

**SPEAKER & PANELIST BIOS - POLICYMAKER SYMPOSIUM****MARCH 8, 2019****Andy Lipkis** - Founder & President, TreePeople

Andy Lipkis began planting trees to rehabilitate smog and fire-damaged areas when he was 15 years old. He founded TreePeople and has served as its President since 1973.

TreePeople has been an international guiding light for the citizen forestry movement. Andy's innovations include inspiring the planting of one million trees in Los Angeles before the 1984 Summer Olympics, volunteer-based disaster relief efforts during flood and fire, and trainings that increase citizen leadership in urban tree planting and care. For the past 20 years, Andy has spearheaded an approach to using integrated watershed management to apply a forest's natural infrastructure services to cities. The result: a sustainable water supply, as well as flood and pollution prevention. Andy's advocacy has resulted in numerous demonstrations and progress in the adoption of this new paradigm, including the long-term retrofit of L.A.'s Sun Valley area.

Andy is a social entrepreneur and visionary who develops, implements and communicates solutions to pressing public health, economic and environmental issues by forging partnerships between diverse and sometimes conflicting parties. For over 40 years, Andy's leadership has helped make Los Angeles a model for community-based efforts that have gone to scale in the region and around the world.

Across the country and around the world, Andy has addressed groups involved in the linked issues of environment, urban forestry, sustainability, water and energy use. These include: The United Nations, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.K. National Urban Forestry Unit, the U.S. Forest Service, Greening Australia, American Society of Civil Engineers, and many others.

Andy's honors come from groups as diverse as the Baha'i Faith Daughters of the American Revolution and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. In 1991, President Bush named TreePeople a Point of Light. In 1998, Andy was honored as Founder of the Year at National Philanthropy Day. In 2009, Andy was named an Ashoka Fellow.



**Cindy Montañez** - CEO, TreePeople

Cindy is a lifelong Angeleno raised in the Northeast San Fernando Valley. She began volunteering with local community organizations at the age of 12.

Her love for the environment began with her family. Cindy's mother was raised in a remote, mountainous region of Veracruz, Mexico and her father in the dry border state of Chihuahua.

Her parents ignited a passion for the environment in Cindy at an early age when they pointed out environmental injustices in their neighborhood. As a family, they participated in tree plantings and, blessed them with visits to state and national parks and encouraged the kids to pursue careers in social justice.

At the age of 25, Cindy was elected as the youngest mayor and councilmember of her hometown of San Fernando. At 28 years old, she made history by becoming the youngest woman elected to the California State Legislature, where she became a champion for the environment, sustainable urban planning and social justice.

Cindy then moved on to serve as Assistant General Manager at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, where she was a core part of the team transitioning the nation's largest publicly-owned utility to cleaner energy and a more sustainable local water supply.

Cindy is currently a Board Member for the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability and a Legislator In-Residence at the USC Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics.

Some of Cindy's favorite things to do are to hike our local mountains, explore California and give back to Los Angeles. She is inspired by the magic of California's ancient 2,000-year-old giant sequoia trees, the delectable taste of the fruit from her mother's trees and the ability to live and work inside oak woodlands within a major metropolis.



**Chelsey Martin** - Consul General, Australian Consulate-General, Los Angeles

Ms Martin was appointed Australian Consul-General Los Angeles in November 2015. She has significant experience in the United States, having previously served as Counsellor (Political), Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York from 2011 to 2014, and as Counsellor (Public Affairs) at the Australian Embassy in Washington from 2006 to 2009.

In Canberra, Ms Martin most recently served as the Director of the Ministerial and Executive Liaison Section (2015) and she has previously served as Director of the Thailand, Philippines and Cambodia Section (2010 – 2011) and Deputy Chief of Protocol and Director of the Diplomatic and Consular Accreditation Section (2009).

She has significant experience working in public affairs and economic diplomacy, including in DFAT's Media Liaison Section (2005-06); and the Trade Advocacy and Outreach Section (2004-05). She was seconded to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as Senior Adviser, Global and Regional Architecture, from 2009 to 2010.

Prior to joining the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ms Martin worked as a political journalist with The Australian Financial Review (1998 –

2004). Ms Martin holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree from the Australian National University.



**Craig Lapsley** - Emergency Management  
Commissioner of the State of Victoria, Australia (ret.)

Craig Lapsley is one of the most experienced, capable and creditable leaders in the Australian Emergency Management sector.

Strategic and operational leaderships are personal qualities that are second to none and being Victoria's first Emergency Management Commissioner and the only Fire Services Commissioner provided the opportunity to create new approaches that changed and improved Emergency Management across Victoria.

The new emergency management approach in Victoria has been community centric and have also influenced Australia and the world.

Prior to being appointed to the Commissioner roles, Craig held several senior executive and operational positions within Victoria's Fire and Emergency Management agencies. Now having extensive and broad experience and knowledge to all aspects of Emergency Management including corporate strategy and business management.

Craig was also appointed to senior operational positions in New South Wales Fire Brigades and senior consultant to National Fire Authority Fiji; and has developed very strong working relationship across the Emergency Management sectors with agencies in the United State of America and Canada.

The future is the key and Craig will now focus on community challenges with an emphasis on the following themes:

- Public Safety
- Emergency Management

- Crisis and Disaster Management
- Environmental Management

With a special focus on:

- Community Connection and Resilience
- Innovation and Technology
- Strategic Leadership
- Change Management.

The future is full of opportunity and it will be complex and it's about understanding the local and global challenges we face. Craig's experience and approach brings the complex problem solver to create the future by understanding the community and the convergence of challenges. It sounds difficult, but it can't be!



**Kate Dargan** - California State Fire Marshal (ret.)

Kate Dargan has been a firefighter, fire chief and the former State Fire Marshal (CAL FIRE) for California.

She has responded to emergencies and disasters around the state and worked on boards, committees, councils, and task forces to advance wildland-urban interface fire safety.

She chaired the State Board of Fire Services, chaired the Tahoe Fire Commission, served on the Napa County Watershed Board, and is a Board Member of the CA Firesafe Council and the United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation.

She has worked at the community, public agency, industry, and policy levels of the California fire service and is widely recognized for her consensus-building style and innovative approaches to old problems. She founded and co-owns, Intterra, a geospatial situational awareness and analytics company that specializes in software for firefighters.



**Rossana D'Antonio** - Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Rossana D'Antonio serves as Deputy Director for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. She provides executive leadership for the development of sustainable communities, resilient housing, private sector commercial market places and jobs, and emergency management. Rossana created the Department's Innovation Lab with a broad based mission to develop and implement innovative and sustainable ideas that foster progressive changes in design projects, methodologies, and processes.

A 26-year Department veteran, Rossana has extensive background in many disciplines of engineering, management, operations and business processes. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Fresno State and an MBA with emphasis in leadership and organizational development from Pepperdine University. Rossana holds dual registrations in the State of California in Civil and Geotechnical Engineering. She is also credentialed as an Envision Sustainability Professional with the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure, a nationally recognized organization for civil infrastructure.

Rossana believes strongly in giving back to the profession. She is a Fellow with American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and currently serves as Governor for ASCE Region 9. She is an active member of the Society of Women Engineers and the American Public Works Association. Rossana has also served on several committees for the California State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors. She is a passionate advocate for equal opportunity in the workplace through recruitment, mentoring, outreach and diverse advancement. Rossana is co-founder of the Department's Women's Leadership Council where she continues to work on implementing Department initiatives that empower women. As an advocate of increasing representation in the STEM fields, she also makes presentations to high school and college students.



**Stuart Tom** - President, JAS Pacific

Stuart Tom is the President of JAS Pacific, Inc., a professional consulting firm that has provided municipal services for local jurisdictions for the past twenty years. Prior to joining the firm, he retired as the Fire Marshal for the City of Glendale, California. Prior to this appointment, he served as Building Official for sixteen years, wherein he managed plan check/engineering, field inspections, and administration of the city's Building & Safety Division.

He has been a registered engineer in the states of Washington and California for over 25-years and is very active in code-development of Fire- and Life-Safety Standards at both the national and state levels.

Stuart has co-authored a number of provisions in the International Building Code as well as the California Building Code, California Residential Code, and California Fire Code. He currently serves in an influential capacity on a number of state-wide committees including the CALBO/CalChiefs Building and Fire Advisory Committee for which he is the past chair. In 2015, Stuart was elected to the ICC Board of Directors as the Section A delegate, which represents the states of California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Alaska, Hawaii, and Canadian British Columbia. In 2016, he was also appointed to the Board of Directors for the International Accreditation Service (IAS), which is responsible for accrediting municipal building departments which demonstrate compliance with strict performance standards.

At the local level, Stuart previously served two years as the Co-Chair of the So-Cal Fire Prevention Officer's Fire Code Committee; he is a Past-President of the Los Angeles Basin Chapter of ICC where he also served as the Chair of the Fire and Life Safety Committee; prior to the state-wide transition to the International Building Code, Stuart was appointed to the Los Angeles Uniform Code Program Steering Committee, for which he received the prestigious Los Angeles County Productivity Award from Supervisors Don Kanabe and Michael Antonovich; as Co-Chair of the State Fire Marshal's Wildfire Ignition ad-hoc committee, he provided assistance in a thorough

revision of California's wildland urban-interface construction standards which currently comprise Chapter 7A of the State Building Code; on a civic level, Stuart is past Chair of the City of Calabasas Building Appeals Board, and he is also a past member of the City of Santa Monica Building and Fire Safety Commission.

Due to his commitment to safety, he was selected as the state's Building Official of the Year by the California Building Officials Association in 2006 and was again selected as Building Official of the Year in 2009 by the California Fire Chiefs Association/Fire Prevention Officers. He is the only person to have received such award by both organizations. As a recognized expert in various fields of structural design and life-safety systems, he is the recipient of several other awards, including the CALBO President's Award in 2010, and he was inducted as a Fellow into the Institute for the Advancement of Engineering in February 2001.

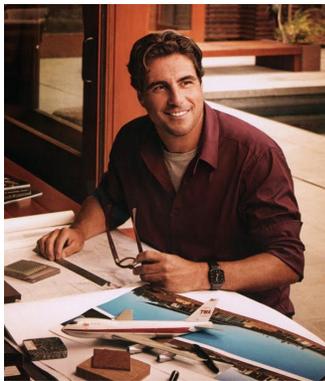


**J. Lopez** - Assistant Chief, County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Prevention Services Bureau, Forestry Division

For the last 32 years, Assistant Chief J. Lopez has worked for the County of Los Angeles Fire Department Forestry Division covering from forest nursery operations and reforestation to the implementation of the forest and chaparral management practices in accordance to the national, state and county fire plans.

Currently, he manages the Department's Defensible Space Section implementing the Fuel Modification Plan Review Program and Defensible Space Inspection Program. His work focuses on systematic analysis of alternative methodologies to protect natural and cultural resources from the risk of wildland fire damage. Projects include a combination of fuels reduction, ignition management, fire-safe engineering activities, fire prevention and behavior education, support of Fire Safe Councils, Fire Adapted Communities, and Firewise organizations.

J. Lopez has a bachelor's degree in forestry engineering and his professional affiliations are: Past member of the National Society of American Foresters (SAF) Board of Directors, Past Vice-Chair of the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC), member of the California Fire Science Consortium Advisory Board, Chair of the Southern California Regional Area Safety Taskforce (SCRAST), Co-Chair of the Los Angeles County Weed Management Area (WMA), member of the Theodore Payne Foundation Board of Directors and member of many government and professional organizations. He is a qualified Incident Command System Logistics Section Chief (2) and in 2011, he received the Society of American Foresters Presidential Outstanding Field Forester Award for his district.



**David Hertz** - Founder & President, SEA Studio of Environmental Architecture, the Resilience lab and Skysource

Architect David Hertz is the founder and president of David Hertz FAIA Architects,inc. and S.E.A., the Studio of Environmental Architecture, which he established as Syndesis in 1984 and skysource.org in 2016.

David graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture Degree from the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-ARC) in 1983. In 2006 David was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from Sci-Arc. In 2008 David was elected to the prestigious American Institute of Architects College of Fellows as one of it's youngest member in it's over 155 year history.

David Hertz' award winning work has been widely published and exhibited internationally some highlights include exhibitions in the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA),The Smithsonian Museums of Natural History and the National Building Museum, the Cooper Hewitt Museum as well as inclusion the Venice and Istanbul Architectural biennale's, having won the American Architecture Award in 2009 and 2012 respectively.

The work of S.E.A has been included in over a hundred books and periodicals world wide. Key highlights include two covers of Dwell, included in Met Home's Design 100 was featured in a profile in Vanity Fair Magazine. Hertz' 747 Wing House won a 2012 Record Houses award and the 2016 Architizer A+ Award and has been widely published and documented world wide including the 2017 feature on World's most Extraordinary Homes on Netflix. In 2016 A monograph, The Restorative Home, Ecological Houses of David Hertz was published by Oro Press.

David is a founding member of the AIA Committee on the Environment (COTE) as well as the USGBC and was involved in the first LEED Platinum Commercial and Residential Projects in the U.S. Since 1990 David has been on the Academic Advisory Committee and the faculty of the UCLA Arc- ID Program teaching sustainable design courses. David has also taught at the USC School of Architecture, SCI-ARC and Art Center College of Design. David has been serving on the Task Force of the Environment for the City of Santa Monica for over 20 years co authoring the cities Green Building Ordinance, David serves on the board of directors of Heal The Bay and is involved in numerous social and environmental non- profits profiting pro- bono services.



**Sabrina Drill, Ph.D.** - Natural Resources Advisor, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, University of California Cooperative Extension

Sabrina Drill is the Natural Resources Advisor for UC Cooperative Extension in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties and Associate Director of California Naturalist. Her current areas of research and extension include restoration of urban streams, terrestrial and aquatic invasive species, fire ecology and recovery, and public participation in science. She is also the Interim Director and the Southern California lead for the UC California Naturalist Program where she is especially interested in ways to engage underserved communities in conservation and management.

Since 2009, Dr. Drill has led the Sustainable and Fire Safe Landscapes program, which focuses on improving fire resistance for homes in the wildland urban interface through appropriate landscaping, as well as reducing the use of invasive plants in fire-resistant landscapes. She has also been involved in efforts to monitor and manage the spread of invasive plants after fire, and to monitor the impacts of fire on streams and develop best practices to recover urban streams and watersheds after fire. Dr. Drill has conducted research in Southern California, the Colorado River, the Hudson River, and the East African Great Lakes. She holds a Ph.D. in Geography and a M.S. in Biology from UCLA, a B.S. in Biology from Virginia Tech, and an A.A. in Natural Science from Simon's Rock of Bard College.



**Scott Ferguson** - Chairman, Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness

Scott Ferguson is board chair of the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness, more commonly known as TCEP. TCEP educates Topanga residents about disaster preparedness and during active emergency incidents, posts regular verified updates on [TCEP.org](https://www.tcep.org), social media (@TCEP90290), and a telephone hotline

(310-455-3000).

A 28-year resident of Topanga, Scott has experienced numerous wildfires and has accumulated vast knowledge of emergency preparation, response and recovery action steps. He is a trained Home Ignition Zone evaluator, who works with Beth Burnam's North Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council to help Topanga homeowners identify ways they can make their homes and properties more resistant to embers and better able to survive wildfires.



**Beth Burnam** - Co-President and Founding Member of the North Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council

This organization writes grants and manages large-scale fire hazardous vegetation removal projects, educates the Topanga community about pre-fire event preparation, and created a program that performs visits to help homeowners understand what they can do to harden their homes to embers. Beth is also a TCEP Neighborhood Network Coordinator.

Beth also serves on the Board of Trustees of Vassar College, on the Board of Directors of the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, and on the Board of Directors of TreePeople.