

National Land Reuse Health Program **Brownfields and Land Reuse Working Network (BROWN)**

May 2020



**U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services**
Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry

ATSDR National Land Reuse Health Program and Partnerships

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) National Land Reuse Health Program loves its partners. To expand our reach, we collaborate with experts who help create healthy communities.

Who We Are

Our Brownfields and Reuse Opportunity Working Network (BROWN) is composed of experts from these agencies and fields:

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
State Health Agencies
Local Health Agencies
Academia
Agriculture / Urban Agriculture
Rural Health and Planning
Brownfields Redevelopment
Community Outreach and Education
Economic Development
Educational Film / Video
Food Systems / Food Policy
National Association of County and City Health Officials
Smart Growth / Built Environment
Technical Assistance to Brownfields
Urban Planning

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ATSDR BROWN Members

At least one ATSDR staff member from each regional office participates in the Steering Committee as active members or advisors. Advisors to the Steering Committee stay abreast of Steering Committee activities, ensure that they provide resources to the Steering Committee for collaborative projects, and support Steering Committee projects.

Acknowledgement



Tina Forrester,
Retired, ATSDR

BROWN members from the ATSDR Land Reuse Team credit Dr. Tina Forrester, who retired from ATSDR in 2019, as the champion and founding member of ATSDR's original Brownfields/Land Reuse Health Initiative, now the Land Reuse Health Program (Land Reuse Program). She built the program into a national effort that funded 39 pilot projects and provided technical assistance to land reuse communities across the country. Dr. Forrester has Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in Toxicology from the University of Kentucky. Dr. Forrester worked with ATSDR for more than 25 years.

ATSDR Land Reuse Team

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Dr. Laurel Berman is an Environmental Health Scientist who has served as ATSDR's lead on land reuse in the Land Reuse Program. The Land Reuse Program integrates public health and redevelopment from the early planning stages. Dr. Berman brings her skills to the Initiative from a long career as an environmental scientist and a community organizer. She helped the Land Reuse Program create tools and resources to construct healthier communities through revitalization practices. From 2016 – 2019, Dr. Berman was part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of

Health Leaders Program. While in the program, she was able to leverage funding to promote Healthfields, the safe reuse of land to improve health, through ATSDR's Community Partnerships program, including in Navajo Nation. The Navajo Community Partnership resulted in the development of the Healthfields Redevelopment Coalition, a plan for a vendor crafts village in Chinle, AZ, and ongoing assessment of a former sawmill sites in Red Lake, NM. In 2019, Dr. Berman led ATSDR's effort to create an Environmental Health and Land Reuse Certificate training course. She began her environmental career working as a civil/environmental engineer, which led her to pursue graduate studies in public health. She holds Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences from the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health, with a focus on industrial hygiene and toxicology.



Leann Bing,
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Kathryn Leann Lemley Bing (Leann) is an Environmental Health Scientist working as an ATSDR regional representative in Atlanta, GA. Leann has more than 20 years working experience in environmental health. She graduated from the University of SC with B.S. degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Biology in 1991. Leann has specialized expertise working in brownfield/land

reuse communities. She helped create tools, resources, and "how to" videos to encourage communities to protect and promote community health in brownfields and land reuse projects. Leann has provided environmental health assistance and education at RCRA, Superfund, and brownfields hazardous waste sites. Leann has partnered with EPA to celebrate Children's Health Month by providing environmental health education to middle and high school students.



Gary Perlman,
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Captain Gary Perlman is an Environmental Health Officer with the U.S. Public Health Service currently working at ATSDR in Boston. Gary has been working in environmental health for over 20 years. He provided environmental health support during the mustard agent incident in New Bedford, MA, and to residents of LA during the public health response shortly after Hurricane Katrina made landfall, focusing on the Murphy oil spill. He also has provided environmental health support on several occasions for large toxic fires or explosions. He provided the same support to the Group of 8 Summit in GA, the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, and several other National Special Security Events. He is currently working with the Penobscot Indian

Nation to assess contaminant levels in food items in their traditional diet. He has assisted with developing several public health software tools to help first responders and other personnel assess chemical contamination throughout the United States, Canada, France, and Romania. Gary shared these software tools with Tribal attendees at the National Tribal Science Council, and the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed. He incorporated some of their suggestions to enhance the tools. Gary is also an EMT-B, a licensed amateur radio operator, and a Registered Sanitarian (M.A.).

ATSDR Division of Community Health Investigations



Loretta Asbury, M.Ed.,
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Loretta Asbury is a Health Communication Specialist with ATSDR in Atlanta, GA. Loretta has 34 years of specialized expertise in the areas of communication, community involvement, environmental justice, health communication, health education, policy/legislative affairs, media relations, public affairs, and public health cooperative agreement programs. Loretta has worked with communities across the U.S. in addressing environmental public health concerns

and collaborated with partners to address concerns, eliminate disparities, and promote healthy communities. She has provided support to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on national public health emergency responses serving as a Communication Lead, Ebola Emergency Response Epidemic; Lead Coordinator, ATSDR CDC-INFO COVID-19 Pandemic Response; and as a Health Communication Specialist supporting community involvement, communication, and health education efforts, Hurricane Katrina and World Trade Center Response Teams. She has also served as a Designated Federal Official (DFO) for the Oak Ridge Health Effects Subcommittee in Oak Ridge, TN. She has a bachelor's degree from Florida A&M University and Master of Education degree from Strayer University.

ATSDR Liaison Office to EPA Headquarters



Steven L. Jones,
Regional Director,
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Steven L. Jones is Regional Director, ATSDR Liaison Office to EPA Headquarters, Division of Community Health Investigations, Washington, D.C. Steve coordinates liaison activities between ATSDR and the U. S. EPA Headquarters offices

in Washington, DC. These activities involve programmatic and policy discussions, including developing guidance and regulations, and coordinating national precedent-setting issues related to hazardous waste sites. Much of this interaction includes coordinating with EPA on community engagement, risk communication, and public health issues. Accomplishing these duties is especially important for land revitalization and brownfields and helps integrate public health into redevelopment activities that improve the quality of life for communities. Steve has been with ATSDR for over 20 years. Before assuming his current position, he was in the ATSDR Region 2 Office in New York City (1992–1996); he also worked for the EPA Superfund Program in the Region 7 Kansas City Office as a remedial project manager (1987–1992). He has a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering, a M.S. degree in Environmental Engineering, and over 30 years in the environmental field.

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Ana Pomales Schickli,
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Ana Pomales joined the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry in Philadelphia in 2006 as an environmental health scientist. She works with state and federal agencies to evaluate environmental health issues or other environmental hazards associated with hazardous waste sites and facilities. She is responsible for communicating the findings of these evaluations to various stakeholders including state agencies and communities. Ana attended University of Puerto Rico, where she received her B.S. in Interdisciplinary (Natural) Sciences and her M.S. in Environmental Health.

**ATSDR Region 4 Office,
Division of Community Health
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Sue Casteel,
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Sue Casteel has B.A. and M.S. degrees in Occupational and Environmental Health and has worked at public health agencies as an environmental health scientist and environmental epidemiologist for 30 years. She is currently working as a Health Education and Community Involvement Coordinator for ATSDR. In this capacity, she works with communities and Tribes to answer environmental health questions and address their public health concerns. She helps empower communities by giving them the tools they need to make their communities healthier places to live. Sue has expertise in disaster preparedness and communication, and assists EPA, FEMA, state and local emergency personnel, and other partners during mercury emergency events by addressing health-related issues associated with the events.

**ATSDR Region 5 Office, Division of
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**ATSDR Region 7 Office Division of
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Cory Kokko,
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Lieutenant Commander Cory Kokko is an Environmental Health Officer for the United States Public Health Service and serves to protect communities from harmful health effects related to exposures to natural and man-made hazardous substances. Cory worked with the City of Joplin,

MO to implement an ATSDR Action Model to address healthy redevelopment in the wake of a tornado and with the “Bootheel” region of MO to create an Action Model redevelopment plan for Howardville, MO. She previously worked for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a sister agency to ATSDR, where she similarly worked in public health emergency response and environmental health program development. Cory attended Emory University, where she received a dual Bachelors degree in Music and Biopsychology and a Masters in Public Health focusing on Environmental and Occupational Health.

ATSDR Region 8 Office, Division of Community Health Investigation, Denver, CO

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Ben Gerhardstein,
Regional Representative

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Ben Gerhardstein is a Public Health Advisor and Regional Representative with ATSDR’s Pacific

Southwest (Region 9) Office, based in San Francisco, CA. Prior to working with the Region 9 team, he served for 4 years in the National Center for Environmental Health/ATSDR Office of Program Development. There he helped lead the National Conversation on Public Health and Chemical Exposures, a major public involvement initiative that developed recommendations for better protecting the U.S. public from harmful chemical exposures. He also contributed to several transportation and health projects in that position. As a CDC Presidential Management Fellow, Ben completed a rotation focused on pedestrian-safety issues with the San Francisco Department of Public Health. Ben also holds an adjunct faculty position at Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health, where he has taught a course on public health and the built environment. Before coming into public health, he worked at the Environmental Law Institute in Washington, DC. Ben received a B.A. degree from Brown University and an M.P.H. degree from Emory University. An adventurous soul, Ben is an avid rock climber, wilderness trekker, and urban cyclist.

ATSDR Region 10 Office, Division of Community Health Investigation, Seattle WA



CDR Arthur Wendel, M.D., M.P.H.,
Regional Representative

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CDR Arthur Wendel is a Medical Officer and Regional Representative with ATSDR's Region 10 (Northwest) Office, based in Seattle. He is a board-certified physician in family medicine and preventive medicine, and he is a US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Officer. CDR Wendel joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer stationed with the Wisconsin Bureau of Environmental and Occupation Health.

Prior to joining ATSDR in 2015, he led the Healthy Community Design Initiative within CDC's National Center for Environmental Health. Under CDR Wendel's leadership, his team worked with public health, transportation, and land-use partners to develop, test, and implement a variety of novel strategies, including Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and transportation and health modeling, to help communities improve health outcomes through transportation and land-use choices.

EPA BROWN Members

**EPA Headquarters,
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Ann Carroll,
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Ann Carroll has more than 25 years of experience working on environmental protection and health issues, including the last 10 years with the U.S. EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization. Ann has also worked with the National Governor's Association, the former Office of Technology Assessment, the U.S. Congress, and internationally with the New South Wales Environmental Protection Authority. Ann has a B.S. degree in biology and an M.P.H. degree in environmental health. She is working on her doctorate in Environmental Health Sciences and Policy at the Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she was a Center for a Livable Future Fellow in 2010 and 2011.



Steven D. McNeely,
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Steven D. McNeely served as a Senior Environmental Protection Specialist with EPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST). During his 31+ years with EPA, he served as liaison officer and coordinated efforts with various regional and state (UST/LUST) programs to improve the operation and performance of their corrective action and revitalization programs. From 1993 to 1998, he served as project officer and managed EPA's petroleum risk-based corrective action (RBCA) training cooperative agreement with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). In 1996, Steve received an individual gold medal for managing the ASTM RBCA Partnership for RBCA Implementation (PIRI) that facilitated the delivery of RBCA training. Steve recently served as OUST's petroleum revitalization team leader. In that capacity, he worked with various public and private entities to help streamline the assessment, cleanup, and subsequent reuse of sites affected by petroleum. He also served as a technical advisor to a cooperative agreement awarded to Smart Growth America, which is part of an educational campaign designed to help educate and inform various

stakeholders of the opportunities and challenges associated with “the difficult business of building on old gas stations.” (See <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/2012/07/12/the-difficult-business-of-building-on-old-gas-stations/> for more information about this campaign.)



B. Suzi Ruhl,
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B. Suzi Ruhl is a Senior Attorney Advisor for the U.S. EPA's Office of Environmental Justice. She works to ensure that environmental justice is integrated into the EPA National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as well as EPA permitting and rulemaking.

In this position, she supports community-based action and fosters administration-wide action that promotes healthy and sustainable communities for environmentally burdened and medically underserved populations. Suzi co-chairs NEPA's Committee of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice, and co-chairs Team-EJ of the HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities. Before coming to EPA, Suzi was the Director of the Public Health and Law Program for the Environmental Law Institute. She is also the founder and former President of the Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation, Inc. (LEAF). Suzi has been an Assistant Clinical Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at the NY State University School of Optometry and has had a Courtesy Faculty Appointment to the Institute of Public Health at FL A&M University. In addition to her law degree, Suzi has an M.P.H. degree in Epidemiology. She is admitted to the bars of the Northern District of Florida and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences BROWN Members



Heather Henry,
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Heather Henry, Ph.D., is a health science administrator for the NIEHS and oversees Superfund Research Program (SRP) grants that span human health toxicology, risk assessment, detection technologies, and remediation approaches. She provides guidance to potential applicants for SRP's Multiproject Center Grants (P42s), Individual Research Grants (R01s), Small Business/Technology Transfer Grants (R41-44; SBIR/STTR), and Conference Grants (R13). Heather studied plant-based environmental remediation (phytoremediation) and ecological restoration as part of her doctoral work at the University of Cincinnati and as a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Melbourne and University of Adelaide in Australia. She has been with NIEHS since 2006.



Michelle Heacock,
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Michelle Heacock, Ph.D., is a member of the Superfund Research Program at the NIEHS, in Research Triangle Park, NC, and participates in programmatic activities and building partnerships to enhance the use of SRP research findings. She received her doctorate from TX A & M University in College Station, TX, for her work on the interplay between DNA repair proteins and telomeres. She conducted her postdoctoral work at in the DNA repair pathway, Base Excision Repair, at NIEHS. Her research focused on understanding the causes of DNA cellular toxicity caused by exposure to DNA damaging agents.

CDC's National Center for Environmental Health BROWN Members



Chris Kochtitzky,
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(In Memoriam, May 2020)

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Chris Kochtitzky is a Senior Advisor on the CDC Physical Activity Translation & Evaluation Team. Chris also holds an adjunct faculty position in Emory University's Rollins School of Public

Health. Chris is a member of the American Public Health Association and the American Planning Association. During his career, his personal areas of research interest have included health policy analysis, environmental public health law, environmental health services, and health promotion for potentially vulnerable populations. Most recently, he has focused on analyzing the impacts of local community design, built environment, and transportation system choices on public health areas such as physical activity promotion, injury prevention, and environmental health. He holds a Master of Science in Planning from Florida State University.

Advisor: LCDR Joseph Ralph,
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U.S. Department Of Housing And Urban Development BROWN Members

Advisor: Brian Burns,
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Brian Burns is a Construction Analyst with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Chicago Region V, Office of Multifamily Housing.

He has over 13 years of experience working on new construction, substantial redevelopments, and reviewing existing physical/environmental assessments. Brian also has over four years of experience in the building design/construction development industry. Brian has a Bachelors degree in Architecture from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a Masters degree in Urban Planning and Public Policy from University of Illinois at Chicago

State Health Agency BROWN Members



Catherine Bullwinkle,
Retired Project Coordinator
from New York State Department of Health,
Albany, NY

Catherine Bullwinkle was a Project Coordinator in the New York State Health Department's Center for Environmental Health, Outreach and Education sector. Ms. Bullwinkle was the Project Coordinator for the ATSDR Brownfields Grant Projects in Albany and Utica, NY. She was responsible for project management including community assessment, developing community engagement to identify and prioritize land reuse projects, and for the development of survey instruments, tool kits and

videos related to the design and implementation of community gardens. Her work included the development of seven community garden projects in Utica, NY, the development of a Children's Garden Project, a Horticulture Training Project for newly arrived refugees offered in six languages, and a micro-greens training project. Prior to joining the department, for seven years she was the Project Manager for the Oneida County Health Department's Lead Primary Prevention Program. In this position, Ms. Bullwinkle was responsible for developing the county's strategic plan for eliminating childhood lead poisoning, and for the design and implementation of its successful lead primary prevention program. Ms. Bullwinkle is a registered nurse and worked in the field of public health for over 35 years. She is still engaged in BROWN. In 2014, she was the recipient of the EPA Environmental Quality Award for her work in brownfield/land reuse and lead hazard reduction projects in Utica, NY.



Melissa Frisbie,
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Melissa Frisbie is a research scientist and communications coordinator for New York State's Center for Environmental Health, in the Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology. Ms. Frisbie is a member of New York State's Environmental Public Health Tracking Program as its communications coordinator. She works to develop communications, health messaging, health education materials and completes outreach activities for EPHT. Ms. Frisbie also serves as a member of several ATSDR sponsored brownfields projects throughout New York State, using her skills in community engagement to help prioritize community health in brownfield/land reuse projects. Ms. Frisbie has developed special interest and experience in community engagement tools for these projects, she has worked with communities in New York State to complete several Photovoice projects, public participatory GIS, and walkability assessments. Ms. Frisbie attended Siena College and received her M.P.H. from the State University of New York at Albany's School of Public Health.

Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division, Portland, OR



Kari Christensen,
Public Health Educator

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Kari Christensen coordinated the Brownfield Initiative at OR's State Public Health Division. In this role, Kari developed health education, facilitated community involvement, and represented public health interests with stakeholders working to assess, clean up, or redevelop brownfield sites. Her "BROWN replacement" is her colleague **Courtney Fultineer**.

Christensen's career in health spans multiple sectors including healthcare, through her work as a nurse at Mayo Clinic's Methodist and Saint Mary's Hospitals in Rochester, MN; industry, in employee health and productivity management for BP in Anchorage and Prudhoe Bay, AK; and academia, in toxicology and risk communication at the National Pesticide Information Center at OR State University (OSU) in Corvallis, OR. Kari received an M.P.H. degree with an environmental focus from OSU and a B.S. degree in Health Promotion and Wellness from the University of WI. She is a certified master gardener who enjoys tending to her urban farm, hiking, mushroom hunting, fly fishing, yoga, and urban commuting on foot or by bike.

Local Health Agency BROWN Members

Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Cleveland, OH



Domenica McClintock, MPH, RS,
Public Health Supervisor,
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Domenica McClintock is a Public Health Supervisor at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health within the Environmental Public Health Service area. She has 11 years of public health experience and currently oversees water quality programming (sewage treatment systems, semi-public sewage treatment systems, solid waste, storm water, and private water) within environmental public health services in addition to assisting with coordinating county wide efforts for brownfield redevelopment, Health Impact Assessments, Health in All Policy and Safe Routes to Schools. She has served and currently participates on various local, regional, and national work groups, steering committees, and advisory committees related to Health Impact Assessments, equity, brownfield redevelopment and Safe Routes to Schools. Domenica earned a B.A. degree in Community Health from Malone University in Canton, Ohio and her M.P.H. from West Virginia University, Morgantown West Virginia.

Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness, Atlanta, GA



Monica Robinson,
Environmental Planner,
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Monica Robinson is currently a Health Program Manager with the Fulton County Board of Health. She has 20+ years of public health experience and served as the Environmental Planner coordinating the Environmental Justice Program in the Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness since its initiation in April 2010. The Environmental Justice Program recommends policy changes for the Fulton County government. In her role, Ms. Robinson provides public health input to policy, pre-development, and planning proposals while educating residential and business communities and promoting environmental justice. She has served and currently participates on various work groups, steering committees, and advisory committees related to Health Impact Assessments, redevelopment, equity, and brownfields. She began her public health career in Environmental Health Services with the Fulton County Department of Health

and Wellness. While in Environmental Health Services, her areas of expertise were in food service, solid waste, commercial and residential development, onsite sewage management systems, onsite water supply systems,

swimming pools, and tourist accommodations. Monica Robinson earned a B.S. degree and an M.B.A. degree from Mercer University in Macon, GA, and Atlanta, GA, respectively.

Non-Agency and Municipal Government BROWN Members



Miles Ballogg,
Brownfields and Economic Development
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Miles is the Brownfields and Economic Development Director for Cardno, Inc. Group in Clearwater, FL. Miles helps both public and private sector clients redevelop environmentally impaired and challenged properties. Miles has been involved with developing, managing, and implementing both federal and state brownfields programs for the past sixteen years. Miles believes that brownfields projects should be community

driven with a focus to benefit the community by improving overall economic and public health conditions of the residents of the community. He is a leading advocate and promotes environmental justice and public health through brownfields redevelopment. Miles has an extensive public health background gained while serving in Environmental Health and Environmental Health Engineering positions with the Pinellas County Health Department for more than 6 years. Miles was the City Brownfields and Redevelopment Manager for the Willa Carson Health Resource Center in Clearwater, FL, and served on their Board of Directors for more than 9 years. The Willa Carson Health Resource Center is a former abandoned gas station that was transformed into a free clinic that treats more than 3,500 patients a year and a national model for brownfields to public health. Miles has served as past co-chair of the FL Brownfields Environmental Justice and Public Health Committee and is leading a national Improving Access to Health and Health Care through Brownfields Redevelopment (“Healthfields”) Initiative.

Yolanda Bouchee, Green Historic Preservation and Economic Development Specialist



Yolanda Bouchee, M.B.A.,
Retired in August 2019 as Chief of
Brownfields and Land Revitalization at
USEPA, Region 5.

She was also EPA's only Green Historic Preservation Specialist. Yolanda now helps communities through her own consulting company called Revitalized Communities. She works with historic main street districts to help them with business development, stakeholder partnerships and the sustainable preservation of their historic character. In addition to running her company, Yolanda also teaches in the undergraduate program in Public Health at the University of Illinois. Ms. Bouchee has a BA in Journalism, an MBA degree in Program Management, and post graduate certifications in Historic Preservation and Interior Design.



Colleen Cain,
UrbanKind Institute, Pittsburgh, PA

Colleen Cain, Ph.D., is an analyst at Allegheny County's Department of Human Services (in Pittsburgh, PA). She has worked as a researcher at UrbanKind Institute, at University of Pittsburgh's Center for Social and Urban Research, and at the Washington, DC-based Northeast-Midwest Institute. Cain received a B.A. degree in sociology from John Carroll University, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in sociology from the University of Florida.

The Center for Creative Land Recycling, a Technical Assistance to Brownfields Center



Jean Hamerman,
Deputy Director

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Jean Hamerman is the Center for Creative Leadership's (CCLR's) Deputy Director and works in CCLR's New York office to manage EPA Region 2 programs. Jean started her career in commercial lending and later worked with ACCION New York to grow their micro lending program. She continued to advocate for small businesses as Deputy Commissioner for Business Assistance at NYC Department of Small Business Services. A life-long advocate for the environment, consulted on residential retrofits and eco-efficiency measures through her company, NeighborGreen. She has been active in Sustainable Westchester and the Hastings on Hudson Conservation Commission and serves on the boards of WeFutureCycle and

GreenHomeNYC. Jean has an MBA from New York University and certificates in Building Envelope/ Energy Efficiency from the Building Performance Institute and Sustainability Analytics from Columbia University.



Ignacio Dayrit,
Director of Programs

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Ignacio coordinates CCLR's technical assistance program for redevelopment projects. Ignacio is a redevelopment expert having spent 20 years with the City of Emeryville's Redevelopment Agency, where he was responsible for the city's Brownfield Pilot Project. He has over 23 years of experience in public sector development including: fiscal and financial analysis, public debt financing, feasibility analyses, and urban design. Ignacio was instrumental in the City's redevelopment of hundreds of acres of blighted, contaminated property. He holds a BS in Architecture from the University of the Philippines and a Masters in City Planning from the University of California, Berkeley.



Simone Charles,
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Dr. Charles is an Environmental Health Scientist with expertise in children's health, community-based participatory research (CBPR), health equity, and environmental justice. She is focused on building a research protocol that uses CBPR principles to advance the health of rural children. In collaboration with cross-disciplinary teams, her research has included leading the development of a community-based, community-led strategic plan for addressing tobacco-related health disparities in a rural southeastern community in GA; evaluating initiatives to address African-American health and healthcare disparities; developing and testing efficacy of community-based healthy household hazard exposure prevention initiatives; evaluating childhood asthma management and intervention; behavioral change interventions related to obesity and healthy eating; system level initiatives to increase rural healthcare access; assessing migrant health disparities; health impact assessments; implementing and evaluating interventions and community building initiatives aimed at increasing awareness and addressing social factors associated with health disparities; and various other community participatory research initiatives. Dr.

Charles has built strong community collaborations with state department members (e.g., Georgia Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program), local health departments, children's medical services, local school nurses, local schools, local churches, and other key community stakeholders. She is currently the Community Engagement and Outreach Core Director (Co-Investigator) of the recently funded Center of Excellence for Eliminating Health Disparities at GA Southern University. Dr. Charles also established GA Southern University as a Healthy Housing training partner (one of only 2 such sites in GA) under National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH).



Stephanie DeFlorio-Barker,
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Dr. DeFlorio-Barker joined BROWN while a research affiliate with University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health. Dr. DeFlorio-Barker served as an Environmental Policy Analyst with the American Medical Association. Her work covered a variety of public health issues, focused on environmental policy concerns. She currently works with US EPA as a researcher and environmental epidemiologist. Dr. DeFlorio-Barker received a B.S. degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She received an M.P.H. in Epidemiology and a Ph.D. in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences from the University of

Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health. Dr. DeFlorio-Barker's research interests include water quality, economic burden of environmental exposures, risk assessment, and communication of environmental health risks. For her doctoral dissertation, Dr. DeFlorio-Barker conducted research on the severity and economic burden associated with surface water recreation in the U.S.



Mary Dereski,
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Dr. Dereski is a trained Experimental Pathologist and has extensive background in basic science research and teaching medical sciences. Dr. Dereski received a Ph.D. degree in biomedical sciences, and previously directed the community outreach and engagement programs of the Institute of Environmental Health Sciences at Wayne State University for more than 12 years. She is currently an associate professor at William Beaumont School of Medicine, Department of Biomedical Sciences. One of her special projects there is to develop four-year capstone programs to enable medical students to work with communities to address environmental health. Dr. Dereski stands as a professional resource for stakeholders who are interested in environmental health toxicants and their effects. Dr. Dereski has strong ties with many

community groups and is instrumental in recruitment, retention, and translational research associated with many research projects.



Christopher A. DeSousa,
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Christopher De Sousa, MCIP, RPP, is a Professor and Director of the School of Urban and Regional Planning at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada. Prior to joining Ryerson in 2011, he was the Chair of Urban Planning at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, as well as a member of the Geography and Urban Studies faculty. He received his BA in Environment and Resource Management in 1994, his M. Sc. in Planning in 1996, and his Ph. D. in Geography in 2000 all from the University of Toronto. He is a Registered Professional Planner and a member of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and the Canadian Institute of Planners. Professor De Sousa's research activities focus on various aspects of brownfield redevelopment, urban environmental management, parks planning, and sustainability reporting in Canada and the United States. He recently started a

three-year research project examining brownfields redevelopment in Ontario funded by SSHRC, and another project on private sector barriers to redevelopment funded by Ryerson's Center for Urban Research and Land Development. He also recently completed a collaborative research project examining best management practices in sustainable brownfields redevelopment funded by the US EPA. His earlier research has been funded by the USDA Forest Service, National Academies (HUD Urban Scholars Postdoctoral Fellowship), US Trade and Development Agency, Consul General of Canada, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, as well as by UW-Milwaukee and private foundations. Professor De Sousa's work has appeared in prominent journals in planning, geography, and urban studies such as *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Landscape and Urban Planning*, *Environment and Planning B*, *the Professional Geographer*, *the Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, and *Urban Studies*. Professor De Sousa has been actively involved with government agencies and nonprofits in Canada and the United States that are addressing urban issues such as brownfield policy, sustainability, comprehensive planning, and city building. He is currently on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Brownfields Network, and on the Advisory / Executive Committees for Ryerson's City Building Institute and Center for Urban Research and Land Development.

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Founded in 2017 by former NASA Aerospace Engineer Sergie A. Albino and Orlando-based entrepreneur Raphael Ian Doromal, ecoSPEARS is a cleantech solutions company which develops and provides green remediation technologies to protect human health by permanently extracting and destroying the world's most persistent halogenated environmental toxins: polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). ecoSPEARS is the exclusive licensee of the NASA-patented Sorbent Polymer Extraction And Remediation System (SPEARS)

technology which – when placed into impacted sediments – is able to passively absorb PCBs, dioxins, and other halogenated compounds “like a sponge.” In 2018, ecoSPEARS was the first privately held company to utilize ATSDR’s Land Reuse and Redevelopment Toolkit to assist stakeholders in community engagement as it relates to the cleanup of hazardous materials at impacted sites.



Christa Essig,
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Christa Essig, M.P.H., is a food system, environmental, and public health analyst. Previously with CDC and ATSDR, her work includes examining co-benefits of systems and innovative strategies for environmental, nutritional, public, and social health. She led cross-disciplinary collaboration, policy and program analysis, research development, and communications for the National Center for Environmental Health’s Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity. She also served as liaison to the USDA, and with partner organizations in public health, agriculture, environment, nutrition, community design, and economic development. Her international public health work includes experience in Africa, Asia, and Central America. Christa’s graduate degree was concentrated in Global Environmental Health and her undergraduate degree in Dietetics.



Brian Gillen,
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Until May 2019, Brian Gillen was the Lead Economic Resilience Officer for the Midwest Region on behalf of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. He coordinated with HUD Economic Resilience Officers in each of the Region 5 states and the Partnership for Sustainable Communities. He served as a liaison for federal, state, regional, tribal and local partners and the private, philanthropic, and nonprofit sectors around a range of sustainable and place-based activities. These activities included resiliency planning, capacity-building, and transit-oriented housing, community and economic development. Prior to HUD, he developed affordable multifamily housing and rendered housing consultant services. Currently, Mr. Gillen is working as an economic development consultant specializing in tribal, rural, and rural development. He holds a Master's degree in Social Administration from Case Western University.



Adam Hocek,
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Adam Hocek is a technology developer with expertise in communication, speech, and semantic software development. Founded in 2000, early work at Broadstrokes focused on an emergency alerting service for first responders complying with CAP (Common Alerting Protocol) and EDXL (Emergency Data Exchange Language) standards. At Broadstrokes he helped to develop an interactive voice response service and contributed to the Arizona 511 project. Later Broadstrokes transitioned its technology into cloud-based notification and mobile survey apps. Some of the more recent projects include health and nutrition applications, and location-based disease monitoring. Mr. Hocek is active in several open source initiatives and has contributed software to the W3C VoiceXML, Sakai e-learning, and XWiki projects. He received his B.S.E.E. from the University of Essex, England and M.S.C.E. from Syracuse University, NY.



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Edward A. Johnson began his 42-year professional career in 1963 by joining the U. S. Air Force. Prior to his retirement from the Air Force as a Master Sergeant in 1983, his twenty-year career included tours of duty in TX, MS, NY, FL, HI, and Thailand and Guam. During his military career, he earned numerous awards and medals for meritorious service, including service in the Viet Nam campaign. Following his retirement, Mr. Johnson attended evening classes at the University of Tampa while working as a salesman and store manager at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company; he graduated with a B.S. degree in Business Management in 1987. In 1990, he accepted a position with NCNB National Bank of FL, N.A. His hard work and commitment to community service were rewarded with the 1995 NationsBank Corporate Leadership Excellence in Neighborhood Development (LEND) Award for his efforts in East Tampa. He was employed by SouthTrust Bank for seven years as the West Coast Regional Manager for Community and Business Development. Mr. Johnson has been employed as the City of

Tampa, Urban Development Manager for East Tampa, for the past nine years. He is a past chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the City of Tampa Housing Authority; an advisory board member of Community Housing Solutions, Inc., of St. Petersburg, FL; a board member of the Catholic Charities Diocese of St. Petersburg, FL; a board member of Hillsborough Rural Community Development Corporation; a lifetime board member of the FL Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (FAHRO); a member of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO); a member of the National Organization of African-Americans in Housing (NOAAH); and a member of the Air Force Sergeants Association.



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Art Jones is a veteran filmmaker and heads Great Jones Productions in New York, focusing for 21 years on making films that move people and make change. Art and his team create strategic, documentary-based films for corporate clients at IBM, BASF, Transamerica, Tyco, and Merck, helping to fuel culture change, innovation, and growth. Through this work, Great Jones generates a

funding engine to develop independent documentaries and films. Art's "not a movie, but a movement" approach fuses filmmaking with community building to spark deeper discussion and social action. His films include "Dodgeball" (1995), "Going Nomad" (1998), and "Lustre" (2004), all of which have played on HBO and PBS and in theaters across America. Jones' current documentary, "The Blood in this Town", explores a struggling small town (Rutland, VT) and its drive to revitalize itself in the midst of the nation's economic turmoil. Striving to share Rutland's revitalization know-how with other hard-hit communities, Art launched a national Outreach Program with the film to help a range of advocates and leaders host their own community-building forums. Art holds a B.A. degree in American Civilization from Brown University and serves as Adjunct Professor of Film at Hunter College in NY city. He has been recently nominated for the 2012 Independent Spirit/John Cassavetes Award as producer of the feature, "The Dynamiter."



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Dr. Martin is the president of CTOR Solutions, a Woman Based Enterprise with the mission to assist communities with site redevelopment issues by

offering services such as strategic planning, visioning, training workshops, grant writing, and project/grant management. In addition, Dr. Martin is associated with the Department of Agronomy at Kansas State University, where she is a Principal Investigator for an EPA grant related to urban agriculture. Until the end of May 2012, Dr. Martin was the Coordinator of the Technical Assistance to the Brownfields (TAB) Communities Program at the Center for Hazardous Substance Research at KS State University, assisting communities in EPA Regions 5 and 7 (a 10-state area) with brownfields revitalization issues. Before joining the Center for Hazardous Substance Research in 2002, Dr. Martin worked as a consultant in the environmental industry. Dr. Martin earned an M.S. degree in geology and a Ph.D. degree in hydrogeology from Justus-Liebig-University in Germany.



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Ken Meter is one of the most experienced food system analysts in the United States, integrating market analysis, business development, systems thinking, and social concerns. As president of Crossroads Resource Center in Minneapolis, Meter has 47 years of experience in inner-city and rural community capacity building. His "Finding Food in Farm Country" studies have

promoted local food networks in 136 regions in 40 states and 2 Canadian provinces, and 3 tribes. He has performed statewide food system assessments for Minnesota, Ohio, Indiana, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alaska, and Hawaii, several in collaboration with state health agencies, and written a wide variety of strategic food system plans for municipalities and regions. As coordinator of public process for the City of Minneapolis Sustainability Initiative, he guided more than 85 residents in creating a 50-year vision for the city, including sustainability measures. He served as an advisor for the USDA Community Food Projects, including managing the national proposal review panel. Meter taught economics at the University of MN and at the Harvard Kennedy School.

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NEHA currently serves 6,000 members to advance the environmental health and protection professional for the purpose of providing a healthful environment for all. In addition to maintaining high standards of practice and testing for its credentialing programs, NEHA provides training and resources for continuing education through online courses and an online bookstore; holds an annual conference; fosters networking and career growth; and publishes the widely-respected peer-reviewed Journal of Environmental Health.



Eric Neagu, M.A., P.E., LEED A.P.,
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Eric Neagu is the president of Antero Group in Chicago, IL. Mr. Neagu's work focuses on the integration of water resources, transportation, public facilities, community development, economic development, and environmental planning. Mr. Neagu has a particular interest in strategies that explore alternatives to traditional land uses and design approaches. Eric's 15-plus years of experience span public, private and institutional clients. Redevelopment of challenged communities is a particular focus. Mr. Neagu serves on the Grand Calumet Area of Concern Committee, the Alliance for Regional Development Green Growth Team, the Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision and Sustainability Teams, the board of the Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation. He is a past board member of Save the Dunes and the Center for Rural Outreach and Public Services. Mr. Neagu is a member of Lambda Alpha International land economics honor society, the Urban Land Institute, the American Planning Association, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Sustainable Indiana Honor Roll for his organization of the Calumet Outdoors Series and the Calumet Botanist Series. He holds a degree in civil and environmental engineering from Purdue University and a master's degree from The University of Chicago. In addition to being a licensed professional engineer he is a LEED AP.



Deborah Orr,
Advisor to BROWN, Retired EPA Region 5

Deborah Orr was the Brownfields Coordinator for U.S. EPA's Region 5 in Chicago, IL. She helped manage one of the largest regional brownfields program in the nation, assuming these duties in April 2000. She joined EPA in 1980 as an Environmental Engineer and held a variety of technical and management positions. Her former positions include a senior level position with the IN Board of Health in the construction grants program; Chief, Program Management and Information Section; Region 5 Information Management Coordinator for WasteLan; and Remedial Project Manager. She received her engineering degree from IL Institute of Technology. Deborah is married and lives with her family in the south suburbs where she served for many years as an officer on the library board and is a member of the Information Technology Commission.



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Gita Rampersad is a healthcare consultant who oversees population health improvement efforts for local governments, health systems, and communities using policy, systems, and environmental change strategies. A native of Chicago, Gita has served as Director of Health Promotion for the Westside Health Authority and Manager of Community Health for the City of Blue Island. She is the founder of the Blue Island Community Health Coalition. Gita works closely with key stakeholders to take a multidisciplinary approach to capacity building, policy adoption, and program development. Her focus areas include obesity, chronic disease, environmental health, and cancer. Gita received the Excellence in Health Equity Award at the 3rd Annual Minority Health in the Midwest conference and completed the inaugural National Leadership Academy for the Public's Health, a competitive applied leadership development program offered by CDC. She holds a J.D. degree from Loyola University Chicago School of Law and an M.S. degree in Healthcare Administration from the University of IL at Chicago School of Public Health.



Candace Rutt,
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Dr. Candace Rutt is a health psychologist. She previously worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity. Dr. Rutt focuses on the built environment and Health Impact Assessment (HIA) research. She was awarded a grant from the Robert

Woods Johnson Foundation and conducted over 40 HIA trainings. Dr. Rutt has also been involved in working with the Health Economic Assessment Tool with the World Health Organization, VOLPE - the John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, and the U.S. Department of Transportation. Recently she completed an analysis of the \$100 million-dollar Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. In addition, Dr. Rutt recently received funding with Georgia State University to study the Beltline redevelopment project in Atlanta.



Sandra Whitehead, PhD,
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In July 2019, Sandra Whitehead joined the faculty of George Washington University as the Interim Program Director for the Sustainable Urban Planning Program. Sandra has been adjunct faculty at GWU since 2015. Prior to her full-time position with GWU, Sandra was the Manager of Program & Partnership Development with the National Environmental Health Association. Dr. Whitehead oversaw NEHA's programs and partnerships and participated in strategic direction and management. She has expertise in health impact assessment; Health in All Policies; health and the built environment; community redevelopment and the intersection of planning and public health. Dr. Whitehead brings her experience from the state health office in Florida where she worked for seven

years acting as a resource of education, training and tools for the 67 local health departments in these areas. She is a member of the Florida Brownfield Association and sits on their Environmental Justice committee. In 2014, Sandra co-authored a health impact assessment on a brownfield redevelopment project in Pasco County in conjunction with Premier HealthCare Group and Cardno, Inc.



Gabriel Zawadzki,
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Gabriel Zawadzki researches grant resources, matches county projects with grant funding opportunities, and provides grant writing and grant management services for the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Service Corporation Grant Services Program. He specializes in web-based Geographic Information System mapping solutions for county grants and MAC Government Affairs legislative priority projects. Gabriel has a B.S. in Environmental Science and Planning from the University of Michigan Flint.

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