Celebrating Champions of Livability

Honoring the leaders and communities that shape a livable, sustainable and equitable America
Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of Partners for Livable Communities, it is my pleasure to welcome our honorees and guests to the National Press Club. Here, we will pay tribute to the women and men who are creating livable communities for all. Your extraordinary work has set the standard by which civic leaders and policymakers in both the public and private sectors can initiate and carry out community improvement strategies.

For 40 years, Partners has celebrated the leadership of people, institutions and partnerships that have discovered unique assets that communities can build upon to become a more livable place. Today, we recognize 23 individuals, four organizations and two communities for their role in shaping a more livable, sustainable and equitable America.

At different intervals during the last 40 years, Partners has honored communities with the title “America’s Most Livable” for their efforts to improve the livability of their communities. Today, we are inducting two cities—Boise and Oklahoma City—into this hall of fame. These cities exemplify the leadership, creativity and innovation that is needed for making better places to live, work and raise families.

Among those recognized today are 15 individuals who we honor with the “Leader for a Livable, Equitable and Sustainable America” award. This distinction embodies the elements Partners has woven together to define livability—concern for older individuals; equal opportunity for all; amenities, arts and culture as assets; innovative economic development strategies; and bold municipal leadership. This special recognition is the second induction of such leaders, the first being in the year 2000 when we paid tribute to the men and women of the day who dedicated their careers to building a better America.

Partners is honored to have been a pioneering organization in encouraging cities to become more livable for all citizens. We could not have done this, however, without the vision of our founders, the direction of our board of trustees, the confidence of our sponsors and the hard work of the staff.

Best to all of you,

Robert H. McNulty
President, Partners for Livable Communities
Peter Harkness
Founder and Publisher Emeritus, GOVERNING

Peter Harkness is founder and publisher emeritus of GOVERNING, launched in 1987 as a magazine for leaders of state and local governments.

Harkness realized there was a need for a resource that could provide intelligent analysis on management, policy and politics to leaders on the state, regional and local levels. GOVERNING’s print circulation quickly grew to 85,000 and its website now attracts some 1.2 million readers. The magazine has been nominated four times as a finalist for the National Magazine Award, the highest honor in the industry.

Prior to founding GOVERNING, Harkness was editor and deputy publisher of the Congressional Quarterly, a Washington information company known for publishing what is regarded as the unofficial and independent “bible” covering the U.S. Congress.

Harkness himself is a recipient of the Raymond Clapper Award for investigative reporting awarded by the White House Correspondents’ Association, and is a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. In addition, he has been a long time member of the executive committee of Partners. While Harkness has stepped down from his position at GOVERNING, he is leaving behind a self-sustaining legacy that was built by his dedication and passion for empowering local and regional governments through media.

Honorable Glenda Hood
Former Mayor, Orlando, Florida, and Former Secretary of State, Florida

Glenda Hood was Florida’s secretary of state from 2003 to 2005, and mayor and chief executive officer of the City of Orlando from 1992 to 2003. Before being elected Orlando’s first female mayor, she was a city council member for 10 years and president of her own public relations business.

As mayor, Hood was a strong advocate of growth management and smart-growth principles to build safe and livable neighborhoods, a revitalized downtown, and a strong local economy. Under her leadership, the city’s land area grew by 50 percent; older and historic neighborhoods were revitalized; and compatible new mixed-use infill was constructed. Additionally, the city’s largest parks initiative built new parks and refurbished existing ones; unprecedented partnerships in education were established; transportation alternatives were championed; Orlando became a high-tech center and competitive world market; and the arts became a civic priority.

Hood has served as president of the National League of Cities and the Florida League of Cities, and as chair of the Florida Chamber of Commerce. She is an active participant on ULI’s Advisory Services panels and the Daniel Rose Center for Public Leadership, a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, and a longstanding board member and past chair of Partners for Livable Communities.
Noon
SEATING

12:15 P.M.
OPENING
REMARKS
Robert H. McNulty

12:20 P.M.
PRESENTATION
OF AWARDS

AMERICA’S MOST LIVABLE
COMMUNITY AWARD
Presenter: Honorable Glenda Hood
Boise, Idaho
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

BRIDGE BUILDERS AWARD
Presenter: Peter Harkness
José Andrés and
World Central Kitchen

12:40 P.M.
LUNCH

1:00 P.M.
PRESENTATION
OF AWARDS

INVESTOR IN AMERICA AWARD
Presenter: Honorable Glenda Hood
John Taylor
Omaha Public Schools Foundation

LEADER FOR A LIVABLE,
EQUITABLE AND
SUSTAINABLE AMERICA
Presenter: Peter Harkness
Nancy LeaMond
Honorable Henry L. Marsh, III
Honorable William K. Reilly
Ronald Lee Fleming
Robert Grow
Daphne Kwok
Honorable Parris Glendening
Honorable Glenda Hood
Carol Bebelle
Neal Peirce
Jeremy Nowak
Jane Chu
Andrés Duany and
Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk
William Struever

ENTREPRENEURIAL AMERICAN
LEADERSHIP AWARD
Presenter: Honorable Glenda Hood
Honorable Jacob Day
Tina Shelvin Bingham
Severine von Tscharner Fleming

JOHN PARR AWARD
Presenter: Robert H. McNulty
Tyler Norris

CULTURE BUILDS
COMMUNITY AWARD
Presenter: Robert H. McNulty
EYA, LLC and
City of Alexandria Archaeology
Rondell Crier

AGELESS AMERICA AWARD
Presenter: Robert H. McNulty
Sandy Markwood

3 P.M.
CLOSING
REMARKS
Robert H. McNulty

Thank You
America’s Most Livable Community Award

At different intervals during the last 40 years, Partners for Livable Communities has honored communities with the title “America’s Most Livable” for their efforts to improve livability by addressing such issues as smart growth, using local assets for economic and community development, innovative leadership strategies, undertaking programs for youth at risk and regional collaboration, just to name a few.

Bridge Builders Award

The Bridge Builders Award honors civic leaders who have formed partnerships across racial, social, economic and geographic barriers for the betterment of their communities. Through unique partnerships, these honored individuals and organizations pioneer programs and projects that stand as great examples to the power and possibility fostered when people put aside differences and join together for a common goal.

Investor in America Award

The Investor in America Award acknowledges groups and individuals who use enterprise, vision and creative public/private partnerships to bring new civic assets to our nation’s cities. Their exemplary efforts have resulted in the creation of projects, jobs and entire industries that offer our communities long-term assets and a renewed sense of pride.

Leader for a Livable, Equitable and Sustainable America

The Leader for a Livable, Equitable and Sustainable America Award acknowledges individuals who embody the many elements that Partners, throughout its 40 years, believes define livability in American communities. They are leaders for livability, quality of life, equity, culture and sustainability.
Awards

Entrepreneurial American Leadership Award

The Entrepreneurial American Leadership Award acknowledges the civic capacity building, commitment, vision and entrepreneurial spirit of an individual. Those honored with this award are real “doers” who accomplish change for the betterment of our communities.

John Parr Award

The John Parr Award was established in 2008 to recognize individuals who have dedicated their careers and personal time, as well as their social and political capital, to regional stewardship. The award commemorates the legacy of the late John Parr, one of America’s foremost leaders on public/private partnerships and regional governance.

Culture Builds Communities Award

The Culture Builds Communities Award honors projects and individuals who foster community engagement using the arts and heritage as building blocks for community value and participation.

Ageless America Award

The Ageless America Award honors leaders who have advanced support for all those aging in America. These individuals are showing us all that elders are assets to our communities and must not be overlooked or undervalued.
Boise, Idaho

There is a legend in Boise that in the early part of the 19th century, a French trapper, overwhelmed by the sight of a verdant river valley located between the Snake River Plain and the rugged Northern Rocky Mountains, exclaimed “Les Bois! Les Bois!”—French for “the trees! the trees!” Ever since, Boise has been known as the City of Trees and its natural environment has been the tableau behind its prosperity and growth into one of the country’s most successful cities.

Making Boise the most livable city in the country is the central focus of Mayor David H. Bieter’s administration. Protecting and fostering the city’s connection to nature is an essential part of that work. But just as important to Boise’s story is the welcoming nature of its residents, the strength of its distinct neighborhoods, its vibrant and diverse economy and its unique culture and support for the arts.

Conservation and sustainability are defining values for the residents of Boise. Their love and embrace of the outdoors are the driving forces behind the protection and enhancement of two extraordinary pillars of Boise’s livability: the Boise Foothills and the Boise River. In 2001 and 2015, Boiseans voted to tax themselves to preserve open space and water quality. The result today is that thousands of acres in the hills are protected from development and are home to a network of recreational hiking and mountain biking trails that start just a few blocks from the vibrant urban core.

The namesake river is one of the cleanest and most accessible urban rivers in the nation. In the 1960s and 70s, visionary Boise leaders took the first steps in building the 25-mile Boise River Greenbelt along its banks. Perhaps the most beloved amenity, the Greenbelt’s tree-lined pathway follows both sides of the river through the heart of the city. Its scenic views and wildlife habitat connect the “Ribbon of Jewels”—a series of riverside parks named in honor of some of Boise’s most remarkable women.

One of the most striking features of Boise’s open and green spaces is their proximity to a thriving urban core that is the state and region’s center of business, education, recreation, art and culture. Tech, grocery and agribusiness giants form the basis of a local economy spurred by innovations from start-ups, entrepreneurs and Boise State University, the city’s metropolitan research university. Robust public art programs, museums, the opera and theatre, the Idaho Shakespeare Festival and Treefort—a locally grown internationally-recognized music festival—create a rich and dynamic cultural life in the city.

Mayor Bieter’s central focus is protecting these key elements of livability—the things that make Boise such a great place to live, work and play.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Oklahoma City, since its beginning, has been a living symbol of chasing the American dream. At the shot of a gun at high noon on April 22, 1889, settlers from across the world raced to stake their claim in a massive land run that settled 10,000 residents by nightfall. The big dreams of those early-day settlers can still be found in the more than 1.4 million people who live there today as the Oklahoma City region continues to push to create the ideal American city. This is a place where innovation, invention and the quest to build a great city is embedded in residents' DNA.

In 1993, Oklahoma City voters went to the polls and decided to turn around their then-struggling city by taxing themselves with a limited-term, one-cent sales tax. The $350 million Metropolitan Area Projects Strategy (MAPS) was created to revitalize downtown and provide new or renovated cultural, sports, recreation, entertainment and convention facilities. More than $5 billion in private investment followed the initial public investment with MAPS.

The original MAPS was followed by MAPS for Kids that was passed by voters in 2001 with a 61 percent majority. Seven hundred million dollars was raised in this tax levy. Seventy percent of the sales tax was distributed to public city schools, and 30 percent went to surrounding districts. This new tax was used for much needed school improvements that will result in 70 new or renovated public schools and funding for hundreds of school projects.

MAPS 3 is a $777 million capital investment program that includes a new convention center; an arena for the new NBA franchise, the Oklahoma City Thunder; a 70-acre downtown park; a downtown streetcar system; four senior health and wellness centers; and a whitewater rafting and kayaking venue. All MAPS projects are built debt-free, and over time the money is collected and spent efficiently, without burdening future taxpayers.

Oklahoma City has a thriving, diverse economy with aerospace, bioscience, healthcare, hospitality and retail. Future growth is anticipated from the emerging innovation district adjacent to downtown that incorporates the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center with medical research centers and the Baker Hughes GE Energy Technology Center.

Oklahoma City has also become a vibrant place for arts, culture and music, and enjoys a robust food scene that draws from residents' backgrounds and cultures. All of these amenities are available in a place where the cost of living remains well below the national average and the transportation system allows for low commute times. It is truly a place where work/life harmony is possible.
José Andrés and World Central Kitchen

Chef/Owner, ThinkFoodGroup, and Founder, World Central Kitchen

A never-ceasing entrepreneur and leader, José Andrés and World Central Kitchen embody the belief that food can be an agent of change by using the expertise of its global chef network to empower local communities to co-create smart solutions that address hunger and poverty.

Twice named to Time’s “100 Most Influential People” list, and awarded “Outstanding Chef” and “Humanitarian of the Year” by the James Beard Foundation, José Andrés is an internationally-recognized culinary innovator, author, educator, humanitarian, chef and owner of ThinkFoodGroup. A pioneer of Spanish tapas in America, Andrés is known for his avant-garde cuisine and award-winning group of 31 restaurants throughout the country and beyond.

This world-famous chef created a global team of volunteers and professionals to be the central kitchen following disasters. Founded in 2010 by Andrés following the devastating earthquake in Haiti, World Central Kitchen (WCK) is a global nonprofit of chefs creating smart solutions to hunger and poverty in the areas of health, education, jobs, social enterprise and disaster relief. WCK served over 4.6 million meals this past year to victims of natural disasters around the globe and was named one of Fast Company’s Most Innovative Companies in Food.

Since its inception, WCK has affected communities in Brazil, Cambodia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Nicaragua, Zambia, Guatemala, Peru, Indonesia and the United States. The positive long-term impacts are embedded in a philosophy that empowers the local community. WCK supports health and education through food safety and sanitation training, as well as establishing school kitchens and feeding programs that encourage school attendance and provide a source of sustainable revenue for the school. Local economies benefit from culinary training that elevates the hospitality workforce, increases earnings and enhances quality of life. Social enterprise is supported through food ventures that increase income, create jobs and provide transferable vocational skills to low-income communities.

Andrés is the New York Times bestselling author of “We Fed An Island: The True Story of Rebuilding Puerto Rico, One Meal at a Time.” In 2019, he will open Mercado Little Spain—the country’s first Spanish food hall in New York City’s Hudson Yards development.
John Taylor

President and Founder, National Community Reinvestment Coalition

John Taylor grew up in the public housing projects of Boston where his father was a union organizer and a firm advocate of the importance of responsibility to his fellow man. This sense of responsibility became the road map for Taylor’s career.

The first half of his working life was spent on community development activities and running social service programs. It was during this time that he realized bank lending for housing development was not equally applied. After considerable cajoling of uncooperative banks, Taylor secured a $20 million lending and investment commitment from a single bank, the largest such commitment to an individual community group in the country in 1985. This experience was a formative lesson in the power and promise that the Community Revitalization Act (CRA) held for low-wealth neighborhoods.

This early work for economic justice lead to Taylor becoming the first staff person hired by the newly formed National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), the leading national community-based membership organization promoting economic fairness for low income and traditionally underserved people. Today NCRC has a staff of nearly 75, owns a 13-story building in Washington DC and has over 600 non-profit members. NCRC has been instrumental in impacting fair lending laws and regulations, and increasing bank commitments and lending to millions of Americans.

Taylor has been the recipient of numerous local, state and national awards, including an appointment by President Bill Clinton to the Advisory Board of the Community Development Financial Institute (CDFI) Fund, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Award, two citations from the United States Congress for his work in promoting fair housing, the State of Massachusetts Award for Excellence in Community Economic Development and more.

He has also served on the Consumer Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Bank Board in Washington, DC, is a member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and was a principal in the design and formation of both the European Center for Responsible Credit and Global Community Reinvestment Coalition.

In 2005 and in 2006, he was named by the NonProfit Times as one of the top 50 most influential nonprofit leaders in America. He has appeared on the BBC, ABC’s “Nightline,” CBS, “Fox Business News,” CNN, CSPAN and in numerous print publications. Taylor has testified frequently before the United States Congress House and Senate congressional committees and met with government leaders from around the world.
Omaha Public Schools Foundation

Omaha Public Schools Foundation (OPSF) enriches students’ lives by funding learning experiences that inspire hope, open doors and help students to achieve their dreams.

Since being established in 1984, the executive and board leadership have creatively leveraged $1,555 in initial start-up funding, which was gifted by Omaha Public Schools (OPS) teachers and staff, to create a multi-million dollar public education foundation that serves the students and teachers in Nebraska’s largest school district. For the last four years, OPSF has ranked in the top 10 on the Caruthers Institute’s “Nation’s Top K-12 Education Foundations” list.

OPSF’s unique model of social entrepreneurship provides enriching early education programs and much-needed, before and after school care for working families and their elementary-aged children. The success of these parent-paid programs, combined with a loyal philanthropic community that cares about the OPS district, have eliminated all administrative costs for the foundation so that 100 percent of the $150 million dollars raised in the last 13 years has funded innovative, educational experiences that level the playing field for over 53,000 students enrolled annually in the OPS district.

OPSF invests the revenues from its early childhood education and before and after school care programs into scholarships for high school seniors, teacher innovation and classroom grants, and community partnership projects. The sole purpose is to enhance the classroom experience by providing students educational opportunities they may not receive anywhere else.

Cohen-Dunning’s expertise, knowledge and passion for preschool through high school public school funding has earned her the role of board president for the National School Foundation Association (NSFA) in 2019. By sharing the OPSF model, Cohen-Dunning continues her mission to help her peers across the country apply it to their unique district dynamics. Sharing how meaningful communications and marketing strategies have impacted OPSF’s ability to reach more teachers, administrators and the community will be a part of Cohen-Dunning’s goals to serve fellow NSFA members. The NSFA recently recognized the commitment OPSF has made in communications and marketing with two national awards.

Current Board President Steve Kinkead and Executive Director Toba Cohen-Dunning continue an example of excellence and success with a strong president-director relationship that supports the mission of the foundation and the OPS district. With 76.5 percent of the student population on free or reduced lunch, 120 distinct languages spoken, and 3,000 refugees from 15 different countries, there is a great need for OPSF programs.
Nancy LeaMond

Executive Vice President, Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer, AARP

As AARP’s chief advocacy and engagement officer, Nancy LeaMond has responsibility for driving the organization’s social mission on behalf of Americans age 50-plus and their families. LeaMond leads government affairs and legislative campaigns for AARP, widely seen as one of the most powerful advocacy organizations in the country. She also manages public education programs, community engagement, multicultural outreach and AARP’s 18,000 volunteers. LeaMond’s team includes 700 staff members across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. She has been named by The Hill as one of the top lobbyists every year since 2011.

LeaMond leads major AARP issue areas, campaigns, and initiatives such as AARP’s Livable Communities work, helping residents and local leaders turn their communities into great places to live for people of all ages. A strong component of this work is sharing great ideas through AARP’s Network of Age-Friendly Communities, an award-winning e-newsletter, and in three editions of the book “Where We Live: Communities for All Ages.”

Prior to AARP, LeaMond served as the chief of staff and assistant U.S. trade representative for congressional affairs at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. She worked extensively on health care and pension issues before entering the trade field, beginning her career in the Public Health Service, the Medicaid program, and the Department of Commerce. She also served in the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Education, and on Capitol Hill as chief of staff to U.S. Congresswoman Mary Rose Oakar.

Honorable Henry L. Marsh III

Former Mayor, Richmond, Virginia, Former Virginia Senator, and Civil Rights Activist

Henry L. Marsh, III earned his law degree and began his legal career in 1961 when he immediately enlisted in the fight against the policy of “Massive Resistance,” Virginia’s response to Brown v. Board of Education. Over the next two decades, Marsh handled more than 50 cases against school boards across the state involving desegregation. Additionally, for more than 40 years Marsh has been involved in some of the most important civil rights cases in Virginia and the United States.

Marsh served on the Richmond City Council from 1966 to 1991. The respect he earned from his colleagues and the public was demonstrated by his election as vice-mayor in 1970, and in 1977 by his election as Richmond’s first African-American mayor. In 1991, Marsh was elected state senator and served in that capacity until 2014.

Marsh served his city, state and nation as a leader in government and civic affairs. He co-founded many organizations including Richmond Renaissance, a biracial, public-private partnership to preserve, promote and develop the City of Richmond. He also co-founded the Metropolitan Economic Development Council that has brought scores of new businesses and jobs to Central Virginia. Marsh, throughout his long career, contributed to his city, state and nation as a leader in government and civic affairs.
William K. Reilly

Former Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, and Former President World Wildlife Fund

William K. Reilly has enjoyed careers in public service, non-governmental organizations and private sector finance. For more than 20 years he was a senior advisor to TPG Capital, an international investment partnership. During his tenure with TPG, he was the founding partner and CEO of Aqua International Partners, a private equity fund dedicated to investing in companies in the water sector.

Before joining TPG, Reilly was the first Payne Visiting Professor at Stanford University. He was administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from 1989 to 1993, during which he led efforts to pass a new Clean Air Act and headed the U.S. delegation to the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. He served as president of World Wildlife Fund and later chairman of the board; president of The Conservation Foundation; and director of the Rockefeller Task Force on Land Use and Urban Growth.

From 1970 to 1972 he was a senior staff member at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. President Clinton appointed Reilly as a founding trustee of the Presidio Trust of San Francisco. President Obama appointed him co-chair of the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and the Future of Offshore Drilling, and in late 2012 to the President’s Global Development Council for which he headed the working group on climate smart food security.

Ronald Lee Fleming

Urban Planner and Designer, Preservation Advocate, and Environmental Educator and Critic

Using design, sculpture, public art and heritage, Ronald Lee Fleming, FAICP, pioneered the concept of creative place making in the early 1970s. As a single entrepreneur with a spirit that moved individuals, he urged distressed communities to harken back to local points of pride. By reminding communities of their heritage, culture and local heroes, he recognized that identity of place was critical to value and delight.

Ronald Lee Fleming is honored as a pioneer in recognizing the importance of preserving the heritage and infrastructure of America’s Main Streets. He authored a series of place making books, including “The Art of Place Making: Interpreting Community Through Public Art and Urban Design,” that demonstrate how artists and artisans reimagined and reinforced a sense of proprietorship. Fleming is also a pioneering figure in the interpretation of places. He is an advocate for corporate visual responsibility as explained in his publication “Saving Face: How Corporate Franchise Design Can Respect Community Character.”

In 1979, Fleming founded Townscape Institute, a public interest advocacy think tank. He worked on scores of townscape revitalization plans and innovative environmental education projects and documented them in publications such as “New Providence, a Changing Cityscape.” He is a board member of many preservation organizations, a former secretary of US/ICOMOS, and is a long-time chair of Scenic America, a coalition of 50 national organizations concerned with the visual environment.
Robert Grow
CEO, Envision Utah

Robert Grow is the founding chair emeritus and CEO of Envision Utah, a nonprofit that engages people in creating great communities for themselves and future residents. Two decades ago, Grow helped pioneer the Envision Utah process in which government, private organizations, nonprofits and the public work together to understand local values, consider choices for the future, and ultimately create broadly supported, long-range plans to accommodate growth while improving quality of life.

Under Grow’s leadership, the initial Envision Utah effort led to a dramatic expansion of Utah’s public transportation system, reductions in per capita water use, reduced air pollution, preservation of farmland and open space, and better community design. Most importantly, it established a vision for what the future could be and outlined specific, collaborative strategies to realize that vision. Grow has since helped replicate the same process in rural areas and larger municipalities across Utah. He also led the recent Your Utah, Your Future effort—a statewide visioning project that gathered participation from more than 52,000 Utahns.

Outside of Utah, Grow has consulted, coached and taught communities in more than 80 major metropolitan areas of the U.S., helping them follow this same model for values-based visioning. He has also led the visioning teams for San Diego; Laie, Hawaii; and the 175,000-acre Superstition Vistas property in Arizona. Grow also played a significant role in the Southern Louisiana visioning processes after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

For his work, Grow has received the American Public Transportation Association’s Distinguished Service Award and has been recognized as Utah’s entrepreneur of the year. His diverse career has included practicing law, serving as president of a large manufacturing company and chairing a national trade association.

Daphne Kwok
Asian American and Pacific Islander Advocate

Daphne Kwok has been a powerful leader on equity, equal opportunity and advancement for the growing Asian American and Pacific Islander population of America. From 1990 to 2001, she was the executive director of the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), a national, membership-based civil rights organization where she addressed hate crimes, campaign finance, immigration and affirmative action. Kwok served as the executive director of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation in San Francisco from 2005 to 2007. Here she worked to preserve and restore the Angel Island Immigration Station, sometimes known as “the Ellis Island of the West,” and to promote the role it played in shaping America’s past, present and future.

Kwok was appointed by President Obama in 2010 to chair his Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. As chair, Kwok met with AAPI communities throughout the country, connecting them to regional federal agency representatives. This opened an opportunity for the agencies to learn about these communities and to acquaint them with their programs and services. Kwok concluded her term as chair in May 2014 and continued as a commissioner until February 2017.

Currently, Kwok is the vice president of multicultural leadership for the Asian American and Pacific Islander audience strategy at AARP. She brings to AARP her experience as a “leader of leaders” through her community service in promoting and empowering the AAPI community.
Honorable Parris Glendening
Former Governor, State of Maryland

Parris N. Glendening, former governor of the State of Maryland, is now president of Smart Growth America’s Leadership Institute and the Governor’s Institute on Community Design. In these roles, he travels across the country and around the world advising state and local governments on smart growth, transit and sustainability policies and practices.

From 1995 to 2003, Glendening served as governor of the State of Maryland, where he created the nation’s first state-level smart growth policy package. Prior to being elected governor, Glendening served three terms as the elected county executive of Prince George’s County, Maryland. He has taught political science at the University of Maryland, College Park, for 27 years and is the author of two books and over 100 articles and conference papers.

Glendening has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the American Society of Landscape Architects’ Olmsted Award and the Harvard Innovations in American Government Award. He most recently was named as an Honorary Member of the American Institute of Architects.

Honorable Glenda Hood
Former Mayor, Orlando, Florida, and Former Secretary of State, Florida

Glenda Hood was Florida’s secretary of state from 2003 to 2005, and mayor and chief executive officer of the City of Orlando from 1992 to 2003. Before being elected Orlando’s first female mayor, she was a city council member for 10 years and president of her own public relations business.

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Hood has served as president of the National League of Cities and the Florida League of Cities, and as chair of the Florida Chamber of Commerce. She is an active participant on ULI’s Advisory Services panels and the Daniel Rose Center for Public Leadership, a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, and a longstanding board member and past chair of Partners for Livable Communities.
Carol Bebelle
Co-Founder and Executive Director, Ashé Cultural Arts Center

Carol Bebelle is a co-founder of the Ashé Cultural Arts Center (Ashé), a neighborhood arts and cultural center in Center City New Orleans that fortunately escaped the destruction of Katrina. In the rebuilding and recovery effort, Ashé stepped up to play the role of “. . . the meeting place, the home fire, the touchstone for returning friends and neighbors,” and a place where it is understood that the encouragement of equitable dialogue during rebuilding was essential to the future of the city.

Bebelle is a native New Orleanian and a proud product of the New Orleans public school system. She spent nearly 20 years in the public sector as an administrator and planner of education, social, cultural and health programs.

In 1995, Bebelle discerned that the cultural and creative heartbeat of New Orleans was an untapped resource on the landscape of community development. She realized that the power of culture and creativity combined could unleash progress, improvement and economic inclusion for much of the under-represented members of the New Orleans community. Bebelle’s day-to-day laboratory for that work is the Ashé Cultural Arts Center where the daily agenda is created by the intersection of culture, community and art. She is a powerful voice in New Orleans.

Neal Peirce
Urban Affairs Journalist

Neal Peirce has been a Washington-based journalist since 1960, working first as Congressional Quarterly’s political editor and later was a founder of National Journal magazine.

Peirce has distinguished himself as a leading commentator on cities through his outstanding urban affairs columns. No one has demonstrated a better perspective on urban trends. In 1983, he literally wrote the book on states in his monumental “The Book of America: Inside the Fifty States Today” that describes in colorful detail the developments of each state.

Along with Curtis Johnson and Farley Peters, he founded the Citistates Group that engages urbanists across America to share best practices and knowledge. This led to research and in-depth analyses of issues facing 25 metropolitan regions across the country. He was the lead author of “Century of the City: No Time to Lose,” based on the Rockefeller Foundation’s 2007 Global Urban Summit in Bellagio, Italy. Subsequently he became founder and editor of Citiscope, an online news service that provides coverage, commentary and analysis of innovation and the future of cities worldwide.

He captured the work of innovative thinkers preparing a New Urban Agenda for the world’s cities. Citiscope produced the most complete coverage of the document’s development, culminating at the UN’s Habitat III summit on cities where nearly 170 countries ratified it. Citiscope’s news coverage and commentaries from urban experts broadened and deepened the debate about the role of cities on the global stage. It also sparked important conversations about how the New Urban Agenda and other agreements will be implemented in cities.
Jeremy Nowak  
Founder, The Reinvestment Fund (In Memoriam)

Jeremy Nowak, a true civic visionary, passed away on July 28, 2018, at the age of 66. In 1998, Nowak wrote about expanding our view of community to include entire regions, focusing on people, not just places, and considering mixed-income housing and locating housing in areas of opportunity. In all of these ways he was ahead of the curve of conversations we are still having today.

Nowak was a prominent civic investor, advocate and commentator who founded the Philadelphia-based Reinvestment Fund, later led the William Penn Foundation, and chaired boards of organizations including the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Mastery Charter Schools and Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation.

He established the Reinvestment Fund to make investments in underserved communities to increase equity of access to resources and strengthen neighborhoods—that was 33 years and $2 billion ago. He organized people, then he organized money, community capacity rallied, and all along the way he organized how we think about problems and their solutions.

He recently co-authored “The New Localism: How Cities Can Thrive in the Age of Populism” with Bruce Katz. Nowak was most recently a distinguished visiting fellow at Drexel University’s Lindy Institute for Urban Innovation. He was meeting with mayors to discuss “The New Localism” while continuing to write and think nationally about community development finance and the need for capital in disenfranchised communities.

A fierce seeker of solutions, Jeremy Nowak identified ways to improve the lives of disadvantaged communities, contributed to the betterment of Philadelphia and believed in the power of communities to innovate.

Jane Chu  
Former Chair, National Endowment for the Arts

Jane Chu recently stepped down as the chair of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), a position she held for four years after being appointed by President Obama in 2014.

Prior to the NEA, she served as the president and CEO of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Missouri, overseeing a $413-million campaign to build the center. As the performance home of the Kansas City Ballet, Kansas City Symphony and Lyric Opera of Kansas City, the Kauffman Center has hosted more than one million people from all 50 states and countries throughout the world since its grand opening in September 2011.

Jane Chu was an executive at the Kauffman Fund for Kansas City from 2004 to 2006, and vice president of external relations for Union Station Kansas City from 2002 to 2004. Previously, she was vice president of community investment for the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation from 1997 to 2002. Chu also served as a trustee at William Jewell College and on the board of directors of the Ewing Marion Kauffman School and the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

Jane Chu, the daughter of Chinese immigrants, was raised in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. As a youth she studied music, eventually receiving bachelor's degrees in piano performance and music education, and master's degrees in music and piano pedagogy from Southern Methodist University. Chu also holds a master’s degree in business administration and a PhD in philanthropic studies.
Andrés Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk

Principals, DPZ Architects

Architects Andrés Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk are partners in work and in life. Their rise to prominence began with their revolutionary scheme for Seaside, a small resort community on Florida’s Gulf Coast that is known for its carefully planned layout featuring pastel colored houses, front porches and white picket fences.

After graduating from architecture school, in 1980 the pair established Duany Plater-Zyberk & Co. (DPZ), an architecture and planning firm in Miami. Duany and Plater-Zyberk turned to 19th century town planning for their design cues including the compact, picturesque streets of such cities as New Orleans and Charleston.

It was Seaside that put DPZ on the map. Duany and Plater-Zyberk’s design philosophy, known as New Urbanism, became prominent in the popular press and beloved by planners and residents alike. Supporters hailed them as an antidote to the anonymous, automobile-dependent suburban sprawl overtaking the country. Herbert Muschamp, architecture critic for The New York Times, called the movement the “most important phenomenon to emerge in American architecture in the post-Cold War era.”

Following the development of Seaside, DPZ designed more than 300 new towns and community revitalization projects around the world and inspired scores of neo-traditionalist projects by others.

William Struever

Principal, Cross Street Partners

Bill Struever is a visionary real estate pioneer who has spent his career finding creative ways to reimagine urban properties. He was the driving force behind community revitalization efforts that bolstered entire neighborhoods and extended beyond individual projects. Through his passion, creativity and commitment to rebuilding cities, Struever has played a key role in sustainable development.

In 1974, Struever founded a company that would become Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse (SBER). The nationally-acclaimed development, construction and property management company’s legacy was to adapt and reuse economically obsolete industrial buildings and reclaim under-productive urban brownfields. In 2010, Struever formed Cross Street Partners, which was built on the legacy of SBER and with a focus on revitalizing urban neighborhoods around centers of innovation and entrepreneurship. At Cross Street Partners, Struever is responsible for the company’s new business pipeline for real estate development and tax credit consulting services, sustainable construction practices and strengthening public/private relationships.

His vision is to lead the country in green urban revitalization, setting new LEED certified standards for all new projects. Struever was recently honored with the prestigious Urban Land Institute’s Award of Excellence for the preservation and redevelopment of Clipper Mill in Baltimore, Maryland.
Honorable Jacob Day

Mayor of Salisbury, Maryland

Jacob R. Day is president of the city council and mayor in his hometown of Salisbury, Maryland. Day was elected to the council at the age of 30 with 72 percent of the vote, and subsequently was unanimously elected president on a platform of place making, positivity and restoring pride to Salisbury. This year Realtor.com, in an article on trends for smaller cities, rated Salisbury number one in America to become a “powerhouse city” for investment.

Day has focused his career on revitalizing downtowns and making them more vibrant, livable places. He has worked for the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, most recently as the director of the Center for Towns, a program utilizing design, planning and implementation assistance to establish lively, sustainable small cities and towns on the Eastern Shore.

Day served as national president of the American Institute of Architecture Students and later as editor-in-chief of CRIT, a journal of architecture. As a Richard Upjohn Fellow, he served on the American Institute of Architects national board of directors and in various capacities with many other national architectural organizations. Day earned master’s degrees from Oxford University and Carnegie Mellon University, and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Maryland.

Tina Shelvin Bingham

Executive Vice President, McComb-Veazey Neighborhood Coterie

During the summer of 2008, city planners, residents, churches and business owners in Lafayette, Louisiana, began work on a revitalization plan for the McComb-Veazey Neighborhood Coterie, one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city, and ripe with French Creole culture and African-American heritage. Through Tina Shelvin Bingham’s leadership, McComb-Veazey has created a strategic agenda and raised $787,500 over three years to meet community needs for safety, education, homeownership, place making and place-based economic development.

Today, Bingham is the executive vice president for the McComb-Veazey Neighborhood Coterie. Over the last six years, she has led the implementation of revitalization plan components, which include the Homegrowers Community Farm, the certification of McComb-Veazey as a Louisiana cultural district, establishing the Creole F.A.C.E. cultural products district, implementing a musical/edible pocket park, and beautification efforts that include tree plantings, ArtBox installations and neighborhood heritage signs.

In her current role as the community development director for Lafayette Habitat for Humanity, and with support from national foundations, Bingham is advancing a broader set of community building efforts. Additionally, she is the project manager for McComb-Veazey-based initiatives supported by The Kresge Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation and Smart Growth America.

For her efforts, Bingham was recognized locally with a 20 Under 40 Acadiana Leadership Award and Project Front Yard’s Best in Beautification Award. Bingham is a member of the NACo Creative Counties program for Lafayette Parish, the Leadership Lafayette Class XXX, and the Leadership Louisiana Class of 2019.
Severine von Tscharner Fleming
Director, Greenhorns

Severine von Tscharner Fleming is a voice for the needs and vision of the incoming generation of farmers and ranchers. She travels throughout the country and internationally to champion young urban farmers as community assets and improve their access to funding and land. Fleming is an organic farmer, young farmers advocate, publisher and organizer based in Downeast Maine.

Fleming is director of the young farmers cultural organization Greenhorns—a grassroots, community-powered studio dedicated to grassroots media, cultural programming and land repair for the benefit of the human and non-human worlds. Fleming has spent the last seven years gathering, bundling and broadcasting the voices and vision of young agrarians. Greenhorns currently produces The New Farmer’s Almanac, a literary journal for working agrarians; a weekly radio show on the Heritage Radio Network; the www.OURLAND.tv web series; and the Up Up! Farm film festival.

Since 2013, Fleming has served as a founding board president of Agrarian Trust, a national land-access advocacy organization addressing land succession, supporting incoming and outgoing agrarians, and building a national cooperatively owned farmland commons. Fleming also serves on the board of the Schumacher Center for New Economics, the advisory board of Savanna Institute, and is the founding board secretary for Farm Hack and the National Young Farmers Coalition.

Tyler Norris
Chief Executive, Well Being Trust

Tyler Norris is one of the nation’s leading voices and champions for advancing innovative approaches for health and well being. He is a foundation executive, thought leader and public speaker who has the compassion and civic purpose that exemplify the leadership of John Parr.

Norris is currently chief executive of Well Being Trust, an impact philanthropy advancing mental, social and spiritual health. Previously, he served as vice president of Total Health at Kaiser Permanente, one of the nation’s largest health care providers, where he led initiatives to invest in the economic, social and environmental determinants of health.

Partnership is core to how Norris works. He has engaged with leaders across the health and civic sectors, including in hundreds of communities in every state, and with organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. With a master of divinity from Naropa University and more than three decades of experience and leadership advancing population health, Norris brings a powerful, comprehensive perspective on how to integrate solutions for the benefit of us all.

Norris has served as a board member or advisor to the Convergence Partnership, Enterprise Community Partners, Active Living by Design, Samueli Institute, the Public Health Institute and the YMCA of the USA. Additionally, he helped open the Abraham Path through the heart of the Middle East, and led The Kuhiston Foundation that helped establish a national park system in Tajikistan.
EYA, LLC and City of Alexandria Archaeology

The City of Alexandria Archaeology and EYA, LLC, developers of innovative urban neighborhoods, have formed a unique partnership to preserve and highlight the historic importance of the Old Town Alexandria waterfront. During its long history, Alexandria boasted one of the busiest seaports in America. It was common at that time to use derelict boats as the fill to expand waterfronts, and build new wharves and piers.

In the course of EYA’s recent excavations for the new development at Robinson Landing, they began unearthing pieces of these forgotten vessels. Working closely with Alexandria Archeology and under the nearly 30-year old Archaeological Protection Code, EYA and its contractor WSSI Thunderbird Archeology embarked on the most extensive effort to date to investigate, document and preserve artifacts that go back to the founding of this early American seaport. EYA engaged and funded a team of archeologists to research the history of the site and applied this information to painstakingly excavate the site over an 18-month period. This effort resulted in the discovery of more than 150 individual features and over 100,000 artifacts. The major discovery of three 18th century ships marked this as one of the most significant archeological sites in Virginia.

Recognizing immense interest from civilians and academics alike, EYA coordinated a public viewing of the archeological work in progress. On May 8, 2018, the New York Times featured a major story on the finds. EYA Vice President Evan Goldman stated, “EYA is committed to this unprecedented effort to protect and preserve the archeological history of Old Town. We are thrilled by the significance of the finds and their unique ability to preserve the legacy of the City’s history.”

EYA plans to gift all of the artifacts, including the three ships, to the City for study and eventual exhibition that will further public understanding and appreciation of Alexandria’s rich history. These ships, coupled with a fourth that was discovered in 2015, now form the corpus of what can become a valuable resource to chronicle the past of Alexandria.
Rondell Crier
Artist

Working at the cross-section of art, civic engagement and community leadership, Rondell Crier is both an artist and civic leader who fosters vibrancy through his creative work and mentorship of others.

From 2002 to 2013, Crier was involved with YAYA (Young Aspirations/Young Artists), a youth art organization in New Orleans, first as a youth participant, next as a board member, and then as executive director of programs. YAYA’s mission is to empower creative young people to become successful adults. As a young YAYA artist, he traveled and exhibited in U.S. cities and internationally in Japan, Germany, Italy and Holland.

As a New Orleans and Chattanooga-based artist, Crier has exhibited in his hometowns as well as Detroit, Houston and Miami and continues to make investment in people through creativity. His appreciation and passion for practicing art and arts empowerment helps him serve as a creative mentor to youth and adult artists.

Currently, Crier lives in Chattanooga, where several of his public art sculptures, murals and art installations are installed. Inspired by YAYA's impact on the community, he started his own Chattanooga-based social practice studio called Studio Everything that provides services in design, production and fabrication.

Sandy Markwood
Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Nearly 20 percent of U.S. residents are projected to be aged 65 and over by 2030. For America’s aging older adults, who wish to live with dignity and choices in their homes and communities as long as possible, now is a critical time for leadership. As the chief executive officer of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), Sandy Markwood is an innovative leader with more than 30 years experience in the development and delivery of aging, health, human services, housing and transportation programs in counties and cities across the nation.

In her current role, Markwood is responsible for the overall management of n4a—a membership association representing America’s national network of 622 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and a voice in the nation’s capital for the 256 Title VI Native American aging programs. Externally, she forms strategic partnerships with federal agencies and organizations in aging, human services and health care arenas to enhance the role and recognition of n4a members. Internally, Markwood sets the strategic direction and oversees policy implementation, grassroots advocacy, membership and program initiatives. She also leads n4a’s fundraising efforts and engages corporate sponsors to support critical initiatives, including an aging awards and best practices program and the Leadership Institute for AAA staff.

Prior to joining n4a in 2002, Markwood served as the deputy director of county services at the National Association of Counties, where she took a lead role in research, training, conference planning, program development, technical assistance and grants management.
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Partners for Livable Communities
Partners for Livable Communities, incorporated in 1977, is a national civic organization working to improve the livability of communities by promoting quality of life, economic development and social equity. Partners helps our nation’s communities set common visions for the future, discover and utilize their cultural and natural resources, and build public/private partnerships to realize their goals.

Serving as a national resource and information center, Partners is a catalyst for civic improvements through technical assistance, leadership training, workshops, research, advocacy and public awareness. More than 1,200 organizations throughout North America and abroad comprise Partners’ resource network. These alliances produce a powerful force to affect positive change in our communities.