

Transforming Boston Harbor:

Resilience and Equity From Vision to Implementation

SAT - DD1



SESSION DESCRIPTION

In light of increasing population and changing climate, the City of Boston has paired equity and resilience as twin pillars in a new era for Boston's Waterfront. This deep-dive session illuminates this work from vision to implementation. Focus will be on leveraging investment, strategic partnerships, phasing, and implementing early catalytic projects. Participants will be engaged in discussion, workshop and collaborative thinking about how these issues apply to their own context and have opportunity to share their own experience and insights in small groups.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand climate-related pressures along complex urban waterfronts, adaptive projects underway and opportunities for transformation.
- Learn about challenges and strategies for implementing urban coastal resilience on filled tidal lands including settlement, drainage, underground utilities and contamination.
- Understand how to pair visionary design with robust science, and clear engineering, programming and maintenance guidelines for effective climate adaptation planning
- Learn about mechanisms and models for creating a plan for shared investment, management, and operations on multi-jurisdictional lands.
- Learn about performance evaluation, including Benefit Cost Analysis models, for resilience projects and how to apply them in your planning and design process.
- Explore techniques for communicating complex climate information and engaging communities and stakeholders to build support for implementation.



Panelists



Amy Whitesides, Associate ASLA

Director of Resilience and Research, Stoss Landscape Urbansim

At Stoss, Amy brings her background in landscape architecture, science communication, ecology and biology to projects across a wide range of scales. She has lead multiple waterfront design and planning efforts focused on resilient public open space including Climate Ready East Boston, Charlestown, Downtown and The North End, The Vision Plan for Moakley Park, and is currently collaborating with Arcadis on the Nantucket Climate Resilience Plan. Amy is a design critic at Harvard GSD where she teaches design studios centered on response to climate based risk in the Boston Harbor.



Carly Foster

Urban and Community Practice Lead, Urban and Coastal Resilience Practice. Arcadis, U.S.

Carly's work focuses on risk assessment, strategic planning, funding, program management, loss avoidance assessment, and capacity building. She is a member of the Arcadis team connected to the Rockefeller Foundation Resilient Cities 100 initiative. She was the project manager for the Climate Ready South Boston Neighborhood Plan and continues to develop funding and financial models for implementation through participatory workshops and stakeholder partnerships. Carly founded the Arcadis Funding Team and has helped drive close to \$4 billion in resilience initiatives to funding and implementation.



Julie Eaton Ernst, PIC

Lead Resiliency Engineer, Weston & Sampson

Julie is a licensed professional engineer and the lead resiliency engineer at Weston & Sampson. She specializes in applying climate projections in civil design practices and translating conceptual adaptation strategies into feasible engineered solutions. Julie is working on a number of flood resilient waterfront parks, including Moakley Park in South Boston and Langone & Puopolo Park in the North End, and was the project manager for the award-winning City of Boston Public Works Department's Climate Resilient Design Standards and Guidelines for Protection of Public Rights-of-way.



Pippa Brashear

Planning Principal, SCAPE Landscape Architecture

Pippa works with large, multi-disciplinary teams to develop landscape strategies and next-century infrastructure that integrate environmental, economic and social benefit. Her resilience experience includes work on NYC's Strategic Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency, NY State's Community Reconstruction Program, Boston's Resilient Harbor Vision and Climate Ready Dorchester Plan, and her on-going leadership on The Living Breakwaters Project for the NY Governor's Office of Storm Recovery. Pippa holds a Master's in Landscape Architecture and Master's in Urban Planning with Distinction from Harvard University. She also holds a Bachelor's of Arts, cum laude, in Environmental Science and Public Policy from Harvard College.

SESSION OUTLINE

Part I

Speaker and Presentation Introduction

speaker bios

what to expect in this session

Climate Vulnerability and Transformation: Grounding in Science and Creating a Vision

Boston Harbor History: cultural relevance, land-making and harbor cleanup

Climate Risks: People, Environment, Economy, Infrastructure

Planning for Change: Climate Ready Boston

City-Wide Planning: One Vision, 5 Neighborhood Solutions

A Call to Action: Resilient Harbor Vision

Neighborhood Planning Overview + Example Projects

East Boston

South Boston

Dorchester

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Workshop: Community Engagement Processes and Tools

~ Break ~



Discover Moakley Event: Stoss | Image Credit Mike Belleme

Part II

Regional Implementation: Developing and Communicating Design Standards

Establishing a basis of design: The Resilient Massachusetts Action Team Standards beta Tool
Climate Resilience Design Guidelines
Climate Resilience Checklist: Guidance to Private Developers

Site - Scale Implementation: Resilient Open Spaces as Catalysts

Finding Opportunity Sites and Implementing Strategic Planning
Building Resilience on Filled Tidelands
Integrating Coastal Resilience and Stormwater Management

Funding Implementation

Enabling Implementation: Governance, Partners and Identifying Funding Sources
Communicating Value: Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) tools

Workshop: Build A BCA

Wrap-Up | Q&A



Notes

Additional Resources

Climate Ready Boston <https://www.boston.gov/departments/environment/preparing-climate-change>

Boston Climate Resilient Design Guidelines
<https://www.boston.gov/environment-and-energy/climate-resilient-design-guidelines>

Resilient Boston Harbor Vision
<https://www.boston.gov/environment-and-energy/resilient-boston-harbor>

Climate Ready Boston Map Viewer (tool)
<https://www.boston.gov/departments/environment/climate-ready-boston-map-explorer>

Moakley Park Vision Plan
<https://www.boston.gov/parks/moakley-park>

MA Climate Change Projections viewer:
<https://gis.massdot.state.ma.us/cpws/>

Resilience MA Clearinghouse
<https://www.resilientma.org/>