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U.S. Green Building Council-L.A. Announces New Board Members from LA Cleantech Incubator and Arup

LOS ANGELES (September 6, 2018) The [U.S. Green Building Council-Los Angeles Chapter](#) (USGBC-LA) Board of Directors has voted in two new members: Ben Stapleton, VP Facilities & Operations for Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator, and Seth Strongin, Senior Sustainability Consultant for Arup. The 18-person Board of Directors represents the AEC community along with representation from public sector, private sector, utility, and non-profit leaders from across Southern California. The Board Chair remains Sara Neff, Sr. Vice President of Sustainability for Kilroy Realty Corp.

"Ben and Seth are going to be fantastic additions to our board," states Neff. "Each one has an extremely long track record of passion for green building and for getting results and moving the market. I am very much looking forward to working with them to make the built environment in Los Angeles and the Inland Empire more sustainable, healthy and resilient. They are models for our 'Learn, Share, & Lead Green' motto."

Ben helped launch and now manages the La Kretz Innovation Campus in Downtown Los Angeles while managing operations and finance for the LA Cleantech Incubator (LACI). USGBC-LA was invited to be a member of LACI early on, establishing a strong partnership which produced educational events at the hub for both its members and the wider Los Angeles green building community.

Ben's current work is based on connecting and coordinating an ecosystem centered around the intersection of innovation, technology, and sustainability. His past work has included real estate advisory, energy efficiency consulting, facilities operations, financial modeling, and site assessment for a wide range of companies and real estate investors. Having founded Jones Lang LaSalle's global Cleantech Practice Group in 2008, Ben is a recipient of Jones Lang LaSalle's distinctive Da Vinci Award for Innovation and CoStar's Power Broker designation in the Los Angeles market. He served as the Managing Director for the LA Better Buildings Challenge, launching the program in 2011 and growing participation to over 55,000 square feet of commercial buildings.

As a Senior Sustainability Consultant for Arup, Seth brings together a broad range of design, operations, planning and public policy expertise to deliver high performance buildings and city-scale sustainability projects. He partners with a diversity of municipal, commercial, hospitality, multifamily, institutional and healthcare clients to develop goals, assessments and implementation strategies around sustainability in the built environment.

Always at the forefront of the industry, Seth has extensive experience managing green building certification projects, including LEED, WELL, Living Building Challenge, ENERGY STAR, and others, as well as providing Project Management for MEP engineering projects.

He believes that effective communication is critical to achieving successful project delivery. Seth takes an interdisciplinary approach to facilitating collaboration between all project stakeholders to optimize the environmental performance of building projects. He is an active participant in the local, national and international green building communities, including serving as Chair of the Existing Buildings Committee of USGBC-LA. He has written and presented extensively about sustainability, public policy, social and environmental justice and public health.

Returning members of the Board are (* denotes reelected, (EC) denotes Executive Committee):

Cassy Aoyagi, President, FormLA Landscaping (EC)

John Egan, Principal Egan|Simon Architecture

Anthony Brower, Director of Sustainable Design, Gensler *

Shara Castillo, Associate Partner, ZGF Architects, LLP *

Robyn Eason, Sr. Sustainability Planner, City of West Hollywood

Heidi Creighton, Sustainability Associate, BuroHappold *

Dave Intner, Manager, Engineering & Design Solutions, Southern California Edison

Jasmine Lomax, Sr. Project Engineer, McGuire Builders

Paul McGunnigle, CEO, Howard Building Corporation (EC)

Holly Hill, Sr. Sustainability Program Manager, Southern California Edison

Richard Ludt, Dir. of Environmental & Public Affairs, Interior Removal Specialist Inc.

Edmund Novy, Vice Chair * (EC)

Sara Neff, Sr. Vice President of Sustainability, Kilroy Realty Corporation (EC)

Drew Shula, Founder & Principal, Verdical Group

Jenny Whitson, Sustainability Project Manager, Vanir Construction Mngt., Inc.

Ruby Rose Yopez, Zero Net Energy and Building Energy Code Technical Specialist, Southern California Edison

USGBC-LA has recently launched two new programs that speak to the Chapter's goals of: being a resource, an educator, and a strategic partner in advancing green business and innovative programs.

Buy Clean California: USGBC-LA is assisting California manufacturers of steel, flat glass, and mineral wool insulation to understand what is required to comply with the state's Buy Clean California Act (enacted by AB262 in 2017, effective July 1, 2019), in particular obtaining Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs). USGBC-LA, with a grant from Climateworks Foundation, is offering incentives of up to \$15,000 to advance this process that will give California manufacturers an advantage in bidding on state infrastructure projects.

Thomas Fire Green Building Resilience Initiative: USGBC-LA is partnering with Global Green to assist homeowners affected by the Thomas Fire, offering design counseling and support for single-family residential homes and their owners to rebuild with sustainability and resiliency as key guidelines.



LOS ANGELES

For more information about the USGBC-LA chapter, please contact Dominique Hargreaves, dominique@usgbc-la.org or 213-689-9707.

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About U.S. Green Building Council-Los Angeles

Founded in 2002, USGBC-LA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to creating a prosperous and sustainable future within one generation. Our mission is to accelerate all aspects of sustainability in the built environment by delivering access to knowledge, resources, recognition and networking. *Learn, Share and Lead Green.* (www.usgbc-la.org)