

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER: BREAKFAST, THURSDAY, MAY 25, 8:00 AM



## FRED KENT

Fred Kent is a leading authority on revitalizing city spaces and one of the foremost thinkers in livability, smart growth and the future of the city. As founder and president of Project for Public Spaces, he is known throughout the world as a dynamic speaker and prolific ideas man. Traveling over 150,000 miles each year, Fred offers technical assistance to communities and gives major talks across North America and internationally. Since 1975, Fred has worked on hundreds of projects, including Bryant Park, Rockefeller Center, and Times Square in New York

City; Discovery Green in Houston, TX; Campus Martius in Detroit, MI; Main Street in Littleton, NH; Granville Island in Vancouver, BC, Canada; and a citywide Placemaking Campaign in Chicago, IL.

Before founding PPS, Fred studied with Margaret Mead and worked with William H. Whyte on the Street Life Project, assisting in observations and film analysis of corporate plazas, urban streets, parks and other open spaces in New York City. The research resulted in the now classic, *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*, published in 1980, which laid out conclusions based on decades of meticulous observation and documentation of human behavior in the urban environment.

Most recently, Fred has lead some of the largest projects at PPS including Cape Town Waterfront, Crystal City in Alexandria, VA., Museumplein in Amsterdam, Downtown Detroit, Harvard University's main plaza, and Harvard Square for Cambridge and Harvard. He is also overseeing major projects with Southwest Airlines as part of the "Heart of the Community" campaign. Fred has also been intimately involved with the expansion of Placemaking into a global agenda, helping to achieve a level of international engagement that rivals other major international development efforts. With over 150,000 people around the world following the work of PPS through emails, Twitter and Facebook, he has witnessed interest in Placemaking grow exponentially.

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#### JOSEPH PORCELLI

Joseph Porcelli currently serves as Nextdoor's Northeast Senior City Strategist and "Professional Neighbor." In this role, Joseph focuses on bringing city partners onto the Nextdoor platform to improve relationships and communications among neighbors and city agencies. Some of Joseph's most notable partnerships successes are with the Baltimore City Police Department, City of Newark, and the White House on 21st Century Community Policing Data Initiative.

Before joining Nextdoor, Joseph stood up the Community Engagement consulting practice at GovDelivery, served as the nation's first Community Engagement Strategist for the Department of Homeland Security, and he led online operations and partnerships for the ServiceNation campaign which passed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act of 2009.

Joseph believes the well-being of society depends on the diversity and the strength of bonds we make with our neighbors. His experience neighboring has shown him that our neighborhoods are strongest and neighbors are happiest when we are connected, in communication, and in service to each other.

In his free time, Joseph experiments with ways neighbors can be of service to other and shares the stories of his neighboring adventures on the Nextdoor blog.

Major media publications such as The Hallmark Channel and National Public Radio have featured Joseph's work as a great neighbor, and he has been a panelist at gatherings such as the Ford Hall Forum and CEO's for Cities.

Joseph received a BA in marketing, business management at Saint Michael's College.

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### JOSE GARCIA

Jose Garcia, a retired railroad professional, is a passionate chronicler of local cultural, political, and social heritage, telling the experience of Mexican Americans, Chicanos, and Latinos. Jose currently serves as National Historian for the American GI Forum of Nebraska, trustee of the Nebraska State Historical Society, and secretary of the Nebraska 150 Friends Foundation, an organization that supports the celebration of Nebraska's Sesquicentennial statehood in 2017. He previously served on the board of the Douglas County Historical Society and Omaha

Landmark Heritage Preservation Commission and was a founding volunteer of the Mexican American Historical Society of the Midlands. Jose's work as community historian and cultural activist over the last 50 years is inspired by a belief in cultural exchange across geographic and racial boundaries.



### TERRI D. SANDERS

Terri is a native Omahan who has a strong passion for her community. She currently serves as the Site Manager for the Fair Deal Village MarketPlace, a development of the Omaha Economic Development Corporation. The former Executive Director of the Great Plains Black History Museum, Terri believes that the best is yet to come for the Omaha Community and specifically North Omaha. She is tenacious in the pursuit of excellence in her community.

Terri is a Journalism graduate of Creighton University. She is a self-taught technology person. She believes in all things digital and strives to be current and relevant in her professional and personal life.

Terri is a serial entrepreneur with experience with multiple businesses over the past 30 years. Terri freely shares her knowledge and takes pride in connecting people and places for the greater good. She is married to Daniel Sanders and the mother of three adult children: Daniel II, Symone, and Averi.