



Session 4
Access: Affordability and Advocacy

Wednesday, October 7

- 4:00 pm **Welcome Back**
Jessica Dauphin, Transit Alliance of Middle TN
- 4:05 pm **Affordable Housing**
Kelsey Oesmann, Urban Housing Solutions
- 4:35 pm **Organizing for Equitable Development**
Jackie Paul Sims, People's Alliance for Transit,
Housing and Employment (PATHE)
- 5:05 pm **The Built Environment**
Eric Hoke, Nashville Civic Design Center
- 5:35 pm **Group Work**
Report out presentations and surveys



KELSEY OESMANN

Design Initiative Manager, Urban Housing Solutions

Kelsey is a licensed architect and the Design Initiatives Manager with Urban Housing Solutions, Nashville's leading nonprofit provider of affordable housing. Kelsey is passionate about using design to build more accessible and resilient communities by integrating creative resident and neighborhood engagement, public health, and sustainability. After earning her Bachelors of Architecture from Virginia Tech in 2014, she spent three years working in Washington, DC before biking across the country to raise funds and awareness for affordable housing.

In 2017, she relocated to Nashville for the Enterprise Rose Fellowship and was jointly hosted by Urban Housing Solutions and the Nashville Civic Design Center (NCDC), contributing to the construction and preservation of more than 500 affordable apartments through 2019. Kelsey currently serves as the chair of the Government Advocacy Committee for the Middle Tennessee chapter of the American Institute of Architects and is an active member of the Urban Land Institute Housing Action Council. She is the author of the NCDC Affordable Housing 101 Toolkit and creator of the Game of Rent, and never leaves home without a good pen.



JACKIE PAUL SIMMS

People's Alliance for Transit, Housing and Employment (PATHE)

Jackie has served the Nashville community for the past eleven years as a community organizer and an activist. Prior to moving to Nashville she spent over ten years as a mental health professional working with persons who were victims of the most violent crimes.

Her work now has been centered around justice and equity. This work is very intersectional and requires the efforts and commitments of various grassroots organizations in the community. The lives of the persons she serves as part of a collective is more of a calling than a job. It is often difficult to see and end in sight. Affordable housing, equitable transit, quality education, access to health care, environmental and criminal justice each are all pretty dire which makes them challenging to prioritize. These past 12 years of both her work as an activist and a serious deeper dive into an accurate account of this nation's history have revealed how vast and intentional are all the many inequities. Liberty and justice for all, are a figment of the American imagination. I do however continue to have hope that one day we can live up to the promise of the nation for all people.

Jackie's work in the community was inspired and shaped by her training under Dr. James Lawson ;so it was done through a spiritual lens. This is what provides her the endurance to press forward through all the many recent steps backward.

As one of the founding members of the grassroots organization, Democracy Nashville/ Democratic Communities, she has discovered her most impactful work has been that of



guidance and instruction to new activists and communicating the importance of remaining grounded. Successes come more often when we set aside self and ambition and work in harmony with one another. That is one of our greater strengths. Criminal justice reforms is where we have realized meaningful success. The Ban the Box campaign and the creation of the Community Oversight Board were both important achievements for the people. We continue to work with both public and private entities to seek solutions to harmful displacement triggered by aggressive development in indigenous communities.

Finally in an election year much attention will be paid to voter protection, looking for ways to offset voter suppression and educating the community on how to participate in the redistricting process. As organizers we would not prefer to find ourselves in another lawsuit against the state of TN.



ERIC HOKE

Design Director, Nashville Civic Design Center

Eric grew up in the Chicago area but now calls Nashville home. He earned a bachelor's degree in Interior Architecture from Ohio University and specialized in graphics and 3D models. His thesis, a high-speed rail hub that would be located in Chicago, was designed to connect the Midwest by efficient train travel. Since then he has worked for several design related organizations. He worked at a residential architecture firm, a medical clean-room design company, designed dorm room furniture and does graphic design.

Eric joined the Civic Design Center in 2012 as a design fellow and is now the Design Director. He manages visual graphics production, and leads design and styling of the marketing, programming, and publications for the organization. He also helps oversee the Civic Design Center's Design Studio and Manages TURBO Nashville (Tactical URBanism Organizers).