

Building Towards an Equitable Recovery: Activating Federal Funds for BIPOC Owned-Businesses

February 23, 2023

12:30pm - 1:30pm



Christa Brown

San Francisco Foundation

Christa is the Senior Program Officer for Policy Advocacy at the San Francisco Foundation. She helps the foundation advance policy change at the local, regional, and state levels. Whether that's helping move forward ballot initiatives to increase affordable housing in the Bay Area, supporting grantees to advance policy change, or lobbying for state bills that advance economic and racial equity that will benefit all. Christa works with foundation staff and community-based and grassroots organizations to move forward structural change.



Trevor Parham

Oakstop

Oakland Black Business Fund

Trevor Parham is an artist, entrepreneur, and investor. He is the Founder of Oakstop; a Black owned and operated social enterprise that uses commercial real estate as a vehicle for mobilizing communities of color by providing workspace, meeting/event space, and social impact programming.

As part of his work with Oakstop, Trevor co-founded the Oakland Black Business Fund, focused on empowering black businesses with capital, technical assistance, and growth strategy. The platform includes a technical assistance program focused on paying Black technical assistance providers to support Black fund recipients.



Michael Russo

Catalyst California

As the Vice President of Policy and Programs, Mike Russo works to provide community-based organizations with the data, training, and tools they need to be effective advocates for local budgets that reflect the needs of low-income communities of color. Before joining Catalyst California, Mike served as the director of the federal office of U.S. PIRG, a nationwide federation of state-based public interest advocacy organizations. He also previously led U.S. PIRG's work on health care, overseeing campaigns to implement the Affordable Care Act and helping to create a program to analyze and watchdog insurers' rate filings, which has saved consumers over \$25 million. Mike graduated from the California Institute of Technology and Columbia Law School.



Christine Tien

The California Endowment

Christine Tien is a Senior Program Manager with The California Endowment (TCE) and is part of the Northern California Region and the statewide Inclusive Community Development teams. From 2009 through 2020, Christine oversaw TCE's Sacramento Building Healthy Communities plan. Prior to TCE, Christine worked in local government for 11 years holding positions as Deputy City Manager for the Cities of Union City and Stockton. She also previously worked for Consumers Union in their West Coast Regional Office. She has a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research from UC Berkeley, a Master in Public Policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and a Juris Doctor from the University of Arizona's College of Law.