



Healthy Homes and Communities

Special Edition Member Discussion Speakers

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Leon D. Caldwell

Senior Director of Health Equity Strategy and Innovations at the American Hospital Association and founder of Ujima Developers

Dr. Leon D. Caldwell is an award-winning community-based-researcher, social entrepreneur, and transformational leader. Ujima Developers was founded on the premise that communities can be transformed with intentional investments to improve the life outcomes of residents. Dr. Caldwell has been involved in real estate as a developer, builder, investor, and property manager since 1999.

A West Philadelphia native, Dr. Caldwell graduated from Our Mother of Sorrows, the William Penn Charter School, then received a BA in Economics and M.Ed. in School Counseling from Lehigh University and a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Penn State. Following earning his doctorate, he was a staff psychologist at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He has held rank and tenure as an Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln; the University of Memphis and directed a community research center at Rhodes College. After a successful career as an Associate Professor, award-winning community-based researcher, national thought leader on Black men and boys health, social entrepreneur and Senior Leader in the Philanthropic sector and author with over 50 national and international publications, he established Ujima Developers, LLC as a public health intervention for blighted neighborhoods.



Kerry Margaret Butch

Program Specialist at the Rutgers Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute

Kerry Margaret Butch is the Community Engagement Coordinator for Rutgers Center for Environmental Exposures and Disease. Her prior positions include serving as the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey (LWVNJ), Urban Project Director of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), Executive Director of the Asbury Park Consortium, and community organizer for the Ironbound Community Corporation and New Jersey Citizen Action. Notably, she produced the award-winning documentary entitled, “Greetings from Asbury Park” shown throughout the country and on PBS in 2009, and assembled the same crew to create “Storming for the Vote: Hurricane Sandy and the Election” for the LWVNJ in 2013. She is also a long-time board member of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance.



Geovanni Cantizano

Program Manager at PRAC of Southern New Jersey

Geovanni Cantizano has been active in the field of human services for 25+ years, focusing on assisting individuals and families reach their full potential through one on one and group counseling, workforce development, soft skills training and program management in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Washington, D.C. Mr. Cantizano has managed program and operations for institutions such as ResCare (the largest for profit human services provider in the country), Maximus, Inc., Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation and Ft. George Community Enrichment Center (Headstart). In addition, he has three years of experience as a counselor for victims of domestic violence and victims of crimes in general. He currently serves as program manager for PRAC of Southern NJ, Inc., and delivers services through the health and wellness program, Residential Maintenance Program, Assisted Transportation Program, and the Housekeeping Program throughout Salem County, NJ.



Kim Gaddy

Founder and Director of the South Ward Environmental Alliance and National Environmental Justice Director for Clean Water Action

Kim Gaddy has been advocating for communities impacted by industrial pollution and the goods movement system in Newark and across the country for 18 years. Ms. Gaddy develops and implements grassroots environmental justice campaigns and coalition building efforts nationally and in New Jersey. She is a former Newark School Board Member, New York/New Jersey Regional Representative for the Moving Forward Network, Port Commissioner for the City of Newark, Appointed by Governor Phil Murphy to serve as Vice-Chair of the NJDEP's Environmental Justice Advisory Council, former Chair of both the Newark Environmental Commission and the Essex County Environmental Commission, a founding member of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance and New Jersey President of the International Black Women's Congress.

**Christine Guhl-Sadovy**

President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

Christine Guhl-Sadovy was appointed by Governor Phil Murphy as President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities in 2023. Prior to her nomination, she served as Cabinet Secretary in the Governor's senior staff. President Guhl-Sadovy previously worked at NJBPU, where she rose to the position Chief of Staff under President Joe Fiordaliso, helping to spearhead Governor Murphy's clean energy agenda. During her time as NJBPU Chief of Staff, Ms. Guhl-Sadovy worked on several key initiatives of the Administration including the 2019 Energy Master Plan, implementation of the 2018 Clean Energy Act, and development of the State's electric vehicle incentive program.



Prior to serving in the Murphy Administration, Ms. Guhl-Sadovy worked as the Legislative and Political Director for Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey. President Guhl-Sadovy is a lifelong New Jersey resident. She received her bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and serves on the board of Anchor House, Inc., a Trenton-based youth homelessness organization.

Kia King

Chief of Staff of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs

Kia King serves as the Director of Policy and External Affairs for the Department of Community Affairs, handling various legislative and policy matters that impact the Department. Ms. King began her legal career clerking for the Honorable Lisa P. Thornton, A.J.S.C. of the Monmouth Vicinage. She served as Assistant Counsel for the Monmouth County Division of Social Services handling family dissolution and public assistance cases and then as Special County Counsel for the County of Monmouth working on public procurement matters. She then worked for the New Jersey Office of the State Comptroller as their Chief Administrative Officer for several years managing various administrative and human resources functions for the agency. Thereafter, she worked for the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development as the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Officer and Ethics Liaison Officer, overseeing the Department's Office of Diversity and Compliance. Ms. King received her BA from Colgate University (magna cum laude) and obtained her Juris Doctor from William and Mary Law School.

**Sasha Lowery**

Community Development Manager and Passaic Habitat for Humanity

Sasha Lowery serves as the Community Development Manager at Passaic County Habitat for Humanity, bringing seven years of dedicated experience in social services and advocacy to her role. With a strong commitment to altruism and community development, Ms. Lowery is deeply passionate about addressing the challenges faced by low-income communities.

**Heather Sorge**

Program Manager at Lead Free New Jersey

Ms. Sorge is the Lead-Free NJ program manager and oversees its day-to-day operations. Lead-Free NJ is a new inclusive and equitable collaborative focused on addressing lead hazards and preventing childhood lead poisoning. Her work is centered on facilitating a diverse statewide network that hopes to ultimately ensure the eradication of childhood lead poisoning in New Jersey within 10 years. Prior to joining New Jersey Future, Ms. Sorge was the organizer for Healthy Schools Now with the New Jersey Work Environment Council (WEC), a coalition of over 80 organizations representing a diverse set of stakeholders



dedicated to ensuring all New Jersey children and school employees learn and work in safe, healthy, modernized school buildings.

Sean Straton

Program Specialist at the Rutgers Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute

Sean Straton is a 4th year PhD candidate at the School of Public Health in the department of Environmental and Occupational Health Science and Justice. Sean graduated from Rutgers University in 2015 with a bachelor’s degree in environmental science. He then completed his Master of Public Health from Rutgers School of Public Health in 2020. Mr. Straton is currently working with Shereyl Snider and the East Trenton Collaborative on a community-based project to identify lead exposure sources and provide interventions to reduce lead exposure to residents.



Chris Sturm

Policy Director for Land Use at NJ Future

As New Jersey Future’s Policy Director for Land Use, Chris Sturm leads the team working to ensure every New Jerseyan can find a stable home in a community that is resilient, well-connected, healthy, and prosperous. Previously, she spearheaded NJF’s efforts to transform water infrastructure, working with colleagues to launch successful collaborations, including Jersey Water Works, Lead-Free NJ, Sewage-Free Streets and Rivers, and the Clean Water, Healthy Families, and Good Jobs campaign. Ms. Sturm has achieved lasting change in state laws, rules, and spending through policy development and advocacy, informed and strengthened by many partners, including those directly impacted. Her career experience includes serving as the assistant director of the Capital City Redevelopment Corporation. She holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan and a master’s degree in Public Affairs from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, where she concentrated in Urban and Regional Planning.



Janel Winter

Assistant Commissioner and Director, Division of Housing and Community Resources, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs

Janel Winter directs the work of the Division of Housing and Community Resources at the Department of Community Affairs. The Division has more than 300 staff and 14 field offices and a portfolio ranging from administration of rental assistance to the Office of Eviction Prevention to housing production funds and much more. Since the start of the pandemic the Division has administered more than \$2 billion in Covid-related assistance funds, including launching, and implementing the \$500 million Eviction Prevention Program and distributing more than \$750 million in Emergency Rental Assistance Program Funds to more than 80,000 households. Over the past year more than 120,000 households have received rental assistance and more than 300,000 households have received utility assistance through the Division's programs.

