

# 2020 ACGA Annual Conference

## "Digging for Victory"

**ACGA 2020**



**"Digging for Victory"**

Virtually broadcast from Los Angeles at  
East Hollywood Community Garden  
Saturday, August 8th

Workshops and live community garden tours will occur  
throughout the day from  
8:00 am PST through 3:00 pm PST.

Registration: <https://www.communitygarden.org/events/2020-acga-conference-host-city-los-angeles-ca>

The mission of the American Community Gardening Association (ACGA) is to build community by increasing and enhancing community gardening and greening across the United States and Canada. <https://www.communitygarden.org/>



# Table of Contents

- Presidents Welcome ----- Page 1
- Keynote Speaker----- Page 2
- Program Schedule -----Page 3
- Workshop Schedule-----Page 4 - 5
- Virtual Garden Tours -----Page 6
- 2020 ACGA Board Members-----Page 7
- Host Committee-----Page 8
- Workshop Presenters Bio-----Page 9 - 17
- Thank you to our Sponsors-----Page 18

## ACGA Exhibitors



# ACGA President's Welcome!



Let me start by saying ACGA will not be silent. ACGA understands the true effect that racism and unfair justice has on our country and the world. People of color have been treated unfairly for decades. Why Now? Because technology is capturing crimes taking place, unfair justice has come to the forefront. The world is outraged now. We as people of color have gone through pain and suffering since we were born. Hidden racism is everywhere, in the workplace, government, hospitals, schools, universities and in churches. The time has come for all people to stand up for justice, peace and equality. Black and brown people have suffered through racism while Caucasians have had all the power and privilege to work the system. Respect, Transparency and Justice should be for All.

As president of the American Community Gardening Association, I vow to always show respect, have transparency and treat all people equally. As a black American female, I have endured racism my entire life. Mine was the first black family to integrate an all-white school. My sister, brother and I were picked on, talked about and lied on. But through it all, "We made it!" We had strong parents that made us believe that we are just as good or better than anyone else no matter the color of their skin. As President of the American Community Gardening Association, I have a seat at the table. Now that I am at the head of the table, ACGA will address social justice, equality and respect for all people. Black lives matter. All lives matter. The time is now to stand up for what is right in all aspects of life. As President of ACGA and a person of color I ask you to join our organization to make a difference in this gardening and greening movement. Everyone should have the opportunity to grow their own fresh vegetables and have access to healthy food.

Mother Nature does not see skin color. In the garden we all are equal. Gardening together is a chance to get to know one another as equals and promote justice, peace and equality. Enjoy our conference Digging for Victory. Thank you for your support, it is up to all us to make a change.

Sincerely,  
Cathy Walker, President.

## 2020 ACGA Annual Conference "Digging for Victory"



### Keynote Speaker, Alberto Tlatoa

 @betotlatoani

Raised in South Central Los Angeles; Alberto Tlatoa is a food justice advocate, social entrepreneur, historian, artist, community organizer, and co-founder of South Central Farm. Alberto came of age on the front lines of South Central LA's struggle for land justice. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from UCLA. During the last decade, Alberto has led a grassroots food justice movement that explores the connections between food justice, environmental justice, food entrepreneurship, urban planning, land access, culture, sustainability, and landscape design in South Central Los Angeles. He has dedicated his life to his community and public service, working as a volunteer in the non-profit sector to increase access and opportunities for low-income communities of color. Furthermore, he has served in multiracial community-based organizations participating as a speaker at seminars, and conferences. Alberto is a current board member of the CANNDU Neighborhood Council which is part of one of the largest civic engagement systems in the United States. He chairs the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) committee. He brings to his organizing work a nurturing and compassionate quality that enables him to reach across the table to meet people where they are, by building trust and identifying commonalities to inspire and mobilize collective action.



# 2020 ACGA Annual Conference - "Digging for Victory"

## Program Schedule

Saturday, August 8th, 2020

8:00 am to 3:00 pm Pacific Time/11:00 am to 6:00 pm East Coast Time

### Pacific Time

### Program

8:00 am - 8:10 am

Welcome from Cathy Walker and Julie Beals

8:10 am - 9:00 am

Keynote Speaker, Alberto Tlatoa

9:00 am - 9:45 am

Workshops I

- **Collaboration** - Panel - Protocol and Community Engagement Strategies for the Community Activation for Prevention Study (CAPs)
- **Cultivation** - Herbs in the Landscape - James Morgan
- **Justice** - Healthy Soil 101: How to Remediate Environmental Racism - Calli Goldstein and Janet Valenzuela
- **Victory** - Community Gardens and Healthy Cooking (Spanish) - Sonia Guzman

9:45 am - 10:00 am

Break with Exhibitor/Vendor Videos

10:00 am - 10:45 am

Workshops 2

- **Collaboration** - Growing Resilience in Houston: Gardening at Home with Grow Kits - Meagan Terry
- **Cultivation** - Fermentation 101 - Casey Moninghoff
- **Justice** - Plant in a Pot - Lynn Young, Master Gardener
- **Victory** - Building Community Memory Gardens - Susie McDaniel, Master Gardener

10:45 am - 11:00 am

Break with Exhibitor/Vendor Videos

11:00 am - 11:45 am

Workshops 3

- **Collaboration** - Panel - Health and Healthcare Organizations' Role in Community Gardens
- **Cultivation** - Willowbrook History Vineyard - Ned Teitelbaum
- **Justice** - Recycling/Repurposing Household Throwaways Into New Garden Tools -Yvonne Savio
- **Victory** - Leveraging Your Garden's Story for Positive Change - Dawn Arrington

11:45 pm - 12:00 pm

Break with Exhibitor/Vendor Videos

12:00 pm - 12:45 pm

Workshops 4

- **Collaboration** - Building the Community in Community Gardens - Julie Beals
- **Cultivation** - You Cannot Grow Tomatoes - Heleo Leyva
- **Justice** - Victory Gardens and More - David Ray Hill
- **Victory** - Willowbrook Community Garden Irrigation Project (Spanish) - Noe Martinez

12:45 pm - 1:00 pm

Break with Exhibitor/Vendor Videos

1:00 pm - 1:45 pm

Workshops 5

- **Collaboration** - Crowdfunding for Community Gardens - Roger Doiron
- **Cultivation** - Food Relief vs. Food Justice - Devorah Brous
- **Justice** - Engaging the Community in Your Community Garden - Karena Poke
- **Victory** - Cooking and Preserving the Harvest from The Garden -Terri Carter

1:45 pm - 2:30 pm

Virtual Garden Tours

2:30 pm - 2:45 pm

Meet and Greet with ACGA Board Members and Host Committee

2:45 pm - 3:00 pm

Virtual Party!



# 2020 ACGA Annual Conference - "Digging for Victory"

## Workshop Schedule

Saturday, August 8th, 2020

8:00 am to 3:00 pm Pacific Time/11:00 am to 6:00 pm East Coast Time

### 1 - Collaboration

### 2 - Cultivation

9:00  
AM

**Protocol and Community Engagement Strategies for the Community Activation for Prevention Study (CAPs):**  
With Jill Litt, PhD, Betsy Johnson and Violeta Garcia, PhD

**Herbs in the Landscape**  
with James Morgan,  
University of Georgia Cooperative Extension

10:00  
AM

**Growing Resilience in Houston:  
Gardening at Home with Grow Kits**  
with Meagan Terry, Urban Harvest

**Fermentation 101**  
with Casey Moninghoff

11:00  
AM

**Health and Healthcare Organizations' Role  
in Community Gardens**  
Angela Wan, RN, Senior Project Manager at City of Hope; Garden of hope  
Francisco Oaxaca; Senior Director of Communications  
Portia Jones - Kaiser Permanente SoCal SVG Area; Manager, Community Health  
Amanda Sweetman - Regional Director of Farming and Healthy Lifestyles for Trinity Michigan -  
Saint Joseph Mercy Health System  
Moderated by Tim Alderson, Executive Director, Seeds of Hope

**Willowbrook History Vineyard**  
with Ned Teitelbaum

12:00  
PM

**Building the Community in  
Community Gardens**  
with Julie Beals

**You Cannot Grow Tomatoes**  
with Heleo Leyva

1:00  
PM

**Crowdfunding for Community Gardens**  
with Roger Doiron, Founder and Director of  
Seed Money

**Food Relief vs. Food Justice**  
with Devorah Brous,  
FromSoil2Soul

The ACGA Conference is offering 20 workshops divided into five time slots,  
each workshop will occur in 1 of 4 Break-Out Rooms:

**1 - Collaboration / 2 - Cultivation / 3 - Justice / 4 - Victory.**

Please select your workshop by putting the associated track number before your zoom screen name  
to sort you into your breakout room.

Registration: <https://www.communitygarden.org/events/2020-acga-conference-host-city-los-angeles-ca>



# 2020 ACGA Annual Conference - "Digging for Victory"

## Workshop Schedule

Saturday, August 8th, 2020

8:00 am to 3:00 pm Pacific Time/11:00 am to 6:00 pm East Coast Time

### 3 - Justice

### 4 - Victory

<p><b>9:00 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Healthy Soil 101: How to Remediate Environmental Racism</b> with Calli Goldstein, Co-chair at LA Food Policy Council and, Janet Valenzuela, Co-chair at LA Food Policy Council</p>	<p><b>Community Gardens and Healthy Cooking</b> with Sonia Guzman</p>
<p><b>10:00 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Plant in a pot</b> with Lynn Young, Master Gardener</p>	<p><b>Building Community Memory Gardens</b> with Susie McDaniel, Master Gardener</p>
<p><b>11:00 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Recycling/Repurposing Household Throwaways Into New Garden Tools</b> with Yvonne Savio</p>	<p><b>Leveraging Your Garden's Story for Positive Change</b> with Dawn Arrington</p>
<p><b>12:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Victory Gardens and More: Highlights From the History of The American Community Garden Movement</b> with David Ray Hill, Desert Botanical Garden</p>	<p><b>Willowbrook Community Garden Irrigation Project</b> with Noe Martinez</p>
<p><b>1:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Engaging the Community in Your Community Garden</b> with Karena Poke, Lettuce Live</p>	<p><b>Cooking and Preserving the Harvest from The Garden</b> with Terri Carter</p>

The ACGA Conference is offering 20 workshops divided into five time slots, each workshop will occur in 1 of 4 Break-Out Rooms:

**1 - Collaboration / 2 - Cultivation / 3 - Justice / 4 - Victory.**

Please select your workshop by putting the associated track number before your zoom screen name to sort you into your breakout room.

Registration: <https://www.communitygarden.org/events/2020-acga-conference-host-city-los-angeles-ca>

# Virtual Community Garden Tours

- East Hollywood Community Garden - <https://youtu.be/jx2c0VIXguA>
- El Sereno Community Garden - [https://youtu.be/5d5UC1\\_00vU](https://youtu.be/5d5UC1_00vU)
- Fountain Community Garden - <https://youtu.be/f2ReBerBgkM>
- Good Earth Community Garden - <https://youtu.be/k7klftrtgPY>
- Jardin Del Rio Community Garden - <https://youtu.be/YyrQs25GgNs>
- Mariposa-Nabi Community Garden - <https://youtu.be/zice79p3bi4>
- Pasadena Community Garden - <https://youtu.be/lOr46TISGI4>
- Solano Canyon Community Garden - [https://youtu.be/Nxc\\_TSbnkQU](https://youtu.be/Nxc_TSbnkQU)
- South Pasadena Community Garden - <https://youtu.be/1LWr40XFwYQ>
- Stanford Avalon Community Garden - <https://youtu.be/jnZRRPVkGdM>
- Spring St Community Garden - <https://youtu.be/VsBsWrxzhSU>
- Willowbrook Community Garden - <https://youtu.be/WS2Mujrn3zw>





# ACGA Board Members



Cathy Walker - President, Atlanta, GA

Cordalie Benoit - Vice President, New Haven, CT

Fred Conrad - Secretary, Atlanta, GA

Joyce Moore - Treasurer, Indianapolis, IN

Karim Alston - Member-at-Large, Houston, TX

Julie Beals - Member-at-Large, Los Angeles, CA

Terri Carter - Member-at-Large Marietta, GA

David Hill - Member-at-Large Scottsdale, AZ

Steven Holley - Member-at-Large, Anchorage, AL

Marilu Lopez - Fretts Member-at-Large, Ithaca, NY

Bill Maynard - Member-at-Large, Sacramento, CA

Charlie Monroe - Member-at-Large, Atlanta, GA

# ACGA - Los Angeles Host Committee

Julie Beals, Executive Director - Los Angeles Community Garden Council

Diana Campos, Program Manager - Los Angeles Community Garden Council

Michelle Gambom, ACGA Education Committee Volunteer

Ronnell Hampton, Senior Program Associate - Los Angeles Food Policy Council

Steven List, Horticulturist - Sylmar Agriculture Learning Center

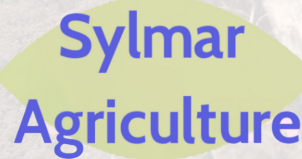
Susie McDaniel, UCCE Master Gardener - UCCE Master Gardener Program

Nisha Parekh, Board Member - Los Angeles Community Garden Council

Rose Pinkney, Garden President - Willowbrook Community Garden

Al Renner, Outreach Director - Los Angeles Community Garden Council

Teague Weybright, Community Gardens Specialist - Santa Monica Community Gardens



# ACGA - Workshop Presenters

## Biographies



**Dawn Arrington**, is a born and bred Clevelander with a love for helping others and her community. With several years of experience in community network building, customer service, and project development, Dawn sees her life's mission as one of service. At ioby in Cleveland, Dawn helps dozens of community groups and everyday neighbors raise money from their own community to make positive change, big and small. After obtaining her MBA, Dawn pursued an MA in English and Creative Writing at Southern New Hampshire University, completing her studies in 2015. In addition to her work as ioby's Cleveland Action Strategist, Dawn is also on the board of Literary Cleveland and board member and president of Larchmere PorchFest, a free one-day music festival on Cleveland's East Side. When she's not working with community partners or volunteering on a number of projects, Dawn spends her time with her husband, children, and pets.



**Julie Beals** is Executive Director of the Los Angeles Community Garden Council (LACGC) where she helps manage 42 community gardens throughout Los Angeles County. Prior to joining LACGC in 2013, Julie worked in corporate marketing for twelve years and as a development director for non-profit organizations for seven years. Julie holds a Master in Business Administration from the University of Southern California, a Master in Divinity from Claremont School of Theology, and a Bachelor of Arts in Hispanic Studies from the University of Bristol, UK. Julie's grandparents taught her to grow food in the victory gardens that they had planted in post-WWII England. She remembers wrapping fruit and vegetables in brown paper to store them in a coal shed so that her family would have produce from the garden throughout the winter months. Julie moved to Los Angeles in 1998 and continues to be grateful for the warmer climate, where she grows food all year round. Julie's passion for social and economic justice is the driving force behind her work building and supporting community gardens.



**Devorah Brous** is an urban farmer, folk herbalist, and life cycle ritualist who runs FromSoil2Soul in LA. For seven years, she served as the Founding Executive Director of Netiya (grow) ~ advancing food sovereignty and multi-faith stewardship by converting unused congregational lands into food gardens to feed houseless people and build intersectional bridges. Prior, Devorah organized on the frontline of Israel/Palestine for 15 years as Founding Executive Director of Bustan (fruit orchard). She, her husband, and their two children live on a thriving urban homestead in LA with a heap of happy hens and a school of hardworking fish that power an aquaponic garden!



**Terri Carter**, Master Gardener & ACGA Education Chair - "I am a Cobb County Master Gardener and I work with community gardens to teach people how to start gardening and I also do cooking demos."



**Roger Doiron** is the founding director of SeedMoney, a 501c3 nonprofit that has helped over 1300 public food garden projects from across the country raise over \$1 million through crowdfunding and challenge grants offered by SeedMoney.



**Sonia Guzman**, Health Educator I have been a health educator for over 20 years, with extensive experience in program development, implementation, and evaluation. I achieved a Masters in Public Health, with an emphasis on Health Education and Promotion, am CHES certified and a Diabetes Prevention Program Lifestyle Coach. In the past, I've worked with organizations, such as the American Red Cross and Family Support Network, traveling both Orange and Los Angeles Counties, teaching at-risk communities about different health topics. I currently work with organizations, educating communities on health-related topics, such as nutrition and cooking, exercise, stress management, and other life skills. I also consult with individuals, where I help them identify their health goals, learn about available resources, and develop plans to get back on track. My desire to pursue a health-related career came from a personal battle with childhood obesity. As a result of dealing with childhood obesity, I have a great understanding of the personal battles, self-esteem issues, and roadblocks that can sometimes get in the way of our efforts to improve our health. My goal is to help create healthier communities by reducing the incidence of lifestyle diseases.



**Calli Goldstein** is interested in mobilizing ecologically responsive, self-sustaining systems into our urban environments. After completing her Urban Sustainability degree at Parsons School of Design, she moved back to Los Angeles where she now works as a freelance writer, designer, and project manager. Calli has collaborated on a variety of initiatives varying from constructing a demonstration garden in Brooklyn to building neighborhood capacity to conserve and create wildlife habitat. In her role as cochair of the LAFPC Urban Agriculture Working Group, Calli seeks to amplify community experiences to inform food policy and programmatic solutions in Los Angeles.



**David Hill** is a retired Waldorf school class teacher and principal of arts integrated public charter schools. He previously worked on a bio-dynamic farm in Norway. He currently serves as the community garden coordinator at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Arizona and is a board member at ACGA. David has a passion for writing: novels, film scripts and musicals. He has written a musical play, ("Pingree Park") for children and families that highlights great moments in the history of the community garden movement in America.



**Heleo Leyva**, Heloe's ideas about growing food is rooted in native culture. He believes that gardening is not a hobby, something you do for fun or anything else along those lines. Gardening is merely part of your being similar to having a finger or nail. With his volunteer work as a lead gardener at the East Hollywood Community Garden Heleo has learned that "detaching" is the hardest part for most people. That's why this gardening consulting tutorial starts with a very antagonistic theme "you cannot grow tomatoes." Then, it blossoms into practical but useful techniques and practices. Keep in mind that this workshop focuses on how to grow vegetable and greens, not how to cut glass on prune trees.



**Susan G. ("Susie") McDaniel, Ph. D.**

BSC, Ohio University, Interpersonal Communication  
MA, California State University, Northridge, Human Communication Theory  
Ph.D., Arizona State University, Interpersonal & Family Communication

Dr. Susie McDaniel, a native Midwesterner, has been a corporate trainer, teacher, and educator for nearly 40 years. Recently retired as a Senior Lecturer at Loyola Marymount University, Susie's area of specialty is interpersonal and family communication, with particular emphasis on relationship development & maintenance, family narratives, family rituals, and—most recently—individual and family grief.

Susie is a 2019 California Master Gardener (Los Angeles County) and is focusing her volunteer work on introducing the Jr. Master Gardener Program to LA County schools, assisting with the Grow LA Victory Garden education team, and engaging with the newly established Pollinator Gardening Team. An avid wildlife and dog-lover, Susie currently resides in West Hills, CA with her husband, Dean Scheibel, and their two Wheaten Terriers, Molly and Brigit.



**Noe Martinez** was born in El Salvador but grew up in South LA. He graduated from Humboldt State University with a B.S. in Environmental Resources Engineering and is currently working in the City of Lynwood Public Works Department. His dedication to community service has pushed him to volunteer with various organizations that tackle food security including LA Food Bank, LA Midnight Mission, and LA Green Grounds. Noe has also been involved with the AmeriCorps program as a Climate Action Fellow in the Civic Spark program. He recently received recognition from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) for the 2019 Outstanding Civil Engineer in Community Service in the LA Section and serves as the ASCE LA Young Member Forum Community Chair. Noe joined the Willowbrook Community Garden in 2017 and has since continued to be involved as an active garden member. He hopes to continue giving back to the community and growing as a community leader and a professional.



**Casey Moninghoff** - "I am an Officer in the Air Force who enjoys fermenting foods as a means of culinary exploration."



**James Morgan** is a native of Orangeburg, SC. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree and Masters in Agricultural Education from Clemson University in Clemson, SC. Before moving to Georgia, James spent two years working as a County Extension Agent at South Carolina State University 1890 Extension Program in Orangeburg and then joined University of Georgia Cooperative Extension in March 2000. As a County Extension Coordinator in Dougherty County, James has provided leadership in the urban horticulture program, 4-H livestock program, as well as the commercial industry in row crops and pecans. James coordinates a Master Gardener Extension Volunteer program, conducts educational programs for homeowners and the landscape industry and facilitates production meetings with UGA specialists for farmers.



**Ned Teitelbaum**, used to write comedy for animation television. Since then, I have devoted most of my time to the marketing of Italian wine. The Willowbrook History Vineyard is planted to the historic Mission grape, which was brought by the Spanish to the 'New World' in the 1500s and was the workhorse grape of the first California wine industry. It is a site-specific installation located in an urban neighborhood where vineyards once grew. It provides an opportunity to contemplate what life was like back then for those who toiled in the vineyards in order to feed their families. Another historic grape brought by the Spanish, the Muscat of Alexandria (originally from Egypt), also grows in the garden, as well as a Mission hybrid, which was propagated from the 175-year-old Mother Vine at Olvera Street. There is also the California Desert grape, native to Southern California and Baja, Mexico, and a Thompson Seedless vine that provides seedless fruit enjoyment for squirrels and humans alike!



**Karena Poke**, Lettuce Live, Experienced senior event manager and community investment coordinator with a proven track record in developing key community relationships, creating and managing all phases of small and large events and concerts. Skilled at identifying, developing and managing stakeholder relationships, managing event budgets, venue procurement, crafting event ideas, managing event logistics, identifying sponsor/stakeholder interests and benefits, managing volunteers and VIP guests. As an independent Community Investment Coordinator Karena has developed and managed partnerships with Boys & Girls Club, Delta Airlines, UnitedHealth Care, Wal-Mart, Houston Housing Authority, City of Marion and the City of Houston on behalf of NBA Coach Lionel Hollins, Former NBA Players Zach Randolph, and Mike James. Karena spends her spare time lending her project management acumen to organizations like American Heart Association, St. John's United Methodist, Windsor Village United Methodist, Katherine and Everett Robinson Foundation and the Houston Sports Authority. She also enjoys managing a community garden, inspiring people to grow their food and growing food in her home garden.



**Yvonne Savio** grew up on a 3/4-acre hillside lot in Pasadena growing year-round fruits and vegetables and flowers with lots of manure and compost and "making do" before it was called recycling or repurposing. She knows what "harvested at the perfect moment of ripeness" means and enjoys enabling others to enjoy the benefits of "growing your own." For 36 years, she worked for the University of California, conferring with statewide vegetable, fruit, and ornamentals specialists; then revitalizing the Los Angeles County Master Gardener Volunteer Program, teaching 1150 Master Gardeners who then served 1.3 million county residents. In 2015 she initiated her website - [www.GardeningInLA.net](http://www.GardeningInLA.net) - where she blogs every other week or so about what's actually happening in her Pasadena garden, posts intriguing gardening news articles, and invites everyone to submit gardening events and job opportunities open to the public.





**Meagan Terry**, originally from New Jersey, has always loved being around plants and growing food. From her parents' backyard in the Garden State, to California, Central and South America, the Midwest, and now to Texas - she has worked on small farms as well as communal and school gardens with different groups of people of all ages. She is passionate about community organizing, food justice, and supporting local food. In Houston, Meagan started as a Garden Educator with Urban Harvest, and then worked for over a year with Texas A&M Extension Service as the Youth Horticulture Coordinator for Harris County's Juvenile Probation Department. She now serves as the Community Gardens Manager for Urban Harvest, where she supports over 140 community and school gardens to create thriving gardens and green-spaces in their neighborhoods.



**Janet Valenzuela** (She/Her/Hers) is a eco-mujerista from Huntington Park (Southeast Los Angeles) whose work is centered on bridging food sovereignty and environmental justice issues in the Los Angeles (occupied Tongva territory) using alter-Native models to environmentally disadvantaged communities. She plans to pursue a legal career in food law, particularly incorporating the intersections of grassroots activism and environmental justice. She is dedicated to challenging ongoing structures of colonialism that work towards rationalizing the use of destructive elements in her community and those alike.



UC Master Gardener Volunteer **Lynn Young** is an advocate of urban gardening initiatives centered on community resistance, sustainability, holistic lifestyles and nutrition.

## Health and Healthcare Organizations' Role in Community Gardens



**Tim Alderson**, a fifth generation Southern California farmer, is the Executive Director of Seeds of Hope, the food justice ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, which grows and distributes food in over 100 low-income communities across six Southern California counties. He also serves as Vice Chairman of Solutions for Urban Agriculture, a non-profit farming organization offering innovative solutions to some of the most pressing food issues facing urban environments today. For 20 years was the CEO of AgriGator, Inc., a multi-national soil amendment manufacturer. He was also the founding chairman of the California School Garden Network and was appointed by three California governors to the board of the Schools Agriculture and Nutrition Program where he currently serves as President. Tim lives in Pasadena, California where he has served as Chairman of the city's Recreation and Parks Commission.



**Portia Jones** is a Community Health Manager for Kaiser Permanente serving the Baldwin Park Medical Center's service area and surrounding region. In this role she leads the development, implementation, and management of local and regional Community Health strategies, programs, and plans in order to enhance the health of the communities she serves in support of Kaiser Permanente's social mission. Portia boasts a robust career in the public health sector where she has held a variety of leadership roles overseeing strategic partnerships with health systems, marketing and development, and supporting patient services in communities throughout Southern California, Arizona, and Nevada. Portia earned her B.S. with honors in Business Administration and Marketing, and holds an MBA from Woodbury University in Burbank, CA.



**Angela Wan**, MHSA, MS, RN the Enterprise Support Services Sr. Project Manager at City of Hope. In her role, she has worked to improve the quality and efficiency of the Nourishing Hope food service program, Hope Village patient short-stay program, and enterprise capital planning. She is passionate about the decreasing environmental impact of healthcare and co-led the construction of the Garden of Hope community garden on the City of Hope campus in 2018. She completed her healthcare administration, environmental justice, and nursing training at the University of Michigan.



**Amanda Sweetman** graduated from the University of Michigan in 2007 with a BS in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and from Utah State University in 2012 with a MS in wetland plant ecology. After working as a scientist, farmer, educator, and chef she landed her dream job as the Farm Manager at the Farm at St Joe's Hospital in 2015. It is there that Amanda has found her true purpose. Her driving passion is to helping people to discover and experience the holistic health benefits of personal connection to the food we eat, the places where our food comes from, and the community that pulls together to sustain us. She and her team work to educate and engage people of all ages around what real food is and how we can support one another as we work to make a change towards better health.

After 4 years of managing the Farm at St. Joe's Hospital, Amanda has recently transitioned to the newly created role, Regional Director of Farming and Healthy Lifestyles for Trinity Michigan. The creation of this role shows the dedication of Trinity Michigan to supporting local farmers, increasing food access, and to growing a healthy community through food and relationships.



**FRANCISCO OAXACA, BS, MBA.** Francisco joined L.A. Care Health Plan, the largest publicly operated health plan in the country, in 2014 as Director of Communications. In 2016, he was promoted to Senior Director of Communications and Community Relations and in 2020 was promoted to Chief, Communications and Community Relations. In this role he reports to the CEO and the Chief of Staff and is a member of the CEO's Leadership Team. He oversees a staff of over 80 responsible for the organization's internal and external communications, community relations and sponsorships programs, community outreach and engagement including oversight of 12 consumer advisory committees, a 24-member volunteer Health Promoters Program, and a network of 7 community resource centers. He also oversees all health plan public facing websites and social media channels, media relations, video production and photography services and crisis communications. He is currently leading an effort to add 7 more family resource centers across Los Angeles County by the end of 2021 leading to a network of 14 in a first of its kind 5-year, \$146 million partnership between L.A. Care and Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan. Prior to joining L.A. Care, he served as Director of Public Affairs at First 5 L.A., an independent Los Angeles County commission that is the leading funder of programs for families with young children in California. Francisco earned his Bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California and his Master's in Business Administration from the University of Redlands.

## **Protocol and Community Engagement Strategies for the Community Activation for Prevention Study (CAPs): A Randomized Controlled Trial of Community Gardening in Denver, CO**

**Dr. Katherine Alaimo** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Michigan State University. Her research interests are in the areas of community food security; urban agriculture and community gardening; school, policy and environmental supports for promoting healthy eating and physical activity; and community-based participatory research. She is the Co-Principal Investigator for the CAPS study. Dr. Alaimo received her MS and PhD in Community Nutrition from Cornell University.

**Dr. Violeta García** is the Executive Director of Denver Urban Gardens. She brings nearly 20 years of leadership experience in the education field and a passion for creating sustainable, regenerative systems to DUG. Prior to joining DUG, she advanced opportunities for K-12 students through her consulting business, STEM Learning by Design. Before that, she served as the Colorado Department of Education STEM Coordinator and also taught middle, high school, and college-level students. Dr. Garcia holds a doctoral degree in biological education and a minor in applied research methods and statistics from the University of Northern Colorado; a master's degree in education with an emphasis in bilingual, bicultural science education from the University of California, Los Angeles; and a bachelor of science in biological sciences from Colorado State University at Fullerton. On her down time, Dr. Garcia spends time hiking, running, and gardening with her partner and two daughters. She loves to travel and has visited over 32 countries, lived in three countries and dreams of having a permaculture farm in her urban home.

**Dr. Jill Litt** is an Associate Professor at the University of Colorado Boulder in the Environmental Studies program, is an adjunct Associate Professor at the Colorado School of Public Health, and an Associated Researcher at IS Global in Barcelona, Spain. Dr. Litt's research centers on the intersection of neighborhoods and health, with a focus on environmental and policy approaches to improve and sustain healthy eating, active living, and mental well-being in an equitable and just way. Dr. Litt received her PhD from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.



## Thank you to our Sponsors



*The Weybright Family*

