



Baltimore Thrive Primary Associates:

Vanessa Beck, Baltimore Thrive Coordinator - Since high school, Vanessa has been inspired to do grassroots community organizing to improve conditions where she's lived, locally and/or nationally. Through these experiences, she learned the large role that policies play in creating and maintaining difficult, unethical conditions, and in resolving them. She earned an MA in Social Policy and is excited to be focusing on how we can have more affordable, safer housing and neighborhoods, and more opportunities for local business, culture, and job creation in Baltimore. She's looking forward to connecting with and learning from individuals and organizations working towards these goals.

Ted Gwartney has been engaged in land valuation, analysis, assessment, consultation and management for several decades. He was the Assessor of Bridgeport and Hartford (Connecticut), Southfield, (Michigan), and the Deputy County Assessor of Sacramento, California. While the Assessment Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of the British Columbia Assessment Authority he implemented an annual Province-wide revaluation of the 1,500,000 land parcels. He has also held these positions: Professor, Department of Law, Real Estate Appraisal, Baruch College; President, American Journal of Economics and Sociology; Executive Director, Robert Schalkenbach Foundation; Treasurer, Institute for the Study of Long-Term Economic Trends; Professional Designation, Appraisal Institute (Chicago).

Joshua Vincent joined the Center for the Study of Economics (CSE) as Associate Director in 1993 and has served as Executive Director since 1997. At CSE, he has worked as a consultant to over 75 municipalities, counties, NGOs, and national governments. Vincent works with tax departments and elected officials in restructuring their jurisdictions' taxation to land-based systems. Vincent sponsored and spoke at many events for New Jersey, Maryland, and Pennsylvania municipal conferences. He has testified as an expert witness on the impact of land taxation, from the municipal level up to state legislatures in Texas, Connecticut, Maryland, Indiana and Ohio. Since 2000, Vincent and CSE have conducted over 50 land tax impact studies for cities all over the US.

Lorenzo Gaztanaga was born in Havana, Cuba in 1949, emigrating to the United States with his family in 1961. After graduating from Cardinal Gibbons High School in Baltimore, he attended Loyola and Towson Universities, as well as the University of Baltimore, concentrating on history, political science and psychology. After joining the Maryland Libertarian Party in 1992, he worked with a coalition of alternative parties and independent candidates to reduce the legal barriers to getting on the ballot in Maryland. Over the years, he ran twice for U.S. House of Representatives, twice for Lieutenant Governor of Maryland, three times for Baltimore City Council and once for City Council

President. A call to lower the property tax to reflect only the value of the land and stop punishing people for fixing their property has been a central campaign message each time he ran for a local or statewide office.

Ed Dodson had a forty-year career in financial services that included twenty years with Fannie Mae, where he held several management level and analyst positions; from 1995 to 2005 he was a senior business manager in the Housing & Community Development group based in Philadelphia. Prior to joining Fannie Mae he managed the residential mortgage lending program for a commercial bank. He has a long association with the Henry George School of Social Science, as an instructor and member of the school's board of trustees (serving as President from 1987 to 1997). In 1997 he established the online education and research project called the School of Cooperative Individualism (www.cooperative-individualism.org), which contains an extensive library of articles, papers and books relating to the social sciences and to political economy, particularly.

Rick Rybeck is an attorney with a master's degree in real estate and urban development, Rybeck is the director of Just Economics LLC, a consultancy that helps communities harmonize economic incentives with public policy objectives for job creation, affordable housing, transportation efficiency and sustainable development. (www.justeconomicsllc.com) Prior to starting Just Economics, Rybeck worked in the legislative and executive branches of the District of Columbia Government for over 20 years, working on infrastructure and transportation.

Mike O'Mara is Co-founder and National Committee member of the Democratic Freedom Caucus, which advocates the land value tax shift and other policies which go beyond left and right and promote the public interest rather than special interests. He is a Board Member of the Center for the Study of Economics which consults with cities for implementing the land value tax shift.

Alanna Hartzok, Baltimore Thrive Administrator, is an educator and lecturer on land value tax shift (24 countries); award winning author; two-time candidate for US Congress in Pennsylvania (Democrat and Green Parties); administrator for the International Union for Land Value Taxation; co-founder of Earth Rights Institute, and former International Liaison for the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation. She was instrumental in the passage of enabling legislation for land value tax shift for the 1000 boroughs of Pennsylvania. She recently presented a webinar on the Economics of War and Peace and Baltimore Thrive for the School of Living Community Land Trust. She enjoys her regenerative agriculture homestead and affirms that "the earth belongs to everyone" which is also the title of her book.

To connect with any of the Baltimore Thrive Primary Partners contact:

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