

Memo

To: King County Affordable Housing Committee (AHC) Members
From: Melissa Aguilar, Regional Affordable Housing Specialist
cc: Housing Interjurisdictional Team
Date: October 29, 2021
Re: Community Partners Table Membership Recommendation

Summary

This briefing provides an update on Community Partners Table (CPT or Table) member recruitment. Headwater People, the consultant establishing and managing the Table, developed a proposed membership list (Exhibit A) for consideration. This report summarizes background information on the Table, the member recruitment process, a group description, an opportunity for Affordable Housing Committee (AHC or Committee) member feedback on the proposed slate of members, and next steps.

Background

Earlier this year, the Committee adopted a work plan item to establish the Table and ensure strong partnership between the Table and the Affordable Housing Committee (AHC or Committee). In June, Headwater People Consulting contracted with King County to establish and manage the Table. Over the last few months, King County AHC staff, staff to the AHC Chair, and the Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) work group of the Housing Interjurisdictional Team (HIJT) reviewed and approved Headwater People's plans for member selection, Table meetings, onboarding, and stipends. All parties agreed on the Table purpose, member qualifications and stipends.

Table Purpose

The Table's purpose is to center the voices of historically excluded and the most disproportionately impacted housing cost burdened communities in the work of the Committee. Member organizations represent cost-burdened Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities and will inform Committee efforts to eliminate housing cost burden among low-income households in King County.

The Table provides community members a space to come together, build trust with each other, deepen their knowledge of technical topics, develop consensus recommendations to the AHC, and increase awareness and support for potential housing solutions in the most impacted communities. In partnership with the Table, the Committee strives to take a more thoughtful approach for strategy implementation, rooted in the equity principle that communities who are historically excluded and most negatively affected have the right to influence and define decisions.

Membership Qualifications

Community-based organizations with a Taxpayer Identification Number are eligible to serve on the Community Partners Table and receive a stipend for participation. Priority was given to grassroots community organizations led by and for the communities most impacted by housing cost burden. Organizations represent no- and low- income communities who have been historically

discriminated against and excluded from decision-making processes, including but not limited to the following:

- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) individuals
- Immigrants and refugees
- People living with disabilities
- Seniors
- Cost-burdened renters
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ+) people
- People with criminal records
- People who have experienced homelessness
- Youth and families

Stipends:

Table member organizations will be paid \$75 an hour for all Table activities, including attending meetings, reviewing materials, and preparing reports or other documents. Headwater People will manage these payments.

Recruitment Process

Headwater People carefully designed their recruitment approach to prioritize organizations serving the most historically excluded and disproportionately affected by housing cost burden communities who currently don't have a voice on the Committee or HIJT. In order for the Committee to implement their work plan item to center equity, the most cost burdened communities must be able to help influence decisions and shape regional housing solutions.

Over the summer, Headwater People worked with the HIJT and the HIJT's Equity and Social Justice work group to create a list of about 30 organizations to connect with about the Community Partners Table opportunity. The list included Headwater People's trusted network of community organizations representing communities most disproportionately impacted by housing cost burden in King County, a few organizations recommended by the HIJT, and organizations who engaged in the Community Partners Table Request for Information process. Headwater People called, emailed, and informally met with contacts from that list to collect member nominations, either from their own organization or another organization in their unique networks. Nominated staff were then informed of the Table opportunity and asked to confirm their capacity and interest to serve on the Table. Nominated members with interest and capacity to engage on the Table are included in the proposed membership list (Exhibit A).

Since the start of the consultant contract in June, Headwater People and AHC staff have updated the HIJT on CPT progress at every monthly meeting. In September, the HIJT had an opportunity to suggest organizations to reach out to about the Table opportunity. Two of the HIJT-recommended organizations, Centro Cultural Mexicano and Indian American Community Services, are included in the proposed membership list.

During the outreach, Lavender Rights Project stated they could more effectively engage with the Table if two of their staff could attend Table meetings. While the organization will still only receive one member stipend and the second member would engage as an alternate, Headwater People recommends accommodating their request to address their capacity concerns and support their participation.

African Community Housing & Development (ACHD) requested a young adult from their organization serve on the Table as mentee. This is a valuable opportunity for youth to expand their knowledge on housing affordability topics and provide a unique perspective. While the organization would still only

receive one member stipend, Headwater People wholeheartedly supports youth engagement to mentor future generations working to reduce cost burden among no- and low-income communities. ACHD's Director of Community Development & Special Projects would lead the mentorship.

Indian American Community Services indicated interest in participating on the Table but it is still determining the right representative from their organization.

Group Description

All the recommended Table organizations listed in Exhibit A represent no- and low- income communities in King County who have disproportionately experienced housing cost burden and historically been excluded from decision-making processes. The intersectionality of the group covers perspectives from a broad range of these disproportionately impacted groups, including no- and low-income seniors and people with disabilities. Most members identify as BIPOC and have many years of experience creating opportunities for their communities to thrive. The group represents a diversity of perspectives, has a countywide geographic spread, and shares a strong interest in advancing housing affordability solutions for those who need it the most.

AHC Feedback Opportunity

Committee members can ask questions and provide feedback on the proposed slate of Table members at the November 17 AHC meeting.


Next Steps


King County staff, staff to the AHC Chair, and the HIJT ESJ work group will consider AHC feedback and ultimately approve Table membership after the November 17 AHC meeting.



Timeline

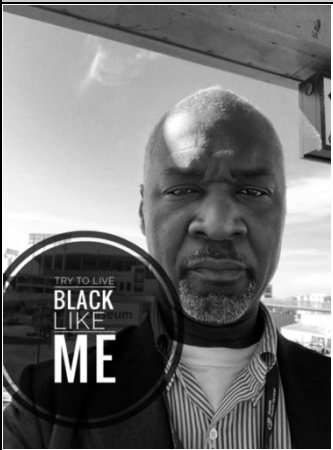
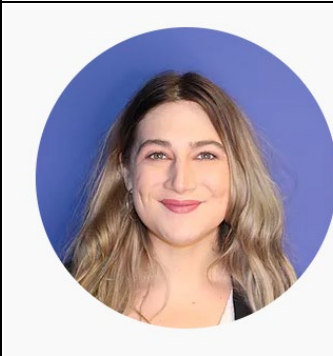
Date	Activity
Nov 17	AHC input AHC members provide input to Headwater People on the recommended CPT membership
Late Nov/ early Dec	CPT membership approval King County staff, staff to the AHC Chair, and the HIJT ESJ work group consider AHC feedback and finalize CPT membership


Exhibit A: Proposed Community Partners Table Membership

Name	Organization	Background
 <p>Ginger Kwan She/her</p>	<p><u>Open Doors for Multicultural Families</u>, Executive Director Based out of Kent, WA; serves regional and state-wide</p> <p>Since its founding, Open Doors for Multicultural Families (ODMF) is Kent, WA based and has helped connect over a thousand individuals and families with tailored support and language access. Kwan now serves as the organization’s executive director. School, access to housing, employment, and other social services are also important focus areas that can be challenging to navigate.</p> <p>Specific housing access programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness prevention program for families with children (0-26) and unaccompanied minors facing an imminent risk of homelessness in King County <p>Populations served include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIPOC individuals • Immigrants and refugees • People with disabilities • Seniors • Youth and families 	<p>Kwan speaks English/Cantonese/Mandarin. She has three children, one of whom is on the autism spectrum. She is a 2020 CityStream: Legacy Award Winner. Founded ODMF in 2009 with a vision to see all “culturally and linguistically diverse individuals with developmental/intellectual disabilities and their families thrive in an inclusive society of their own design.”</p>

Name	Organization	Background
 <p data-bbox="472 159 590 248">Jeremy Garretson He/his</p>	<p data-bbox="619 159 1102 219"><u>Chief Seattle Club</u> – Re-entry Case Manager Based out of Seattle; serves King County</p> <p data-bbox="619 256 1081 381">Chief Seattle Club is a 501(c)(3) registered organization dedicated to physically and spiritually supporting American Indian and Alaska Native people.</p> <p data-bbox="619 418 919 446">Populations served include:</p> <ul data-bbox="667 451 1039 609" style="list-style-type: none"> • BIPOC individuals • Cost-burdened renters • People with criminal records • People who have experienced homelessness 	<p data-bbox="1131 159 1942 284">Jeremy is from the Northern Arapaho Tribe. He started the first Re-Entry program in May of 2020 at Chief Seattle Club (CSC). He is formally incarcerated. Jeremy is currently working to secure a transitional house to rent out for CSC members.</p>

Name	Organization	Background
 <p data-bbox="426 159 579 215">Jaelynn Scott She/her</p>	<p data-bbox="619 159 884 183">Lavender Rights Project</p> <p data-bbox="619 191 825 215">Executive Director</p> <p data-bbox="619 224 1024 280">Based in Tacoma, WA; serves Seattle, Tacoma, and beyond</p> <p data-bbox="619 321 1104 638">Lavender Rights Project disrupts oppressive systems that target Black gender diverse and intersex communities of color and lead to disproportionate levels of poverty, housing disparities, and gender-based violence, especially among Black and Indigenous people. Their WA Black Trans Task Force seeks to provide housing for Black trans and non-binary individuals experiencing or are at risk of chronic homelessness.</p>	<p data-bbox="1131 159 1948 378">In her previous careers, Jaelynn worked as a Director of Human Resources, Operations, and Education. She regularly preached and facilitated workshops on justice and mindfulness in her previous career as minister and religious educator. Lavender Rights Project now serves Seattle, Tacoma and beyond. She is passionate about queer and trans liberation, sacred practices for self-care, decolonizing labor practices, and mindfulness in the workplace.</p>
 <p data-bbox="438 711 571 768">Ebo Barton He/they</p>	<p data-bbox="619 711 932 735">Director of Housing Services</p> <p data-bbox="619 743 1024 800">Based in Tacoma, WA; serves Seattle, Tacoma, and beyond</p> <p data-bbox="619 849 919 873">Populations served include:</p> <ul data-bbox="667 881 1041 1125" style="list-style-type: none"> • BIPOC individuals • People with disabilities • Cost-burdened renters • LGBTQ+ individuals • People with criminal records • People who have experienced homelessness 	<p data-bbox="1131 711 1955 963">Ebo Barton is a Transgender and Non-Binary, Black and Filipino, Poet, Artist and Educator. Ebo has demonstrated their commitment to equitable change in which BIPOC thrive with power and purpose with their work in the Seattle Arts Community, befriending, mentoring and collaborating with youth, working for justice in health equity, trans rights, managing programs, organizing events and producing shows in the Pacific Northwest for the past 13 years. A leader in arts and activism, Ebo Barton is committed to creating opportunities for others to organize, heal and rejoice.</p>

Name	Organization	Background
 <p>Harold Odem <i>He/his</i></p>	<p>Lived Experience Coalition – Director of Policy Based in King County and serves King County.</p> <p>The Lived Experience Coalition consists of homeless and formerly homeless people who advise the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA).</p> <p>Populations served include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIPOC individuals • People who have experienced homelessness 	<p>Harold has experienced homelessness for over a decade. He once worked in computer repair, but after a loved one passed away, his life emotionally started going downhill. Today, Harold lives in one of the Tiny Home Villages in Georgetown and is a huge advocate for those experiencing homelessness. Harold believes strongly that housing is a human right. Harold is a part of the King County Regional Housing Authority. He is very involved with the Health Care for the Homelessness Network Consumer Advisory Group and serves in a leadership capacity with the Lived Experience Coalition. He has played a key role in making sure that people experiencing homelessness were involved in the design of the new King County Regional Homelessness Authority. He was part of the team that helped create the theory of change that the KCRHA has at the forefront of all discussions. He participated in numerous workgroups working alongside government staff, philanthropy, consultants, and most importantly people most impacted by homelessness to stand up key elements of the new Regional Homelessness Authority.</p>
 <p>Bree Nicoletto <i>She/her</i></p>	<p><u>African Community Housing & Development, Director of Community Development & Special Projects</u> Based in SeaTac, WA; serves King County</p> <p><i>The ACHD also nominated Coleen Ruwsyda, a young adult representative to be mentored by Bree and attend Table meetings. She is without much experience, but she is ready to learn.</i></p> <p>African Community Housing & Development (ACHD) works to build shared strategies around economic development in the region. ACHD also seeks and advocated for the opportunity to acquire land and develop affordable housing. They are working to find land that is in close proximity to public transit and can be developed into an African Diaspora cultural center, quality preschool, rent-to-own affordable housing, a small business resource center, and affordable retail space.</p>	<p>Bree is an urban planner and project manager with 8+ years of experience working with diverse communities throughout the Pacific Northwest. Her passions include developing affordable housing and economic development projects, policies, and programs rooted in equity and collaboration.</p>

Name	Organization	Background
	<p>Specific housing access programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eviction prevention • Financial support for basic needs in every area in life <p>Populations served include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIPOC individuals • Immigrants and refugees • Cost-burdened renters • Youth and families 	
 <p>Angie Hinojos <i>She/her</i></p>	<p><u>Centro Cultural Mexicano</u> – Executive Director Based in Redmond, WA; serves East King County</p> <p>Centro Cultural Mexicano strives to inspire inclusive participation by the community in all aspects of education, culture, and society by providing opportunities to create a positive future.</p> <p>Specific housing access programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting Latinx people to rental and housing assistance programs on the eastside, and providing translation services • Art as placemaking for neighborhoods and communities <p>Populations served include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIPOC individuals • Immigrants and refugees • Cost-burdened renters • Youth and families 	<p>“I co-founded Centro Cultural Mexicano to provide an inclusive space where our Latino community, and other historically oppressed communities, would be able to connect with the greater community for increased civic and social participation, and where they could access services and educational opportunities for stability and empowerment. We utilize art and culture as powerful tools of engagement; we connect disparate communities together in ways that promote conversation, reflection, and a deeper understanding of our individual needs to foster mutual respect and lasting positive change.”</p>
<p><i>Nominated member to be identified.</i></p>	<p><u>Indian American Community Services</u> Co-President Madhusri Movva</p>	

Name	Organization	Background
	<p>Co-President Simmone Misra Executive Director Lalita Uppala Based in Bellevue, WA; serves Pacific Northwest</p> <p>Indian-American Community Services (IACS) formerly known as India Association of Western Washington (IAWW), is the longest-serving Indian community based organization in the Pacific Northwest. Secular and volunteer-driven, the IACS works to connect and empower the Asian-Indian community through programs, services, and advocacy for people of all ages and all life stages.</p> <p>Specific housing access programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis care • Senior support • COVID-19 rent and utilities support <p>Populations served include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIPOC individuals • Immigrants and refugees • Seniors • Cost-burdened renters • Youth and families 	