

PANAFEST FOUNDATION  
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST – AFRICAN HERITAGE STUDIES ASSOCIATION

PRESENT

# PANAFEST 2021 INT'L COLLOQUIUM

SECURING THE AFRICAN FAMILY: OUR SOUL, OUR HEALTH, OUR WEALTH



AHSA 52nd ANNUAL MEETING & 2nd VIRTUAL CONFERENCE @ PANAFEST  
July 26 - 28, 2021 Cape Coast, Ghana & In Virtual Space

2021 AHSA & PANAFEST YOUTH DAY  
Infrastructure Sessions

Introducing Youth to American Infrastructure ("Iyai+")  
Friday July 30, 2021 Saturday July 31, 2021



**PANAFEST**  
PAN AFRICAN HISTORICAL FESTIVAL



# WELCOME

## **Topic/Title: A “JUST” Normal: “Community-Builders” – 21st Century Youth-Inspired Infrastructure (the Transport and Water sectors)**

At Iyai+, we strongly support ***Youth Engagement, Empowerment, and Leadership Development.***

YOUTH are a critical element of liberation movements. Iyai+ and its partners are honored to work with AHSA and Panafest 2021 to advance **YOUTH VOICE “AFRICANA” -- a “global network” of youth – “Community Builders” from Africa and the African Diaspora to “Re-IMAGINE” and “Re-WRITE” Infrastructure for the 21st Century!**

Everywhere, the critical infrastructure sectors – like *transportation and water* – are *powerful shapers of personal, community, and societal outcomes*. Historically, and still today, much of our “*built*” infrastructure, development and growth patterns have been destructive to communities across Africa and the African Diaspora.

Beyond bricks, mortar, steel, and services – our panelists emphasize how to utilize infrastructure investments to support “*local capacity-building*”, build “*sustainable communities*” –and drive important economic, environmental, and social outcomes, i.e., good *local* jobs, community economic development, growth, and overall affordability; safe and healthy communities.

Outcomes that are informed and anchored by an understanding of African-centered values, culture, and history.

**Meda wo ase** (Thank you)

[www.iyai.org](http://www.iyai.org) | HASHTAG #iyaiJUSTnormal

**PANAFEST<sup>2021</sup>**  
**INT’L COLLOQUIUM**

# FRIDAY JULY 30

A “Just” Normal: “Community Builders”  
– 21st Century Youth-Inspired Infrastructure

## ACTIVITY

## DETAILS

### Welcome & Call to Order



4:00 pm GMT/ Noon EDT

#### **Dr. Afia Zakiya, Vice President**

African Heritage Studies Association (AHSA)  
Former Sr. Fellow, Water Infrastructure and Policy, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF)



#### **Dr. Beverly A. Scott, Founder/CEO**

Introducing Youth to American Infrastructure (“Iyai+”)

### Opening Remarks



#### **Her Excellency Arikana Chihombori-Quao, MD President/CEO**

African Diaspora Development Institute (ADDI)  
Former Permanent African Union Ambassador to the United States



#### **Yssoufou Cisse, Secretary General**

African Association of Public Transport (UATP)

(Esi Koomson, Iyai+, University of Chicago)

### “A Pan-African Worldview”

**Dr. Afia Zakiya, AHSA**

### Program Overview

**Dr. Beverly A. Scott, Iyai+**

FRIDAY JULY 30

A “Just” Normal: “Community Builders”  
– 21st Century Youth-Inspired Infrastructure

ACTIVITY

DETAILS

Welcome/Moderator



**Ademola Faleti, Federal Procurement Analyst**  
Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)  
Conference of Minority Transportation Officials  
(COMTO), Chicago Chapter

Opening Remarks



**President Dorval R. Carter, Jr., Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)**  
“Equity in Transit: Executive Policy Perspective”

(Sidney Justus, Iyai+)

Presentations



“Legacy of Inequity – How African Youth are Key to Enhancing Transportation in Africa”

**Eryn Barnes, COMTO Intern**  
Washington University, St. Louis, rising Sophomore



**Steve Wilson, COMTO Intern**  
Ohio State University, rising Sophomore

FRIDAY JULY 30

A “Just” Normal: “Community Builders”  
– 21st Century Youth-Inspired Infrastructure

ACTIVITY

DETAILS

Presentations



**“How Do We Win: Case Studies of Chicago & the Southern JMA Program”**

**Erica Iheme**, Southern Director, Jobs to Move America (JMA)

Dialogue: Ademola Faleti and Erica Iheme



**Y4PT: Global Youth Transport Network International Association of Public Transport (UITP), North America**

Isaiah Chauhan, Iyai+, Senior Fellow

Iyai+ Speaks

**“The Struggle Continues – Your Time to Lead”**

(Dr. Juanita Jones-Abernathy, Family Reflections)

**Iyai+ Alumni & Founder, Dr. Beverly Scott**

Closing/Adjournment

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “What Is Your Life’s Blueprint?”**

(Barrett Junior High School in Philadelphia on October 26, 1967)

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PANAFEST<sup>2021</sup>  
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# SATURDAY JULY 31

**A “Just” Normal: “Community Builders”  
– 21st Century Youth-Inspired Infrastructure**

## ACTIVITY

## DETAILS

**Welcome**  
14:30 – 16:30 GMT

**Opening Remarks**

**Presentations**



**Closing Remarks**

**Adjournment**

**Dr. Beverly A. Scott, Iyai+**

**Water Sector Coordinators**

Jayme Beasley, MPA

Citlalli Trujillo, Iyai+

Cheryl Watson, BIG

**Dr. Afia Zakiya, AHSA**

**Raina Turner-Greenlea**

Co-Founder & Director, Black Sustainability, Inc., Atlanta, GA

Building a global network of sustainability practitioners of Afrikan descent; using sustainable solutions to human challenges with regenerative practices, informed by indigenous wisdom.

**Yaw Bangolame, P.E.**

Founder, NKALA Education.

An on-line educational space that advances technical knowledge rooted in traditional African wisdom.

**Tristen Ortiz**

Student, University of Illinois @Chicago, Freshwater Lab

An aspiring writer and film maker who unites water activism and film making. A part of The Backward River team which “dramatizes a widespread scenario of crumbling American infrastructure. At its heart rests a basic denial of malfunction, public harm and the disproportionate burdens placed on communities of color.”

**Naomi Davis, Esq.**

Founder & President, Blacks in Green, Chicago, Illinois.

Blacks in Green (“BIG”) is a bridge and catalyst among communities and their stakeholders in the design and development of green, self-sustaining, mixed-income, walkable-villages in communities owned and populated by African Americans. Places where every household can walk to work, walk to shop, walk to learn, walk to play, and neighbor dollars circulate to reduce greenhouse gases.

**“Community-Builders” - Re-Write A JUST Normal**

(NEXT STEPS: A Call To Action)

**Meda wo ase (Thank You)**

**PANAFEST 2021**  
**INT'L COLLOQUIUM**



## HER EXCELLENCY ARIKANA CHIHOMBORI QUAO MD

Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of ADDI, Her Excellency Arikana Chihombori Quao MD is a medical doctor (having practised medicine for over twenty-five years), founder and owner of medical clinics, diplomat, public speaker, educator and an entrepreneur. She is also an author and her recently published book *Africa 101: The Wake-Up Call* is a best seller on Amazon.

Prior to this, in her role as Permanent Representative to the African Union Mission in Washington DC (2016-2019), Her Excellency Arikana Chihombori Quao MD worked tirelessly towards fulfilling her mandate which was to undertake, develop and maintain relationships between the African Union and the Executive and Legislative branches of the US Government, the African Diplomatic Corps, the Africans in the Diaspora and the Bretton Woods Institutions. This was specifically in relation to the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and advancing the priority areas of Agenda 2063. Her efforts at mobilizing the Diaspora as people of African descent and not as citizens of any single African country is unprecedented and exemplifies her ability to unify people around a common goal, speaking with one voice as one Africa and one Continent.

Before her appointment as AU Ambassador, H. E. Arikana Chihombori Quao MD contributions to the cause of Africa had earned her many prestigious honors and awards. She has two awards which she cherishes the most. The first one was the Achievement Award which she received in 1996 from the incumbent President at the time, H.E. the late President Nelson Mandela of the Republic of South Africa. On the stage as she received the Award were both President Mandela and President Mugabe of the Republic of Zimbabwe. The second one was the African Woman of Excellence Award which she received in July 2015 during the AU Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. She received this award alongside 15 other prominent African Women including the former President of The Republic of Liberia, Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the former President of The Republic of Malawi, Madam Joyce Banda, Mama Winnie Mandela (Republic of South Africa), Mama Ngina Kenyatta (Republic of Kenya) Mama Asigwe Anyiam (Federal Republic of Nigeria) and Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma (Republic of South Africa).

During her 3-year tenure as AU Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Ambassador Arikana Chihombori Quao MD received over one hundred awards and attestations from many organizations including from the African Diaspora within the Americas. She received the 2018 Ambassador of the Year Award from Howard University in Washington DC. She also received numerous recognitions from Members of Congress as well as Governors, Mayors and County Executives from across the United States as well as the Caribbean and South America. The African Continent is also recognizing the noble contributions that H.E. Ambassador Arikana Chihombori Quao MD is making to the development of Africa as evidenced by the following accolades.

In January 2020, after being featured having "A Profile in Courage"; H.E. Ambassador Arikana Chihombori Quao MD was honored to be named 2019 Person of the Year by The Guardian Newspaper which is the largest Newspaper in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. In an article published on June 12 2020 by Eye Gambia, a reputable Gambian newspaper, H.E. Ambassador Arikana Chihombori Quao MD was listed fourth amongst their list of ten most influential Africans for 2019. She was the only female to make this list. Reputation Poll, a leading global reputation-management firm in its July 29th 2020 release of the 2020 list of 100 Most Reputable Africans also features H.E. Ambassador Arikana Chihombori Quao MD as one of the most reputable Africans.

She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians and a member of the American Association of Family Physicians as well as the Tennessee Association of Family Physicians.

Her Excellency Arikana Chihombori Quao MD was born and raised in Zimbabwe where she attained her primary and secondary education. She then left Zimbabwe for the United States of America where she obtained a Bachelor's Degree in General Chemistry, a Master's Degree in Organic Chemistry as well as a Doctor of Medicine Degree.

Her Excellency Ambassador Arikana Chihombori Quao MD is married to her Ghanaian husband and is a proud mother of five children and a very happy grandmother of five grandchildren.

## YSSOUFOU CISSE

CISSE Yssoufou, Secretary General, African Association of Public Transport (UATP), International Association of International Transport (UITP), Regional Office, Africa.

In August 2015, CISSE Yssoufou was appointed Secretary General of the African Association of Public Transport (UATP). He is taking part in the dialogue discussions of the African Union's Specialized Technical Committee for Transport (AUC-STCT). A member of the Executive Committee of SSATP/World Bank, he was also a member of the Infrastructure Advisory Group of African Union Commission (AUC-IAG) for PIDA (Programme for Infrastructures Development in Africa). He has 17 years of professional experience in public transport. He previously worked with SOTRA (Urban Transport Company for Abidjan City); and was seconded to the UATP since 2008. Prior to his appointment as Secretary General, he served as

Director of Research and Development at UATP in charge of the management of projects and membership development. He holds a Civil Engineer degree from ESTP (University of Civil Engineering) Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire), 2001. And, received a Postgraduate certificate in Transport Economics from LET - University of Lyon (France), in 2010.

## DORVAL R. CARTER, JR.

Dorval R. Carter, Jr. is President of the Chicago Transit Authority, the nation's second-largest transit agency, providing approximately 1.5 million rides on an average weekday and serving the City of Chicago and 35 surrounding suburbs. Overseeing more than 10,000 employees, President Carter carries out CTA's mission of delivering quality, affordable transit services that link people, jobs and communities.

Appointed as CTA President in 2015, Mr. Carter has led the way for unprecedented investment in CTA. Under Mayors Rahm Emanuel and Lori Lightfoot, Mr. Carter has overseen more than \$8B of projects completed, begun or announced—including the largest construction project in CTA history (the Red and Purple Modernization), the largest railcar order in the agency's history, and the reconstruction/rehabilitation of more than 40 rail stations.

Prior to becoming CTA President, Mr. Carter served as the Acting Chief of Staff to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, managing a department with more than 55,000 employees and a \$70 billion budget that oversees air, maritime and surface transportation.

Prior to that, Mr. Carter served as Acting Deputy Administrator for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as well as FTA's Chief Counsel, where he provided support to the Department of Transportation's General Counsel on legal matters concerning the federal transit program.

Mr. Carter is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the 2021 Thomas B. Deen Distinguished Lectureship Award from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's Transportation Research Board (TRB). He was also presented with the 2019 Motorola Foundation Excellence in Public Service Award from the Civic Federation of Chicago. A graduate of Carroll University in Waukesha, Wisconsin, where he is Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Carter also holds a Juris Doctor degree from Howard University School of Law. He is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., as well as the Illinois and Federal bar associations.



## DR. AFIA ZAKIYA

Dr. Afia Zakiya, Vice President, AHSA

Former Sr. Fellow, Water Infrastructure and Policy, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF)



Dr. Afia Zakiya is a Political Scientist, Ecologist and Africana Studies Scholar-Activist. Currently a Fulbright Specialist Scholar, she was recently a Sr. Fellow, Water Infrastructure and Policy-Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. She was Country Director, WaterAid Ghana and an IWID Fellow USAID Africa Bureau, as the first Gender Advisor. Afia has worked and/or taught in 22 African Countries. As Assistant Professor, Africana Studies she created the first Women in Africa and the African Diaspora course at Morris Brown College. She is Vice-President of the African Heritage Studies Association (AHSA), and active in numerous organizations such as NCOBRA and CIBI, among others, and is International Board member, Pan African Heritage World Museum and a founding member African Studies Association of Africa. A published author and scholar-activist, Afia penned in 2021 a new introduction for AHSA's book on Dr. John Henrik Clarke's legacy.

## DR. BEVERLY SCOTT

Dr. Beverly A. Scott, Founder/CEO of Introducing Youth to American Infrastructure (Iyai+)



Dr. Beverly A. Scott's career in the public transportation industry spans more than three decades in the United States, including four appointments as CEO/General Manager – Boston (MBTA), Atlanta (MARTA), Sacramento (SRTD), and Rhode Island (RIPTA). In 2018, she founded Introducing Youth to American Infrastructure, Inc. ("Iyai+"), a non-profit dedicated to inspiring, educating, and engaging today's youth to be tomorrow's "community builders". American infrastructure leaders, skilled workforce, innovators, and entrepreneurs, – with special emphasis on improving the active participation of our most vulnerable youth and historically underutilized groups in infrastructure careers – people of color and women ([www.iyai.org](http://www.iyai.org)).

Throughout her career, she has received numerous awards and recognitions. In 2020, named to the American Public Transportation Authority's Hall of Fame. Dr. Scott currently serves on the national Board of the American Public Transportation Association ([www.apta.com](http://www.apta.com)); Advisory Committee, Equitcity ([www.equitcity.org](http://www.equitcity.org)); and Jobs To Move America (JMA), Vice Chair. In 2011, she was appointed by President Obama to the National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC), a panel of experts including top business executives, leading academics and local government officials who report to the White House through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security with responsibility for making policy recommendations to protect and preserve the physical assets that are critical to the U.S. economy and national security. In 2012, she was appointed NIAC Vice-Chair and currently serves in that capacity ([www.cisa.gov/niac-reports-and-recommendations](http://www.cisa.gov/niac-reports-and-recommendations)). In 2019, she was appointed by State Treasurer Fiona Ma to the California High Speed Rail Peer Review Group ([www.cahsrprg.com](http://www.cahsrprg.com)). She also serves on the Pacific Gas & Electric Sustainability Advisory Council ([www.pge.com](http://www.pge.com)). Dr. Scott holds a doctorate in political science from Howard University; and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Fisk University (magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa), both Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

# COORDINATORS



**Jayme Beasley, MPA;**  
AHS Coordinator; Clark Atlanta University, doctoral candidate

Jayme Beasley grew up in Stone Mountain, Georgia and received her primary education in the DeKalb County public school system. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in African and African American Studies and Health Promotions from Kennesaw State University. After graduating from KSU, she continued her studies at Clark Atlanta University. While working on a Master of Public Administration degree at CAU, she interned with the Joseph and Evelyn Lowery Institute for Human Rights and Social Justice. While interning, she studied food security in the Historic West End Community in Atlanta, GA. Jayme is currently a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science at Clark Atlanta University where her research is focused on the environmental justice movement and its efficiency in producing policy change. Jayme plans to pursue a career as a policy analyst for the State Department or Department of Agriculture. She later wants to start a nonprofit organization aimed at teaching people of color sustainability habits. Her favorite scholar is Dr. Angela Davis and guides her scholarship through her quote: "We have to talk about liberating minds as well as liberating society."



**Nityananda Bell, Bus Maintenance Manager, CTA**  
Chicago Transit Authority and COMTO, Chicago Chapter Youth Summit Coordinator

Nityananda Bell is an ambitious and diligent transportation professional, who specializes in the areas of bus and automotive repair. A graduate of Lincoln College of Technology in Melrose Park, Illinois, he implements proven leadership skills in order to reach departmental goals.



**Pam Boswell, Vice President**  
Workforce Development & Educational Services  
for the American Public Transportation Association (APTA)

A 25-year transportation professional, Boswell joined APTA in 1999 after serving at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. At APTA, she oversees APTAU – Delivering the Future-Ready Workforce, the association's one-stop educational, professional, career and workforce development center serving APTA members. She works with key stakeholders in developing strategic, comprehensive, and diverse workforce development and educational services program for its members and staff. These programs include Leadership APTA, the Emerging Leaders Program and the American Public Transportation Foundation, APTA's educational arm. Boswell received a bachelor's degree in political science from Clark Atlanta University and a master's degree in public policy from Duke University.



**Isaiah Chauhan, Iyai+ Sr. Fellow/Coordinator**  
University of Illinois at Chicago alumni

Isaiah Chauhan is a graduate from the University of Illinois at Chicago, with an English degree concentrating in Media, Rhetorical and Cultural Studies. He is currently working with Introducing Youth to American Infrastructure (Iyai+) as an Iyai+ Senior Fellow, informing, educating, and assisting in making infrastructure career opportunities for young students possible. Isaiah's work as an Editor on Genius.com has led him to assist and converse with artists such as Chance The Rapper, Jhené Aiko, and BROCKHAMPTON. He has aspirations of attending graduate school and becoming an English professor, in hopes that he can help enlighten the next generation's untapped potential of writing. He is an artist, singer, and writer; his writing earned him an honorable mention for the UIC 2019 English Department Paul Carroll Creative Writing Award. He released his first song, "Trust" this summer and plans to continue producing music in the future for his family and friends. You can listen to "Trust" here: <https://linktr.ee/izeezus>. In his free time, Isaiah enjoys playing basketball and singing.

# COORDINATORS



**Okeino Gordon, Iyai+ Coordinator**  
George Mason University, rising Freshman

Okeino Gordon is originally from Mandeville, Jamaica. He is a rising freshman at George Mason University with an interest in engineering. A recent graduate from the nationally-recognized TransStem Academy at Cardozo Education Campus in the District of Columbia, his high academic scores earned him placement in advanced classes. Okeino is also an athlete and was a running back for the Cardozo Clerks Football team. This is Okeino's third year with Iyai+ helping coordinate discussions with the youth.



**Sidney Justus, Iyai+ Coordinator**  
Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, Senior

Sidney Justus is a current senior at Whitney M. Young Magnet High School in Chicago, IL. Aside from her academic responsibilities, Sidney likes to participate in social activities that allow her to express her passion for civic justice and community service. She is one of the first youth competitively selected to receive an Iyai+, "Community-Builder" Internship, named in honor of Founding Iyai+ Board Member, the late Dr. Juanita Jones-Abernathy. Sidney holds multiple leadership positions of numerous peer-led organizations that are designed to encourage activism and social change. She has helped campaign and host community outreach initiatives such as back to school drives, raising money for scholarships, political marches, and creating programs in low-income communities that promote positive teen engagement. Sidney is planning to enter a four-year college/university and major in public health on the pre-med track. She believes her purpose in life is protecting women of color and acting as their voice in the field of healthcare. Sidney enjoys expressing her creativity whenever she can. Her favorite things to do include dancing, listening to music, and thrifting.



**Esi Koomson, Iyai+ Coordinator**  
University of Chicago, Sophomore

Esi Koomson was born and raised in Ghana. She has been living in Chicago for the past six years. She is a rising sophomore at the University of Chicago with plans to major in Global Studies on a Pre-Law track. At her university, Esi has been involved in many groups on campus, including the Organization of Black Students, where she currently serves as one of the two Co-Presidents. Prior to starting college, she worked as a law intern at the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) during her junior year. Esi also worked as an Iyai+ intern through the CTA during her senior year. At the end of each of these internships, Esi was awarded and recognized for her work and contribution during the internships. Outside of school and work, she works with various community organizations to fight against social injustices that take place in black communities in Chicago. Even more, Esi has worked with organizations where she helps mentor other students and organize yearly Marches for missing black women. Esi has varied interests, so she is always looking to learn and explore.



**Citlali, Iyai+ Coordinator**  
Freshwater Lab at University of Illinois at Chicago

Citlali Trujillo is at University of Illinois at Chicago pursuing a Biochemistry Degree. She is an undergraduate researcher through a federally funded program called the L@S Ganas Research Fellowship. Through her research, she is working in conjunction with Dr. Rachel Havrelock at the Freshwater Lab to find more efficient ways to recycle wastewater pumped through the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, which flows through low-income communities and out into the Gulf of Mexico. Furthermore, the pair seek to educate and change the current narrative on wastewater as an important resource as opposed to just waste. As a result, Chicago can become a leader in innovation that will result in greener jobs, stimulate Chicago's economy, and envision a new way we can live in an ever-changing watershed. She resides in Pilsen where her goal is to help raise awareness of environmental injustices, the public health hazards of toxic industries, and help communities rediscover their relationship with water. Through her role as assistant program manager at Introducing Youth to American Infrastructure, Citlali was able to coordinate a discussion on water policy, water infrastructure, and urban flooding.

# COORDINATORS



**Cheryl Watson**

Climate and Sustainability Associate at Blacks In Green (BIG)

Cheryl is a strategist using design, systems thinking, and management best practices to produce actionable solutions to environmental justice problems. As the Sustainability Associate at Blacks In Green, Cheryl advocates for just environmental policies and inclusive decision-making on city and Illinois state climate, land use, urban flooding, water quality, water infrastructure; utility and Broadband affordability; decarbonization, and energy efficiency issues. Cheryl served as a Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Greenest Region Corps /AmeriCorps member providing technical assistance on the Village of Hazel Crest, Illinois Lead Service Line Inventory development project. This project used the Blue Conduit machine language predictive analysis AI tool to determine the village's lead service lines. She was also the Chair of the Rain Ready Chatham Community Steering Committee that completed a planning effort to fight urban flooding and keep the homes dry in Chicago. Currently, Cheryl provides strategic thought leadership on the city and Illinois state policy working groups around just a transition in the water and energy sectors. Cheryl has diverse educational accomplishments that support her environmental interests, including Biology, B.A. - Northwestern University, Computer Science, M.S. - DePaul University, and Instructional Leadership/Science Education, M.Ed. - University of Illinois @ Chicago.



**Dr. Alessandra Gorini, Director**

Youth for Public Transport (Y4PT)  
International Association of Public Transport (UITP)

Alessandra Gorini, a Doctorate in Biology, is the Head of Youth for Public Transport (Y4PT), the first and unique international group of young people committed to a new lifestyle all around the world, creating a global network of interconnected solutions on sustainability and Public Transport. Drawing on her past experience in teaching, science, public relations, journalism, communication and advocacy, Alessandra has become a leading proponent for the Youth of the world, and enterprises that can reach the Youth. A visionary leader, Alessandra infuses all she does with passion: emotions are not a barrier, but a crucial component of decision making. Innovation and Technology, love for Nature, Sustainability, Empathy and Art are profoundly infusing her motivational and mentoring movement creating worldwide Ambassadors of a new vision of life. She brings her knowledge and charm to the attention of Decision-Makers worldwide to produce changes for an innovative and sustainable lifestyle.



**Andrew Bata**

International Association of Public Transport (UITP)  
North American Regional Office

ANDREW BATA is the Head of UITP's (International Association for Public Transport). North America region. It the leading global transit association (established in 1885) with members (transport operators, industry suppliers, academics, and consultants) worldwide, and present in over 100 countries. His role in UITP features engagement with members focusing on the US and Canada, organizing virtual and in person events, sharing global information and connecting peers. He is a career urban transportation professional having served in various executive roles for the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority where he led units of service planning, innovation, and new technology deployment. His focus is enhancing public transit by championing sophisticated customer service elements. Active in high technology professional associations, he is the former president and current board member of the Intelligent Transportation Society of New York. He is also an adjunct professor of transportation at Columbia and New York Universities.

His life focus is advocating high quality metropolitan life via sustainable, accessible, modern, reliable urban transportation systems.



**Nabeel Faraz**

Youth for Public Transport (Y4PT)

Nabeel Faraz from Y4PT-India Chapter is a Market research and Strategy Professional, Transport enthusiast. Specialist in Organizing Hackathon and Mentoring participants has been serving onboard with Y4Pt for the past 9 years and supported many campaigns and youth laboratories to bring in the best knowledge at Public transport contributing to sustainability. Besides, he consults the companies, startups to strategize and find adjacent markets, emerging technologies to bring in revenue impact.

# IYAI+ PARTNERS



African Association of Public Transport (UATP)



African Heritage Studies Association (AHSA)



AYA International Development & Indigenous Knowledge Institute



American Public Transportation Association (APTAU)



Blacks in Green (BIG)



Black Sustainability Inc.



Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)



Conference of Minority Transportation Officials, Chicago Chapter (COMTO)



Freshwater Labs, University of Illinois @ Chicago



International Association of Public Transport (UITP)



Jobs To Move America (JMA)



NKALA Education



Regional Transportation Authority, Chicago Region (RTA)



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