

ULI Heath Leaders Introductory Forum

Detroit, Michigan

Facilitators:



Kate Harris
Director of Consulting
NEW

As the Director of Consulting, Kate works with a talented team of consultants to advance NEW's vision of a just and thriving society. She has served in director roles with Ann Arbor's Ecology Center and the National Wildlife Federation. Kate began consulting in 2018 including as a managing consultant for Marts & Lundy. Joining NEW in 2022, Kate brings her experience as an international nonprofit consultant back to her home community, believing that equitable and sustainable transformation is place-based and relational. She serves as a volunteer with Peace Neighborhood Center and as Treasurer of the Barton Boat Club.



Judy Nimer Muhn
Organizational Development Consultant
NEW

When Judy joined NEW in 2017, she brought over 30 years of nonprofit experience to our team. She's held executive roles in Girl Scouting, United Way, and American Red Cross. She's also served in interim CEO roles for nonprofits in crisis. As an Organizational Development Specialist, Judy helps our peer leaders make progress towards their goals. She is also a professor in the MPA-Nonprofit Management and Nonprofit Management Certificate programs at Oakland University.

Speakers:

History and Tour of Detroit



Jeanette Pierce
Founder and President
City Institute

Jeanette Pierce is a social entrepreneur and lifelong city resident who grew up in the Morningside neighborhood of Detroit.

In 2006, she founded a grassroots nonprofit that used tours and experiences to take people beyond the headlines and educate them about Detroit's history, culture and community. Today that organization has evolved into the Detroit Experience Factory which engages people in Detroit's stories - helping them understand its complex history and connecting them to Detroit's people, places and projects. Over 130,000 people have taken a tour since 2006 to learn about Detroit's assets, small businesses, historic neighborhoods, city planning & development policies and innovative solutions to the challenges the city faces.

As clients approached her seeking even more in-depth learning and the opportunity to leverage the knowledge and expertise built since she began this work she saw a need for a new project that would share lessons learned from Detroit to inspire individuals, organizations and cities to innovate for a better future for all. So in 2018, Jeanette launched The City Institute to do just that. The City Institute offers learning journeys, city experience consulting, speaking engagements, and workshops to leaders locally and around the world.

Woodbridge Neighborhood- Detroit, Michigan



Angie Gaabo
Executive Director
Woodbridge Neighborhood Development



Rieanna Stewart
Director of Programs & Communications
Woodbridge Neighborhood Development

The Power of Public Space Panel



Alexa Bush
Program Officer, Detroit
Kresge

Alexa Bush is a program officer with The Kresge Foundation's Detroit Program. Alexa supports investments in transformative public spaces in the city of Detroit that promote greater understanding and inclusion, as well as strategies that advance the interconnections between sustainable urban development and economic equity. Prior to joining the foundation in 2021, she spent six years at the city of Detroit serving as Urban Design Director-East Region in the Planning and Development Department, where she was involved with planning and developing inclusive economic recovery efforts in partnership with residents. She implemented work through the Strategic Neighborhood Fund and led Detroit's Reimagining the Civic Commons initiative in the Fitzgerald neighborhood in northwest Detroit. Alexa has also held positions with SmithGroup and San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR). She earned a bachelor's degree in visual and environmental studies from Harvard University and a master's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Virginia. Alexa serves on the board of the Landscape Architecture Foundation.



Christina Peltier
Joe Louis Greenway Project Manager
General Services Department, City of Detroit

Christina is an Urban Planner in the City of Detroit General Services Department and is the City's project manager for the Joe Louis Greenway project. In this capacity she has been responsible for leading development of the Framework Plan as well as advancing multiple phases of the project. Before returning to Detroit, she worked as an urban planner with KFA Architects and Planners in Toronto, Ontario. She earned a Master's in Urban Planning from McGill University and a Bachelor's Degree of Public Affairs from Wayne State University.

Health & Equity in Detroit at the City and Neighborhood Levels Panel



***Angela G. Reyes
Executive Director
Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation***

Angela G. Reyes, MPH, is the Executive Director of the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation. She was born in the Southwest Detroit Latino community and continues to reside in the area where she raised her 4 children as a single mother and is now grandmother of 8 and great grandmother of 6.

Angie attended Wayne State University, Chicano Boricua Studies as an undergrad, where she was first exposed to community organizing and political activism. The influence that this program had on her resulted in her commitment to working in and serving the Southwest Detroit Latino community for over 40 years, dedicating much of her life to working with youth, beginning when she was a teenager herself.

In 1997, Angie founded the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, a community-based non-profit, from her living room, “because I was tired of burying children”. To reduce the violence, DHDC’s initial program formed after forging a truce with the leaders of several rival gangs and encouraging them to “retire” in return for jobs in local Hispanic-owned manufacturing companies.

Angie has also led the establishment of other non-profits including the Southwest Detroit Community Justice Center which provides alternatives to incarceration; and MI PODER, a statewide organization strengthening the Michigan Latinx community’s voice.

Ms. Reyes received her master’s degree in Public Health in 1998 from the University of Michigan and has been the recipient of several awards for her community work, including the 1992 Michigania of the Year; “Closing the Gap” Award, New Detroit, 2011; Power of 25 Women Leaders of Detroit, Congressional Recognition, 2016; Reconocimiento Ohtli, Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior, Mexican Consulate, 2016; Ford Hispanic Network, Espíritu de la Comunidad Award, 2019.



Imani Day
Founder and Principal
RVSN Studios

Imani Day, founder and principal of RVSN Studios, is an award-winning, licensed architect and educator living and working in Detroit. In 2011, she graduated early from Cornell University's School of Architecture with a concentration in city + regional planning and spent her early career in New York. In 2015, Imani moved to Detroit to focus on designing equitable and inclusive projects in the city. She has taught at several universities, focusing on social justice in design, and architecture as advocacy.

As a member of the executive board of the National Organization of Minority Architects and AIA Detroit, Imani continues to champion equity within the profession. She leads strategic planning to create economic opportunities for designers of color. As a writer and editor, Imani works to amplify underrepresented voices and uncover social issues in the industry. She is proud to be the 13th African American woman to become a licensed architect in the state of Michigan and 463rd in America.



Joel Howrani Heeres
Director of Sustainability
City of Detroit

Joel Howrani Heeres leads Detroit's Sustainability Office. He led the effort to develop Detroit's first sustainability plan, the [Sustainability Action Agenda](#) (2019), which outlines a strategic roadmap to create a more sustainable city where all Detroiters thrive and prosper in an equitable, green city; have access to affordable, quality homes; live in clean, connected neighborhoods; and work together to steward resources. He brought a wealth of experience on urban sustainability to this position, having served in multiple roles in the municipal, non-profit, and corporate sectors. At EcoWorks, he led sustainability and climate action planning in 11 southeast Michigan communities. He also previously led efforts at DTE Energy to use metrics and continuous improvement efforts to better manage the utility's operations.



Thomas Habitz
Urban Planning Specialist
Neighborhood Redevelopment Department, Henry Ford
Health System

Tom Habitz has been a leader in the neighborhood redevelopment activities of Henry Ford Health System since 2007. He has been involved the land acquisition and pre-development planning for hospital south campus and cancer pavilion, and the athletic medicine and performance center. He has also been instrumental in business attraction projects such as the MDAHS laundry, and Cardinal distribution center, and with creative projects such as ArtBlock.

Tom is advancing a vision for the health system to create and support healthy and prosperous places through neighborhood partnerships, quality planning, and investment, focused on the “South of the Boulevard” and surrounding areas in Detroit.

Tom holds a master’s degree in urban planning from Wayne State University, and serves on the plan commission and zoning appeals boards of the City of Hamtramck. He is a board member of Midtown Detroit, Inc. in an HFHS capacity, and the organization’s liaison to the Healthcare Anchor Network.