

The Role of Race, Labor Markets, and Education in Building an Equitable Recovery

Speaker Biographies

Kimberly Adams is a host/correspondent at Marketplace, America's largest broadcast business program. She covers the intersection of politics and the economy from Washington, DC, where she also serves on the Board of Governors of the National Press Club. Before moving to DC, Kimberly was a Cairo-based freelance journalist reporting on the political, social, and economic upheaval in Egypt following the Arab Spring. Her work aired on multiple networks in the United States, Canada, the UK, Germany, Hong Kong, and elsewhere. While reporting in Cairo, she received awards from the National Association of Black Journalists, the Religion Communicators Council, and the Association for Women in Communication. Prior to freelancing, Kimberly worked as a producer for NPR from its DC headquarters, covering politics, arts, culture, and breaking news.

Melody Barnes is co-director for Policy and Public Affairs for the Democracy Initiative, an interdisciplinary teaching, research and engagement effort led by the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences at the University of Virginia. She is a Professor of Practice at the Miller Center and Distinguished Fellow at the School of Law. A co-founder of the domestic strategy firm MB2 Solutions LLC, Barnes has spent over 25 years crafting public policy on a wide range of domestic issues. Barnes was Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council during the Administration of President Barack Obama. She was also Executive Vice President for Policy at the Center for American Progress and chief counsel to the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Her experience includes an appointment as Director of Legislative Affairs for the U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and serving as Assistant Counsel to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights. Barnes began her career as an attorney with Shearman & Sterling in New York City. Barnes earned her B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she graduated with honors in history and her J.D. from the University of Michigan. Currently, she serves on several corporate, non-profit and philanthropic boards of directors.

Colleen Briggs is Executive Director of Strategy, Financial Health and Community Development within the Office of Corporate Responsibility at JPMorgan Chase & Co, a global leader in corporate philanthropy with more than \$300 million invested in communities annually. She is responsible for helping establish and execute the firm's overall global philanthropic strategies to promote inclusive growth, in addition to leading the community development and financial health strategies, including two signature initiatives: PRO Neighborhoods and Financial Health. PRO Neighborhoods is a five-year, \$125 million program that works to increase the availability

and accessibility of vital economic opportunities in distressed neighborhoods. She also manages a \$125 million, five-year firm-wide commitment to financial health, including developing global Financial Solutions Labs that scale financial technology to promote the financial well-being of more than 7 million underserved consumers. Briggs also manages the impact and insights framework, designed to evaluate the Foundation's work and surface new approaches to inclusive growth. Prior to joining, Briggs was the Economic Policy Advisor to Senator Debbie Stabenow. In this role, Briggs managed the Senator's economic portfolio, including policy related to financial services, tax, small business, job creation, community development, manufacturing, and housing. Briggs managed the Dodd-Frank market reforms for the Senate Agriculture Committee, and helped draft the Recovery Act, TARP, the Dodd-Frank Act, and healthcare reform. Briggs is on the Board of the Asset Funders Network. She earned an MBA from the Yale School of Management and a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Darrick Hamilton is a university professor, the Henry Cohen Professor of Economics and Urban Policy, and the founding director of the Institute for the Study of Race, Stratification and Political Economy at The New School. Considered one of the nation's foremost scholars, economists and public intellectuals, Hamilton's accomplishments include recently being profiled in the New York Times, Mother Jones magazine and the Wall Street Journal and being featured in Politico Magazine's 2017 50 Ideas Shaping American Politics and the People Behind Them issue. Also, he is a member of the Marguerite Casey Foundation in partnership with the Group Health Foundation's inaugural class of Freedom Scholars. Hamilton has been involved in crafting policy proposals, such as baby bonds and a federal job guarantee, which have garnered a great deal of media attention and served as inspirations for legislative proposals at the federal, state and local levels. He has served as a member of the economic committee of the Biden-Sanders Unity Task Force; he has testified before several senate and house committees, including the Joint Economic Committee on the nation's potential policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic-induced health and economic crises; he was a surrogate and advisor for the Bernie Sanders presidential campaign; and he has advised numerous other leading Members of Congress, as well as various 2020 presidential candidates.

Elisabeth Jacobs is deputy director of WorkRise and a senior fellow in the Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population at the Urban Institute, focusing on issues related to family economic security and economic mobility. Her previous roles include founding senior director at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, fellow at the Brookings Institution, and senior policy advisor positions with the US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the United States Joint Economic Committee. Jacobs is a nationally recognized expert on family income and earnings instability, low-wage employment and job quality, and intergenerational mobility and opportunity, as well as a wide range of related policies including social insurance, labor market regulations, and safety net policies. She is a go-to source for media and policymakers looking for clear, concise, and relevant explanations of how research can

inform policy debates and agenda setting. Jacobs is an elected member of the National Academy for Social Insurance and a founding member of the American Enterprise Institute–Brookings Paid Family Leave Working Group. Jacobs holds a BA from Yale University, where she served on the board of trustees for the Dwight Hall Center for Public Service and Social Justice, and a PhD from Harvard University, where she was a fellow in the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy.

Carmen Rojas is the president and CEO of the Marguerite Casey Foundation. Prior to joining Marguerite Casey Foundation, Rojas was the Co-Founder and former CEO of The Workers Lab, an innovation lab that invests in entrepreneurs, community organizers, and government leaders to create replicable and revenue-generating solutions that improve conditions for low-wage workers. For more than 20 years, Rojas has worked with foundations, financial institutions, and nonprofits to improve the lives of working people across the United States. Prior to building The Workers Lab, Rojas was the Acting Director of Collective Impact at Living Cities. She supported 22 of the largest foundations and financial institutions in the world to invest in improving economic opportunity for low-income people by supporting projects in the fields of economic and workforce development, energy efficiency, and asset building. From 2008 to 2011, Rojas was the Director of Strategic Programs at the Mitchell Kapor Foundation, where she oversaw the foundation’s Green Access and Civic Engagement programs. Alongside her work at the foundation, Carmen also taught in the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to this, Rojas was the Coordinator of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency’s Task Force on African American Out-Migration to address African American displacement from the city. Rojas currently sits on the boards of the Workers Benefit Fund, General Service Foundation, Blue Ridge Labs, Certification Associates, and on the Community Advisory Council for the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. Rojas holds a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from the University of California, Berkeley and was a Fulbright Scholar in 2007.