

*Community Development Applied Research Seminar Series:*

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## Neighborhood Indicators for Recovery

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
May 15, 2009

### SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES

**Ira Goldstein** is the Director of Policy Solutions at The Reinvestment Fund (TRF), a results-oriented, socially responsible community investment group that works across the mid-Atlantic region. Dr. Goldstein has conducted detailed analyses of foreclosures for each state in the mid-Atlantic and for the Federal Reserve and Pennsylvania Department of Banking, resulting in protection and benefits to tens of thousands of homeowners. Formally trained as a sociologist, Dr. Goldstein's research and testimony provided expert support to discrimination cases brought by the PA Human Relations Commission, US Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and legal service attorneys. Prior to joining TRF, Dr. Goldstein was the mid-Atlantic Director of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Dr. Goldstein is co-author of a recently released book "Restructuring the Philadelphia Region: Metropolitan Divisions and Inequality." He is a member of the Consumer Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Board as well as a member of the Research Advisory Board of the Center for Responsible Lending and the Governor of Pennsylvania's Housing Advisory Committee.

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**Andrew French** currently serves as the Executive Director of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, Pennsylvania, a position he has held since 2005. He has worked in Fayette County since 1999, previously serving in the capacity of Assistant Director with the Redevelopment Authority. Andrew is originally a native of Mercer County, Pennsylvania. After receiving a degree in Business Administration from Pennsylvania State University, he relocated to Virginia where he attended Old Dominion University (ODU). After graduating from ODU in 1993, Andrew began his career working in the affordable housing and community development field in Virginia, holding different positions with the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority and the City of Hampton.

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**Christopher (Chris) Hoenig** is president and CEO of The State of The USA, Inc. This is a new nonprofit endeavor whose mission is to use quality information and advanced technology to educate the American people on the status and progress of the United States. Mr. Hoenig has worked with organizations in the private, public and non-profit sectors—first as a consultant with McKinsey & Co., then as a managing director at the GAO, as a Vice-President of Strategy at IBM and as Chairman of the Key National Indicators Initiative under the auspices of the National Academies. In these jobs, he applied an ongoing body of work on the fundamentals of leadership and complex problem solving, which was first published in *The Problem Solving Journey (Perseus Books)*. Mr. Hoenig has helped to define the major issues facing society in the 21st century. This began with work for the U.S. Congress defining challenges for the United States, which ultimately led to the creation of The State of the USA. He also conceived and helped lead the Global Project on Measuring Societal Progress with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

In the arena of innovation, he created one of the world's first commercial online information services, Transpotel. This was followed by the Solution System technology developed at Exolve, Inc. He recently led the development of Societal Intelligence at IBM. And he is currently working on approaches to large-scale Social Innovation. His formal education includes undergraduate work (BA) in history from Yale University and two graduate degrees in International Politics, Law and Economics from Cambridge University (M.Phil.) and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (M.A.L.D.). He lives in Washington, DC with his wife Susan and daughter Sophia.

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**Kai-Yan Lee** is a policy analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston with main research interests in urban and economic development, community revitalization, housing, and regional economics. Before joining the Boston Fed, he worked as an intern analyst in the Financial Market and Community Development team of the U.S. Government Accountability Office, as a policy fellow at the Joint Economic Development and Emerging Technology Committee of the Massachusetts Legislature, and as an economic/demographic researcher in California's Central Valley. He obtained his graduate degrees from Harvard and MIT and his B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley. He is active outdoors, in the kitchen, at museums, and at activities promoting social justice.

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**Kamla Lewis** is the Director of Neighborhood Revitalization for the City of Shaker Heights, Ohio, with responsibility for housing preservation. She has over 17 years of experience working in community development in a variety of settings. In addition to her 10 years in municipal government, she has worked at the international level with the United Nations Development Program, in a non-profit setting at the San Francisco Food Bank, at the County level with the Cuyahoga County Board of County Commissioners in Ohio and at the regional level with the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) in Cleveland. She is a graduate of Princeton University in New Jersey, and Cambridge University in England, with an academic background in both political science and development economics.

**Brian A. Mikelbank** is an associate professor of Urban Studies in the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. He is an urban geographer with varied interests in quantitative spatial analysis. His recent research focuses on the spatial analysis of metropolitan housing markets and dynamics of urban-suburban change. Brian is the director of the Planning Research and Practice Program which serves as a focal point for planning, housing, and neighborhood development issues in the College. He recently served as a visiting scholar in Community Affairs at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, where he worked on the topics of vacant, abandoned and foreclosed properties. Brian teaches classes in housing analysis, quantitative and spatial data analysis, urban geography, urban development and urban geographic information systems.

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**Amy Sackman Odum** is Director of Community Development for the City of Lima, Ohio. In 1993, she designed and implemented the city's award winning Neighborhood Support Program. Her responsibilities expanded in 2004 as Director of Community Development to include housing programs, community planning, economic development, and grants management, as well as continued oversight of property code enforcement and neighborhood capacity building programs. Ms. Odum is currently President of the Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission, and has served on the Ohio Department of Development Neighborhood Stabilization Stakeholders Group for Urban Development. She has shared her experiences in community capacity development and program management as a trainer and presenter for the Ohio Conference for Community Development, the International Code Council (ICC), and other organizations. Amy Sackman Odum is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute with a Bachelors degree in Public Administration from the University of Toledo. Dubbed "the Yard Czar" by local media, she is an ICC certified Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector.

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**Joe Schilling**, as a founding member of the National Vacant Properties Campaign, works closely with state and local officials and community development practitioners on designing innovative revitalization strategies in such areas as code enforcement, zoning and housing codes, land use planning, and green infrastructure. Schilling was the team leader for the Campaign's assessment work in Toledo, Cleveland and Dayton, Ohio and served on the New Orleans study team. He directs the Campaign's research and policy activities.

As professor in practice at Virginia Tech's Alexandria Center, Schilling's Green Regions Initiative explores the dimensions of creating environmentally sustainable regions through collaborative planning, better community design, and consensus building strategies. Schilling provides strategic guidance to community organizations, government officials, and business leaders in such areas as the revitalization of vacant properties/abandoned buildings, brownfields redevelopment, smart growth, land use planning and zoning code reforms, active living, and the reuse of former military installations. Prior to joining the Institute, Schilling directed the community and economic development programs for the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). Before coming to Washington, D.C., Schilling served for over ten years as a Deputy City Attorney for the City of San Diego in charge of its code enforcement unit where he drafted land use ordinances and building codes. Mr. Schilling earned a Masters of Environmental Law from George Washington and a J.D. from Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco.

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**Chris Walker** is Director of Research and Assessment for the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the nation's foremost community development intermediary. He is responsible for assembling, conducting, sponsoring, and disseminating high-quality research on community development's contributions to the well-being of individuals, families and communities. He also supports the research activities of the 30 LISC local programs throughout the United States. Currently, he directs a multi-site assessment of LISC's new comprehensive community change initiative, is principle investigator of a study on the impacts of low-income housing tax credit projects on neighborhoods and families, and provides senior research support to LISC-MetroEdge – a consulting practice devoted to uncovering hidden retail potential in low-income urban neighborhoods. In recent months, he has carried out extensive research on the patterns and performance of residential mortgage loans across the nation's cities and neighborhoods.

Prior to joining LISC in late 2005, Mr. Walker was director of the community and economic development program of the Urban Institute in Washington, DC, where he worked for 19 years. His research at the Urban Institute included national studies of federal- and foundation-funded affordable housing, community lending, small business development, cultural participation, and other community and economic development issues. Within these broad areas, he specialized in community-based initiatives, local government policies, multi-party collaborations, performance measurement and community impact analysis.

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**Laura Richeson Zinski**, a native of Canton, Ohio arrived in Pittsburgh in 1992 to start graduate work at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz School, having completed undergraduate work at Wheaton College in Illinois. While earning a Masters of Science in Public Policy and Management at CMU, Ms. Zinski interned with the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh and Central Northside Neighborhood Council. After completing graduate school, Ms. Zinski began full time work with Mon Valley Initiative as Housing Development Specialist in 1994, leading the Rehab-for-Resale program. In 1998, Ms. Zinski moved to the position of Manager of Housing and Human Services Division at Allegheny County Department of Economic Development. Her role oversaw CDBG and HOME funds utilized throughout Allegheny County for a variety of housing programs and she managed a staff of 14 employees.

Her first position in the private sector began in the winter of 2001 with The Mosites Company, an urban real estate development company. Ms. Zinski provided project management services on several commercial development projects. She returned to Mon Valley Initiative as its third director in July of 2001 and continues to serve in that capacity. Ms. Zinski also serves on the boards of the Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh, Sustainable Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, and The Bayer Center Advisory Board. She also chairs the Braddock Planning Commission.