

Bay Area Asset Funders Network Webinar

GUARANTEED INCOME: Centering Community Voices in Policy Advocacy and Design

June 13, 2023

Jhumpa Bhattacharya

Co-President and Founder, The Maven Collaborative

Jhumpa is the Co-President of The Maven Collaborative. She directly leads work identifying policy and narrative solutions to racial and gender income and wealth inequities and mitigating the harms of mass incarceration. She holds expertise in Guaranteed Income, narrative change and occupational segregation and is an avid believer in centering Black women and their families as a pathway to economic liberation for all.

Grounded with a deep equity lens, Jhumpa has provided her leadership, intersectional racial justice analysis and thinking on various national and local research and capacity building projects focused on creating systems that address and meet the needs of communities of color, low-income communities and immigrants. Her expertise includes developing equity-based policies, practices tools and frameworks; conducting best practice research; technical assistance and capacity building; incorporating community and student voice into policy and programming; and facilitating complex dialogues on race, culture, and immigration.

A former Director at California Tomorrow, Jhumpa has roots in youth organizing and youth development, and brings over 18 years of experience advocating for and creating policy and system changes towards racial and economic equity. She is a board member of the Pacifica Family Fund, which works to provide quality prenatal and birth midwifery care to low-income families, families of color, teenagers, trans and non-gender conforming people. She is a lover of music, the Lakers and fluent in Bengali.

Parisa Esmaili

Executive Director, Community Financial Resources

Parisa is Executive Director of Community Financial Resources, a national nonprofit that provides a pathway to financial well-being for low-income households. Parisa has been an executive director since 2020, where she drives CFR's strategic vision and growth. Prior to joining CFR, Parisa was a Growth Manager at Inner City Advisors, where she developed and implemented strategic initiatives to elevate and grow the organization's work.

Ruth Fernández, Ed.D.

Executive Director, First 5 Contra Costa

Dr. Ruth Fernández brings an exceptional combination of knowledge and experience working in early childhood, as well as over 20 years of experience working with diverse communities in project management, and strategic planning and system services coordination in the education and social services sectors.

Prior to her role at First 5 Contra Costa, Ruth worked at the Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE) for over 12 years and helped develop and implement educational services for educators working in early childhood education throughout the county. During her professional trajectory in Contra Costa County, Dr. Fernández has actively engaged and helped lead the design of critical collective impact initiatives such as the Contra Costa Quality Matters Program aimed at improving the quality of early childhood settings. In 2019, she earned her Doctorate degree from Mills College of Oakland in Educational Leadership, with a concentration in Early Childhood Education. She also has a B.A. in Political Economies of Industrialized Societies from the University of California at Berkeley, and a Master's Degree in Leadership from St. Mary's College of California.

As a Contra Costa resident and parent, her work in education and early childhood systems is both important and personal. Her passion for and commitment to public service, education, and social justice to address inequities for marginalized communities stems from her own lived experience immigrating to the United States.

Rebeca Rangel

Program Officer, Y&H Soda Foundation

Rebeca joined the Foundation in 2020 and is responsible for grants to improve the economic security of low-income people through employment and job training, asset building, and community economic development. As a cross-sector leader, Rebeca's career has spanned the private, public, and social sectors. Rebeca was a Senior Vice President at Bank of the West where she directed the Bank's philanthropic investments and corporate social responsibility initiatives. Rebeca also served as a Bank of the West Charitable Foundation Trustee, Secretary for the Bank's Executive Management Committee, and Special Assistant to the Chairman. Rebeca worked in federal government as a Legislative Assistant on Capitol Hill and as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Department of Justice. Rebeca has also served the social sector as the New Americans Campaign Program Manager at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center and as a past Board Member of the Making Waves Foundation and Familias Unidas, both based in her hometown of Richmond, California. Rebeca holds a BA in Urban Studies from Stanford University, a Master in Public Policy degree from Harvard Kennedy School, and a JD from Northwestern School of Law.