City of Tempe Resilience Workshop

**Partners:** City of Tempe, National League of Cities, and Arizona State University (School of Sustainability; School for the Future of Innovation in Society).

**Goal:** Introduce and then embed long-term sustainability, resilience and systems thinking among staff and leaders in the City of Tempe.

**Approach:** Multi-modal learning techniques to build an increased understanding of sustainability and resilience concepts. Conduct an interactive activity that encourages city leaders to generate new thinking about ways of solving economic, environmental, social and other issues.

**Topics:** Values, systems, futures, and strategic thinking through the City’s priorities, assets, issues, and shocks. Systems solutions for the City’s identified priorities: quality of life, financial stability and vitality, community connections, sustainable growth and development, and safe communities.

**Participants**

Thirty-seven employees from the City of Tempe. Departments included: Human, Internal, and Community Services; Public Works; City Manager; Courts; Fire; Police; Intergovernmental Relations; Community & Economic Development; and, Strategic Management and Diversity. The workshop included 17 faculty and students from ASU and two individuals from the National League of Cities.

**Structure:** Half-day workshop

**Activities:** Interactive brainstorming activity, featured speakers, team building, and whole group discussion

**Key Outcomes**

- Participants build values thinking skills through discussion of the interconnections between the city’s priority areas and the challenges and necessity of advancing multiple priorities simultaneously.
- Participants build systems thinking skills by linking existing assets within each department to current issues and to assets in other departments. They also think in different ways about what their department has at its disposal to address issues.
- Participants build futures thinking competence by anticipating the potential impact of disruptive events on the city and how their departments could respond and return to addressing issues at hand.
- Participants build strategic thinking by considering how to work across departments to respond to future shocks and return to normal functioning as a part of building a resilient city.

**ASU Faculty**

**Dr. Lauren Withycombe Keeler** is a visiting professor in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society at Arizona State University and founding member of the Center for the Study of the Future and the Risk Innovation Lab.

**Dr. Arnim Wiek** is an Associate Professor in the School of Sustainability at ASU and the head of the Sustainability Transition and Intervention Research Lab. His research group conducts sustainability research on emerging technologies, urban development, resource governance, climate change, and public health.