

Opportunity Zone Summit

Sept. 19, 2019 | Atlanta, GA

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES (in alphabetical order)



James Carras – Mr. Carras is a Principal at Carras Community Investment, Inc. In this capacity, he has provided community and economic development finance consulting services to over 250 clients nationwide including strategic planning, program development, grant writing, capitalization strategies, market analysis and research. Client sectors include financial institutions, local government agencies, for profit and non-profit development corporations and public private partnerships. Additionally, James created and served as Founding President of the National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders, the Haymarket Bank Affordable Housing Corporation, the Broward Housing Partnership, the South Florida Community Land Trust, Inc. and the Himmarshee Village Association.

Throughout his career, Mr. Carras has conducted over 300 workshops, panel discussions, and professional courses across the country on affordable housing, community development, and small business development and economic development. He has prepared Community Investment needs assessments and plans for over 20 large financial institutions. He holds a Master's in Public Administration degree from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a Bachelor's degree in Urban Sociology from Suffolk University.



Mark Elliot – Mr. Elliot is a managing partner at SC Opportunity Fund with over 15 years of real estate investment experience. Focusing on Opportunity Zones, he is working with developers, investors, municipalities, other funds and property owners. Mr. Elliot has done a range of deals from single-family homes to large mixed-use developments and everything in between.

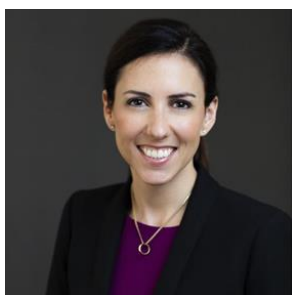
Mr. Elliot is the Founder of both the Opportunity Zone Fund Managers Group and the Real Estate Investors Roundtable Group. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business, Stevenson University and is a Clemson University MBA Mentor.





Donna Ennis – Ms. Ennis is the project director for the MBDA Business Center-Atlanta located at Georgia Tech’s Enterprise Innovation Institute. Funded by the Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), the MBDA Business Center’s mission is to grow and strengthen Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs). Ms. Ennis is responsible for the strategic direction, marketing, outreach, and operations for the Center. She also provides assistance to Center clients in strategic, business and market planning; private and public procurement, finance, operations and business process improvement. Under Ms. Ennis’ leadership, the Center has assisted MBEs in generating over \$500 million in contracts, financing, and sales and creating more than 3,500 jobs.

Ms. Ennis received her bachelor’s degree in communications from Boston University and a master’s degree in Public Administration from Georgia State University. She was named in 2009, 2010, and 2011 as one of *Atlanta’s Top 100 Black Women of Influence* by the Atlanta Business League and is an awardee of the 2011 Georgia Tech Women Out Front program.



Amy Michaelson – Ms. Michaelson graduated summa cum laude from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and graduated magna cum laude from the university’s College of Law. Prior to joining Sixty West, Ms. Kelly practiced law for 10 years in Atlanta, Georgia, and spent most of her career at Greenberg Traurig, LLP, an international Am Law 15 law firm. In private practice, Ms. Kelly represented large companies and government entities in complex litigation involving real estate development and other business ventures.

As Chief Operating Officer of Sixty West Funds, Ms. Kelly has been instrumental in launching Sixty West’s Opportunity Zone program, participating in the identification of targeted investments and the design of one of the nation’s first Opportunity Zone funds. Ms. Kelly is a frequent speaker on Opportunity Zone investment topics and educates participants in all areas of real estate development on the Opportunity Zone legislation.



Edward S. Smith, Ph.D. - Edward S. Smith, Ph.D., is the Chief Opportunity Zones Officer at Invest Atlanta. In this position, Dr. Smith develops and leads the strategy for connecting qualified investors to place-based initiatives, development projects, and businesses seeking investment capital located within Atlanta’s federal Opportunity Zones. Originally from Jonesboro, GA, Dr. Smith has provided advisement and consulting services to economic development and community development stakeholders seeking to raise capital, attract jobs, and promote sustainable economic development in urban communities across the United States.

A graduate of the University of Delaware’s School of Public Policy and Administration, Dr. Smith has conducted significant research on the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program. Prior to his doctoral studies Dr. Smith served as the Deputy Director of Development and Planning at the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, where he helped attract millions in EB-5 investment that led to the creation of thousands of jobs in and around the industrial park. A former Coro Fellow, Dr. Smith currently teaches Economic Development Policy as an Adjunct Faculty member in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. Dr. Smith holds a B.A. in Africana Studies from the University of Pittsburgh and an M.S. in Urban Policy & Management from New School University.

