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The 16th Annual Municipal Green Building Conference & Expo Returns April 20th with “Connected Cities” as Theme, Hosted by USGBC-LA & SoCalGas

Keynote Speakers Antwi Akom, Eric Corey Freed to Address Economic, Environmental & Equity Solutions for Cities

LOS ANGELES (March 30, 2017) The [Municipal Green Building Conference and Expo](#) (MGBCE) returns for its 16th year on April 20, 2017, as Southern California’s longest running and largest sustainability and green building event focused on the needs and concerns of municipalities. The no-cost event takes place from 8:00am to 6:00pm (Event ends at 4:30, Mixer follows) at the Southern California Gas Company’s (SoCalGas) Energy Resource Center (ERC) located at 9240 Firestone Blvd. in Downey. Hosted annually by SoCalGas and the [U.S. Green Building Council-Los Angeles](#) chapter (USGBC-LA), this year’s theme is “Connected Cities: Economic, Environmental and Equity Solutions”. (Registration is open.)

The conference attracts attendees from across 75 Southern California area municipalities, and from a wide variety of building industry disciplines, including public agencies, utilities, architects, engineers, building/property owners, contractors, non-profits, students and manufacturers. All of these groups are working together to create connected cities that succeed in the three E’s: Economic, Environmental, and Equity solutions.

“Connection and collaboration amongst cities and communities are key to our sustainable future. I’m looking forward to MGBCE where we will be delving into the vital issues that cities face, and debuting the new tools and technologies that are all part of the solution,” states [USGBC-LA](#) Executive Director Dominique Hargreaves.

MGBCE’s programming will address solutions at the building, city and regional scale for city administrators as they seek ways to forge an inclusive and sustainable path forward, and across topics that include Health, Technology & Data, Diversity & Inclusion, Energy & Environment, Housing, Education, Infrastructure, Budgets, Public Safety and Economic Development.

“SoCalGas is proud to support the 16th Annual Municipal Green Building Conference & Expo, and our LEED Platinum certified, state-of-the-art Energy Resource Center is the perfect place to connect Southern California’s municipalities, businesses, and customers,” said Dan Rendler, director of customer programs and assistance. “For decades, SoCalGas has been a leader in



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clean energy, and today, through innovative methane-capture systems, more efficient equipment, and the advancement of renewable gas from landfills, waste water treatment plants, and agriculture as a clean energy source, we continue our work to create a sustainable future for the generations of Southern Californians to come.”

Nationally-recognized authors and speakers Antwi Akom, Ph.D., and Eric Corey Freed will serve as morning and evening keynote speakers, respectively (full release [here](#)). Dr. Akom will speak to “Race, Space, Place, and Waste: How Community Driven Technology Powers Smart and Healthy Cities of the Future.” He is the Founding Director of the Social Innovation and Urban Opportunity Lab (SOUL), and Co-Founder of the Institute for Sustainable Economic, Educational, and Environmental Design (I-SEED).

Dr. Akom has stated, “The two greatest challenges of our lifetime are climate change and income inequality. So most cities are grappling with this disconnect between this official knowledge of what the cities want to do as they grow and develop, and what everyday people want to do with things, public space and land use and transportation,” he said. ([GreenBiz.com](#), 3/31/16)

Returning for his 10th year as the afternoon keynote, Eric Corey Freed, Chief Community Officer of EcoDistricts, Founding Principal of organicARCHITECT, and XPRIZE Bold Visioneer, ends the day with his new talk, “The Power of Exponential Thinking: Creating the XPRIZE for Healthy Buildings.”

With an opportunity presented by XPRIZE to reach for the stars, Freed and his team have designed what the ‘XPRIZE for Healthy Buildings’ will be. He will explain how his XPRIZE team approached this unique opportunity to develop a way to (literally) grow buildings by fusing synthetic biology, genomics, parametric modeling and 3D printing to create a disruption and paradigm shift.

Session highlights include:

- LA Metro: The Challenges and Opportunities of Connecting EV's to Transit
- Maximizing the Value of Public Facilities through Diversity and Inclusion
- Strategic Partnerships Drive Technology Advancement for Infrastructure Projects
- Inside and Beyond the Nexus: How to Deal with the Drought's Impacts on the Economics of Recycled Water
- Proving Zero Energy: the Good, the Bad, and the Getting Better
- Local Government Approach to Deep Energy Retrofits
- SITES
- 2016 Greenbuild Legacy Project Retrospective and a Look at Philanthropy in Green Building
- Fundamentals of Building Resilience
- Energy Benchmarking
- Achieving Energy Efficiency in Water Operations: A Model for Speed and Scale
- A Toolkit for SMART Parks
- Urban Harvest: Toward a Resilient Food Infrastructure for Healthy Cities



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- Design of High Performance Multi-family Residential Buildings
- Understanding Savings by Design Through the Eyes of Four Architects
- LEED, LBC, and WELL: How do they compare?
- The Arc Platform Demystified: Implementing Across Portfolios
- 2020 Vision: Green Building Megatrends - How Larger Trends Surging in the Outside World will Affect Green Building in the Next 5-10 Years

MGBCE sponsors include (alpha order): Arup, Brightworks, Delos, Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction, LA Department of Water & Power, Opterra, Perkins + Will, Renewable Choice Energy, SoCalGas, Waste Management and Vanir. Event media sponsors are California Buildings News, gb&d, Peninsula Publishing and The Planning Report.

For MGBCE **schedule** and **general information**, please visit <http://usgbc-la.org/mgbce/> or contact Event Chair Drew Shula at drew.shula@verdicalgroup.com. For **Sponsorship & Exhibitor** information, please contact Dominique Hargreaves at dominique@usgbc-la.org.

About U.S. Green Building Council-Los Angeles

USGBC-LA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to creating a prosperous and sustainable future within one generation. Our mission promotes sustainability in LA County's built environment by delivering access to knowledge, resources, recognition and networking. (www.usgbc-la.org)

About Municipal Green Building Conference and Expo (MGBCE)

Since its inception in 2000, MGBCE has become an important gathering of leading sustainability and green building advocates within both the public and private sectors in southern California. Hosted by the SoCalGas at the ERC building in Downey, this annual Spring conference and trade show provides training, education and outreach to inform local government agencies, building industry professionals and the general public about the principles, practices and products associated with green building. (<http://usgbc-la.org/mgbce/>)

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