



Shaw Series Winter Symposium 2025: Speaker Bios

Rashonda Alexander, Community Development Administration - City of St. Louis

Rashonda Alexander serves as Director of Compliance for the Community Development Administration managing the allocation and oversight of varying federal and local funding sources including CDBG, CDBG-CV, CDBG-DR, SLFRF, Economic Development Tax, and the EPA Brownfields Assessment. She first joined the City working as a Policy Writer with the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment and transitioned to CDA charged with managing the CHOICE Neighborhood Initiative and the Environmental Review process. She authored the written strategy/internal policy required by HUD for electronic submission of environmental reviews into the HUD Environmental Review Online System (HEROS) and drafted the administration's tuition reimbursement policy, advocating for benefits to support internal professional development and equity. Prior to local government administration, Ms. Alexander worked in higher education, where she led the Student Affairs' division transition from commuter-based to residential-focused student activities, drafted the first iteration of the residence hall handbook and policy, and student organization leadership training. She also served as adjunct faculty in the business school teaching various courses surrounding business administration and management. Rashonda possesses formal and advanced degrees in business administration, is a licensed Missouri notary, realtor, cosmetologist, instructor, MWBE, and SBIR recipient of the Department of Energy's EERE- Bioenergy sector award.

Cody Azotea, Focal Pointe

Cody Azotea, Senior Account Manager at Focal Pointe with 16 years of landscape experience in the Midwest. Currently overseeing landscape maintenance contracts with Washington University Danforth and School of Medicine campus partners. Helping curate a diverse collection of plants for both campuses. The Danforth Campus is an accredited level 3 arboretum with the Morton register. Pursuing goal to collect all tree/shrub species native to

Missouri for the arboretum. Passionate about horticulture and connecting people to plants and place. MS 11' Southern Illinois University – Carbondale, ISA Certified Arborist 20' and Grow Native Certified Professional 22'. Outside of work enjoy spending time tending home garden and hiking with family and friends.

Nahuel Fefer, Community Development Administration - City of St. Louis

Nahuel Fefer serves as Executive Director of the Community Development Administration. Nahuel began his career in public service in the Slay administration, where he fought to raise the minimum wage, negotiate fair development deals, and expand funding for public transit. He joins the City from ArchCity Defenders, a non-profit law firm dedicated to fighting the criminalization of poverty and committed to revolutionary justice. Nahuel is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and New York University School of Law. He has focused his studies on tax policy and constitutional law, and spent semesters at the New York City Law Department, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and Liberian Ministry of Health. Nahuel was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, grew up outside of Boston, and now resides in Tower Grove South.

Roman Fox, Forest Park Forever

Roman Fox is the Superintendent of Horticulture at Forest Park Forever, with the responsibility to manage the team that maintains and cares for the formal and natural landscapes at Forest Park. With nearly two decades of experience in horticulture management and education, he has unique experience in stewarding dynamic and functional landscapes in spaces that receive millions of visitors annually.

John Grimm, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District

John works for the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District as Program Manager of the Development Review Section in the Engineering Department. This group reviews roughly 600 development and redevelopment projects each year for compliance with MSD Regulations. John has been at MSD for 25 years and has worked in both the Development Review Section of Engineering and as a Field Engineer in the Maintenance Department. Prior to MSD, he worked in private consulting and private industry for 11 years. John holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University and is a Missouri Registered Professional Engineer.

Roy Gross, St. Louis Compost

Roy Gross works as the Sales Representative with St. Louis Composting, a local expert on compost, mulch, and soil sales in the region. They manufacture a custom soil blend and landscape mulches, including earth-friendly and long-lasting enhanced mulches. St. Louis Composting processes over a million cubic yards of green material each year, more than half of all yard waste generated in St. Louis County. Roy works in product development and helps professional growers find more sustainable solutions to their soil needs. He has been at St. Louis Composting for 16 years and holds a Bachelor's degree in Applied Horticulture from the University of Missouri.

Ted Hartsig, Olsson Associates

Ted Hartsig is a senior soil scientist with Olsson, Inc. in Overland Park, Kansas. With more than 40 years of experience, Mr. Hartsig has been the lead soil scientist on several iconic landscape design and ecosystem restoration projects in the U.S. and Canada. His projects include the design and construction of stormwater green infrastructure throughout the U.S., including the St. Louis region. He has developed and presented technical sessions, seminars, and workshops throughout the U.S., including the the American Society of Landscape Architects, the International Erosion Control Association, lectures and symposium at several universities, and, of course, the Soil Science Society of America.

Jenna Jarvis, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District

Jenna Jarvis has a degree in Environmental Engineering from Missouri S&T, with a background in tunneling and construction management. She has been lucky enough to be the Green Infrastructure Manager at MSD since 2021, partnering with many organizations to help achieve CSO reductions in St. Louis.

Brittany Kelly, Stormwater STL

Brittany joined Stormwater STL in March 2020 after graduating from the horticulture program at Saint Louis Community College – Meramec Campus. In her time with the company, Brittany has worked in various areas of post-construction stormwater management including inspections, maintenance, and managing the native plant stewardship program. Under her care, the native plant stewardship program has more than doubled in size, with more than 70 bioretention basins currently under the care of Stormwater STL. In addition to caring for the

native vegetation in bioretention basins, Brittany also performs routine inspections of stormwater BMPs and leads the permeable pavement maintenance program.

Mark Kuelker, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District

Mark works for the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District as a Principal Engineer of the Development Review Section in the Engineering Department. Mark has been at MSD for 7 years and he has worked on the Development Review East Team during that time. Mark holds a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from the Missouri University of Science & Technology. Mark is a Missouri Registered Professional Engineer.

Nigel Long, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District

Nigel works for the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District as an Environmental Specialist of the Stormwater Unit in the Division of Environmental Compliance. This group inspects roughly 2100 post-construction stormwater BMPs and 550 detention basins each year for compliance with MSD regulations. Nigel has been with MSD for a little over one year and has worked in the Emergency Response Unit in Environmental Compliance before transferring to the Stormwater Unit. Prior to joining MSD, he worked for the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans for 7 years first in the Water Purification Laboratory and then in the Environmental Affairs Department. Nigel holds a B.S. in Earth and Environmental Sciences from the University of New Orleans.

Jack McDonnell, Beyond Housing

Jack McDonnell is an ISA Certified Arborist and serves as the Program Manager for Beyond Housing's Forestry and Community Conservation Department. He oversees workforce development, vacant lot remediation, and habitat restoration programs. Additionally, he manages the 24:1 Urban Forest in collaboration with North County municipalities and organizations.

Bob Miller, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District

Bob works for the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District as Principal Engineer in the Development Review Section of the Engineering Department. This group reviews roughly 600 development and redevelopment projects each year for compliance with MSD Regulations. Bob

has been at MSD for 20 years and has worked in the Engineering Department in Development Review and Program Planning and as a Field Engineer in the Maintenance Department. Prior to MSD, he worked at St Louis County Highways and Traffic for 5 years and in private consulting for 3 years. Bob holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and is a Registered Professional Engineer in Illinois and Missouri.

Shelley Morris, Greenwood Cemetery Preservation Association

Shelley Morris, in her roles as Board Secretary and Historian for the Greenwood Cemetery Preservation Association since 2016, has overseen a remarkable transformation. The once-abandoned cemetery, with overgrown trees, soil erosion, impassable roads, and invasive brush, has been turned into a beautiful green space. This achievement was made possible through collaborations with organizations such as Engineers Without Borders, AmeriCorps, Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri Botanical Gardens, Missouri Coalition for the Environment, and Missouri Stream Team. Greenwood Cemetery is now on the National Register of Historic Places and the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, a testament to the organization's mission to restore the cemetery grounds and make it an educational resource for the community. Before her current position, Shelley's 38-year career as a Project Estimator and Energy Services Consultant at Ameren Missouri prepared her well for the challenges she now faces. Her recent involvement as a board member with the Associated Cemeteries of Missouri and her membership in the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority further demonstrate her commitment to community service.

Joe Oelke, Beyond Housing

Joe Oelke, a Certified Arborist, holds credentials as an Urban Forestry Professional and Tree Risk Assessor from the International Society of Arboriculture. He leads Beyond Housing's Forestry and Community Conservation Department. Joe's career began in residential, commercial, and utility arboriculture before he served as the Municipal Arborist for the City of Webster Groves. Prior to his current role, Joe was the Forestry Supervisor for St. Louis County Parks, where he managed arboriculture operations and assisted with prescribed burns and habitat restoration.

Chad Olney, Engineers Without Borders

Chad Olney, PE is a civil engineer and volunteer for the Engineers Without Borders Gateway Professional Chapter where he serves as the program coordinator for the chapter's Community

Engineering Corps program. EWB provides pro-bono engineering services to underserved communities both abroad and within the United States. Chad works for the US Army Corps of Engineers as a Civil Design Engineer. He has a B.S in Civil Engineering from Kansas State University.

Jamie Paige, City of Wentzville

As Wentzville's Stormwater Manager, Jamie Paige has overseen the Stormwater Management Program and MS4 Permit for the past 17 years. She directs infrastructure asset management, capital project planning and influences policy change. She holds APWA certification along with a bachelor's in Biology from Mizzou and master's in Non-profit Management from Lindenwood. Previous public service roles at St. Charles County Government and the St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District allowed her to implement watershed planning, stream stabilization, and water resource solutions that engaged over 100 regional cities and partners. Her leadership and initiatives have earned recognition from GM, US EPA, Mo. Department of Natural Resources, and East-West Gateway Coordinating Council. Jamie enjoys facilitating partnerships and grants for native and wetland landscaping, corporate and public engagement, and being a plant nerd.

Marianne Pott, Stormwater STL

Marianne joined Stormwater STL in 2016 to lead the post-construction BMP inspections services. Recently she added Project Management and SWPPP inspections to her responsibilities. She received her bachelor's degree in environmental science from Valparaiso University in Indiana. Marianne has worked around the country on projects related to wetland research, water quality monitoring, hydrology, geographic information system (GIS) mapping and education and outreach. Those experiences now inform her work for Stormwater STL.

Steve Roberts, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District

Steve works for the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District as civil engineer of the Development Review Section in the Engineering Department. This group reviews roughly 600 development and redevelopment projects each year for compliance with MSD Regulations. Steve has been at MSD for 16 years, with 3 years in Development Review and 13 years in Program Management. Prior to MSD, he worked in private consulting. Steve holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Michigan State University and is a Missouri Registered Professional Engineer.

Mike Yount, ROSCH Company

Mike Yount, Professional Engineer, ROSCH Company. Mr. Yount will share his experience designing and installing permeable unit paving in parking lots, streets, and sidewalks. These permeable units can accommodate heavy traffic loads and reduce storm water runoff in an aesthetically pleasing way. Mr. Yount will provide a contractor perspective for the panel session.