



Lowell Plan Public Matters® 2023 Participant Bios



Jeff Bush is the President of Heritage Properties, a Lowell based real estate development and property management company. He works closely with the senior management team in overseeing the staff and operations at Heritage Properties. Jeff joined Heritage Properties in 2016 as an analyst, where he was tasked with identifying, inspecting, and closing new acquisition, redevelopment, and investment opportunities. He continues much of this work in his role as President.

Jeff graduated from Brown University and holds a certificate in Real Estate Finance from Boston University. Prior to coming to work at Heritage, Jeff worked as a special education teacher on Cape Cod. Jeff holds a board seat on the House of Hope and enjoys all things outdoors – particularly swimming, biking running, and golf.



Allison Carter, AICP is the Director of Economic Development for the City of Lowell. With experience as a Main Street director and in municipal government, Ali is particularly aware of the interplay between public and private sectors in achieving downtown revitalization, especially in urban and suburban communities. Ali holds an M.A. in Public History and views her work through the lens of historic preservation. Believing that nothing is accomplished without partnership, Ali strives to work across sectors by leveraging the strengths of private, nonprofit, and municipal entities to achieve community goals.



Peter Crewe is the Director of Cultural Affairs and Special Events at the City of Lowell. Prior to joining the City of Lowell, Peter worked briefly for the Mosaic Lowell Cultural Economy Plan. He has over a decade's experience in non-profit administration and produced over 80 theatrical productions for Merrimack Repertory Theatre. He has been a resident of Lowell since 2009.



Erin N. Daniels (Nikki) is the Director of Arts & Culture – Programming for the National Park Service at Lowell National Historical Park (LNHP). She is a Brand & Program Manager with a focus on Culture & Community. Her experience and creative drive has guided her to positions that allow her versatile set of artistic talents and skills to shine such as her previous role at the African American Research

Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC) in Fort Lauderdale, FL. In today's digital age it is important to focus on building bridges. Nikki connects brands to their audience across the world and locally by building community! Art is a lens in which all cultures share. As people we interpret our world, past, differences and barriers. Nikki believes that art allows us to discover truths and narratives we may not normally approach.



Timothy Demetriou is a Lead Credit Analyst at Enterprise Bank where he has worked for 8 years. He graduated from Lowell High School. He then attended Villanova University for undergrad earning a degree in Finance and Accounting and Bentley University for grad school earning a Masters in Finance. Tim currently serves on the boards of Clarendon Early Education Services as treasurer, Rogers Hall Corporation, and St. Vincent de Paul – Immaculate Conception as secretary. Tim was born and raised in Lowell in the Belvidere neighborhood and still lives there with his wife and dog.



Lauren Dufresne is the Associate Registrar for Academic Records and the liaison to Athletics at the UMass Lowell and has been a part of the River Hawk family for over 20 years. Not only is Lauren an employee, but she is also an alum and former Division II Volleyball Athlete. When the University began the transition to Division I about 10 years ago, she was asked to be the liaison between the Registrar's Office and Athletics and loves being able to remain at her Alma Mater and help impact the lives of our students and student athletes. You can often find Lauren sporting her River Hawk gear around campus and showing up to various games throughout the year. Lauren has lived in the Merrimack Valley all of her life, growing up in Chelmsford and now living in Lowell. She loves to travel and learn about the history of places she visits. And she is excited to learn more about my city and connect with new people.



Tara Hong is a Program Coordinator at Project LEARN. Tara is passionate about bringing more support to students and the community here in Lowell. Tara is a recent graduate of the University of Massachusetts Lowell (Class of 2022), where he majored in Political Science and minored in Criminal Justice. Tara brings experience in community engagement from his work with the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell (CMAA), Lowell Public Schools, and as a Candidate for State Representative. Tara also served on the Board of Directors for Lowell Litter Krewe unit 2022, and Mill City Grows until now. He immigrated from Cambodia in 2013 and is a Lowell resident.



Thao Thach Lan is the owner of Push Muscular Restoration. She's worked in the fitness industry for over 25 years and has mastered the art of coaching clients to optimal physical health and wellness using meditation and mindset hacks. Thao has extensive and successful hands-on experience applying therapeutic bodywork treatments on athletes of all levels, ranging from first time runners to seasoned professional athletes.



Anybe Levy is the principal of Jemile Design Collaborative (JDC), and the Lead designer for Studio 26 Associates. She created JDC to implement her interior design philosophies of inclusivity and to create opportunities to partner with other like minds. Her collaboration with Studio 26 has allowed her to grow as a person and participate in multiple projects, promoting the shared mission of both firms. Anybe was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in Lawrence MA. For her, Lawrence was an amazing place to grow up and it provided her with diversity awareness, culture, and rich history. She studied Architecture at Mass College of Art & Design, took graduate courses at BAC, and received her Construction Supervisors license in 2010. She has practiced within the design industry for 14 years. Her passion for design has come from her diverse cultural background and her experiences growing up. When she is not working on design projects, Anybe enjoys going out on nature hikes, traveling, and spending time with her family and friends.



Niem Naykret is a Trilingual-Bi-cultural Community Health Worker (CHW) at Lowell Community Health Center (LCHC). She has worked in many departments at Lowell CHC, her most recent work was in pediatric behavioral health. During her 15 plus years with the Health Center, she has supported programs for refugees/immigrants, teen clinics, prenatal care/OBGYN case management, breast health education and Chronic Disease prevention/education program (CCH REACH 2010). Niem has transferred from working on Contract Tracing/Case investigation work for CHC and DPH's Contact Tracing Initiative to fight and stop the spread of COVID-19 to join the Racial Ethnic Approaches to Community (REACH) LoWELL program team at the end of 2020 to now. Niem is an active volunteer and works to improve the lives and health of people in the community.



Jose Pagan was born in Puerto Rico and grew up in Lowell, MA. He studied in the Lowell public schools and attended UMass Lowell. Graduated from MMI in Orlando, Florida with a certificate in Mechanical Technology. Jose currently works for Farley White Management as a Tenant Coordinator and is responsible for the firm's Lowell, Chelmsford, Billerica, and Bedford portfolio.



Jennifer (Jenny) Raitt is Executive Director of the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, a regional planning agency based in Lowell, MA. Jenny has 25 years of experience serving local, regional, and state governments and nonprofit organizations in the fields of housing policy and planning, community development, and urban planning. In addition to her full-time role, she is active on many boards, including Brookline's Community Preservation Committee and Housing Advisory Board, the American Planning Association Legislative and Policy Committee,

TransitMatters as Vice President and Co-Chair, and B'nai B'rith Housing. Her piece, "Ending Zoning's Racist Legacy" was the January 2022 issue of APA's Zoning Practice. This past spring, she was recognized by two statewide organizations for her achievements: a Housing Hero award from the Massachusetts Housing Partnership and an Open Door Champion Award from the Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA).



Theresa Raleigh is the Vice President of Human Resources for Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union. She's worked in the credit union industry since 2005 and loves it! Theresa has a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing. She's also the proud mom of two college students and three cats. She's originally from northern New York State and recently moved to the Lowell area and looks forward to learning more about it.



Carrie Randall is the Director of the Lowell Summer Music Series. Prior to becoming the Director she worked with the Series for two years as a venue coordinator. She's a lifelong resident of Lowell and loves love concerts, traveling, and frequenting all the coffee shops Lowell has to offer. Carrie has a Bachelor's Degree from Lasell University in Event Management.

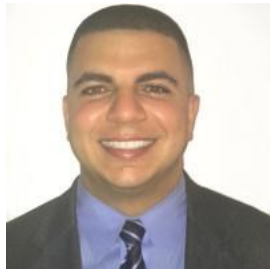


Nate Robertson has diverse urban planning experience in Gateway Cities including Lawrence, Methuen, Hyannis, and Haverhill. Nate works for MassDevelopment as a Transformative Development Fellow serving in Lowell's Acre Neighborhood. He previously worked as the Community and Economic Development Program Manager at the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, where he focused on building support programs for local businesses, cultivating municipal support for housing production, and growing wealth-building industry clusters. Prior to the Planning Commission, Nate worked in Haverhill for a partnership focused on economic development and urban revitalization. While in Hyannis, Nate owned a small flower shop, co-produced a documentary about addiction and recovery, and worked on harm reduction and food security issues for the AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod. Nate's experiences working at the intersections of health, wealth, and housing anchor his approach to community building. Nate has a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of Vermont.



Leonard Russ is the Assistant Dean of Student Support at Middlesex Community College. In this position he manages the counseling and disability departments. Leonard also serves on the Student Assessment and Intervention Team (SAIT), Strategic Leadership Council and the New England Commission of Higher

Education (NECHE) accreditation committee. He uses equity, school policy, and technology to promote student success and accommodate student needs. A practitioner and leader in K-12 & Higher education, he has served as an Alumni Service Coordinator, School Counselor and Dean of Students. Leonard holds a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University and a Master's degree in Social Work from Boston University. He also obtained his licensure as a clinical Social Worker. Leonard is married to his wife, Violette, and they have two beautiful children and the family pet Sadie. In his spare time, Leonard enjoys fishing, playing basketball, gaming, and spending time at his church.



Fady Sidhom is the Assistant Treasurer- Outbound Contact Manager at Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union, a not-for-profit member-owned financial institution based in Lowell, Massachusetts that was founded in 1912. As the AT- Outbound Contact Manager, Fady oversees a team of 7 that responds to all digital and outbound communication made to the Credit Union. Fady Started at the Credit Union in 2020 but has been in banking for 7 years working at different organizations.

Fady was born in Alexandria, Egypt, and moved to the United States in 2000 at the age of 9. He currently lives in Methuen with his wife, Ashley, dog, Luna, and cat, Snow. In his spare time, Fady enjoys spending time with his family and playing video games.

Fady graduated from the University of Massachusetts Lowell in 2015 with a BA in Criminal Justice and a minor in Psychology.



Gary Yin is the Branch Manager with Eastern Bank and has a passion for organizing and bringing people together. In his free time, he enjoys gaming, trying out new cuisines, socializing with friends over a few drinks, and traveling. He is excited to join Public Matters and learn from experienced mentors, as well as share my own skills and insights with my fellow participants. He believes that effective leadership is about collaboration, communication, and continuous learning, and is looking forward to cultivating these qualities in himself and others. Gary grew up in Lowell,

is a product of the Lowell public school system and attended Middlesex Community College.