

**ULI Health Leaders Network Cohort 5**

# **Mid-Year Forum: Housing & Health**



**Urban Land  
Institute**

**Building Healthy  
Places Initiative**

**July 26, 2022**

Speaker Bio Book

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## AGENDA (all times in EST)

11:00 – 11:45am	<b>Keynote:</b> The Call for Trauma Responsive Design Research
11:45am – 12:00pm	Breakout Room Discussions 1
12:00 – 1:00pm	<b>Panel 1:</b> Health & Housing: Perspectives from Europe – Copenhagen and Vienna
1:00 – 1:15pm	Breakout Room Discussions 2
1:15 – 1:45pm	Break
1:45 – 2:45pm	<b>Panel 2:</b> Affordable Housing and Combating Homelessness: Perspectives from the U.S.
2:45 – 3:00pm	Closing

## SPEAKERS

### Keynote: Trauma-Informed Design

#### Rachael Dietkus

Founder & Chief Compassion Officer

Social Workers Who Design

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[Rachael Dietkus](#) is a licensed clinical social worker, certified clinical trauma professional, and a design researcher and strategist dedicated to trauma-responsive practices in design. After a 10-year career working with social justice and human rights non-profits, Rachael earned her MSW in 2010 and then served in senior-level roles within the federal government and higher education in the United States. Rachael has also served as an [AmeriCorps](#) member with the Red Cross and as an NGO delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Council. She is currently a Governor-appointed statewide Commissioner with the [Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service](#).

Rachael's practice is right at the intersection of social work, design, and a deep understanding of trauma. She advocates for social workers in design and tech, studies and writes about the impacts of trauma in the context of design, and focuses on how and why trauma-responsive methods are needed in design research and practice. She is the Founder and Chief Compassion Officer of [Social Workers Who Design](#). She speaks and works closely with design practitioners and design educators worldwide.



## Speakers from Panel 1: Perspectives from Europe

### Roshanak Mehdipanah

Assistant Professor, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education  
University of Michigan School of Public Health  
Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.  
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Roshanak Mehdipanah is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education in the School of Public Health. She completed her PhD at the University of Pompeu Fabra, Spain and her M.Sc. from the School of Public Health and Health Systems at the University of Waterloo, Canada. She specializes in innovative research methods including realist evaluations and concept mapping to develop conceptual frameworks linking complex interventions to health. Dr. Mehdipanah has led several projects on housing and health including health evaluations of housing policies on affordability and discrimination within the U.S.A. Prior to joining the faculty in HBHE, Dr. Mehdipanah was an investigator with the SOPHIE project (Evaluating the Impact of Structural Policies on Health Inequalities) funded by the European Union. Within this project, she led a four-year evaluation of an urban renewal policy and its effects on the health and health inequalities in some of Barcelona's neighborhoods. Dr. Mehdipanah's current research portfolio focuses on aspects of urban health including urban renewal, planning, housing and gentrification.



## Nicole van der Star

Investment Developer

NREP

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Nicole is Investment Developer at NREP. Currently, she spends most of her time on developing NREP's pioneer projects, UN17 Village and Earth shot (an upcoming net zero residential building in Copenhagen). It is important for Nicole to create truly sustainable cities with respect for people, planet, economy and property – without compromising one over the other. Nicole has more than 20 years of experience in the real estate industry and has worked extensively with both residential and commercial buildings in several different roles. Her solid experience in development and operation coupled with a strong commercial understanding, means she understand how to unite users' needs with innovative, sustainable, and value-creating solutions. Prior to joining NREP in 2019, Nicole spent eight years in DATEA, where she managed large real estate portfolios for pension funds (Danica & PFA). Nicole holds a degree as an authorized Real Estate Agent.



## Maria Vassilakou

Founder of Vienna Solutions, former Vice Mayor of the City of Vienna

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Maria Vassilakou is an experienced, inspiring urban leader, devoted to open, inclusive and green cities, passionate on urban transformation processes leading to sustainable system change. She served as Vienna’s Vice Mayor responsible for Urban Planning, Traffic & Transport, Climate Protection, Energy and Public Participation from November 2010 to July 2019. Maria envisages cities as open, green, affordable, family friendly and diverse places for life. In her 9 years serving as Vice Mayor, she implemented successfully a vast transformation agenda comprising numerous innovative projects, contributing substantially to Viennas Nr1 position in all major international livability rankings within the last decade. After leaving office, she founded Vienna Solutions, a network of experienced Viennese urban experts and practitioners, with whom she cooperates building flexible teams to deliver complex urban projects. She shares her experience and know-how from Vienna – the world's most livable city – with cities, NGOs, organizations and corporations developing strategies, agendas and solutions, organizing transition management and capacity building for livable, sustainable and inclusive cities.



## Speakers from Panel 2: Perspectives from the U.S.

### Kacey Cordes

Vice President, Assistant Director of Project Management

U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation

St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.

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Kacey Cordes is a Vice President, Assistant Director of Project Management within the Affordable Housing team at U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation (USBCDC) headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri. She joined USBCDC in 2007 working out of the Denver office as a Project Manager, focused on West Coast markets. Kacey has closed approximately \$300MM in low-income housing tax credit investments across the country. She now co-leads a team of Project Managers who are responsible for closing some of the most complex transactions leveraging various types of tax credits and debt products. Her favorite projects have served farmworkers, the mentally ill, and the homeless. In 2015, she became one of the first active in USBCDC’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work and has participated in Anti-Bias Anti-Racism training conducted by Crossroads, a nationally-recognized leader in advancing racial justice. She is also a member of the 2016-17 class of Leadership St. Louis, one of the most highly-respected leadership development programs in the nation. Kacey is serving as co-chair for ULI St. Louis’ Ferguson Initiative, along with fellow PPP Council member Chip Crawford. In that role, she and Chip are leading a collaborative effort to advance affordable housing and transit-oriented development in disinvested areas of St. Louis. She is a past co-chair of ULI St. Louis’ Women’s Leadership Initiative and a past Board member of the Lafayette Square Restoration Committee. She holds a Master of Science in Real Estate Development from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Business from Washington University in St. Louis.





## Gregg Colburn

Assistant Professor of Real Estate

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Gregg Colburn is an assistant professor of real estate in the University of Washington's College of Built Environments. Gregg entered academia after spending the first seventeen years of his professional life in the private sector. At the University of Washington, Gregg enjoys teaching courses in housing, economics, and finance at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. He maintains an active research agenda focused on housing policy, housing markets, housing affordability, and homelessness. Gregg is also actively engaged in a wide range of community efforts to address the acute housing crisis in the Puget Sound region.

Ph.D. in Public Affairs, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

Research interests: housing policy, housing markets, housing affordability, and homelessness. Author of forthcoming book, *Homelessness is a Housing Problem* (University of California Press)



## Lisa Gordon

Chief Operating Officer

City of Atlanta

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Lisa Y. Gordon is the Chief Operating Officer for the City of Atlanta. She joined the Dickens administration in February 2022. Gordon is the former President and Chief Executive Officer of Atlanta Habitat for Humanity where she led one of the highest producing and impactful affiliates in the country. As a result of her strategic action, she quadrupled the number of families served in four years with a goal to serve over 1,000 additional families in five years. She leveraged a \$74 Million balance sheet comprised of a construction business, retail store and mortgage company for exponential impact. Gordon is a strategic leader and consensus builder who enjoys working on complex business issues and creating opportunities for success. She is a financial expert and has a strong acumen for complex transactions, public-private partnerships, and extensive experience with audit committees and financial reviews.

She was the architect of the city of Atlanta’s first five-year financial plan - a strategic document used to build the city’s reserves and increase their bond rating to A+. She also led the organization out of a \$80 million dollar deficit that received accolades from the Mayor and City Council.

In recognition of her financial savvy and leadership skills she was appointed to the Global Governing Trustee Board and the Americas Executive Committee of the Urban Land Institute (ULI), the leading real estate organization serving 45,000 members globally. She was the first person of color to Chair the ULI Atlanta Board and is a nationally recognized policy expert and fellow of the prestigious National Academy of Public Administration. She also serves as expert adviser for national strategy initiatives commissioned by the U.S. Congress.

Gordon has been recognized for her leadership by the Atlanta Business Chronicle and honored as a 2021 Power 100 - Most Influential Atlantans and previously a 2018 Women Who Mean Business. Other noteworthy awards include Atlanta Magazine’s Top 500 Leaders in 2019-2020, The YWCA of Greater Atlanta 2017 Academy of Women Achievers, and Bisnow magazine’s Top 40 most influential women in commercial real estate.

She has a graduate degree from The Maxwell School at Syracuse University, is a Georgetown University graduate and received her second master’s degree from Nova Southeastern in Accounting. She is an avid golfer who lives in Atlanta and enjoys spending time with her family.

## Jun Sakumoto

Chief Compliance Officer and Chief Operating Officer

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Mr. Sakumoto is responsible for leading Avanath’s regulatory compliance program, including the administration of the company’s policies and procedures. Prior to joining Avanath, Jun Sakumoto was a Director of Centerline Capital Group and co-head of the Equity Group. He was responsible for directing the investment activities of Centerline Urban Capital I, LLC, an institutional real estate investment fund formed with the California Public Employees' Retirement System. Centerline Urban Capital invested mezzanine and equity capital, targeting multifamily properties in urban infill markets. Mr. Sakumoto also was Vice President with Capri Capital Advisors, LLC, a \$2.7 billion real estate advisory firm investing real estate equity and debt-related products on behalf of pension funds and institutional investors. Mr. Sakumoto holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance and Real Estate from the University of Texas at Austin. Mr. Sakumoto is a member of the Affordable and Workforce Housing Council of the Urban Land Institute and serves on the Board of Directors of the Southern California Chapter of the National Association of Securities Professionals.

