

Senior Director, Transit Oriented Communities, Metro

Adjunct Faculty, Sol Price School of Planning, University of Southern California



Melani V. Smith, AICP

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Melani Smith is a senior director in LA Metro's transit oriented communities planning group, where she focuses on integrating sustainable and healthy urban design, first/last mile connections and equitable access for all, into Metro mobility corridor projects in LA County. She is also an Adjunct Faculty Member in the Price School of Policy at the University of Southern California, in the sustainable land use concentration. In 2017 Melani was appointed a member of the Urban Land Institute's first national Health Leaders cohort, working to build cross-disciplinary partnerships and communities of practice around health and the built environment. Much of her career has been focused on building and leading led vision-driven urban design and planning practices in Southern California, most recently, in her nearly 12 years at Meléndrez in downtown Los Angeles, as CEO/President, and Principal. Melani is a fourth generation Los Angeleno, with a B.A. in History from UCLA, and a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from UC Irvine.