



# WEBINAR GUEST BIOS

*Improve community health by strengthening social connections*

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**Joanne Lee**  
**Senior project and communications director**  
**Healthy Places by Design**

Joanne Lee is senior project and communications director at Healthy Places by Design. She engages directly with funders and leaders in the field to build capacity and develop initiatives that accelerate and sustain community-led action to ensure health and wellbeing for all. Joanne also provides strategic coaching and technical assistance to community partnerships and practitioners across all phases of planning, implementation, and sustainability. She joined the Healthy Places by Design team in 2005, and has been involved in several of the organization’s major initiatives across national, state, and local levels.

Joanne has professional experience and personal passion around equity, cultural diversity, authentic community engagement, sustainability, and community-based policy and systems approaches. She has lived and worked in diverse settings across the country. Joanne previously served as program director for the Nutrition Division of the Pitt County Health Department in eastern North Carolina. She was also lead research dietitian for the Nutrition Support Shared Resource Unit of the Cancer Research Center of Hawai’i, and served in lead roles on national and international research studies, including NIH-funded investigations. Joanne completed her MPH and BS degrees at the University of Hawai’i. She is a Registered Dietitian and holds a Certificate of Advanced Clinical Education in Child and Adolescent Obesity from the University of California, San Francisco.



**Risa Wilkerson**  
**Executive director**  
**Healthy Places by Design**

Risa Wilkerson is executive director of Healthy Places by Design, a nonprofit consulting group serving philanthropy, nonprofit, and community-based organizations across the United States. Risa provides overarching guidance and strategic vision to fulfill the organization’s mission of advancing community-led action and proven, place-based strategies to ensure health and well-being for all.

Risa’s nearly 20 years of proven leadership in the healthy communities’ field places a focus on equity, integrity, and collaboration. She brings extensive experience coaching and providing technical assistance to multidisciplinary community-based partnerships across the country who are improving health and equity through policy, system and environmental change strategies. Risa combines her knowledge of nonprofit management, coalition building,

## County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Building a Culture of Health, County by County

community assessment, and systems approaches in order to address social determinants of health. Risa holds an M.A. from Michigan State University. Risa is an action-driven optimist, abundance thinker, and simplicity seeker.