Boston University URBAN Graduate Program in Urban Biogeoscience and Environmental Health

**Urban Governance Series**

**Stakeholder Meeting Discussion Guide**

Background: Each spring, Ph.D. students in the BU URBAN Program (“URBAN trainees”) engage in a three-part series on Urban Governance, which include 1) a viewing of the State of the City Address for the City of Boston, followed by a debrief led by Stacy Fox of [BU’s Initiative on Cities](https://www.bu.edu/ioc/); and 2) an observation of a civic meeting on a topic relevant to the trainee’s research and a reflection about the issues discussed, stakeholders involved, and goals of the involved parties.

**For Part 3 of our Urban Governance Series, URBAN trainees engage in individual conversations with stakeholders, decision-makers, or experts, for a two-way exchange of knowledge, resources, and inspiration.**

Goals for trainees: expand perspectives on the urban environmental challenge of interest for their research, expand professional network and learn about career pathways, and identify next steps for doing research that matters.

Goals for stakeholders, decision-makers, or experts: learn about ongoing research related to an urban environmental challenge of interest, expand professional network, and identify next steps for advancing research that matters.

We suggest planning a 45-minute call, and keeping it organic, free-flowing, and fun! Consider the discussion prompts below to facilitate a productive conversation. Feel free to decide either ahead of time or at the start of the meeting what you plan to discuss.

For both parties: consider sharing an example of your past work or ongoing project – maybe a blog post, press release, op-ed, etc. For 1st-year trainees, consider sharing an example of similar work that you hope to build on.

* For trainees
  + Describe your research: current status, goals, and challenges
  + Share experience from civic meeting observation
  + Convey professional/career goals
* For stakeholders, decision-makers, or experts
  + Describe your leadership role and career pathway
  + Share perspectives on the field, opportunities and challenges
  + Suggest next steps for advancing research or professional development (resources, contacts, reflection questions, etc.)

**Most importantly, have fun!**

Questions? Email Emily Walton at [urban@bu.edu](mailto:urban@bu.edu) or Stacy Fox at [sfox@bu.edu](mailto:sfox@bu.edu).