

2024 Equity Advisory Committee



Puget Sound Regional Council

KING COUNTY



Annie Tran

Pronouns: she/they | Race/Ethnicity: Chinese and Vietnamese

Annie grew up in the Seattle-area and currently lives in Shoreline. Her experience in local government and non-profits are centered around civic engagement processes relating to local economic development, advancing democracy, and protecting the environment. She is passionate about removing barriers to participation and community building.



Ben Sung Henry

Pronouns: he/him | Race/Ethnicity: Biracial (Korean and White)

Ben currently lives in Renton and has spent 20 years serving as a journalist, lobbyist, policy associate, community leader, and progressive movement-builder. He currently serves as Communications Director at Social Venture Partners International. He brings an equity lens to all his work, addressing the barriers facing marginalized Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities throughout Washington.



Debbie Lacy

Pronouns: she/her | Race/Ethnicity: Mexican and White

Debbie currently lives in Kirkland and is the founder of Eastside For All, which convenes partners to transform policies, practices, investments, and relationships so that the needs and solutions of communities of color are centered. She works with community and government agencies to address gaps in access to opportunities, resources, and representation.



Hien "Elly" Trinh

Pronouns: she/her | Race/Ethnicity: Vietnamese

Elly is an academic immigrant from Sai Gon, Vietnam who currently lives in Burien. She works at a human services non-profit and is a student at South Seattle College working on a certificate in Building Science. She has a strong connection to community and innovative ideas on outreach/engagement.



Julia Jannon-Shields

Pronouns: she/her | Race/Ethnicity: African American and French (Afro-French)

Julia is a culturally-informed community planner based on the lands of the Duwamish people in Seattle. Julia works towards an equitable, sustainable future by centering minoritized experiences in governance, planning, and development processes to rebuild from generations of mistrust and harm. She amplifies this perspective in her roles at King County's Office of Equity, Racial & Social Justice; BlackSpace Urbanist Collective; Homestead Community Land Trust; and the Puget Sound Regional Council.



Lisa Espinosa

Pronouns: she/her | Race/Ethnicity: Latina and Native American

Lisa currently lives in West Seattle and serves as an Energy Management Analyst for Seattle City Light. Lisa has an extensive background in providing energy efficient programs to communities. She is passionate about developing equitable benchmarks and brings tools and a strong connection with communities to support these efforts.



Megan Espinoza

Pronouns: she/her | Race/Ethnicity: Latina and white

Megan currently lives in Seattle's Hillman City and is an architect at a firm designing affordable housing. She has an extensive background in planning and zoning and is passionate about ensuring decisions are informed by community.



Thanh Nguyen

Pronouns: she/they | Race/Ethnicity: Vietnamese and Chinese

Thanh is a Vietnamese-Chinese American, raised by a single immigrant mother. Thanh has helped reduce racial inequities by advocating for community centric funding, resources for the unhoused community, stronger tenant right protections, and community outreach that is culturally tailored and language accessible. Thanh has been a part of the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance's Resident Action Project, Housing Justice Project, Puget Sound Sage's Community Leadership Institute Fellowship, and now serves on the board of the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation.

KITSAP COUNTY



Maria Fergus

Pronouns: her/hers | Race/Ethnicity: Hispanic/Latine

Maria is a Mexican immigrant and Poulsbo resident with extensive lived and professional experience combatting racial inequities. Currently, she serves as the community engagement specialist for Kitsap Public Health District's Equity Program. Maria also volunteers with the Kitsap County Council for Human Rights; North Kitsap School District Equity Council; Kitsap Black Student Union; Kitsap ERACE Coalition; and the Community Development Block Grant review committee.



Jewel Shepherd-Sampson

Pronouns: she/her | Race/Ethnicity: African American

Jewel currently lives in Port Orchard. She is a small business owner who has served on community advisory panels effectively connecting community to government agencies. She has a passion for working with youth and encouraging them to use their voices to impact change.



Shannon Turner

Pronouns: he/him | Race/Ethnicity: Black/African American

Shannon currently lives in Poulsbo. He serves as the 2nd vice president of the NAACP in Bremerton, WA (Branch 1134) and is the chair of the DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Committee for the 23rd LD Democratic Party. In these roles he leads conversations, trainings, forums, etc. on racial inequities and how to combat them.

PIERCE COUNTY



Corey Orvold

Pronouns: she/her | Race/Ethnicity: African American

Corey is a realtor from Puyallup who is passionate about promoting housing equity in our region. Corey serves on several committees including local and state housing DEI committees, Rebuilding Together Board, and the Black Home Initiative. Corey also partners with the Tacoma Urban League by teaching monthly homebuyer classes, serving on the Continuum of Care Regional Equity Committee, and sitting on the South Sound Affordable Housing Advisory Board.



Julius Moss

Pronouns: he/him | Race/Ethnicity: Black/African American

Julius currently lives in Southeast Tacoma, and his research focuses on identifying and dismantling systemic socioeconomic mobility barriers through higher education access. Recently, he defended his dissertation which described how organizational change impacted academic success rates of Black men enrolled at a local Pierce County community college district.



Keshreeyaji R. Oswal

Pronouns: he/him

Keshreeyaji is the Founder of Glocal Solutions, a social enterprise and local startup dedicated to providing organizations with the essential data and local expertise necessary for growth and transformation. Keshreeyaji is also an active volunteer and serves on the Board of Directors for the Center for Independence Washington.



Laurenne Sayles

Pronouns: she/her | Race/Ethnicity: Black

Laurenne currently lives in Central Tacoma. She serves as a grant writer for the Urban League where she delivers human interest storytelling in the fields of education, youth, diversity/inclusion, workforce development, and social justice.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY



Amarlin Lily Distelhorst

Pronouns: she/her | Race/Ethnicity: Biracial (Asian & White)

Lily is a freshman at Bellevue College with extensive experience advocating for equitable planning policies. Lily previously served as a student representative on the City of Edmonds Planning Board. Additionally, Lily participated in PSRC's Summer Planning Academy where she led important conversations regarding planning with teenagers from all over the central Puget Sound region.



Autrina Martindale

Pronouns: she/her | Race/Ethnicity: Black

Autrina currently lives in Marysville and has built a lengthy career in financial planning and literacy with a focus on moving people of color toward greater equity. Her current work focuses on researching and developing innovative ways to impact institutional leadership and create solutions for long-term sustainable equity and advocacy for all people.



Lupe Valtierra-Prieto

Pronouns: she/her | Race/Ethnicity: American Indian-Mexican Diaspora

Lupe is a member of the LGBTQ+ community. She currently lives in Mill Creek. She's passionate about the importance of community informing decisions and as a DACA recipient working in the healthcare system, she brings a unique perspective about the barriers faced by undocumented professionals.



Michelle Stewart

Pronouns: she/her | Race/Ethnicity: Black

Michelle currently lives in Everett. She's working on a Masters in Public Administration at The Evergreen State College and brings a nuanced understanding of urban growth areas (UGA).



Mindy Woods

Pronouns: she/her | Race/Ethnicity: white and Native American

Mindy served in the military, has experienced homelessness and currently lives in Edmonds. She now serves as the Human Services Program Manager for the City of Edmonds and sits on several committees bringing a lens of equity to all of her work.