

“Greening on the Ground: Community-Driven Strategies for Achieving Climate Resilience and Equity” Webinar

Speaker Bios

Cate Mingoya

Cate Mingoya serves as Groundwork USA’s National Director of Climate Resilience and Land Use. Originally from Queens, New York, Cate earned her B.A. in Biology from Reed College in Portland, Oregon, and returned east to teach middle school science at traditional public and charter schools in The Bronx and in Brownsville, Brooklyn. She went on to earn a Master of City Planning from MIT and has served as the Director of Policy and Program Development for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’s Division of Public Housing and Rental Assistance. In her current role, Cate provides equitable development technical assistance for those looking to transform brownfields into community assets. Cate also leads Groundwork USA’s Climate Safe Neighborhoods partnership, a thirteen-city partnership, to reduce heat and flooding related risks in neighborhoods with histories of institutional, race-based housing discrimination.

John Evangelista

Director of Operations

John joined the Groundwork Elizabeth Team as part of the More P.E.A.S. initiative funded in part by the NJDEP. In his role as Agricultural Operations Manager, John manages all aspects of the Come Grow With Us! Urban Agriculture Initiative. He also takes part in all the design/build projects for Groundwork Elizabeth from garden designs and garden builds to structures including Agricultural Learning Laboratories throughout the city. As part of Groundwork Elizabeth, John built the first hydroponic greenhouse in the city of Elizabeth at the Portuguese Instructive Social Club. John is a hydroponic specialist and educator, installing hydroponic systems and writing curriculum for these projects in schools throughout NJ. John has an extensive background in farming, hydroponic farm designs and Urban Agriculture. Outside of his work with Groundwork Elizabeth John is a partner in a hydroponic farm in Denville, NJ as well as an author.

Moderator Bio

Joe Schilling

Joe Schilling is a senior policy and research associate in the Research to Action Lab and Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute. State and local governments serve as the primary platforms for his applied research, policy translation, and technical assistance engagements that help cross-sector leaders assess, adapt, and transfer innovative policies and practices. Over the past decade Joe has worked with local legacy city leaders from Youngstown and Cleveland to Flint and Detroit cultivating innovative regeneration strategies from urban greening to strategic code enforcement. In 2020 he and co-author Gabi Velasco completed a Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Working Paper—the Greenventory Project— which explores promising sustainability plans, policies, and programs in small-to-mid sized legacy cities. Joe’s sustainability expertise also includes research on HUD’s Sustainable Communities Initiative and the seminal urban planning article on legacy city urban greening—Greening the Rust Belt. While at Virginia Tech, he also facilitated the initial design and development of Alexandria, VA’s Eco City Charter and Initiative. In 2010, Joe founded the Vacant Property Research Network, a hub for policy and research translation related to regenerating legacy cities. Before coming to Urban, Joe worked as a municipal attorney, a California legislative fellow, the director of community and economic development for the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), and a research professor of urban planning for Virginia Tech. He can be contacted at jschilling@urban.org or his twitter handle [@EcoCityJoe](https://twitter.com/EcoCityJoe).