

Healthy Neighborhoods Fund Learning Collaborative Meeting

Presenter Bios

Olivia Blanchflower

Director of Wholesale & Distribution, GrowNYC

Olivia Blanchflower is the Director of Wholesale and Distribution for GrowNYC. In this role, she oversees Greenmarket Co., GrowNYC's local food hub and wholesale distribution program, which purchases product from regional producers for distribution to wholesale buyers in New York City, and its related food access programs, Youthmarket and Fresh Food Box. Prior to the establishment of Greenmarket Co., Olivia managed the Youthmarket program, GrowNYC's network of youth-run urban farm stands, and worked on a number of other food access projects including healthy corner store work and Fresh Food Box collaborative buying program. Olivia sits on the Farm to Institution New York State Leadership Committee, and holds a Bachelor's degree from Sarah Lawrence College in Liberal Arts.

Nina Haiman

Program Director, NYC Department of Transportation

Nina Haiman is the Deputy Manhattan Borough Commissioner at the New York City Department of Transportation. As the Deputy BC she coordinates DOT projects in Manhattan and conducts community outreach for the agency's safety and mobility efforts. Prior to this position Nina worked in the policy unit in the DOT Commissioner's Office, contributing to policy initiatives like bike share, and worked in the DOT Office of Strategic Planning. She has a Master's in City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University, and a BA from Wesleyan University.

Liam Kavanagh

First Deputy Commissioner, New York City Parks & Recreation

Liam Kavanagh is the First Deputy Commissioner at City of New York/Parks & Recreation. A lifelong New Yorker, Mr. Kavanagh was born in Manhattan, raised in the Bronx, and now resides in Brooklyn. A graduate of the City University's Herbert H. Lehman College, Kavanagh joined Parks in 1981. He has served as Brooklyn Forestry Director, Deputy Chief of Operations in Brooklyn and Manhattan, and Chief of Operations in Manhattan before his appointment as First Deputy Commissioner in 2003.

As First Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Kavanagh oversees all aspects of the maintenance and operation of 29,000 acres of parkland. Mr. Kavanagh also helps shape long term policies and goals for the agency, including PlaNYC initiatives, develop planning and environmental policy and provide direction on all major capital and budget decisions impacting Parks. He also plays a key role in promoting urban forestry and horticulture through the development and implementation of various park programs. He continues to oversee efforts to improve the quality and increase the number of well-maintained green spaces in public parks throughout New York.

Barbara Turk

Director of Food Policy, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services

Barbara Turk is the Director of Food Policy for New York City, in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services. Prior to her appointment in April 2014, she was a Senior Fellow at Community Resource Exchange, where she also served for several years on the board of directors. Prior to joining CRE in April 2007, Barbara was the Executive Director of the YWCA of Brooklyn. Barbara was also Director of HIV CARE Services for the Medical and Health Research Association (now Public Health Solutions), where she and her colleagues administered federal grant funds to New York City for services for people living with HIV and AIDS. In the early years of the epidemic in New York City, Barbara was a founding member of the city's first organization focused on impact of HIV on women and organized the first state-funded consortium of AIDS service providers in upper Manhattan. Before that she spent almost ten years in city government, as a policy advisor to City Council President Carol Bellamy and Manhattan Borough President David Dinkins. She was Deputy Director for Health and Human Services in the New York City Office of Management and Budget under Mayor Dinkins.

Barbara has also served on the boards of SAGE: Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual and Transgender Seniors and the Hetrick-Martin Institute, and on the national funding panel of the Astraea Foundation. She teaches at the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at New York University. She has been a visiting professor at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University and at Hunter College. She graduated from Goddard College in 1979, and earned a Masters Degree in Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in 2007.