

Housing and Economic Security: Lessons from the Pandemic

Maintaining Momentum for Economic Justice

January 11, 2022

Speakers:



Jennifer Teunon (moderator)

Medina Foundation

Jennifer is currently the Executive Director of the Medina Foundation, overseeing all Foundation operations. Before becoming Medina's Executive Director, Jennifer spent two years as a Principal with Luma Consulting, a firm that specializes in helping nonprofit organizations and philanthropic organizations with strategic planning, implementing new programs, and managing leadership changes. During her time at Luma, she managed projects with the Ballard Food Bank, YouthCare, Helping

Hand House, and the Raikes Foundation, and she also served as the Interim President and CEO for the World Affairs Council.

Jennifer has worked in the nonprofit sector for over twenty-five years. Prior to joining Luma Consulting, she worked for the Medina Foundation as the Program Officer for King County and eventually as the Acting Executive Director. She administered the Laurel Foundation for two years, and she was the first Managing Director for Book-It Repertory Theatre. She spent five years at Treehouse, an organization that helps children in the foster care system, where she developed programs and led fundraising efforts.

Jennifer has volunteered with the Washington Women's Foundation, the Northwest Children's Fund, the Crisis Clinic, United Way of King County, Express Credit Union, the Pride Foundation, and Kinderling. She graduated from the University of Puget Sound with a degree in English.



Melinda Croes

Credit Builders Alliance

As the Training Institute Manager, Melinda leads the implementation of in-person and virtual training services offered through the CBA Training Institute in addition to managing the development and expansion of CBA's core and supplemental curricula. Prior to joining CBA, Melinda worked at the University of Chicago's Financial Education Initiative writing a financial education textbook for high school students. Additionally, she spent over 15 years developing and managing financial wellness and

matched savings programs for low-income audiences at Heartland Human Care Services in Chicago. Melinda is a Licensed Social Worker and holds a Masters in Social Work degree from the Jane Addams College of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She received her Bachelors of Arts in Psychology from Trinity Western University in British Columbia, Canada.



Jamalia Jones

King County Department of Community and Human Services

Jamalia Jones is a manager with King County's Department of Community and Human Services. Over the past five years, she has worked in the Children Youth and Young Adults Division operating an reengagement site for young people ages 16-24. Currently, she is the interim Deputy Director of the Eviction Prevention and Rent Assistance Program (EPRAP) which helps residents behind in rent due to COVID-19 hardships.



Violet Lavatai

Tenants Union of Washington State

Violet grew up in the SE Seattle community for more than 30 years, and today she to calls it her home and her community. In 2010, she volunteered and got involved in a grass-root organization that advocated for better jobs, homes, food, and transportation, for low-income and people of color. She thinks that if everyone got involved in their own community what different world it would be. She went back to school to further her education in Accounting and Administration. In 2011 she was fortunate to go on a trip to Washington D.C "Take back the Capitol" where the Government was cutting unemployment for the many Americans who had lost their jobs during the recession. Standing together with other fellow Americans there was a sense of unity and it changed Violet — she looked at our world a little more differently from that day on. She's excited to have joined the Tenants Union in advocating for fair housing for all, and she believes that housing should be people before profits. Violet also sings and plays the guitar.



Edmund Witter

King County Bar Association, Housing Justice Project

Edmund Witter is the Senior Managing Attorney of the Housing Justice Project at the King County Bar Association. Prior to that, he was the Supervising Attorney for the Housing Unit of the Legal Aid Society of New York City and a Special Assistant Corporation Counsel for the New York City Law Department.