

OPTION IV – REGIONAL EQUITY
Thursday, May 5th, 2005 • 3:15 – 4:30 pm

Assuring that all members of a community have the ability to succeed is an important driver to community well-being. Regional approaches are proving that collaboration across jurisdictional lines is a useful tool.

PANELISTS



Katherine Aguilar Perez (moderator) is the Executive Director of the Transportation & Land Use Collaborative of Southern California (TLUC). Katherine is a professional transportation planner with experience in national policy, regional planning and local government. She was recently recognized as an “Outstanding Leader” in Business Life Magazine based in the San Gabriel Valley.

The Collaborative (formerly known as the Southern California Transportation & Land Use Collaborative) is the first organization created to promote solely for the linkages between transportation and land use. Since its formation June 1, 2000, the Collaborative has been published in the Los Angeles Times and has met with key legislators and numerous policy makers in the region.

Before coming to TLUC, Katherine served as the Deputy to the first city-wide elected Mayor, William Bogaard, in Pasadena, California. She worked on a variety of issues including transportation, land use, and planning. Katherine also worked on Latino constituent’s issues. With a professional background in transportation, she was able to work with community on many developments such as the Gold Line Light Rail Extension, a 13 mile project from Los Angeles to Pasadena.

She currently serves on the CORO Board of Directors, a leadership development organization, and is a member of the Urban Land Institute Executive Council in Los Angeles and is a member of the national ULI Community Development Council. Ms. Perez is also a member of the Board of Directors of the recently created Center for Transit Oriented Development which is a project of Reconnecting America.

She is a frequent speaker at national, state and local conferences on the issues pertaining to land use, development, transportation, community planning, and civic engagement. Katherine received her Masters Degree in Urban Planning and Transportation from UCLA and her Bachelors Degree in Political Science from CalState Northridge.



Gail C. Christopher is the Vice President of the Joint Center's Office of Health, Women and Families. She has broad experience in health, government innovation, diversity management and social policy, and is nationally recognized for pioneering work linking the health outcomes of underserved populations to the effects of chronic stress related to environmental, economic and social factors. Dr. Christopher was previously a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution. Prior positions also include director of the Institute for Government Innovation at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and director of the Alliance for Redesigning Government. Her distinguished career and contributions to public service were honored by her election as a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration in 1996.

Dr. Christopher has been a guest lecturer at Georgetown University School of Medicine, and an adjunct faculty at the University of Chicago, School of Social Services. She holds a B.S. and D.N. in Naprapathy from the Chicago National College of Naprapathy.

Meredith Freeman is an experienced nonprofit manager with over 10 years of experience in grantmaking, consulting, training, and project management. Ms. Freeman has experience in community development banking, with Citigroup Global Community Relations in New York City, and has taught graduate-level courses in nonprofit management at the New School University in New York City, and Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ.

In her current role as a Program Officer in the Detroit office of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Ms. Freeman is responsible for leading the development of a public policy agenda to advance community development efforts with an emphasis on effective land use, and leading the development and implementation of the Metro Detroit Regional Investment Initiative (MDRII), a program that encourages collaboration amongst Detroit neighborhoods and their inner-ring suburban neighbors around issues of physical revitalization and social equity.

Ms. Freeman has a Master's Degree in Management and Urban Policy from the New School University, and completed her undergraduate studies at Michigan State University.

Mr. M. von Nkosi is the Director of the Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership's (ANDP) Mixed Income Communities Initiative (MICI), a holistic program designed to increase the level of homeownership in Atlanta's inner city neighborhoods while creating viable mixed income neighborhoods and strong neighborhood-based community development corporations. He joined ANDP in November 1998 as an on-staff consultant to work specifically on MICI with the goal of fostering neighborhood revitalization with minimal displacement of long standing residents as intown neighborhoods began to gentrify. Two years later, ANDP named Nkosi as the director of MICI.

Since becoming the director of MICI, Nkosi has managed research for and the creation of a recently released report called "Making the Case (MTC) for Mixed Income and Mixed Use Communities: An Executive Summary" with a planning grant from the Ford Foundation. This effort was carried out in partnership with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), PolicyLink (Oakland, CA), the Center for Neighborhood Technology (Chicago), Greater Atlanta Home Builders, the ULI Atlanta Office and others. The Executive Summary and CD of the MTC document are available on ANDP's web site at www.andpi.org/mici.

Nkosi's experience in and knowledge of urban design, crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED), architecture, multimedia and academic research has helped ANDP move the goals of MICI forward as part of a regional smart growth initiative.

Since 1993, Nkosi and his consulting firm have worked with ANDP and the Community Development Corporations (CDCs) in ANDP's network on projects which have directly benefited the CDC's communities. These projects have included implementation planning for the MLK Jr. Historic District for the Historic District Development Corporation (HDDC) and assisting ANDP, CODA and the City of Atlanta's Department of Housing to identify the gaps in neighborhood development projects prior to the 1996 Olympic Games.

Nkosi is a second-generation architect and urban designer committed to the revitalization of intown neighborhoods. Since 1982, von has worked in the areas of architecture, urban design and project management. As part of this commitment, he founded the MXD Collaborative, Inc. in 1992. In recent

years, he has taken the company in the direction of providing Urban Safety Analysis using the principals of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED).

In 1986, M. von Nkosi received his bachelor's degree in architecture from Hampton University in Virginia. In 1992, he completed his master's degree in architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) in Chicago and is currently working on his doctoral degree at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. He is certified by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) and is a respected and popular lecturer. In 2005 von begins working on a year long Emerging Leaders Fellowship Program, as one of eight Americans out of a class of 23, sponsored by Duke University and the University of Cape Town, South Africa.