Sustainability, Resiliency, and Building Cities: Professional and Policy Parameters
An Urban October / Archtober Event
Wednesday, 13 October 2021
10:00 am - 11:30 am Eastern Daylight Time
Join by Teams: https://tinyurl.com/3z5734p9

Draft Programme

10:00 am  Introduction by Christopher Williams, Director, New York Office, UN-Habitat
10:05 am  Opening by Moderator Danei Cesario AIA, RIBA, NOMA, Associate, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)
10:10 am  Remarks by Yasemin Kologlu, RIBA, LEED AP BD+C, Director, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)
10:15 am  Remarks by Amy MacDonald, Principal and Resilience Practice Leader, Thornton Tomasetti
10:20 am  Remarks by Danielle Arigoni, Director of Livable Communities, AARP Government Affairs with Remarks by Kelly Pflicke, AICP, Community Planner | Federal Emergency and Mitigation Administration (FEMA)
10:25 am  Panel discussion
11:00 am  Question and Answer
11:25 am  Concluding remarks
11:30 am  End

Concept Note

We often use the term ‘sustainability’ to capture an intricate convergence of factors which contribute to how we live and to attempt to forecast our future living situations in our global cities. But what does sustainability mean? How do we measure it?

The UN-Habitat, WALLEN + daub, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization and the allied programme hosts seek to promote a better understanding of the role of sustainable urbanization and resilient design in the creation of our communities. Our combined purpose is to advocate for responsible and enlightened planning and design with the belief that we can effectively improve the quality of life for all.

There are clear overlaps and shared goals regarding sustainability, resilience, climate and the environment within building construction, urban planning and design industries. Less apparent are the parameters that industry professionals are held to by existing agencies and emerging policies to protect our cities and ultimately our world. Through this discussion, we seek to break down what makes sustainability function. By spotlighting recent work at the professional and policy level, engaging in the social aspect of providing agency and planning for the future, and ultimately by reflecting on what we have learned thus far, we aim to concretize where we are going in the path to sustainability and future resiliency. Our goal is to ignite a conversation that can be sustained in subsequent years and regarded as a reference point as we continue to strive towards the United Nations’ 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

By participating in this event, attendees will be able to identify the connections between health, city planning, long-term improvements mandated by design and agency limitations as key factors of sustainability and resiliency. Attendees will also be able to understand the various pivotal points that dictate our everyday
approaches to sustainability. In addition, attendees will hear how cities approach reaching the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their implications and objectives.

This online event is hosted by UN-Habitat, WALLEN + daub, the Center for Architecture, the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, AIA New York, the Habitat Professional Forum.

**Speaker Profiles**

**Chris Williams** is the Director of the New York Office of UN-Habitat, the United Nations agency responsible for affordable housing and sustainable urban development. He is a development practitioner with over twenty-five years of experience working in international organizations in Africa, Asia and the Americas. Prior to UN-Habitat, Mr. Williams served as Executive Director of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) in Geneva empowering over 20 million people to end the practice of open defecation and invest in sanitation. Earlier at UN-Habitat, he held senior positions in fund management, political affairs, program management, policy advocacy, and applied research.

Before joining the United Nations, Mr. Williams worked in Africa and the United States promoting community economic development. His work with homeless shelters, community organizations, financial intermediaries, and commercial lending institutions provided him a wide range of institutional perspectives. He has earned degrees in economics, public policy and sociology, and holds a Ph.D., from the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research.

**Danei Cesario** is the 333rd Black woman in American history to earn her architectural license. She is an internationally licensed architect, project manager, and public speaker. Danei is a Project Manager at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), overseeing dynamic mixed-use development and healthcare projects. Her passion for architecture and advocacy has led Danei to become a champion for design professionals and a sought-after speaker. Her diverse experiences in healthcare, equity and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) paired with working in global environments have yielded speaking engagements at numerous national and international conferences and private sector events, including the United Nations, SXSW, Royal Institute of British Architects, AIA National Conference and the New York Building Congress.

Danei served as chair of AIA New York’s Diversity & Inclusion Committee for over five years. Currently, she serves on the AIA New York State Board (representing nearly 10,000 members across 13 chapters), the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization and the AIA New York Nominating Committee. She is an ambassador to organizations vested in equity, diversity and inclusion including Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation, Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust and nycobaNOMA Executive Board. Danei is dedicated to fostering mentorship, sponsorship and leadership within the design community. She founded WALLEN + daub to expand on these principles.

**Danielle Arigoni** is Director of Livable Communities for AARP Government Affairs, where she coordinates AARP’s federal, state and local advocacy efforts pertaining to housing, transportation, utilities, broadband, and more for AARP’s 53 state offices. Prior to her role in Government Affairs, Danielle led AARP’s programmatic efforts to promote livable communities, during which time she expanded membership in the flagship AARP
Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities program nearly five-fold, to more than 500 communities and eight states. She led the design and implementation of several new technical assistance programs, and the production of more than a dozen influencer-facing publications on housing, transportation, zoning, and public spaces. And she led the design and implementation of five national workshops, launch of a searchable Livable Map, and production of a biweekly newsletter that now reaches more than 110,000 practitioners.

Danielle is an urban planner by education, and has more than 20 years of professional experience contributing to more sustainable and resilient federal, state and local policy, including prior leadership positions at USEPA and HUD. She also serves as a Board Member for the League of American Bicyclists. Danielle holds a Master’s Degree in Regional Planning from Cornell University, and a Bachelor’s Degree in Planning from University of Oregon.

Yasemin Kologlu is a design director in SOM’s New York office. Kologlu adopts a forward-thinking and holistic approach to design that integrates wellbeing, environmental design, and technology. She is a strong advocate for equality, diversity, and innovation in the design industry. Kologlu joined the firm in 2004 and has since worked in SOM’s New York and London offices. Her portfolio of completed projects is diverse – it includes innovative headquarters, near-zero-energy offices, and net zero-carbon residential and mixed-use developments. She has extensive experience working on projects in North America and Europe, including 400 Fifth Avenue in New York, the United States Census Bureau headquarters in Maryland, the JT International headquarters and United Nations campus in Geneva, and the Karlatornet in Gothenburg – the tallest residential tower in Scandinavia. Kologlu is an industry recognized leader and mentor in sustainable design and construction. She is a founder and firm-wide leader of SOM’s global Climate Action Group, which promotes stronger sustainable practices in our built environment. She is part of the Carbon Leadership Forum NY (CLFNY) Steering Committee, AIA New York’s Committee on the Environment (COTE), and the Building Energy Exchange (BE-Ex) Architect Advisory Council, and has contributed to multiple industry advisory groups to help shape New York City and State policies on carbon and energy. She continues to spearhead numerous environmental design research initiatives at SOM, and is committed to pluralism in design in practice. A member of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Kologlu received her Bachelor of Architecture at Cornell University and completed postgraduate studies at London Metropolitan University.

Amy Macdonald is a Principal and the Resilience Practice Leader at Thornton Tomasetti, where she specializes in helping clients to prepare, adapt, endure and thrive in this disruptive and changing world we live in. Amy provides property owners, insurance companies, and public sector clients with strategies to offset physical, operational and financial risk. She has 15 years of risk assessment, resilience consulting, geotechnical engineering, disaster response and recovery experience, as well as infrastructure design and land development.

Amy’s experience spans four continents, including reconnaissance following hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, earthquakes in Nepal, Sandy, and leadership of the engineering response to the Canterbury earthquake sequence in New Zealand.
Expanding upon this post-disaster experience, Amy leads the development of integrated, multidisciplinary resilience strategies for complex scenarios where natural hazards intersect with the built environment. Amy continues to manage the development and design of high-profile resilience and climate change adaptation strategies for healthcare, commercial and real estate clients throughout the Northeastern U.S and beyond. She received her master’s degree in engineering management from the University of Auckland with a focus on post disaster response and recovery engineering, and her bachelor's degree in science from the University of Canterbury majoring in civil engineering, geology and geography.

Kelly Pflicke serves as a Community Planner for the Planning and Safety Branch within the Risk Management Directorate, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, Resilience at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Kelly is responsible for the development of strategic partnerships and communications to advance the Hazard Mitigation Planning Program, a key resource for states, locals, tribes and territories in breaking the cycle of disaster damage and reconstruction. Prior to joining FEMA, Kelly served as a Senior Planner with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and gained experience in both the private and not-for-profit sectors in community planning and public policy-making. She has focused her career on helping communities adapt and build resilience to hazards exacerbated by climate change with particular attention to coastal communities and at-risk populations most impacted by disasters. Kelly was selected in 2017 and 2018 as a participant in study tours hosted by the Ecologic Institute that took her to multiple cities in Germany and Washington, DC to foster learning and transatlantic civil-society dialogue on climate adaptation solutions and energy policy. She volunteers with the American Planning Association Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Division and serves an annual proposal reviewer for the National Planning Conference. Kelly holds a Master of City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University and a Bachelor of Arts in Geography from Georgia Southern University.