

**Speaker Bios**  
**Mayor Cooper's Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**July 28, 2022**

**Dr. Kendra Abkowitz** joined Mayor Cooper's Office and Metro Nashville/Davidson County in October 2021 as the city's Chief Sustainability & Resilience Officer, working across departments and with the community on environmental, sustainability and resilience issues. Prior to her current role, she held a variety of positions at the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation working on multidisciplinary environmental policy, sustainability, and strategic planning. She began her career at Vanderbilt University tackling operational and educational sustainability projects across campus and the medical center. Kendra has a bachelor's degree in sociology and economics from Vanderbilt University, a Master's degree in sociology from the University of Chicago, a doctorate in environmental management and policy from Vanderbilt University, and a master's in business administration from Middle Tennessee State University.

**Laurel Creech** leads General Services' Division of Sustainability and brings to this role vast experience in running sustainability campaigns and programming as Chief Service Officer, Sustainability Director, and Livability Director in the Office of Mayor Karl Dean. She was one of the first ten Chief Service Officers in the nation as part of the national Cities of Service movement and has since mentored other cities across the US and UK. She developed and implemented the city's first service plan - Impact Nashville - and led Mayor Dean's health and sustainability programs while engaging citizens to be active, healthy, and involved. Laurel was also founder and director of Team Green Adventures and a radio air talent for thirteen years. She received her BA in English from Emory University and is active on the board of several Nashville nonprofits effecting positive environmental change.

**Eric Kopstain** serves as Vice Chancellor for Administration at Vanderbilt University. Eric is responsible for facilities (including campus planning & construction, plant operations, real estate, and sustainability and environmental management), equal access (including equal opportunity & employment, title IX, student access), public safety (including police, parking services and emergency preparedness), mobility and transportation, auxiliary services (including campus dining, printing services, mail services, VU bookstore), human resources, and central administration (including card services, finance and administration, payroll and HR systems).

**Caroline Everett** is the Director of Corporate Responsibility and a member of AllianceBernstein's Responsible Investing team. She is tasked with developing the multi-year strategy for AB's corporate ESG efforts, which complement the firm's responsible investing and community relations work. Prior to joining AB, Everett was a director of strategy at BrightHouse, a division of the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) that helps companies define a purpose-driven approach to corporate responsibility. At BrightHouse, she led engagements in North America, Europe and APAC, and worked extensively in financial services. Everett holds a BA in art history from the University of the South.

**Adam C. Sansiveri** is a Managing Director and Head of the Nashville Private Client Group at AllianceBernstein's Global HQ. He is also an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and a renewable

energy investor who has dedicated his passions and expertise to helping like-minded individuals manage and grow their wealth. Adam focuses on socially responsible investing, working closely with clients to identify investments that match their beliefs and goals. He holds a BS (cum laude) in biochemistry from Cornell University and an MBA in economics and media management from the Fordham University Graduate School of Business. He currently serves on seven nonprofit boards, six which are located in Tennessee.

**Nancy Anness** is the Chief Advocacy Officer with Saint Thomas Health/Ascension Tennessee where she has held clinical and leadership roles for two decades. Ms. Anness is the Government Relations and Health Policy Officer for Saint Thomas Health responsible for federal and state health policy and Ascension Tennessee's 100% Campaign: 100% Access and 100% Coverage. A board-certified practicing family nurse practitioner with more than 30 years of experience, Ms. Anness has practiced in rural and urban health care settings and has coordinated various medical missions throughout North America, Central America and South America serving those most in need and vulnerable.

Prior to Saint Thomas, Ms. Anness was an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Vanderbilt University and started the Vine Hill Community Clinic as the Director and first practicing family nurse practitioner. She has also held adjunct academic teaching positions with Belmont University's School of Nursing, Vanderbilt University, the University of Tennessee at Memphis, the University of Texas at Arlington, and the University of Florida School of Public Health. She has served as clinic manager and family nurse practitioner with Neighborhood Health in Hartsville. In her early nursing career, she practiced at a number of institutions in Kentucky and Tennessee as a Registered Nurse in the hospital setting.

Ms. Anness has received numerous recognitions for her work. She was named a "Top Ten Women To Watch" in health care by the *Nashville Medical News* in 2008 and has received awards and honors from Ascension Health, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, the Tennessee Primary Care Association, Tennessee Justice Center, Saint Thomas Health, the YWCA, Tennessee New Beginnings (Spirit of Wellness), the Tennessee Nurses Association and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. Most recently, Nancy received a 2019 Tennessee Justice Center's Mother of the Year/Hall of Fame Award. The award honors healthcare heroes who have worked on behalf of all Tennessee families who have demonstrated the ability to work together to solve problems. Honorees have transcended political divisions and overcome crises, showing how government and citizens can work together to get things done for the benefit of vulnerable families.

Ms. Anness serves on numerous boards and committees including Tennessee Board of Nursing, Middle Tennessee Consortium of Safety Net Providers, Healthy Nashville Leadership Council, the New Beginnings Center, and Mary, Queen of Angels. She is past advisory board member of the Tennessee Center for Diabetes Prevention and Health Improvement, NashvilleHealth, the Nashville Advancement Career Center, Tennessee EPSD&T for Children, and Catholic Charities. She is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University (A.S.N.), Western Kentucky University (B.S.N.) and Vanderbilt University (M.S.N., A.P.N. and F.N.P.).

**Nicholas Farina** is currently the General Manager at 1 Hotel Nashville. His passion for the industry started at a young age apprenticing in kitchens before starting a career in hospitality after attending Boston University School of Hospitality. He then joined Dorchester Collection at the New York Palace and held numerous positions in Food & Beverage, Sales and Rooms Operations. In 2016 he joined Loews Hotels as the Hotel Manager at the Loews Regency overseeing all hotel operations. Then, in 2019 he joined 1 Hotels as the General Manager for 1 Hotel Central Park where his passion for being a steward of sustainable practices from how we impact the environment as individuals and as business operators became a driving force behind running a luxury, sustainability-focused brand. In 2021, Nicholas moved to Nashville to oversee the opening of 1 Hotel Nashville, where he is getting involved in the community as much as possible to bring further awareness to sustainable practices in the city.

**Ana Serra** is the Director of Governance and Sustainability at Nissan Americas. A native of Brazil, Ana joined Nissan in 2005 and has had several positions in Consumer Research, Marketing and Corporate Governance. In her current role, Ana leads the Sustainability efforts for Nissan Americas, which supports our commitment to achieve carbon neutrality across the company's operation by 2050.