

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

John Kromer

Fels Institute of Government, University of Pennsylvania

Former Director, Office of Housing & Community Development, City of Philadelphia

Author, *Fixing Broken Cities: The Implementation of Urban Redevelopment Strategies*

John Kromer specializes in the design and implementation of reinvestment strategies for distressed urban communities, working as a consultant to governments, institutions, businesses, and nonprofit organizations.

As the City of Philadelphia's Director of Housing from 1992 to 2001, Kromer supervised the expenditure of more than a billion dollars in public investment in support of housing preservation and development activities that improved living conditions for thousands of Philadelphia families. The perspective gained through this experience is described in his first book, *Neighborhood Recovery: Reinvestment Policy for the New Hometown*, (Rutgers University Press), which former U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros called, "A primer for revitalizing an American city."

From 2001 to 2009, Kromer was Senior Consultant at the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government. For a thirteen-month period during this time, through a contract initiated by New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine's administration, he served as interim Executive Director of the Camden Redevelopment Agency, in support of a state-mandated economic recovery program for this distressed city.

Kromer's consulting practice has included assignments in many Northeastern and Midwestern cities, often completed in coordination with nonprofit organizations.