

# MEET *the Senior Team*



**VALERIE WHITE**  
*Senior Executive  
Director*



**EVA ALLIGOOD**  
*Senior Director,  
Partnerships and  
Programs*



**MONICA DEAN**  
*Director,  
Housing*



**ARTURO SUAREZ**  
*Senior Director  
Community Capital  
Investment*



**TYRA HUX JOHNSON**  
*WNY Operations  
Director*



**LASHAY YOUNG**  
*Director,  
External Affairs*





# VALERIE WHITE

## Senior Executive Director

Valerie White is responsible for leading the expansion strategy to promote LISC's statewide efforts to create an economic and community development ecosystem that addresses deep rooted systemic inequities. Through the usage of capital investment, policy and legislative advocacy, and programmatic initiative design and delivery, she elevates LISC's role as a key voice among legislative, government, private sector, philanthropic, and nonprofit/community partner stakeholders across New York. Valerie also oversees the LISC NYC and LISC WNY local offices.

Valerie has more than 30 years of experience across private, public, and non-profit sectors. Before joining LISC NYC in April 2020, Valerie was Executive Vice President at Empire State Development (ESD), as well as Executive Director of the New York State Division of Minority and Women's Business Development. Previously, she was Vice President at the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation and managing director at Standard & Poor's Global Ratings (S&P). In addition to her extensive professional experience, Valerie also serves as an advisory board member for the Fordham Urban Law Center and a director on the Fordham Law Alumni Association.

Valerie holds both a Bachelor's degree in Communications and a J.D. from Fordham University, as well as a Master's degree in Management and a Certificate in Organization Development from The New School.



# EVA ALLIGOOD

## Senior Director, Partnerships and Programs

Eva Alligood is responsible for developing the strategy for partner relations and growing partnerships in new markets across New York State. Her outreach will focus on connecting new partners statewide, particularly academic institutions, with LISC's programs and technical assistance services to advance our mission of building more equitable and inclusive communities. Eva leads the NYC Programs team dedicated to fostering economic opportunity, strengthening small businesses, developing and preserving affordable housing, and advancing health equity in historically disinvested neighborhoods.

Eva has designed and led multi-million dollar programs at LISC NYC that support and increase the capacity of community-based organizations to rebuild after natural disasters like Hurricane Sandy, create inclusive economic development spaces, and tackle the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before joining LISC NYC in 2012, Eva served as Vice President for Strategic Planning and Communications at the Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation (WHEDco), a multi-service community-based organization in the South Bronx. She began her career as Associate for Program Development at the Pratt Center for Community Development, and held several positions at the Corporation for Supportive Housing.

Eva holds a Bachelor's degree from Amherst College and a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Pratt Institute.



# MONICA DEAN

## Director, Housing

Monica Dean is responsible for developing and implementing programs to build capacity and expand opportunities for underrepresented firms owned by people of color; or nonprofit mission based institutions in the real estate industry. She will develop affordable housing policy and goals, establish programs to grow capacity in the affordable housing industry, and position LISC as a premier lender in the affordable housing space, statewide.

Prior to joining LISC NYC, Monica served as Senior Vice President of Resident Services at Opportunity Communities in Boston, MA, and before that, she was the Director of Resident Services for Nuestra Comunidad Development Corporation, a community development corporation in Roxbury, MA.

Monica began her professional career in mental health counseling and very quickly transitioned to politics where she was a Chief of Staff for a Massachusetts State Senator. During her ten-year tenure in the Massachusetts state legislature, she assisted hundreds of residents in accessing crucial resources and opportunities, helping many find affordable housing and others avoid foreclosure. She helped broker agreements to build affordable housing, to revitalize commercial properties and to address crucial issues such as CORI reform and environmental justice.

Monica has decades of experience working with low-income residents and property management companies to ensure residents have the resources and services they need to live self-sufficient.

Monica holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Johnson C. Smith University, a Master's of Education degree in Mental Health Counseling from the University of Massachusetts Boston, and a Master's degree in Public Policy from Tufts University.



# ARTURO SUAREZ

## **Senior Director, Community Capital Investment**

Arturo Suarez is responsible for managing the portfolio for LISC's statewide investments including: identifying investment capital sources, expanding lending activity for commercial real estate, housing, and community infrastructure.

Arturo leads the LISC NY Community Capital Investments team, creating opportunities for investment by directing and leveraging the strategic flow of capital to people and communities with underdeveloped assets. He oversees deployment of capital through lending and investments; and provides technical assistance to LISC NYC's economic, community, and housing development partners.

Prior to re-joining LISC in 2007, Arturo held a number of positions, including Vice President and Market Director of LIHTC Investments at Citibank Community Development, Finance Director for LISC NYC, and Senior Acquisitions Manager for the New York Equity Fund.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Economics from City College of New York and a Master of Public Administration from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.



# TYRA HUX JOHNSON

## Director, WNY Operations

Tyra Hux Johnson leads community engagement and stakeholder relationships for the WNY office. Tyra also manages the WNY program team in developing and executing on market specific initiatives.

Tyra joined LISC in November 2019. She began as Developer Education program lead, creating developer trainings for commercial real estate and affordable housing developers. In 2021, she was appointed Deputy Director of the LISC WNY office, with a focus on inclusive economic development.

Prior to joining LISC, Tyra was an educator and entrepreneur. She founded Blue Sky Design Supply out of a desire to create healthy spaces that helped regenerate communities and environments. She owned and operated a retail store for over 10 years which featured sustainable and healthy building products and home décor. Blue Sky Concepts, the consulting division of her firm, supports clients to develop construction projects, educational programs, outreach, and policies that reflect their values and commitment to the community. Deeply engaged in advancing education for inclusive and sustainable design, Tyra also served as an adjunct professor at Daemen College for eight years, teaching a class on sustainable business practices.

Before her entrepreneurial journey, Tyra was a project manager for the largest commercial construction firm in Western New York – completing multimillion-dollar projects by developing strong partnerships with architects, contractors, vendors and clients while maintaining costs.

Tyra holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She earned her Master's in Business Administration from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She is an accredited Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) professional.



# LASHAY YOUNG

## Director, External Affairs

Lashay Young is responsible for managing the development strategy, funder engagement, grants, communications/public relations, and legislative/policy advocacy for LISC across New York State.

In this role, she amplifies LISC's voice around its key focus areas, including developing and preserving affordable housing, fostering economic development, investing in resilient and inclusive communities, and formulating effective community health policies.

Before joining LISC, she worked in New York City-elected politics as Lead Policy Analyst for the Staten Island Borough President, focusing on his economic development portfolio. Her work included collaborating on and presenting an application that secured the NYS Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) award for Round IV. This \$10 million award required work with merchant groups, chambers of commerce, community stakeholders, and elected officials at the borough, city, and state levels.

Lashay has also amassed considerable marketing and public relations experience through her work with the Staten Island Economic Development Corp. and Emmis Communications NY. Further, over the course of her career, Lashay has helped organizations to successfully articulate their policy agenda for a broad array of communities and stakeholders. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Communication Arts with a minor in Business from St. John's University.

# LISC NYC

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# LISC WNY

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