

League of Oregon Cities Spring Conference

April 25-26, 2023
Seaside, Oregon



Building Equitable and Inclusive Cities


Wednesday, April 26, 2023

8:30am-10:00am

Where we live matters. Where we live impacts our health, how long we live, and how well we live. It impacts our financial security, economic mobility, and our ability to weather adversities. With changing demographics in our communities combined with increasing inequality, cities are at the forefront of addressing some of the nation’s most intractable challenges. Cities and city leaders have a critical role to play in creating better opportunities for health and wellbeing for all residents. This session brings together city and community leaders to explore the challenges and opportunities cities face in advancing equitable outcomes. Our panelists who bring diverse perspectives and hand-on experiences in operationalizing equity and inclusion in local and regional policy, planning, and making where we live great places for all. Join the conversation.

Speaker Bios

	<p>Mayor John McArdle was first elected as the mayor of Independence in 1998. He is a board member of the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments, chair of the Mid-Willamette Economic Development Partnership board, and a member of the Governor’s Homeland Security Council. McArdle was a member of the Oregon Mayors Association board from 2002 to 2005, serving as its president in 2004. He retired as the Director of Development at Linn-Benton Community College.</p>
	<p>CM Hall (she/they) is a proud lifelong Oregonian and gleefully makes her home in Newport. She is also the first out queer person elected to the Newport City Council in 2018 and reelected in 2022. She serves as liaison to the 60+ Activity Center, Parks & Rec, and Police Advisory committees.</p> <p>CM has long been a community activist, committed to equity and social justice. Professionally, CM manages dual careers in both the field of interpreting grant administration and teaching. She is a nationally-certified sign language interpreter, having earned a Bachelor's in Interpreting from Western Oregon University and a Master's in Education with an emphasis in LGBTQ, Sexuality & Gender Studies from Oregon State University. CM is the Co-Director for the Protactile Language Interpreting National Education Program, an interpreter training grant, and teaches DeafBlind Culture, Communication & CoNavigating, as well as LGBTQ sociology courses at Western Oregon University. Among her professional accomplishments, CM co-created DiscoverInterpreting.com, to encourage those considering a career in interpreting. She also created and runs an 13,000+ member Facebook group of sign language interpreters and those aspiring to become interpreters.</p> <p>CM regularly provides training and workshops on topics related to interpreting and for several years provided ongoing professional development for sign language</p>

	<p>interpreters on Guam and Saipan. In 2015, she was invited to present at a TEDx on the topic of linguistic access as a social justice issue. CM also successfully ran a national campaign to convince the Unicode Consortium to add the ASL “I Love You” handshake to text emoji options on smart devices.</p> <p>CM has worked as a fundraiser and political strategist for nonprofit organizations and campaigns, and also leads social justice-themed and fundraising how-to workshops. She produced an annual Coming Out Monologues storytelling fundraiser in Portland for six years.</p> <p>CM has been recognized for her advocacy work by Basic Rights Oregon, Pride Northwest, the Gay & Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest, Campus Pride, the Human Rights Campaign, and the Oregon Association of the Deaf, the Oregon Deaf & Hard of Hearing Advisory Committee, the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, and Western Oregon University’s Stonewall Center. CM is proud of these honors as they represent projects and collaborations with many individuals over the years. She serves on the board of Oregon Humanities, Pacific Communities Health Foundation, and WOU Alumni. In 2022, CM received a certificate of completion from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government’s Executive Education program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. She is also the proud parent of a lean athletic pit mix named Callie.</p>
	<p>Raahi Reddy is a Principal with Estolano Advisors and directs their Pacific Northwest Operations. Her portfolio includes assisting community, labor and governmental stakeholders in delivering equitable outcomes through community benefit agreements and workforce strategies on large-scale public sector and green infrastructure projects. Prior to joining Estolano Advisors, Raahi served as the Director of Metro’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Department. Her team was responsible for ensuring Metro’s programs, investments and internal practices lead with a racial equity lens to effectively advance equity in the region. This work included launching and leading the groundbreaking Construction Careers Pathways Project, bringing together numerous public agencies, private contractors and community and labor stakeholders in the Portland metro region to jointly plan, invest and support a new generation of diverse workers in the construction sector. Raahi also served as faculty at the UCLA, UC Berkeley, and University of Oregon’s Labor Centers, working on labor and economy issues. She has co-authored several articles and reports on the experiences of low-wage working Oregonians, including “The High Cost of Low Wages in Oregon” and “Oregon’s Care Economy: The Case for Public Care Investment.” Raahi holds a Master of Urban Planning from UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History from Rutgers University.</p>



Bandana Shrestha is the State Director for [AARP Oregon](#) where she leads and supports AARP vision of health security, financial resilience, and community engagement for over 500,000 members, as well as Oregonians 50+ and their families across the state. During her 20+ year career as a leader in local, national, and international organizations, Bandana has worked to drive people-powered solutions to affect positive social change, improve lives, and transform communities. Before her appointment as State Director, Bandana served as AARP Oregon Director of Community Engagement and led outreach and advocacy efforts. Most recently, she led AARP's livable communities work in the state, including growing and supporting the Network of Age-Friendly Communities and advocating for affordable and accessible housing and transportation options at the state and local levels. Prior to joining AARP, Bandana served as Director of Model Programs and Partnerships for the Points of Light Foundation in Washington, DC. Bandana currently serves on Oregon State Treasury Financial Education Advisory Team and on the Board of Trustees of the Oregon Zoo Foundation. Bandana has a BS from Linfield College and an MFA from University of Oregon.



Keith Stahley has served as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Olympia, Washington, and managed the Office of Community Vitality since 2019. With more than 30 years of local government experience, Keith led community development, climate, community court, housing and homeless response, and economic development programs as Olympia's Community Planning and Development Director for 14 years. Keith received his Master of Public Administration degree from Florida Atlantic University, his Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree from Syracuse University, and is an International City/County Management Association Credentialed Manager (ICMA-CM).