

# RACE & PLACE

THE LINK BETWEEN RACIAL INEQUITY, MOBILITY, AND PLACE-BASED EFFORTS  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021 | 5:00 PM

## Speaker Bios

### **Angela Glover Blackwell**



Angela Glover Blackwell is Founder in Residence at PolicyLink, the organization she started in 1999 to advance racial and economic equity for all. Under Ms. Blackwell's leadership, PolicyLink gained national prominence in the movement to use public policy to improve access and opportunity for all low-income people and communities of color, particularly in the areas of health, housing, transportation, and infrastructure. Her Radical Imagination podcast debuted in September 2019, introducing listeners to a world of creative, progressive thinkers whose vision is challenging the status quo to create the change we need. Prior to founding PolicyLink, Ms. Blackwell served as Senior Vice President at The Rockefeller Foundation. A lawyer by training, she gained national recognition as founder of the Urban Strategies Council. From 1977 to 1987, Ms. Blackwell was a partner at Public Advocates. Ms. Blackwell is the co-author of *Uncommon Common Ground: Race and America's Future*, and she authored *The Curb Cut Effect*, published in the *Stanford Social Innovation Review* in 2017. As a leading voice in the movement for equity in America, Ms. Blackwell serves on numerous boards. She advised the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve as one of 15 members of its inaugural Community Advisory Council, and in 2020 was appointed by California Governor Gavin Newsom to the state Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery. She is the 2018 recipient of the John W. Gardner Leadership Award, presented by the Independent Sector, and in 2017, she received the Peter E. Haas Public Service Award from the University of California, Berkeley.

## Geoffrey Canada



Founder and President of Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ), is nationally recognized for his pioneering work helping children and families in Harlem and as a thought leader and passionate advocate for education reform. From 1990 to 2014, Mr. Canada served as the President and CEO of HCZ, which The New York Times called "one of the most ambitious social-policy experiments of our time." In 2011, he was named to TIME's 100 list of most influential people in the world, and in 2014, was named one of Fortune's 50 greatest world leaders. He stepped down as CEO in 2014

and continues to serve as President of the HCZ and Promise Academy Boards. Under his visionary leadership, HCZ has become a national model and the subject of significant media attention. Using the Harlem Children's Zone as a model, President Barack Obama created the Promise Neighborhoods initiative to launch similar comprehensive programs across the country. Mr. Canada grew up in the South Bronx in a poor, sometimes violent neighborhood. Despite his troubled surroundings, he achieved great academic success, receiving a Bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College and a Master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. After graduating, Mr. Canada began his life's work helping children who, like himself, grew up in poor, distressed neighborhoods. Mr. Canada has written two books: *Fist Stick Knife Gun: A Personal History of Violence in America* (1995; reissued as a graphic novel in 2010) and *Reaching Up for Manhood: Transforming the Lives of Boys in America* (1998). A strong voice in public debates on education, he also has written for a number of publications, including op-eds for The New York Times and New York Daily News; gave a TED Talk on our failing schools and the need for innovation that was broadcast on PBS; and has spoken to audiences around the world about what it takes to help children succeed, from evaluation to early childhood education and beyond.

## **Stanley F. Druckenmiller**



Mr. Druckenmiller founded Duquesne Capital Management in 1981, which he ran until he closed the firm at the end of 2010. From 1988 to 2000, he was a Managing Director at Soros Fund Management, where he served as Lead Portfolio Manager of the Quantum Fund and Chief Investment Officer of Soros (1989-2000) and had overall responsibility for funds with a peak asset value of \$22 billion. Early on in his career, he worked at Pittsburgh National Bank and The Dreyfus

Corporation. Stan is Trustee and Chairman Emeritus of the Board of the Harlem Children's Zone; a Board member for Memorial Sloan Kettering and the Environmental Defense Fund; a member of the Investment Committee of Bowdoin College and Co-founder and Board member of Kasparov Chess Foundation. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Bowdoin College with degrees in Economics and English, and thereafter earned graduate degree credits in Economics from the University of Michigan.

## **Maurice A. Jones**



With deep experience in both public and private sectors, Maurice A. Jones became LISC's fourth President & CEO in 2016. He has served as the secretary of commerce for the Commonwealth of Virginia, deputy secretary for HUD, commissioner of Virginia's Department of Social Services, deputy chief of staff to former Virginia Governor Mark Warner and, during the Clinton administration, director of the CDFI Fund. Maurice was the President & Publisher of the Virginian-Pilot Media Group and a corporate attorney at Hunton & Williams. He is also a Rhodes Scholar and sits on UVA's Board of Visitors.

## **Kwame Owusu-Kesse**



Kwame Owusu-Kesse took over as Chief Executive Officer of the Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) on July 1, 2020. Prior to assuming this role, he served as HCZ's Chief Operating Officer for six years. As COO, Mr. Owusu-Kesse was a key liaison among the organization's programming, financial, and administrative functions and ensured that all were aligned. While he was laser-focused on the organization's data, he was also keenly aware of the importance of the people those numbers represent, acting as a mentor and counsel to students and staff. Mr. Owusu-Kesse grew up against a backdrop of poverty, single parenthood, and family struggles. However, he was fortunate to have opportunities as a young boy to receive a high-quality education and reach his academic potential. He went on to earn his Bachelor's degree in Economics from Harvard University and then began his career at Morgan Stanley as an analyst. During his third year with the bank, he was chosen for an externship at HCZ. After completing this externship, Mr. Owusu-Kesse returned to Harvard to receive a Master's in Business Administration from the Harvard Business School and a Master's in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.

## Cecilia Muñoz



the Protect Democracy Project.

Cecilia Muñoz is the Vice President of New America. Prior to joining New America in 2017, she served for eight years on President Obama's senior staff as Director of the Domestic Policy Council. Muñoz is also a Senior Fellow at Results for America, a nonprofit that advances the use of data and evidence in policy making. She received a MacArthur Fellowship in 2000 for her work on immigration and civil rights, and serves on the Boards of the Open Society, MacArthur and Kresge Foundations, as well as

## Richard Raya



Richard Raya is the director of Mission Promise Neighborhood, a cradle-to-career community development initiative in San Francisco. His previous roles include Executive Director of Youth Radio, Director of Administration for the Alameda County Public Health Department, and Chief of Staff for an Oakland City Councilmember. Richard's great-grandparents were indigenous Yaquis who came to the Bay Area after fighting in the Mexican Revolution. His parents worked as farmworkers in the fields of Northern California and came of age during the Chicano Movement. Richard dropped out of high school but attended community college and ultimately earned a B.A. in English Literature and a Master's in Public Policy from UC Berkeley. He is accompanied on his journey by his urban-planner wife, five sons, and their rescue pit bull.

## **Nancy Roob**



Nancy Roob is the CEO of Blue Meridian Partners and the President and CEO of The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation. Prior to that, she developed EMCF's Program for New York Neighborhoods, which launched community-building and neighborhood-stabilization projects in the South Bronx and Central Harlem. One of the projects this program supported evolved into Harlem Children's Zone, whose success has inspired legislation to create "Promise Neighborhoods" throughout the

nation. Nancy is a graduate and trustee of Hamilton College, and holds a master's degree in public administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

## Mayor Brandon M. Scott



Brandon M. Scott is the 52nd Mayor of Baltimore, working to end gun violence, restore the public's trust in government and change Baltimore for the better. Scott was unanimously elected President of the Baltimore City Council by his colleagues in May 2019. As Council President, Scott developed and released the first-ever City Council President legislative agenda, focused on building safer, stronger communities, cleaning up city government, investing in Baltimore's young people, and centering equity.

Previously, Scott served on the City Council representing Baltimore's 2nd District. He was first elected in 2011 at the age of 27 and is one of the youngest people ever elected to the Baltimore City Council.

## Jim Shelton



As Chief Investment and Impact Officer, Jim Shelton leads Blue Meridian's efforts to increase the impact, reach, and influence of investees and investments. This includes driving the evolution, expansion, and ongoing implementation of Blue Meridian's regional investment strategy to produce the strongest possible outcomes for children and families and achieve community-wide impact. Before becoming Chief Investment and Impact Officer, he was Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the organization, bringing to Blue Meridian deep multi-sector experience and expertise on the intersection of innovation, entrepreneurship, and systems change.