

Aisha Benson, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, TruFund

Aisha Benson is EVP/COO for TruFund Financial Services, a Black-led, non-profit CDFI with 20 years of experience providing affordable loan capital and business advisory services to historically disadvantaged small businesses and nonprofits. Aisha is responsible for directing, managing, and integrating multi-disciplined team functions related to the delivery of lending services, tax credit deployment and TA programs across TruFund's footprint. She also oversees program design and implementation, resource partner selection and management, and the coordination of outreach and business development efforts for TruFund's programs.

Prior to TruFund, Ms. Benson served in VP roles in the commercial lending departments of Carver Federal Savings, Banco Popular, and JP Morgan Chase. Aisha has 27 years' experience deploying capital to Low Income Communities, including acquisition, construction and permanent finance projects. She has deployed \$127 million in NMTCs and \$175 million of capital to low-income communities, including \$75 million in loans to small businesses and nonprofits. Based on her vast experience, Ms. Benson serves on several key industry Boards, including Opportunity Finance Network (OFN), the NMTC Coalition (Board President) and NY CDFI Coalition (founding member and Board VP). She also serves on the Advisory Boards of the Woodforest CEI-Boulos Opportunity Fund and the Community Development Entities of US Bank and Coastal Enterprises. Ms. Benson holds a B.A. in Psychology, Cum Laude from Columbia University and a certificate through a Citi/OFN Sponsored Leadership Training Program for CDFI Executives at Wharton University.

Patrick Davis, Senior Vice President of Strategy, Community Reinvestment Fund

Patrick Davis is the Senior Vice President of Strategy at Community Reinvestment Fund, USA (CRF), a national Community Development Financial Institution dedicated to empowering people and strengthening communities through innovative financial solutions. As Senior Vice President, Patrick oversees the development of technology solutions, programs, and products that contribute to the advancement of CRF's organizational mission and vision.

Previously, Patrick served as Senior Strategy Officer at Calvert Social Investment Foundation where he worked with investors, financial advisors, and philanthropic institutions to incorporate social and environmental impact into investment portfolios. Prior to joining Calvert Foundation in 2008, Patrick held positions at the Center for Student Opportunity and the Meltzer Group. He is a StartingBloc Fellow, a graduate of the CIVICUS leadership program, and a technology and design enthusiast, having completed immersive programs in User Experience Design and Web Development at General Assembly. Patrick attended University of Maryland, College Park, where he received degrees in Economics, Political Science, and Latin American Studies.

Jeanique Druses, Executive Director/Sr. Program Officer, JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Jeanique Riche-Druses is the Executive Director/Sr. Program Officer at JPMorgan Chase & Co., a global leader in corporate philanthropy with more than \$200 million invested in communities annually. In her role, she is responsible for the firm's Small Business and Financial Capability philanthropic strategy for the New York Tri-State area. She joined the firm in September 2016.

Prior to joining JPMorgan Chase & Co., Jeanique was the Assistant Director of Resident Business Development in the Office of Resident Economic Empowerment & Sustainability at the New York City Housing Authority. There she designed and launched the Business Development Unit, providing access to business building services to over six-hundred thousand persons. In addition to overseeing the unit, Jeanique partnered with other city agencies and non-profit organizations to develop business programming, tailored to the specific needs of low- and moderate-income entrepreneurs.

Jeanique has also held management positions in Operations, Strategic Marketing, Finance, and Business Development at Verizon, Mercedes Benz, and American Express and taught Entrepreneurship and Marketing in the City University of New York system before launching The Elgnite Group.

A Wharton Business School Graduate, with a dual degree in Marketing and Entrepreneurial Management, she also holds a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Her prior board service includes the Leadership Board of the Council of Urban Professionals and Community2Community, Inc.

Steve Hall, National Director- EOCF Initiative and Vice President of Small Business & Economic Development Lending, Local Initiatives Support Corporation

Steve Hall brings more than 20 years of small business lending, banking, and community development experience to LISC where he coordinates the Entrepreneurs of Color Fund's work with small- and mid-sized businesses, government agencies, and community development organizations. He directs efforts that help the fund channel capital to small business owners. Additionally, he works to recruit financial industry, local banking, philanthropic, and CDFI partners, and provide technical assistance to help entrepreneurs and lenders succeed in the effort to grow, build wealth, and fortify communities.

Steve has executive-level lending experience in both the private and nonprofit sectors guiding small businesses in research, strategy, and maximizing social impact. Prior to joining LISC, Steve headed efforts at Accion Chicago to support micro-, small-, and medium-sized businesses by providing greater access to lending. At Charter One Bank, he worked as a regional manager.

Steve has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Florida A&M University and has completed an executive education program in financial inclusion at the Harvard Business School.

Jessie Lee, Managing Director, Renaissance Economic Development Corporation

Jessie C. Lee is the Managing Director of Renaissance Economic Development Corporation (REDC), an affiliate of Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE). REDC is a 20 year old CDFI that is also an SBA Microlender and SBA Community Advantage lender. She oversees REDC's lending operations, technical assistance programs, community relations, and capacity building. She provides the organization with strategic guidance for expansion and works to increase long term community impact. Additionally, Jessie cultivates partnerships with both public and

private institutions. Her expertise is in Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and economic development in the last 20 years.

Prior to REDC, Jessie was the Director of Small Business Lending East for VEDC. She helped to launch a \$20 million loan fund called Tri-State Business Opportunity Fund and oversaw VEDC's Chicago and Miami loan funds as well. Ms. Lee also worked at Next Street Financial as a Managing Associate providing guidance to the Lower Manhattan NYC Business Solutions Center team on lending criteria and financing structures. Before Next Street Financial, Ms. Lee worked at CAMBA as the Director of Small Business Services. She was responsible for managing all of CAMBA's funding contracts and lending activity. After receiving her MBA in finance from Boston University in 2008, she was a Senior Analyst at Ernst & Young's Tax Credit Investment Group. While at E&Y, she successfully managed due diligence projects for Fortune 500 companies invested in affordable housing projects. Before graduate school, she worked for various public and private lenders as a Commercial Loan Underwriter.

Victor Salama, Executive Director, Greater Newark Enterprises Corporation

Victor Salama joined Greater Newark Enterprises Corporation (GNEC) in June 2020 as the organization's Executive Director. He has over 25 years' experience in creating international partnerships in both for-profit and non-profit sectors and has extensive experience as a nonprofit executive, entrepreneurship workshop instructor and business owner.

Prior to joining GNEC, Victor was the Executive Director of First Friends of NJ & NY, a nonprofit organization based in Kearny NJ that supports immigrants who are detained by the US Dept. of Homeland Security in 4 NJ jails and also upon their release. Victor was also President of the LIVY Group, a consulting firm dedicated to helping nonprofits grow through the creation and implementation of program replication strategies.

He spent 3 years at StrateSphere LLC, a Columbus Ohio based firm devoted to public-private partnership creation. As Director of Business Development, he grew business opportunities for StrateSphere's Venture Highway entrepreneurship education programming and other entrepreneurship and education related activities. He established an entrepreneurship curriculum for Dar Al-Hekma University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and taught seven 10-day courses on location to over 300 university students.

Victor spent 15 years as Vice President of Business & International Partnerships at the *Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship* (NFTE), an organization that provides entrepreneurship education programming to youth serving institutions. His roles included supporting and creating new international and domestic licensed partnerships, managing NFTE's 11 program offices and pushing forward the company's strategy initiatives. He has taught NFTE teacher training workshops and youth workshops all over the world.

Prior to his career at NFTE, Victor ran his own food distribution company and worked for various United Nations agencies in the area of international entrepreneurship development and

technology. He has extensive experience working directly with entrepreneurs, universities, economic development agencies and government ministries.

Victor has a J.D. from Washington College of Law, The American University (Washington DC), and an M.A. from the School of International Service, The American University and a B.A. from Franklin and Marshall College (Lancaster, PA).