

August 12, 2020

Part I: Acknowledgment

Panelists

Monica Chadha, AIA, LEED AP
Founder and Principal, Civic Projects

Monica Chadha, AIA, LEED AP, is founder and principal of Civic Projects, a Chicago-based architecture practice with a social impact focus. Prior to starting her firm, she served as founding director of Impact Detroit and led project teams at Studio Gang and Ross Barney Architects, where she was integral to the design of award-winning, civic scale buildings. Her approach to design is highly participatory, going beyond architecture to engage in strategic planning, development, and revitalization. Civic Projects is engaged in a wide variety of work: including their collaboration with Ralph Appelbaum Associates on the Obama Presidential Center Museum and planning and design for GCE, a private nonprofit high school's downtown campus. Monica served as co-chair of the Sensible Growth Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Council, as a Strategic Consultant for Archeworks, and is on the Board of the Delta Institute. She has been an adjunct professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology since 2007.



Breanca Merritt
Director of the Center for Research on Inclusion and Social Policy, Clinical
Assistant Professor, Indiana University Public Policy Institute

Breanca Merritt is Founding Director of the Center for Research on Inclusion and Social Policy (CRISP) at the Indiana University Public Policy Institute and Clinical Assistant Professor at the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Her work at CRISP involves working with a multidisciplinary team of analysts and students to understand the intersection of public policy and equity in Indianapolis, in areas such as poverty reduction, housing, public safety, and social service provision, among others. Their team's work on housing focuses primarily on racial/ethnic disparities in housing outcomes, such as housing instability, homelessness, evictions, rent burden, and the policies that contribute to them. Dr. Merritt is a recipient of the *Indianapolis Business Journal's* Forty under 40 award, a Translating Research into Practice Scholar at IUPUI, and a member of the Diversity Scholars Network at the University of Michigan's National Institutional Center for Institutional Diversity. She is a board member of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana, Thomas Gregg Neighborhood School, and is a member of Indianapolis' Continuum of Care Governing Board. Dr. Merritt's has a Ph.D. in Health Promotion Sciences from the Hudson College of Public Health at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and her M.A. in political science from Texas A&M University.

**Phillip Sangokoya****Management Consultant, BRAND of St. Louis**

The son of two Nigerian immigrants, Phillip Adeniyi Sangokoya was born and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and has now spent over ten years in St. Louis including his time at the Olin Business School of Washington University in St. Louis where he graduated with a double major in Entrepreneurship and Marketing and a minor in Psychology. Phillip has five years of Business Banking and Commercial Lending experience with small business and over four years of experience in Community Development financing including New Market Tax Credits (NMTCs), Historic Tax Credits (HTCs), and lending to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). Currently, Phillip works on US Bank CDC's Specialty Finance team as a Relationship Manager to help originate, underwrite, and asset manage investments into CDFIs, NMTC-related entities, and Affordable Housing developers. He serves as a management consultant for the Business Resource Association for Networking & Development (BRAND) of St. Louis, a social enterprise co-founded with his wife Chavelle that helps individuals and organizations make an impact by co-creating, piloting, and funding innovation promoting collaboration and equitable wealth-building in the St. Louis region. Phillip received the 2017 Young Leader Award from the St. Louis American Foundation and the 2019 30 Under 30 Award from the St. Louis Business Journal for his commitment to Black-owned and Black-led companies through strategic management consulting, community development financing, and entrepreneurial development.

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Moderator**Brian H. Hurd****Adjunct Professor, Planning Sustainable and Racially Equitable Urban Communities, Washington University in St. Louis, University College – Sustainability Program**

From lifelong personal experience, and with nearly 25 years of professional practice, Brian H. Hurd is a leader at the center of equitable planning, relationship-oriented development, implementation, and evaluation. Brian is a St. Louis-based consultant and trainer as well as an adjunct professor and field instructor at Washington University in St. Louis. He teaches a class titled, “Planning Sustainable and Racially Equitable Urban Communities.” His work involves integrating an equity lens that addresses race and its adverse impact on social and physical determinants of health, including the undervaluation and marginalization of people and communities of color. As demographics continue to change, Brian understands the decisions and actions made today must be driven by equity: intentional, just, and fair inclusion.

Brian is also a recent best-selling author with his new book release, “Dream It! Plan It! Be It!: A Playbook for Today’s Youth.” The book addresses developing and inspiring young emerging leaders, calls to action by parents, community leaders, and policymakers, and his mission of building youth-centered, healthy communities by aligning planning, investments, and partnerships to meet today’s challenges – sustainably and equitably.

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