

DESCRIPTION

In Boston, historic patterns of racism, redlining, and development have created inequities in urban tree canopy cover and the impacts of excess heat. This session will focus on Boston's simultaneous "Climate-Ready" planning efforts addressing heat resilience and urban forest management, highlighting the process taken to ensure equity-driven planning and outcomes.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Evaluate historic attitudes, programs, and policies that have created inequitable risks to excess heat and related inadequate tree canopy
- Discuss opportunities to promote "tree equity," considering co-benefits with community heat resilience strategies
- Understand the role of policy, exploratory methods for developing policy with the community, and 'small p' policies that initiate early action
- Explore techniques for engaging communities and stakeholders to build support for implementation across planning initiatives

SESSION NOTES:

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION - Context

- Speaker Introductions and background
- What to Expect from this Session

CLIMATE EQUITY PLANNING IN BOSTON - ZOE DAVIS

- Understanding the history of race and resilience in Boston within the framework of planning for equity
- Historic conditions in Boston that have led to inequity, including: racism, redlining, and development patterns
- City-wide Climate-Ready Boston planning: laying the groundwork for social resilience.
- Centering equity in recent coordinated climate resilience planning efforts: Heat Resilience Plan, Urban Forest Plan, Coastal Resilient Solutions.
- Creating the approach to engagement
- Laying out the big questions:

TREE EQUITY AND URBAN FOREST PLANNING - AMY WHITESIDES

- What is Tree Equity
- Shaping the urban canopy in Boston: History and Equity
- Opportunities for Implementation/ Overcoming Challenges

CITY-WIDE HEAT RESILIENCE PLANNING - DIANA FERNANDEZ BIBEAU

- What is Heat Resilience?
- The Heat inequity context in Boston
- Multiple Scales of Planning: City Wide and Neighborhood Level
- Opportunities for Implementation/Overcoming Challenges



ZOË DAVIS

Climate Resilience Project Manager
City of Boston Office of Environment, Energy and Open Space

Zoe serves on the Climate Ready Boston Team at the Environment Department. As a project manager, she supports the development of neighborhood climate resilience planning, the integration of climate change preparedness projections into municipal projects, planning, and permit review, and the development of resources for residents, small businesses, and other stakeholders to take action.

Previously, Zoe served as a land stewardship coordinator and TerraCorps Service Member with the Mystic River Watershed Association. There, she organized habitat restoration projects in public parks and partnered with community groups and local government to create climate education programs and forums for public discourse about coastal resilience.

Zoe received a Bachelor of Science in Biology with an Environmental Science Concentration from Gordon College.



AMY WHITESIDES, ASSOCIATE ASLA

Director of Resilience and Research
Stoss Landscape Urbanism

Amy Whitesides, Associate ASLA

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, Charleston, Downtown and The North End, The Vision Plan for Moakley Park, and The Nantucket Climate Resilience Plan. She is currently co-leading the City of Boston's Urban Forest Plan with Davi Schoen from Stoss and collaborators from Urban Canopy Works. Amy is a design critic at Harvard GSD where she teaches design studios centered on productive landscapes and their response to climate based risk in Massachusetts.



DIANA FERNANDEZ BIBEAU, ASLA, PLA

Senior Associate, Landscape Architect
Sasaki

Diana is a proven thinker, collaborator and leader, who teams effortlessly with architects, planners, urban designers, ecologists and civil engineers on the design of equitable and sustainable places. Her experience spans a broad range of projects from planning to built work.

Diana provides critical thought and design leadership for our landscape and planning practice in the Urban Studio. She brings to each project—as well as a myriad corporate initiatives—strong critical thinking, a willingness to engage in thoughtful debate, and a commitment to quality. She leads and champions better equity and inclusion in our planning and built design practices from a landscape perspective.

Prior to joining Sasaki, Diana worked as a landscape architect and project designer in Philadelphia where she worked on urban and campus projects in the metro area. She writes and lectures in the discourses of landscape architecture, urban design, and equity. She holds a bachelor of science in landscape architecture from Temple University.