

# URBAN PLANNING NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 22, 2020

Mid-term season is upon us! Hope everyone is getting enough rest, some sunshine, and getting the support you need during this time. Our health is most important and remember that your peers are there to help you get through the semester, as well as [Columbia health resources](#) and [mental health counseling services](#).

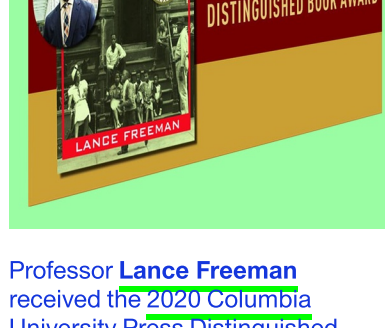
Contributions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to Elaine Hsieh and Geon Woo Lee using [this form](#). Feel free to share any news regarding events, [class projects](#), jobs/internships, scholarships/fellowships, and academic related student updates.

### Urban Planning Alumni Networking Event

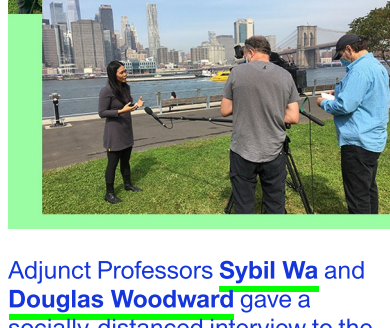
6PM, Friday, October 23

Please [join us](#) tomorrow night for speed networking and mingling with current UP students and alumni. We have a wonderful lineup of UP alumni working in transportation, land use planning, affordable housing, international planning, real estate development, land use law, and more.

## FACULTY UPDATES



Professor **Lance Freeman** received the 2020 Columbia University Press Distinguished Book Award for his book *A Haven and a Hell: The Ghetto in Black America*. In this book, Prof. Freeman examines the multifaceted role of predominantly black neighborhoods in American history.



Adjunct Professors **Sybil Wa** and **Douglas Woodward** gave a socially-distanced interview to the Montréal station of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on the planning and design implications arising from the pandemic, effects on commercial real estate, and the post-pandemic planning future of the city.

## UP WORKSHOPS

### Improving Prose: Editing English Sentences for International Students

9AM, Thursday, November 19.

Writing Mentor Geon Woo Lee will discuss simple techniques to improve an English sentence. Geared towards non-native speakers of English, this workshop will cover editing awkward sentences, minimizing clutter, importance of diction, and writing in the active voice. Please join with this [Zoom link](#).

For past writing and digital workshops, please refer to the [UP Program Information Google Drive](#) where you can find all recordings and slides in the [resources folder](#).

## STUDENT ORGANIZATION UPDATES

### Planning Accreditation Board Survey

As an effort to provide genuine feedback for our program going forward, the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) has reached out to the Program Council to gain insight from first- and second-year students. Please fill out this [short survey](#) (it will only take a few minutes!). The deadline is [Saturday, October 31](#).

### Program Council

The Program Council invites you to join another TGIF Happy Hour tomorrow, Friday, October 23, at 1PM. This will be a [virtual hangout](#) for all first- and second-year students to chat, play games, and build the community we deserve. Bring yourself, a snack, and hopefully a stable internet connection! Get in touch with the UP Program Council by joining the [GSAPP UP Connect Slack page](#).

### Unlearning Collective

After a brief hiatus to adjust to the new semester, the [Unlearning Collective](#) is back and planning a meeting for next month. Be on the lookout for an email to come regarding next discussion topics and accompanying readings. If you'd like to add your name to the unlearning collective email list, email Lanier Hagerty ([mlh2224@columbia.edu](mailto:mlh2224@columbia.edu)). All are welcome to join any of the conversations - this includes non GSAPP affiliates, colleagues and pals.



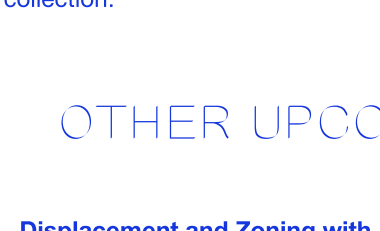
**Frederick Wherry,**  
*Debt Collection, Relational Damages, and the Infrastructure for Repair,*  
October 13, 2020.



**J. Phillip Thompson,**  
*Dean's Lecture by the Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives, NYC*  
October 19, 2020.

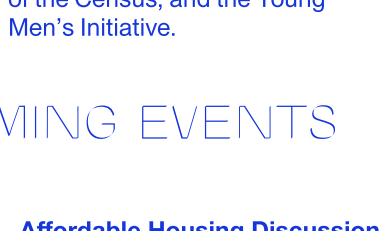
Professor Wherry draws upon his work to demonstrate the range of damages wrought by debt collection practices. He turned to the lack of infrastructure for justice and described how his new Debt Collection Lab is beginning to build new infrastructure to track and analyze the injustices of debt collection.

As Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives, J. Phillip Thompson is responsible for spearheading an expansive portfolio that includes Democracy NYC, the Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises Program, the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, the Office of the Census, and the Young Men's Initiative.



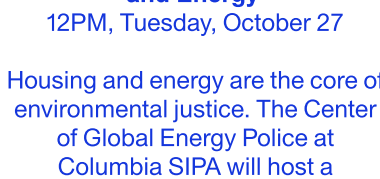
**Displacement and Zoning with Sam Stein**  
1PM, Friday, October 23, 2020

An [informal conversation](#) on zoning and displacement with guest Sam Stein, author of "Capital City: Gentrification and the Real Estate State", Verso 2019, and facilitated by Jenna Davis, a PhD candidate in Urban Planning and a staff project assistant at the [GSAPP Housing Lab](#).



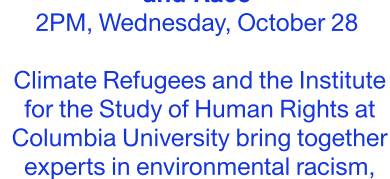
**Affordable Housing Discussion Series: Preserving Public Housing**  
12PM, Tuesday, October 27

Join Adjunct Professor Richard Froehlich and four panelists [discussing](#) the success, [challenges](#), [lessons learned](#) from preserving public housing. This event is part of the Affordable Housing Discussion Series for the fall 2020 semester.



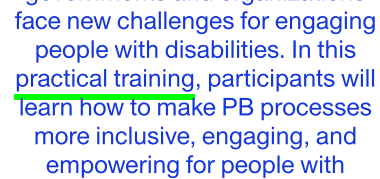
**Environmental Justice: Housing and Energy**  
12PM, Tuesday, October 27

Housing and energy are the core of environmental justice. The Center of Global Energy Policy at Columbia SIPA will host a [discussion](#) on energy and environmental justice in the context of urban housing and energy efficiency retrofits to improve performance and livability.



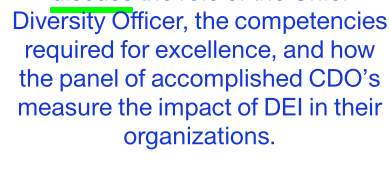
**Intersections of Climate Change and Race**  
2PM, Wednesday, October 28

Climate Refugees and the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University bring together experts in environmental racism, indigenous rights, climate science, and racial justice to discuss the two big issues of our time: [Race and Climate Change](#).



**How to Engage People with Disabilities in PB**  
11AM, Thursday, October 29

Too often, participatory budgeting (PB) initiatives fail to include people with disabilities. As public participation shifts online, governments and organizations face new challenges for engaging people with disabilities. In this [practical training](#), participants will learn how to make PB processes more inclusive, engaging, and empowering for people with disabilities.



**Leadership Lens: a Conversation with Chief Diversity Officers**  
6PM, Thursday, October 29

Diversity executives of major companies will explore how to engage others in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). [Panelists will discuss](#) the role of the Chief Diversity Officer, the competencies required for excellence, and how the panel of accomplished CDO's measure the impact of DEI in their organizations.

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

**Interactive Map (At Last):** The MTA subway map went digital this week. Take a gander at the [online map](#) that supports real-time [data](#), [service changes](#), closures and openings, and reroutings.

**Census Counting:** On November 30, the [Supreme Court will hear arguments](#) on whether to include the number of illegal immigrants in the allocation of congressional representation, such as the US House of Representatives.

**Regulatory Chill:** International treatise intended to foster global cooperation may provide another [regulatory hurdle from enacting](#) governmental actions to curb environmental pollution.

**MTA's Roadmap:** The pandemic has caused MTA's ridership to plummet by more than 90%. This [podcast series](#) chronicles MTA's response to the pandemic and its difficult path to recovery.

## MENTORS OFFICE HOURS

Writing Mentor (Geon Woo Lee) Office Hours are available both Monday (1:30pm-3:30pm) and Thursday (9am-11am) this semester, subject to change. Please sign-up for a 45-minute time slot [via Calendly](#). Walk-Ins are allowed only for the last 30-minutes.

Digital Mentor (Elaine Hsieh) Office hours are available Monday (1-3pm), Thursday (9-11am) and Friday (12-2pm) this semester, subject to change. Please sign-up [via Calendly](#). Walk-Ins are also allowed, priority will be given to those who sign-up.

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