

# Speakers

## Jeff Flynn *Wilmington as a Sustainable City*

Jeff is a project management and business development leader with significant public and private sector experience, including all levels of government, large corporate entities, community development agencies, and small business ventures. Jeff is currently the Director of Economic Development for the City of Wilmington overseeing the real estate and business development for the City and charged with creating incremental revenues for the City's general fund and economic opportunity for Wilmington residents and businesses. Prior to being named Director, Jeff served as Deputy Director and Economic Development Project Manager. Jeff's private sector experience was spent at MBNA America, where he rotated through the operating areas of the corporation as a management trainee before working in Product Development where he coordinated project teams across IT and Card production. Jeff started his work career as an entrepreneur founding Delaware Recycling Solutions, Delaware's first residential recycling pick up service. Jeff serves on the Board of Trustees for the Delaware Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, The Wilmington Land bank, The Light Up the Queen Foundation, and the Delaware Water Infrastructure Council. He is recognized as an innovative, business-oriented strategic planner and problem solver accustomed to bringing diverse groups together to solve high-stakes, complex issues.



## Bryan Hanes *Who is This Guy?*



Bryan is the founding principal of Studio Bryan Hanes. He is a Registered Landscape Architect in Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York and Indiana and LEED Accredited Professional. Bryan has been involved in a diverse range of work, from significant urban and open space planning and design projects, to small-scale designs for institutional and private clients. Each project strives to acknowledge an understanding of the natural and cultural systems of a site. Prior to forming Studio Bryan Hanes, Bryan spent nearly a decade at the internationally acclaimed office of Olin Partnership where he served as Associate-in-Charge of the transformation of major public spaces across the country and around the world. His contributions to the regeneration of Philadelphia's public spaces include

Independence National Historical Park, the Benjamin Franklin Parkway Framework Plan, Logan Square, Sister Cities Garden at Logan Square, Penn Treaty Park, Clark Park and the Philadelphia Museum of Art Sculpture Garden and Parking Garage.

## Karen Washington *An Empty Chair at the Table of Food Justice*

Karen Washington has lived in New York City all her life, and has spent decades promoting urban farming as a way for all New Yorkers to access to fresh, locally grown food. Karen has been a resident of the Bronx for over 26 years, although in 2015 she began living part time in Orange County, NY near the farm. Since 1985 Karen has been a community activist, striving to make New York City a better place to live. As a community gardener and board member of the New York Botanical Gardens, Karen worked with Bronx neighborhoods to turn empty lots into community gardens. As an advocate, she stood up and spoken out for garden protection and preservation. As a member of the La Familia Verde Community Garden Coalition, she helped launch a City Farms Market, bringing garden fresh vegetables to her neighbors. Karen is a Just Food board member and Just Food Trainer, leading workshops on food growing and food justice for community gardeners all over the city. Karen is a board member and former president of the New York City Community Garden Coalition, a group that was founded to preserve community gardens. She also co-founded Black Urban Growers (BUGS), an organization of volunteers committed to building networks and community support for growers in both urban and rural settings. In 2012 Ebony magazine voted her one of their 100 most influential African Americans in the country, and in 2014 she was awarded with the James Beard Leadership Award.



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## Mark Lakeman *Demos and Design = The Best Destiny Ever*

Mark is a national leader in the development of sustainable public places. In the last decade he has directed, facilitated, or inspired designs for more than three hundred new community-generated public places in Portland, Oregon alone. Through his leadership in Communitecture, Inc., and its various affiliates such as the The City Repair Project (501(c)3), The Village Building Convergence, and the Planet Repair Institute, he has also been instrumental in the development of dozens of participatory organizations and urban permaculture design projects across the United States and Canada. Mark works with governmental leaders, community organizations, and educational institutions in many diverse communities.



## Anna Wik & Local Panel



Anna Wik is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences and a registered landscape architect. She has designed, documented, and managed construction of many landscape projects in the region, working with community and non-profit partners including Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, the Philadelphia Water Department, Longwood Gardens, and numerous community groups. Anna's courses investigate the relationship between the practice of design and the built environment, and her design focus is on the urban landscape, the creation of equitable public space, and the impact of community partnerships. She is extremely excited about the new professional degree program, the Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture.