

**The Westside Urban Forum Presents**  
**Digging into Mayor Bass's State of the City Address - Goals, Challenges and Accomplishments**

Thursday, April 28th, 2023

## Panelists



### **Alan Greenlee**

Executive Director, Southern California Association of Nonprofit Housing

Alan Greenlee is the Executive Director of the Southern California Association of Non Profit Housing (SCANPH). He has served in this capacity since October 2012. Over his 25-year professional career, he has demonstrated a commitment to helping low-income families join the economic mainstream by supporting beneficial public policy at the local, regional, state and federal levels. Greenlee has designed, implemented, and managed programs operating from coast to coast, impacting hundreds of thousands of low-income and underserved families. As an entrepreneur, he developed market-making products and services for the solar industry. Drawing from the full range of his experience allows Greenlee to innovate in the fight against poverty tempered by the practicalities of the real world. The combination yields efficient, effective, and scalable solutions.



### **Michelle Banks-Ordone**

Senior Manager, Transit-Oriented Communities, LA Metro

Michelle Banks-Ordone joined LA Metro in June 2022. She is Metro's lead strategist for economic development activities in Countywide Planning and Development Transit Oriented Communities (TOC). Michelle developed the TOC Economic Development Program (EDP) designed to prevent small business displacement and bolster the economic capacity of businesses near transit and in historically marginalized communities. The program received unanimous support from the LA Metro Board of Directors and is unique among our nation's transportation agencies. Michelle has over 30 years of leadership experience delivering transformative policies, economic development, transportation planning, new construction, and adaptive reuse projects. Prior to joining Metro, she was instrumental in the delivery of CalEPA's \$250 million Equitable Communities Revitalization Grant awarding \$75.4 million to 53 awardees to help transform 84 sites across California.

Starting her firm, MBO & Associates, in 2013, Michelle understands the challenges small businesses encounter. Among the firm's successes, she created and administered the highly successful South Los Angeles Transit Oriented Development University and Metro's first Business Solution Center. As a Project Manager for the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA), Michelle developed more than 1,500 housing units, 680,000 sf retail, and several economic development programs. She has a long history of creating economic development opportunities in marginalized communities. Michelle holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of California at Santa Barbara and post graduate certificates in leadership from California Poly Pomona and real estate from the University of Southern California. When she is not creating strategic partnerships or developing economic development strategies, Michelle can be found enjoying jazz concerts with her husband of 25 years, traveling with her two beautiful daughters, or engaging in community service activities with her beloved sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®.



### **Adam J. Fowler**

Founding Partner, CVL Economics

Adam J. Fowler is an economist and founding partner at CVL Economics, a Los Angeles-based consulting firm helping clients harness the power of creativity to drive economic and social change. Adam specializes labor market economics and regional economic development. His recent work includes developing strategies for supporting and nurturing creative talent and designing creative placemaking initiatives. He serves on the project team for the annual Otis College Report on the Creative Economy and his research, thought leadership, and expert commentary have been cited in a wide variety of media outlets, including the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, Bloomberg, the San Francisco Chronicle and National Public Radio.

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## **Mary Leslie**

Associate, Ethos Real Estate

Mary was elected to serve as chair of the Board of Trustees of California Independent System Operator, a nonprofit that is the only independent electricity grid operator in the West, coordinating the distribution of energy resources for 80% of California and part of Nevada. She was also named to Mayor Karen Bass's transition advisory team.

Ms. Leslie has served as LABC President since 2001, growing the council into one of the most prominent business organizations in the region, working closely with leaders from business, government and the non-profit sectors to enact policies and programs to strengthen Los Angeles' economic competitiveness and quality of life. Under her leadership, she launched the LABC Institute in 2010 as the 501 (c) 3 research and education arm, attracting local and national funding. Both organizations operate with the core mission, focused on creating cutting edge policy strategies to reduce the region's housing affordability gap, increase sustainable development, promote international trade, and expand high-paying workforce opportunities.

Ms. Leslie currently serves on the LA Sustainability Leadership Council, LA Cleantech Incubator Board of Directors, Los Angeles Conservation Corporation Board of Directors, UCLA Advisory Committee for the Luskin Center for Innovation, and is a member of the Pacific Council of International Policy. She previously served as a Commissioner on the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Board, Advisory Committees of L.A. Family Housing the California Women's Law Center and the LA2028 Olympic Bid Committee.

In her previous role as Deputy Mayor for the City of Los Angeles under Mayor Richard Riordan, Ms. Leslie was responsible for the Mayor's Business Development programs. Prior to joining the Riordan Administration, she was Deputy Director of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), where she oversaw the Northridge Earthquake relief dollars for Los Angeles as part of her portfolio of lending and education programs for SBA Director Erskine Bowles. She also served as the Executive Director of the California Economic Development Commission, overseeing policy development and trade missions for California business. Ms. Leslie was also President Clinton's California Finance Director in his successful 1992 race for President.

Ms. Leslie received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Santa Clara, holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California, and attended the Executive



Management Program at the UCLA Anderson School of Management. ence, analysis and execution of all acquisitions and development opportunities.

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## Moderator

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### **Cecilia V. Estolano**

CEO and Founder, Estolano Advisors

Cecilia V. Estolano is a leading expert on contemporary urban planning issues with experience in economic and workforce development, land use, environmental equity, and urban revitalization for cities and communities across the country. She has worked directly with public, private, institutional and non-profit clients to plan, finance, design, implement, and operate policy-driven programs and projects that promote sustainable solutions tailored for each community. Known for her progressive thought leadership, Cecilia has helped to envision, plan, entitle and structure real estate transactions in support of mixed-use, urban infill redevelopment projects that advance green urbanism and environmental stewardship. She is the CEO, and one of the original founders of Estolano Advisors, a team of technical experts that specialize in managing multi-stakeholder processes to address complex public policy, urban planning, and social equity issues. She became the CEO of Better World Group in 2018, which is a team of advisors who were behind some of the nation's boldest climate policies and environmental strategies. Cecilia received an A.B. with honors from Harvard-Radcliffe Colleges, an M.A. in Urban Planning from UCLA, and a J.D. from UC Berkeley School of Law.

