

Laura Settlemyer, Director of Blight & Housing Code Enforcement, *City of Hartford*

Laura Settlemyer is one of the nation's leading experts in the field of urban blight remediation. In Hartford, she is the Director of Blight Remediation and the Founding Chairperson of the Hartford Land Bank. She brings to Hartford nearly a decade of experience working with communities in the field of reclaiming vacant, abandoned, deteriorating, and foreclosed properties. Laura came to Connecticut from Michigan, where she worked with the cities of Detroit and Flint and the 40+ land banks across the state on strategies for shaping and implementing efficient, effective, and equitable policies to revitalize properties and neighborhoods. Previously, Laura worked in the City Attorney's Office in New Orleans, Louisiana, under Mayor Mitch Landrieu. While there she served as counsel to the Department of Code Enforcement, the Department of Housing Policy & Community Development, and the Capital Projects Administration. Prior to entering government service, Laura spent three years in private law practice in New Orleans, working on commercial litigation and government contracts matters. Laura first became engaged in urban revitalization and decline when she traveled to the Gulf Coast in January 2006 as a first-year law student to volunteer in the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort. She earned her J.D. from Emory University School of Law and her A.B. in Economics from Harvard University. In her free time, Laura is a commissioner of the Housing Authority of the City of Hartford and an adjunct professor with University of Hartford's Department of Architecture.

Dave Foster, Principal, *Community Solutions*

Dave is a Principal at Community Solutions, where he leads the organization's work to develop innovative real estate and financing models in communities across the country. In this role, he oversees the development and management of the organization's commercial, mixed-use and residential projects in Hartford, Brownsville, Brooklyn and Washington, DC, as well as its work to expand the supply of supportive and affordable housing in communities participating in the Built for Zero initiative. From 2008-2014, he served as the president of Cooper's Ferry Partnership, a non-profit economic development corporation in Camden, NJ, where he oversaw more than \$350M in new investment in the community. Prior to his work in Camden, Dave was an attorney in the real estate department at Ballard Spahr in Philadelphia and also worked for a large real estate development company in China. His military service includes duty as an infantry officer with the 101st Airborne Division, a posting in the Pentagon, and a combat tour in Afghanistan. Dave received his B.A. from Washington & Lee University and his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Melvyn Colón, Executive Director, *Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (SINA)*

Melvyn Colón is the executive director of Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (SINA) in Hartford. SINA is one of the oldest multi-anchor partnerships in the United States. Before going to SINA Melvyn was Director of Community Building Initiatives at NeighborWorks America, Loan Fund Director at YouthBuild USA, and Executive Director of Nuestra Comunidad Development Corporation in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston. He was one of a group of activists and community residents who founded the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative in Boston, the first grassroots coalition in the US to be awarded the power of eminent domain to assemble land for affordable housing development. Melvyn taught at Tufts University in the graduate Department of Urban and Environment Policy for 12 years and at the College of Public and Community Service at UMass Boston. He also served as Assistant Dean at Yale College. Melvyn was a founding board member of the Boston Community Loan Fund (now Boston Community Capital) and the Boston Community Land Trust. He served on the board of the Institute for Community Economics. He wrote his Master's thesis on the potential of using housing receiverships as a tool in community development. He has written on community economic development, community building, smart growth and the Latino community, and the role of anchor institutions in low-income communities. Melvyn earned a BA from Yale College and a Master's in City Planning from MIT. He was a doctoral candidate at MIT before joining SINA.

Kiley Gosselin, Executive Director, *Partnership for Strong Communities*

Kiley Gosselin joined the Partnership as its Deputy Executive Director in November of 2018, becoming its Executive Director in February of 2019. Kiley brings 14 years of experience in the housing and homelessness sector, most recently serving as Acting Director of the Department of Development Services for the City of Hartford. Kiley was appointed by Mayor Luke Bronin in January 2016 and has led the City's efforts on multiple large-scale development projects, supporting small business development, rebuilding the city's Blight Remediation Team and on overseeing Hartford's stock of affordable housing and housing choice vouchers. Prior to her time with the City of Hartford, she served as Management and Program Analyst at the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness where she helped coordinate Federal policy efforts to prevent and end homelessness among families and unaccompanied youth and to connect people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness to a variety of mainstream federal housing programs. Before joining USICH, Kiley practiced law for six years with Holland & Knight LLP in the area of business tax, specifically equity financing for affordable housing projects eligible for low-income housing tax credits and various state housing finance programs. Prior to entering private practice, Kiley worked as a policy analyst and legislative advocate for multiple organizations on state and federal policy issues relating to affordable and supportive housing including the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Kiley also worked as a Policy Analyst for the Partnership for Strong Communities in 2005 and 2006 where she helped launch the HOME CT Campaign. She has also worked in the political arena on various facets of state and national campaigns and helped create Connecticut's first statewide voter file in 2004. In the community, Kiley is involved with local and regional political causes, as well as supporting homelessness and housing advocacy groups. She is on the board of directors of the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance and recently served on the board of the Capital Region Development Authority. Kiley holds a B.A. in Policy Science and Policy Studies from Rice University in Houston, TX and a J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law.