**

# TODAY'S PRESENTERS

## CHUCK WEMPLE



Chuck Wemple is the Executive Director of the Houston-Galveston Area Council where he oversees all programs and services including transportation planning, community and economic development, public safety, aging services, and workforce development. He has extensive experience in addressing infrastructure, housing, small business, and economic recovery needs following natural disasters and economic downturns. His current initiatives include working with cities and counties to embrace a regional approach to flood and storm-surge mitigation, exploring privately funded solutions to address infrastructure and housing needs, developing a strategy to expand access to high speed internet, and examining the intersection of environmental justice and regional planning. The Houston-Galveston Area Council covers over 12,000 square miles along the upper Texas coast, includes 13 counties and over 100 cities and towns, with 6.6 million people.

## DR. JUNIA HOWELL



Junia Howell is an urban sociologist whose work examines racial and socioeconomic inequality. By utilizing mix-methods and cross-national comparisons, her work illuminates how cities can be places of possibility for all residents. Currently, she is working on projects evaluating how socioeconomic inequality is influenced by neighborhoods, segregation, natural disasters and the housing appraisal industry. Additionally, her work uses Critical Theory to expand and enhance quantitative methodologies. Her research has appeared in *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Urban Studies*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *Population and Environment*, *Sociology Compass*, *Socius*, *Context*, and *Phylon*.

## LUIS GUAJARDO



Luis Guajardo, AICP, is an urban and regional planning professional with 10 years of public and private sector experience. He leads the urban policy team at the Kinder Institute for Urban Research, a group working to bridge the gap between theory and practice and supporting communities with planning research throughout Metropolitan Houston and the American Sun Belt. Mr. Guajardo's interests converge at the intersection of housing, transportation, and land use planning, with experience in navigating these topics at the regional, city, and neighborhood level. He is also the Director-Elect of the American Planning Association's Houston section, a professional association for urban and city planners.

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## LAURA CLEMONS



Laura Clemons founded Collaborative Communities in 2009 and works with clients across the U.S. providing communities with logistical support to create environmentally sustainable and socially conscientious adaptation readiness solutions both pre- and post-disaster. Her company focuses on providing hands-on, focused coordination of various groups involved in creating projects and programs that benefit communities. She approaches holistic resiliency solutions through partnership building and collaboration, with a sensitivity to diversity and inclusion and special attention to the most vulnerable populations.

## KEATH JACOBY



Keath Jacoby is the Executive Director of Vision Galveston, a community-building nonprofit organization that transforms big ideas for the future of Galveston into organized and funded projects that make a difference to all families, businesses and institutions in our community. Vision Galveston actively engaged participation from over 15% of the community to gain their input on how best to advance the quality of life for all Galvestonians. Prior to Vision Galveston, Ms. Jacoby worked at Las Vegas-based Simmons Group consulting firm where she focused on strategic alignment, organizational development, and executive coaching. She was also instrumental in the launch of education startup Qualifyor (a Downtown Project Las Vegas initiative) which aimed to bridge the gap between education and employment by fostering leadership and career development for students in STEM. Ms. Jacoby is a graduate of Tulane University's AB Freeman School of Business, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business and Marketing.

## LIBBY BLAND



Libby Bland is a Senior Planner and Urban Designer at Asakura Robinson. Her undergraduate studies at Sarah Lawrence College culminated in a thesis about how community building in displaced minority spaces intersects with design. She completed concurrent Master's degrees in Architecture and City and Regional Planning with a focus in Community and Economic Development at the University of Pennsylvania. Her graduate thesis between the two departments studied the history of rural, Southern Black placemaking and self-planning from before the Civil War until now. While in Philadelphia, she also worked on several oral history projects around neighborhood displacement, and a community led urban farm redesign. Since moving to Texas, Ms. Bland worked at the statewide housing justice organization, Texas Housers, as a Neighborhood Equity Planner and Analyst, where her research informed several lawsuits around inequitable housing, and environmental justice issues. Through this work, she also helped local community groups advocate for themselves and their neighbors.

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## CLAUDIA AGUIRRE



As President and CEO of BakerRipley, Claudia Aguirre leads an internationally renowned community development organization that has transformed neighborhoods across Houston for more than 113 years. As one of the largest nonprofits in the country, BakerRipley serves 600,000 people each year with a team of 1,400 employees across more than 70 locations. BakerRipley's vision is to "crush the inequities" families and individuals face while navigating the climb to self-sufficiency and success. Ms. Aguirre is an expert in education, community engagement, and workforce development and has been featured in publications produced by The Center for American Progress, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Urban Institute*, and *The Houston Chronicle*. She holds a Master of Education degree, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, and Principal and Superintendent Certifications. She also has a Special Education Certification and English as a Second Language Certification from the Texas Education Agency and an Education Executive Certification from Harvard University.

## DR. MELANYE PRICE



Melanye Price is Endowed Professor of Political Science at Prairie View A&M University and principal investigator for their African American Studies Initiative, which is funded by grants and gifts from the Mellon Foundation. Dr. Price was recently named inaugural director of The Ruth J. Simmons Center for Race and Justice. Her most recent book, *The Race Whisperer: Barack Obama and the Political Uses of Race* (NYU, 2016) examines the multiple and strategic ways that President Obama uses race to deflect negative racial attitudes and engage with a large cross-section of voters. Her first book, *Dreaming Blackness: Black Nationalism and African American Public Opinion* (NYU, 2009) examined contemporary support for Black Nationalism. Her new project is called "Mountaintop Removal: Martin Luther King, Trump and the Racial Mountain," which uses MLK's "Mountaintop Speech" as a lens for understanding the rise of Trump and the 2016 election. Dr. Price completed her Bachelor of Arts degree magna cum laude in Geography at Prairie View A&M University and her Master of Arts degree and PhD in political science at The Ohio State University.

## SHEENA SALVINO



Sheena Salvino is a Re/Development Manager with an urban planner heart, an entrepreneurial spirit, and an unflappably optimistic attitude. After spending nearly a decade in the community and economic development field, she knows that building [and rebuilding] communities is about defining and understanding what the community wants and needs and applying or connecting the resources to achieve that future. Ms. Salvino has worked on transformative initiatives including establishing Hudson, New York, as an epicenter of creativity in New York's Capital Region; winning New York's statewide Downtown Revitalization Initiative Competition; and, most recently, kickstarted the City of Pasadena's 26-mile urban trails project and piloting the City's first public arts project. Ms. Salvino holds a Master of Regional Planning degree in Urban Planning and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University at Albany.

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## MONIQUE JOHNSON



Monique Johnson has been with the City of Sugar Land for six years and serves as the City's Transportation & Mobility Innovation Manager, overseeing the Transportation & Mobility Innovation Program within the Engineering Department. During her time at the City, she has been involved in the implementation of the City's *Comprehensive Mobility Plan and Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan* and is currently managing the development of the *Sugar Land Mobility Master Plan*. She is also involved in several active transportation projects, including the design for the future First Colony Trail and the future Ditch H Trail. She currently serves on the Houston-Galveston Area Council Transportation Advisory Committee and several subcommittees and is the Vice-Chair of the Pedestrian & Bicyclists subcommittee. Prior to working for the City of Sugar Land, Monique worked as a Planner with the City of Oklahoma City. While in Oklahoma City, she was involved in the development of the City's comprehensive plan, PlanOKC, which received the Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan in 2018.

## BRIAN D. SMITH II



A recent transplant to Texas, Brian D. Smith, II is a Transportation Planner with the City of Houston's Planning & Development Department. Since coming to the City he's been involved in the Vision Zero Houston Action Plan and building its public engagement strategy. Originally from Detroit, previously Brian was Community Relations Specialist for the CURES Center at Wayne State University. There he was a bridge between academics who wanted to connect to communities through research and environmental justice organizations in need of data to back their campaigns. He holds a Master of Urban Planning from Wayne State University.

## RICHARD PETTY



Richard Petty, MBA, is Director of the IL-NET Training and Technical Assistance Center for Independent Living, Director of the National Center for Aging and Disability at TIRR (The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research), Board Chair for LINK Houston, and Co-Director of ILRU at TIRR. The IL-NET T&TA Center is the single national technical assistance and training resource for independent living organizations that foster community independence for people with disabilities. The National Center for Aging and Disability addresses the concerns of persons with disabilities who are aging and of those who acquire disabilities as they age. ILRU at TIRR conducts research pertaining to community living for people with disabilities and fosters translation of that research into practice through community-based organizations. Mr. Petty serves as Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation in the McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Mr. Petty serves as chair of the Houston Commission on Disabilities, having been appointed by Mayor Sylvester Turner in 2016.

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