A Blueprint for Health: 
Planning for Communities that Promote Equity

Speaker Biographies
Oakland – November 12, 2015

Heather Wooten
Changelab Solutions

Heather Wooten is a vice president of programs at ChangeLab Solutions, leading the organization's work in Healthy Planning. She manages a team of professionals researching best practices, developing policy tools, and working with communities to connect land use, community development, and health. She was honored with the 2014 William R. and June Dale Prize for Excellence in Urban and Regional Planning from Cal Poly Pomona, recognizing her work in food systems planning. Heather graduated from the University of Minnesota and received her master’s degree in city planning from UC Berkeley.

Staff of the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research

The OPR Team has expertise in sustainability, planning, health, equity, and data informed planning. The team includes:

Sahar Shirazi, Senior Planner, has worked on sustainability planning through the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Michael McCormick, AICP Senior Planner, has worked on climate mitigation and adaptation and recently returned from a detail at the White House and NOAA.

Elizabeth Baca, MD, MPA Senior Health Advisor, has worked on integrating health and equity into planning and joined OPR after teaching at Stanford.

Ruben Farias,
HOPE Collaborative*

Ruben Farias supports the development and implementation of HOPE Collaborative's Built Environment work. He has over four years of work experience in community-based projects, including recruiting historically underrepresented students to Occidental College, interning at the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), and recently completing a Policy Fellowship with ChangeLab Solutions. Thanks in large part to childhood 5am trips to work and school with his mother on Los Angeles County buses, Ruben is committed to strengthening the quality and inclusiveness of the places East and West Oakland residents live, work, and play. He is a graduate of Occidental College (BA in Critical Theory & Social Justice) and holds a MS in Sociology from Texas A&M University.

*Health for Oakland’s People & Environment
Anna Lee
Alameda County Public Health Department

Anna Lee is a Local Policy Coordinator in the Place Matters Initiative at the Alameda County Public Health Department where she coordinates policy issues and projects for the department related to the built environment and education in collaboration with community-based partners and other government agencies. Prior to working at the Public Health Department, Anna worked in the environmental justice field, conducting community-based participatory action research projects, education programs and administering grants to support organizing and policy campaigns in and with low-income communities of color. Anna received her Bachelor’s degree from the University of California, San Diego and her Master’s degree from the University of San Francisco.