



Equitable Development Interim Advisory Board

Abesha Shiferaw – Rainier Valley Corps: Abesha grew up all over Seattle, but has been living in the Rainier Valley for the past 12 years. After returning from college in San Francisco, she became very involved in community work and volunteering here in Seattle. Abesha is passionate about building community and empowering communities of color, in all their forms, to speak for themselves, to be at the decision-making tables, and to be the force of change for the issues and challenges that are the result of institutional and systemic failures. Fun fact: Abesha loves art and is currently exploring painting, photography, and documentary filmmaking. Her favorite person is James Baldwin and is often caught quoting Baldwin at any point in time. Abesha is the Program Director for Rainier Valley Corps Fellowship Program, a community based organization that promotes social justice by strengthening leaders of color, strengthening and building the capacity of organizations led by communities, and fostering collaboration between diverse communities.

Cassie Chinn – Wing Luke Museum (CID) (Culture Equitable Development): Cassie Chinn, Deputy Executive Director at the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience (The Wing), oversees planning and implementation of exhibition, collection, public programming and education initiatives in collaboration with community members. In her 20 plus years with the museum working in the Chinatown-International District, she has worked with numerous community advisory committees and community members to create exhibitions, gather oral histories and produce other museum projects, including The Wing's recent multi-year exhibition on Bruce Lee. During the Museum's capital project, she led community-based program planning and served on the Design Team. She is the author of The Wing's Community-based Exhibition handbook. She represents The Wing on RSET (Race and Social Equity Taskforce), currently serves on the Seattle Arts Commission (SAC) and 4Culture Heritage Advisory Committee, and chairs the SAC's Facilities and Economic Development Committee. She holds a BA and MA in art history as well as a Master in Teaching.

Giulia Pasciuto – Puget Sound Sage: Giulia Pasciuto is a Policy & Research Analyst at Puget Sound Sage. She provides strategic research and crafts policy solutions for Sage's equitable transit-oriented development, affordable housing, and land-use campaigns. Before joining Sage, Giulia was a housing planner with the Puget Sound Regional Council and policy associate with T.R.U.S.T. South LA, a community driven land trust working to build community control over land to ensure affordable, healthy housing opportunities and related community-serving uses. Giulia has a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from UCLA. She loves building community through food and around Seattle.

Maria-Jose “Coté” Soerens – Puentes (South Park): Maria-Jose “Coté” Soerens is the founding executive director of Puentes, an immigrant-led organization mobilizing mental health resources to support undocumented immigrants and their families as they struggle with a broken immigration system. A new immigrant herself, Maria-Jose was born in Chile and has made Seattle her home, where she lives with her husband Tim and their sons. Taking "illegality" as a lens Maria-Jose is an avid student of legal status as a social determinant of the health of neighborhoods and communities,

writing academically on cultural psychology and migration studies, and organizing for housing justice, economic opportunity, and access to justice and health in South Park, her neighborhood. She is a fellow at Justlead WA's Equal Justice Community Leadership Academy, and a board member of Communities First Association and a founding member of WA Immigrant Solidarity Network. She speaks and writes often on immigration and mental health, and the role of local communities in fostering social transformation.

Srijan Chakraborty – Hunger Intervention Program – (Lakecity): Srijan is the Executive Director of Hunger Intervention Program (HIP), a non-profit with the mission to increase food security for underserved populations in North King County. Before joining HIP he was the Development and Communications Manager at The Sophia Way, an agency that helps women experiencing homelessness with shelter and other services. Srijan left his career as a Software Engineer after working nine years at Microsoft and decided to switch his profession to social work as a way to channel his passion for social justice through direct action. He has a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Washington. Srijan is passionate about a participatory democratic society where people, especially those who have been systematically oppressed, have the power to make decisions that affect their lives.

Tony To – HomeSight (SE Seattle): Tony To is the Executive Director of HomeSight, a non-profit Community Development Corporation whose mission is “to promote equity by preserving and enhancing economically and culturally diverse communities through affordable homeownership, business development, and community advocacy”. Over 26 years, HomeSight has built 500 units of for sales homes, created 2,300 new homeowners, and directly financed over \$25 million in purchase assistance loans. Tony is a current member of the Puget Sound Regional Council Economic Development District Board and a Co-Chair of the Regional Equity Network and a member of the Race and Social Equity Taskforce who worked to include an Equity Development Implementation Plan in the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan update. Tony has served on the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance board (2007-15) and the Washington State Affordable Housing Advisory Board (2006-2014). Tony was the Vice Chair of the Growing Transit Communities Partnership (2011-14) and served two terms on the Seattle Planning Commission and was elected the chair in 2009.

Patrice Thomas – Rainier Beach Action Coalition (SE Seattle): Patrice had the pleasure of being an organizer in Seattle since 2011 working for organizations like Southeast effective development in their Arts & Community Development Dept., and as an Community & Economic Development Associate. She then transitioning to Strategist for Rainier Beach Action Coalition. She is a resident of Rainier Beach, native of Seattle Washington and proud to be in the position that she has been, doing cross sector work with an aim at sustaining and obtaining a high quality of life for South Seattle's people of color neighborhoods and families.

Willard Brown - DNDA’s Director of Housing and Environmental Programs (Delridge): Willard has extensive experience in the development and operation of affordable housing programs, ranging from low income public housing programs to home ownership. With over thirty years of public housing experience, Willard is well-versed in policies and procedures therein as well as in establishing strong relationships between staff and populations served. He has a successful track record of developing positive relationships, a proven managerial skill set in leadership and implementing projects at all level and a desire to give back to the Delridge community he cherishes.

Willard is also an active gardener, taking pride in developing a wonderful home garden in his neighborhood of Puget Ridge. He is well known in the community for his activism, hard work and good humor

Wyking Garrett – Africatown (Central Area): Wyking is a serial social entrepreneur and recognized change agent. He designs programs and initiatives that catalyze, mobilize and activate communities for sustainable social impact. He is the chief strategist for the Africatown Seattle community development initiative and has been a co-catalyst for several ventures including Umoja PEACE Center, Hack Nation and Black Dot and Africatown Center for Education Innovation. Wyking was the recipient of the 2014 Center for Ethical Leadership Legacy Leadership Award and is also an inaugural member of the Seattle Music Commission.

Yasmeen Parez – Social Justice Fund NW (Beacon Hill): Originally from Seattle, Yasmeen has been a community organizer, educator, and resource organizer for over 12 years in racial and economic justice, youth liberation, and LGBTQ left movements. Yasmeen is the former Co-Director of Seattle Young People's Project and Leadership Development Director of FIERCE in New York. Most recently, Yasmeen was the Development Director at Right To The City Alliance, raising funds to support grassroots organizations fighting gentrification and displacement of low-income communities of color from their historic urban neighborhoods. Yasmeen is a recognized leader in grassroots fundraising and co-author of "Resource Organizing: A Toolkit on Member Led Community-Based Grassroots Fundraising." Yasmeen received a BA in Race, Class, & Gender Studies, with a focus in Participatory and Anti-Oppression Education from the Evergreen State College

Maiko Winkler-Chin – SCIDPDA (CID): Maiko is Executive Director of the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda), whose mission is to preserve, promote and develop the Chinatown International District as a vibrant community and unique ethnic neighborhood. She is responsible for the overall direction and sustainability of the organization. Maiko previously served as the SCIDpda's Director of Housing and Facilities, responsible for asset and property management, as well as a member of the SCIDpda's real estate development team. Maiko has 20 years community and economic development experience including asset management, property management, real estate development and finance.

Tsegaye Gebru – Horn of Africa and Northgate Resident: Tsegaye Gebru is currently working with Horn of Africa Services as Executive Director since 2009. Prior to his current job he worked at Neighborhood House as a Rainier Vista site manager and Technology Center Coordinator from 2005-2009. Tsegaye also worked at Concur Technologies and Costco main office as Technical support prior to join as a volunteer HOAS in year 2000 and then hired as part time Technology lab coordinator after few months of volunteered at HOAS. He received Project Management Certificate from UW Tacoma and hold degree in Information Technology as well.

Quynh Pham – Board of Friends of Little Saigon: Quynh is the Fund Development Manager at the Vietnamese Friendship Association. She also chairs the Friends of Little Saigon board, a grassroots organization working on community and economic development, neighborhood planning, and advocacy in Little Saigon/International District.