

Palm Beach County Planning Congress Virtual Planning Challenges Seminar

July 9th, 2021 - Housing Equity & Covid-driven Redesign

OVERVIEW - This session will cover COVID related changes in attainable housing, including design, infrastructure, retrofitting, social distancing, public spaces, etc. Panelists include representatives from the design profession, housing coalitions, and affordable housing providers. From varied perspectives, the panel will discuss the opportunities and challenges regarding the provision of attainable housing in the post-Covid era. What have we learned from the Covid pandemic about how to move forward in building and maintaining equitable, resilient, attainable housing?



Steve Pickett is a Project Landscape Architect with extensive experience in project management and working with project stakeholders. His past experience has provided a strong background in community planning, master planning and site design. In addition, his training in landscape architecture has helped foster a strong interest in horticulture and historic conservation. Steve's philosophy is that of responsible design and he advocates balancing the cultural, environmental and economic needs of the community through innovative and sensitive design – "Inspiration doesn't always come from the site, but from the potential of what you can do with it."

Steve has more than 14 years of experience in the profession and holds a master's of landscape architecture degree from University of Guelph. He is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects and is a Palm Beach County Planning Congress board member.

Moderator

Steve Pickett, LHT, BSc, MLA

Landscape Architect



Suzanne Cabrera leads the HLC, which is a non-profit 501c3 organization of community and business leaders to address workforce affordable housing issues. The organization is an action orientation coalition of businesses, civic, and community leaders working to increase the availability and attainability of housing for the areas workforce. Specifically, Ms. Cabrera works on the development and preservation of affordable workforce housing, including the financing of projects through private and public sources, addressing regulatory barriers that increases the cost of housing. As part of this effort, the HLC convenes a wide variety of public, private, non-profit, and municipal partners including: business executives, developers, lenders, CRAs, CDCs, housing authorities, as well as local, state, and federal agencies develop housing strategies and developing collaborative partnerships, to implement policy and funding initiatives.

Ms. Cabrera's professional volunteer roles include service as chair of the Florida Housing Coalition Board, a statewide coalition addressing housing issues. Locally she has been a member and past chair of the Palm Beach County Commission of Affordable Housing, chair of the West Palm Beach Affordable Housing Commission, executive member of the Affordable Housing Collaborative, member of Homeless Advisory Board Housing and Advocacy Committees, and Ms. Cabrera frequently speaks on housing issues as a local, state, and national level.

Speaker & Panelist
Suzanne Cabrera

President & CEO

Housing Leadership Council of
Palm Beach County

Palm Beach County Planning Congress Virtual Planning Challenges Seminar

July 9th, 2021 - Housing Equity & Covid-driven Redesign



Speaker & Panelist
**Kona A. Gray, FASLA,
PLA**
Principal, EDSA

Kona Gray is a firm leader at EDSA with 27-years of experience in 30+ countries, his global design and management sense has positively shaped the outcomes of many environments. At EDSA, Kona's award-winning projects are inspired by a passion for creative design solutions that solve meaningful global issues. His portfolio ranges from large-scale planning to detailed site design, with emphasis on communities, parks, hospitality, urban public realms, mixed-use destinations, healthcare and campus spaces. With an uncompromising dedication to quality, he consistently takes into consideration important factors like community, heritage, environment, and the constant pursuit of improving humanity through Landscape Architecture.

Currently, Kona serves as an American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Representative to the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board and recently served as ASLA Vice President Professional Practice. He is a Past President of the Landscape Architecture Foundation, an active member of the Urban Land Institute Southeast Florida and Caribbean District Council and NSU Huizenga School of Business Real Estate Advisory Board..

He is a registered Landscape Architect in Florida, Georgia, Arkansas, Commonwealth of Virginia and holds a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from the University of Georgia.



Speaker & Panelist
Bernie J. Godek
CEO, Habitat for Humanity
of Palm Beach County

Bernie Godek serves as the Chief Executive Officer for Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach County, where he has served in that position since 2007. Bernie has served as the advisor on numerous affordable housing councils and committees of Palm Beach County. Prior at this time at Habitat, Mr. Godek served as Associate Superintendent of Business Operations for both Prince William County Public Schools and Roanoke City Public Schools in Virginia. Previous to his time in public education he served as vice president of Quality Plans and Programs for UXB International, Inc. an international environmental restoration company. Prior to that Bernie served in the U.S. Army and retired in 1997 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel after 21 years of distinguished military service. His last assignment included time at the Pentagon where he served as Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense. Bernie and his family reside in Wellington, Florida.

Bernie received his B.A. in Sociology from Hofstra University in New York. He is an ISO 9001 certified lead internal auditor and he earned a Six Sigma Green Belt certification from Villanova University. He recently served as a member of the City of West Palm Beach Affordable Housing Advisory Committee; he is a member of the Association of School Business Officials International; and, a member of the Military Officers Association of America.

Palm Beach County Planning Congress Virtual Planning Challenges Seminar

July 9th, 2021 - Housing Equity & Covid-driven Redesign



Speaker & Panelist

Timothy J. Hernandez, AICP
Principal, New Urban Communities

Tim Hernandez is a Principal of New Urban Communities Corporation, a builder/developer focused on infill, redevelopment and traditional neighborhood development opportunities in South Florida. New Urban Communities has developed numerous noteworthy communities in South Florida over the past two decades, including The Courtyards of Delray, Atlantic Grove, Old Palm Grove, and Coda in Delray Beach; Osceola Woods, Greenwich and Botanica in Jupiter, East Village and the Village at Victoria Park in Fort Lauderdale, Belle Isle in Wilton Manors, Azul in downtown Stuart and Mirabella in Miramar. New Urban's current projects include the Village at Wilton Manors in Wilton Manors, Pompano Beach Fishing Village in Pompano Beach, Azul in downtown Stuart, the Centre at Abacoa in Jupiter and the final phase of Atlantic Grove.

Prior to co-founding New Urban in 1998, Mr. Hernandez spent 16 years with Pulte Home Corporation in Illinois and South Florida as a Director and Vice President in marketing, land acquisition, and land development. Before that, Mr. Hernandez was Senior Planner and Director of Community Development and Planning for the City of North Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Hernandez holds a BS in Urban Planning from Michigan State University and an MBA in Finance from the Kellogg School at Northwestern University. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, the Urban Land Institute, and the Congress for the New Urbanism. He has taught a masters level course in Urban Planning at Florida Atlantic University and has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the Lake County (IL) Regional Planning Commission, the (FL) Governor's Action Team for Energy and Climate Change, the Fort Lauderdale Northwest/Progresso/Flagler Heights CRA, the Abacoa Partnership for Community, the Broward Smart Growth Partnership, the Fort Lauderdale Little League, the Coral Ridge Country Club Homeowner's Association and Bonnet House Museum and Gardens. He has been Developer in Residence for the University of Miami's Masters in Real Estate Development + Urbanism (MRED+U) program since 2018.