Arrietta Chakos; City of Berkeley School Retrofit Program

- Parent experiences from local 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake prompted this effort to improve the seismic safety of Berkeley Schools
  - Formed group of parents worried about safety (include EERI engineer & other parent advocates)
  - Advisory/Oversight Group formed with parents and advocates for Preliminary Assessments of all Berkeley schools (within ~6 months of earthquake)
    - 9 out of 16 schools did not meet requirements at the time
  - EERI members offered pro-bono support and testified to school board and city council on this topic
  - Temporary schools with ~ 18 months of earthquake
  - Introduced legislation to necessitate seismic school upgrades and support by State Bond funds

- Road Blocks
  - Pushback from Sacramento State Allocation Board (funding agency for bonds)
  - Lack of understanding
  - Not wanting to put more money into school safety

- From 1992 – 2010 City of Berkeley has passed 8-9 local tax bond measures (~$1/2 billion + $100s millions of state match, etc.) for public safety upgrades and improvements for disaster readiness (earthquake and fire)
  - Every school building in Berkeley has been retrofitted or rebuilt
  - All fire stations rebuilt or retrofitted
  - EOC retrofit
  - City hall retrofit
  - Public safety building retrofit

- KEY LESSONS:
  1. Leveraged professional expertise of Bay Area for help
     a. Came to policy makers with credible material & technical expertise/calls for action
  2. Developed an active and engaged group of advocates in community
     a. Attended every school board meeting for 18 months with constant visibility and calls for action to keep message alive
  3. Had very responsive elected officials
     a. Able to get help and engagement from officials: Mayor, local Board of Education, State assembly members, Congressmen
     b. This engagement made additional funds available from state and federal government
  4. Engaged whole community through political process
     a. Took and passed numerous bonds to voters (note that CA requires 2/3 majority vote on all tax measures)