

Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (CAB) Member Bios

(Listed in order of CAB position number)



Position 1: Food Access Representative.

Joey Lu, Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance. Joey currently works as the Food Access Coordinator with the Neighborhood Farmers Markets Alliance (NFM) in Seattle. She works with city and state agencies, community partners, and farmers to coordinate the administration of food assistance programs in farmers markets, market gleaning operations, and the Growing For Good farm-to-food bank program. She is currently also pursuing an M.S. in Sustainable Food Systems at Arizona State University.

Prior to her work with NFM, she served as a FoodCorps AmeriCorps School Nutrition Service Member with the Oakland Unified School District in her hometown of Oakland, California. Joey graduated magna cum laude, with College Honors from UCLA with both a B.A. in International Development Studies and Sociology, as well as a B.A. in Public Affairs with a minor in Environmental Systems and Society.



Position 2: Food Access Representative.

Barbara Baquero, University of Washington School of Public Health. Dr. Baquero is a faculty member at the UW School of Public Health. Her research focuses on designing and implementing effective community-based interventions to prevent obesity and chronic diseases and promote physical activity and healthy diets among underserved populations, particularly Latinxs. Her research approach intersects community-based participatory research (CBPR), behavior change intervention research, and implementation science. Her research considers socioeconomic, historical, geographical, and structural factors and conditions that characterize communities and includes valuable insights generated by my work with Latinx communities across the US. Dr. Baquero's research activities address gaps in and advance public health research and practice in two main areas: advancing behavioral intervention research applying CBPR with Latinxs and conducting implementation research in community and public health departments focusing on new destinations and emergent immigrant communities.

CAB Member Bios, continued *(Listed in order of CAB position number)*



Position 3: Food Access Representative.

Nurhaliza Mohamath, Rainier Beach Action Coalition.

Nurhaliza (she/her) is a Saigon-born, Seattle-raised Cham Muslim American, immigrating to the Rainier Valley or Occupied Duwamish Territory in 2002. Food is how she navigates the world around her. She is a community member, storyteller, eldest daughter of Cham refugees who believes in collective liberation and reclamation by ways of food sovereignty and justice for our economies and land. She attended Mills College in Oakland, California studying sociology and economics and received her Master's in Business Administration. After college, she began her work in food justice at the Rainier Beach Action Coalition supporting local Black and Brown, immigrant and refugee farmers and young people. If she isn't at her day job you might find her at her family's restaurant called Salima Specialties in Skyway.



Position 4: Community Representative.

Abdi Yussuf, Somali Cultural Center. Abdi Yussuf (he/him) is a community organizer and nonprofit leader with over 15 years of experience advancing equity and supporting immigrant, refugee, and underserved communities. He previously worked as a labor organizer with SEIU Local 6 and as an Equitable Development Organizer with Puget Sound Sage, and served for three years on the City of Seattle's Equitable Development Initiative Advisory Board.

Today, he leads the Somali Cultural Center, where he works to strengthen cultural preservation, youth engagement, community development, and access to resources.



Position 5: Community Representative.

Tanika Thompson Bird, Got Green. Tanika is an African American community organizer and activist who has lived in Seattle her entire life. She first started as an organizer at SEIU 775NW in 2007, as a Member Organizer, and later became an Executive Board Member and Member Political Organizer, door knocking for the 2008 Obama Presidential Campaign. Tanika was recruited to Got Green's Jobs Committee in 2013 by its founder, Michael Woo, and worked to win a "Priority Hire" Ordinance in 2015. She joined Got Green's Board of Directors and continued to volunteer on the Food Access Team until joining the Got Green staff as Co-organizer for the Food Access Team and later became Campaign Director in 2023, as well as Co-director for the organization.

Tanika led the fight to dedicate revenue of SSB tax to low income communities and currently serves as Co-chair of the Seattle Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board.



Position 6: Public Health Nutrition Representative.

Angie S. Wood, Pike Market Senior Center & Food Bank.

Angie was born and raised in Seattle. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and Chinese Language from Oberlin College, and a Master's in Public Health (Community Oriented Public Health Practice) from the University of Washington. Her career has followed her passion for community-centered food systems, leading and designing programs to expand food access, as well as growing and serving food. Angie is driven by the belief that connection to food and place are crucial elements for the health and wellbeing of all communities. She is currently the Director of Food Bank Programs for the Pike Market Senior Center & Food Bank. When she's off the clock, Angie is often out hiking with her wife and one-year-old daughter, caring for "Betty" (her sourdough starter), or getting her hands dirty in the garden.



Position 7: Public Health Nutrition Representative.

Yamila Sterling-Baker, Solid Ground. Yamila (she/ella) is the Director of Food Access and Education at Solid Ground, where she has worked for over five years. She leads initiatives focused on food resources, nutrition education, and community capacity building, overseeing programs like the Seattle Food Committee, Farm to Preschool, Marra Farm, and Cooking Matters. Yamila also manages one of the Emergency Feeding Assistance Program (EFAP) contracts, supporting 30 food banks. Her team provides logistical, financial, and educational support, emphasizing an anti-oppression lens in Seattle-area food

providers' work. She also serves on the South Seattle Community Food Hub advisory group and is a participant in Leadership Tomorrow Class of 2025. With 15+ years of experience across nonprofit, corporate, and higher education sectors, Yamila has held roles including Project Manager at Xerox, Director of Publications at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, and Assistant Program Director at the I Have a Dream Foundation. She serves on the boards of Harvest Against Hunger and the Afrolatin@ Forum.



Position 8: Public Health Nutrition Representative.

Georgina Sanchez, Tilth Alliance. Stefanie Sismaet (she/her) is a Seattle-born Registered Dietitian passionate about advancing equitable access to nutritious, culturally relevant foods. She earned her Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics with a concentration in Public Health from Saint Louis University and her Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics from the University of New Mexico. She works throughout Seattle and King County as the Assistant Director of the Community Dining program at Sound Generations, a multiservice nonprofit serving older adults. By pairing nutrition with social connection, Community Dining offers older adults

freshly prepared, culturally relevant meals in community with one another. Stefanie also leads Sound Generations' Community Food Bags program, partnering with community leaders to provide groceries that reflect the cultural preferences and dietary needs of older adults. Her responsibilities include menu review, food safety, nutrition education, advocacy, grant writing, budget management, supporting chefs, and visiting 29 dining locations. Through this work, Stefanie would bring a community-based nutrition and public health perspective to the Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board, with a particular interest in culturally relevant foods and ensuring community voices inform efforts to address health inequities across Seattle.



Position 9: Public Health Nutrition.

Stefanie Sismaet, Sound Generations. Barbara is a Senior Education Specialist at Treehouse who has also been actively involved in improving access to nutritious foods at Seattle Public Schools and for foster children. She has experience in key public health competencies like program planning, communication skills, community engagement, and systems thinking. She is community-centered and passionate about BIPOC communities, and addressing inequities in education, public health, housing, food disparities, employment and mental health. She has worked in education and nonprofits for almost 20 years advocating for equitable access of resources that create sustainable living and futures for BIPOC communities. In 2021, she will graduate from Seattle University with a Masters in Public Administration to further her commitment and leadership to design public programs that work in creating the life that BIPOC citizens deserve, where they can live, work, thrive and experience joy.



Position 10: Early Learning Representative

Laura Nicholson, Launch.

Laura is the Executive Director of Launch, a nonprofit dedicated to serving families and children in South, Central, and West Seattle neighborhoods. Our commitment to leading the charge to brilliant outcomes for the children in our community is at the heart of the work we do. In my time with Launch, we have ensured equitable access to our programs for students furthest from educational justice by prioritizing admission to these children, lowering barriers to accessing subsidized care, and building out a robust internal tuition assistance program. I have been with Launch for 5+ years, and in the role of Executive Director for a little over a year. I hold my Bachelors in Cultural Anthropology from Seattle U and my Masters in Educational Leadership from Seattle Pacific U. In my free time, I love to explore with my two daughters (ages 7 and 2), garden, read, and try to make the world a better place for future generations.



Position 11: Early Learning Representative.

Dan Torres, Bezos Family Foundation. Dan has focused his career on systems work to support families and promote equity. Dan joined the Bezos Family Foundation (BFF) in October of 2019 to cultivate partnerships for the Vroom program. Vroom provides science-based tools to families and caregivers to further child development. He was the Executive Director of the Washington State Essentials for Childhood initiative, a cross systems, public private partnership with a vision that all children in Washington state thrive in safe, stable and nurturing relationships and environments. He also previously served as the Director of Policy and Partnerships at Thrive Washington. In that role he directed the community momentum strategy for 10 early learning regional coalitions and developed Thrive Washington's legislative agenda. Dan spent the beginning of his career focused on child welfare policy as an associate at the Center for the Study of Social Policy and at Casey Family Programs.