



For Immediate Release

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“The Time is Now” is the Message for USGBC-LA’s 20th Annual Municipal Green Building Conference & Expo, May. 21-22

Key Speakers include Kerry Duggan (ex-White House), C40 Mayors, Angela Barranco (CA Natural Resources Agency), Capri Maddox (City of LA), Christopher Locke (Designing in Color), and Mahesh Ramanujam (USGBC)

Registration is Open to All

LOS ANGELES (April 27, 2021) “The Time is Now” expresses the [U.S. Green Building-Los Angeles Chapter’s](#) (USGBC-LA) direction as it heads into its 20th Annual [Municipal Green Building Conference and Expo](#) (MGBCE), which will be held May 21-22, 2021, online. Building on the significant success of its 2020 virtual event last August (1300+ global attendees) which led the way for a number of Fall online conferences, the event will again feature two days: Day 1 (May 21) is primarily Industry focused, with Day 2 (May 22) titled “Community Day” and featuring a green career fair. To register and view the agenda, please visit www.mgbce.online. Friday is free to USGBC-LA members, \$75 for non-members; Saturday’s Community Green day (including career fair) is free for everyone to attend.

The unprecedented events of 2020 punctuated the urgency of the climate crisis, the pervasiveness of racial inequities and environmental injustices, the deep impacts of housing unaffordability, and the vulnerability of our societal systems to handle extreme disruptions. “The Time is Now!” is a recognition that our actions to combat climate change, while strengthening our adaptive capacity, must be immediate, must be accelerated, and must be intersectional. Expressing the full strength and commitment behind the theme, the MGBCE committee further defined the theme:

***The Time is Now!* for Climate Action & Rapid Decarbonization.**

***The Time is Now!* for Adaptation & Resilience.**

***The Time is Now!* for Equity & Environmental Justice.**

***The Time is Now!* for Racial Healing & Building Community Power.**

***The Time is Now!* for a Healthy Post-COVID Future.**

"This is our 20th MGBCE and we are already a year into this most critical decade in our fight against climate change, so indeed the time is now and we want to focus our community on collective action as we emerge from the pandemic," states USGBC-LA Executive Director Ben Stapleton.

To this end, the keynote speakers for MGBCE 2021 are:

Keynotes Speakers, Day 1 / Municipal Green (May 21):

Kerry Duggan, Former Obama-Biden White House & US Dept. of Energy; Sustainability Executive. Opening Day 1 with a big picture focus, Duggan is a cross-sector "connector and change agent" within business, policy, and politics (at all levels of government), academic, and nonprofits. With an ESG-mindset and DEI core values, she finds and drives creative ways to implement triple-bottom-line principles into actionable policy, processes, and projects. She is a recognized thought leader, sought for advice, creative solutions, and connections by investors, universities, philanthropy, energy companies, government, and business leaders through her firm, SustainabilD, as well as her many volunteer civic efforts. (9:15am)

CA Senator Dave Cortese, the second morning speaker and representing the heart of Silicon Valley, will speak to ""Building Decarbonization in California." On his first day in office, he announced a bold plan to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions in new construction statewide. The climate resiliency package includes four bills that could revolutionize California's building and construction sector, including the first bill in history asking the State to divest from projects that are not zero-emission. Along with his career as an attorney and business owner, the Senator previously served on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the San Jose City Council. (9:40am)

Leading into the lunchtime Power Panel, **Capri Maddox**, Executive Director, LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department, City of Los Angeles, will speak to "Build with Equity: Paving the Way for a More Just Los Angeles". Capri is a multi-faceted, public policy, community engagement, fundraising, and resourceful advocate with a history of serving communities in need as a tireless advocate for equity and justice. Her career spans from the 1990s with her service to the City of Los Angeles and City of Glendale's Housing Departments, Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney, LA City Board of Public Works, LAUSD's Partnership Office, and LA Mayor Garcetti's COVID-19 Response Team. (12:05pm)

The lunchtime Power Panel is titled "C40 Cities: Race to Zero", and will feature LA Mayor Eric Garcetti, followed by several key C40 mayors, including Austin Mayor Steve Adler.

Mahesh Ramanujam, President and Chief Executive Officer at U.S. Green Building Council, believes that everyone deserves to benefit from better buildings. With this perspective, he will speak early afternoon, leading into USGBC-LA's annual Civic Awards. As president and CEO of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), Green Business Certification, Inc. (GBCI) and Arc, Ramanujam unifies green building standards and ensures an equitable future where public health and a healthy economy are complementary, not competitive values. (1:15pm)

Keynotes Speaker, Day 2 / Community Green (May 22):

Community Green day will offer a half-day experience, including a career fair and presentations that speak to youth education and local community projects.

To provide a statewide perspective on resources that we all access daily, **Angela Barranco**, Undersecretary, CA Natural Resources Agency, will open the day. She oversees an agency of 19,000 employees charged with protecting and managing California's diverse resources, including CA's forests and natural lands, rivers and waterways, coast and ocean, fish and wildlife, and energy development. Barranco has also served as a non-profit executive, political strategist, and Federal Presidential appointee. Prior, Barranco was CEO at River LA; she led public engagement for the Obama White House on environment, conservation, climate, and energy issues, as a Presidential Appointee; and she served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development working on Detroit revitalization, Promise Zones, and climate-smart post-disaster rebuilding. (9:40am)

The mid-morning "Youth in Action" panel will showcase three youth activists from the Mayor's Youth Council for Climate Action and the powerful work they have done in their communities. This part of the day, along with featured WriteGirl poets during Day 1, brings the important voices of our next generation to the attention of our full community. (11:00am)

The two-day event's final keynote will be **Christopher Locke**, Co-founder, Designing in Color, and a Designer at Egan|Simon Architecture Christopher challenges the established practices of architecture as a Black designer, spatial advocate, and social innovator to create new spaces for equitable change. With the creation of Designing in Color and small talks: LA, and film making, he is studying the current housing crisis across the city and using film as a means of telling stories for narratives unknown. (12:40pm)

"Always a thought-provoking event, this year's MGBCE features keynote speakers who will punctuate each day with calls to action from all quarters—from federal agency policymakers to mayors across the U.S. leading with climate action, from state lawmakers advancing decarbonization initiatives, to local champions of all ages ensuring equitable solutions at the intersection of clean energy, public health, green jobs and environmental justice," states Dave Intner, MGBCE co-chair and USGBC-LA Board Member. "As this signature event marks its 20th year and we reflect on how much sustainable progress has already been made, the speakers promise to inspire us to look ahead and seize upon the vast potential before us."

The longest-running and largest gathering of leading sustainability and green building advocates within both the public and private sectors in Southern California, MGBCE expects to attract over 1,500 *online* attendees from across the 88 Southern California-area municipalities, but also many professionals elsewhere who are curious about Southern California's thought leadership and planning.

MGBCE's programming addresses solutions at the building, city and regional scale for city administrators as they seek innovative, tangible ways to create an inclusive path forward, and across topics that include Health, Technology & Data, Diversity & Inclusion, Energy & Environment, Housing, Education, Infrastructure, Budgets, Public Safety and Economic Development. At a time when most everyone in the region and world are figuring out how to re-enter & re-engage with all kinds of spaces in a COVID-evolving world, MGBCE's 2021 programming is created for those striving to integrate sustainability into municipal action, as well as office and home.

The conference attracts a wide variety of building industry sectors and disciplines, including municipalities, utilities, public agencies, architects, engineers, building owners, contractors, non-

profits, and manufacturers. All of these groups are working together to create connected cities that succeed in the three E's: Economic, Environmental, and Equity solutions.

USGBC-LA thanks MGBCE Gold sponsor [SoCalGas](#), and Bronze sponsors [Clean Power Alliance](#), [Connect Homes](#), [Howard Building Corporation](#), and [LADWP](#).

For MGBCE **schedule** and **general information**, please visit [mgbce.online](#) or contact Becky Feldman at becky@usgbc-la.org. For **Sponsorship & Exhibitor** information, please contact Ben Stapleton at ben@usgbc-la.org.

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About U.S. Green Building Council-Los Angeles

USGBC-LA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to creating a prosperous and sustainable future within one generation. Our mission promotes sustainability in LA County's built environment by delivering access to knowledge, resources, recognition and networking. (www.usgbc-la.org)

About Municipal Green Building Conference and Expo (MGBCE)

Since its inception in 2001, MGBCE has become the longest-running and largest gathering of leading sustainability and green building advocates within both the public and private sectors in Southern California. This annual conference and trade show provides cutting-edge thought leadership, education, and networking opportunities to inform local government agencies, building industry professionals, and the general public about the principles, practices, and products associated with green building. (<https://usgbc-la.org/programs/mgbce/>)