Speaker Biographies

**Brian Ambrette  Coastal Resilience Program Manager  Eastern Shore Land Conservancy**

Brian Ambrette joined the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy in 2014 to lead the Coastal Resilience Program. The program provides local governments with assistance and resources to prepare for sea level rise, coastal hazards, and climate change impacts. ESLC provides leadership and logistical support to the Eastern Shore Climate Adaptation Partnership, regional climate collaborative with members from 7 local governments and a dozen state agencies, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations. Brian previously worked with The Nature Conservancy developing conservation and planning tools for coastal resilience in Connecticut and with the Environmental Defense Fund in fundraising and donor engagement. He has also worked on traditional sailing schooners and as a coach and director at a community rowing club. He has a master's degree from Yale University's School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, with a focus on marine and coastal resource management and stakeholder engagement. His undergraduate degree is in physics and geology from Middlebury College in Vermont.

**Dr. Brian D. Bates, RPA  Executive Director & Senior Principal Investigator  Longwood Institute of Archaeology  Professor of Archeology  Longwood University**

Dr. Brian Bates is a professor of anthropology and the Executive Director and Senior Principal Investigator of the Institute of Archaeology. For the past 29 years Dr. Bates has conducted archaeological research in Virginia, the United Kingdom, and the Caribbean. During his career, Dr. Bates has led 77 field projects that have involved more than 1,460 students in undergraduate field research both domestically and internationally. His research interests include prehistoric human settlement patterns, social hierarchy and the intersection of human systems and environmental change. In 2015 Brian founded the Longwood Institute of Archaeology. Building upon the 40 year tradition of archaeology at Longwood, the mission of the Institute is to empower undergraduates through life-changing experiences in archaeological field research. One of the first projects of the Institute was the Hurricane Sandy Shoreline project that is the subject of this presentation.

**Markus Berger  Associate Professor of the Department of Interior Architecture  Rhode Island School of Design**

Markus Berger received his Diplomingenieur für Architektur from the Technische Universität Wien and the Universität Innsbruck. Registered as an architect (SBA) in the Netherlands, he is principal of the Providence based art|design studio InsideOut Design and a project architect for UNSTUDIO in Amsterdam. Berger co-founded Int|AR, the Journal on Interventions and Adaptive Reuse. His publications include the essays: “Change, Preservation and Adaptive Reuse”, “(In)convertibility and Memory”, “Constructing Change; Developing a theory for Adaptive Reuse”; “Left over spaces: Rediscovering Qualities for Interior Architecture” and the forthcoming article, “Death of the Architect: Appropriation and Interior Architecture.”

**Peter Britz  Environmental Planner/Sustainability Coordinator  City of Portsmouth**

Peter Britz works on environmental planning and permitting and coordinates the City’s sustainability efforts as an eco-municipality. He has over 25 years of coastal and environmental planning experience. He is staff to the Conservation Commission, the Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Committee on Sustainable Practices and serves on the City’s Technical Advisory Committee. He has worked on a number of City wide mapping efforts including, wetlands, vernal pools, and a natural resource inventory. He worked on the City’s Coastal Resilience Initiative (CRI) which mapped areas vulnerable to sea level rise, and looked at adaptation strategies for climate change which developed recommendations that have been incorporated into City’s Master Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan.
Benjamin Buckley  Architectural Historian  AECOM Cultural Resources Department
Benjamin Buckley’s expertise includes intensive-level field investigations for historic resource surveys, the production of construction drawings, and historic structure research. He previously served as Architectural and Engineering Associate for the National Park Service at Independence National Historical Park and was Conservation Technician for The Woodlands Trust for Historic Preservation. Mr. Buckley earned an M.S. in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania.

Adrienne Burke  Executive Director  Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP)
Prior to joining RAP, Adrienne Burke worked for the City of Fernandina Beach’s Community Development Department as the Community Development Director, coordinating Building, Planning, and Code Enforcement. Her work also involved managing the City’s historic preservation program and developing natural resource policies, as well as overall land development code and comprehensive plan compliance. She previously served as Senior Planner for the City. Adrienne has an undergraduate degree in history from the University of Virginia, and graduated from the University of Florida with a master’s degree in historic preservation/urban planning and a law degree. She is a member of the Florida Bar, and on the Boards for the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and the Florida Public Archaeology Network. RAP is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to enhance and preserve the architecture, history, cultural heritage, and economic viability of the historic neighborhoods of Riverside and Avondale.

David Butts  Partner  Mid-Atlantic Aerial, LLC
David Butts is a graduate of the Broadcasting Institute of Maryland and has served as a video editor and field photographer for local Fox broadcast television stations in the Baltimore and Washington D.C. Markets for over 15 years. Mid-Atlantic Aerial, LLC is a leader in drone photography and technology in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Astrid Caldas  Senior Climate Scientist  Union of Concerned Scientists
Astrid Caldas’ work focuses on climate change adaptation and science communication, with practical policy implications for ecosystems, the economy, and society - including equitable and just adaptation and resilience measures. Before joining UCS, Dr. Caldas was a Science & Technology Policy Fellow at the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a climate change and wildlife science fellow at the nonprofit conservation group Defenders of Wildlife, and a research scientist at the University of Maryland College Park. She has advised or consulted on projects with organizations including the Smithsonian Institution and the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center, and has a lifelong passion for butterflies and moths, which she has studied for many years and likes to use as models to raise awareness of climate and land use changes. Dr. Caldas holds a Ph.D. in ecology, a Masters in environmental management, and a Masters in entomology. She blogs for The Huffington Post and tweets under the handle @climategeek.

Nick Cracknell, AICP  Principal Planner  City of Portsmouth
Nick Cracknell has over 25 years of planning and urban development experience, including 20 years as a municipal planner and over 5 years in the private sector as a land use consultant to developers and public agencies. Nick provides staff support to the Historic District Commission and assists with a variety of land use and development projects in the city. He was the project coordinator for three form-based zoning projects in the Downtown, North End and West End areas of Portsmouth. He also coordinated the development of Design Guidelines and a 3-D Massing Model for the Historic District. Prior to becoming a city planner in Portsmouth, Nick was a municipal planner in Georgetown and Amesbury, Ma and was the Planning Director for the City of Newburyport, MA. Nick played a key role in coordinating a wide variety of smart growth initiatives in an effort to develop land use regulations to better manage the quality and character of new development so that it fit in with the surrounding context of small-scale, historic seacoast communities.
Tony Daniels, AIA  Certified Passive House Designer  Principal  Cycle Architecture + Planning

Tony Daniels is the principal of Cycle Architecture + Planning. A licensed architect in New York, he is a member of the American Institute of Architects, a LEED Accredited Professional and a Certified Passive House Designer. His work on major civic projects has given him a deep and practical understanding of how to build outstanding architecture that is valuable to cities and communities. His technical, engineering-oriented, and detailed approach to problem-solving has resulted in the creation of architecture notable for its design quality, environmental sustainability, and integrity, including the award-winning energy-generating shed that stretches over Coney Island’s Stillwell Terminal. Recently working with New York City’s Build it Back program in the neighborhoods of Sheepshead Bay and Gerritsen Beach, Tony has prepared designs for the lifting and reconstruction of one and two family residences that were damaged and destroyed after Hurricane Sandy. This work included design of new foundations and repairs, and design for the reconstruction of several homes that were in too poor condition to be lifted. With a commitment to energy efficiency and a progression towards zero-carbon structures, his firm seeks out projects that have social value and a strong civic architecture.

Elizabeth C. English, PhD  Associate Professor of Architecture  University of Waterloo

Dr. Elizabeth English is Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Waterloo in Cambridge, Ontario. She was formerly Associate Professor - Research at the LSU Hurricane Center. Her experience in education, practice, teaching and research is in both Architecture and Civil Engineering. Dr. English is the founder and director of the Buoyant Foundation Project, a not-for-profit organization based in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, and Cambridge, Ontario, that works on the development of amphibious foundation systems as a low-cost, low-impact flood mitigation strategy that supports the preservation of traditional housing forms and respects local cultural practices. Current projects focus on the needs of vulnerable low-income communities in coastal Louisiana and Texas, northern Canada, Jamaica and Vietnam. She came to flood mitigation from a background of many years of wind engineering research in the area of wind loads on buildings. Dr. English is a member of the ASFPM Non-Structural Floodproofing Committee, the ASCE Multi-Hazard Mitigation Committee and, at the University of Waterloo, the Water Institute and the Interdisciplinary Centre on Climate Change. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture and Urban Planning from Princeton University, a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a PhD in Architectural Theory from the University of Pennsylvania. In August 2015 Dr. English served as co-chair of ICAADE 2015, the first International Conference on Amphibious Architecture, Design and Engineering held in Bangkok, Thailand. She hosted the second ICAADE and the first Global Amphibious Policy Symposium (GAPS) at the University of Waterloo in June 2017.

Emily Paulus Everett  Historic Preservation Planning Manager  AECOM Cultural Resources Department

Emily Everett has over 16 years of experience in architectural history, historical research, and preservation planning throughout the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions. Ms. Everett earned an M.A. in Historic Preservation from the University of Delaware and has worked as an Architectural Historian for the DC Office of Planning and the New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Office.

Michael Grugl  Faculty Member  Department of Interior Architecture  Rhode Island School of Design

Michael Grugl received a MArch from Technical University Vienna. He heads Sixtus Partners, an architecture firm in Linz, Austria. He is a former member of Architekturwerkstatt Freistadt, a group emphasizing adaptive reuse of historical buildings. He is co-creator of the award winning, Pixel Hotel, a built and operational urban intervention for Linz09. In 2012 he co-developed the Monolith, a prototype solar powered thermodynamic system for domestic heating and hot water provision.
Jennifer F. Helgeson Research Economist Applied Economics Office of the Engineering Laboratory (EL) National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

Dr. Jennifer Helgeson currently leads the office's work on the "Economics of Community Resilience Planning." Dr. Helgeson obtained her PhD in Environmental & Developmental Economics at the London School of Economics (LSE) under a Grantham Institute for Climate Change Research scholarship and was also supported by NSF funding. Jennifer is primarily interested in economic analyses that consider behavioral aspects and approaches to dealing with environmental issues, especially consideration for cost-effectiveness of community-scale mitigation and adaptation efforts. She has also previously contributed to work on the Building for Economic and Environmental Sustainability (BEES) approach.

Clay Henderson Executive Director Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience Stetson University

The Institute utilizes faculty and student research to inform policy options for significant natural resource issues. Prior to coming to Stetson, Clay Henderson served as senior counsel at Holland & Knight LLP practicing in the public policy section in the fields of environmental and land use law, and remains of counsel to the firm. Previously he served as President of Florida Audubon Society and was elected to two terms on the Volusia County Council. Henderson has long been engaged in environmental policy in Florida. He served on the 1998 Florida Constitution Revision Commission and sponsored most of the environmental provisions in Florida's Constitution including the creation of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He co-authored the Florida Water and Land Legacy Initiative, the largest conservation funding program our nation's history ratified in 2014. The initiative is projected to fund over $20 billion for conservation over the next 20 years. He was also a leader in the development of Florida's signature land acquisition programs and negotiated the acquisition of over 300,000 acres of conservation lands. Henderson has been recognized for his body of work including the national public service award from The Nature Conservancy, Bill Sadowski Memorial Award from the Environment and Land Use Section of the Florida Bar, Champion of Sustainability from the Central Florida Partnership, lifetime achievement award from the Marine Resources Council, and George Hood Award from Stetson University. His book, The Floridas, celebrates the state's special places.

Stephanie Jones, M.S. Environmental Planner Kent County Department of Planning, Housing, and Zoning

Stephanie Jones currently focuses on project and permit review within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area. Along with project and permit review, she focuses on watershed planning initiatives involving water quality improvement, habitat creation and maintenance, and hazard resiliency. She also plays in integral role in the update, drafting, and implementation of County plans, such as the Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Adaption Report. Ms. Jones represents the County on numerous committees focused on water quality and resiliency plan implementation, including the Eastern Shore Climate Adaptation Partnership, the Kent County Total Maximum Daily Load Committee, Rock Hall Working Waterfront Committee, and the Healthy Waters Roundtable. Previously she has worked with the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Kent County Soil and Water Conservation District. She received her Master of Science degree in Environmental Studies from Wesley College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Analysis and Planning from Frostburg State University.

Emily Button Kambic Cultural Resources Public Outreach Coordinator Mellon/ACLS Public Fellow National Park Service

Emily Button Kambic is a Mellon/ACLS Public Service Fellow whose work focuses on sharing research in cultural resources with National Park Service interpreters, educators, and the public in the National Capital Region. She holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Brown University, where her research focused on cultural heritage in African American and Native American maritime communities. She has worked in research, education, and outreach with local museums and historical societies on Long Island and New England including Mystic Seaport, the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, and the National Parks of Boston.
Leslee F. Keys, Ph.D. Director of Historic Preservation and Special Initiatives Assistant Professor in History Flagler College

Leslee Keys has almost 40 years of professional governmental and non-profit experience in historic preservation in Ohio, Kentucky and Florida. She is familiar with weather events, particularly in Florida, as she worked for the Florida Division of Historical Resources after Hurricane Andrew assisting in the documentation and recovery of historic and archaeological properties in the Florida Keys. Most recently, she assisted with the FEMA documentation in St. Augustine after Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. She is the author of several publications on historic architecture, preservation and history. She holds a bachelor’s degree in history, pre-law and political science from Ball State University. She completed a master’s program in history and received a master of urban and regional planning degree, both from Virginia Tech. She received a doctoral degree in historic preservation from the University of Florida in 2013 and the first Distinguished Alumni Award in Historic Preservation in 2016. In 2015 she received the inaugural Roy E. Graham Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation Education from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and the Dean’s Award for Excellence in Service and Professional Development from Flagler College.

Samantha Kuntz Preservation Planner AECOM’s Philadelphia Region

Since joining AECOM in 2015, Samantha Kuntz’s work has prioritized resiliency planning for historic resources. Her background in urban development and experience with both planning and preservation provides a foundation for cultural resource management within the context of complex, challenging, and ever-changing landscapes. Samantha holds master’s degrees in both City and Regional Planning and Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania. She currently serves as co-chair of the Young Friends of the Preservation Alliance in Philadelphia.

Nathan Lott Director Water Collaborative of Greater New Orleans

Nathan Lott came to New Orleans after a decade in natural resource management in the Mid-Atlantic. As a graduate student at Tulane School of Architecture, he gained a deep appreciation for the region’s unique history as well as the challenges of building in a deltaic environment like Southeast Louisiana. In particular, his thesis work on climate change and cultural heritage built upon a longstanding commitment to the joint protection of natural and cultural resources.

In his current position Nathan works with architects, engineers and planners to retrofit the historic city to combat flooding and subsidence. Educational walking tours, professional development courses, and advocacy on local ordinances and comprehensive planning are cornerstones of this work. In 2017, Nathan received the Partner in Excellence Award from AIA New Orleans. For seven years as executive director of the Virginia Conservation Network, Nathan led a coalition of nonprofit and community groups in promoting energy efficiency, conservation easements and watershed restoration. In partnership with conservation groups across six states, Nathan helped launch the Choose Clean Water coalition, which became a force for clean-up of the Chesapeake Bay and a resource to local governments. Nathan also previously served in a state agency as lead author for a greenway-blueway project, Captain John Smith’s Trail on the James River, which leveraged natural and cultural assets to drive economic development. He currently serves on the board of directors for the Louisiana Landmarks Society.

Caitlin Martusewicz Certified Passive House Designer Cycle Architecture + Planning

A Cooper Union Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture graduate and an Irma Weiss Fellow with a passion for international sustainable development, Caitlin started her career as a designer and builder in West Africa and Southeast Asia. During that time she worked with diverse teams of global NGOs and local stakeholders to devise Triple Bottom Line solutions, or ones that added social, environmental, and economic value. As a Certified Passive House Designer and project manager for Cycle Architecture + Planning, Caitlin has worked closely with the firm’s principal, Tony Daniels, to Build Back over 20 homes affected by Hurricane Sandy in various communities in Brooklyn. She is firmly committed to addressing issues of climate change in her work and is continually searching for ways to leverage the built environment in the enterprise of true sustainability.
Carolyn Mitchell, RLA  Principal Landscape Architect  Louis Berger
Ms. Mitchell is a landscape architect and urban designer with exceptional technical expertise in landscape design for sustainability including the integration of green infrastructure into urban public space. She has received numerous awards for her planning and design projects including the 2011 American Planning Association (APA) Federal Planning Division Outstanding Sustainable Planning, Design, or Development Initiative; American Institute of Architects (AIA) Miami’s Landscape Architect of the Year; and APA Florida Honor and Merit Awards for her public space master plans.

Dale Morris  Senior Economist Advisor  Royal Netherlands Embassy Washington, DC.
Dale Morris directs the Dutch Government’s Water Management efforts in the United States, in particular in Louisiana, Florida, California, Virginia and, more recently, New York and New Jersey. This work is focused on broad “sustainability” topics: flood protection and flood risk mitigation, coastal and floodplain restoration, ecosystem resiliency, urban adaptation, urban water management, and landscape design for risk reduction and environmental/public amenity. Morris is a co-director of Dutch Dialogues, member of various water-management advisory boards and steering committees in New Orleans and Washington. Morris also provides economic and political analyses of U.S. macro-economic developments, monitors fiscal and monetary policy, US federal budget, tax and appropriations policies, and is a long-standing member of the Embassy’s Pension Advisory Board and its Integrity Panel. Morris previously served as Legislative Director and Press Secretary to two Members of the U.S. Congress, served in the US Air Force, and is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Virginia.

Rebecca Neubauer, J.D. Candidate   University of North Carolina School of Law
Rebecca is a third year law student at the University of North Carolina School of Law, where she is an Articles Editor for the North Carolina Law Review and a research fellow for the North Carolina Coastal Law Resources, Policy and Planning center. She spent this past summer working in D.C. as a summer associate for the law firm Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP. Prior to starting law school, Rebecca attended the University of Maryland, Baltimore County where she studied Molecular Biology and Chemistry.

Larry Rogers  Partner  Mid-Atlantic Aerial, LLC
Larry Rogers is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University with a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Information System concentrating in digital forensic. Mid-Atlantic Aerial, LLC is a leader in drone photography and technology in the Mid-Atlantic region. Larry has worked as a software engineering director in Baltimore and Annapolis for nearly 20 years.

Kathryn G. Smith  National Historic Landmarks & National Register Program Coordinator
National Capital Region, National Park Service
Since 2014, Ms. Smith has served as the National Historic Landmarks & National Register Program Manager for the National Capital Region of the National Park Service, where her duties include research, writing, evaluation, and analysis of National Register and National Historic Landmark properties within the region. Ms. Smith manages programs that monitor historic landmarks in the region and provide advice and assistance to parks, partners, and other Cultural Resource programs. Kathryn currently serves as coordinator and clearinghouse for cultural resource-related climate change information for the National Capital Region. Ms. Smith has over 20 years of experience as an architectural historian and historic preservation specialist working with public and private sector organizations. She earned her Master’s degree in Architectural History with a Historic Preservation Certificate from the University of Virginia. She has worked as a historic preservation officer for the local governments, and for 11 years, Ms. Smith directed research and documentation projects for History Matters, a Washington, DC-based historic preservation consulting firm.
Michael Steen   Director of Education   Watermen’s Museum
Born in Annapolis MD Michael Steen has grown up on the Chesapeake Bay and is well known educator in both the Environmental Science and Military Cultural History Fields. Michael earned a BA in History from the Virginia Military Institute, an MA in Tourism from Virginia Commonwealth University and has conducted his PHD work in Public Policy and Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. He is a Virginia Natural Resource Leadership Institute fellow with the University of Virginia and is a facilitator for Project Wet, and Project Aquatic Wild. Michael has worked for the National Parks, The Virginia State Parks, Chesterfield County, and the Jamestown Yorktown Foundation. Since 2009 he has served as the Director of Education for the Watermen’s Museum.

William A. “Skip” Stiles, Jr.  Executive Director Wetlands Watch
William Stiles has been involved in sea level rise adaptation work at the community level for nearly 10 years in his position at Wetlands Watch. Wetlands Watch a statewide nonprofit environmental group based in Norfolk, VA. Prior to his current position, starting in 1998, Mr. Stiles was an independent consultant, providing editorial and public policy services to a number of clients on issues related to science, the environment, and public policy. A partial list of his clients includes: the White House Office of Science Policy, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Pew Center on Agricultural Biotechnology, RAND Corporation, and the National Academy of Sciences. Before that, Mr. Stiles served 22 years in Congress in a variety of senior staff positions – as chief of staff for Congressman George E. Brown, Jr. of California, House Agriculture subcommittee staff director, and Legislative Director for the House Science Committee. He served on the Virginia Climate Change Commission in 2008. He is a board member of the Virginia Conservation Network (a statewide coalition of 120+ environmental groups). Together with his oceanographer wife, Dr. Margaret Mulholland, he teaches a graduate class in public policy at Old Dominion University. He lives in Norfolk, VA, and is a graduate of the College of William and Mary.

Alexandra Tarantino   Architectural historian   Delaware Department of Transportation
Alexandra Tarantino is involved in managing the Department's Cultural Resources Program. Alex is responsible for the review and coordination of transportation projects across the state to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. As a subject matter expert within the Department, she conducts architectural history surveys, assesses project impacts, and provides technical expertise and guidance to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts to cultural resources. Prior to joining DelDOT, she worked as a Historic Preservation Specialist with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Alex earned a B.A. in Art History and a Certificate in Historic Preservation from Rutgers University and completed her M.A. in Historic Preservation at the University of Delaware.

CAPT Ray Toll USN (Ret)   Director for Coastal Resilience Research   Old Dominion University
Ray Toll is the Director for Coastal Resilience Research at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia where he has been the primary facilitator in developing a whole of government/community approach to regional planning to mitigate and adapt to sea level rise. This pilot is one of several in the country dealing with climate change and resiliency. He also served on Governor McAuliffe’s Climate Change and Resiliency Update Commission. Mr. Toll is a retired Navy Captain who worked in Naval Oceanography for 26 years. Following Navy, he worked in the private sector, dealing mainly with Earth Science programs, models and data bases. He is currently the President of the Marine Technology Society. and serves on a number of Boards including the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center, the Middle Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing System, and in October 2012 chaired OCEANS 2012 (www.oceans12mtsieehamptonroads.org). Mr. Toll has a Bachelors of Science in Meteorology from the University of Utah, and a Masters of Science in Meteorology and Oceanography from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA.
Niek Veraart  Vice President  Louis Berger
Niek Veraart served as the firm’s lead for signature resilience infrastructure planning and development projects such as the World Trade Center Memorial and Redevelopment Plan and the resilience response to the disruptive effects of Superstorm Sandy. He led Louis Berger’s services for New York City’s Raise Shorelines project, which included a programmatic evaluation framework of grey and green shoreline protection solutions against sea level rise and erosion along New York City’s 500-mile shoreline and Community Reconstruction Plans for six Sandy-impacted communities in New York City and on Long Island. He is currently serving as Principal-in-Charge on New Jersey FRAMES (Fostering Regional Adaptation through Municipal Economic Scenarios), a NOAA funded regional resilience project and serves as Louis Berger’s environmental lead for three Rebuild By Design projects in New York and New Jersey. He is a co-author of the Navy Climate Change Adaptation Handbook and the Transit Systems Resilience Handbook and is conducting resilience research for the US Army Corps of Engineer’s Institute of Water Resources. He is currently developing a public-private resilience investment portfolio in Newport RI. Mr. Veraart has a graduate degree in engineering with a focus on landscape architecture and regional planning from Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

Kevin Wagner  Natural Resources Planner   Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Kevin Wagner manages the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Community Assistance Program for Maryland. In that capacity, Kevin provides technical assistance to 143 communities (county and municipal governments) that participate in the NFIP as well as a variety of other stakeholders including property owners, local officials, developers and licensed professionals. Kevin helps people understand the regulatory requirements of the NFIP while also balancing any political and/or development pressure they may be facing. Kevin’s involved with a variety of state and regional groups, conducts training, provides permitting and compliance assistance, and assists with community outreach efforts. Kevin has over 20 years of experience, and worked with MDE for 17 years. MDE is the State Coordinating Office for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). During his early years at MDE, he surveyed repetitive flood loss properties with a survey-grade GPS throughout the state and built a GIS database of the properties to be incorporated into state and local hazard mitigation plans. Kevin also coordinated Maryland’s Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program that provided a state match to local flood mitigation projects. Prior to joining MDE, Kevin worked in the private sector at a civil engineering firm for 3 years as a Surveying and Environmental Technician. Kevin is a lifelong resident of Maryland, born and raised in the Baltimore area. He received his Associate’s degree in Environmental Science from Anne Arundel Community College, Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Analysis & Planning from Frostburg State University, and a Land Surveying Certificate from the Community College of Baltimore County at Catonsville. He also completed additional coursework at FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, MD.

Alex Westhoff, AICP  Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planner  Marin County Community Development Agency
Alex Westhoff’s work has included co-authoring two Vulnerability Assessments, an Adaptation Plan, and co-creating the Game of Floods. With fifteen years public sector experience in the San Francisco Bay-Delta, professional interests include placemaking, preservation, public participation, and climate resiliency. Holding a joint Master of City Planning/Mater of Landscape Architecture from UC Berkeley, his Master’s Thesis proposed the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as California’s first National Heritage Area leading to enabling congressional legislation (still pending). Prior to working for Marin, he spent seven years with the Delta Protection Commission, focused on establishment of the Heritage Area. As a long term San Francisco resident, Alex enjoys all of the fascinating historic sites and natural beauty that the Bay Area has to offer.
Liliane Wong  Professor and Chair of the Department of Interior Architecture  Rhode Island School of Design

Liliane Wong received her BA in Mathematics from Vassar College and her MArch from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. She co-founded Int|AR, the Journal on Design Interventions & Adaptive Reuse that promotes creative and academic explorations of sustainable environments through exemplary works of reuse. A long-time volunteer at soup kitchens, her teaching emphasizes the importance of public engagement in architecture and design. She is the author of Adaptive Reuse: Extending the Lives of Buildings, a contributing author of Designing Interior Architecture and Flexible Composite Materials in Architecture, Construction and Interiors and the co-author of Libraries – A Design Manual.