



2020 Annual Climate Leadership Summit

SPEAKER LIST



Clarence Anthony

Clarence E. Anthony is CEO and Executive Director of the National League of Cities (NLC). Under his leadership, NLC has advanced policies that expand local control and provide direct funding for local programs related to public safety, infrastructure, economic development, and sustainability. Mr. Anthony began his career in public service as mayor of South Bay, Florida, for 24 years. During his time in elected office, Mr. Anthony also served as president of the Florida League of Cities and National League of Cities. In Palm Beach County, he was part of the founding group of Palm Beach County Black Elected Officials, the tourism development board, Discover Palm Beach County. Following his time in office, Mr. Anthony represented local governments on the world stage as Founding Treasurer and Interim Manager of United Cities and Local Governments. He later founded Anthony Government Solutions, a firm focused on strategic visioning, policy development, and management restructuring for government and private sector organizations.



Yoca Arditi-Rocha

Yoca Arditi-Rocha is the Executive Director of the CLEO Institute where she works to drive climate action through community engagement and education. Before joining CLEO, she was the founder and executive director of No Planeta B, a consultancy with an advocacy core, which specialized in carbon footprint inventories, climate action planning, sustainable events, climate literacy and corporate environmental capacity training in Latin America. She has participated in past United Nations climate negotiation conferences of parties and has served as the sustainability advisor for several schools, colleges, and organizations in the region. Yoca is passionate about solving the climate crisis and is considered an influencer in this field, frequently invited as a keynote speaker to a variety of forums from conferences, to high level meetings, to radio and TV networks like NPR, Telemundo, NBC6, ABC, and others. Yoca recently received the “Legendary Women in Sustainability Award” by the Ford

Motor Company in 2019. An international sustainability professional with over 15 years of experience, Ardit-Rocha holds a degree in corporate sustainability from the Institute of Global Sustainability at the University of Vermont and a master's degree in Liberal Arts from Harvard University in Sustainability. She is an Al Gore trained Climate Change presenter, an active member of the International Society of Sustainability Professionals (ISSP), a mentor for new trainees at the Climate Reality Project, and a US Green Building Council certified LEED-Green Associate.



Verdenia Baker

Verdenia Baker is a County Administrator and is responsible for administration of the policies of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners. She manages the daily operation of county government, which includes more than 6,300 employees and a budget of \$4.4 Billion. She serves a county population of more than 1.4 million residents. Verdenia began her career with Palm Beach County in 1987 as a Budget Analyst; she then was promoted to Impact Fee Coordinator and eventually became the division director of the County's Financial Management Department. Her experience as a financial manager was a prelude to her promotion to Assistant County Administrator and one year later to Deputy County Administrator for approximately fifteen years and then selected as the County Administrator in September 2015. In November of 2016, Verdenia led a successful one-cent infrastructure surtax initiative for Palm Beach County that included partnerships with the School District and the League of Cities. In addition, she was successful in collaborating with the business community as well as local community groups in garnering their support for the passage of the surtax. She was a key partner in the successful 2017 Palm Beach County Countywide Housing Summit and served as the liaison and lead negotiator on the successful recruitment of The Scripps Research Institute resulting in a growing biotechnology industry in Palm Beach County. In addition, she is instrumental in the development and implementation of the Mandatory Inclusionary Workforce Housing Program, Community Land Trust of Palm Beach County and the Growth Tiered System for the County. She was responsible for redistricting of County Commission Districts in 2000 and 2010. Verdenia collaborates daily with representatives of other jurisdictions, developers, private industry, civic and community organizations on issues of interest pertaining to county business. Fiduciary responsibilities remain on the top of her agenda as she reviews and approves departmental and agency budgets before passing them to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. She holds a master's of science in Public

Administration and a bachelor's of science in Rehabilitative Services, both from Florida State University. She has affiliation with several professional and community organizations and has received numerous national, state and local awards.



Karina Castillo

Karina Castillo is a resilience coordinator for community engagement at the Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources Office of Resilience. Karina has also worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and interned for the Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management. In 2017, Karina made Grist's annual list of 50 emerging green leaders known as "The Fixers". Additionally, in 2016, Ford Motor Company named Karina as a Mujer Legendaria as a representative of their green pillar for her work in climate and the Latino Community. Karina has extensive experience in educating and engaging diverse audiences in climate change and experience with national climate and clean air policies. She holds a master's of science from the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at the University of Miami. She also holds a bachelor's of science in Meteorology and Applied Mathematics from the University of Miami.



Annie deBoer

Annie deBoer is a member of AECOM's Sustainable Economics practice. She advises public and private sector clients on funding and financing strategies for infrastructure investment with a specific focus on climate change adaptation. Using tools such as multiple criteria assessments, economic impact analysis, triple bottom line and benefit cost analysis, she evaluates existing vulnerabilities and proposed investments. She applies her background in city planning to develop policy recommendations substantiated by quantitative and qualitative analysis to present a holistic understanding of adaptive capacity and resilience.



Jaap Donath

Dr. Jaap Donath, Ph.D. is Senior Vice President, Research & Strategic Planning, at the Beacon Council, Miami-Dade County's official economic development organization and has 25 years of economic development experience. His day-to-day responsibilities include overseeing the research department which provides research on international business and trade, labor statistics, demographics, and conducting economic impact analysis. He is also closely

involved in the day-to-day activities for the One Community One Goal initiative, a strategic plan for Miami-Dade County. In addition, he is an Adjunct Professor at Barry University teaching “International Business” in the MBA program and taught at “Research & Inquiry” in the MBA program at Johnson & Wales University. He also taught at Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University and St. Thomas University. Dr. Donath, a native of the Netherlands, received a Ph.D. and M.A in International Business and International Relations from the University of Miami and a B.A. in Education for History and Dutch Language from Windesheim University in the Netherlands. He is fluent in English, Dutch, and German. He has been a speaker at national and international economic development and business conferences. He has published internationally 26 articles, book reviews, and op-ed articles and lectured and presented papers at conferences in the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States. In addition, he has been interviewed by national, regional and local media, including Time Magazine, Bloomberg News, Florida Trend, and the Miami Herald. Dr. Donath was Board member and Past Chairman of the North Dade Regional Chamber of Commerce. He was one of the founders and chairman of the Netherlands American Chamber of Commerce of Florida.



Valholly Frank

Valholly Frank is the 17-year-old daughter of Joe Frank, a member of the Panther Clan of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and Rhonda Roff, a woman of Norwegian descent. Valholly is one of eight youth plaintiffs on the Reynolds v. FL lawsuit suing the state of Florida for its actions that progress climate change and threaten BIPOC lives. Valholly enjoys spending time in nature, especially the Everglades, and that love is the reason she uses her voice to try and protect her people, her culture, land, and the future generations endangered by the climate crisis. She was raised on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation and now lives in Weston, Florida.



Roman Gastesi

Roman Gastesi is Monroe County’s County Administrator. He has more than 30 years of work experience in the public and private sectors. He has an established background that blends science, business administration and working in the trenches of government – at the local, state, and federal levels. For the past 11 years, this background has served him well as the County Administrator of Monroe County. He is responsible for overseeing all 21 of the County’s departments and compiling a County budget of more than \$450

million. Mr. Gastesi was educated at the University of Miami where he earned an MBA and a bachelor's degree in biology. Mr. Gastesi just completed his second term as the President of the Florida Association of County Managers.



Jacqueline Gonzalez Touzet

Jacqueline Gonzalez Touzet is a founding Principal of the award winning Touzet Studio, based in Miami. Jacqueline is a passionate advocate and a frequent guest speaker about the importance of resilient design and planning to help prepare communities and shape cities and buildings for the future. As the Chair of the Resiliency Committee for University of Miami Real Estate and Development Board, her focus has been to help real estate and development get informed and engaged to take on the challenges facing our region. Jacqueline is an Advisor to the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Miami Sea Level Rise Committee and one of the expert stakeholders working with the Urban Land Institute's Committee for Resiliency. She is a graduate of Cornell University and the recipient of both the AIA Miami Silver Award and Architect of the Year Award.



Rhonda Haag

Rhonda Haag is the Sustainability Director and acts as the Chief Resilience Officer for Monroe County, located in the fabulous Florida Keys. She has been with the County for nine years and leads the County's resiliency and sustainability efforts to help prepare the County and its coastal communities for the effects of sea level rise in what is one of the most vulnerable regions in the country. To assist in these efforts, Ms. Haag serves as a leadership committee member of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. She also leads the County's environmental canal restoration program, restoring the numerous canals in the Keys that do not meet State water quality standards. She also leads the county's marine debris removal efforts for canals that have been affected by hurricanes. She serves as advisor to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Canal Advisory Subcommittee. Ms. Haag's experience includes previous service with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District, where she served in several roles including Service Center Director, Everglades Outreach Manager, and Contracts Manager. Ms. Haag is committed to improving the marine environment in the Keys, providing for the future livability of residents in these vulnerable island communities, and ensuring the resilience efforts of the County continue to remain in the forefront and ahead of the cumulative effects of climate change.



Bertha Henry

Bertha Henry is the County Administrator of Broward County. As the County's chief executive officer, she oversees operations for nearly 60 agencies, including the airport, seaport, and Convention & Visitors Bureau; a workforce of almost 6,500 employees; and a nearly \$4.9 billion budget for fiscal year 2020. Born in Miami, Florida, Ms. Henry's distinguished career in public service comes with over 41 years' experience. She worked in Montgomery County (Dayton), Ohio, before coming to Broward County in 1996 as Assistant to the County Administrator. In 1998 she accepted a position at the City of Miami as Assistant City Manager (Finance and Administration) assisting with the city's financial recovery, returning to Broward in July 2000 as Deputy County Administrator. Ms. Henry has a master's of science in public administration (Finance Concentration) and a bachelor's of science in government from Florida State University. Ms. Henry was awarded the 2017 International City/County Management Association Career Excellence Award in Memory of Mark E. Keane and was also named and honored as one of Governing Magazine's Public Officials of the Year among her other awards and recognitions.



Alex Harris

Alex Harris is a reporter covering hurricanes and climate change for the Miami Herald, including how South Florida communities are adapting to the warming world. She attended the University of Florida.



Cheryl Holder

Dr. Cheryl L. Holder, MD, is the interim Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity, and Community Initiatives, and Associate Professor at Florida International University (FIU). She is also a Fellow in the American College of Physicians and has dedicated her medical career to serving underserved populations. After her undergraduate education at Princeton University, she completed The George Washington University School of Medicine and Internal Medicine training at Harlem Hospital. In 1987, she moved to Miami-Dade County as a National Health Service Corp Scholar to work with underserved communities. Dr. Holder served as Medical Director of Jackson Health System's North Dade Health Center from 1990 to 2009. As Medical Director, she developed an HIV care and treatment program with funding through the

Ryan White Care Act., participated in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institute of Health advisory and programmatic review panels for HIV treatment and vaccine research and for community based participatory research. In September 2009, she joined Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine as faculty. She focuses on teaching the impact of social determinants of health on health outcomes, addressing diversity in health professions through pipeline programs, HIV prevention, and the health impacts of climate change. Her community involvement includes serving as President of the Florida State Medical Association—the state affiliate of the National Medical Association in which Dr. Holder works with nine local Florida Medical Societies to address health disparities and increase the viability of African American physicians. She is also the Co-Chair of Florida Clinicians for Climate Action, which works to increase climate literacy and awareness of the climate change impacts on health, especially for vulnerable populations. In 2016, she received the FIU Medallion Cal Kovens Distinguished Community Service Award, and in 2017, the Faculty Convocation Award in Service and 2019 Tow Humanism in Medicine Award. Most recently, she was a featured TEDMED2020 and TED Talk speaker, “Clinicians for Climate Action”.



Jennifer Jurado

Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Ph.D., is Broward County’s Chief Resilience Officer and Deputy Director of the Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department, where she oversees county-wide climate resiliency initiatives, water resource policy and planning, environmental monitoring, shoreline protection, and marine resources programs. She has been a key figure in the advancement of multijurisdictional initiatives with a focus on sustainable water resource management, sea level rise adaptation planning, and progressive public policy. Today, her efforts are largely focused on holistic adaptation through planning, regulation, and infrastructure retrofit. Dr. Jurado plays a lead role in the organization and advancement of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, a four-county collaboration focused on regional climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, and co-leads the Compact’s water resources and economic resilience work groups. She currently serves on the board of directors for the American Society of Adaptation Professionals and the American Geophysical Union’s Thriving Earth Exchange. Dr. Jurado is a graduate of the University of Miami, with a bachelor’s of science in Marine Science and Biology, and a Ph.D. in Marine Biology and Fisheries.



Jake Leech

Dr. Jake Leech, Ph.D. is an analyst for Palm Beach County’s Office of Resilience with a background in climate science. Jake works to adapt to the consequences of climate change, mitigate those consequences, and promote sustainable development within the County. Jake holds a Ph.D. in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences from the Georgia Institute of Technology, with a focus on glacial climate and oceanography. Before joining the County, he taught Geology at the University of Miami. He also holds an M.S. in Chemistry from Georgia Tech, and a B.A. in Philosophy from Florida Atlantic University.



Aaron McGregor

Aaron McGregor is AECOM’s US Sustainable Economics Practice lead. He specializes in applied economic and environmental policy analysis. In his decade-plus experience in social science research and economic analysis, Aaron has worked with government agencies, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, foundations, and private entities. His work is rooted in understanding the relationships between land use strategies in the built and natural environment and changes in economic activity and well-being. A large portfolio of Aaron’s work addresses the socio-economic impacts from natural hazards, including those exacerbated by a changing climate, as well as the benefits conveyed via investments in adaptation. He has participated as an advisor and technical lead on a number of climate change vulnerability and adaptation studies, co-authored various reports on these topics, provided expert testimony, and sat on committees to inform public policy. Before joining AECOM, Aaron worked as an economist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a social scientist with the California Ocean Science Trust, and a researcher for the State of California.



John Morales

John Morales is Chief Meteorologist at WTVJ-TV NBC-6 in Miami. He is also founder and president of ClimaData Corporation, a commercial weather firm providing specialized forecasts and consulting for government, industry, and media. John is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society. During his 36-year professional career, Mr. Morales has worked in the public sector (as a forecaster for the National Weather Service) and in the private sector (as a Certified Consulting Meteorologist and a broadcast meteorologist). He’s also been an adjunct professor of meteorology. John attained his undergraduate

degree in Atmospheric Sciences from Cornell University in 1984. He is currently a candidate for a master's degree in Environmental Science and Policy at Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Morales has won numerous awards, including Emmy awards for his TV presentations. He was inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences "Silver Circle" for 25 or more years of distinguished work in broadcasting. Science awards include the American Meteorological Society Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Advance of Applied Meteorology.



Jack Osterholt

Jack Osterholt is Deputy Mayor and a member of Miami Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez's management team, as well as Director of the County's Department of Regulatory and Economic Research. Mr. Osterholt is responsible to the Mayor for the oversight of Miami International Airport, PortMiami, and Water and Sewer. As Department Director, he manages the County's building and code enforcement activities, the community planning programs, the development management and zoning efforts, the environmental permitting and management programs, the County's economic enhancement efforts, and the County's resilience and sustainability plan. Before returning to the public sector, Mr. Osterholt was president of Osterholt Consulting, Inc. a management and operations consulting firm focusing on economic development, growth management, public budgeting and finance, and issues management. Prior to founding his company, Mr. Osterholt served as the County Administrator for Broward County. As the County's chief executive officer, Mr. Osterholt was responsible to seven locally elected officials for the day to day management of the County government that included over 7,000 employees, an annual budget of over \$1.9 Billion, and assets of over \$600 Billion. Mr. Osterholt is the former Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Planning Council a publicly funded planning and research agency with responsibilities in Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. He also served as Deputy State Budget Director and head of policy and planning for then Governor Bob Graham. Mr. Osterholt holds a master's degree from Georgia Tech, and an undergraduate degree from the University of Louisville.



Marshall Shepherd

Dr. J. Marshall Shepherd, Ph.D. is a leading international expert in weather and climate, and is a Distinguished Professor of Geography and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Georgia (UGA). Dr. Shepherd was the 2013 President of American Meteorological Society, the second African American to preside over the American Meteorological Society. Dr. Shepherd serves as Director of UGA's Atmospheric Sciences Program and Full Professor in the Department of Geography. Shepherd is also the host of The Weather Channel's Award-Winning Sunday talk show Weather Geeks. Prior to UGA, Dr. Shepherd spent 12 years as a Research Meteorologist at NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center and was Deputy Project Scientist for the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) mission, a multi-national space mission that launched in 2014. In 2004, President Bush honored him at the White House with the Presidential Early Career Award for pioneering scientific research in weather and climate science. Dr. Shepherd currently chairs the NASA Earth Sciences Advisory Committee and was a past member of its Earth Science Subcommittee of the NASA Advisory Council. He was a member of the Board of Trustees for the Nature Conservancy (Georgia Chapter), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Science Advisory Board, 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), National Academies of Sciences (NAS) Panels on climate and national security, extreme weather attribution, and urban meteorology. Dr. Shepherd received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in physical meteorology from Florida State University.



Noah Valenstein

Noah Valenstein was appointed Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) by Governor Rick Scott in 2017 and reappointed by Governor Ron DeSantis in 2019. He returned to DEP with nearly 15 years of public service experience with governmental agencies and a passion for natural resource protection. Noah most recently served as executive director for the Suwannee River Water Management District, where he oversaw the protection and conservation of water and land resources across 15 counties. His previous experience includes working on environmental, agricultural and energy issues in the Executive Office of the Governor and Florida House of Representatives, as well as with several of Florida's leading environmental nonprofit groups. With a strong belief in the power of partnerships, Noah is focused on building relationships between diverse groups of stakeholders, including environmental and agricultural groups as well as local communities and businesses. He's built a reputation of

bringing groups together to overcome obstacles and work toward a shared goal of environmental protection, and is committed to continuing in this spirit of partnership and service as DEP Secretary. Noah was born in Gainesville, Florida, and graduated with honors from the University of Florida's School of Natural Resources and Environment. He also holds a law degree from Florida State University.



Jon Van Arnam

Jon Van Arnam, Palm Beach County's Deputy County Administrator, assists the County Administrator in managing the daily operations of county government. Jon joined Palm Beach County in 1988, progressing from professional positions in the Environmental Resources Management Department and a legislative lobbyist role, to Assistant County Administrator in 2005 and Deputy County Administrator in 2015. He oversees the Criminal Justice Commission, Information System Services Department, Medical Examiner, the Office of Equal Business Opportunity, and Public Safety Department. He conducts special projects for the County Administrator and serves as the county's liaison to the Courts and the Solid Waste Authority. One of the original county representatives to the Southeast Florida Climate Change Compact, Jon was instrumental in creating the county's first climate change coordinator position and later in the establishment of the Palm Beach County Office of Resiliency. Additional areas of interest and focus include water management, housing and homelessness, hunger relief, and COVID-19 response.



Greg West

Greg T. West is Chief Executive Officer of ZOM Living and is responsible for all aspects of the Company with particular focus on development activities nationally. He joined ZOM in 1997 and since been involved with the complete development process including identifying new opportunities, evaluating due diligence, and setting underwriting parameters. Greg is also responsible for project design, permitting, and construction. He plays a key role in business development and investor relations as well. Greg has been directly responsible for the development of over 20,000 multifamily units. Presently ZOM has over 6,000 units under construction and in predevelopment in Florida, Texas, Chicago, Carolinas, Phoenix, and the Mid-Atlantic. He received a bachelor's of arts in Accounting from Southern Methodist University and has received two master's of science degrees from Texas A&M University in Land Development and Construction Management. He serves on the Board of Directors of the National Multifamily Housing Council and is a board member of the Miami

Downtown Development Authority. Greg also serves as the Governance Chair of the Urban Land Institute's (ULI) Southeast Florida and Caribbean District Council, was recently appointed to the ULI America's Executive Committee, as a ULI Global Governing Trustee, and to the Advisory Board of the ULI Center of Sustainability and Economic Performance. Greg additionally serves on the Advisory Board of the Master of Construction Management program at the University of Miami.



Steve Adams (*moderator*)

Steve Adams is the Director of Urban Resilience for ISC's U.S. Program, Steve works with other ISC staff, global thought leaders, as well as state and local leaders across the United States and in Southeast Asia to identify and catalyze break-through opportunities to advance urban sustainability and resilience. Steve also leads key components of ISC's climate change adaptation & resilience programming to build the capacity of local leaders in addressing the impacts of global climate change.

Steve has acquired a diverse technical background over more than two decades in the public and nonprofit sectors, with experience in marine fisheries, regulatory compliance and enforcement policy, sustainability indicators, and energy policy. Over the past 10 years, Steve has focused increasingly on climate change mitigation and adaptation issues at the state, regional and local level in dozens of communities across the United States. Since leaving government in 2009, Steve has led community-based and sector-based adaptation projects in the Pacific Northwest, helped catalyze the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact as a model for regional scale adaptation and co-founded the American Society of Adaptation Professionals to serve as a community of practice for practitioners working in various sub-fields of climate adaptation. From 2007-2009, Steve served as an energy and policy advisor to Florida Governor Charlie Crist and as Staff Director for the Governor's Action Team on Energy and Climate Change. Previously, he served as the Policy Director for Florida's Department of Environmental Protection where he led agency-wide policy development on issues ranging from ocean protection to energy to information technology. In 2002-2003, he served at the U.S. EPA as Senior Advisor to Administrator Christie Todd Whitman's Environmental Indicators Initiative. Steve holds a BA in Economics from the University of West Florida and a Master of Public Administration from the Askew School of Public Administration & Policy at the Florida State University. He is a member of the American Society of Adaptation Professionals.