



This session focuses on Philadelphia urban parks: who has access to them, who does not and why, and what should be done to improve equitable access and use of a community’s valued urban places. University City District, Philadelphia’s thriving Business Improvement District west of Center City, provides answers to these issues through “Just Space,” a study about social inclusivity funded by the Knight Foundation. The session also provides an overview of the city’s system of parks and community facilities and the effort afoot to improve them as hasn’t been done in a generation, with social inclusivity in mind.

Speakers:

- Ignacio Bunster-Ossa, FASLA, AECOM
- Andrew Stober, VP Planning and Economic Development, University City District
- Veronica Davis, P.E., Nspiregreen
- Aparna Palatino, Deputy Commissioner, Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Learning Objectives:

1. UCD: Learn about the urban space and amenities associated with Philadelphia’s most resurgent neighborhood—the good and the not so good—from a landscape architect and 18-year UCD resident.
2. Just Space: Learn about a far-reaching study that assesses why disadvantaged members of the community don’t have equal access to parks and other prominent urban places, public or private, and what the outlook is for establishing equality.
3. Parks & Rec: Learn about the city-wide system of parks and community facilities, and the effort underway to fund and improve them as hasn’t been done in a generation, with social equity in mind.

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