

Alumni Panel Discussion
6:45-7:40pm
“Planning Trends Today, Training for Tomorrow”
Assistant Professor Ashok Das, Moderator

Eduardo Cabrera: Acting Supervisory Operations Officer, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Ed Cabrera is currently the Acting Supervisory Operations Officer for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (or HUD) here in San Francisco. He was first introduced to HUD after taking Debbie Leveen’s advice (former SFSU Urban Studies Program Director) and visiting with an alumnus of our program who was already working in the Department and who is also here today, Karna Wong. In 1999, Ed went to work for HUD as a Community Builder where he got a trial by fire of the Federal funding process in Washington D.C. and came back home to California soon after that to put what he learned to use for the benefit of underserved communities interested in accessing Federal resources throughout the State. His work in this regard led to numerous non-profit housing providers successfully competing for Federal funds. From 2004 to 2009, Ed served as the Federal point person on homelessness for the region and forged partnerships with local and state governments that resulted in the creation of unprecedented levels of political and community will to end homelessness and first-ever documented reductions in numbers of homeless people living on the streets in the region. Prior to joining HUD, Ed was a Policy Analyst for the Service Employees International Union. Ed graduated with a BA in Urban Studies from San Francisco State in 1997 and also completed an Executive Education program at Harvard’s JFK School of Government.

Michael Jacinto: Environmental Planner, San Francisco Planning Department

Michael Jacinto graduated from the Urban Studies program in 2000. Shortly after graduation, Michael began working at the local San Francisco firm, Environmental Science Associates as an environmental consultant and project manager for the preparation of Environmental Impact Reports and technical studies (land use surveys, digital modeling, wind tunnel testing, etc.) for public and private projects. Since 2005, Michael has been employed at the San Francisco Planning Department as an environmental planner where he’s responsible for implementing the California Environmental Quality Act for a range of development projects and neighborhood plans, including the recently adopted Eastern Neighborhoods Rezoning and Area Plans Project, as well as a variety of residential, office and institutional projects, such as the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art expansion project. When he’s not reviewing EIRs, Michael enjoys international travel, having recently visited Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Norway and Germany.

James Stagi: Transportation Planner, Metropolitan Transportation Commission

A lifelong Bay Area resident, Jay received his B.A. from San Francisco State University in 2000. He holds a B.A. degree in Urban Studies, with a focus in policy, geography, and planning. He worked for Fehr & Peers Associates Transportation Consultants from 2000 until the beginning of 2004. While at Fehr & Peers Jay worked on a number of projects, including: the Pleasant Hill BART Station Charrette, California HSR Sacramento-Bakersfield DEIR, and CCSF Master Plan. Jay received his Master of City Planning degree from University of California at Berkeley in 2006, with concentrations in Transportation Planning and Urban and Regional Economic Development, and he studied Urban Design. Following graduation, Jay worked for a short period at Alta Planning + Design developing bicycle and pedestrian plans. Jay was hired by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in April 2007 specifically to implement the Transit Connectivity Plan.