

CARLA CASTILLO 69 Hasbrouck Avenue, Cornwall, NY 12518
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Executive Profile	Sustainability and Neighborhood Revitalization professional with 26 years' experience leading transformative initiatives in multilingual, socioeconomically diverse communities. Proven ability developing strategic cross-sectoral partnerships to successfully raise funds for and implement multi-program initiatives. Developer of impactful and implementable policies and plans intended to address public policy issues. Successful management of \$25 million in funded efforts.
Core Competencies	Strategic Planning • Cross-sectoral Program Leadership • Program Development/Management/Reporting • Stakeholder Engagement • Relationship Building/Management • Team Building/Leadership • Capacity Building • Grant Writing • Budget Management • Public Speaking • Facilitator • Trilingual
Leadership Experience	<p>Hudson Valley Regional Council, Newburgh, NY August 2016 - present <u>Executive Director</u> Direct regional work in the 203 municipality, seven-county Mid-Hudson Region on US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration grants, Northern Borders Regional Commission projects, NYSDEC 604(b) Water Quality Program, NYSEDA Clean Energy Communities Program, NYSDEC Climate Smart Communities Program, and NYSDEC- & HREP-funded Climate Action Planning Institutes in Dutchess and Westchester Counties. Manage team of six in implementation of regional work.</p> <p>Oversee organizational contractual work of \$1.2 million. Manage relationship with HVRC 19-member Board. Lead updating of organizational by-laws, personnel policies, and organizational policies and procedures. Apply for grants.</p> <p>Advance regional sustainability efforts through participation in and support of the Materials Management Working Group and Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Coalition.</p> <p>Served as Senior Planner/CEC Coordinator August 2016 – December 2018; Deputy Executive Director January 2019 – June 2022; Interim Executive Director July 2022 – December 2022.</p> <p>NKCDC, Philadelphia, PA 2011 - May 2014 <u>Community Engagement Director</u> Strategically expanded and implemented North of Lehigh neighborhood revitalization and Sustainable 19125&19134 initiatives in 3 neighborhoods (60,000 residents). Leveraged over \$50 million in investment and 5,000+ annual volunteer hours. Developed and implemented departmental reporting standards, including sustainability indicators and metrics, community engagement/volunteer tracking systems, and impact tracking and monetization. Led and empowered team of 7.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Effectively managed 20-contract, \$450,000 departmental budget. Won grants totaling \$1.3 million (e.g., Wells Fargo Foundation, St. Christopher's Foundation for Children, PWD, PADCED, OHCD, NeighborWorks, Conrail). Negotiated elimination of ineffective departmental programs.Reduced blight and drug activity through establishment of new civic association, participatory planning, arts- and greening-focused community building efforts, and CPTED projects. Collaborated with DA's Office, local Police District, L&I, NGOs, and residents.Expanded Sustainable 19125&19134 initiative, consisting of Big Green Block GSI project, Farm to Families CSA, workshops and events, composting, tree plantings, recycling, and growing leadership.Promoted initiatives successfully via appropriate social media platforms: developed new Sustainable 19125&19134 website, initiated action-oriented tweeting/texting, expanded social media postings.Selected to lead neighborhood planning process and interdepartmental goal/strategy development.Presented to local and national audiences on award-winning community engagement practices.

Recyclebank, New York, NY

2009 - 2011

Community Outreach Manager—Philadelphia Recycling Rewards

Inspired 150,000 households to recycle, resulting in \$9.8 million benefit to Philadelphia. Increased city-wide diversion rate by 6% and low-wealth neighborhood diversion by 23%. Led cross-functional planning process and developed community outreach plans. Developed program dissemination strategies with staff and over 100 elected officials, NGOs, environmental organizations, schools, large-scale employers, and faith-based institutions. Trained and co-managed over 400 street team members.

Reinvestment Fund, Philadelphia, PA

1998 - 2004

Project Manager, Development Finance Forum

Advanced development finance industry as secretariat for Ford Foundation-funded think tank of international directors, CEOs, and Foundation leadership. Co-facilitated international conference sessions on microfinance capitalization and distribution, institution and industry building, and policy development and advocacy. Managed content development and publication process for position paper *Capital Plus*; co-wrote and edited. Directed 7 US and international staff in conference planning and management. Administered grant revenue of \$650,000. Won grants totaling \$350,000.

Lending and Technical Assistance Officer, Housing Finance

Stabilized distressed neighborhoods. Developed 155 affordable homeownership and rental housing units. Evaluated project feasibility and organizational financial health; conducted risk analysis. Underwrote, closed, and monitored \$6.5 million in loans. Generated \$2.7 million in tax revenues to date. Won RFQ for management of \$3.7 million Empowerment Zone Housing Trust Fund.

Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, Philadelphia, PA

1995 - 1998

Project Manager

Stabilized distressed neighborhoods. Produced 400 affordable housing units; acquired 150 properties thru eminent domain. Underwrote projects, monitored construction, and processed loan disbursements. Managed loan portfolio of \$8.5 million. Generated \$7.6 million in tax revenues to date. Determined feasibility of commercial, homeownership, industrial, and institutional projects.

Education University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Master of City Planning, City and Regional Planning

Master of Science, International Development and Appropriate Technology

University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

Bachelor of Arts, Latin American Studies (Concentration in Literature and History)

Colby College, Waterville, ME

Spanish Literature

Languages

Spanish: fluent

French: working knowledge

Publications

Cornwall Conservation Advisory Council. Town of Cornwall: Cornwall CAC, 2019.

Cornwall Natural Resources Inventory: Informing the Management of our Historic, Cultural, and Natural Resources. Cornwall Natural Heritage Project: An Open Space Inventory.

Scott Page, Carla Castillo, Rapheal Randall, et al. *North of Lehigh Neighborhood Revitalization Plan.* Philadelphia: NKCDC and Interface Studio, 2013.

Capital Plus: The Challenge of Development in Development Finance Institutions, A Practitioner's Perspective. Edited by Carla Castillo. Chicago: Development Finance Forum, 2004.

Witold Szwajkowski. *Fundusz Mikro: An Experiment in Partnership-Based Microfinance—1998-2002.* Edited by Carla Castillo, Thomas Dichter, Chris Hock, and Tony Sheldon. Chicago: Development Finance Forum, 2004.

Ceiba Neighborhood Strategic Plan. Philadelphia: Ceiba, 1994.

Personal

Traveling, knitting, hiking, biking, kayaking, walking, ceramics.

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ADDENDUM

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC SPEAKING

**Community
Engagement**

Mid-Hudson Region Energy Hubs Working Group, Mid-Hudson Region, NY. Advise Cornell Cooperative Extension – Dutchess County on NYSERDA-funded effort to increase residential and commercial participation in clean energy actions. January 2024 – present.

Orange County Municipal Planning Federation Board, Orange County, NY. Advise the Orange County Planning Department on planning trainings for Orange County municipalities' planning and zoning board members. January 2024 – present.

Hudson River Estuary Management Advisory Committee, Albany, NY. DEC Commissioner appointee to HREMAC, with focus on advising the DEC on regulatory, policy, and other matters affecting the management, protection, and use of the Hudson River Estuary. June 2021 – present.

Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council, Albany, NY. Senate Majority appointee to 24-member board, with focus on enhancing the Hudson River Valley Greenway through grantee selection for projects supportive of regional strategies that protect natural and cultural resources as well as enrich economic development. November 2019 – present.

Orange County Climate Smart Communities Task Force, Goshen, NY. Appointed (May 2019) to advise Department of Planning on sustainability issues key to maintaining the County's leadership role in this work and the NYS Climate Smart Communities Program. May 2019 – present.

Town of Cornwall Conservation Advisory Council, Cornwall, NY. Appointed Chair (Jan 2016) to conserve natural resources through promotion of sustainable actions and appropriate land uses, working closely with 9-member Council, elected officials, community groups, and residents. Ideate and guide implementation of projects to raise community's environmental awareness (e.g., Earth Day Celebration, NRI, recycling, Tree City USA). Completed three planning projects with the support of the Hudson River Estuary Program and in partnership with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Orange County Land Trust, and Cornell University: *Cornwall Natural Resources Inventory*, *Cornwall Scenic Resources Inventory*, and *Cornwall Natural Heritage Project*. Write grants. March 2015 – present.

Town of Cornwall Comprehensive Plan Committee, Cornwall, NY. One of five appointed Committee members who reviewed and recommended updates to 2011 Comprehensive Plan. While Plan encompassed all standard areas, such as demographics, housing, and economic development, as representative of Town's Conservation Advisory Council focused comments on sustainability and conservation areas. January 2017 – December 2018.

Town of Cornwall Board Candidate, Cornwall, NY. Ran for public office, engaging with residents and stakeholders in the Town and Village. April – November 2017.

Cornwall Elementary School & Cornwall Central Middle School, Cornwall, NY. Fostered sustainable actions, working with Green Team, school administration, and educators. Developed recycling plan; implemented. September 2014 – 2016.

Cornwall Central School District Health & Wellness Committee, Cornwall, NY. Updated Health & Wellness Policy to meet best practices of Alliance for a Healthier Generation, working with School District administrators and staff. September 2014 – 2015.

Somerset Neighbors for Better Living, Philadelphia, PA. Supported Kensington residents and NKCDC staff in community building efforts. Provided project planning guidance. 2014 – 2015.

Climate and Urban Systems Partnership, Philadelphia, PA. Represented community's perspective in development of innovative engagement methods intended to educate residents on climate change issues. Served in advisory capacity with local partners and stakeholders, science educators, climate scientists, and learning scientists. 2013 – 2014.

Central Delaware Advocacy Group, Philadelphia, PA. Represented NKCDC's community in CDAG's efforts to foster publicly accessible waterfront development along the Delaware River. 2013 – March 2014.

**Public
Speaking**

Mid-Hudson Regional Renewal Energy Forum, *"Municipal, Institutional, and Commercial Models,"* December 2019. Moderated panel focusing on efforts of local leaders to advance renewable energy and the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Panelists included Audrey Friedrichsen of Scenic Hudson, Bryant Carlson of Solar Liberty, Rev. James Childs of Pointe of Praise Community Solar, Kai Nybro of SunCommon, Nina Orville of Sustainable Westchester, Dan Welsh of Westchester Power, Carol Roig and Stephen Stuart of Sullivan County Office of Sustainable Energy, Larry Reeger of SUNY Sullivan, and Joe Simoes of the Town of Clarkstown.

SUNY New Paltz, *"2019 Hudson Valley Future Summit,"* November 2019. Facilitated group discussion for regional leaders in partnership with Professor David Richardson on Climate Change: Preparing the Hudson Valley and Protecting Our Environmental Resources.

Scenic Hudson, *"The Value of Conservation Advisory Councils,"* November 2019. The Community Preservation Fund Workshop walked invited participants through the work involved in establishing a Community Preservation Fund. Participated in panel focused on Developing an Effective Community Preservation Plan, which was moderated by Michelle Smith of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust and included Laura Heady of the Hudson River Estuary Program, Cari Watkins-Bates of Scenic Hudson, and Erin Tobin of the Preservation League of NYS.

Hudson River Estuary Program, *"Conservation Advisory Councils and Boards,"* September 2019. Panelist on first of HREP's Conservation and Land Use 101 Webinar Series, focusing on the supporting role that CAC and CB can play in local land use planning. Panelists included HREP Ingrid Haeckel and City of Kingston Sustainability Coordinator Julie Noble.

Climate Solutions Summit, *"Climate Solutions in the Town of Warwick,"* September 2019. Moderated panel discussion of on-the-ground solutions being implemented by Warwick leaders: Town Supervisor Michael Sweeton, Warwick Valley Central School District Assistant Superintendent for Business Timothy Holmes, and Sustainable Warwick Michael Helmes.

Capital District Regional Planning Commission, *"Climate Smart Communities & Clean Energy Communities,"* February 2019. Webinar organized by NYSEDA Clean Energy Communities eastern territory manager, CDRPC, and hosted by NYSDEC, focusing on the Hudson Valley Regional Council's Climate Action Planning Institute (CAPI). With HVRC CAPI lead, Clean Energy Communities Coordinator Europa McGovern, CAPI partner Jim Yienger of Climate Action Associates, and DEC Office of Climate Change Dazzle Ekblad.

Hudson Valley Regional Council, *"Large-Scale Solar at the Regional, State, and National Levels,"* October 2018. Traveling workshop, Navigating Large-Scale Solar Development in Your Community: A Tour for Mid-Hudson Municipal Officials, to solar installations in Warwick, Wawayanda, and Wallkill. Additional presentations from Warwick Valley Central School District Assistant Superintendent for Business Timothy Holmes, Wawayanda Supervisor John Razzano, EPA Environmental Scientist Gina Ferreira, Wallkill Commissioner Louis Ingrassia, HVRC CEC Coordinators (Europa McGovern, Niklas Moran.)

Vassar College Lifelong Learning Institute, *"Influencing Public Policy – The Power of an Engaged Community,"* October 2018.

Orange County Municipal Planning Federation, *"LED Street Lights – Best Practices and Zoning Considerations for Implementation,"* May 2018. Multi-presentation course with Orange County Planner Kate Schmidt and HVRC CEC Coordinators Europa McGovern and Niklas Moran.

Hudson Highlands Land Trust, *"The Taste of Sprawl – Safe Drinking Water: An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure,"* April 2018. Presentation and moderator of panel with Riverkeeper President Paul Galloway, The Chazen Companies Principal Russel Urban-Mead, Cornell Water Resource Institute Source Water Specialist Elisa Chae, Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance Member Peter Smith.

Hudson Valley Regional Council, “*Clean Energy Communities Program Launch Event*,” September 2016. Conference launching NYSERDA’s CEC Program with CEC Coordinator Europa McGovern.

US Green Building Council, Delaware Valley Green Building Council, Greenbuild 2013, “*Revolutionary Civic Engineering: Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Leadership*,” November 23, 2013. Mobile workshop panel with Philadelphia Water Department Energy Program Manager Paul Kohl and Liberty Lands Park Co-chair Janet Finegar.

Temple University, Center for Sustainable Communities, “*Sustainability and Behavior Change*,” November 2013. Guest lecturer.

Center for Community Progress, Investing in the Future: Unlocking Hidden Values / Reclaiming Vacant Properties, “*Big Green Block: Reclaiming Properties through Greening in Fishtown/Kensington*,” September 2013. Mobile workshop panel with Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Sustainable Communities Director Glen Abrams and NKCDC Executive Director Sandy Salzman.

NeighborWorks America, Community Building and Engagement, “*Community Building through Sustainability*,” August 2013. Mobile workshop panel with Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Sustainable Communities Director Glen Abrams and NKCDC Executive Director Sandy Salzman.

ABC Action News, “*Local Program Brings Fresh Produce to Area Families*,” June 2012. Interview segment on St. Christopher’s Foundation for Children’s Farm to Families program at NKCDC.

Sustainable Cherry Hill and The Franklin Institute, PA/NJ Sustainability Symposium 2012, “*Community Organizing: Creating and Sustaining the Groundswell Momentum*,” March 2012. Panel with Sustainable Cherry Hill Executive Director Lori Braunstein, Sustainable Communities Initiative—West Director Iola Harper, and Asociación de Puertorriqueños en Marcha former Deputy Vice President for Programs Jennifer Rodriguez.

Comcast Network Larry Kane Voice of Reason, “*Sustainability in Philadelphia*,” November 2011. Presided on panel with Mayor’s Office of Sustainability Director Katherine Gajewski.

Academy of Natural Sciences, Urban Sustainability Forum—Trash to Treasure: Recovering Value from the Waste Stream, “*Philadelphia Recycling Rewards—Transformative Partnerships*,” October 2010. Panel with City of Philadelphia Recycling Coordinator David Biddle, Revolution Recovery Cofounder Avi Golen, and Recyclebank Community Affairs Director David Kinsey.

Philadelphia Streets Department, Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee Block Captain Rally—Count Me In, “*Philadelphia Recycling Rewards*,” March 2010. Workshop presenter.