



**EBC Climate Change and Air Webinar  
Why Climate Change Engagement Matters –  
Real Solutions Require Hearing Real Stories**

Thursday, November 17, 2022

**Thank you to our Program Partners:**

Boston Harbor Women of Color Coalition



**BOSTON HARBOR  
WOMEN OF COLOR  
COALITION**

Save the Harbor



The Sustainable Solutions Lab (SSL) at UMass Boston





- Ashley Fisher, Town of Mashpee
- Joanna Nadeau, AICP, Weston & Sampson
- Nancy Rihan Porter, Cambridge Public Health Department
- Maria Rodriguez Ortega, Save the Harbor
- Lara Sup, Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.
- Maya Smith, Save the Harbor
- Paul Watanabe, UMass Boston

11:30 a.m.    Adjourn

### **PROGRAM CHAIRS**

**Joanna Nadeau**, AICP, Resiliency Planner and Engagement Specialist

Weston & Sampson

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Joanna is an environmental planner and sustainability/resiliency specialist with experience in community planning, technical assistance, policy analysis, program development, environmental education, and public engagement. She routinely works with engineers and technical experts, government officials, non-governmental organizations, resource managers, and the public to develop and implement resiliency and sustainability plans and projects. Joanna's experience includes extensive research experience, including ecological analyses with The Nature Conservancy and federal agencies, and endangered species and water management studies at the University of Arizona. She draws on a degree in biology from Haverford College, a water policy certificate, Masters in Environmental and Healthy City Planning, and is an AICP-certified planner. She previously served as a regional Sustainability Champion for the American Planning Association, and currently serves on Weston & Sampson's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (IDEA) Steering Committee.

**Diane Mas**, PhD, REHS/RS, Vice President, Chief Resilience Officer

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Dr. Mas is the Chief Resilience Officer at Fuss & O'Neill, Inc. and focuses on bringing a climate resilience framework to all aspects of Fuss & O'Neill's multi-discipline work across the natural and built environment.

She received her A.B. in Geology from Amherst College, M.S.E. from the Water Resources Program at Princeton University, and Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She has spent nearly 25 years working in the areas of water quality modeling, watershed management, and environmental impact assessment in inland and coastal environments. Her current areas of practice focus on climate change resilience and adaptation for water resources, water quality assessment and modeling, watershed management, harmful algal bloom impacts to drinking and recreational waters, and the relationship between water quality and public health.

Dr. Mas serves in the Infrastructure and Land Use Adaptation and Public Health and Safety Working Groups of the Connecticut Governor's Council on Climate Change and is a member of the National Environmental Health Association and the Association of Climate Change Officers.

## MODERATOR

**Melanie Gárate**, Director of Climate Engagement  
Stone Living Lab  
mgarate@bostonharbornow.org

As Director of Climate Engagement, Melanie Gárate will develop and lead the Lab's strategies related to outreach with local communities to ensure the Lab's efforts are driven by the needs and priorities of people most impacted by climate change. Most recently she served as the Climate Resiliency Manager at the Mystic River Watershed Association and previously served in education specialist roles at Mass Audubon and the New England Aquarium. She is a 2022 Public Voices Fellow on the Climate Crisis with the OpEd Project in partnership with Yale University and brings a wealth of experience working with environmental justice and social justice communities.

## SPEAKERS

**Chris Ball**, Executive Director  
Mashpee TV  
168 Industrial Drive #2, Mashpee, MA 02649  
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**Ashley K. Fisher**, Director, Department of Natural Resources  
Town of Mashpee  
16 Great Neck Road North, Mashpee, MA 02649  
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Ashley has been employed with the Town of Mashpee of 7 years, first as the Shellfish and Water Quality Technician, then the Shellfish Constable, and finally as the Director of Natural Resources. Prior to her employment with the Town of Mashpee, Ashley worked for the Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment, the Marine Biological Laboratory Woods Hole, and the University of Maine. Ashley's interests are focused around state and municipal Natural Resource Management and Law Enforcement.

**Nancy Rihan Porter**, Director of Equity, Resilience and Preparedness  
Cambridge Public Health Department  
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Nancy joined the Cambridge Public Health Department in January 2015 and has made her mark over the past several years. She currently serves as the Co- Chair for Region 4AB Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition and is a working member of APHA's Intersectional Council for Gun Violence Prevention Workgroup. She also serves on the Advisory Board for the regional coalition of Community Health Needs Area 17 (CHNA 17). Nancy is also an at-large Board Member for MHOA (Massachusetts Health Officers Association).

During the pandemic, Nancy was a key player in the city's COVID 19 response and was instrumental in our community PCR testing campaign, vaccination clinics and all things COVID. Additionally, she spearheaded the Cambridge Community Corps, a public health outreach and community engagement program developed in response to the pandemic. Nancy is passionate and funny and brings that to the work that she does. Nancy currently holds the position of Director of Equity, Resilience and Preparedness at the Cambridge Public Health Department which is a new unit developed in response to the pandemic.

Nancy earned her MBBS of Medicine And Surgery from Cairo University in Egypt in 1991 and was a general practitioner prior to moving back to the United States in 2007.

**Maria Rodriguez Ortega**, Environmental Policy Assistant  
Save the Harbor/Save the Bay  
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Maria Rodriguez Ortega is the Public Policy Assistant at Save the Harbor/ Save the Bay. She was born and raised in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and moved to Lawrence, MA in 2014, where she attended high school and was involved with Groundwork Lawrence. She moved to Dorchester in 2018 to attend UMass Boston and has lived in Boston ever since. She remained actively involved in the community through her work with organizations such as the Environmental League of MA, Mass Audubon, Save the Harbor/ Save the Bay, the Boston Harbor Women of Color Coalition, and university-led opportunities such as Beacon Voyages for Service, Latino Leadership Opportunities Program, and the Restorative Justice Commission. Maria is the first in her immediate family to attend college and graduated from UMass Boston in Spring 2022, with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Science, a minor in Latin@ Studies, and Summa Cum Laude Honors. As an undergraduate, she received various awards and nominations for her active service and commitment to social justice in the community and was selected to be the keynote speaker for UMass Boston's School of the Environment 2022 Award Ceremony. Her passions include environmental justice, community organizing, public policy, and environmental education.

**Maya Smith**, Partnerships & Program Development Director  
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**Lara Sup**, PE (she / her), Climate and Flood Resilience Engineer  
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Lara Sup, PE is a Climate and Flood Resilience Engineer at Fuss & O'Neill. She graduated from the University of Illinois in Agricultural Engineering with a concentration on soil and water and has focused her career on water resource-related aspects of multi-disciplinary projects, especially riverine flooding and restoration. She enjoys watching ideas and designs become reality and benefit the community and environment. She has a passion for mentoring, blending designs into the natural world and engaging and educating the public on water resources, especially climate resiliency.

**Paul Watanabe**, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Institute for Asian American Studies  
University of Massachusetts Boston  
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Paul Watanabe is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Institute for Asian American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston. He currently serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund; Board of Directors of the South Shore Health System; Board of Directors of North Hill Communities; Board of Trustees of the Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund; Board of Trustees of the Town of Weymouth Libraries Foundation; Redistricting Data Hub's Advisory Data

Council, and the City of Boston's COVID-19 Health Disparities Task Force. He was appointed by President Obama to serve on the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and served as the first Chair of the U.S. Census Bureau's National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations. He is the author of *Ethnic Groups, Congress, and American Foreign Policy* and principal author of *A Dream Deferred: Changing Demographics, New Opportunities, and Challenges for Boston*. His scholarly articles on ethnic studies, Asian Americans, public policy, political behavior, foreign policy, and health disparities have appeared in major academic journals and edited volumes. Paul received his B.S. in Political Science from the University of Utah and Ph.D. in Political Science from Harvard University.