

**Kimberly Burrowes** is a training and technical assistance senior manager in the Research to Action Lab at the Urban Institute. Burrowes's research has focused on advancing racial equity in parks and public spaces, practices and policies for affordable housing solutions, and participatory engagement. Burrowes thinks about how to provide an equity framing to local policy solutions for the built environment, using placemaking and community engagement tools. Within her technical assistance role, Burrowes works with local government agencies and nonprofits to build their capacity to tackle policy challenges. She has advised local agencies on the equity impacts of placemaking, community-based nonprofits focused on housing stability and equity, county-level criminal justice system agencies, and most recently, resident engagement approaches for municipalities exploring financial empowerment plans. Before joining Urban, Burrowes worked with the urban development and disaster risk management unit at the World Bank, focusing on projects in the Caribbean and East Asia. Before that, she worked on affordable housing policy at the Massachusetts Housing Partnership in Boston and the Island Housing Trust on Martha's Vineyard. Burrowes has a BA in geography and international development and an MA in community development and urban planning from Clark University.

**AJ Calhoun** is the Director of Research and Impact at Leading on Opportunity (LOO). In this role, he leads a team of designers and social scientists to build inclusive, data-driven tools to advance economic mobility. Before LOO, AJ worked on similar projects with the United Way, Knight Foundation, World Resources Institute, Chicago Community Trust, and Consultive Group to Assist the Poor at the World Bank. He's a proud alum of UChicago, Furman University, and Fulbright Malaysia.

**Clifton Phanawong Nelson** is the Research and Data Analysis Manager for the Prosperity Initiative at Pima County. He has been with the County for five years, working across a wide range of datasets that inform decision-making related to poverty, eviction prevention programs, homelessness, immigration, and broadband access. Outside of spreadsheets and dashboards, he enjoys listening to the *Lofi Girl* channel while experimenting with creative ways to visualize data beyond traditional bar and pie charts.

**Helen Schaffer** is responsible for implementing Pima County's Prosperity Initiative. An anthropologist to her core, Helen's postdoctoral research was about social support networks in rural central Appalachia. In the years prior, Helen studied how human culture evolves. She built controlled experiments and used statistical testing to understand the results. Her publications appear under her family name (Wasielewski). She earned her PhD at Rutgers and makes daily use of the applied public health toolkit she learned while completing an MPH at the University of Arizona. Her greatest professional joy is to be in a position to advocate for greater participation of lower-income families in the decisions made about their lives.

**Gabi Velasco** is a policy associate in the Research to Action Lab. They work with researchers, local governments, and community-based organizations to identify, implement, and evaluate evidence-based solutions that promote thriving communities. Velasco's portfolio centers on

place-based, community-engaged work in the domains of upward mobility, housing justice, and environmental justice. Since 2020, Velasco has provided data-based technical assistance through the Upward Mobility Initiative. They are also a network coordinator for the National Neighborhood Indicators Project, a national network of local organizations that support local priorities by connecting communities with the data they need and the help they need to use it. Before joining Urban, they worked with the sustainability program at the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, providing research and project management support across the state. Velasco's work at Texas Parks and Wildlife centered on green infrastructure, resilience plans for state parks, and institutional-scale sustainability policy reform. Velasco received a BA in sustainability studies, a BA in urban political ecology, and a minor in women's and gender studies from the University of Texas at Austin. Upon graduation, Velasco was recognized as one of the Dean's Distinguished Graduates, the highest distinction awarded by the college. While at the University of Texas, Velasco conducted community engaged research on environmental racism, zoning, and children's health in East Austin.