



Public Matters 2018 Participant Bios

Patrick Burns is the Associate Planner in the City of Lowell's Department of Planning and Development. In this capacity he is responsible for conducting complex land use regulatory reviews and assessing proposals to determine compliance with local zoning code and other applicable state and local ordinances. In 2015 Patrick completed the Harvard Graduate School of Design's Career Discovery Program in Landscape Architecture. Patrick graduated with dual degrees in Regional Planning and Political Science from Westfield State in 2016 and lives in Billerica.

Hilary Clark is the Director of Human Resources Operations and Payroll at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, working with executive leadership across the University as the HR application steward. Prior to joining UMass Lowell, Hilary worked at Hampshire College in Amherst, MA. She has more than 12 years of experience in human resources and is committed to fostering a workplace that encourages high performance, creativity, customer service, and problem solving. Hilary serves on the Board of Directors of Project LEARN, which aims to transform the Lowell public school system into a model of excellence in urban education. She has also volunteered with the Lowell Kinetic Sculpture Race and Budget Buddies. Hilary has a degree from Emerson College and has completed graduate level coursework in Human Resources Management, Entrepreneurial Finance, Higher Education Administration, and Community Social Psychology. Hilary is a resident of Lowell.

Maria Clark is the International Student Advisor and SEVIS Coordinator at Middlesex Community College. Among her many roles in this capacity, Maria develops activities and workshops specifically targeted to international students; advises and counsels international students with academic issues and cultural adjustments; collaborates with student leaders to create programs and events with a multicultural lens; and promotes inclusivity on both the Bedford and Lowell campuses. Prior to her role at MCC, Maria served as a Massachusetts Campus Compact AmeriCorps Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA). Maria also serves as an advisor to the Women's Leadership Network club, which participates in the annual Lowell Women's Week celebration. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from North Carolina State University and a Master of Arts from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Maria is Lowell resident.

Corinne Corcoran is a legislative aide for State Senator Eileen M. Donoghue. Corinne serves as the first point of contact in the Senator's office; she attends district events as a liaison for the Senator; and she is in charge of every day operations in the office which. Corinne also participates in the Radio Reading Service at the Lowell Association of the Blind where she reads The Donoghue Digest, a newsletter she helps produce with other staff members. While completing her bachelor's degree at UMass Lowell, Corinne was a member of the UML rowing team (Captain, 2012-2014). At various times, she also served as an orientation leader welcoming new students to campus; a supervisor for UMass Lowell Transportation Services where she worked closely with the LRTA; a fundraising liaison for UMass Lowell where she fostered long lasting relationships with the University and initiated participation in Riverhawk events; and a volunteer at the Paul Center for Learning and Recreation in Chelmsford. In addition to completing a minor in disability studies, Corinne also participated in the Lifelinks Urban Youth Summer Program where she worked directly with individuals in the Day Habilitation Program and received introductory training in a variety of therapeutic areas including sensory programming, communication approaches, and positive behavior supports. Corinne lives in Lowell.

Andrew Duncan is the Community and Cultural Liaison at Enterprise Bank. He manages all acquisition and installation of artwork for the bank as well as site specific painting/sculpture commissions. Andrew also manages Enterprise Bank's Non-profit Collaborative (NPC); facilitating 12 educational seminars for non-profit organizations each year. Andrew is active in the arts community, personally creating art himself as a Collaborative Street Artist and serving on the Board of Directors for the Cultural Organization of Lowell (COOL). He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA and a Masters of Expressive Art Therapy from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. Andrew is a resident of Lowell.

Michael Fernandes is the Grounds and Canals Supervisor for the Lowell National Park Service. In this capacity, he oversees the planting and maintenance of all landscaping on Park property and canalways; and has strengthened partnerships with the City and UMass Lowell. Prior to joining the Lowell NPS, Michael worked in the Operations Department at Hanscom Airforce Base. He attended Mount Wachusett Community College where he studied Criminal Justice and Business Management. Michael is a resident of Gardner.

Thomas Fitzmaurice is the Executive Director of the Greater Merrimack Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau. Tom is responsible for planning and implementing marketing, sales, and promotion goals that positively impact the regional tourism industry for the 21 municipalities that comprise the Merrimack Valley. The GMVCVB is a 501c-6 non-profit organization and one of sixteen recognized 'Regional Tourism Councils' in the Commonwealth, partly funded by the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism. Among his volunteer commitments, Tom supports the Massachusetts Special Olympics, the Greater Nashua YMCA, the Pan-Mass Challenge, New England Disabled Sports, and Disabled American Veterans of Massachusetts. Tom has a Bachelor of Science from Plymouth State University and a Master of Sports Leadership from Northeastern University. Tom resides in Nashua, NH with his wife Stephanie and their daughter Emma.

Christopher Hayes works for the City of Lowell's Department of Planning and Development as the Transportation Project Manager. He works on a variety of projects related to transportation and community development, most notably managing the design and engineering for construction of a \$7.8M infrastructure project in the Hamilton Canal Innovation District. Chris is also responsible for projects that will both the Merrimack Riverwalk and the Vandenberg Esplanade. Chris has a special interest in participatory planning and radical inclusivity, and is the co-founder of DIY Lowell, which has organized over 100 volunteers over the past three years to implement community projects including the Points of Light lantern celebration. He is also the co-founder of Lowell Votes, a nonpartisan organization aimed at engaging more residents in the voting process. Chris has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Montana and a Masters in Regional Planning from Cornell University. Chris is a downtown Lowell resident, a foster parent, and a native of Upstate New York.

Robin Licata is the Director of Financial Operations for Lowell Community Health Center. She is responsible for the overall financial direction and operation of the \$45 million outpatient healthcare facility which serves 29,000 patients each year. Robin has a true passion for the role of community health centers, having worked in the field for more than 24 years. Robin holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Merrimack College. She enjoys cooking in her spare time and lives in Methuen with her husband and two daughters.

Cherry Lim works at Middlesex Community College as a Program Specialist in the Program for Asian American Student Advancement. She advises Asian American and Pacific Islander students assisting with academic, financial, career, and life planning. Since joining MCC in July 2017, Cherry organized the college's first Asian American Orientation and an Asian American Family Night. She serves as the Community Engagement Co-Chair for the Asian Pacific American Network/American College Personnel Association and volunteers as a college student mentor at Boston College and in Boston's Chinatown Neighborhood Center. Cherry has a Bachelor of Arts from Tufts University and a Masters of Arts from Boston College. She is a Lowell resident.

Leanna Moran is the Site Director at Fallon Health Summit ElderCare in Lowell. In this capacity, she launched a new PACE program in Lowell that meets the needs of the elder community. Leanna currently oversees the operations of the site which includes a medical clinic, adult day health center, and an interdisciplinary team of up to 50 employees. Among her community engagement activities, Leanna is a member of the Lowell Rotary Club and the Greater Lowell Health Alliance Mental Health Task Force; and she volunteers at the St. Paul's Soup Kitchen. Leanna is also a member of the Lowell Plan Board of Directors. She has a Bachelor of Arts from Brandeis University and a Masters Degree from Boston College. Leanna is a resident of Westford.

Anthony Nganga is the founder of Studio 26 Associates, an architectural firm based in Lowell. Through his firm, Anthony has provided architectural services to local commercial building owners and tenants including immigrant owned companies and organizations such as the recently opened facility for the NEEMA PCEA Church. He has also worked with the African American Alliance and UMass Lowell on the proposed Nelson Mandela Overlook Monument at the Tsongas Arena. He is involved with location organizations including EforAll, and the Lowell Sustainability Council. Anthony has a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from the University of Nairobi, Kenya and is a Dracut resident.

Charles Pappaconstantinou is a Sergeant in the Lowell Police Department. Charles is assigned as a patrol supervisor on the overnight shift. He is a staunch believer in strong community-police relations. Prior to joining the Police Department, he was an enlisted member of the U.S. Coast Guard, conducting law enforcement missions and search and rescue efforts. Charles has an Associates Degree in Criminate Justice from Middlesex Community College and is completing coursework at UMass Lowell. He is a resident of Lowell.

James Poirier is an Assistant Branch Manager for Eastern Bank. He manages the daily operations and audit controls of the branch and employees. James is active in his community, volunteering at the Lowell Food Pantry, Lowell Folk Festival, Pig N' Pepper Festival in Westford, and Lowell General Hospital's Breast Cancer Walk, among others. James has completed coursework in Business Management at UMass Lowell. He lives in Nashua, NH.

Laurel Racine is the Chief of Cultural Resources at the Lowell National Historical Park. She serves on the Park's senior management team and leads the cultural resources division which cares for the museum collections and develops and maintains exhibits in the Park. Laurel has worked with the National Park Service for more than 16 years, including the Northeast Museum Services Center at the Charlestown Navy Yard, the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, and the Boston African National Historic Site. She has a Bachelor of Arts from UMass Dartmouth, a Master of Arts from the University of Delaware, and Certificate in Museum Studies from Tufts University. Laurel lives in North Attleboro.

Rose Ruggiero is the Assistant Vice President of Collections at Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union. She manages loss mitigation, delinquency, and strategic communications with borrowers. Along with her more than 27 years of experience working for nonprofit credit unions, Rose was a board member for Big Brothers Big Sisters in Manchester, NH and volunteers with animal rescue programs and shelters. Rose has a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration and three Masters Degrees from Southern New Hampshire University. Rose is a Lowell resident.

Laura Santiago is the Community Program Manager at Mill City Grows. In this capacity she oversees the Community Garden Program, and helps build participation in the Mobile Market and Gardener Training Workshops. During the 2017 growing season Laura worked with more than 400 families and individuals, helping them to grow more than 5,000 lbs of food in 5 gardens. Laura is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from UMass Dartmouth and is a Lowell resident.

Meghan Siembor is the Division Director for Child and Family Services at Community Teamwork, Inc. (CTI). She oversees the development and implementation of early learning support services. Meghan is responsible for all of CTI's early learning and child care services including Center Based Care, Head Start, and Family Child Care and School Age programs. Meghan is the former Co-Chair of the Lowell Early Childhood Advisory Council and served on the city's Birth to Grade Three Leadership Alignment Team. Meghan received a Bachelor of Science from Plattsburgh State University, Plattsburgh, NY and a Masters in Education from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. She lives in Reading, MA.

Tooch Van is an immigrant from Cambodia, an educator & storyteller who keeps telling his family's story: All his family members were killed and died in the Cambodian Genocide. He currently works at the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA) as the Community Outreach Coordinator. He serves as a liaison between community members, business owners, government and faith based organizations, and social service providers. Prior to joining the CMAA Tooch worked for 11 years at Middlesex Community College in the Multicultural & International Office. Tooch has also served on the Board of Directors for numerous nonprofit organizations including the CMAA and the Cultural Organization of Lowell (COOL). Tooch received a Masters Degree in Arts of Law & Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University; an Advanced Certificated in Public Policy and International Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School of International Affairs at Princeton University; a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from Trinity College; and an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts from Middlesex Community College. Tooch, lives in Lowell MA and enjoys spending time with his two boys: Winston and Franklin; reading, traveling, and embracing life learning opportunity.