

TRAINERS AND SPEAKERS

TRAINERS

JONATHAN BOWLES CENTER FOR AN URBAN FUTURE

Jonathan became Director of the Center for an Urban Future in 2005 after serving as the organization's research director for nearly seven years. He is the author of more than two dozen reports and articles, from detailed studies about key sectors of the city's economy, like the air cargo industry and biotechnology, to broader pieces about the economic and infrastructure challenges facing New York in the years ahead. Jonathan's reports have been covered by local and national publications ranging from the New York Times and USA Today to The Economist, and he has published articles and opinion pieces in the Daily News, Newsday and The Village Voice. He was appointed by the city's Economic Development Corporation to serve on its Telecommunications Policy Advisory Group and was a subcommittee member on Senator Schumer's Group of 35. In 2005, he was named "New York's Finest Troublemaker" by Time Out New York magazine. Prior to coming to the Center, he served as research director for New York State Senator Franz Leichter. Jonathan graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.A. in Political Science and a B.A. in Sociology.

ANDREW BRESLAU CITY FUTURES

Andy is the executive director of City Futures, home to the not for profit think tank the Center for an Urban Future and City Limits--New York's urban affairs news source. Breslau came to City Futures in January of 2006 after working the previous 8 years at CNN as both a senior manager and a producer. Prior to CNN, he was the director of special projects for the Democratic National Committee and served as director of public affairs for the Manhattan Borough President's Office from 1990 through 1995. Before his time in government, Mr. Breslau was the founding associate director of the media watchdog group Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR).

BETTINA DAMIANI GOOD JOBS NEW YORK

Bettina is the Project Director at Good Jobs New York (GJNY), which promotes policies that hold government officials and corporations accountable to the taxpayers in New York City. Bettina has worked to bring more transparency and public participation to the allocation of subsidies to large economic development projects including the rebuilding of the World Trade Center Site and the new Yankee Stadium in the South Bronx. She is also a founder of the Liberty Bond Housing Coalition, which advocated for the use of post-September 11th financing to create affordable housing for middle- and low-income New Yorkers.

BILL FAIR ALEXANDRIA REAL ESTATE EQUITIES, INC.

Bill is the Managing Director of Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc., a bioscience REIT with over 160 properties and 11.8M square feet located in the major bioscience clusters across the US and internationally. Prior to joining Alexandria, Bill worked for the Bloomberg Administration as head of the Bioscience Desk for the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC). In this role Bill was the city's point person for the development of the East River Science Park. In addition, he was responsible for attracting and retaining bioscience companies in New York City. He met with over 700 companies in the US, the UK, Europe, the Middle East and Asia and has played a key role in introducing these companies to New York City's numerous bioscience assets. Prior to joining NYCEDC, Bill was the founder and president of Hæth (pronounced "health"), the first-of-its-kind freestanding complementary medical center model, which provided safe and effective therapies in exercise, nutritional counseling, medical massage therapy, acupuncture, and yoga for both well and chronically ill clients. Bill's company was prominently featured in the documentary film "Supersize Me". Prior to founding Hæth, Bill was a senior consultant for CSC Incorporated focusing on strategy development and operational redesign for leading hospitals and medical schools nationwide. Bill received his Masters in Management degree from the Kellogg Graduate School of Business at Northwestern University and his undergraduate degree in Classics with Honors in Humanities from Stanford University.

DAVID JASON FISCHER
CENTER FOR AN URBAN FUTURE

David has been project director for workforce development and social policy at the Center for an Urban Future since 2000. His research has included two comprehensive assessments of the New York City workforce system (2002, 2007); a study of potential worker shortages in a few key areas of New York City's economy (2006); a report on union-affiliated job training efforts in New York City (2003); and an analysis of the city's Summer Youth Employment Program (2007). He was also the lead author of "Between Hope and Hard Times" (2004), the Center's comprehensive report on low-income working families in New York State, and "More Hard Times for New York's Working Families" (2006), a follow-up policy brief. David has served on advisory boards for Urban Agenda and Community Voices Heard and has published a number of opinion pieces and short features in local and national outlets. David graduated from Brown University with an honors degree in History and a B.A. in Political Science and earned his Master's in Public Policy from Georgetown University.

ROBIN KEEGAN
LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY

Robin has recently returned to her hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana, to serve as Economic and Workforce Policy Director for the Louisiana Recovery Authority. In this role, she has worked with state partners to develop a \$350 million portfolio of economic and workforce programs to assist in meeting immediate economy recovery priorities. Robin is also responsible for setting long-term economic rebuilding policies for the impacted regions within South Louisiana. Prior to this she was the deputy director of the Center for an Urban Future, a nonpartisan policy organization dedicated to independent, fact-based research about critical economic and workforce issues affecting New York's future. In addition to management and development for the organization, she led the Center's research on arts and economic development. Robin was a lead author on "Creative New York," a groundbreaking study that provides the first comprehensive assessment of New York's creative sector. She also co-authored the Center's 2002 report, "The Creative Engine," an assessment of neighborhood-based arts and economic development in New York City. She has more than a decade of cultural economic development and urban planning in her portfolio. She started her work in cultural planning and economic development in the mid 1990s as the co-leader of Create Baton Rouge, a two-year cultural planning process for Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Robin holds a masters in urban planning from Columbia University.

NEIL KLEIMAN
SEEDCO

Starting in January, Neil will be the Director of Policy and Research at Living Cities, a project of more than fifteen national foundations and corporations committed to improving cities. Prior to joining Living Cities, Neil was the Vice President for Policy at Seedco, one of the nation's leading workforce and economic development intermediaries, where he established a new policy institute. Previously he served as the founding director of the Center for an Urban Future. Neil has authored numerous reports on economic development, higher education, human services and the arts. He has also taught Urban Politics at Barnard and John Jay College and holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

JEFFREY PLAUT
GLOBAL STRATEGY GROUP

Jeffrey is a partner at the Global Strategy Group and serves as a strategic advisor and pollster to candidates and campaigns across the country. Some of his winning campaigns include Congressman Charles Rangel, Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez, Ohio Attorney General Marc Dann and Newark Mayor Cory Booker. Jeffrey leads GSG's public affairs practice for non-profits and associations. His recent clients include the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Philadelphia Safe & Sound, the Coalition for the Homeless, the New York City Center for Charter School Excellence and Service Employees International Union (SEIU/1199 Local 32BJ). Past corporate clients include General Motors, Six Flags/Great Adventure and Redbook magazine. An alumnus of Brown University, Jeffrey is a graduate of the Coro Foundation Fellowship for Public Affairs, and an Adjunct Professor at Fordham University. He sits on the advisory board of the Pace University Pace Poll. Jeffrey's interest in news, politics and sports is nearly matched by his disinterest in celebrity and technology, which is why pop music ring tones will never make it to his cell phone.

BASIL SMIKLE JR.
BASIL SMIKLE ASSOCIATES

Basil is the founder of Basil Smikle Associates, a full-service consulting interest based in New York. His firm relies upon his political and policy background as well as comprehensive partnerships with individuals across the country to provide a one-stop shop for political strategy, policy analysis, and government affairs. The firm also provides comprehensive public relations strategies in difficult political and media environments. He has also consulted on a number of campaigns in New York State and elsewhere in the Country. Basil was previously the State Director for the Lieberman for President Campaign in New York. Among his many responsibilities, he was the political and administration leader for the effort to elect Senator Lieberman from the State. From January 2001 to September of 2003, Basil was a top aide to Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and became the Senator's Deputy State Director. In that capacity, he acted as the Senator's liaison to elected officials, labor leaders and community-based organizations throughout the State of New York. He was also instrumental in determining the policy and political strategy for the State and assisted in the management of seven regional offices. Basil traveled with the Senator during her campaign, and managed her events from the field. He also joined the Senator's delegations to Vietnam and Israel for the White House during the Clinton Administration.

SPEAKERS

MARK GREEN
AIR AMERICA RADIO

Over the past 35 years Mark Green has been an elected public official, public interest lawyer, author, TV commentator and, now, the president of Air America Radio. Mark graduated with honors from both Cornell University School of Arts & Sciences (1967) and then Harvard Law School (1970), where he was editor-in-chief of the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review. Becoming a member of the Washington, D.C. Bar (and later the New York State Bar), he spent 10 years in the 1970s working with Ralph Nader, ultimately running Public Citizen's Congress Watch, the largest consumer lobbying group in D.C. In 1982, The Nation magazine said, "Next to Nader himself, Mark is the leading public interest lawyer of his generation." In 1981, Mark founded and ran the Democracy Project, a public policy institute in New York City. From 1990 to 1993, in the administration of Mayor David Dinkins, he served as Consumer Affairs Commissioner, leading a 340-person, \$17-million agency that licensed 45,000 businesses in 72 lines of commerce. Mark left the Consumer Affairs Department in 1993 to seek election as New York City's first Public Advocate. He was elected with 60% of the vote and was re-elected with 73% in 1997, winning more votes than Mayor Giuliani and carrying each of the five boroughs. He served from 1993-2001. As a consumer prosecutor and public advocate, Mark established numerous local and national precedents. He exposed and helped break up the mob garbage cartel; enacted the law protecting the victims of domestic violence from unjust firings and filed the FTC petition that led to the elimination of Joe Camel ads addicting children. In 2001 he won the Democratic nomination for NYC Mayor, losing by two points to Michael Bloomberg. Since 1970, Mark has written or edited 21 books. He also appeared several hundred times on programs like CNN's Crossfire debating Pat Buchanan or Bob Novak and PBS's Firing Line vs. William F. Buckley. He is now president of The New Democracy Project, a public affairs institute in New York City and on March 1, 2007, he became the president of Air America Radio.

ERROL LOUIS
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

As an award winning columnist for the New York Daily News, Errol Louis is a member of the Daily News editorial board, writing on a wide range of political and social affairs. He is also currently a regular contributor to CNN and a frequent guest on a wide range of radio and television shows. Errol was born in Harlem, raised in New Rochelle and lives in Crown Heights, Brooklyn with his wife, Juanita Scarlett. He is the son of a retired NYPD inspector and formerly served as associate editor of The New York Sun. He has taught college, co-founded an inner-city community credit union, run for City Council and was once named by New York Magazine as one of 10 New Yorkers making a difference "with energy, vision and independent thinking." He holds degrees from Harvard, Yale and Brooklyn Law School