

THE BIOPHILIC INSTITUTE AND  
BIOPHILIC CITIES PROJECT  
PRESENT

# BIOPHILIC

## LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

APRIL 23-26 | SERENBE

SPONSORED BY

**Interface®**



NYGREN  
PLACEMAKING

# EMERGING CONCEPTS IN BIOPHILIA

Exploring topics at the forefront of biophilia, including awe, thin places, neuroaesthetics, eco-gentrification, mass timber, biophilic education, and so much more.

## WELCOME

In 1999, metro Atlanta's urban sprawl threatened our family farm that served as a retreat from the city, where we could raise our family in nature on the edge of Atlanta and near the advantages of an urban center.

Not wanting to leave the place we named Serenbe and loved as our family home, we began our search for a model of balanced growth, where land can be preserved and we can do good and do well.

Using the countryside of England and the advice of environmental leaders assembled by Ray C. Anderson of Interface, we decided to act.

Neighborhood discussions led to the creation of the 40,000 acre Chattahoochee Hill Country overlay and the development of the Serenbe the community.

We are delighted that our effort to save our own backyard has resulted in a model whose varied components can be applied in urban, suburban or greenfield developments.

We are pleased to partner with The Biophilic Institute and The Biophilic Cities Project at our 5th Biophilic Leadership Summit.

Mankind's first home - nature - enriches our lives from views that inspire an enhanced wellbeing.

Welcome to Serenbe and our journey.

Steve Nygren

## MEET THE HOSTS

THE  
BIOPHILIC  
INSTITUTE

**The Biophilic Institute** was established in 2013 by a group of engaged professionals who hold a common passion for educating and sharing best practices in fields that promote wellbeing, prosperity and a sustainable future.

@THEBIOPHILICINSTITUTE  
BIOPHILICINSTITUTE.COM

Biophilic  
Cities

**The Biophilic Cities Project** is devoted to understanding how cities can become more full of nature, and to telling the stories of the places and people working to build these urban-nature connections.

@BIOPHILICCITIES  
BIOPHILICCITIES.ORG

serenbe

**Serenbe** is a biophilic community with over 1,200 preserved acres and 700 residents, an organic farm, restaurants, shops, year-round events and an Inn. Founded by the Nygren family, Serenbe is a place you can enjoy for a meal, a weekend or call home for a lifetime.

@SERENBE  
SERENBE.COM



**TIM BEATLEY** is the Teresa Heinz Professor of Sustainable Communities, in the Department of Urban and Environmental Planning at the University of Virginia, where he has taught for the last twenty-five years.

As the project founder and the director of **Biophilic Cities Project**, he believes that sustainable and resilient cities represent our best hope for addressing today's environmental challenges.



**STEVE NYGREN** is the Founder and CEO of Serenbe, principal at Nygren Placemaking, and currently serves as Board Chair for **The Biophilic Institute**.

In addition to his role with the Institute, Steve serves on multiple national boards dealing with children, agriculture, and environmental issues including The Ray C. Anderson Foundation, and previously Children & Nature Network, Chattahoochee Now, and Wholesome Wave.

# AGENDA

DAY ONE | SUNDAY, APRIL 23

The Inn at Serenbe Oak Room

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Registration Table Open

5:00 PM

## Keynote Biophilic Conversations

with Fred Dust

Making Conversation: *The Seven Essential Elements of Meaningful Communication*, Author IDEO, Fomer Senior Partner & Global Managing Director

6:00 PM

Cocktails + Book Signing with Fred Dust

Presented by Nygren Placemaking and Hills & Hamlets Bookshop

6:45 PM

The Farmhouse Restaurant Lawn

Dinner Under The Stars

DAY TWO | MONDAY, APRIL 24

The Inn at Serenbe Oak Room

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Registration Table Open

9:00 AM

## Presentation Neuroaesthetics, Architecture, and Biophila

Dr. Anjan Chatterjee, Professor of Neurology, Psychology, and Architecture, University of Pennsylvania

Jennifer Walsh, Founder, AIKR Lab & Institute

10:00 AM

## Panel Biophilic Design in Architectural Education

Dr. Tuwanda Green, Adjunct Instructor in the School of Architecture, Virginia Tech  
Robin Z. Puttock, Senior Lecturer in the School of Architecture, Planning, Preservation, & Development, University of Maryland

Hosted by Dr. Ellen Basset, John Portman Chair & Dean of the College of Design, Georgia Tech

# AGENDA

11:00 AM

## Panel The Nature of Learning: Biophilic Research & Education

Alana Houston, MA Candidate, Florida State University  
Ezra Lewis, BA Candidate, The University of Georgia  
Eva Neri, MA Candidate, Florida State University

Facilitated by Meghan Mick, Assistant Professor, Department of Interior Architecture and Design, Florida State University  
and Alfred Vick, Georgia Power Proessor in Environmental Ethics, College of Environment and Design, The University of Georgia

12:30 PM

The Farmhouse Restaurant

Lunch

1:30 PM

The Inn at Serenbe Guest Services

Placemaking Tour of Serenbe

With Steve Nygren, Founder & CEO of Serenbe

2:50 PM

The Inn at Serenbe Oak Room

## Presentation Arlington, Virginia: A Case Study in Sustainable Urban Planning

Dr. Elizabeth Gearin

Arlington County Planning Commission

3:50 PM

## Presentation Supporting Innovative, Sustainable Solutions

Dr. Karen Pearson, Chairperson in the Department of Science & Mathematics, Fashion Institute of Technology

Hosted by Monica Olsen, Chief Marketing Officer, Serenbe

5:00 PM

Cocktails + Book Signing

Presented by Interface and Hills & Hamlets Bookshop

6:00 PM

The Inn at Serenbe Oak Room

Dinner Full Summit Pass Holders

# AGENDA

DAY 3 | TUESDAY, APRIL 25

The Inn at Serenbe Oak Room

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM  
Registration Table Open

9:00 AM

## **Presentation** Thin Places & Biophilia

**Dr. Phillip James Tabb**

Emeritus Professor, School of Architecture, Texas A&M University

10:00 AM

## **Panel** Biophilic Recharge Rooms in Healthcare Settings

**Mirelle Phillips**, Founder, Studio Elsewhere

**Dr. Mar Cortes**, Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai

11:00 AM

## **Panel** Creating Dynamic Human Habitats with Biophilic Design

**Alan Booker**, Founder & Executive Director, Institute of Integrated Regenerative Design

**Gary McNay**, Principal, vitalplace design

12:00 PM

The Farmhouse at Serenbe

**Lunch**

1:00 PM

The Inn at Serenbe Guest Services

**Wellness Walk**

With **Jennifer Walsh**, Founder, AIKR Lab & Institute

2:10 PM

## **Panel** Eco-Gentrification

Presented by **Biophilic Cities**

**Chandra Farley**, Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Atlanta

**Dr. Dan Immergluck**, Professor of Urban Studies, Georgia State University

**Alison Johnson**, Executive Director, Housing Justice League

# AGENDA

3:10 PM

## **Presentation** The Nature of Wood

**Bill Browning**

Founding Partner, Terrapin Bright Green

4:10 PM

## **Panel** Biophilic Building Blocks: The Emergence of Mass Timber Construction

**Laura Cullen**, Regional Director, WoodWorks

**Dr. David Fell**, Director of Research & Analysis, Forestry Innovation Investment

5:15 PM

**Cocktails + Book Signing**

Presented by American Farmland Trust and Hills & Hamlets Bookshop

6:15 PM

The Farmhouse Restaurant Wraparound Porch

**Dinner** *Full Summit Pass Holders*

DAY 4 | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

10:00 AM

## **Tour** Chattahoochee Hills Charter School

**Patrick Muhammed**, Head of School

## MEET THE KEYNOTE



**FRED DUST, KEYNOTE SPEAKER**, is the founder of Dust&Co. and the author of *Making Conversation: The Seven Essential Elements of Meaningful Communication*. A former Senior Partner and Global Managing Director for acclaimed design firm IDEO, Fred works at the intersection of business, society, and creativity. Using the methodology in his book *Making Conversation*, he works as the Senior Dialogue Designer with The Rockefeller Foundation to explore the future of pressing global needs, and with The Einhorn Collaborative and other foundations to host constructive dialogue with leaders such as David Brooks, Reverend Jenn Bailey, and Vivek Murthy to rebuild human connection in a climate of widespread polarization, cynicism, and disruption.

## MEET THE SPEAKERS



**ELLEN M. BASSETT, PH.D.**, is the Dean and John Portman Chair of the College of Design at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Trained as an urban planner, her areas of research, interest, and expertise are land use planning and law, climate change planning, health and the built environment, and international development. Her primary professional experience is in international development as a technical advisor for bi- and multilateral agencies working in the Global South. Bassett's teaching focuses on land use and environmental law, land use planning, and real estate and affordable housing. Her research focuses on community decision-making around land and natural resources, including understanding how different societies and cultures create institutions (e.g. property rights, regulations) for their management.

## MEET THE SPONSORS



### AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST

American Farmland Trust is the only national organization that takes a holistic approach to agriculture, focusing on the land itself, the agricultural practices used on that land, and the farmers and ranchers who do the work. AFT launched the conservation agriculture movement and continues to raise public awareness through the No Farms, No Food message. Since its founding in 1980, AFT has helped permanently protect nearly 7 million acres of agricultural lands, advanced environmentally-sound farming practices on 300 million of additional acres and supported 600,000 farm families.

[farmland.org](http://farmland.org), [@americanfarmlandtrust](https://www.instagram.com/americanfarmlandtrust)



### ALAN BOOKER, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP, LFA, GRP,

is the founder and executive director of the Institute of Integrated Regenerative Design, which trains professional design practitioners to create systems that are ecosystemic, biocompatible, and regenerative. He has over 30 years of experience in systems engineering and 20 years in sustainable and regenerative design. With deep hands-on experience designing large-scale sustainable systems, Alan created the Integrated Regenerative Design (IRD) framework and the Biocompatible Design standards.



**INTERFACE, INC.** is a global commercial flooring company with an integrated collection of carpet tiles and resilient flooring including luxury vinyl tile (LVT) and nora® rubber flooring. Their modular system helps customers create beautiful interior spaces which positively impact the people who use them and our planet.

Their mission, Climate 'Take Back,' invites other companies to join them in committing to running their businesses in a way that is restorative to the planet and creates a climate fit for life.

[interface.com](http://interface.com), [@interface](https://www.instagram.com/interface)



**NYGREN PLACEMAKING** is a global consultancy that collaborates with developers, builders and dreamers in order to define, refine and accelerate their development ideas, turning them into reality. Nygren Placemaking's offerings bring people together to learn and explore ideas about the environment, thoughtful development, and new ways of thinking and planning for a resilient future. By focusing on 12 Biophilic Development Principles implemented throughout the Serenbe community, they model beneficial ways to preserve and develop land.

[nygrenplacemaking.com](http://nygrenplacemaking.com)



### BILL BROWNING

is one of the green building and real estate industry's foremost thinkers and strategists. Early in his career, Bill founded Green Development Services at the Rocky Mountain Institute and was a founding member of the U.S. Green Building Council's Board of Directors. In 2006, Bill founded Terrapin Bright Green with longtime partners to craft high-performance environmental strategies for corporations, governments, and large-scale real estate developments.



### ANJAN CHATTERJEE, MD, FAAN,

is a Professor of Neurology, Psychology, and Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, the founding director of the Penn Center for Neuroaesthetics, and the past Chair of Neurology at Pennsylvania Hospital. Dr. Chatterjee's clinical practice focuses on patients with cognitive disorders, and his research addresses neuroaesthetics, spatial cognition, language, and neuroethics. He wrote *The Aesthetic Brain: How we evolved to desire beauty and enjoy art*. He received the Norman Geschwind Prize in Behavioral and Cognitive Neurology from the American Academy of Neurology and the Rudolph Arnhem Prize for contributions to Psychology and the Arts from the American Psychological Association.

## MEET THE SPEAKERS



**MAR CORTES, MD**, is a neuroscientist and physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist with special interest in the study of brain and spinal plasticity in relation to rehabilitation. She is an assistant professor at the Department of Rehabilitation & Human performance at Mount Sinai, and Director of Neuromodulation at the Abilities Research Center. The primary goals of Dr. Cortes' research are to understand and promote neural plasticity (rewiring the brain) and its clinical implications, and to develop novel individualized rehabilitation strategies to improve quality of life for patients with neurological impairments.



**LAURA CULLEN** is passionate about educating others about the benefits of building with wood. She comes to WoodWorks with seven years of structural design experience. During that time, she was primarily focused on mixed-use and multifamily structures, as well as K-12 schools. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Civil Engineering from Georgia Tech, and a bachelors degree in Political Science from Berry College. Based in the Atlanta area, she is a member of CREW Atlanta and is a 2018 graduate of Leadership CREW.



**CHANDRA FARLEY** serves as Chief Sustainability Officer for the City of Atlanta, setting the direction for the City's sustainability and resilience goals and leading the interdepartmental and community-wide engagement necessary to address the inequitable effects of climate change. Prior to joining the City, Chandra founded ReSolve Consulting, an energy justice consulting firm and the "Good Energy Project," a social space connecting the transformational power of Black Women and their community leadership to the movement for an equitable clean energy economy. In 2022, she completed a historic run for the Georgia Public Service Commission.



**DAVID FELL, PH.D.**, is the director of research and analysis at Forestry Innovation Investment, the B.C. government's forest sector development agency. He has worked as a researcher in the field of sustainable building products for over 20 years researching novel materials, building systems, sustainability, and health of built environments. David is currently coordinating research projects in North America and Asia on the role of wood in biophilic design. David completed his Ph.D. at the University of British Columbia, studying the psychophysiological effects of wood on stress in office environments. He also holds a Master of Science degree in wood science from Oregon State University.

## MEET THE SPEAKERS



**ELIZABETH GEARIN, PH.D., AICP**, is a policy and planning expert capable of effectively linking professional and academic planning disciplines. She is currently serving in a range of professional capacities, including as Project Specialist in Urban Planning at UDC and as a commissioner on the Arlington County Planning Commission. Dr. Gearin received a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Michigan, a Master of City and Regional Planning (MCRP) degree from the California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, and a doctorate in Public Policy and City and Regional Planning from the University of Southern California.



**TUWANDA GREEN, PH.D., AIA, PMP, LEED BD+C, WELL AP**, has over 30 years of architectural experience. She has maintained an architectural license in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia for 22 years, and holds a doctorate in architecture from Virginia Tech. Dr. Green previously owned and managed an architecture business and is currently employed full-time as a facilities architect. Her firm's local projects are supplemented by her work, which spans multiple locations domestically and internationally. Her passion to improve spaces for the benefit of occupant health is seen in her role as subject matter expert, teacher, educational conference speaker, and researcher.



**ALANA HOUSTON** is a graduate student at Florida State University. She graduated from Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta with a BFA in interior design in 2021. Alana has received design accolades during her undergraduate and graduate studies, including from ASID and Goodwood Museum and Gardens. Alana works to create spaces that bring people and the planet together and build community. She believes that connecting with other people is one of life's greatest gifts and plans to continue to create spaces that cultivate these connections.



**DAN IMMERGLUCK, PH.D.**, is a Professor of Urban Studies at Georgia State University. His research concerns housing, neighborhood change, and real estate markets. Dr. Immergluck is the author of five books and over 120 scholarly articles, book chapters, and research reports. He has consulted to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the US Department of Justice, foundations, and nonprofit organizations. Prior to becoming a full time academic, he was a community development practitioner and affordable housing advocate in Chicago for over a decade. His latest book is *Red Hot City: Housing, Race, and Exclusion in Twenty-First Century Atlanta*.

## MEET THE SPEAKERS



**ALISON JOHNSON** is an Atlanta native and resident in the Peopletown community. She is the Executive Director of Housing Justice League, a dynamic community-based organization committed to organizing tenants so people can use their collective power to balance an unequal housing system. Housing Justice League works with communities to solve housing related problems by organizing with directly impacted residents living in rental communities, teaching empowerment and fighting for policies that put wealth back in the hands of renters. Housing Justice League fights for housing where tenants have power and engages members in community organizing and advocacy in city-wide and state-wide social justice campaigns.



**EZRA LEWIS** is a student in the bachelor of Landscape Architecture program at the University of Georgia who wants to use the built environment to promote sustainable and reciprocal relationships between communities and the environment. It is her belief that identity-based design fosters a sense of belonging, a sense of belonging spurs a sense of pride, and a sense of pride strengthens communities. She also hopes to design spaces that will be used for horticulture education and food production for local-communities as a harm reduction strategy to address food deserts, while spurring community investment and emphasizing the importance of historical preservation.



**GARY MCNAY, AIA, LFA, LEED AP BD+C**, In his role as Principal and Senior Planner for large multinational architecture firms, Gary led planning and design teams in creating more healthy, sustainable and inspiring environments for teaching, research, and human health for over 32 years. Gary started a new firm - vitalplace design - in 2020 to more intentionally connect his personal passion for emergent natural systems and his professional experience in leading projects with ambitious sustainability goals. Gary is focused on learning from and collaborating with people, organizations and clients who are leading in creating a more regenerative future for all.



**EVA NERI** is a graduate student at Florida State University. Her research is concerned with understanding the degree of nature exposure needed on a university campus to see a positive impact on students' attention span. Drawing from twelve years of experience – informed by her time as an interior design student, and work with the internationally recognized firm Corgan designing airport lounges and terminals in Dallas, TX – her relationship with design has always captured a common thread of understanding the nuances of being and interacting with physical space while championing an authentic approach to style.

## MEET THE SPEAKERS



**MEGHAN MICK, LEED, WELL**, is an Assistant Professor at Florida State University with a diverse background in design practice, a registered Landscape Architect, and a LEED and WELL accredited professional. Her interest in natural science and love of design led her to graduate school at the College of Design at NC State University for a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture. She worked in practice (landscape architecture, exhibit design, graphic design) for over 15 years with a focus on connecting people to nature and place through design. Meghan also believes that public spaces have an important role to play in the human relationship with nature, and is an advocate for equitable access and exposure to the natural world for all.



**MONICA OLSEN** is the CMO of Serenbe, the leading biophilic wellness community, overseeing all development, hospitality, and real estate brands including content creation, partnerships, and brand licensing. She also executive-produces and hosts Serenbe Stories and the Biophilic Solutions podcasts. Monica sits on the board of directors for Georgia Organics and The Biophilic Institute.



**KAREN PEARSON, PH.D.**, is a Professor of Chemistry, Chair of Science and Mathematics at FIT, and Chair of FIT's Sustainability Council. Her work focuses on the development of intersectional curriculum, programs and research directed toward preparing the next generation to address our biggest global challenges. This work is grounded in a cross-disciplinary STEAM approach that unites education, sustainability, and workforce development. She is the recipient of numerous awards including a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, the President's Award for Curricular Innovation and has been acknowledged as one of the top 100 of most influential women in STEM.



**MIRELLE PHILLIPS** is the Founder and CEO of Studio Elsewhere, an Innovation company developing bio-experiential environments to support brain health. Merging the best aspects of a design studio, technology company, and research lab, the Studio Elsewhere model allows for true partnerships with neuroscientists, clinicians, and healthcare professionals to reimagine the experience of brain health, wellness, and care. Studio Elsewhere currently partners with 50 hospitals nationwide on designing and developing bio-experiential environments that support research, evaluation and treatment for patients, caregivers, as well as hospital staff. She is a 2022 recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson Pioneer Grant for her work with Massachusetts General Hospital on a novel intervention for dementia care.

# MEET THE SPEAKERS



**ROBIN Z. PUTTOCK, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP**, is a practicing architect with over 20 years of professional, national award-winning, sustainable design experience and six years of international award-winning academic teaching and research experience. Robin is currently a senior lecturer at the University of Maryland and a former Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Assistant Professor of Practice at The Catholic University of America. Her teaching and research focus on decarbonization in the built environment as well as the built environment's effects on human health and wellbeing. Robin serves on the National AIA Committee on the Environment (COTE) Leadership Group and the National AIA Higher Education Advisory Team (HEAT).



**PHILLIP JAMES TABB, PH.D., NCARB**, is Professor Emeritus of Architecture at Texas A&M University and was the Liz and Nelson Mitchell Professor of Residential Design. He served as department head from 2001-2005 and was Director of the School of Architecture and Construction Management at Washington State University from 1998-2001. He's authored seven books and is the master plan architect for Serenbe. He received his Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Cincinnati, Master of Architecture from the University of Colorado, and Ph.D. in the Energy and Environment Programme from the Architectural Association in London.



**ALFRED VICK, LEED FELLOW**, is the Georgia Power Professor in Environmental Ethics at the University of Georgia and Director of the Environmental Ethics Certificate Program. He is a licensed landscape architect and a LEED Fellow. His work focuses on preserving and enhancing the functioning of natural systems while effectively and attractively integrating human use. At the University of Georgia's College of Environment & Design he teaches landscape ecology and sustainable design, collaborates with other researchers in the Sustainability and Landscape Performance Lab and serves on the Faculty of the Institute of Native American Studies. He continues to practice professionally and his work has included several LEED-certified buildings such as the LEED Platinum headquarters of the Southface Energy Institute in Atlanta, Georgia.



**JENNIFER WALSH** is a 26-year serial entrepreneur in the wellness, beauty, and retail landscape. In 1997, she created BeautyBar, the first omni-channel beauty brand in the United States. Now, Jennifer is on a mission to get more people outdoors, to understand the power of connecting to nature and the impact and importance of green spaces in our offices, homes, hospitals, schools and cities. She is bridging the research gap between brain health and nature. Jennifer is the founder of AIKR Lab & Institute and is the author of Walk Your Way Calm: A Guided Journal For Uncluttering your Mind with Every Step in partnership with Prevention Magazine.

# NOTES



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