



Historic Property Redevelopment

Don't Leave Money on the Table

Panelists

Robert F. Guarasci **NJ Community Development Corporation**

Robert F. Guarasci is Founder and Chief Executive Officer of New Jersey Community Development Corporation (NJCDC), whose mission is to create opportunities to transform lives in New Jersey's third largest city, Paterson. Prior to starting NJCDC, he served for four years as Executive Assistant to New Jersey's Commissioner of Human Services. Governor Chris Christie has appointed Mr. Guarasci to serve on the Board of Trustees of William Paterson University and the New Jersey Interagency Council on Homelessness. He has also been appointed by US Secretary of the Interior to serve on the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park's Federal Advisory Commission, which he currently chairs and a Trustee of the Paterson Alliance, a consortium of non-profit agencies serving Paterson residents. Mr. Guarasci joined the Network's Board of Directors in 2015.

Dorothy P. Guzzo **New Jersey Historic Trust**

Dorothy P. Guzzo was appointed Executive Director of the New Jersey Historic Trust in February, 2008. The Historic Trust is responsible for administering the historic preservation matching grant and loan programs for the State of New Jersey. From 1995 to 2008, Ms. Guzzo served as the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for the State of New Jersey, where she oversaw the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places, project certification to qualify for Investment Tax Credits, certifying local governments for implementing programs on the municipal level, historic and archaeological resource inventory and resource protection through state and federal regulations. She has held elected office, and served on her municipal planning board and local historic preservation commission. Ms. Guzzo served on the New Jersey Heritage Tourism Task Force, charged with creating a Heritage Tourism Masterplan for the state of New Jersey.

Julia Taylor ~ @IslesInc **Isles. Inc.**

Julia Taylor serves as Isles' Deputy Operations Officer and Managing Director of Community Planning and Development. In those roles, she helps to guide Isles' finance and capital projects teams, and she oversees an integrated portfolio of services and projects including neighborhood planning, real estate development, and urban agriculture. Julia's previous work includes master planning and real estate development in rural and urban areas, research and social policy analysis, and program evaluation for low-income energy efficiency programs. Julia has served on the Lambertville Environmental Commission since 2008, was a 2014 Lead NJ fellow, and serves on the board of the Coalition for Affordable Housing and the Environment. She earned a Master of City Planning degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a BA in History with a Certificate in American Studies from Princeton University.

Moderator

Melissa Jest **National Trust for Historic Preservation**

Melissa Jest is the manager of the Historic Properties Redevelopment Programs at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. As program manager, Melissa facilitate a national exchange among preservationists, property investors, and community redevelopers—those individuals and organizations that positively impact historic properties. Here, the dual goal is to expand the knowledge of preservation revolving funds to new constituencies and to empower preservation managers with real estate skills needed to act decisively when properties (Over →)

are threatened. Melissa brings fourteen years of preservation experience from her revolving fund and advocacy work in Savannah, GA, and outreach and program management work in Philadelphia, PA. She is a native of Savannah, GA and holds a Bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Florida, and a Master's degree in Urban Studies from Savannah State University. Melissa works from the National Trust Washington-DC headquarters.