



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CARING COMMUNITIES

Better Living ... Adding Life to Years

**“Age of Hyperconnectivity: Imagining the Possible in Cities...
Better Living...Adding Life to Years”
Virtual Session
In support of *International World Cities Day and
76th United Nations Anniversary***

Biographies

Ms. Flavia Beppler is a Transportation Engineering Specialist for STV, a recognized US engineering, planning and construction management company. She believes that life significance is proportional to the amount of lives she positively impacts has led her to develop a passion for Public Transportation. Since undergraduate, Flavia has developed herself on studies in city planning and transportation, understanding the symbiotic relationship between them. With a Degree in Civil Engineering from Brazil, Master in Transportation from The City University of New York, and MBA in Transport and Infrastructure, she has had the opportunity to be exposed and contribute in large projects in developed and developing countries.

In Brazil she has worked with the Department of Infrastructure of the State of Santa Catarina, managing over 300 contracts and US\$ 1 billion in investments. In New York City, Flavia is working on the Second Avenue Subway – Phase 2, a multidisciplinary infrastructure project that, upon completion, will provide ridership for more than 300,000 people a day. Flavia has also served as Secretary of the American Society of Civil Engineers – Met Section and is an active member of the Brazilian-American Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Kimberly Bliss is the Executive Director of Equitable Communities, a non-profit that collaboratively develops community-based programs that fight for social and economic justice. Equitable Communities empowers local communities by fostering a local ownership model, by which local partners are responsible for the design, creation, and management of their own program initiatives. This unique collaborative model has already experienced demonstrated success in programs developed in the United States and abroad, including a community owned and run radio station, DJIP, in rural Jagna, Philippines that partners with San Francisco-based NGO Philos Health, to deliver health services to thousands of its residents.

Ms. Bliss is the Yale Alumni Non Profit Alliance Showdown winner representing Equitable Communities, was a Financial Literacy Coordinator for The Council for Economic Education, and her work with Equitable Communities and President and Founder John Kent has taken her all over the globe in partnerships of collaborative change.



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Ms. Lisa Cholmondeley, AIA, NOMA, LEED BD+C, CDT, Principal, Experienced place maker & building architect, Gensler

I'm motivated by understanding what connects people in the built environment. There is an invisible bond between who we are, how we occupy space, and what space looks like. I've been grateful to have had the opportunity to work across four continents with diverse project teams. Diversity in people, culture, and places serve as reminders that we always have new ways to experience the world.

I began my architectural career at Cornell University. After graduating, I worked in Washington, D.C then had incredible teaching opportunities in Knoxville and Washington DC. Following graduate School in London at the Architectural Association, I spent several years at a variety of firms across London before joining Gensler in 2008. While at Gensler I participated in a research program where I was able to work on an education project with our office in Sao Paulo. Previous to transferring to our San Francisco office, I was part of the Gensler team that delivered a 6 million square foot portion of a large mixed use development (Hospitality, Office, Retail, and Residential) in Qatar. I have delivered projects in the US, the UK, the Middle East, and Africa. I've spent almost half of my career working on interiors, but most recently have been focused on large scale, mixed-use commercial projects in the Bay Area.

I believe the most powerful way to connect with people is by breaking bread. I am an avid traveler, and I always find myself joyfully inspired when I am outside of my comfort zone, exploring new cultures and places, forcing myself to navigate my surrounding in different ways.

Professor Dianne Davis, since 1966 cited in "Who's Who of American Women", is founding president, International Council for Caring Communities (ICCC) established in 1993. It is a non-profit organization accredited to the UN Economic and Social Council. The book, *Hospitable Design for Healthcare and Senior Communities*, written with Dr. Albert Bush-Brown, initiated the "Better living...Adding Life to Years" programs. To stimulate greater understanding her efforts include: The "Cross-Sectoral" Windsor Consultations, "Integrated Communities: A Society for All Ages" Student Competitions, and events addressing interaction of ICT, disability, health and rehabilitation. Professor Davis fosters new mindsets and develops products and services for the hospitality, healthcare and educational industries. Known as an industry catalyst, change agent, and futurist, her goal is to develop "cross-over" ventures and stimulate traditional "sleeping" organizations to move into the forefront of performance and impact.



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Professor Dong Feng Huang, MD. He is currently the Head of the World Health Organization Collaboration Centre for Rehabilitation, Director of Rehabilitation Medicine of The Seventh Affiliated Hospital, Sun Yat-Sen University, Chair of Faculty of Rehabilitation Sciences, Zhongshan Medical School and Chair, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine of Xinhua College.

He is also the Dean of the Xinhua Institute of Humanities and Health Sciences, the Director of the Guangdong Engineering and Technology Research Centre for Rehabilitation Medicine and Translation, and the Senior Research Scholar of Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, New York University, USA (2010.03. - 2011.03.).

He is responsible for presiding over the vital clinical specialties of rehabilitation medicine of the National Health Commission, the first batch of training demonstration sites for rehabilitation physicians and the Rehabilitation Treatment Technology Training demonstration bases of the Stroke Prevention and treatment Project Commission, the key clinical specialties of Guangdong Province, the Post-doctoral Innovation Base of Guangdong Province and the Joint Postgraduate Training demonstration bases of Guangdong Province.

He serves as the chairman of the Technical Innovation Alliance of Guangdong Rehabilitation Industry and the Director of China International Rehabilitation Association of Industrial Technology Innovation Strategic Alliance.

He is the current Director of the Continent of Asia-Australia of International Exchange Committee, International Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Medicine (ISPRM), the Sixth Executive Director and Deputy Secretary-General of China Rehabilitation Medical Association; the Deputy Director of Rehabilitation Medical Education Professional Committee; Vice-President of Rehabilitation Physicians Branch of China Medical Association; First Chairman of the Chinese Medical Association of Integrated Rehabilitation; Medical Professional Committee of the Association of Joint Medical Sciences; Vice-Chairman of the Pain Rehabilitation Professional Committee of the World Society of Traditional Chinese Medicine; Chairman of the Guangdong Disabled Rehabilitation Association.

Mr. David S G Goodman is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, and an Emeritus Professor in each of the Department of China Studies, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, Suzhou; the Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney; and the Australia-China Relations Institute, University of Technology Sydney. His research concentrates on local social and political change in China. Prof Goodman was honoured as a *Friend of Suzhou* in 2019.

His most recent publications include *Class and the Communist Party of China, 1978-2021: Reform and Market Socialism* (with Marc Blecher, Yingjie Guo, Jean-Louis Rocca, and Beibei Tang) (2022); *Class and the Communist Party of China, 1921-1978: Revolution and Social Change* (with Marc Blecher, Yingjie Guo, Jean-Louis Rocca, and Tony Saich) (2021); *China Impact: Threat Perceptions in the Asia Pacific* with Shigeto Sonoda) (2018); *Handbook of the Politics of China* (2015); *Class in Contemporary China* (2014).



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Mr. Florent Firmin Kalonji Kalala, a man driven by his thirst for knowledge and passion lives his life in the pursuit of becoming the change he wishes to see in the world. Born in Kinshasa, the capital city of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and raised in the Ivory Coast city of Abidjan from the age of two, he always knew his life would be one of purpose and meaning. Raised in a home where education was priority and human compassion even greater, Mr. Kalala finished his secondary studies with a vision to go much further. Speaking only French when he arrived in the United States, he spent six months learning English before enrolling at Mercer University in Atlanta, Georgia where he earned his Bachelors with a Portfolio of Studies in Accounting and Finance. Understanding how essential the financial climate is to the strength of a secure economical structure, his career advanced rapidly as he flourished in financial reporting for many enterprises. His ability to interpret a company's financials while increasing the bottom line attracted the attention of major companies in the private sector. He then began managing, marketing and brokering services for entrepreneurs who sought to guide their companies to financial stability.

As founder and CEO of Bethesda Counsel, Mr. Kalala is determined to connect the dots to underline a better Africa by improving the quality of life for the less fortunate in Africa through the development of solid infrastructure, quality low income housing and in the near future, expanding his vision within the health and education sectors. Promoting a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) ideology, Mr. Kalala maintains extensive, personal, and high level relationships across Africa Emerging Market Investment Community, cultivating strong relationships with African government officials and several private companies executives in Africa.

Mr. Kalala sits as a member of the United States -Sierra Chamber of Commerce Advisory Board as well as an Executive Board Member of the Coalition for Justice and Peace in Africa (CJPA), a non profit organization promoting justice and peace for Africa.

Mr. Kalala is also the Interim CEO / Strategic Partner at Helen Yarmak International INC. with his goal focused in integrating the brand to be the first woman owned luxury fashion house to accept crypto payments for its high net worth private clients.

His motto and force that drives him: "With Faith, Patience, Resilience and Perseverance Everything becomes Possible."

Mr. John Kent has worked as a management consultant for social service organizations, conducted research studies on policy issues, and taught at Columbia University's Schools of Public Health and Social Work. He is also an investor. Currently, John is the Founder and President of Equitable Communities, a US-based non-profit which seeks to promote social justice on a wider scale through the power of local ownership and partnerships.

In the past twenty years he has allocated some of his resources to projects that promote personal and community well-being. In 2007, working with his brother David Kent, he undertook two social and economic justice demonstration projects: the Marketplace Fair for Financial Stewardship and the Jagna-Philos community radio station in Jagna, Philippines. Both projects are collaborative partnerships in which local ownership empowers local communities to create digital and technological innovation for rehabilitation.



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Mr. John Kiehl and Jackie Marston met 50 years ago as musicians playing in nightclubs in Boston, MA. John went on to be a co-founder and co-owner of Soundtrack Recording Studios which boasts clients today like Martin Scorsese, Ken Burns, Ron Howard, and Spike Lee. Over time John wore all the hats associated with the recording industry: musician, composer, arranger, engineer, producer, executive producer, and artist management. Jackie went on to a rich career as singer/songwriter performing for decades in the US and Canada. While leading her own band Jackie met David Murray who now co-writes all the music for her children's book series, "*Ojie, The Origami Grasshopper*". Their mission is to create inspiring, child-friendly messages about the majesty and fragility of our natural environment. Every book's appendix points the young reader to SDGs 13,14, & 15.

Dr. Gisela Loehlein has an extensive global experience in both academic and practice. Having worked on over 30 of the renowned projects that Dubai and its region is synonymous with. Dr. Gisela's versatile nature and keen interest in cultures has expanded her portfolio across the Europe, Australasia and Middle East.

Working alongside the Ruler in the Emirates of Sharjah, UAE, as an advisor for the Government (2007-2009). Academically she has served a semi-government higher educational institution, first private of the region, Ajman University as an Associate Professor (2010-17), whilst setting up the Institute of Built Environment at her Alma Mater, the British University in Dubai (2005-08) simultaneously working as well as their as program coordinator. She also served as a visiting professor at Malta University (2008).

At the American University of Sharjah, Dr. Gisela Loehlein served from 2002 to 2005 as Assistant Professor she is known for pioneering sustainability and research issues and as campus architect led the development of the digital fabrication lab.

She has also worked at Victoria University Wellington, New Zealand (1998-1999 + 2000-01). Trained as Architectural Engineer at Cardiff University (1995) she received a waiver by the Dean of Cambridge University for her Masters' and proceeded straight with her PhD (2001) at Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University where she was awarded a double scholarship by the university on merit. She is currently Head of Department of Architecture at XJTU.



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Ambassador. Dr. Josephine Ojiambo is an honorary lecturer at the College of Health Sciences, University of Nairobi and an Adjunct lecturer at the School of Public Health, Kenyatta University. She serves as the Rotary International representative to UNICEF and the UN office in Nairobi, where she has carried out a project on the safe return to schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. She is also a member of the Rotary Emergency Response Committee where she serves as the Rotary liaison to the National Business Compact Committee on COVID-19 (NBCCC) - a committee situated at the second tier of the Government's National Emergency Response Committee. Here, Amb. Dr. Ojiambo's tasks largely focus on water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Ambassador Dr. Josephine Ojiambo is also an advocate of democracy, good governance, and sustainable development. She is the Founding Director of the Peter Ojiambo Foundation: a charity that empowers young people with technology, enterprise, and leadership with a specific focus on disability. Ambassador Dr. Josephine Ojiambo has a distinguished public and diplomatic service career with deep engagement in a range of significant national, African, and global issues. Dr. Josephine is a champion of Global Partnerships in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals with a strong emphasis on vulnerability including ensuring refugee and migrant rights, gender equality and reproductive health and rights.

Mr. Sam Pitroda is an internationally respected development thinker, policymaker, inventor, and entrepreneur who has spent over 55 years in Telecom & IT. Credited with having laid the foundation of India's Technology revolution in the 1980s, he was advisor to the Prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1980s and Dr. Singh in 2010s with a cabinet minister' rank. He invented the electronic diary in 1974, mobile wallet in 1996, and set up C-SAM Inc., acquired by Master Card in 2013. He was Chairman of the National Knowledge Commission, National Innovation Council, Smart grid task, Railway modernization, & Public broadcast reforms.

Mr. Pitroda holds over 100 patents, 20 Hon. Ph.D.s, and has published and lectured extensively globally. He is a member of the American Academy of Engineers. His biography was published in 1992, autobiography "Dreaming Big" in 2015 & "Redesign the World" in 2021.

Ms. Manvi Vyas is an accomplished architect working as a Project Coordinator at C|A Architects based in Long Beach, California. Her work here primarily focuses on building Hospitals and Healthcare Infrastructures.

She's a Licensed Architect in India and has practiced architecture at firms like Dar Al-Handasah, L.S. Vaswani Architects, to name a few. She has completed her Masters in Architecture from the University of Lincoln in Sustainable Architecture Designs and Bachelors of Architecture from the University of Pune. She has received multiple awards for her work at both Lincoln and Pune. She has also presented her projects at ICCA Conferences for United Nations in New York, United States, and Beijing, China. She is passionate about sustainability, green architecture, and carbon-neutral designs and devotes her time to projects that make the earth a better place to live.