

# From Recovery to Reimagining: Solutions that Support Long-term recovery & resilience for BIPOC small businesses

January 27, 2022

## Speakers:



Lena Robinson  
First Republic Bank

Lena Robinson is the director of community development for First Republic Bank. In this role, Ms. Robinson works to identify lending and investment opportunities that support affordable housing, economic development and asset building in the Bank's core markets. Through collaboration with nonprofit organizations, community groups and government agencies she also plays an important role in the development of strategies that support and achieve optimal outcomes for financially underserved households and

communities. Prior to joining First Republic, Ms. Robinson worked at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco in varying roles culminating as the Regional Manager overseeing community development in Northern California.

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Karen Chapple  
University of California, Berkeley

Karen Chapple, Ph.D., is the Director of the School of Cities at the University of Toronto, where she also serves as Professor in the Department of Geography and Planning. She is Professor Emerita of City & Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley, where she served as department chair and held the Carmel P. Friesen Chair in Urban Studies. Chapple studies inequalities in the planning, development, and governance of regions in the U.S. and Latin America, with a focus on economic development and housing. Her recent books include *Planning Sustainable*

*Cities and Regions: Towards More Equitable Development* (Routledge, 2015), which won the John Friedmann Book Award from the American Collegiate Schools of Planning; *Transit-Oriented Displacement or Community Dividends? Understanding the Effects of Smarter Growth on Communities* (with Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, MIT Press, 2019); and *Fragile Governance and Local Economic Development: Theory and Evidence from Peripheral Regions in Latin America* (with Sergio Montero, Routledge, 2018). She has published recently on a broad array of subjects, including the use of big data to predict gentrification (in *Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science*), the impact of big tech on local housing markets (in *Economic Development Quarterly*), the fiscalization of land use (in *Landscape and Urban Planning*), urban displacement (in the *Journal of Planning Literature and Cityscape*), competition in the electric vehicle industry (in *Local Economy*), community investment (in the *Journal of Urban Affairs*), job creation on industrial land (in *Economic Development Quarterly*), regional governance in rural Peru (in the *Journal of Rural Studies*), and accessory dwelling units as a smart growth policy (in the *Journal of Urbanism*). In Fall 2015, she co-founded the Urban Displacement Project, a research portal examining patterns of residential, commercial, and industrial displacement, as well as policy and planning solutions.

Chapple holds a B.A. in Urban Studies from Columbia University, an M.S.C.R.P from the Pratt Institute, and a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley.

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**Carolina Martinez**  
CAMEO

Carolina Martinez is the CEO of CAMEO - the California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity-, a statewide association that represents over 300 lenders, training programs, chambers of commerce, job creators, agencies and individuals dedicated to furthering Microbusiness development in the state. CAMEO advocates for its members and builds their capacity to support the more than 84,000 very small businesses they serve.

Carolina has 15 years of experience working in economic development and business consulting. Her vision has been defined by the variety of experiences she's had with nonprofits and universities in South and North America. She has developed bilingual, culturally appropriate entrepreneurial training programs; trained and coached pre-venture and startups; developed international networks promoting partnerships among private corporations that boost industries; provided consulting services to vulnerable communities to explore entrepreneurship as a way to generate wealth; and owned her own business consulting firm.

Carolina has served on the Pennsylvania Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs as well as on the boards of the Berks County Latino Chamber of Commerce and the Kutztown University Foundation. She serves on the Advisory Boards of two CDFI microlenders: Mission Economic Development Agency Adelante Fund in San Francisco and Opportunity Fund, the largest national microlender. Carolina serves on the Community Advisory Boards of Comerica Bank and Cathay Bank and is a board member of the Association for Enterprise Opportunity and Pacific Community Ventures. She serves on California Governor's COVID-19 Small Business and Innovative Startup Recovery Subcommittee and is a Member of the Executive Committee and Chair of the Policy Committee of the California Coalition for Community Investment (CCCI) a statewide coalition of CDFIs. She has an MBA and BA in Industrial Engineering.

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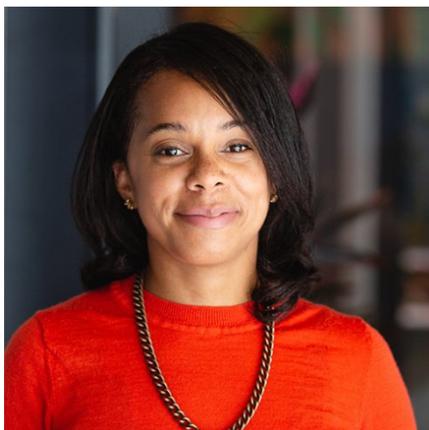
**Laura Schmahmann**  
University of California, Berkeley

Laura Schmahmann is a PhD student in City and Regional Planning who is interested in the role of industrial lands in urban areas, commercial gentrification and the cost of business displacement and the geography of innovation.

Prior to commencing her PhD, Laura worked as an urban planner for almost eight years in an economics and planning consulting firm in Australia. She managed a wide range of projects for local state and federal governments including economic development, housing and integrated transport and land use strategies.

Laura holds a Bachelor of Planning (Honours Class 1) and Master of Philosophy (Planning and Urban Development) both from the University of New South Wales. Her Masters research explored empirical evidence of knowledge spillovers and its role in driving firm location within two creative industry clusters in Sydney.

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**Dianna Tremblay**  
Chief Program Officer  
ICA

Dianna Tremblay is the Chief Program Officer at ICA. She is responsible for scaling the impact of the ICA's programs and

cultivating the support and capital ecosystem necessary for entrepreneurs to scale their businesses. With expertise in program design and implementation, small business support, accessing capital, and ecosystem building, Dianna strives to use these skills to increase equitable access to capital, coaching, and networks for entrepreneurs of color. Leading ICA's program work, Dianna continues to explore, test, and build programs that ultimately prepare companies to become more resilient and investment-ready. Dianna currently serves on the boards of Naturally Bay Area and Progeny Coffee.

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