



Housing Equity Accelerator 2024 Fellows

[LISC Puget Sound](#), in collaboration with the Amazon Housing Equity Fund, is addressing the tremendous need for affordable housing investing in the next generation of housing developers. We are thrilled to announce the second cohort of Housing Equity Accelerator (HEA) Fellows. This diverse group of 20 individuals, comprising 10 for-profits and 9 non-profits, brings a wealth of experience and a shared commitment to advancing affordable housing and community development in the Puget Sound region.

Alexandria Brown

Alexandria (Lexie) started her journey attending The University of Washington and obtaining a degree in BioResource Science and Engineering. After graduating, she started her first project as Superintendent building four duplexes. Upon completion, she went on to build another three duplexes, and a 12-unit apartment complex. She then moved to the position of Project Manager where we built another 26 duplexes across two projects and a 14-unit apartment complex. During the course of the past two projects, she took on the title of General Contractor and built two 4-unit buildings. She takes most pride and joy during the framing process. She is someone who enjoys seeing visual progress and working in a field allows her to see it every day.

Bilan Aden

Bilan Aden, M.Ed. is the Co-Founder and Associate Director of African Community Housing & Development (ACHD), a nonprofit organization that builds towards prosperity for the African Diaspora immigrant and refugee community in the Greater Seattle Region and serves 10,000+ individuals annually. Bilan is passionate about holistic approaches to racial and economic justice; she is a visionary leader and a changemaker leading a major innovative \$130+ million real estate development portfolios dedicated to building Black stability and generational wealth.

Caleb Jackson

Caleb Jackson was dedicated to catalyzing greatness in others, being a seasoned Real Estate investor, entrepreneur, and developer. With a relentless focus on sharing financial literacy, promoting mental health awareness, and educating communities on diverse real estate topics, his work is driven by a deep commitment to holistic community development.

Caleb graduated from Eastern Washington University in 2010 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He has accumulated a diverse portfolio of single-family and multi-family units, and he has facilitated millions of dollars in transactions, establishing a 19-unit portfolio across Washington and Ohio. Caleb's extensive experience includes the acquisition, development, and sale of homes.

Beyond his professional achievements, Caleb actively contributes to the community by serving on various leadership boards and committees, such as C.O.R.D., Good Intentions Counseling Services, Homesight, Black home initiative, acacia council and King of Glory Ministries. Committed to mission-driven endeavors, Caleb is dedicated to advancing positive change through strategic real estate development.

Through his roles as a Real Estate investor and developer, Caleb engages in transformational efforts to empower homeowners, professionals and entrepreneurs. His approach centers on facilitating positive paradigm shifts and fostering a deeper understanding among those he works with.



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Cleveland King

Cleveland King II was born and raised in the Central District of Seattle, Washington. He attended Seattle public schools, and although he lived in the CD, he graduated from Ingraham High School as a part of the school district's "Seattle Plan" to desegregate the schools through busing.

Cleveland loved growing up in this community. The connections, friendly faces, and folks are always willing to lend his family a helping hand. The East Madison YMCA, currently known as Meredith Matthews, and the Rotary Boys and Girls Club were instrumental in his development. Cleveland said, "The Y was the first place I experienced anyone outside my family taking a special interest in me." He participated in the Y's youth basketball program and had a coach who gave him confidence. Cleveland has great memories of swimming, summer camps, and playing basketball at the Y. The Y is where his passion for sports and helping youth all began.

After graduating from Ingraham High School as a basketball standout, Mr. King received a basketball Scholarship to attend Central Washington University. Fueled by the emphasis on education installed by his mother, he earned a bachelor's degree in social science and a minor in Sociology.

Because of his experiences with the YMCA, sports camps, and other community organizations, Mr. King knew he wanted to work where he could serve the youth in his community. His goal was to make a difference one youth at a time.

Over the last 29 years, Cleveland has held positions that greatly impacted and served the community. Cleveland has been employed at Atlantic Street Center, Echo Glen Children's Home, King County Juvenile Detention, and the State of Washington in several roles, from Investigator, Supervisor, Area Administrator, and Acting Deputy Regional Administrator for The Department of Children, Youth and Families and currently the Branch Executive for the YMCA of Greater Seattle. Mr. King has had to make daily decisions that significantly impact the lives of children and their families. Mr. King is passionate about ensuring every family has an opportunity to succeed. Mr. King has proven to be an advocate for the families he has served over the last 29 years. Cleveland said his most proud moments were watching his daughter, who graduated from Emory University, receiving her master's degree in nursing. Cleveland's passions are coaching girls' basketball, weightlifting, and playing golf.

Danny Cage Jr.

Danny's impressive seventeen-year tenure with the Y is a testament to his dedication and expertise. He has held various key roles, including Youth Development Director, Senior Youth Development Director, Youth and Family Engagement Director, District Director, and Operations Director. His current position as the branch Executive Director at the Meredith Mathews Y reflects his exceptional leadership and management skills.

Danny Cage Jr. is a proud husband of twenty-three years and father of two (2) children. Danny enjoys spending time with his family, including assisting his wife with her community non-profit organization, which serves over one hundred (100) youth annually throughout the Pacific Northwest. He also volunteers with the Northwest Black Pioneers to take thirty-five high school students to twenty-two Historically Black Colleges and Universities in thirteen days. When Danny is not spending time with his family, he is doing what he does best: mentoring youth throughout the community, and coaching youth basketball. He is known for his outgoing personality and creative engagement with youth and families.

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Danny's work as a mentor, spiritual guidance counselor, and basketball coach is driven by his deep care for the youth and families in the community. His academic achievements, including a bachelor's degree in psychology with a Minor in Family Studies from Central Washington University, demonstrate his commitment to professional growth. Danny's plans to pursue a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy further underline his dedication to enhancing his skills and positively impacting his discipline.

Demarus Tevuk

Demarus Tevuk is an Inupiaq woman from Nome, Alaska and as a consultant she specializes in community engagement projects for the Seattle urban Native and Indigenous community. Her reports utilize Indigenous research methodology and her work Indigenizes processes by centering cultural values and uplifting traditional knowledge. She is deeply committed to creating safe, welcoming, and healing community spaces for urban Native and Indigenous people.

Demarus currently serves as the Program Manager for the Seattle Indian Services Commission, a public development authority chartered in 1972 to serve American Indian and Alaska Native residents of Seattle and King County.

As a member of sl̥əp̥il̥əb̥əx̥ʷ (Rising Tides) - Indigenous Planning Group, Demarus has conducted several community-participatory research projects including the Native Neighborhood Community Study, Native Neighborhood Case Study on Community Wealth Building, Native and Indigenous Community Input Report - Seattle Transportation Plan, Native and Indigenous Foods Listening Session Report, and Indigenous Seattle Housing & Zoning Findings Report 2023.

Demarus Tevuk is also an environmental educator with expertise in traditional ecological knowledge, native plants, and native pollinators. Demarus earned her degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Washington and she enjoys sharing her capstone research on the definition of traditional sustainable values and sustainability from the Indigenous perspective. Demarus serves on the board of The Common Acre, a local non-profit that restores relationships between people and the land through ecology, agriculture, and art. She supports The Common Acre's camas prairie efforts at The Green Line, a native plant restoration site in South Seattle.

Deonte Randolph

Deonte Randolph is an accomplished professional with a robust background in construction and real estate development. With a career spanning over a decade, Deonte has been actively involved in the construction industry since 2011, specializing in Construction Management and Real Estate Development since 2014. His expertise encompasses a diverse array of projects, ranging from Heavy Civil Construction to commercial and residential/multifamily developments across prominent locations such as Seattle/King County and Los Angeles County.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Deonte is deeply engaged in various community initiatives and enjoys spending quality time with his family. His commitment to community service underscores his passion for making a positive impact beyond the realm of construction.

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In his leisure time, Deonte indulges in his passion for architecture, constantly seeking to expand his knowledge and understanding of design principles. Additionally, he finds enjoyment and inspiration in the world of mixed martial arts (MMA) sports, where he embraces the discipline and dedication inherent in the sport. With a wealth of experience, a commitment to excellence, and a multifaceted set of interests, Deonte Randolph embodies a well-rounded individual dedicated to both professional success and personal fulfillment.

Eric Frank

Eric Frank was born and raised in the beautiful landscapes of Hawaii, but life took a turn when he moved to Seattle during his third-grade years. It was a significant shift, especially finding themselves in the Rainier Vista, where his single mother raised him. Those early years were eye-opening, showing him the harsh realities of poverty and racism, particularly after his parents' divorce.

As a child, Eric had big dreams of becoming a robotic engineer, but circumstances led him down a different path. Despite not being able to pursue a college degree, Eric seized the opportunity to obtain his real estate license. That decision opened doors into the world of real estate and development, where he's spent the past two decades immersed in construction and renovation projects, selling over fifty projects ranging from single-family dwellings to multi-unit complexes.

In 2016, Eric took a leap of faith and founded Sustain-A-Build-ity, a company deeply committed to creating sustainable, affordable housing solutions. Their goal is ambitious: to provide over 200 units of modern, affordable housing in the Pacific Northwest within the next 2-5 years. This mission is personal to Eric, driven by a desire to increase black homeownership in the region and create lasting legacies for families. Beyond work, Eric life revolves around his family. He cherishes moments spent traveling with his wife and children, engaging in friendly chess matches, getting lost in the pages of a good book, or perfecting his swing on the golf course.

Every day, Eric carries with him the invaluable wisdom of his grandmother, whose words echo in his mind: 'If you count your pennies, you don't have to worry about your dollars.' This mantra guides his actions, both personally and professionally, reminding him of the importance of financial prudence and community impact.

Ismail Mohammad

Ismail Mohammad has been a small business owner for the last 35 years and owned several gas stations and Subway Franchises. Gradually, Ismail withdrew himself from the retail business and started focusing on real estate development. Currently, he owns one gas station, one Subway franchise and several rental properties. In the last 5 years, Ismail has added 12 additional units to his existing rental properties by utilizing the infill land. Ismail's interest is to continue developing affordable housing by tapping into the potential of un-utilized land. He learns from the industry experts, and reads journals, books and articles and uses the best practices in the industry to his advantage.

Ismail came to the US with a high school diploma. He completed his associate degree from Edmonds College. Ismail's undergraduate and master's in public administration are from the University of Washington. In 2019, he completed a certificate program in commercial real estate from the University of Washington. He learned that real estate is not an easy career. It is a volatile endeavor which goes into cycles of inflation and recession. He

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follows the housing crisis in our state and generally across the USA by following the research of institutions like Harvard and UC Berkeley.

Ismail's goal is to be the part of the change that he wants to see. In the last 5 years, he has gained enough knowledge to help others who would like to enter this field. He is very involved with the planning commission and the city council of Everett. Ismail is a known figure who always puts the interest of the community before himself. He has learned the entitlement process and has several projects to the point that he can take the next step to create 150 affordable units in the next 5 years.

Kateesha Atterberry – Urban Black

Kateesha is the Founder & Managing Director. She oversees all real estate development activities including land acquisition, feasibility, financial strategy, and design & construction management. Kateesha brings 19+ years of unique real estate development, management, and public policy experience.

Most notably, through her position as Senior Commercial Property Manager at the Pike Place Market Preservation & Development Authority (PDA), a quasi-government agency chartered by the City of Seattle to own, manage, and develop nine acres and 11 mixed-use public-owned assets in Seattle's most beloved historic district.

Kateesha also served as a Project Manager in the 2008 Pike Place Market \$68.2 million Capital Redevelopment project; and, provided early conceptual planning and design to the Pike Place Market Waterfront project.

She is a third generation Seattleite and Garfield high school graduate. Kateesha holds a bachelor's degree in International Business from the University of Washington, is an upcoming International Law student at Seattle University, and is Certified in Commercial Real Estate Development (University of Washington College of Built Environments), Construction Management (Turner School of Construction), and Sales & Marketing (Bellevue College).

Johnny Vong

Johnny Vong is the President of Blackfish Capital, a privately held and family-owned real estate investment company. He sets the overall direction of the company. Specifically, he works on strategic growth, acquisition, and development. He serves on the Board of Trustees at Willamette University.

Johnny has been investing in real estate for more than 15 years. For the past eight years, he has focused on ground up new construction projects, including multifamily, townhouses, commercial, and retail properties in Washington and Alaska. He has developed complex commercial shopping centers, as well as single tenant buildings for national brands such as Starbucks, DutchBros Coffee, and Burger King.

Before real estate development, he was a Management Consultant at IBM and PwC, where he focused on financial modeling and technology. His consulting clients have included Microsoft, T-Mobile, technology startups, government agencies, and non-profits.

A first generation American, his parents are ethnic Chinese and Vietnamese descent who fled Vietnam during the 1970s as refugees. Being the first person in his family to graduate college, he truly believes in the American Dream and the power of real estate to provide financial wealth and freedom.

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He holds a bachelor's degree from Willamette University, where he was awarded a full scholarship from the Gates Foundation. He also attended Harvard University on a full scholarship, where he received a master's degree in Public Policy with a concentration in Public Finance.

He lives in Seattle with his wife and two daughters. He enjoys the outdoors and the pursuit of the perfect bowl of noodles.

Keelan Flowers

Born and raised in the Central District neighborhood of Seattle, Keelan spent a majority of his childhood in the High Point community neighborhood of West Seattle. He realized early on how important through grass roots involvement helped shape for a better more sustainable community. Keelan sits on the board of housing for the Rainier Beach Action Coalition where he works to improve access to affordable housing. Currently in the works is a mixed used development for a senior affordable housing community.

With over 20 years of experience in the real estate industry his extensive skills set is in residential retail and commercial acquisition. He owns and operates The Flowers Real Estate Group of 5 Corners Realty which is a full-service brokerage. Urban planning and development expertise further lends credibility to his involvement in real estate. Keelan's passion is to promote economic equity and community revitalization in local neighborhoods in and around Seattle. It goes from assisting as an intermediate broker negotiating contracts between buyers and sellers to evaluating property availability for the purpose of highest and best use development as well as creating financial models that show impact of scope to projects. His responsibilities and experience have been centered around different aspects of real estate with an ability to think outside of the box.

Keelan resides in the city of Federal Way. He is married to his lovely wife who has owned and operated Kids Place Childcare Care for over 20 years. In his spare time Keelan enjoys traveling out of town with his wife to attend sporting events plus engage in the cigar culture.

Khevin Pratt

Khevin Pratt, a strategic thinker with a big-picture mindset, brings extensive expertise and experience in mixed-use affordable housing acquisition, entitlement, financing, development, construction, and management operations.

As the Director of Real Estate Development at SouthEast Effective Development (SEED) in Seattle, Washington, Khevin demonstrated insightful vision and guidance in coordinating the organization's new community development pipeline program. This was a crucial part of SEED's five-year affordable housing strategic plan to deliver at least 1,000 new affordable housing units.

Before this, Khevin led a large team of award-winning professionals as the Director of Real Estate Development at Southwest Solutions in Detroit, Michigan. Under his leadership, the team created a new real estate portfolio of over 2,000 new affordable multifamily homes integrated with mixed-use commercial development. Khevin has also provided mixed-use, multifamily development consulting services to housing developers nationwide for nearly two decades.

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Furthermore, Khevin has a decade of expertise and experience underwriting complex mixed-use affordable housing developments. He has worked with some of the most talented real estate development professionals nationwide, utilizing Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, New Markets Tax Credits, 501c3 tax-exempt bonds, and Green Infrastructure bond transactions. In August 2022, Khevin founded J2Housing with a clear mission to significantly increase Washington’s workforce housing supply. His focus is on serving underserved Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, as well as other marginalized working households, spending more than 30 percent of their wages on housing. Khevin’s vision is to address the severe underproduction of workforce housing in Washington by creating a new portfolio of beautifully designed mixed-use multifamily residences in transit-oriented neighborhoods of opportunity throughout the state.

Khevin’s commitment to excellence is evident in his educational background and ongoing academic pursuits. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Society and Environment from the University of California—Berkeley and a Master of Science in Real Estate Development with a concentration on Sustainable Affordable Housing Development from New York University. Currently, he is pursuing a Master of Science in Real Estate and Infrastructure from Johns Hopkins University and a Ph.D. at Capitol Technology University, with a focus on critical affordable housing infrastructure development. At J2Housing, Khevin’s affordable housing mission involves constructing new large-scale community developments to increase the state of Washington’s workforce housing supply significantly. This is achieved through the utilization of tax-exempt green infrastructure and construction bond financing and mission-based private equity.

Larry L. Gilmore

Larry is a seasoned financial services executive, entrepreneur and community development leader. He currently is the President and CEO of ClearBlu Capital Group which is a commercial lending company committed to expanding wealth among underserved segments in business and real estate through providing coaching, credit and capital solutions nationally.

Prior to HSBC, Larry was the first to launch Home Care Assistance in the state of Connecticut in 2013, which is a senior home health care company servicing most of Fairfield County Connecticut. He grew the agency to over 50 diverse caregivers providing a variety of holistic care services to assist seniors transition in the security of their own homes.

He has managed numerous national organizations focused on increasing education and awareness within financial services while ultimately streamlining service delivery. This includes the Student Loan Alliance focused on expanding the role of financial advisors to assist student loan borrowers, serving as President and CEO of Hope Loan Port, a technology improving communication between mortgage borrowers, 3rd party advisors and lenders, and Executive Director for the HOPE NOW Alliance which coordinates a series of strategies to improve the borrower experience to protect homeownership. He also worked with the first woman mayor of Washington, DC to launch the Homeownership Preservation Exchange designed to assist socially responsible investors purchase nonperforming mortgage notes with an emphasis on community preservation.

Other roles have included VP of Industry Relations & Emerging Segments for H&R Block Mortgage, Associate Director for affordable lending for the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA), and with Wells Fargo as Manager of Market Opportunities managing the development of strategic plans focused on increasing lending among low and moderate income, minority and immigrant segments.

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He has been an active promoter of diversity and inclusion throughout his numerous roles, including establishing the Mortgage Bankers Association of America's Path to Diversity initiative, past participation on MBA's diversity committee and serving as the Vice Chair for H&R Block mortgage company's Diversity and Inclusion.

Mansour Camara

Mansour Camara, 31 years old, is currently the CFO at the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle. He provides financial leadership, oversees the annual audit, budgeting process, banking relations and financial reporting for the organization. Mansour also oversees the low-income housing facility and assists her property development partners in terms of the financial strategic direction of our properties.

Mansour earned his undergraduate degree in accounting at the University of the Gambia as the best accounting student. He was then offered a presidential scholarship to pursue graduate studies anywhere in the world. He applied for and began his MBA in Finance program at the City University of Seattle in September 2014.

During his MBA program, he joined the Enactus team and presented at two national expositions in St Louis, Missouri and one regional exposition in Anaheim, CA. He also initiated and managed the Green Energy Project that empowers women in West Africa. The green energy stove generates energy while cooking and the energy can be used to power lamps and charge electronics. The project has been expanded to different countries in Latin America and Africa in recent years. Mansour also served as the Finance Chair of the Business Students' Advisory Board at City University of Seattle.

Mansour graduated in November 2016 and started working at Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle. He began as a temporary accountant and was hired as a staff accountant after six months. He also served as Budget Officer and Controller prior to becoming the CFO.

Manuel Garibay

Manuel Garibay has been active in real estate development, investment and debt for over twelve years with experience spanning multiple sectors and geographies. He's managed over \$2.5 billion of real estate investment in the U.S., including multifamily, office, hotel, and retail assets.

Prior to co-founding Kamiak, Manuel served as a Vice President at Blackstone's Equity Office platform working on a 3.7 million square foot office portfolio in the Pacific Northwest and was involved in acquisitions, leasing and dispositions totaling over \$1.2 billion of transaction value. Equity Office is Blackstone's office operating platform with a \$18 billion portfolio focused on value-add investments nationwide. Prior to joining Blackstone's Equity Office platform, Manuel worked on the portfolio management and acquisitions team at Vulcan Real Estate in Seattle. Manuel was part of the team that managed a three million square feet portfolio in Seattle including Amazon's Corporate Headquarters and several residential projects. Manuel also worked for Clarion Partners and KeyBank Capital Markets.

Manuel graduated from the University of Washington with a B.A. in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance.

Maya Spotted Bear

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Maya Spotted Bear joined Chief Seattle Club in 2022, where she is now the Property Development Manager on the Real Estate Team. In her role, she works closely with the Chief Seattle Club's programs department, partnering architects and designers, and general contractors in the development of affordable housing and shelter. Maya supports the connection between project consultants and end users to make sure that all the Club's projects provide culturally responsive services on-site to their urban Native members and residents. This work includes interfacing with building maintenance, supportive services, leasing, and housing management to streamline communication and support with project management.

Maya is on the Chief Seattle Club Native Art & Language Committee, ensuring residential buildings have both culturally appropriate art and signage throughout to help residents and members to find their place of belonging. She is also on the club's Safety Committee which is committed to verifying all buildings are safe spaces for residents and staff. Maya grew up in Oklahoma and is an enrolled member of the Iowa Tribe and Oglala Lakota. She has a BA from Northland College and 8 years of experience working for a general contractor, property management firm, and non-profit organization in New Mexico.

Maya moved to the Pacific Northwest 6 years ago and when she is not working she enjoys spending time with her family and friends enjoying the beautiful outdoors that the region has to offer.

Mesha Florentino

Mesha was born and raised in Washington State. She earned her bachelor's degree in Integrated Social Sciences from University of Washington, and eventually her Master of Business Administration with a focus on leadership from University of Maryland while living in Okinawa, Japan supporting the military.

Mesha has 10+ years in the affordable housing industry ranging from assistant property manager to development director. Mesha loves being able to couple her expertise in housing to further strengthen the integration of art, nature, and neighborhood. She's very passionate about everyone having access to affordable housing as well as understanding and feeling empowered by the process. She spent some time on the board of directors for DNDA getting to work alongside the staff and board, and now brings a unique perspective that can bridge further connection between the two.

Outside of DNDA, Mesha is a mother to two beautiful daughters and a rambunctious mini golden doodle and together they love to explore the Delridge neighborhood they live in, attend local events, and go to movie theaters.

Mohamed Mohamed

Mohamed serves as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of East African Community Services (EACS), a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the needs of the East African community in Seattle and Greater King County. In his role, Mohamed oversees all aspects of financial management, including budgeting, reporting, compliance, and risk management.

With over 12 years of corporate financial accounting and internal audit, Mohamed brings a valuable perspective to EACS. Prior to joining the organization, he held positions at Fortune 100 corporations including UnitedHealth Group and Abbott Laboratories. His background in corporate finance, combined with his commitment to community service, positions him as a strategic leader within EACS.

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Mohamed's journey to the United States from Somalia at the age of 10 shaped his perspective and instilled in him a strong sense of purpose. He pursued his education in the U.S., earning a bachelor's degree in accounting from North Dakota State University and a master's degree in accountancy. He is also a licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Driven by a deep-rooted desire to serve and empower the East African community, Mohamed joined EACS with a clear vision. As CFO, he plays a pivotal role in implementing and overseeing financial controls and policies that ensure the organization's sustainability and effectiveness in fulfilling its mission. Outside of his professional pursuits, Mohamed finds joy in hiking and exploring the outdoors. His appreciation for nature reflects his balanced approach to life and his commitment to personal wellness.

Tsega Desta

Tsega is a committed advocate and community organizer with over a decade of experience in navigating community dynamics and managing projects. With a strong background in addressing crucial issues such as housing affordability and community engagement, she currently serves as the Program Director and Housing Program Manager at the Ethiopian Community in Seattle. In these roles, Tsega collaborates closely with community members to instigate positive change and tackle challenges related to gentrification, as well as cultural, linguistic, and systemic issues within the community. Tsega led the Ethiopian Village housing project on behalf of ECS, managing an 8 million housing project allocated to renovate the existing community center and expand into the first floor of the residential space.

Prior to her work with the Ethiopian Community in Seattle, she served as an engagement manager at the Washington Global Health Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting and informing Washington's global health community. Before her time at WGHA, Tsega held the position of Senior Program Coordinator at the Allen Institute for Brain Science, a nonprofit bioscience research organization focused on accelerating global research. Tsega holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and is a certified Program Management Professional (PMP) from the University of Washington.

During her free time, she dedicates herself to volunteering at Finote Wongel – Path of the Gospel, a small faith-based organization, committed to empowering disadvantaged youth, children, servants, and communities.