Panelists

Dara Eskridge, LEED AP ND  
Executive Director  
Invest STL

Dara Eskridge is committed to supporting Black St. Louisans in leading the transformation of our neighborhoods and reclaiming our own stories of our communities, our families and our aspirations. As an urban planner with a focus on centering voices of communities of color in policy design, strategy development and impact measurement, Dara uses her roles, skills and network to advance opportunities to build wealth and power in Black and other racially and economically marginalized communities through equitable development and investment practices. Currently, Dara serves as the Executive Director of Invest STL, a funding initiative to prioritize and support equitable, resident-driven transformation of the region’s neighborhoods that have experienced historic disinvestment and devaluation. Prior to Invest STL, Dara served as St. Louis Director of Operations for Urban Strategies, a national nonprofit that works with residents, grassroots organizations, local governments and developers to re-build distressed urban core communities into vibrant residential neighborhoods. Previous roles also include Senior Planner in the St. Louis County Executive’s Office of Strategy + Innovation, St. Louis County Planning, City of St. Louis Homeless Services and the Housing Authority of the City of Bridgeport, CT.  

Dara earned her graduate degree in Urban Planning from Columbia University in New York and her Bachelor of Architecture from Tuskegee University in Alabama. She is a LEED Accredited Professional for Neighborhood Development.

Grace Hagen, MPT, CDFT  
Organizer/Facilitator  
Pediatric Physical Therapist  
Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training

Grace Hagen is a facilitator and organizer with Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training and has a small pediatric physical therapy practice. She has participated in program design, agenda creation and facilitation of social justice curriculum for NCCJ St. Louis and other local organizations such as the St. Louis Anti-Racism Collective and YWCA. Grace helps design and facilitate a monthly anti-racism educational and community-building program at City Garden Montessori school called ColorBrave. She loves watching her teenage daughter Mila’s theater performances, going on family hikes, reading, and listening to podcasts while running.
Jeff Kingsbury
Managing Principal
Greenstreet

Jeff Kingsbury is managing principal of Greenstreet Ltd., an Indianapolis-based strategic planning and real estate practice which specializes in leveraging sustainable strategies in the redevelopment of urban places. With experience in real estate development, brokerage, and consulting, Greenstreet works to bridge the planning and development process and create plans and implementation strategies that are both visionary and actionable, yielding economic, environmental, and social returns which benefit the client, community, and investor.

Jeff’s experience includes over twenty-five years in the planning and development of thirty urban, suburban, and rural communities throughout the United States, encompassing over 35,000 acres. He has been a principal in the development and disposition of over $350 million in real estate, and consulted on planning, economic development, and regulatory issues for private sector clients as well as cities, counties, and non-profits in sixteen states and two foreign countries. Jeff has been a senior advisor to Cherokee, the leading private equity firm investing capital and expertise in brownfield redevelopment, with more than $2 billion under management.

Large-scale urban redevelopment projects are a central theme of his career. As a developer, he was part of the builder team which redeveloped the former 4,700-acre Stapleton International Airport, and the 1,866-acre Lowry Air Force Base in Denver. In recent years, Jeff led multi-disciplinary teams in the crafting of a vision plan and market-based development strategy for the 1,100-acre Purdue Innovation District in West Lafayette for the Purdue Research Foundation, and the 103-acre former General Motors Stamping Plant in downtown Indianapolis, on behalf of the City of Indianapolis. Jeff is also a partner in Electric Works, the $250 million adaptive reuse and redevelopment of the 39-acre, 1.2 million square foot former General Electric campus in downtown Fort Wayne.

Jeff is the founding Chairman of the Redevelopment and Reuse Council of the Urban Land Institute and served as Chairman of the Sustainable Development Council, a juror on the Institute’s Global Awards for Excellence Jury, and an advisor for the Committee on Climate Change, Land Use, and Energy. He is a co-author of the book Developing Sustainable Planned Communities (ULI, 2007), a peer reviewer of the text Professional Real Estate Development, 3rd Edition (ULI, 2012), as well as a teacher and frequent speaker for such organizations as Georgetown University, Pace University, University of Indianapolis, The Conservation Fund, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Association of Home Builders, and the Urban Land Institute.

Tanya Rakpraja
Head of Corporate Responsibility and Government Relations
Annaly

Tanya Rakpraja has nearly 20 years of experience working in finance, community development and public policy. Prior to joining Annaly in 2018, Ms. Rakpraja served as Senior Director of Strategic Lending Initiatives at Capital Impact Partners, the Community Development Financial Institution with which Annaly has a social impact joint venture. Prior to that, Ms. Rakpraja was at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for six years where she designed and managed financial market facilities established during the financial crisis after starting her career working on community development and poverty reduction strategies both domestically and internationally for six years. Ms. Rakpraja received a B.A from Brown University and a M.P.A from Princeton University.
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. @brianHhurd