

# Calling the Bay Area Home: Tackling the Housing Affordability and Displacement Challenge

# Plan Bay Area 2040

## Distinguished Speakers Bios

February 20, 2016

### Opening Remarks

#### Fred Blackwell

**CEO, The San Francisco Foundation**

@FredBlackwelliv

Fred Blackwell is a visionary leader working to ensure shared prosperity, innovation, and equity in the Bay Area. As CEO of The San Francisco Foundation, he leads one of the largest community foundations in the country, working hand-in-hand with donors, nonprofits, community leaders, business, and government partners in philanthropy to identify, influence, and leverage best practices and long-term solutions to make a greater impact in our community.

#### Libby Schaaf

**Oakland Mayor and MTC Commissioner**

@LibbySchaaf

Born and raised in Oakland, Mayor Libby Schaaf is proud to have won 63 percent of Oaklanders' votes on November 4, 2014 in a city-wide, ranked-choice election against 15 other candidates. Mayor Schaaf previously served one term as a member of the Oakland City Council. While on the Council, she sped up police recruitment and added civilian staffing, allowing sworn officers to respond more quickly and effectively to crime and public safety concerns. A proponent of innovation in government, Mayor Schaaf supported small business growth by establishing a groundbreaking partnership with Kiva Zip to provide 0 percent interest loans to financially-excluded and socially-impactful entrepreneurs in Oakland.

#### Julie Pierce

**ABAG President, MTC Commissioner, and Clayton Councilmember**

@JulieKPierce

Julie Pierce is the President of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Executive Committee. She is the ABAG delegate to MTC. She is a Council Member in the City of Clayton and Vice Chair of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA). Julie is the president of the California Council of Governments (CALCOG) where she serves as the CCTA delegate. She has been working on transportation, land use and growth management policy issues for 27 years, beginning in 1987, when she was appointed to TRANSPAC, the Central Contra Costa Regional Transportation Planning Committee.

#### David Campos

**MTC Commissioner and San Francisco Supervisor**

@DavidCamposSF

Supervisor David Campos is a native of Puerto Barrios (Izabal), Guatemala, who came to the U.S. (with his parents and two sisters) when he was 14. Although he did not speak the language, David excelled in school, graduating at the top of his class from Jefferson High School, in South Central Los Angeles. David earned scholarships to Stanford University and Harvard Law School, from which he graduated, respectively, in 1993 and 1996. Prior to his election as Supervisor, David served as General Counsel to the San Francisco Unified School District and as a member of the San Francisco Police Commission. Since 2004, David has been an elected member of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee.

# Setting the Stage With Personal Experiences

## Melissa Jones

### North Bay Organizing Project, Forestville

Melissa Jones has been a high school art teacher in Marin and Sonoma County for the last seven years. Melissa, a single mother to a 12 year old son, lives in a tiny basement apartment in Sonoma County. In order to address the housing injustices she was facing, last fall, Melissa became an active member of the Northbay Organizing Project and has been focusing on works of art specifically addressing the rent increases she and many others are facing. Melissa is deeply passionate about economic injustice and is part of the housing task force dealing with the crisis in the Bay Area.

## Reyna Gonzalez

### Faith in Action, San Mateo

Reyna Gonzalez has lived in San Mateo for 12 years and have worked as a nanny there for 9 years. She is Mexicana and came to this country 17 years ago searching for a better life for her family. She has lived through many experiences as an immigrant, and has come to know and understand the injustices that we experience as immigrants in this country. Because of her experiences, she sought the means to help other people who were facing similar situations. In her search, she found SFOP/PIA (now Faith in Action), an organization she joined 3 years ago. As a member, she has come to see housing as another issue that affects her community. She has seen the fear and the pain of many families who are losing their homes, and is seeking a more just society, with affordable and dignified housing for our families.

## Theola Polk

### East Bay Housing Organizations, Oakland

Theola Polk moved with her children to California from Arkansas in September 1969. Theola was very active in her community in Arkansas, and in the fight for racial justice during segregation, and was part of many protests and sit-ins. As a result of her activism, the Klu Klux Klan began to threaten her family, and she moved to California. Her activism follows a family tradition of being very invested in community and in being part of the fundamental change that is needed. As an active resident her in the Bay Area, Theola believes we must continue to do the work because it is needed, a lot of things have not changed, and youth of color are still not prioritized in our society, nor are their lives valued. She has come to understand that housing justice is essential to our survival and progression as people—so that we can do more than just survive.

# Opening Panel

## Moderator:

### Dave Cortese

**MTC Chair, ABAG Executive Board Member, and Santa Clara County Supervisor**

@DaveCortese

Prior to joining the Board and being elected as President, Dave Cortese served eight years on the San Jose City Council, including two years as Vice Mayor. He grew up in San Jose as part of a family that has been active in civic, cultural and business activities for generations. He is married to Pattie, and has four children. His strong local roots and love for this county fuel his passion for public service. Dave was educated at Bellarmine College Prep and UC Davis where he earned a Bachelor of Sciences Degree in Political Science. He earned his Juris Doctorate at Lincoln University Law School in San Jose.

## Panelists:

### Carol Galante

**I. Donald Turner Distinguished Professor in Affordable Housing and Urban Policy, Faculty Director, Berkeley Program in Housing and Urban Policy, University of California at Berkeley**

@CarolGalante4

Carol Galante is the I. Donald Turner Distinguished Professor in Affordable Housing and Urban Policy and the Faculty Director of the Turner Center for Housing Innovation both at U.C. Berkeley. In addition to her professor appointment and role as Turner Center Faculty Director, Galante also co-chairs the Policy Advisory Board of the Fisher Center of Real Estate and Urban Economics at the Haas School of Business at U.C. Berkeley. Carol served in the Obama Administration for over five years as the Assistant Secretary for Housing/Federal Housing Commissioner at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily Housing programs.

### Claudia Cappio

**Oakland Assistant City Administrator**

Claudia Cappio currently serves as Assistant City Administrator for the City of Oakland, overseeing major development efforts, economic development and community services. Previously, Ms. Cappio served in Governor Brown's Administration from 2011-2015 as the Executive Director of both the California Housing Finance Agency and the Housing and Community Development Department. Her work spans over 30 years as the planning and building director of various East Bay communities including Albany, Emeryville and Oakland. She holds BA from Ohio Wesleyan University.

### Bob Glover

**Executive Officer, Building Industry Association of the Bay Area**

@BIABayArea

Bob Glover began working for BIA Bay Area as a member of the governmental affairs staff in 2003 and was promoted to Executive Officer of BIA Bay Area in 2011. In addition to managing the daily operation of BIA Bay Area and serving as a member of the Executive Committee, Glover also manages the local governmental affairs operations for the Association. In 2010 Glover was elected to serve as a Director for the Pleasant Hill Recreation & Park District serving the City of Pleasant Hill and part of Lafayette. Glover is also a board member of HomeAid Northern California. He was previously a member of the City of Pleasant Hill Redevelopment Advisory Committee and served as board chair of the City of Martinez Planning Commission. Glover earned a B.A. from U.C. Davis in Rhetoric and Communications.

### Jennifer Martinez

**Executive Director, Faith in Action Bay Area**

Dr. Jennifer Martinez is the Executive Director of Faith In Action Bay Area, a community-organizing network that works for racial and economic justice. Since 2001, Jennifer has led campaigns on affordable housing, tenant & immigrant rights, and criminal justice reform. Her graduate research focused on social movements in Venezuela and South Africa, and in 2011, her PhD won the British International Studies Association thesis of the year award.

# Perspectives from Outside the Region

## Nela Richardson

**Chief Economist, Redfin**

@NelaRichardson

Nela Richardson is the chief economist at Redfin, the national real estate brokerage. At Redfin, Nela leads a team of data scientists and real estate journalists to compile the most up to date analysis of the real estate market. Nela regularly provides consumer-focused insights on the economy, housing market trends and public policy to media outlets including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, CNBC and CNN. Nela came to Redfin from Bloomberg Government where she was a senior economist specializing in financial regulation, government policy and housing. Before joining Bloomberg, she worked as a research economist at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and was a member of its Dodd-Frank financial reform rulemaking team. Prior to her work at the CFTC, Nela was a researcher at Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies and a senior economist at Freddie Mac. Nela holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Maryland and degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and Indiana University. Nela is also a member of the Albers Department of Economics Advisory Board at Seattle University.

## Robert Feldstein

**Director of the Office of Policy & Innovation, Seattle Mayor's Office**

@RLFatSEA

Robert Feldstein works for Seattle Mayor Ed Murray as Director of the Office of Policy & Innovation. Previously, he worked as Chief of Staff to the Chief Policy Advisor for NYC Mayor Mike Bloomberg, taught middle-school math and science in Brooklyn and Oakland, and planned and eventually directed a multi-jurisdictional community court in Red Hook, Brooklyn.