

The Livability Challenge National Expert Bios



Adrian Benepe, Commissioner New York City Department of Parks & Recreation

Adrian Benepe has worked for over 30 years protecting and enhancing New York City's natural and historic beauty. He has continued this effort as Commissioner of the Department of Parks & Recreation, appointed by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg on January 25, 2002.

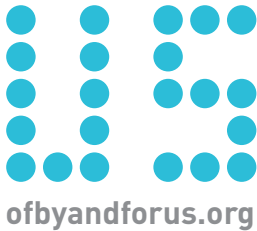
Commissioner Benepe started his Parks & Recreation career in 1973 as a teenage seasonal helper in East River Park on Manhattan's Lower East Side, picking up litter and mopping locker rooms. After graduating from Middlebury College in Vermont, he became a member of the first corps of Parks & Recreation's Urban Park Rangers in 1979. From 1979 to 1990, he served in a number of different capacities at Park & Recreation. Following his time as a Ranger stationed in Central Park, he took on a variety of positions ranging from Director of Natural Resources & Horticulture to Director of Art & Antiquities.

From 1990 to 1993, Commissioner Benepe was the Director of the Annual Fund & Major Gifts for the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx, where he expanded his knowledge of plants, trees and children's education. From 1993 to 1995, he served as Vice President for Issues & Public Affairs for the Municipal Art Society. After six years in the non-profit sector, he returned to Parks & Recreation in January 1996 as the Manhattan Borough Commissioner, managing Manhattan's green infrastructure of more than 300 parks, playgrounds, and malls. He served in that position until promoted to Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, where he now oversees the operation of over 29,000 acres and nearly 4,000 properties including over 1,000 playgrounds, 600 ballfields, 550 tennis courts, 63 swimming pools, 35 recreation centers, 14 miles of beach, and over 2.5 million street and park trees. The Department is currently managing the largest program of park expansion and renovation since the 1930s.



Donald K. Carter, FAIA FAICP LEED AP, Director, Remaking Cities Institute School of Architecture, Carnegie Mellon University

Don Carter is David Lewis Director of Urban Design and Regional Engagement of the Remaking Cities Institute, Carnegie Mellon University. He also teaches in the Master of Urban Design program in the School of Architecture. Prior to joining Carnegie Mellon University in July 2009, Don was President of Urban Design Associates where he led many of the firm's most complex projects, drawing upon his broad international experience as an architect, urban designer, and developer. He continues to serve as consulting principal to the firm. Don is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners, a member of



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the Congress for the New Urbanism, and a member of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) where he was national Chair of the Inner City Council. Previously, at ULI he served on the Affordable Housing Forum, Infill Development Forum, Residential Development Council, and Entertainment Development Council. Don is past Chair of the ULI Pittsburgh District Council, and past President of the Pittsburgh Chapter, AIA. He has lectured and published internationally on urban design and architecture. Don currently serves on the board of the Andy Warhol Museum, and previously served on the boards of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, Pittsburgh Zoo, Leadership Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, Pittsburgh Public Theater, and LaRoche College Board of Regents. Don earned a Bachelor of Architecture from Carnegie Mellon University and did post-graduate work in urban design and regional planning at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.



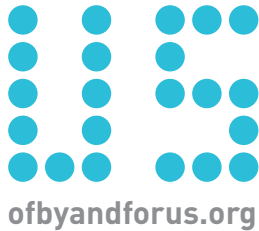
Deborah Marton, Executive Director Design Trust for Public Space

Deborah Marton is Executive Director of the Design Trust for Public Space, a non-profit organization that works to improve public space in New York City by building public-private partnerships. In this capacity she has presided over high-profile projects that have made New York City's parks and public right-of-ways more sustainable, convinced New York City to rethink planned Garment District rezoning, improved the New York City taxi vehicle and system, catalyzed the redesign of Brooklyn's Grand Army Plaza, and strengthened Long Island City's art community, among other accomplishments. Previously, Ms. Marton was Program Manager of New York City Parks Natural Resources Group and later associated with the landscape architecture firm James Corner Field Operations, where she served as project manager for the Fresh Kills Master Plan. She received a Masters in Landscape Architecture from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and also holds a J.D. from New York University School of Law. As an attorney, she was associated with the firm of Willkie Farr & Gallagher.



William B. Rogers, President and Chief Executive Officer The Trust for Public Land

Will Rogers is President and CEO of The Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national nonprofit that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, playgrounds, community gardens, farms, historic places, and wilderness. Whether recycling brownfields for new urban parks or playgrounds or conserving remote and inspirational wildlands, TPL brings a market-based approach to its mission of protecting the places that inspire us and where people can connect with the natural world and with each other.



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Based in San Francisco, TPL has over 300 staff in 40 offices nationwide and since 1972, TPL has helped protect over 2.8 million acres of land. Under Will's leadership, TPL has successfully tackled conservation challenges as diverse as new playgrounds in New York and Newark, the headwaters of the Connecticut River in northern New Hampshire, a new public park in downtown Santa Fe, the 25,000 acre Wao Kele O Puna of coastal Honolulu, Hawaii, and the scenic Waddle Ranch near Truckee, California. During this time, TPL's Conservation Finance Program has also helped states and communities design and pass 383 ballot measures that have created more than \$33 billion in land conservation funding through bonds and sales taxes to protect air and water quality, preserve land, and create parks; and TPL's Conservation Vision program has begun or completed more than 80 GIS mapping projects nationwide to help communities and regions set their conservation priorities.

Will Rogers is a nationally recognized advocate for land conservation and has given major addresses or interviews to the Urban Land Institute, the National Smart Growth Conference, the National Brownfields Conference, and Talk of the Nation, among others.

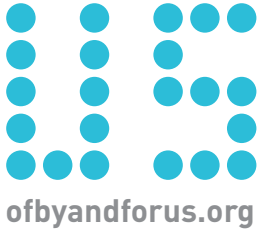


**David A. Rubin, Partner, RLA, ASLA
OLIN**

Having earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts and the History of Art at Connecticut College, David ultimately integrated his passion for art and his interest in the natural world through landscape architecture, culminating in a master's degree from the Harvard University School of Design in 1990. His extensive background in fine art allows him to sensitively merge art and science to transform social and environmental systems. Current projects include the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts Lenfest Plaza in Philadelphia; design guidelines and implementation for a significant plaza and park for Wishard Hospital in Indianapolis; and both Washington Canal Park and Potomac Park Levee in Washington, DC. David's collegial and optimistic personality is infectious and has earned him a reputation among clients and colleagues as an indispensable team member who promotes vigorous collaboration, essential to the design process.

David and his fellow partners at OLIN received the 2008 Landscape Design Award from the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum for excellence and innovation in landscape design and dedication to sustainability.

David recently collaborated with two of his fellow Partners in teaching the first-ever landscape architecture studio at SCI-Arc in Los Angeles, and he has previously taught at the Arboretum School of the Barnes Foundation and the University of Pennsylvania.



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Lily Yeh, Principal Barefoot Artists

Lily Yeh is an internationally celebrated artist whose work has taken her to communities throughout the world. As founder and executive director of the Village of Arts and Humanities in North Philadelphia from 1968 to 2004, she helped create a national model of community building through the arts. In 2004, Yeh pursued her work internationally, founding Barefoot Artists, Inc., to bring the transformative power of art to impoverished communities around the globe through participatory, multifaceted projects that foster community empowerment, improve the physical environment, promote economic development and preserve indigenous art and culture. (www.barefootartists.org)