Speakers

Samuel Collins  Panel Discussion
Samuel Gerald Collins is an anthropologist at Towson University in Baltimore, Maryland. His present work examines the urban as the confluence of people and social media. He is the author of various books, book chapters and articles, among them All Tomorrow’s Cultures: Anthropological Engagements With the Future (Berghahn, 2008), Library of Walls (2009) and, along with co-author Matthew Durington, Networked Anthropology (Routledge, 2014).

Matthew Durington  Panel Discussion
Matthew Durington is a professor of anthropology in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice at Towson University. Alongside his colleague Sam Collins he has developed technology based community engagement methodologies and projects over several years in Baltimore City. He is the co-author of Networked Anthropology, Routledge.

Lorin Felter  Panel Discussion
Lorin Felter is the Interpretation and Education Coordinator at First State National Historical Park in Delaware. Lorin has been with the National Park Service since 2011, with prior assignments at World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument in Honolulu, Hawaii, and at the Northeast Regional Office in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Lorin has served in a handful of detail assignments and on special event planning teams in the northeast region. Lorin has a Masters in American Studies and a Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation from the University of Hawaii, and a Bachelors in Architecture from New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Brian Hanes  Who Is This Guy?
Bryan Hanes 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.
Speakers

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

Mark Lakeman 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.

Ann Mattingly  *Panel Discussion*

Ann Mattingly is the Director of Programs at The Delaware Center for Horticulture and leads the community greening and education program staff in carrying out DCH’s mission of inspiring individuals and communities through the power of plants. Projects include community gardens, urban farms, tree plantings, vacant lot stabilization, and various ecological plantings and designs in traffic islands, median strips, and gateway plantings. Community outreach, volunteer engagement, and education are important aspects of DCH’s projects and frequently provide hands-on experiential learning opportunities for the Branches to Chances: Return to Work program. Ann has also worked as the garden manager at Yew Dell Botanical Gardens in Louisville, Kentucky, as the assistant curator at Longwood Gardens, and as an intern at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University in Boston, MA. Ann holds a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Maine at Orono. She grew up on a subsistence farm in rural Maine where her family grew and raised most of what they ate. It was here she developed the philosophy of the interdependence of people and plants and why she is so passionate about the programs and work DCH does in the City of Wilmington and New Castle County. This year marks DCH’s 40th anniversary as a community greening non-profit.

Ethan McKinley  *Panel Discussion*

Ethan McKinley is Superintendent of First State National Historical Park in Delaware. He has worked for the Northeast Regional Office in Philadelphia for the last 6 years, where he has been the Chief of Commercial Service for the last three. In his decade long career with the National Park Service, he has experience at parks across the nation, from Mount Rainier National Park and Yosemite National Park on the west coast to Glacier National Park in Montana and Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania. Ethan has a degree in International Business and French from the University of Denver and specializes in strategic planning, financial analysis, program management, and public-private partnerships. Ethan has led many national contract selection panels, contributed to national policy, and developed innovative business opportunities throughout the Region. In the past three months alone, Ethan and his team led a precedent setting initiative to leverage funds to buyout nearly all of the Northeast Region Commercial Services Program’s investments in park facilities (totaling nearly $15 Million).
Speakers

Julie Skierski  Panel Discussion
Julie Skierski has been practicing landscape architecture in the greater Philadelphia area for approximately ten years. She currently serves as a design project manager and landscape architect at the School District of Philadelphia (SDP) within the Office of Capital programs. At SDP, Julie coordinates extensively with partner groups, such as the Trust for Public Land, the Philadelphia Water Department, Parks & Recreation, Friends Of groups and other Not for Profit groups to implement site improvement projects. These projects include playgrounds, passive and active recreation areas, greening, repaving and surfacing, outdoor learning areas, educational rain gardens and stormwater systems, all of which include public outreach components. Prior to working at the School District of Philadelphia, Ms. Skierski worked as a landscape architect at Ground Reconsidered and AKRF with involvement almost exclusively on public-centered projects. She has extensive experience in working with various communities to achieve purposeful designs for playgrounds, parks and environmental restoration projects.

Gretchen Trefny  Panel Discussion
Gretchen Trefny is the Parks for People Philadelphia Program Manager. Gretchen joined TPL’s Philadelphia team in December 2013 to manage the construction of the Parks for People–Philadelphia projects, which focuses on creating green play spaces at schoolyards and public recreation centers. Gretchen has worked on public projects in partnership with city agencies, corporations, volunteers and not-for-profit entities in the city of Philadelphia for more than 12 years. Prior to joining TPL, Gretchen served as a project manager at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, managing design and construction of urban park projects, as well as developing renovation and landscape maintenance plans for urban green spaces in the city. Gretchen has a Bachelor of Science degree in Landscape Architecture from Cornell University and a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from The University of Pennsylvania.

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 launched 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.
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.