

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

THE CITY WE HAVE, THE CITY WE WANT



RON SIMS

FORMER HUD DEPUTY
SECRETARY

Ron Sims is a civic volunteer active in health, education, environmental and social equity issues. Appointed by Governor Jay Inslee, Sims serves as the chair of the Washington Health Benefit Exchange Board. The board is responsible for the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Washington State.

Sims served as the Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from 2009-2011. He was appointed by President Obama and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Prior to his appointment at HUD, Sims served for 12 years as the elected Executive of Martin Luther King, Jr. County in Washington State. As County Executive, Sims was nationally recognized for his work on the integration of environmental, social equity and public health policies that produced groundbreaking work on climate change, health care reform, affordable housing, mass transit, environmental protection, land use, and equity and social justice.



LEAH TREAT

MANAGING DIRECTOR,
NELSON/NYGAARD

Leah understands that by daring to work together on the issues we care about, we can transform our communities into more sustainable, equitable, and livable places.

As Nelson\Nygaard's Managing Director, Leah is the steward of the firm's values and its commitment to putting people first. Her leadership and capacity to inspire others has resulted in visionary transportation initiatives in the communities in which she's worked. As mobility changes, Leah guides Nelson\Nygaard to the forefront of innovation, driven and informed by the values of our firm, our communities, and our clients.

Leah joined Nelson\Nygaard after spending five years as the Director of the Portland Bureau of Transportation, where she launched transformative programs like Parking Kitty and BikeTown and made Portland a Vision Zero City. Through her leadership, PBOT grew its Safe Routes to School program, reinvented Sunday Parkways, and became the first city in the U.S. to adopt design standards requiring cycle tracks in new developments. Previously, Leah served in management roles for the Departments of Transportation in Chicago and Washington, D.C. and on the board of NACTO. In all of these roles, her work has been guided by her commitment to excellence, teamwork, and having fun.