



# Washington

## Pathways to Inclusion Cohort Directory

2023-2024



A message from ULI Washington:

The mission of the Urban Land Institute is to shape the future of the built environment for transformative impact in communities worldwide. ULI Washington, a district council of ULI, carries forth that mission by serving the Washington region, in both public and private sectors, by providing programming and thought leadership to advance the real estate industry and enhance the overall economic competitiveness of the region.

ULI Washington is among the strongest district council networks in the world. With a membership network that exceeds 2200 members, ULI Washington is the second-largest district council in the United States. Our network spans the 23 jurisdictions in and around the Metropolitan Washington region, including Washington, DC, and the surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia. Our members are involved in all aspects of the real estate development and planning process – private, public, and non-profit.

ULI Washington welcomes its fifth Pathways to Inclusion cohort into the fold. We deeply care about the future of ULI Washington and share a desire to see the district council and the industry strengthened by attracting a more diverse membership that better represents our region. Thank you for expressing interest in this program, and welcome to ULI Washington!



### **Fadi Alajati**

Architectural Designer  
Perkins Eastman  
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Fadi Alajati is a highly skilled architectural and urban designer professional passionate about housing and urban design with over five years of invaluable experience in the architectural industry.

After graduating with a Master's in Architecture and Real Estate Development from the University of Maryland, he joined Perkins Eastman, working on housing and urban design projects. Fadi has quickly distinguished himself as a critical contributor to numerous high-profile projects in Florida, Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. These projects have involved various urban planning endeavors across multiple jurisdictions as well as diverse housing initiatives, from planning and programming to designing a variety of residential typologies and navigating complex sites. Fadi has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to crafting harmonious and sustainable communities in each of these places, with over 6,000 housing units created as part of his professional work.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Fadi remains deeply committed to architecture as a force for positive change. Whether incorporating sustainable practices into the design, promoting inclusivity in housing, or advocating for community engagement in urban planning, Fadi is a vocal advocate for the betterment of society through thoughtful architectural solutions.



### **Patrick Brown**

Debt Analyst  
Artemis Real Estate Partners  
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Patrick Brown currently works as a Debt Analyst with Artemis Real Estate Partners, where he assists in building their debt asset management platform. He previously worked with Baker Tilly, a leading advisory, tax and assurance firm. At Baker Tilly, he served as a residential and commercial real estate auditor. During his time there he built connections and utilized resources to improve his knowledge of the ever-changing real estate industry.



## **Taylor Camp**

GSE Underwriter  
Walker & Dunlop  
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Taylor Camp is an Underwriter in the GSE Group with Walker & Dunlop, a leader in the commercial real estate industry, providing Mortgage Banking and Investment Sales services. Her work focuses on multifamily projects spanning mixed-use, age-restricted, and mission-driven deals across the United States. In addition to her role, Taylor serves on both the boards of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion and Women of Walker & Dunlop. Taylor earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Spelman College. Since graduating, Taylor has maintained her passion for government affairs and community outreach. In her personal time, she is very involved in community service and volunteers with Prince George's Tennis & Education Foundation, and the Special Olympics.



## **Brittney Drakeford**

Urban Planner  
National Capital Planning Commission – Policy & Research Division  
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Brittney Drakeford is a believer in FATE – the practice of combining faith, arts, and technology to energize communities to create equitable places for generations today and tomorrow. She is a PhD candidate in the Urban and Regional Planning and Design Program at the University of Maryland College Park, an alumna of Wake Forest University (M.S. in Management) and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (B.A. in African American Studies and B.S. in Journalism and Mass Communications) with her research and practice centering on the legacies of post-reconstruction African American communities, the ways in which the built environment and public infrastructure hold the memories of discrimination, and how the intangible cultural heritage of the marginalized can be leveraged to establish shared leadership and collective action. Drakeford has over 15 years of experience in community development, business development, program design and evaluation, creative placemaking, sustainable agriculture, and urban planning. Currently, Drakeford is an Urban Planner with the National Capital Planning Commission in the Policy and Research Division. Previously, she served as the Special Assistant to the Planning Director for Prince George's County, where she developed, analyzed, and evaluated evidence-supported practices for modernizing the County's 50-year-old zoning ordinance, with specific focus on policies related to health, racial equity, food systems, sustainability and public engagement. Drakeford is a Board Member of BlackSpace Urbanist Collective, 2021 UMD Global STEWARDS NSF Fellow, 2020 Next City Vanguard Fellow, an alumna of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Leader; and a Senior Fellow for the Environmental Leadership Program. In her free time, you can find her volunteering with The Capital Market, beekeeping at her local church, or riding her bike on the Anacostia River Trail.



## **Thaddeaus Green**

Development Officer  
Housing Authority of Prince George's County (HAPGC)  
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Thaddeaus W. Green is the Development Officer for the Housing Authority of Prince George's County (HAPGC). Thaddeaus is responsible for 86 acres of HAPGC property-related activities, including real estate acquisitions, dispositions, development, feasibility analysis, deal structuring, design development, financing, public approvals, construction, marketing, leasing, and close-out. Prior to HAPGC, he was the Development Manager for the redevelopment of Walter Reed in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning & Economic Development (DMPED) where, among his accomplishments, he shepherded projects through the entitlements process to secure District approval, negotiated and managed 6 contracts on behalf of the Walter Reed Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA), and closed on 9 parcels across the 66-acre campus with a combined total of over 1,300 new units of housing. Throughout his career, Green has executed or advised on over 3.1 million SF of redevelopment transactions. He serves on the Lamar University Alumni Advisory Board and is actively engaged with his local church New Bethel Baptist Church. In addition, Green is a member of ULI and serves on the Young Leaders Group (YLG) Mentorship Committee and as an UrbanPlan volunteer for ULI Washington.



## **Ayesha Hudson**

Chief Executive Officer  
A-Peace LLC  
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Ayesha M. Hudson is a real estate developer and property manager focused on providing resident-centered housing solutions. She is a native Washingtonian who began her public service career with the District of Columbia's Fire Department and later retired from the Prince George's County Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (PGFD) in May 2021. During her tenure with PGFD, Ayesha served as the Director of the Department's Equal Employment Opportunity Office and established the Mediation Program as a tool to foster greater communication during employee disputes. She continues her work as an alternative dispute resolution trainer and remains connected to the mediation community. Ayesha founded A-Peace LLC in June 2002 and has since served as CEO. The company creates and preserves housing for vulnerable families who live in undervalued communities. A-Peace infuses sustainable practices such as renewable energy & urban farming across its portfolio.

Ayesha holds a Bachelor of Science in Management from the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland College Park. She also has certifications for EEO Investigator, mediation, and LEED Green Associate. Ayesha volunteers at two public schools and serves on various boards and committees; she is married with kids & enjoys bike riding & playing chess.



### **Kia Johnson**

Equitable Development Manager  
Building Bridges Across the River, 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park  
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Kia Johnson is the Equitable Development Manager at 11th Street Bridge Park in Washington D.C., where she implements the Equitable Development Plan, and manages the partnerships and programs in place to ensure that the residents within Ward 8 have the tools and resources to live and maintain an equitable life within the community.

Kia has made it her mission to create spaces for critical discourse that focus on cultivating communities and evoking continuous positive outcomes within the District of Columbia. Her journey to equitable outcomes and expanding accessibility began at THEARC, becoming involved and connected to many outreach programs as a volunteer, servicing the Southeast community of Washington, D.C. Much of Kia's work has been centered around filling those gaps by teaching the importance of conversations within communities.

Kia has 10 years of experience as a project manager with a track record in leading the design and execution of programs, and partnerships within non-profit organizations within the education sector. She has served on the board of George Mason University as Student Alumni Representative where she advocated for equitable curriculums for the BIPOC scholars within graduate programs. She gained her Bachelor's in Communication from Trinity Washington University and a Master's Degree in Conflict Analysis & Resolution with a minor in Inclusive Conflict Engagement from George Mason University. Kia is cultivating the community one conversation at a time.



### **Melea King**

Home Ownership Center (HOC)  
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Melea has lived in the Washington, D.C. area over 45 years; she grew up in the NW Petworth area of D.C. She studied Business and Accounting at St. Paul's College but soon developed an interest in building structures.

Melea started in this industry with a large developer in new luxury home construction, where a passion grew in advocating for first time home buyers and affordable housing to serve low to moderate income families throughout the DMV area. She wants to narrow the racial wealth gap and stabilize neighborhoods through education, knowledge and understanding homeownership and beyond ownership.

Melea joined Manna Inc., a nonprofit organization providing and sharing the same mission and vision of affordable homes with (DEJI) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice. In her free time, she enjoys fun time with her family, travel, comedy, and tennis (pickleball).



## **Varun Pais**

Architectural Designer

Perkins Eastman

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Varun Pais is an architect and urban designer with experience in large-scale mixed use and multifamily developments. With experience in India and the United States, he is a strong supporter of collaborative approaches to designing successful projects that are thoughtfully designed for people and place. Having worked largely in dense urban settings and on several affordable and senior housing projects, he believes that there is a place for everyone in cities and that it is the responsibility of us in the industry to strive towards making our cities safer, friendlier, and socially inclusive.



## **Melissa Sieg**

Program Manager

General Services Administration

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Melissa Sieg is a program manager and architect at the General Services Administration. She supports courthouse programs, which currently exceed \$2 billion in appropriations, and has worked as a project manager for capital and lease construction. With 20 years of private and government experience, she has also participated in healthcare, hospitality and commercial projects.

She earned her Bachelor and Master's degrees in Architecture from the Savannah College of Art and Design, and her MBA and Lean Six Sigma Green Belt from The Ohio State University. She has held various volunteer roles with different AIA chapters, including director at the AIA Columbus and Puerto Rico chapters. She and her family enjoyed living in the Caribbean over the past 7 years and moved to northern VA last summer.



## **Mark Smith**

Principal  
HomeSmith Management  
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Originally hailing from Detroit, Mark Smith spent over two decades in the vibrant city of Washington, D.C. after graduating from Howard University. His home office is a lively space, shared with his two interns—his amazing 9-year-old son, Naseem, and a loyal fawn-colored Doberman named Shabazz. Being a Kappa and Mason, Smith thoroughly enjoys engaging in spirited conversations with friends, exploring a wide array of topics.

Smith's journey in real estate has been diverse and enriching. Following graduation, he assumed the role of Principal at a real estate investment company that successfully owned and managed 24 units. Throughout his career, Smith had the honor of collaborating with prominent figures, including serving alongside Mayor Muriel Bowser as a City Council Member, and as a City Liaison to Mayor Adrian Fenty. His dedication to community development and culture led him to serve as a Grants Director at Humanities DC and as a National Liaison for the YouthBuild Program at The Department of Labor. Additionally, Smith played a pivotal role as a Project Manager for Medici Road and a non-profit community development company.

While he has navigated through various spheres, each experience has contributed to his unique perspective. Smith is not just another advisor; he personally invests in multifamily homes in DC and actively pursues real estate development projects. Smith's extensive involvement at the highest levels of non-profit, profit, local, and national government equips him with a comprehensive understanding of the real estate landscape. He looks forward to sharing the wealth of knowledge and experience he gained over the years, and collaborating, learning, and growing together as you all embark on this journey in the world of real estate.



## **LaTosha L. Washington**

Program Analyst  
General Services Administration  
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LaTosha L. Washington is a Program Analyst with over 10 years' experience in the public and private sectors. With expertise in real estate, environmental justice initiatives and policy, urban development, and strong analytical and problem-solving skills, LaTosha has a proven ability to develop and execute program analysis, evaluation, and measurement plans. LaTosha graduated from Georgia State University with a Bachelor of Science in Public Policy with a concentration in Urban Planning/Economic Development, later going on to receive her Master's in Business Administration from the University of Maryland Global Campus.

Apart from her daily role with GSA, she enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, and eating Blue Crabs. LaTosha is also a licensed real estate broker in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Georgia.



