GREGORY HELLER
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Gregory Heller is a practitioner and author in the fields of community/economic development and urban policy and currently serves as the Executive Director of the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority. The PRA is the City’s implementation arm for community development, charged with leveraging the City’s assets to provide redevelopment opportunities, and also create and preserve affordable housing, and improve quality of life.

Prior to his work at the PRA Greg was CEO of American Communities Trust (ACT), a national organization based in Baltimore that advises private real estate developers, government entities, and financial institutions, helping them connect their resources with urban and low-income communities.

Today discover how active community development organizations and financial institutions in Philadelphia have collaborated to create amazing projects that serve a public purpose. Learn how these mission-based, social impact projects were designed, developed, and implemented—and how they’ve positively impacted communities struggling with poverty and economic distress.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

KIRA STRONG - Vice President of People's Emergency Center

JAMES L. BROWN, V - Managing Partner, Parkside Preservation I L P

ROSE GRAY - Senior Vice President of Community Economic Development at Asociacion Puertorriqueños en Marcha

ANDREW RACHLIN - Managing Director, Lending and Investment at the Reinvestment Fund

GABE CANUSO - Partner at DJ Real Estate Development

JANET STEARNS - Vice President of Real Estate at Project HOME
01 NEIGHBORHOOD TIME EXCHANGE
4017 Lancaster Avenue
A West Philadelphia Artist Residency program that connected artists to direct community members—a collaborative project conceived by Broken City Lab, People’s Emergency Center, the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, and the Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy.

02 PLEASE TOUCH MUSEUM
4231 Avenue of the Republic
As one of the region’s top 10 most-visited destinations, the Please Touch Museum has reinvigorated and restored a national historic landmark. The museum remains one of the most highly regarded and frequently visited children’s museums in the country, annually drawing 500,000 visitors and generating $20 million in regional economic impact.

03 PASEO VERDE APARTMENTS
1950 North 9th Street
As one of the nation’s first LEED Platinum projects, Paseo Verde offers 120 units of sustainable housing for low and moderate income families, approximately 30,000 SF of ground floor retail and community services, and commercial office space.

04 EL CORAZON CULTURAL CENTER
2624 North 5th Street
Slated to open in autumn of 2016, the much-expanded 25,000-square-foot Cultural Center will constitute the largest Puerto Rican/Latino-based arts and cultural facility in the state of Pennsylvania and the region.

05 PAN AMERICAN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
2830 North American Street
Pan American Academy is a K-8 charter school that prepares students for a successful future by promoting academic excellence through rigorous instruction, bilingualism, the integration of cultural awareness, and respect throughout all aspects of the curriculum.

06 OXFORD MILLS
100 West Oxford Street
Once one of the largest textile manufacturing complexes in Philadelphia. Oxford Mills provides modern, affordable living and commercial space targeted to educators and non-profits.

07 STEPHEN AND SANDRA SHELLER 11TH STREET FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES OF DREXEL UNIVERSITY
850 North 11th Street
The Stephen and Sandra Sheller 11th Street Family Health Services provides quality comprehensive health services to clients, with special attention to vulnerable people and residents of public housing units in the 11th Street Corridor.

08 JBJ SOUL HOMES
1415 Fairmount Ave
JBJ Soul Homes is a 55-unit, permanent supportive housing residence for adults. There are subsidized and affordable efficiency apartments, including units dedicated for young adults.