

2025 URBAN Conference Schedule

Traveling Together: The Many Paths of Community Engaged Research

April 3-6, 2025

Providence, RI

Co-Sponsored By:

Annenberg Institute at Brown University

& URBAN Connecticut Node

Supported By:

Center for Montessori Studies at University of Hartford

Knowledge Designs to Change

Brown University: Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

Swearer Center at Brown University

Integrated Justice and Social Change Collaborative at Southern Connecticut State University

College Unbound

For More Information:

Urban Research-Based Action Research Network

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Session Details

Day 1: Thursday – April 3rd, 2025

12:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Hotel Check-In – Aloft Providence Downtown & Homewood Suites Hotel

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Local Tour # 1 - [Providence Public Library \(PPL\)](#)

Address: 150 Empire St. - Advanced sign up and meet on location.

Tour Description: 150 Years of Stories: A Journey Through Providence Public Library

Celebrate 150 years of history, learning, and community at Providence Public Library! Join us for a storytelling tour through PPL's historic and newly renovated spaces, where you'll uncover the library's rich legacy of education, innovation, and public service. From its founding in 1875 to its role today as a hub for knowledge and creativity, this tour brings to life the stories of those who shaped PPL and the transformative impact it continues to have on our city.

Contact: Tonia Mason tmason@provlb.org | **Phone:** 401-487-7104

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm: Conference Check-In – Pembroke Center

5:00 pm – Opening Event - Pembroke Center Room 305 - Welcome by Celina Su

5:30 -7:00 pm: Panel Presentation: Navigating the Backlash Against Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Communities and Education - Co-presented with the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America.

Location: Pembroke Center, Room 305

Presenters:

- Moderator, Prudence L. Carter, Brown University
- John B. Diamond, Brown University
- Na'ilah S. Nasir - President, Spencer Foundation
- Crystal Fleming, Professor of Sociology, Smith College

Session Description: In this discussion, educators, policymakers, and activists will come together to critically examine some of the current most pressing issues and barriers to education, democracy, and full inclusion in society and its institutions, paying particular attention to schooling and education. Through collaborative dialogue, discussants will explore frameworks and pathways towards a better and more just future for all learners.

8:00 am – 9:00 am: Conference Check-In

Location: In the nook outside the second-floor elevators in the Cambridge Innovation Center.

Session I (9:00 am – 10:20 am)

1. Town Hall Session: Beyond Recruitment: Retaining Diverse Educators through Community Connections

Location: Assembly Room – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- David Castro (He/Him) - Director of Partnership Sustainability, Grow Your Own Teachers Illinois
- Liza Pappas - Executive Director, Grow Your Own Teachers Illinois

Session Description: This town hall session will discuss early results from Teacher Education Community-Based (TEC) Spaces, formed with the aim of emphasizing community-based organizations' (CBOs) critical roles in recruitment, support, and retention of diverse educators, and leverage CBOs' cultural insights to overcome systemic barriers and create sustainable connections. The results highlight challenges such as ensuring CBOs aren't tokenized, and bridging the differing practices, languages, and priorities of connecting higher education institutions (IHEs) and CBOs. TEC Spaces reflects a long-term vision for equitable collaboration and a sustainable, community-driven approach to teacher recruitment, retention, and education.

2. Round Table Session: Grantmakers Multiple Roundtables

Location: Watch Hill, 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Miranda Yates – Senior Program Officer, Research-Evaluation-Learning Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Inna Livitz – Senior Grants Operations Manager Russell Sage Foundation
- Tanya Hills – Director, Learning Evaluation & Research Fairfield County's Community Foundation

Session Description: Today's grants professionals are involved in engaged research in various ways. Some foundations incorporate knowledge work into their grantmaking processes. Some conduct research with grantee partners and networks. Some fund academic research and some participate in creative community/university/foundation partnerships for change. This roundtable session offers the opportunity to talk with grant professionals about how they envision and implement knowledge work from their particular locations.

3. Workshop Session: Creative Resistance: Arts-based Youth Participatory Action Research for Shared Meaning Making

Location: Studio, 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Kristen P. Goessling - Research Director, Penn State University
- Amanda C. Wager
- Dana E. Wright
- Marit Dewhurst

Session Description: This session will explore the guiding principles of arts-based YPAR (Youth Participatory Action Research) as the facilitators grapple with key ethical and methodological questions. Reflecting on their own experiences in arts-based and creative practices with young people to challenge inequities and injustices, the facilitators will illustrate the potential for art to generate pedagogical places of possibility by exploring the ways in which young people actively make meaning of their lives and experiences through creative resistance.

The session is organized by four themes as core principles: 1) art is a rigorous medium for analyzing, producing, and sharing knowledge; 2) authentic and reciprocal relationships are vital; 3) change can occur on multiple levels, oftentimes simultaneously; and 4) it is all about praxis and the process. In addition to these principles, suggested practices for engaging in arts-based YPAR will be shared, including holding YPAR values, listening for emergent outcomes, trusting the process, and maintaining a flexible container.

4. Community Engaged Research - Early Career Session

Location: Innovators Lounge, 1st Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenter: Ana Antunes (She/Her) – Assistant Professor, School for Cultural and Social Transformation, University of Utah

Session Description: This session is part of the URBAN Fellows Program and will be organized as a conversation to address questions and concerns that graduate students, postdocs, and early career faculty may have about their professional path.

5. Paper Session

Location: Sachuest, 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

5(A): Paper Title: Engagement in the Neoliberal University: Resources for Social Justice Collaboration Between Faculty and Community Organizations

Presenters:

- Jon Shefner - Community University Research Collaboration Initiative, University of Tennessee - Knoxville
- Lisa East - Community University Research Collaboration Initiative, University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Paper Description: In this paper the authors discuss the creation of an example of an alternative vision to that of a neoliberal careerist university, the Community-University Research Collaboration Initiative (CURCI) at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (UTK). The authors share that every day brings us greater awareness of the compromised nature of our higher education

institutions, caused by declining shares of budgets provided by state legislatures; subsequent over-focus on grant-seeking; and prioritizing career outcomes rather than undergraduate learning. The outcomes include attacks on diversity, attacks on tenure, and attacks on curriculum labeled as divisive. The paradigm has become the neoliberal careerist university, in which many of our efforts are deemed valuable only as they build commercial opportunities for corporations, and place students in jobs that serve those aims. And yet an alternative vision survives, one that takes the contributions of multiple disciplines seriously, that believes in the mission of education as a path to social justice, and in the obligations of higher education to serve the common good. The question posed by CURCI is: how can we address the neoliberalization of the university by using the tools of ‘engagement’? To answer this question, the paper addresses both the ideological and material resources that the authors draw on, as well as the obstacles to this new project.

5(B): Paper Title: Data Warriors: Perspectives on Youth Participatory Action Research at an Urban High School

Presenters:

- Lauren Ashby – Graduate Researcher, Syracuse University
- Nicole Fonger – Associate Professor, Faculty PI, Syracuse University
- Gabriel Davila-Campos – Undergraduate Researcher, Syracuse University
- Qiong Wu – Undergraduate Researcher, Syracuse University

Paper Description: In this paper the authors have focused on the Data Warriors program, an after-school club bringing together high school students, mathematics teachers, and faculty and graduate students at a local University to explore the intersection of environmental and social justice, mathematics, and geography. Drawing from Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) praxis, youth participants in Data Warriors are positioned as competent researchers and experts in their own experience. In addition to opening a research space for youth to investigate and address social problems, YPAR carries pedagogical commitments, and youth in Data Warriors take an active role in driving their learning, research, and eventually action. Also inspired by Gholdy Muhammad’s (2020) Culturally and Historically Responsive Literacy framework, they foster students’ criticality through place-based inquiry that centers the role of geography in the lived experiences of youth by layering several texts such as articles, websites, and maps. This presentation will explore adult and student experiences and outcomes of Data Warriors as they pertain to enacting a YPAR approach across high school-university lines, conducting community research, and facilitating skill building, community, and belonging for youth.

6. Journal of Collaboration for Equitable Change (JCEC) Interviews

Location: Peabody, 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Session Description: Share your experiences and ideas about Collaboration for Equitable Change. Short 10-minute Interviews will take place throughout the conference in the Peabody Room. You can schedule your time slot on the sign-up sheet on the door or just drop in. Interviews will be shared with you and, with your permission, will be included in the Special Interview Feature about the URBAN RESEARCH NETWORK in the *Journal of Collaboration for Equitable Change*.

Provided by Sousan Arafeh, of URBAN’s CONNECTicut Node, Professor, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Southern Connecticut State University and Founding Editor JCEC, <https://jcec.southernct.edu/>

9:00 am - 10:00 am: Local Tour #2 - [CHOP: A Culinary Journey of Tradition, Innovation, and Community](#)

Address: 211 Washington St, Providence, RI 02903 - Advanced sign up and meet on location.

Tour Description: Join us for a flavorful journey through CHOP, where the culinary traditions of aspiring chefs from the Genesis Center come to life. While food will not be provided during this experience, you'll get an inside look at how CHOP's menu celebrates global techniques, recipes, and cultures. Discover how this unique restaurant serves as both a dining destination and a dynamic training ground, empowering future chefs through the Genesis Center's renowned Culinary Arts Program. With over 40 years of transforming lives through education and job training, the Genesis Center continues to uplift communities—one dish at a time.

Contact: Joshua Riazi - jriazi@gencenter.org

Session II (10:40 am – 12:00 pm)

1. **Town Hall Session:** Prospective Change Agents: Developing Undergraduates' Competence in Culturally Sustaining Practices

Location: Assembly Room – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Jillian M. Cavanna (She/Her) - Associate Professor of Elementary Education, STEM, and Innovation Education, University of Hartford
- Sarah M Hart (She/Her) - Associate Professor of Special Education, University of Hartford
- Paige M. Bray (She/Her) - Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education/Director, Center for Montessori Studies, University of Hartford

Session Description: This interactive session seeks to improve upon the current culturally sustaining practices of university students by engaging the perspectives and roles in the room. Everyone will work directly with vignettes of undergraduate students to address the question: *What will develop young adults' ability to be agents for social change?* This will include investigating standards for social justice learning to build shared understanding, language, and actions. The aim is to delve deeper than introductory diversity work towards addressing systemic and local racial inequities.

The discussion will draw on the framework of culturally sustaining pedagogies to describe instruction that encourages students to maintain their cultural practices and languages from home in school. As teachers learn how to build on students' thinking, interests, and competencies through culturally sustaining pedagogies, they develop knowledge and skills from the stance of becoming more open, curious, and empathetic about the assets of their future students. Subsequently, culturally sustaining educators can partner with students, parents, and communities to disrupt racially disparate outcomes for students of Color, multilingual learners, and students with disabilities.

2. **Panel Presentation:** Knowledge Intersections: Exploring Promising Trends Connecting Philanthropy and Community Engaged Research

Location: Watch Hill, 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Angela K. Frusciante - Independent Scholar / Founder and Director, Knowledge Designs to Change
- Maya Kupperman - CEO, Temelio Grants Management Software
- Inna Livitz – Senior Grants Operations Manager, Russell Sage Foundation

Session Description: Academia and formal philanthropy have traditionally been viewed as separate and mystified entities. Movement over the past few decades, however, has led to a promising opportunity to envision intersections across the sectors. Conversation can illuminate the possibility of partnership and alignment around our shared commitments to engaged research. This session’s panelists will share their experiences in strengthening community engaged research, highlight current trends in research funding, and explore technological advances that affect partnerships between grantmakers, scholars, and partner communities.

3. **Round Table Session:** Leveraging Insider-Outsider Positionality for Social Change

Presenters:

- Abbie Cohen (She/Her) – Ph.D. Candidate, UCLA, Urban Schooling Department
- Lotus Brown

Session Description: For the last three years, Abbie Cohen has conducted a participatory and community-based critical ethnography with the executive director of a youth-serving community-based non-profit in the Northeast and will be presenting on their collaborative research methods for generative conversations and feedback. In particular the presenters are interested in presenting on the way race, class, and power, impacted the methodological and empirical research that they explored together for their dissertation. Abbie is a white PhD candidate hailing from an elite university who partnered with a Black-led out-of-school time (OST) non-profit that predominantly serves Black and Brown elementary-aged girls. The program, however, depends on the largess of (white) private philanthropy to operate. As part of her critical ethnography, she used her insider-outsider positionality to investigate the way private philanthropy shaped the organization and she utilized her privilege to probe, to examine, and to hold space for dialogue with elite actors.

4. **RoundTable Session:** URBAN Fellows 2024-2025 Round Table

Location: Studio, 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Ana Antunes (She/Her) – Assistant Professor, School for Cultural and Social
- Michelle Fine - Distinguished Professor, Psychology, CUNY Graduate Center & University
- Ben Kirshner - Professor, Learning Sciences and Human Development, UC Boulder

Session Description: In 2024 URBAN kickstarted its first ever fellowship program. The 2024-25 Cohort will focus on supporting participants in grappling with ethical issues and developing methodological tools for their current community-based research projects. This session will be a space for the fellows to talk about their experiences as the first URBAN fellows cohort and about their current projects.

5. Panel Presentation: From Pilot to Policy: Using Youth-Led Critical Participatory Methods to Build Evidence and a Permanent Guaranteed Income for Former Foster Youth in New York

Location: Innovators Lounge, 1st Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Maya Tellman - PAR Research Consultant, Public Science Project, City University of New York
- Mica Baum-Tuccillo - PAR Research Consultant, Public Science Project, City University of New York
- Maria Torre - Director of the Public Science Project, City University of New York
- LaTroya Lovell - PAR Research Consultant, Children's Defense Fund-NY
- Jose Perez - Program Manager, Children's Defense Fund-NY
- Denice Ocana - Youth Action Researcher, Children's Defense Fund-NY
- T'coy Adams - Youth Action Researcher, Children's Defense Fund-NY
- Ellenie Liang- Youth Action Researcher, Children's Defense Fund-NY
- Grace Tatum - Youth Action Researcher, Children's Defense Fund-NY
- Maya Martinez - Youth Action Researcher, Children's Defense Fund-NY

Session Description: In 2023, the panel team launched the first guaranteed income pilot for youth transitioning out of foster care in New York City, designed in partnership with young people and adults impacted by the foster care and child welfare systems. This presentation will include differently situated researchers within the team exploring the impact and importance of a youth-led Critical Participatory Action Research (CPAR) approach at each stage of their work – from planning, to pilot, and now, to policy. They will highlight specific moments of choice and/or resistance in their research design that helped to strengthen their methods, build trust with the participants, and ultimately deepen their findings. As they now work to build a permanent guaranteed income in New York State for young people who have transitioned out of foster care, the panelists will discuss their participatory approach to policy making, as well as how they are using their research to support their advocacy and organizing work.

6. Paper Session:

Location: Sachuest, 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

6(A): Paper Title: Collaboratively Constructing Quality Teaching: Involving School Community Stakeholders in Defining the Possibilities of Schooling

Presenter: Susan Chenelle (She/Her/Hers) - Adjunct Instructor, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, New Jersey City University / University Academy Charter High School

Paper Description: This paper presentation will highlight the relational aspects of a participatory action research study in which school-community stakeholders identified, through survey and focus group responses, the skills, knowledge, and affects that characterize quality teaching for the students at an urban secondary charter high school in the northeast United States. Through a collaborative process, participants analyzed stakeholder survey responses and then refined a working definition of local teacher quality synthesized from analysis by applying it to evaluation of excerpts of classroom instructional videos. The researcher analyzed the working definition and

stakeholder input from throughout the project in two ways: first, to identify major themes in stakeholders' characterization of quality teaching; second, to compare the working definition to the principles of culturally sustaining pedagogy. While describing the local definition of quality teaching that emerged from stakeholder input, this paper presentation will emphasize the relational ethics the researcher attended to, given her supervisory position within the school community, throughout the study as well as the larger ongoing collaborative undertaking to revise the teacher evaluation process at the research site.

6(B): Paper Title: Practitioners, Professors, and a New Common Ground at UMASS Boston

Presenters:

- Michael Johnson, Associate Professor, McCormack Graduate School. UMass Boston
- Jason Bowns

Paper Description: The Practitioner Scholars Program (PSP) at UMASS Boston was an innovative pilot joining together practitioner experts actively working for community change, alongside a contingent of participating campus teaching faculty. These community-university learning partnerships (CULPs) cast equity and social justice as ideological anchors, coalescing around curricular subjects such as psychological trauma, indigenous women, black consciousness, literacy, financial policy, Latino leadership, and environmental sustainability. This presentation will present a bird's eye view of PSP design features, illustrative anecdotes of how the program looked in practice on the ground and offer a pragmatic summary of outcomes. Overall, the promising results lay a foundation for practitioners and academics alike to evaluate how a deeper investment in pursuing shared partnerships can offer mutual benefits.

7. Journal of Collaboration for Equitable Change (JCEC) Interviews

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Provided by Sousan Arafeh, of URBAN's CONNECTicut Node, Professor, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Southern Connecticut State University and Founding Editor JCEC, <https://jcec.southernct.edu/>

Session III (1:30 pm – 2:50 pm)

- 1. Town Hall Session:** Seen & Unseen Alchemy: How One URBAN Node (*CONNECTicut*) Practices Shared Meaning-making Across Multiple Diversities to Strengthen Community Engaged Work and Philanthropic Initiative.

Location: Assembly Room – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Angela Frusciante - Independent Scholar / Founder and Director, Knowledge Designs to Change
- Paige M. Bray - Associate Professor/Director, Center for Montessori Studies, University of Hartford
- John Cusano - Independent Co-creator & Organizational Systems Advisor
- Kara Straun - Director of Program and Evaluation, Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
- Dan Darbandi - Senior Grants Associate, Borealis Philanthropy
- Sousan Arafeh - Professor/Director, Integrated Justice and Social Change Collaborative, Southern Connecticut State University
- Erin M. Kenney - Assistant Professor of Psychology, Hartwick College

Session Description: This session will be conducted by the URBAN CONNECTicut (CT) node, one of the geographical URBAN Nodes. The node was formed to explore intersections of methodology (broadly defined) and equity (variously experienced). In this session, the node's core team will create a space that is centered on people and practice, not problem-solving. Through shared meaning-making, they embrace solidarity and highlight the multiple ways of knowing and being that encourage professionals from various sectors, institutions, and organizations to acknowledge interconnections and alignment of values. Through this interactive experience, participants will meet members of the URBAN CT core team, who will map the landscape of their collective personal, professional, and identity-based diversities. The session will utilize a reflection tool to highlight the various ways community engagement shows up in their various professional contexts. The interactive, group-led dialogue will underscore intersections of self and community and how we move together through spaces toward equitable personal, organizational and systems change. Participants will experience how increased awareness of individual locations and perceived "lanes" can illuminate intersections and aligned values, support relationships, and energize transformative, community-engaged change.

2. **Panel Presentation:** Collective Knowledge, Collective Action: Launching Racial Justice in Education Node

Location: Watch Hill, 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Joy Howard (She/Her/Hers) - Associate Professor of Leadership and Educational Studies, Appalachian State University
- Ian Slattery - Graduate Student, UC Santa Cruz
- Melissa Speight Vaughn - Post Doctoral Researcher, Georgia State

Session Description: The Education node is one of URBAN's discipline nodes. This presentation will focus on the node's initial thought-work around launching a topic-specific node with URBAN that centers racial justice in education. The need for diverse iterations of nodes have been discussed at URBAN leadership meetings, conferences, and summits for quite some time. This presentation will offer initial propositions and serve as an invitation for community-engaged scholars to help shape a racial justice in education node which aims to take a cross-geographic approach to collaboration and community engagement around this topic. They will engage participants in critical conversations about racial justice, focusing on the why of this work and its importance to the communities we serve and will invite the participants to join the emerging node and contribute their ideas in real-time. There is special interest in creative approaches toward cross-geographic collaboration and the node believes that this work cannot exist in isolation - it must be done in and with community. Thus, attendees are encouraged to bring their own insights and share their unique experiences as this fresh approach to node-creation is built within the URBAN network, that has always worked toward racial justice in education.

3. **Workshop Session:** Designing for Change through Sketchnotes and Zines: Equity-Focused Community Engagement in Mathematics

Location: Studio, 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenter: Nicole Fonger (She/Her) - Associate Professor, Syracuse University

Session Description: In this workshop participants will engage in sketch-noting as a grounding practice for designing community-engaged course experiences. Sketch-noting is a visual note taking strategy that combines words and images as tools to re-imagine possibilities for community engaged experiences. Using themes developed from her own research informed practice in mathematics education, Nicole Fonger, will highlight how she has incorporated local social justice issues of lead poisoning and highway revitalization into mathematics lessons that are designed to be historically responsive and will showcase 5 key approaches to community-engaged course design: (1) co-visioning meaningful learning with youth and teachers, (2) building effective communication, (3) centering the context, place, and people of where change is desired, (4) co-creating knowledge through public scholarship, and (5) centering an equity lens to guide decision-making. By the end of the workshop participants will complete a "*Community-engagement planning table*" to visualize the kinds of connections they aspire to make in their own contexts.

4. Panel Discussion: Community at the Helm: Local Leadership Models for Educational Equity and Social Justice

Location: Innovators Lounge, 1st Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Moderator, Jonathon Acosta, Senator, State of Rhode Island and Annenberg Postdoctoral Fellow
- Keith Catone Executive Director, CYCLE
- Paige Parks Executive Director, RI KIDS COUNT
- Anna Cano Morales, Vice President of Equity and Inclusion, Rhode Island Foundation
- Gisele C. Shorter President and CEO, Nellie Mae Education Foundation

Session Description: Focusing on community-driven initiatives, the discussion will bring together educators, activists, and community leaders to examine grassroots efforts that challenge systemic inequities and drive meaningful change in education. Discussants will share insights into successful approaches for fostering inclusive and equitable learning environments, exploring how these models can be scaled and adapted to different contexts to empower communities in the pursuit of educational justice.

5. Paper Session:

Location: Sachuest, 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

5(A): Paper Title: Equitable Development for Langley Park: Engaged Planning with an Immigrant Community

Presenters:

- Tayo Amos Taiwo, Graduate Student, University of Maryland, College Park
- Clara Irazabal Zurita, Director of Urban Studies and Planning Program, University of Maryland, College Park

Paper Description: The “Equitable Development for Langley Park” Community Planning Studio Project addresses the pressing socio-economic and environmental challenges encountered by a diverse, immigrant-rich community in Maryland. Langley Park, which is home to a significant population from Latin America, faces issues such as housing instability, gentrification-induced displacement, economic hardship, and environmental risks like pollution and inadequate infrastructure. This project utilizes a trauma-informed, community-engaged planning framework to guarantee that development strategies are fair, sustainable, and influenced by those most impacted. The main challenges addressed by this project include the risk of displacement due to ongoing development, insufficient public services, and limited access to affordable housing and transportation. The outcomes of the Langley Park Equitable Development Project offer a replicable framework for addressing similar challenges in marginalized urban communities. The project sets a new standard for inclusive, community-driven urban planning by combining trauma-informed methodologies with equitable development strategies.

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Provided by Sousan Arafah, of URBAN's CONNECTicut Node, Professor, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Southern Connecticut State University and Founding Editor JCEC, <https://jcec.southernct.edu/>

Session IV (3:10 pm – 4:30 pm)

1. Panel Presentation: Building Solidarity in Real Time through Participatory Action Research

Location: Watch Hill, 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Mark Warren - Professor of Policy and Public Affairs, University of Massachusetts Boston
- Denisha "Coco" Bland - Spoken Word Artist/Organizer, Sacramento Area Youth Speaks
- Patrice Hill - Spoken Word Artist/Organizer, Sacramento Area Youth Speaks
- Shaun de Vera - Post-Doctoral Researcher, CSU Sacramento
- Letha Muhammad - Education Justice Alliance, Raleigh, NC
- Bianca Ortiz-Wythe - PhD student, UMass Boston
- LuzMarina Serrano – Organizer, Genders & Sexualities Alliance Network
- Jonathan Stith – Organizer, Alliance for Educational Justice
- Vajra Watson – Professor, CSU Sacramento
- Tim Eatman - Dean, Rutgers University Newark

Session Description: This session will be conducted by members of the People's Think Tank. Their 40+ member community organizers identified the siloed nature of organizing that separate communities by race/identity markers and issues as a key obstacle to building an education justice movement powerful enough to make transformative changes in public education. The organization launched a participatory action research project to study solidarity building and build solidarity at the same time, led by a combined team of researchers and organizers. The session will feature the diverse views and experiences of the scholars and community organizers about creating a PAR project together on a national scale that investigates the views of community organizers across the educational justice and allied movements while building solidarity with them in real time. Panelists will speak from their own perspective about the meaning of this project to them and will discuss their methods and findings.

2. **Workshop Session:** Haciendo Camino Juntos: School-based Advisory Teams as PAR-rooted Tool

Location: Studio, 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Edwin Mayorga (He/Him) - Associate Professor/Co-researcher, Swarthmore College/Cultivating Community Together Project
- Heidi Berger – Undergraduate Student, Swarthmore College
- Eliza Murphy – Post-graduate Student Swarthmore College
- Maya Henry – Graduate Student, Swarthmore College
- Mariaeloisa Carambo – Graduate Student, Swarthmore College
- Claress Bahamundi – Undergraduate Student, Swarthmore College
- Yu-Jing Chen - Undergraduate Student, Swarthmore College
- James Lewis - Undergraduate Student, Swarthmore College
- Diana Olmos Mora - Undergraduate Student, Swarthmore College

Session Description: This workshop will present School Based Advisory Teams (SBATs) as a participatory action research (PAR)-rooted tool that the team has developed to *hacer camino*, make the road, with Philadelphia communities and schools for the purposes of community impact research. Drawing on a queer, intersectional, abolitionist framework, they use SBATs as a component of the Cultivating Community Together (CCT) study that examines historical and contemporary efforts at school+community (neighborhood) collaborations in Philadelphia from the mid-twentieth century to the present.

Within this context of racial capitalism in the country, the team juxtaposes community+school partnerships efforts with the history of BIPOC-led education movements in Philadelphia. Ultimately, their goal is to document and share powerful practices that strengthen the educational experiences for students, families and educators today and into the future. After the introduction and learning of the research background, workshop participants will have the opportunity to share their own approaches at *haciendo camino* to expand our collective toolboxes.

3. **Panel Presentation:** Supporting Thriving Civic Research Communities: A Model from Boston and an Exploratory Conversation

Location: Innovators Lounge, 1st Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Dan O'Brien (He/Him/His) - Professor of Public Policy and Urban Affairs, Northeastern University and Director, Boston Area Research Initiative (BARI)
- Kim Lucas - Professor of Practice in Public Policy and Urban Affairs, Northeastern University and BARI's Associate Director of Civic Research

Session Description: Many cities and regions now have enough organizations partnering on community-engaged (or civic) research to give rise to local communities of practice. These *civic research communities* span researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and grassroots leaders, with the potential to spawn dozens of partnerships and hundreds of projects. A civic research community requires programming and resources that enable its members to learn together. This session will initiate a conversation on the diverse ways to do so, using the Boston Area Research Initiative's (BARI) programming as a model.

4. Paper Session:

Location: Sachuest, 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

4(A): Paper Title: Reviving Legacies of Radical Resistance: Documentary Filmmaking as Community Praxis

Presenter: Enrique Rivera (He/Him) - Filmmaker, Independent Researcher, Oral Historian, Community Organizer, and Cultural Worker.

Paper Description: This presentation will explore how documentary storytelling can evolve to prioritize ethics, trauma-informed approaches, and community-led frameworks, particularly through oral history practices. Traditional documentary methods often operate extractively, tokenizing marginalized communities, especially when creators lack institutional support. As a filmmaker and cultural worker from the Puerto Rican diaspora, Enrique Rivera has witnessed how academic spaces often exclude non-institutional voices, making it challenging for BIPOC, queer, and first-generation college graduates like himself to collaborate meaningfully. He aims to engage participants in rethinking how we can ethically engage communities without imposing institutional narratives. His goal is to create a discussion space for reimagining these approaches, encouraging collaboration among diverse voices.

4(B): Paper Title: Going Public: Co-constructing a Community Archive and Public History Exhibit

Presenters:

- Steve McKay -Professor of Sociology, UC Santa Cruz (UCSC)
- Meleia Simon-Reynolds - Graduate student, History Department, UCSC
- Julie Fintamag – Undergraduate researcher, History Department, UCSC

Paper Description: This paper will draw from a 4-year community archiving and public history project, ‘Watsonville is in the Heart’. For the project, the researchers co-created an accessible digital archive with over 1,400 objects and 37 family histories; a 4-month long major museum exhibit, ‘Sowing Seeds: Filipino Stories of the Pajaro Valley’, attended by more than 6,000 people; educational resources such as K-12 and college-level lesson plans and how to build a community archive; a set of interactive multimedia maps; and many large public events. From its inception, the project involved deep collaboration with a community partner organization and with undergraduate researchers. At this point, the authors are conducting an evaluation to assess the overall project along the criteria of “critical participatory action research” and “critical public history” - analyzing: the depth and quality of their community partnerships; impact of the project and their collaboration in the wider community and on stakeholders; impact of the quality of their collaboration on the quality of their scholarship; the utility of their research and project outputs; and the sustainability of their project and model of collaboration.

5. Journal of Collaboration for Equitable Change (JCEC) Interviews

Location: Peabody, 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Session Description: Share your experiences and ideas about Collaboration for Equitable Change. Short 10-minute Interviews will take place throughout the conference in the Peabody Room. You can schedule your time slot on the sign-up sheet on the door or just drop in. Interviews will be shared with you and, with your permission, will be included in the Special Interview Feature about the URBAN RESEARCH NETWORK in the *Journal of Collaboration for Equitable Change*.

Provided by Sousan Arafeh, of URBAN's CONNECTicut Node, Professor, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Southern Connecticut State University and Founding Editor JCEC, <https://jcec.southernct.edu/>.

Keynote Address (5:00 pm – 7:00 pm)

Location: Assembly Room – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Session Speaker: Heather McGhee (She/Her). Author of *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*.

Made possible by the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America at Brown University

Discussion Moderator - Prudence L. Carter, Sarah and Joseph Jr. Dowling Professor of Sociology and Peltz Ruttenberg Family Director of the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America (CSREA).

Speaker Bio: Heather designs and promotes solutions to inequality in America. Her first book, *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* spent 10 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list and was long-listed for the National Book Award and Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction, among numerous other awards. In the summer of 2022, *The Sum of Us* was adapted into a Spotify podcast by Higher Ground, the production company of Barack and Michelle Obama. *The Sum of Us* was adapted into a young adult readers' version by Random House Children's in February 2023. The adaptation for middle and high-school students received starred reviews from *School Library Journal* and *Booklist*, and *Kirkus* named it a Best Young Adult Book of the Year.

For more information please visit: <https://heathermcghee.com/>

8:00 am – 9:00 am: Conference Check-In

Location: In the nook outside the second-floor elevators in the Cambridge Innovation Center

Session I (9:00 am – 10:20 am)

1. **Session:** Centering the Knowledge and Assets of Urban Youth as Civic Changemakers: Working with and For Change

Location: Assembly Room – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenter: Rachel Talbert, Postdoc, Nashman Center, George Washington University

Session Description: This session will discuss asset-based research with urban youth. We will explore the importance of centering knowledge and cultural wealth of students in urban spaces who are often minoritized in research.

2. **Session:** Many Hands Make Meaningful Work: Community Engagement in Generative Report-Back of Mental Health Research Outcomes

Location: Watch Hill – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenter: Jasmin Eatman, MD/PhD Candidate, Emory University School of Management

Session Description: This session explores community-engaged research practices in the report-back of research results, with a focus on the Generative Report-Back Framework—a model that prioritizes community voices, cultural relevance, and actionable insights. Participants will learn how to move beyond traditional dissemination methods by co-developing report-back strategies that center community priorities and lived experiences.

3. **Paper Session:** Community Based Research on Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding

Location: Studio – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenter: Merima Tricic, PhD/JD Candidate, University of California at Irvine

Paper Description: This paper examines how survivors of wartime sexual violence in Bosnia have led efforts to memorialize “Pionirska Street,” despite government demolition attempts. This study highlights how survivor activists build collaborative resistance against the suppression of public memory. We will explore memorialization as a tool for peacebuilding, emphasizing survivor-led strategies to challenge social divisions and demand recognition of wartime violence.

4. Round Table Session: Teaching Community-Engaged Research Methods: Challenges, Strategies, and Reflections

Location: Innovators Lounge – 1st Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Grace Argo, Assistant Director, Community-Engaged Research, Swearer Center, Brown University
- Maya Malik, Assistant Director, Curricular Initiatives, Brown University
- Leah Shaw, PhD Candidate, Brown University

Session Description: This roundtable will explore strategies for teaching ethical, community-engaged research. We'll discuss building equitable partnerships, balancing academic and community needs, and navigating power dynamics. Featuring insights from students, staff, and instructors, this session offers practical tools for fostering reflection, assessing outcomes, and advancing community-centered pedagogy.

5. Round Table Session: Co-Creating a Culturally Sustaining GYO Program: A Partnership Between K-12 and Higher Education

Location: Innovators Lounge, 1st Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Erin Papa, Assistant Professor, GYO Equity Fellows Program Co-Director, Rhode Island College
- Larissa Guido Swenson, GYO Fellows Program Coordinator, Rhode Island College
- Tommy Ender, Associate Professor, GYO Equity Fellows Program Co-Director, Rhode Island College
- Ryan Hall, Social Studies & CTE Education Teachers, Davies Career and Tech
- Dina Louis, English Teacher, Davies Career and Tech
- Emmanuel Ramos, English and CTE Education Teacher, Central Falls High School
- Beth Toney, Reading/ESOL and CTE Education Teacher, Central Falls High School
- Nilson DaSilva, Portuguese Teacher, Shea High School
- Sonia Vaz, Portuguese and CTE Education Teacher, Central Falls High School

Session Description: This session will highlight the Grow Your Own (GYO) Equity Fellow Project, which aims to empower multilingual and BIPOC students to pursue careers in education. We will examine how this community-focused research collective of K-12 students and higher education faculty co-create the GYO program and effect systemic change.

6. Paper Session: Tenancy, Housing Insecurity, & Schools: Unearthing Racialized and Classed Harms & Issues of Power via Community Engaged Research

Location: Studio – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenter: Maria Velazquez, IDEAL Provostial Fellow, Postdoc, Stanford University

Paper Description: This presentation will explore how tenancy and housing insecurity can shape contexts for racialized and classed harms that can trickle into schools. It will highlight how community-engaged research in support of housing justice can expose gaps in how these issues are understood. We will discuss the challenges of this work and ongoing efforts to expand the research both inside and outside of schools.

7. Journal of Collaboration for Equitable Change (JCEC) Interviews

Location: Peabody, 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Session Description: Share your experiences and ideas about Collaboration for Equitable Change. Short 10-minute Interviews will take place throughout the conference in the Peabody Room. You can schedule your time slot on the sign-up sheet on the door or just drop in. Interviews will be shared with you and, with your permission, will be included in the Special Interview Feature about the URBAN RESEARCH NETWORK in the *Journal of Collaboration for Equitable Change*.

Provided by Sousan Arafeh, of URBAN’s CONNECTicut Node, Professor, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Southern Connecticut State University and Founding Editor JCEC, <https://jcec.southernct.edu/>

Session II (10:40am – 12:00 pm)

1. Town Hall Session: Amplifying Community Voice in the Meaning-Making Process: A Community Foundation Case Study

Location: Assembly Room – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Tanya Hills, Director, Learning Evaluation and Research, Fairfield County’s Community Foundation
- Equity Research Advisory Panel

Town Hall Description: This town hall will present learnings from The Upside of Equity, a community-based research initiative aimed at examining the economic costs of racial inequity and the potential economic gains associated with closing racial equity gaps in Fairfield County, CT. We will present our “power with” approach, including our creation of the Equity Research Advisory Panel, and key takeaways that will inform our future research.

2. **Town Hall Session:** Mama, Sister, Parent Scholars: Centering the Complexities of Wellness in Community Engaged Work

Location: Watch Hill – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Michelle Fine, Distinguished Professor, Psychology, CUNY Graduate Center & University
- Paige M. Bray, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education/Director, Center for Montessori Studies, University of Hartford
- Joy Howard, Associate Professor Appalachian State University;
- Jonas Howard, Asheville School
- Erin M. Kenney, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Hartwick College
- Ana Carolina Antunes, Assistant Professor of Gender Studies, University of Utah
- Celina Su, Professor, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Political Science, Psychology, Urban Education, City University of New York

Town Hall Description: In this town hall meeting we will share artistic reflections on our lived experiences as mama, sister, and parent scholars who are committed to community engaged research. This group of intergenerational diverse scholars will offer insights, practical tips and respond to questions from participants who surely face challenges in maintaining a harmony between our personal and professional commitments to our beloved communities. We welcome individuals to come to share their own lived experience and join in this conversation encompassing the complexities of a healthy scholar/life balance.

3. **Workshop Session:** Enduring Ethical Complexities in Community Engaged Research

Location: Studio – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Ronald David Glass, Professor Emeritus, University of California Santa Cruz
- Natalie JK Baloy, Assistant Professor, Western Washington University
- Sheeva Sabati, Assistant Professor, Sacramento State University

Workshop Description: This workshop will utilize small-group and full-group discussion to explore the enduring ethical complexities in human and other than human relations, in place and time of the work, in knowledge formation, dissemination and mobilization processes, and in structures of responsibility and accountability. We will explore an 'ethics story' case from the facilitators' forthcoming book from SAGE.

4. Round Table Session: The Need for Public & Private Investment in Public Participation: A Case Study of the Underdeveloped Nation of El Salvador

Location: Innovators Lounge, 1st Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Juan Antonio Sorto, Bullard Center for Climate Justice, Texas Southern University
- Jeany Argueta, Universidad Gerardo Barrios

Session Description: This roundtable will explore El Salvador's CUBOS initiative, a government effort to build economic opportunity in areas impacted by high rates of inequality and crime. We will discuss the CUBOS commitment to using placemaking as a means of addressing well-being. Drawing from our ethnographic research, we will showcase how sustaining CUBOS and similar projects hinges on strong collaboration between the public sector, private sector, and local communities.

5. Round Table Session: From Niche to the Norm: Empowering Collaborative Research

Location: Innovators Lounge, 1st Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters: Kemi Oyewole, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania and partner researchers

Session Description: This round table will beckon research organizations to align their rhetoric on community betterment with their practice. Using critical, organizational, and learning theories, we will explore how research institutions can upend trends of extraction, level power dynamics, disrupt hegemonic norms, and design systemic change. Building on lessons learned from the Collaborative Education Research Collective, we will invite attendees to imagine institutional practices that make collaborative research the norm.

6. Round Table Session: A Participatory Action Research Approach to Community Care and Resilience

Location: Innovators Lounge, 1st Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Anisha Patil, Manager, Community Engaged Research in the Healthy Neighborhoods Study, Conservation Law Foundation
- Azran Reid, Healing Circles Facilitator
- Sharla Lewis, Healing Circles Facilitator

Session Description: A presentation and roundtable discussion with members of a Participatory Action Research (PAR) consortium, including community leaders, about their experiences researching and taking action to support community care and resilience. We will share about our community-engaged research process, including our process for collaboratively creating a definition for "resilience" that we used as a research framework. We'll share how findings from the research have supported community action and organizing, with a highlight on healing circles for supporting community care. Our presenting team will include healing circles facilitators who have been doing this work in their communities for years.

7. Paper Session: Black Women's Squat Logics and Resilience

Location: Sachuset – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenter: Amadi Ozier, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Paper Description: This paper reconsiders squatting-- the strategy for expropriating housing without "legal" claim to property ownership-- as a labor of home-making that exists beyond, or separate from, work as a capitalistic and dehumanizing imperative. I will discuss a squatting project in Brooklyn, NY, and conceptualize squatting as counter-insurgency against slaveocratic property ownership. I will explore the project's methods, core research questions, tactics, and political strategies, drawing on interviews from veteran and present-day squatters and homesteaders.

8. Journal of Collaboration for Equitable Change (JCEC) Interviews

Location: Peabody, 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Session Description: Share your experiences and ideas about Collaboration for Equitable Change. Short 10-minute Interviews will take place throughout the conference in the Peabody Room. You can schedule your time slot on the sign-up sheet on the door or just drop in. Interviews will be shared with you and, with your permission, will be included in the Special Interview Feature about the URBAN RESEARCH NETWORK in the *Journal of Collaboration for Equitable Change*.

Provided by Sousan Arafeh, of URBAN's CONNECTicut Node, Professor, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Southern Connecticut State University and Founding Editor JCEC, <https://jcec.southernct.edu/>

Session III (1:30 pm – 2:50 pm)

1. Panel Session: Organizing for a Just Economy: Critical PAR and Social Movements

Location: Assembly Room – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Maria Elena Torre, Director, Public Science Project, CUNY Graduate Center, Youth n Power Transforming Care Research Collective
- Brett Stoudt, Associate Professor, CUNY Graduate Center, We Deserve to be Safe Research Collective
- Sarah Zeller Berkman, Director of Youth Studies programs, CUNY School of Professional Studies, Intergenerational Change Initiative Research Collective
- Maddy Fox, Associate Professor, Children & Youth Studies and Sociology, Brooklyn College CUNY, NYC Union of Students Research Collective
- Caitlin Cahill, Associate Professor, Pratt Institute, Mestizo Arts & Activism Collective, Over Freeways
- And youth co-researchers

Panel Description: This panel will present critical community-based PAR projects, framed as public science, working within social movements to shape economic policies that impact young people. With a searing critique of capitalism from the ground up, we will discuss how public science can support organizing. We will ask: how do we understand our struggles for justice as sites of knowledge production? What can participatory knowledge production offer our struggles for justice and collective liberation?

2. Panel Session: West Side Community Review Board: Lessons Learned from its Pilot Year

Location: Watch Hill – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Ana Antunes, Assistant Professor, University of Utah
- Miguel Trujillo, West Side Community Review Board
- Ingrid Martinez, West Side Community Review Board

Panel Description: The panel will focus on the challenges and successes of the The West Side Community Review Board (WSCRb). The WSCRb advises on research done in west side Salt Lake County neighborhoods, with a goal of ensuring that studies are carried out in collaboration with, and to the benefit of, local communities. We will discuss how the the WSCRb supports community wellbeing by building the power of residents to have a voice in research.

3. Round Table Session: Honoring and Troubling “Community” in Community Based Research (an epistemic duet)

Location: Innovators Lounge, 1st Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Michelle Fine, Distinguished Professor, Psychology, CUNY Graduate Center & University
- Britton Williams, Core Faculty, Drama Therapy Program, California Institute of Integral Studies
- Lana Khamash, Doctoral Student, City University of New York
- Bea Torre, Assistant Professor, University of the Philippines
- Aviva Bruan, Doctoral Student, City University of New York
- Marien Morales, Doctoral Student, City University of New York

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Round Table Session: A Deep Reflection on How We Theorize/Write Through Violence, Harm, and Accountability in the Communities We Love (an epistemic duet)

Location: Innovators Lounge, 1st Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Michelle Fine, Distinguished Professor, Psychology, CUNY Graduate Center & University
- Shibani Chakravorty, Doctoral Student, City University of New York
- Ayesha Harisinghani, Doctoral Student, City University of New York
- Mia Greco, Doctoral Student, City University of New York

Session Description: These two round tables will serve as a "duet" of epistemic knots -- conceptual in terms of how we think through "community" as a beloved, fractured, repressive, divided space; and then methodological, epistemic, and ethical in terms of how we write through violence and harm without reproducing carceral logics.

4. Paper Session: Praxis of Both / And: Teachers Confront Contradictions in State-Mandated Ethnic Studies

Location: Studio – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenter: Ian Slattery, Doctoral Candidate, University of California Santa Cruz

Paper Description: This paper examines the efforts of five teachers navigating California’s new Ethnic Studies (ES) graduation requirements, which institutionalized a community-oriented movement. We will explore how their experiences reveal tensions around knowledge, rigor, and community collaboration, highlighting both challenges and possibilities for transforming schooling through collective, community-driven praxis.

5. Paper Session: “¡Este Barrio No Se Vende!”: The Rhetorical Climates of Chismé, Race, and Gentrification

Location: Studio – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenter: Ellie Estrada, Doctoral Student, University of Utah

Paper Description: This presentation explores how residents of Rose Park, a historically Black and Brown community in Salt Lake City, use chismé (gossip) as a powerful tool to resist gentrification tied to the I-15 Expansion Project. Drawing from Chicana feminist theory, this project highlights chismé as a storytelling practice that builds community, challenges displacement, and sustains local identity. Through interviews, focus groups, and walking the neighborhood, this research aims to understand the impacts of gentrification from the less-privileged vantage point of the barrio.

6. Journal of Collaboration for Equitable Change (JCEC) Interviews

Location: Peabody, 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Session Description: Share your experiences and ideas about Collaboration for Equitable Change. Short 10-minute Interviews will take place throughout the conference in the Peabody Room. You can schedule your time slot on the sign-up sheet on the door or just drop in. Interviews will be shared with you and, with your permission, will be included in the Special Interview Feature about the URBAN RESEARCH NETWORK in the *Journal of Collaboration for Equitable Change*.

Provided by Sousan Arafeh, of URBAN’s CONNECTicut Node, Professor, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Southern Connecticut State University and Founding Editor JCEC, <https://jcec.southernct.edu/>

Session IV (3:10 pm – 4:30 pm)

1. Panel Session: Schools & Communities Organizing for Racial Equity (SCORE)

Location: Watch Hill – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Gideon Linkous, Data Analyst, Center for Youth & Community Leadership in Education
- Janette Perez, Parent Consultant, Center for Youth & Community Leadership in Education

Panel Description: This panel will discuss SCORE: a community-driven, action-oriented research project that brings together a Community Research Team consisting of students and parents/caregivers recruited in partnership with community-based organizations. The SCORE team conducts research, identifies community priorities for educational and racial equity, identifies indicators to measure district progress on these priorities, and develops a “SCOREcard” tool to present findings to the broader community.

2. Workshop Session: Toward Trust and Power-Sharing: Applying Learning from Student Relational Organizing to Qualitative Research with Homeschooling Parents in Central Ohio

Location: Studio – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters: Clovis Westlund, Undergraduate Researcher and Student Organizer, Ohio State University

Workshop Description: This workshop will explore building trust and power-sharing in qualitative research on education, focusing on families who have left the public school system. Using my study of homeschooling parents in Central Ohio, I will discuss research methods, its connection to relational organizing theory, and challenges in qualitative research for building trust across diverse education actors.

3. Round Table Session: Storying Accountability: The MSU Urban Community Engagement Fellows Program

Location: Innovators Lounge, 1st Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Jess Reed, Urban Community Engagement Fellows, Program Coordinator, Michigan State University
- Chrissy Pfeil, UCEF Fellow, Michigan State University
- Kaelyn Sanders, UCEF Fellow, Michigan State University
- Faith Bradley, UCEF Fellow, Michigan State University
- Shno Karimi, UCEF Fellow, Michigan State University
- Charlotte Peterson, UCEF Fellow, Michigan State University
- Kwesi Brookins, UCEF Fellow, Michigan State University

Session Description: Our presentation asks, “How can a graduate-level, university community engagement program be developed to prioritize community building and collective action toward a more equitable community(ies)?” We will utilize a single instrumental case study approach to “provide insight into an issue and draw a generalization.” We will discuss naming individual and collective positionality, values, and goals; negotiating varied disciplines; and developing strong advisory structures (e.g., community partners’ advising committee). We will also spotlight our fellowship handbook, critical curriculum, journal reflections, and emerging projects.

4. Round Table Session: Building Relational Power: Co-Creating Abolitionist Futures

Location: Innovators Lounge, 1st Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenters:

- Laura Grattan, Associate Professor, Co-Director, Anti Carceral Co+Laboratory, Wellesley College
- Jenny Musto, Associate Professor, Co-Director, Anti Carceral Co+Laboratory, Wellesley College
- Melchor Hall, Wellesley College
- Olivia Poulin, Wellesley College

Session Description: This round table will focus on the Anti-Carceral Co+Laboratory's (Wellesley College) efforts to reimagine how knowledge is produced on carceral violence and anti-carceral resistance in the U.S. Participants will discuss how relational power is embodied in our programmatic work, pedagogy, efforts to document mutual learning through an ACC podcast series, and a new research project aimed at building an abolition feminist community archive in Greater Boston.

5. Paper Session: Cuidar la Vida: Documenting Grassroots Territorial Control During COVID-19 on Lafkenche Territory

Location: Sachuset – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Presenter: Magdalena Ugarte, Assistant Professor, Toronto Metropolitan University

Paper Description: Since 2018, a team of Mapuche and Chilean researchers has partnered with Mapuche communities to explore questions of Indigenous planning, land-based knowledge, and land restitution. This presentation reflects on a spin-off of this ongoing collaboration, which at the community's request documented through film the rise of community checkpoints at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentation considers the creation of the community checkpoints and the community-engaged digital ethnography, through the lenses of radical planning and Indigenous resurgence.

6. Journal of Collaboration for Equitable Change (JCEC) Interviews

Location: Peabody, 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

Session Description: Share your experiences and ideas about Collaboration for Equitable Change. Short 10-minute Interviews will take place throughout the conference in the Peabody Room. You can schedule your time slot on the sign-up sheet on the door or just drop in. Interviews will be shared with you and, with your permission, will be included in the Special Interview Feature about the URBAN RESEARCH NETWORK in the *Journal of Collaboration for Equitable Change*. Provided by Sousan Arafeh, of URBAN's CONNECTicut Node, Professor, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Southern Connecticut State University and Founding Editor JCEC, <https://jcec.southernct.edu/>

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Local Tour # 3 - The AS220 Impact: Art, Community, and Belonging

Address: 115 Empire Street - Advanced sign up and meet on location.

Tour Description: Step into the heart of Providence’s thriving arts scene with a behind-the-scenes walking tour of AS220, an artist-run organization that has transformed downtown into a vibrant hub of creative expression. From its rotating galleries and performance spaces to its state-of-the-art print shop and fabrication lab, AS220 offers artists a space of belonging and an uncensored platform to create and share their work.

On this tour, you’ll explore the many spaces where artists live, work, and collaborate—from the black-box theater to the dance studio and youth arts program, which supports young creatives under state care. Learn how AS220 has played a pivotal role in shaping Providence into a nationally recognized model for community-driven arts and culture. Whether you're an artist, an advocate, or a curious visitor, this tour will inspire you with the power of the arts to transform a city.

Contact: Anjel Newman anjel@as220.org

URBAN Social Mixer (4:30 pm – 6:30 pm)

Location: Assembly Room – 2nd Floor, Cambridge Innovation Center (CiC)

This is a chance to unwind and reflect on the learnings from the conference. You can also take this opportunity to connect with fellow attendees and the URBAN community over some light refreshments.

Day 4: Sunday – April 6th, 2025

9:00 am – 12:00 pm URBAN Node building, Future Fellows & URBAN Matters gatherings

Location: Brown University, Building 3, 399 Eddy Street.

9:00 am – 10:30 am: Communications Coordinators

10:30 am – 12:00 pm: National Planning Team

Things to do in Providence

Walking Tours

- **Providence Self-Guided Art Tours:** Most of the murals are in downtown and walking distance from the hotels. To download the tours app and for more information, please visit the website: <https://theavenueconcept.org/wayfinding/>
- **Brown Guided Walking Art Tours:** For information on registration and times/dates, please visit the website: <https://arts.brown.edu/spaces/public-art/public-art-tours>
- **Guided walking tour of Jewelry District:** This is the area where the conference is located. For more information on the tour, please visit the website: <https://www.goprovidence.com/things-to-do/tours-and-excursions/the-jewelry-district/>

Entertainment and Culture:

- **Free Play Providence:** Kick it old school at the “Barcade”: \$7 to play as many old school arcade games, skee ball, pinball as you want! More information at: <https://freeplaybar.com/providence>
- **The Culinary Hub of Providence (CHOP):** Situated in the heart of downtown Providence at the iconic Providence Public Library, CHOP is where food, culture, and community come together in celebration. Open for Lunch: Monday – Friday, 9am – 4pm Open for Dinner: Wednesday – Saturday, 5pm – 8pm. More information at: <https://www.culinaryhubpvd.com/>

Food - BIPOC Restaurants (** means walking distance from hotels)

- **Garden of Eve Caribbean Cuisine, 405 Harris Ave., Providence, Phone:** 401-688-5166, **Website:** gardenofevepvd.com

Description: Garden of Eve, owned and operated by chef Yveline Bontemp, graduate of the [Rhode Island Community Food Bank’s Community Kitchen program](#) and [Best Of Rhode Island Award winner](#) for Caribbean Food, is dedicated to serving authentic dishes from Haiti. The Haitian restaurant offers dishes such as curry chicken, beef tasso, oxtail stew and other Caribbean specialties, including jerk chicken. [Read about Garden of Eve here.](#)

- **The Glow Cafe and Juice Bar, Dexter Field, Parade St., Providence, Website:** eatdrinkglow.com

Description: The Glow Cafe and Juice Bar offers a variety of healthy options to accompany your at-home workout, or as a great addition to a sunny day. The bar offers delivery and pickup options for protein and fruit smoothies and bowls, vegan Jamaican patties and other fresh juices. Previous location closed. Meet at the Armory Farmer’s Market every Thursday from 3–7 p.m.. They were also an [Editor’s Pick in the 2021 Best of Rhode Island.](#)

- **Black Leaf Tea Cafe**, 52A Valley St., Providence, **Website:** theblackleaftea.com

Description: The Black Leaf Tea and Culture Shop was started in 2019 by Amber Jackson. The company offers many different tea and herb blends, such as “Lotus” and “Glow,” that promote health, while promoting community engagement and celebrating Black culture. Jackson held a virtual panel discussion on [Racism in the Hospitality Industry](#). Read our feature on The Black Leaf Tea and Culture Shop [here](#). Jackson recently opened a brick and mortar version, Black Leaf Tea Cafe in Providence. The Cafe is open Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and weekends 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- **Island House Restaurant**, 242 Broad St., Providence, **Phone:** 401-572-3011, **Website:** islandhouserestaurantri.com

Description: The Island House Restaurant is known for authentic Jamaican dishes both in the restaurant and also as a catering company. In addition to creating Jamaican cuisine, the restaurant also shares recipes for the dishes on the website.

- **** Flames Restaurant**, 734 Eddy St., Providence, **Phone:** 401-331-2225, **Website:** flamesjamaicanrestaurants.com

Description: Meals at Flames come small, medium and large, but no matter the size, you can expect a heaping takeout tray filled with meat, rice and vegetables to last more than one portion. Choose from the cafeteria-style spread, which starts with a pile of plain white or yellow rice with pigeon peas, followed by choices like the terrific spicy blackened jerk chicken, oxtail with savory gravy, curried goat, shrimp or snapper and more, served with a scoop of coleslaw. Pair it with a Jamaican pineapple soda and a famous meat patty, and you might just have dinner for days.

- **Ja Patty**, 560 Mineral Spring Ave., Unit 2156 (takeout shop), Pawtucket, **Phone:** 401-302-3185, **Website:** japatty.com

Description: Ja Patty offers Jamaican curry, jerk chicken rice bowls and patties made of seasoned meat or vegetables enveloped in the company’s signature dough. Catch their food truck at various events throughout the year. The truck is also available for catering.

- **** The District**, 54 South St., Providence, **Phone:** 401-421-0050, **Website:** thedistrictri.com

Description: This award-winning pizza place offers a variety of pizzas, sandwiches, pasta and brunch dishes to enjoy. All pizzas are fired in its 800° custom brick wood-fired oven. The District is also a multi-time winner of RI Food Fights’ Lord of the Pies.

- **Troop**, 60 Valley St., Providence, **Phone:** 401-473-2900, **Website:** trooppvd.com

Description: This Black, Indian, white and female minority-owned business “lives, breathes and believes in power equality and inclusion.” Troop’s founders established the restaurant with the dream of creating an innovative and unique experience for guests while celebrating street culture and music. The menu includes fun dishes and drinks such as the grilled chickpea salad, Vietnamese short ribs, margarita jello shots and the best-selling pineapple upside-down cocktail. Read food critic, Karen Deutsch’s, review of Troop [here](#).

- **Maxine Baked, Phone:** 401-753-3605, **Email:** maxinebaked.com

Description: Shantel Maxine Neal learned to bake from her grandmother, Grammie Maxine. She’s turned her homestyle recipes into a business serving up cupcakes, celebration cakes, cookies and more. She also hosts private decorating parties and can be found at different pop-ups throughout the state such as Blackbird Farmers Market in Smithfield.

- **White Dog Distilling, 560 Mineral Spring Ave., Unit 2-143, Pawtucket, Website:** whitedogdistilling.com

Description: White Dog Distilling is a bar and distillery located in the historic Lorraine Mills on Mineral Spring Avenue in Pawtucket. The business’s four founding partners, affectionately called “the pack,” include Alecia Catucci and her husband, Carlo Catucci, Eric Sylvestre and Vincent Greene. The partners create corn whiskey, gin, white rum and moonshine, and they also age whiskey in barrels, including their Cornucopia whiskey, which is aged and spiced, and bourbon, aged in new American Oak barrels. They also make limoncello based on Carlo’s late aunt Lella’s recipe from Italy. Read an article about White Dog Distilling [here](#). The distiller is open Thursdays and Fridays 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays 1 to 5 p.m.

- **Sarcastic Sweets, 560 Mineral Spring Ave., Suite 2117, Pawtucket, Phone:** 401-368-5458; **Website:** sarcasticsweet.com

Native Alaskan and Johnson & Wales University alumna Nina Reed’s mobile dessert shop and storefront offer a selection of sweets that are as unique as the woman who bakes them. Try the layered cake jars and infused cupcakes which can be made with the flavors of cocktails like margarita, mudslide, Irish Car Bomb and more, plus wine- and beer-infused versions. Reed offers a range of gluten free, vegan and other allergy-sensitive dessert options. The food truck visits events in Rhode Island and the two-in-one storefront sells desserts and also hosts the Alaskan Treehouse Cafe with Alaskan specialties.

- **10 Rocks Tapas Bar, 1091 Main St., Pawtucket, Phone:**401-728-0800, **Website:** 10rockstapasbar.com

Description: Established in 2015, 10 Rocks Tapas Bar and Restaurant is dedicated to sharing Cape Verde’s culture through its tapas, drinks and atmosphere. The menu includes dishes such as coconut mango shrimp, sweet plantains and fried goat cheese. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

- **Syroya’s Bakery, 1860 Mineral Spring Ave., North Providence, Phone:** 401-516-0716, **Website:** syroyasbakery.com

Description: Syroya’s Bakery, North Providence’s only Black, woman-owned bakery, offers fun twists on childhood classics such as handheld mini pies and Cinnamon Toast crunch flavored cupcakes. Learn more about the bakery in our article [here](#). The bakery also was used as a location during filming for [Good Burger 2](#). Walk-in retail hours are Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- **The Village, 100 Fountain Street Providence, RI 02903, Website:** <https://thevillagerestaurantri.com/>

Description: The Village Restaurant is expanding! The Village PVD is our newest Restaurant located at 100 Fountain St. Providence. Enjoy a sit in dinner with great ambiance or order takeout.

Serving the same authentic Nigerian food Village Restaurant is popular for, with a wider selection of Vegan and Vegetarian options. You can order online for quick pick up or delivery. The restaurant also provides catering.

- **Afrique D'Lounge**, 126 Spruce Street Providence 02903, **Phone:** 401-563-8265,
Website: <https://afriquedlounge.com/>

Description: Enjoy delicious African-inspired dishes and take part in diverse events from music to spoken word.

- **Black Beans PVD**, 404 Broad Street , Unit B, Providence, Rhode Island, **Phone:** (401) 400-1594 **Email:** Blackbeanspvd@gmail.com

Description: At Black Beans PVD soul food is only the beginning. Serving grab-and-go meals that are classic neighborhood favorites with a twist.

- **Deddeh's Kitchen**, 418 Pine St , Providence, RI, United States, Rhode Island, **Phone:** (401) 457-5016

Description: African and Soul Food

- **Food For the Soul**, 149 Admiral St #2607, Providence, RI 02908, **Phone:** (401) 490-2796, **Website:** <https://soulfoodcafe.top/>

Description: Every dish at Food For the Soul is a guaranteed must-have! From the short-rib ramen and chicken katsu, to all of the fresh sushi platters, it makes Osawa a go-to restaurant in Providence, RI for many locals. We hold ourselves to the highest standards, which gives us pride in being a consistently great and clean place for customers to order takeout from or dine-in at.

- **Four29 (Catering)** <https://www.dinewith429.com/s/Four29-Catering-Menu-Winter-2025.pdf>

- **Suya Joint**, 320 Westminster St. Providence, RI 02903, **Phone:** (401) 388-4952,
Website: <https://www.suyajoint.com/menu-providence>

Description: A sophisticated West African bar and lounge designed to appeal to local Africans searching for a taste of home and anyone looking to have an exotic and flavorful dining experience, Suya Joint offers the finest suya available along with a full array of traditional Nigerian cuisine.

- ****Track 15:** food court and bar - <https://track15ri.com/merchants/>

Description: Paying homage to the station's history, Track 15 is the most recent "track" to be added to the 14 original railways that once existed in the terminal. The dramatically redesigned space will offer approximately 18,000 square feet, incorporating 7 individual food vendors and 1 main bar.

URBAN Website



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