

Presenter Bios

Tammy Ackerman

Executive Director Engine & Maine FabLab Program Director, Tammy Ackerman is the co-founder and director of the nonprofit arts organization Engine, founded in 2009 and Maine FabLab, founded in 2013. With a background in art and design, Tammy has developed a love for community development for her adopted hometown of Biddeford, Maine, a small New England town just south of Portland, that is undergoing a transformation from mill town to a creative economy hub.

Omar Alqudah

Mr. Alquhad was born and raised in Jordan. He studied Art at Baghdad University in Iraq, and got his Bachelors in 1999. Mr. Alqudah filled a few positions in Jordan such as a manager of an internet café, a manager of a computer education company, then assistant warehouse manager; managing inventory in 13 different warehouses. He came to Maine from Jordan back in May 2003 and started working at L.L.Bean in November of the same year as a seasonal employee in the direct ship department; stitching dog beds. He moved to different positions on the production floor, until he received his first leadership opportunity. Mr. Alqudah is currently an assistant manager in the Direct To Business department, and the lead of the Diversity Council at L.L Bean.

Dan Bacon, Planning Director, Town of Scarborough

Dan Bacon is the Director of Planning, Engineering and Code Enforcement for the Town of Scarborough. He's been in this position for 9 years, and previously served as Scarborough's Assistant Town Planner. He's interested in all aspects of planning, but has a particular focus on Land Use and Transportation and his recent successes in Scarborough include establishing a "Compete Streets" Policy and implementing related projects and adopting a "Form-Based" Character Code for Higgins Beach. Dan has a bachelor's degree from St. Lawrence University and a Masters in Regional Planning from the University of Massachusetts.

Emily Baer, Executive Director, The Belfast Creative Coalition

The Belfast Creative Coalition is a collection of arts and cultural groups, businesses, municipal officials and individuals in Belfast and Waldo County partnering to improve promotion and coordination of activities, share information and resources, and collaborate on joint economic development fronts.

Rachel Bouvier

Is the founder and principal of rbouvier consulting, specializes in economic and statistical

analysis focusing on environmental and natural resource issues. She became interested in GrowSmart Maine in 2014, when Nancy Smith partnered with three of the students in her natural resource economics class at USM, where she was Associate Professor of Economics from 2005 to 2014.

Rachel served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Presumpscot River and taught community economic development at the University of New Hampshire. She holds a BA in economics from Smith College, an MS in resource economics from the University of New Hampshire at Durham, and a PhD in economics from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Rachel enjoys hiking, reading, and listening to good music. She lives in Portland with her husband, daughter, and dog Willie.

Ethan Boxer-Macomber, LEED AP

Ethan has 18 years' experience in real estate, housing, and community development. During seven years with Avesta Housing, Ethan successfully led multiple large-scale residential development projects across southern Maine. In 2013, he started Anew Development, LLC, a Portland-based real estate development company dedicated to residential infill that provides highest, best community value by adhering to principles of quality urban design, smart growth, and sustainability.

Ethan formerly held planning positions in Davis, California, and Portland, Maine. He earned a BS in natural resources and ecology from the University of Maine and an MS in community planning and development from the University of California, Davis. He is a returned Peace Corps volunteer and was formerly certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

Ethan is a passionate advocate for smart growth and regularly volunteers his time to programs and policy initiatives related to bicycle/pedestrian, housing, and land use matters.

Dr. Aram Calhoun

Dr. Calhoun is a Professor of Wetland Ecology in the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology at the University of Maine. Her research focuses on forested wetlands and vernal pool ecosystems. Dr. Calhoun is active in working at all levels of government on wetland policy and conservation issues.

Kristina Cannon

Main Street Skowhegan is focused on the ongoing revitalization of the town of Skowhegan. Executive Director Kristina Cannon leads collaborative efforts to support businesses and diversify the economy, stimulate tourism, and communicate Skowhegan's story. A central Maine native, Cannon has an M.S. in marketing and a passion for advancing Skowhegan.

Bo Dennis

Bo is the farm manager at Kennebec Valley Community College where he manages the 120 acre farm in conjunction with the sustainable agriculture program at the college. Bo has been farming for 9 years and graduated from College of the Atlantic in 2012. After graduation he ran a certified organic vegetable CSA before starting at KVCC where he raises vegetables and animals in an educational farm setting.

Carl Eppich, AICP

Carl is senior transportation planner with the Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System, known as PACTS. Carl manages transportation planning, project development, budgeting, and contracting. Currently his work involves integrating transportation and placemaking, active transportation, corridor planning, among many others. He has worked in the non-profit, private, and public sectors, including environmental advocacy, technology, site planning, open space and recreation plans, and energy efficiency consulting. Carl holds a master's degree in community planning and development from the Muskie School of Public Service at USM and a BS in environmental and resource economics from UNH.

Hugh French

Hugh started and runs with Tides Institute and Museum of Art in Eastport Maine. TIMA has invested more than \$2 million to repurpose a six historic building campus for exhibitions, collections, outreach, and an international artist residency program including working studio and project spaces, and artist housing. TIMA is the only Maine institution to have received funding from the national ArtPlace initiative.

Liz Greason

A native Mainer, Liz is co-founder of Maine Intercultural Communication Consultants. She lived in the Middle East for many years, where she taught students from around the world at the American University in Dubai, with a focus on effective cross-cultural communication. Since returning to Maine, Liz has applied her knowledge of the Middle East, cultural competency, and intercultural communication to help Maine businesses, non-profits, and schools effectively recruit and retain a diverse workforce and serve diverse populations. Liz has also served on the faculty of the University of Southern Maine (USM) and Portland Adult Education. In addition to being trained at the Intercultural Communication Institute in Portland, Oregon, Liz holds degrees from Mount Holyoke College and Reed College, and a Certificate in Mediation from USM.

Shannon Haines

Shannon, Executive Director of Waterville Creates, previously served as the executive director

of the Maine Film Center, a non-- profit organization whose mission is to enrich, educate and entertain the community through film and art. She has been employed with planning and cultural institutions in Maine for more than eighteen years, working as executive director of Waterville Main Street for ten years and the Maine Film Center for four years, while concurrently operating as festival director for the Maine International Film Festival for fourteen years.

A recipient of the MidMaine Chamber of Commerce's Rising Star Award and the Maine Downtown Center's Downtown Visionary Award. Shannon previously served on the board of directors for Waterville Creates! and its programmatic arm, Common Street Arts. She is a graduate from Middlebury College and attended Leadership Maine, a program of the Maine Development Foundation.

Colleen Hanlon-Smith

Colleen is the Operations Manager for the Unity Food Hub, in Unity, Maine. As part of her role as manager, Colleen is responsible for sales, marketing, farmer relations and product procurement. The Unity Food Hub sells Maine grown foods wholesale to distributors, institutions and retailers as well as through its Maine Farm Share program, which leverages federal funding to make locally grown foods available to low-income Mainers. Previous to her role with the Unity Food Hub, Hanlon-Smith was the first executive director of the Maine Federation of Farmers' Markets, where in addition to laying the groundwork for the statewide organization. Colleen has lived and worked in Maine for over a dozen years, building relationships with farmers and food enthusiasts alike. Her work began while attending Bates College. During these years she spent her summers homesteading and creating and operating a local food distribution service to the Casco Bay Islands. Colleen sees Maine, its determined and dedicated farmers and natural resources in both land and water as crucial assets to the development of a viable regional food system. Colleen lives in Freedom, Maine.

Samantha Herr

Sam joined the Bicycle Coalition of Maine as the Community Advocacy Coordinator in September 2016. She brings with her experience working for the Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology, City of Boston Bicycle Programs, and owning her own business, OPENSOURCE Bodywork, among other positions. Sam has lived and worked in a variety of places including, Tucson, AZ, Lexington, KY, Auckland, New Zealand, Boston, MA and now Portland, ME. Sam moved to Maine in 2015 and feels like she landed in one of the best places on earth!

Elizabeth Hertz

Elizabeth recently retired from a career in Maine state government. During her tenure as a public servant she focused on municipal planning, natural resource protection and policy development. She was instrumental in the development of tools like Beginning with Habitat and the Maine Vernal Pool Special Area Management Plan. She now works as an independent

consultant.

Susan Inches

Sue holds a BA from College of the Atlantic and a MBA from Whittemore School, University of New Hampshire. She works for Red Oak Associates, Business Strategy and Development and was formerly Deputy Director of the Maine State Planning Office. Susan has taken the lead on a number of policy issues for the State of Maine including fisheries, working waterfronts, land use, solid waste, building and energy codes and energy efficiency. She also served as Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity of Maine.

Jill S. Johanning, AIA

Jill is a Maine Licensed Architect who specializes in accessible and universal design at Alpha One. As a part of the independent living center at Alpha One, Access Design has been a core service of Alpha One for more than 20 years, providing ADA technical assistance, training, and consulting on designing facilities for universal access. Before joining Alpha One, she was employed as a project designer for a large A/E firm in northern Maine. She has over 10 years of design and construction experience in public and private building projects, with a focus on educational and universal design campus facilities for users of all abilities. Her strong accessibility background developed from working with children and adults with disabilities while studying architecture in college.

Andy Jones

Andy is the Toxics Action Center community organizer for Maine where he works with Mainers at the local level to clean up and prevent pollution. Andy was born and raised in Franklin County. He has a BA in Sociology from Hunter College and an MBA from Baruch College. He is the chair of the Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee of the town of Falmouth, Maine.

E'nkul E. Kanakan

E'nkul is Granite Bay Care's Director of Continuous Quality Improvement. Prior to assuming his current role, E'nkul had served as an Area Director and Director of Vocational Services with GBC. He holds a Master's in Education with Specialization in English as a Foreign Language, and a Masters in Business Administration with Specialization in E-Business. E'nkul is a trained educator with more than 20 years of continuous teaching and teacher training in various fields. He has several years of experience in International Relations as a past employee of the US Department of State, the US Agency for International Development and the US Peace Corps, and has worked as a United Nations translator and Interpreter. In addition to his work at GBC, E'nkul has served as an adjunct professor of African Politics at a local New England University since 2008, and devotes time to volunteering in various not-for-profit organizations, and is a community grassroots organizer for the African diaspora in Maine.

Tyler Kidder

Tyler joined GrowSmart Maine in 2016 as the Community Outreach Director. She previously worked as Communications Manager for Efficiency Maine and as Assistant Director for Sustainable Programs at the University of Southern Maine. Tyler holds a degree in Environmental Studies from Bucknell University, is a Senior Fellow of the Environmental Leadership Program, a graduate of the Sustainable Food Systems Leadership Institute of Maine, and serves on the board of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine. Her grandmother was from Downeast, a special place Tyler and her family traveled to every summer as a child and where she continues to spend time as an adult. Tyler has lived in Maine since 2007 and shares a small eco-homestead in Falmouth with her husband and two tuxedo cats.

Laurie Lachance

Laurie Lachance is Thomas College's 5th President and the first female and alumna to lead the College in its 122-year history. From 2004-2012, Laurie served as President and CEO of the Maine Development Foundation. Prior to MDF, Laurie served three governors as the Maine State Economist, and before joining state government, she served as the Corporate Economist at Central Maine Power Company. A frequent author and speaker on leadership, education, and the economy of Maine, she holds an undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College, an MBA from Thomas College and an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Maine at Presque Isle. Laurie was inducted into the Maine Women's Hall of Fame in 2014 and has been the recipient of several awards, most recently being recognized by Maine Magazine as one of the 50 Mainers Charting the State's Future and making the Mainebiz NEXT list as a trailblazer in her industry. Laurie chairs the Boards of Educare Central Maine and the Maine Independent Colleges Association, is a Trustee of Foxcroft Academy and a Board member of Educate Maine.

Laurie has a deep love of and dedication to her hometown (Dover-Foxcroft) and Foxcroft Academy. Graduating as the Valedictorian of the Class of 1979, she was also given the Dr. Mary Chandler Lowell Award in 2002 from the Trustees and Alumni of the Academy and was inducted into the inaugural Class of Foxcroft Academy's Academic Hall of Fame in 2012.

Buzz Lamb

Buzz is retired from a 41-year career in the computer industry. After 24 years with IBM, he founded Norton Lamb & Company, an IBM Premier Business Partner, which provides systems and application services to organizations across New England. Buzz was recognized for his ability to effectively apply technology to organizational goals by conducting strategic planning sessions and extensive process analysis. He has extensive experience in manufacturing, distribution, finance, and healthcare.

With deep Maine roots in business and agriculture, Buzz advocates for regional planning, concentrated development, and improved stewardship of our forest and agricultural resources. He believes this will reduce long-term operating costs for business and government, preserve our natural resources, and help address the causes of global warming and other environmental impacts of growth. He splits his time between his farm in New Gloucester and his camp in northwest Piscataquis County.

Amber Lambke

Amber is president of Maine Grains, Inc. in Skowhegan. She is also the former director and co-founder of the Maine Grain Alliance, a nonprofit geared toward preserving grain traditions from earth to hearth. Amber is a driving force behind Maine's sustainable foods movement. She is also helping to bring economic vitality back to Skowhegan, Maine by reviving the region's centuries-old artisan grain cultivating and processing industry. Amber co-founded the Kneading Conference in 2007, a Maine Grain Alliance event that attracts attendees from across the U.S. and Canada and has spawned other grain and artisan bread celebrations throughout the country. She is also active with Main Street Skowhegan, is a Skowhegan Farmers' Market board member, and chairs the Western Mountains Committee of the Maine Community Foundation. Amber is a communitarian, mom, wife, former speech-language pathologist, home baker and gardener.

Kimberly Lindlof

Kim is a Waterville native and a Thomas College graduate. She grew up frequenting and working in Waterville businesses. Her passion for the region is what attracted her to the Mid-Maine Chamber in a sales capacity 23 years ago, then onto its board eventually becoming its president/CEO in 2001.

Alex Mas

Alex currently serves as the Associate State Director-Conservation for The Nature Conservancy in Maine, where he is responsible for overseeing all conservation programs and supporting the Conservancy's overall success and effective management in the state. Alex has worked for the Conservancy for fifteen years, the first eight of which were in California, where he served as the Executive Director of the Northern Sierra Partnership, as director of the Sierra Nevada and Klamath Mountains regions, and as a local project director and conservation planner. Before joining the Conservancy, Alex worked as a researcher and practitioner with a range of community-based and collaborative resource management projects in the U.S. and abroad. Alex received a master's degree in Resource Ecology and Management from the University of Michigan and undergraduate degrees in Environmental Studies and English from Tufts University. He lives in Portland with his wife and three children.

Judith Mathiau

Judy is the Winslow Assessor, and served previously as an assessor for Camden, Rockport and Union. She grew up on a 62 acre farm in Vassalboro and had the opportunity to acquire it from her parents fifteen years ago. She has worked with the Winslow Agricultural Committee to develop the Farm Support program.

John Melrose

John worked seven years at MMA, twenty years as owner of the consulting firm Maine Tomorrow and eight years as MaineDOT Commissioner in the King Administration. He now works part-time as a Senior Consultant with the Eaton Peabody Consulting Group. He holds a BA in Public Management and an MS in Community Development. He is a Kennebec Land Trust Steward, Chair of the Vassalboro Budget Committee and on the Board overseeing the Amtrak Downeaster.

Brandy Mills

Brandy was born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina. She moved to Maine in April 2015 with her fiancé Mat - who is a born and raised Mainer. After a year and a half working in corporate marketing and customer satisfaction at L.L. Bean, Brandy left her corporate job to join the Travis Mills Foundation - where she now works in marketing, fundraising, social media, and more to establish the Maine Chance Veterans Family Retreat - opening in June 2017.

John A. Moore

John is Senior Vice President, Community Development Banking and CRA Officer at Bangor Savings Bank and serves as the primary institutional liaison for outreach and delivery of community development lending, investment, and service with non-profit organizations and governmental agencies particularly those engaged in affordable housing and economic development activities in Maine. He also coordinates the Bank's public sector lending and tax exempt bond financing program as well as leading the Bank's Community Reinvestment Act compliance program.

Carol Morris

With 25 years of experience in communications, including public outreach, facilitation and media relations, Carol heads up Morris Communications, a firm that specializes in bringing a clear message to diverse audiences and managing the inevitable conflict around change. The company's strength is in building strategic outcomes, connecting with a wide range of people, and translating technical language into messages easily understood by stakeholders. Morris has an extensive background in transportation and land use planning studies with a focus on sustainable development at both the regional and municipal level. Over the past fifteen years she has managed public outreach and communications for a variety of projects where growth,

mobility and quality of life issues were key concerns for the community.

Martha Piscuskas

Martha is President and Co-Founder of the Belfast Creative Coalition. The BCC was formed to promote and grow the vibrant arts and culture sector of Waldo County. Some of BCC's work: monthly Art Walks; Cultivate, a seasonal farm and art tour; and an online calendar of events and artists' directory.

Theresa Savoy

Theresa works for the Maine Department of Transportation. She is currently the Director of the Maine DOT Civil Rights Office, which manages external civil rights compliance and administers the federally required Civil Rights Programs including ADA compliance on MaineDOT's roads.

Janet Sawyer

Janet recently retired as GrowSmart Maine's Business Development Director. Janet worked as Business Development Director for Piscataquis County Economic Development Council, owned her own small business, and managed outside sales for a Maine-based office products distributor. Janet grew up in Corinth, Maine. She left Maine to earn her undergraduate degree at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY, but came back home as soon as she could. Janet lives with her husband, Dwain Allen, and their pampered dog, Libby, in Dover-Foxcroft where she is very active in the community.

Roderick Scott, CFM

Rod was a flood and historic restoration contractor for 25 years and transitioned into structure elevation for flood hazard mitigation in 2009 in Louisiana. Mr. Scott helped start a \$5 million elevation company to help service the needs of over 1,500 property owners elevate their homes in Louisiana. In 2010, he project managed the National Czech and Slovak Museum relocation in Cedar Rapids and the elevation of the three historic Santa Fe Railroad Historic District buildings along the Mississippi River in 2010.

In 2011 Mr. Scott pioneered a public education outreach program on how elevation works in upstate New York after Hurricane Irene and redeployed the program in New Jersey/New York area after Sandy. The program was presented at 29 venues to around 4,000 people and the You Tube posts are at around 13,000 views. This program, sponsored by the elevation industry, was awarded the 2014 Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Flood Proofing award. Mr. Scott was awarded his Certified Flood Plain Manager (CFM) certificate in 2014 and is currently providing CEU flood hazard mitigation education to architects, engineers and code officials and consulting with the International Association of Structural Movers (IASM).

James Tasse PhD

Jim is the Assistant Director of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine and the Director of the Maine Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Education Program, a partnership of the Bicycle Coalition and the MaineDOT. He is a nationally certified bicycle safety instructor and an expert on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

Coretta Trembley

Coretta is a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist with the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She serves Knox, Lincoln, Waldo, and Kennebec Counties. She provides one-on-one training to children and adults with visual impairments to help them develop skills for safe and independent travel.

Bruce A. Van Note, PLS, Esq.

Bruce joined the MTA as its Director of Policy and Planning in October 2014. Previously, he worked at MaineDOT for 20 years, the last 12 as Deputy Commissioner. His responsibilities have included policy, strategic planning, operations and budget, communications, major project planning, and governmental and policymaker relations. Bruce has also worked as a mediator, surveyor, and attorney. He holds degrees in engineering and law.

David Webster, AIA, LEED AP

David is GrowSmart Maine's Board Chair, he co-founded PDT Architects (then called Portland Design Team) in Portland in 1977 and is its president and managing partner. He holds a BArch from Miami University of Ohio and is a trained mediator and facilitator.

David's work incorporates his interest in design and its integration in building science, deep energy retrofits, historic preservation, downtown planning, and energy efficiency. Recent projects include the Androscoggin Valley Medical Arts Center in Livermore Falls, many projects on New England VA campuses, and the restoration of the US Marine Hospital in Portland for Martin's Point Health Care. David has considerable expertise in projects involving multiple buildings and multiple architects. He is an artist and runner who lives in Portland.

Robin Zinchuk

Robin is executive director of the Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce and serves on the board of GrowSmart Maine. She credits her success to a variety of supportive and visionary individuals who she has worked with over the years. She is a graduate of the Institute for Organizational Management program of the US Chamber of Commerce and of Leadership Maine. Robin has served many local, regional, and statewide organizations: Maine Tourism Commission, Quality of Place Council, Maine's Lakes and Mountains Tourism Council, Maine

Woods Consortium, Northern Forest Sustainable Economy Initiative, Keeping Maine's Forests Implementation Team, and Bethel Rotary Club. She is a trustee of Western Maine Health.

Robin has also served on the Maine Film Commission, Maine Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, Maine State Chamber of Commerce, Mahoosuc Land Trust, and Western Mountain Alliance. Robin is from East Brunswick, NJ, and graduated from Montclair State University. She is married and has four grown sons and two grandsons.