

# SPEAKERS

**Julie Bargmann**, Principal, D.I.R.T. Studio; Associate Professor, Landscape Architecture, School of Architecture, University of Virginia

Julie Bargmann is internationally recognized as an innovative designer in building regenerative landscapes and with interdisciplinary design education. In both academic explorations as well explorations at her design practice, Bargmann's on-going research continues to excavate the creative potential of degraded landscapes. Her graduate design studios and courses focus on the design potential for productive futures of fallow cities. Bargmann teaches critical site-seeing as a means to reveal multiple site histories, giving legible form to complex processes, offering renewed relationships for communities in tired and toxic surroundings. Applying this research at her small design practice, projects at the D.I.R.T. studio explore past and present industrial operations and urban processes in relationship to ecological systems, cultural constructs and emerging technologies. From closed quarries to abandoned coal mines, fallow factories and urban railyards, Bargmann joins teams of architects, artists, engineers, historians and scientists to imagine the next evolution of these working landscapes. Along with a degree in sculpture from Carnegie-Mellon University, Bargmann earned a masters in landscape architecture at Harvard Graduate School of Design followed by a Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome. Bargmann's work was awarded the National Design Award by Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt Museum. TIME, CNN and Newsweek, along with national and international design publications have recognized Bargmann as leading the next generation in making a difference for design and the environment.

**Timothy Beatley** is the Teresa Heinz Professor of Sustainable Communities, in the Department of Urban and Environmental Planning, School of Architecture at the University of Virginia, where he has taught for the last twenty-five years. Much of Beatley's work focuses on the subject of sustainable communities, and creative strategies by which cities and towns can fundamentally reduce their ecological footprints, while at the same time becoming more livable and equitable places. Beatley believes that sustainable and resilient cities represent our best hope for addressing today's environmental challenges.

**Alexander Felson**, Yale University, Urban Ecology and Design Lab (UEDLAB) and Ecopolitan Design

Dr. Felson is an associate Professor at Yale University, a senior certified ecologist and a registered landscape architect. Felson works through the UEDLAB and Ecopolitan Design to integrate applied ecology with landscape architecture and urban design focusing on climate adaptation, green infrastructure and resilient ecosystems. He teaches and applies urban ecological theory and methods through actionable science.

Felson uses designed experiments, or ecological experiments designed as urban development projects, to study, adapt and reshape human settlements in response to pressing sustainability challenges. Prior to academia, as Director of Environment at AECOM, Dr. Felson directed the NYC Reforestation Plan informing the MillionTreesNYC and leveraged a publicly funded design project to build the country's largest constructed urban forestry experiment. Felson also built bioretention gardens designed as experiments for research as well as public gardens for an underserved neighborhood in Bridgeport CT. The site serves as a test bed for public involvement and adaptive management.

**Megan Gough**, Ph.D., associate professor and chair, Virginia Commonwealth University L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs. She teaches applied courses in community planning, civic engagement and sustainability planning in the Urban and Regional Studies and Planning Program. Her research is focused on the role of community partnerships and collaborative decision-making in planning for sustainable communities. She has particular interest in how diverse stakeholders inform sustainability planning approaches and ways that cross-sector partnerships bring the public, private and philanthropic interests to the table to achieve meaningful outcomes for communities.

Gough's current projects include a book project titled, "Public Gardens and Community Revitalization: Partnerships for Positive Social Change" (Cornell University Press), which analyzes ways in which municipalities, nonprofits and private sector organizations partner with public gardens to revitalize communities and increase the livability of urban places and spaces. She is also examining the public engagement process and outcomes of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Communities Initiative, which funded 74 multiyear regional sustainability planning processes across the U.S. In addition, Gough is working on a more recent project, funded through VCU's Center for Urban and Regional Analysis, to investigate the livability of communities for aging populations the implications for planning.