

**Stephanie Allen**

Founding Board Member

Hogan's Alley Society

Associate Vice-President Business Operations and Performance
BC Housing

Stephanie is an affordable housing specialist and organizational development professional with a focus on equitable city-building. She combines her expertise in market and community housing development with her background in government policy and stakeholder engagement to advance community building initiatives across the Province.

Outside of her day job, Stephanie is a founding board member of the Hogan's Alley Society, and also on the board of the Federation of Black Canadians, the City of Vancouver's Poverty Action Advisory Committee, and the Community Impact Real Estate Society (CIRES). Stephanie holds a master's degree in Urban Studies from Simon Fraser University and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

**Itah Sadu**

Co-Owner,

A Different Booklist Cultural Centre

When meeting Itah Sadu, the first thing you will see is her smile, the first thing you will notice is her warmth.

As a dynamic entrepreneur and community builder, she utilizes creativity, leadership and teamwork infrastructure and legacy in communities.

Her objective is simple and to the point: To work with organizations that engage in programs for youth with the focus on education, pathways and community economic development.

A woman of many talents, Sadu, has been a community developer, entrepreneur and educator in Toronto for decades. Sadu's youth entrepreneurship program designs have been adapted as models for job placement opportunities, skill development and leaders-in-training programming. One such programme was the Fresh Elements/Fresh Arts initiative designed for youth to develop technical and production skills in the cultural industries.

Featured on the African Canadian History 2011 Poster, Sadu has contributed to the legacy of African Canadians with the naming of Toronto sites in honour of their contributions. Sadu is a bestselling children's author, whose books are translated into foreign languages, adopted by schools for curriculum and adapted to film.

She is the co-owner of A Different Booklist, one of the few independent bookstores left in Toronto with a focus on finding literary gems that reflect Toronto, the African Canadian and Caribbean Canadian diversity.

Her love for storytelling has taken her to schools around the world where she has developed stories that have a special appeal for children.

A former Vice-President of the Black Business and Professional Association, and former board member of the Canadian Book Centre. Itah is currently a Harry Jerome Scholarship Trustee and a board member of The Watah School, an organization dedicated to the development of the performing arts.

Her awards include: The Onyx lions Award for Community Service, The Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario Award for Children's literature, Sesheme Hero Amongst Us, Black Business and Professional Association, Women of Honour Award, Toronto Arts Council Foundation Award, the African Canadian Achievement Award for Excellence in Business, Pioneer for Change Award for Excellence in Entrepreneurship, African Canadian Achievement Award for Community Service, and the North York Urban Hero Award for business.



Angela Simmonds
Manager of Equity and Access
Nova Scotia Barristers' Society

Angela believes that education and the law can be used as a tool to address anti-black racism and barriers impacting individuals most vulnerable to structural, systemic inequalities in our society.

Angela Simmonds is the Managing Lawyer of Equity & Access at the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society, the regulator of the legal profession in the province where she is responsible for managing initiatives that promote cultural competence, equity, diversity and inclusion in the profession and access to legal services. She also consults and provides strategic advice on such matters to organizations, committees, Government, and communities. She previously worked for Nova Scotia Legal Aid, Federal Prosecution Service Canada, Department of Natural Resources, and the Halifax Regional School Board.

Angela has been able to use her legal knowledge, community background and grass roots approach to address racial inequities; discriminatory policies and practices within this province. Angela has presented twice for the United Nations advocating for African Nova Scotian

communities in the area of justice, health, anti-black racism, and land claims. For this work in 2017 Angela was the recipient of the Judge Sparks award, and Burnley “Rocky” Jones Human Rights Award and 2018 Canadian Association of Black Lawyers “Pathfinder” award. She has recently been acknowledged as one of the top 100 most accomplished African Canadian Black woman in Canada in 2020.

Angela also was nominated and named the Vice Chair of the 2018-2019 Electoral Boundaries Commission.

Angela lives in North Preston with her husband Dean of 23 years, they have three children and a grandson.



Camille Mitchell
Architect
Gensler

A highly accomplished Architect, Camille brings several years of experience on award-winning projects, garnering recognition for this work through speaking, mentorship, and teaching opportunities. She excels at liaising with end users and client groups, seamlessly integrating the expertise of consultants, and furthering the design of intelligent and reliable places for natural interaction and individual refection.

Camille believes that it is extremely important for underrepresented groups to be involved with the design of their built environments. She is a founding member of the independent organizations Building Equality in Architecture Toronto and Black Architects + Interior Designer Association. Their programs are dedicated to supporting mentorship, networking and leadership opportunities for women and visible minorities within the architecture profession.

In 2020, Camille was nominated to join the Urban land Institute's Women in Leadership Initiative Championship Team. This initiative was created with a mandate to advance women in real estate and construction.

Recent incidents of social unrest have become catalyst to evaluate learned behavior and biases within the design industry. Camille was selected to join Gensler's NE Regional Diversity Initiative and assist with framing necessary steps to achieve mutual respect and understanding in the workplace.

Involvement with post-secondary institutions includes the Dean's Advisory Council for the Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science at Ryerson University. Camille also sits on the

Advisory Board for the University of Waterloo School of Architecture's Racial Equity and Environmental Justice program and provide guidance and oversight to school as it revisits its curriculum and launches new initiatives.

Additional community engagements includes 2020 Interior Design Show Contract Curatorial Team and an official Ambassador of the DesignTO Festival.