



**Muhammad T. Alameldin** is the Policy Associate for the Terner Center. He brings the Center's innovative research to help inform housing policy at the local, state, and federal levels. Muhammad has written for and been cited in a variety of publications, from CalMatters to The Atlantic.



**Michael Andersen** is a Portland-based senior housing researcher for Sightline Institute, the Pacific Northwest's sustainability think tank. He led communication efforts for the advocacy teams that passed Oregon's 2019 fourplex legalization, the nation's first such law, and Portland's 2020 implementation.



**Julie Alexander** is an attorney and developer based in Austin, Texas. She owns Texas Condo Law and has created over 2000 condominium regimes across Texas, including thousands of 2-4 unit ADU, duplex and four-plex infill condo units. She brings the lessons she learned in courtroom disputes to her current work in structuring condominium regimes and real estate developments to reduce liability and avoid preventable problems.



**Bobby Arte** is a dynamic force of change, deeply rooted in Oakland, California, and dedicated to building a brighter future for the working and middle-class families of the Golden State. In 2021, he, along with his four siblings, founded The Wellnest Company, a trailblazing organization committed to creating affordable, high-quality housing solutions for California's hardworking families and seniors. As the Chief Operating Officer, Bobby has led the company's sales team to achieve remarkable success, generating over eight figures in sales and making homeownership dreams a reality for countless individuals.



**Roberto Barragán** has served in leadership positions with organizations focused on community lending and economic development for more than thirty years. Currently he's Executive Director at CCEDA, working to empower organizations that serve people of color and others to create economic opportunity and social equity in low- to moderate-income communities. In previous leadership roles at Aquaria and VEDC, Roberto dramatically expanded access to capital for BIPOC borrowers, launched numerous business programs and opportunity funds, helping thousands of small businesses succeed.



**Dan Bertolet** is Director of Sightline Institute's Housing and Urbanism program. He is passionate about creating cities that welcome people of all incomes and tread lightly on the planet. Prior to Sightline, Dan spent 11 years in urban planning, focused on sustainable community development. He holds a master's degree in urban design and planning from the University of Washington and a PhD in electrical engineering.



Adam Briones is the Chief Executive Officer of California Community Builders (CCB), where he leads research, advocacy, and community organizing efforts to end California's racial wealth gap and housing crisis for communities of color. Prior to CCB, Adam was the Senior Director of Economic Equity of the Greenlining Institute where he helped to secure over \$10 billion in community reinvestment commitments from large financial institutions.



**Susan Brown** is the founder and CEO of CoreSGB, a housing finance consulting firm. Susan became knwn as a builder of programs and teams connecting community and capital, creating the most successful, most admired residential construction lending program in the United States. With CoreSGB, Susan consults for the GSEs, the FHA, local, regional, and federal governments, philanthropists, regional non-profits, think tanks, and financial institutions to solve the problems of financing and planning for novel, creative, and less expensive housing for a new American future.



Marisa Calderon is the Executive Director of NCRC Community Development Fund, Inc., a U.S. Treasury-certified community development financial institution that provides loan capital to expand access to affordable homeownership and helps Black-, Brown-, and woman-owned businesses thrive. She is also Chief of Community Finance and Mobility for the Community Development Fund's parent company, the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) where she focuses on advancing economic mobility for communities impacted by systemic inequality and historic disinvestment.



Rammy Cortez, Rammy Urban Infill, is a Small Scale Urban Infill Developer + Builder of more than 60,000 SF of transit oriented missing middle housing in San Diego's Metro. He has a Master's in Real Estate from the Burnham-Moore's Center for Real Estate, University of San Diego and is a CA Licensed General Contractor. Rammy's leadership in the Urban Land Institute San Diego / Tijuana includes; served as a YLG (Young Leaders Group) Board Member, is a former Co-Chair and current Advocacy Co-Chair of the Small Scale Infill Development Product Council, and serves as a Mentor of the Young Leaders Group.



**Nathan Dugan** is the President and a co-founder of Shelter WF, a prohousing organization that was formed to address local housing affordability issues but has grown to have a statewide impact. Founded in April 2022, Shelter WF worked with a broad coalition to pass sweeping statewide zoning reforms in Montana in early 2023. Nathan is currently running for a city council seat in Whitefish.



**Ryan Fecteau** serves as Senior Officer, Policy & Planning at Avesta Housing. Ryan served as Speaker of the Maine House Representatives from 2020 to 2022, and he was, at the time, the youngest presiding officer in the nation and the first openly gay speaker in Maine's history. Ryan's primary legislative achievements included the creation of a state tax incentive for affordable housing, instituting housing-friendly zoning and land use regulations.

**Julee Felsman** has spent 30 years on the front lines of housing, working with homebuyers as a residential loan officer. Helping clients navigate the increasingly challenging housing landscape has given



her a front row seat to the housing affordability crisis and its impact on families aspiring to homeownership. Working in her home market of Portland, Oregon, placed her at ground zero of the ADU revolution. A perennial top loan originator, Julee ranked #1 in Oregon and #85 nationally in 2022.



Virginia Flores is a Senior Field Director on Grow America's West Team based in Los Angeles. After completing graduate studies in city planning, she spent over a decade at the Department of Housing and Urban Development and worked on the development and implementation of the Rental Assistance Demonstration, a program that allows federally subsidized housing owners to recapitalize properties and preserve long-term affordability. She currently specializes in providing technical advice to local governments and development agencies on affordable housing and economic development programs.



**Gary Geiler** is the Assistant Director for the City of San Diego's Development Services Department (DSD). He leads the Land Development, Building and Inspection, Engineering, Downtown, Telecom and Utility, Cannabis, and Code Enforcement Divisions. He has over 25 years of experience in zoning, planning, and the permit process as a Senior Planner, Hearing Officer, Program Manager and Deputy Director in DSD.



Rodney Harrell is Vice President of Family, Home and Community at AARP. In that role, he is the enterprise lead on Housing issues, developing and leading the organization's strategy to address them. He also leads AARP Public Policy Institute's team of issue experts on Long-Term Services and Supports, Family Caregiving and Livable Communities, providing thought leadership through research, policy analysis, and creating innovative solutions to ensure that older adults and their families have access to the options and services that can help them to thrive at any age.

**Scott Johnson** has more than 18 years of experience in project management and urban planning. He has worked statewide for public agencies, private clients, and non-profits on environmental studies, urban infill and equitable housing projects. His work in policy and urban planning is grounded in his early experiences in construction. In recent



years he has focused on ADUs as a mechanism to help bring equity and availability back to housing in California.



Sarah Armour-Jones (she/her) serves as Deputy Director of the Housing Narrative Lab, where she focuses on strategic partnerships, communications and organizational growth. Prior to joining the Lab, Sarah was Director of Communications and Media Strategy at the Melville Charitable Trust where she developed a new grantmaking strategy, elevated the Trust's communications and helped launch the Housing Narrative Lab.



**Mike Kingsella** is the CEO of Up for Growth, a national network focused on solving the housing shortage and affordability crisis through research and policy. He has over 20 years of experience in urban development and housing policy, with a Bachelor of Science in Community Development and Real Estate Development from Portland State University. As CEO, Mike leads the organization to achieve its strategic vision.



**Noerena Limon**, Principal of Mariposa Strategies LLC, provides strategic consulting on housing policy and programs on issues ranging from housing supply, to bridging the racial wealth gap. In 2023, Noerena was appointed to the Board of the California Housing Finance Agency by Governor Newsom. She also serves as a Housing Fellow for the UC Berkeley Terner Center for Housing Innovation. Most recently, Noerena served as EVP of Public Policy and Industry Relations at the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP) and has worked both at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and at the White House under President Barack Obama.



**Charles Lowery** brings over 25 years of mortgage, housing, and advocacy experience to his current position as Senior Policy Director for the National Housing Conference. Most recently, he served as Director, Legislative Policy & External Affairs for New American Funding, a top 25 Independent Mortgage Banker, where he managed government relations and stakeholder outreach and directed the New American Dream Initiative to increase Black homeownership. He has also served as the Director of State Regulatory Relations for Ocwen Financial Corporation, where he interacted with state regulatory representatives

and industry groups by forging strong relationships and ensuring effective communication channels with state-based stakeholders.



Carrie Makarewicz, PhD is an associate professor and chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at University of Colorado Denver. She does applied research on the implications for individuals and families from the interactions among public investments, private development, planning processes, and public policies with a focus on transportation infrastructures, affordable housing, public schools, community development, and disaster recovery. Prior to academia, she worked as a city planner, consultant, and policy analyst.



Alejandro Martinez, President at CRCD Partners LLC, co-launched CRCD Partners LLC in 2021 as the legal entity responsible for CRCD's affordable housing activities, including new construction, acquisition and rehabilitation, and non-Low Income Housing Tax Credit financed projects such as student and workforce housing. Focused on the communities of South Los Angeles, East Los Angeles, San Fernando Valley, and the Greater Los Angeles area, CRCD Partners LLC provides affordable housing with a commitment to transition-age youth coupled with homeless/chronically homeless, seniors, and large-family housing.



Katherine Peoples McGill is founder of HPP CARES, a HUD-approved housing counseling agency and CDE/CDFI that provides education and financial services in low-income communities and to people of color. HPP CARES educational offerings on foreclosure, first time home buying, financing essentials and ADUs have reached tens of thousands since launch in 2009. As one of a handful of nonprofits approved to assist homeowner applicants through CalHFA's ADU grant program, HPP Cares works to combat inequitable and disparate impact in lending and expand access to the benefits of ADUs to all communities in California.



**Silky Misra**, Senior Director of Housing & Community Development at National Urban League (NUL) spearheads nationwide initiatives that provide comprehensive housing counseling and asset-building services to low- and moderate-income communities. She is deeply passionate about empowering communities of color to overcome obstacles, achieve economic equality, and create sustainable communities.



**Carol J. Ornelas** is a visionary and advocate for providing quality "affordable housing" for families within the Central Valley – Fresno, San Joaquin, Sacramento, and Stanislaus. For the past 40 years, she has been the Chief Executive Officer for Visionary Home Builders of California, Inc. (VHB), a non-profit residential development company headquartered in Stockton, California. Carol Ornelas serves with distinction as the first female developer in the Central Valley and is highly recognized as a national leader in the non-profit housing development community.



**Arizona State Representative Analise Ortiz** proudly serves the people of Maryvale and Glendale in Legislative District 24. Ortiz serves as the ranking member of the House Judiciary committee. During Ortiz's first legislative session in 2023, she championed zoning reform legislation and successfully negotiated a historic investment into housing and homelessness in the state budget.



**Jennifer Palmer** is a Business-minded strategist with 25 years' experience in the social service, healthcare & retail business sectors. Her recent public-sector experience includes consolidating homeless, affordable housing and farmworker housing program services to a new County Department; designing and launching the Napa County Affordable Accessory Dwelling Unit Forgivable Loan Program; managing diverse emergency response and disaster-recovery efforts; and, leading multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction planning and pilot program implementation work.



**Timothy Pawlak** is an expert in small housing ordinances and regulation, building, planning, and education. With an educational background in Architecture and Organizational Development, Timothy is a former Senior Planner and Plan Review Specialist for the City of San Diego and Solana Beach. He is deeply immersed in the ADU space, having managed over 30 ADU projects and evaluated over 1500 properties for small housing development in municipalities throughout California.

**Rafael Perez** is a noteworthy leader in the Real Estate space. He has worked as a lender, educator, and Realtor. He is also Adjunct Faculty at Cuyamaca College where he teaches in the Real Estate Department. He is driven by creating opportunities in real estate for people at all levels of



the housing market. He is passionate about placing families in homes with "value-add" opportunities. Rafael is Casita Coalition's Board Vice President and Board Member for the Pacific Southwest Association of Realtors. Rafael is currently serving on the Fair Housing Policy Committee for the National Association of Realtors. Rafael is a member of NAHREP San Diego, where he is a past board member and former Chapter President.



Janneke Ratcliffe is vice president of the Housing Finance Policy Center at the Urban Institute. Over a career spanning research, industry, the nonprofit sector and government, her work focuses on building financial systems that foster equity and prosperity. Ratcliffe joined Urban from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, where she served as assistant director, leading its Office of Financial Education.



**Justin Rushing** is the Director of Growth and Partnerships for inewsource, with a focus on audience development, brand strategies, product enhancement and revenue attainment. He is a tenured multimedia professional with 14 years of advertising and business development experience working across traditional and emerging media companies and platforms such as: ESPN, EW Scripps and Cars.com. In his current role, Justin spearheads inewsource's community and brand engagement efforts through the programming of their community forum and mobile newsroom platforms.



**Dottie Sheppick** is a founding partner of Specialty Mortgage Product Solutions, LLC (SMPS). SMPS was formed in 2016 and serves lenders and others focused on affordable, builder and first-time homebuyer products and programs. Her consulting clients have included Freddie Mac, the National Council of State Housing Agencies and Habitat for Humanity International and the completed projects will support low and moderate income and first-time homebuyers.

**Eli Spevak** has been developing affordable housing communities in Oregon for over 20 years, starting as a volunteer construction supervisor with Habitat for Humanity. In 2006, he launched Orange Splot, LLC to build new models of community-oriented, affordable, green housing



development – ideally within an easy bike ride of his house. Eli was awarded a Loeb Fellowship in Advanced Environmental Studies at the Harvard GSD, co-founded www.accessorydwellings.org, co-founded Portland for Everyone, and is past chair of Portland's Planning and Sustainability Commission (where he still serves).



Renee Martinez-Stone directs the Denver Housing Authority's Planning Department and the West Denver Renaissance Collaborative (WDRC) where she elevates underrepresented community leaders and project outcomes aimed at minimizing resident and business displacement. For 25 years Ms. Martinez-Stone has provided leadership in equitable redevelopment and affordable housing projects providing planning, urban design, and community-centered engagement. Ms. Martinez-Stone is recognized for her "community-based" approach that integrates stakeholder priorities and participation with innovative design solutions, policy, and project outcomes.



**Sherry Taylor** is the Executive Director for Durham Community Land Trustees in Durham, North Carolina. She is a real estate professional with 15 years of experience in nonprofits, government, and the private sector. Sherry provides strategic direction and oversight to DCLT's vision, drawing from her background in commercial real estate, development, and urban planning.



**Julie Tomanpos** is an Associate Vice President, Philanthropy and Community Impact in Wells Fargo Public Affairs. Wells Fargo's philanthropic giving priorities include addressing the urgent need for affordable housing, accelerating the transition to a low-carbon economy, improving financial health, and strengthening small businesses in diverse communities. As a key member of the Wells Fargo team, Julie operates as a conduit between the company and the communities it serves, focusing on stakeholder engagement and corporate social responsibility strategies and programs.



Senator Bob Wieckowski is well known amongst housing advocates having authored five bills, four of which were signed into law fundamentally changing the California landscape for accessory dwelling units, ADUs. Bob Wieckowski currently serves as a Board Member on the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, having been appointed by Senator Pro Temp Toni Atkins on January 11, 2023. From November 4, 2014 until December 5, 2022, Senator Bob

Wieckowski represented the 10th Senate District in the California State Legislature.