



# AGENDA

**GOVERNANCE GROUP**  
**October 15, 2021 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

Zoom:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Facilitator</u>
2:00	<b>Welcome</b>	<i>Andréa Akita</i>
2:03	<b>Consent Agenda</b> <i>Objectives: review and approve October 15 agenda and August 20 meeting notes</i>	<i>Michael Brown</i>
2:03 – 2:15	<b>Grounding &amp; Equity Moment</b> <i>Objectives: Ground us and acknowledge the bright spots coming from the last year</i>	<i>All</i>
2:15 – 2:35	<b>Meeting the Moment</b> <b>Upcoming Learning Community Events</b> <i>Objectives: Reflect, share thoughts on the September 22 gathering. Learn about upcoming events</i>	<i>Kalayaan Domingo and Whitney Johnson</i>
2:35 – 3:05	<b>Recap and Update on Plans for 2022</b> <i>Objectives: Provide status update on Best Starts Implementation Plan, funding. Brief Governance Group on plans for information sessions and conversations with funded partners</i>	<i>Andréa</i>
3:05 – 3:30	<b>Strategic Priorities &amp; Succession/Governance 2.0</b> <i>Objectives: Consider strategic priorities list (see: August 2021 meeting notes) and implications for future Governance Group members</i>	<i>Name</i>
3:30 – 3:55	<b>Unstructured, Non-directed time for Discussion</b>	<i>All</i>
3:55	<b>Updates</b>	
4:00	<b>Adjourn</b>	

**Governance Group Members**

*Lydia Assefa-Dawson*  
*Michael Brown*  
*Vazaskia Crockrell*  
*Deanna Dawson*

*Ubox Gardheere*  
*Matelita Jackson*  
*Paola Maranan*  
*Jenn Ramirez Robson*  
*Yordanos Teferi*

*Marguerite Ro*  
*Sili Savusa*  
*Tony To*  
*AJ McClure*



---

# COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY GOVERNANCE FOUNDING

---

## RESULTS STATEMENT

Create greater health, social, economic and racial equity in King County so that all people thrive and prosper, regardless of race or place.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Consistently demonstrate the values of equity, respect and partnership.
- Ensure low-income communities and communities of color affected by inequities develop and own the solutions.
- Advocate for and change institutional policies and processes to support equity goals.
- Encourage investments (both funding and in-kind resources) in long-term community capacity building and in systems, policy and practice changes that lead to greater racial and economic equity throughout King County.
- Catalyze alignment of funding streams and partner across issues and sectors to seek preventive strategies that address root causes of today's inequities.
- Be transparent and show how data and community expertise inform initiative strategies.
- Continuously learn, improve and share work publicly.
- Focus on geographic communities with the greatest needs, while simultaneously sharing lessons learned and building relationships across King County – *We are one King County.*

## VALUES

*We commit to guide Communities of Opportunity using these values:*

**Equity:** work intentionally to eliminate racial, ethnic, socio-economic and geographic disparities in health and well-being

**Process Equity:** an inclusive, fair and open process

**Community Engagement:** authentic community engagement that involves listening to and understanding the unique histories of communities

**Driven by quantitative and qualitative data:** Data will track and report progress, as well as support given for promising and evidence-based practices

**Innovation:** Recognize that change involves risk and value an adaptive approach that views failure as an important part of the learning process

## Governance Group Meeting Notes

August 20, 2021, 2-4pm  
via Zoom

### Attendees

Governance Group Members: Deanna Dawson, Tony To, Sili Savusa, Vazaskia Crockrell, Jenn Ramirez Robson, Michael Brown, Ubax Gardheere, Marguerite Ro,

Guests: Haregu Kidane, Rainier Valley Partnership; Kris Hermanns, Seattle Foundation.

Staff: Andrea Akita, Kalayaan (Kai) Domingo, Cristina Gonzalez, Roxana Chen  
Notetaker: Whitney Johnson

### Welcome and Introductions

#### Consent Agenda

Review and approval of the August 20, 2021 agenda and notes from July 16, 2021 meeting. Motion from Sili Savusa, second from Tony To, passes unanimously.

### Equity Moments & Update from the Director

Best Starts for Kids Levy Renewal (Prop 1) passed. Andrea provides next steps on legislative process, timeline, and implementation plan, as well as an update on the Governance Update Report. Updates as process continues will be provided as well as impacts on COO's next steps, contracting, new Governance Group members, etc.

Upcoming COO gathering – Meeting the Moment on September 22<sup>nd</sup> will be a time of celebration and highlighting the work and learnings of the past 6 years as we continue in our path forward.

### Strategic Priorities

**Michael:** How do we continue to anchor this work (that goes well beyond COO itself – e.g., the “ethos” of COO – how do others carry the values we’ve built together and with our community partners in service of achieving an equitable region we want to live in)? What’s the role of the Governance Group in this? And what is within COO’s purview? How do we build and grow new partnerships with other sectors – health care, etc. - understanding this is cross-sector work? And what is Governance Group’s role in strategic visioning? What are the skill sets that are missing within GG that are needed to shepherd this work forward?  
*[Comments have been grouped into themes]*

Responding to multiple crises:

- Racial reckoning, COVID-19 pandemic, and climate change – all three of these have significant impacts on our lives and work – the ground is shifting, and we need to know how and what that means for COO. We need to think beyond the crises

Support as CBOs and CBO-capacity grows

- Increased capacity means increased risk. Learning Community work has to be a focus with our own grantees so that there's support to them as they grow.

Shifting the focus to community-driven solutions/power: INCLUSION

- COO has taken on this notion of inclusion – community inclusion into the work that systems hold. Shifting the ground for institutions and funders to move this way has been significant – has seen this reflected in conversations with King County and funders. The community tells us what to do and people are standing in their own more in the ways that the work should be done and it's getting more elevated and followed. And more of a belief that community can do the work – all we need is support.
- In regard to policy and systems change – for White Center they've been able to move the needle faster because someone has our backs in following the directions that we're giving – and where things are getting stuck, no one is blaming the community – the table is set to have a conversation about the areas of struggle.
- Folks are finally waking up to “equity” and are having different kinds of conversations. Feeling more included in the world of community development in ways that are relevant.
- Want to see more funders utilize the wisdom and strengths of community to create significant policy changes. This footprint of COO has been pretty powerful – and we've set the table for those who will follow-up to continue to build and push forward.
- Is what was described [above] also being seen in other sectors (besides KC gov) -- inclusion and invitation/collaboration/cross-sector work?
- Pleasantly surprised by how the funding world has jumped on this. Seattle Foundation leadership has been critical. Public Private partnership is important. Responsiveness to changing landscape, while following community priorities, focused on policy and system change. Changing how funding works. Community led- on multiple levels.
- More funding is needed – trying to get more folks to listen and talk about COO.

Changing Systems, Changing Funding

- Has been a big challenge within rental assistance because of County barriers – folks not receiving assistance has been very frustrating. Also seeing gaps in how County departments aren't work together; hope to see approaches from COO seep into other areas of County's work.
- Speaking of rental assistance – system is trying to change and do things in a new way and it's a mess – in part because systems change is so challenging (and systems have a way of snapping back to what they were doing before). Having the patience to work together through the mess and find ways to facilitate through – hope this is part of our legacy too!
- Changing how funding works is a great legacy for us to leave.

## Shared power, building relationships, accountability

- Talking about narrative shift – moving to shared power. Building relationships with the other municipalities that are within King County, not relying on just Deanna or Andrea, and using the networks we have within Governance Group in sharing responsibility and approaches in what we feel needs to be anchored in systems and communities.
- We also don't know what we don't know. Have to be cautious not to create another inside crowd and constantly re-evaluating who's not here and whose voices are not being heard.
- And how do we bring others along? Folks still talks about – what are you doing in MY area? We are still struggling with communicating this out (equity) and measuring things in a way that makes the messaging easier. Using the local news article as an example – being clear in a way that folks can embody – this is a valuable use of our public dollars.
- Seeing more of -- what is your true relationship and accountability to community? We see this happening with funders – not just having a community partner at the table/in the application – but are you following the lead of community. This kind of funding and how projects are done – this will be part of our legacy.
- Want to remind folks – nobody is doing this! We are creating a belief in the way that the work is done right. When we run into typical institutional stuff – we're got to remind them we are asking for the space for the collective community to be a part of the decision-making that happens in our municipalities.
- If we build resilient relationships – where there can be debate and dialogue on strategies and approaches – we won't achieve what we want and won't have the legacy. How do we land the plane (at 40k feet)? How are we expanding partnerships authentically and building the bridges that need to occur?
- What's the legacy and what do you leave? It's great to have the model as people adopt different funding and relationship practices – and a great part of this work is funded by the Levy and there is a history that says it will be very hard after 2 levies to let go of this work – but it doesn't mean it won't go away. Are there other things we need to put in place in this future work to sustain this.
- Of the investments made – what can be sustained with or without a levy? We know as funders around capacity building, we have to do more to position folks to be able to manage complex public funding. We see more public dollars coming into communities and partnering with folks to be ready and well-positioned. Anchoring that funded work so our partners have a sustained presence – what is possible when you make that investment in communities.
- We have to think more about our audience. If we think of the Council, for example. Electeds represent their district and bring more resources in – we can understand that and that challenge but at the end of the day they'll know the work has been good. King County is a leader in elevating community voice -- even though there's more to be done.

- Remember we asked communities to tell us how to get at this work and why they felt it was the right way... I think we would do this for 2.0
- We need to think about allies and when we interact together, and they can influence their sectors and the board can be an instrument of change.

#### New landscape

- Some of this could not have happened 5 years ago.
- We have made it harder for the system to resist change. Haven't gotten the system to buy off on our Theory of Change yet. And it's not just us but things around us – e.g., climate change. Reality is on our side and it's becoming harder to resist. Can't take it for granted.

#### Measuring Impact, Lifting up Impact Stories

- Lifting up the impact stories of COO within the Council and more broadly to drive that sustainability.
- Looking at the work of COO and the unique structure that empowers and elevates community voices – and knowing that there will be building on that – sometimes we get bogged down in thinking about the challenges of changing things we don't reflect on the successes and impacts that have happened. There is a lot of respect for the work COO is done.
- We also can't have other people measure our success. We have to create our own measures in this interim. We're not making widgets. We don't want to paint ourselves into a corner (example given on affordable housing metrics: e.g., number of housing units produced and not being able to keep up production numbers due to rising costs: more dollars go into fewer units than previous period) – need to change narrative so that everyone is invested in creating very low housing
- We've been working on measures/data for as long as COO has existed. Has been a challenge (maybe because we're trying to find measures that speak to skeptics and supporters?). How to authentically – in a way that speaks to different communities -- Making the case to community should be the priority – but we also have to also make the message to skeptical/persuadable. Need to work on: How do we measure our success and tell our story in a way people can relate to.
- How do we measure our success? What is our narrative? What would success look like for 2.0? By the end of 2027 what do we want to be proud to say we accomplished. What I'm hearing is the "how" is just as important or more important than the "widgets"
- Remember we asked communities to tell us how to get to this work and why they felt it was the right way...What about a funders' alliance held by SF?
  - Responding to comment – responsibility of Seattle Foundation to work with and bring other funders along e.g. COVID Response Fund and Fund for Inclusive Recovery – have COO elements and these also have a parallel runway to COO (5 years). Have held 2 informal funders calls on supporting capacity building for BIPOC-led organizations, leveraging the dollars that are coming out now. Don't think this would've happened previously and think these are aligned and complementary to the legacy and hopes of COO.

- We do need the widget piece – but we’re getting there in a different way (narrative piece). We don’t get to transformational change if we don’t build the relational --- transactional won’t get us to transformation.
- We can’t win the typical arguments/discussions (equity vs. equality/parity) -- challenge is to talk about the work in a way that gets folks understanding and committed.
- Think about that with board composition – and [systems/institutional] allies as we also grow our community representation; so the Governance Group is also an agent of change going back to systems/institutions.

### **Updates & Announcements**

Seattle Foundation Black Joy Fund – how cool! A sign of impact on funders.

Dr. Ben Danielson joined Seattle Foundation Board.

Via Seattle Foundation funding Open Doors for Multicultural Families translated BSK materials and made small grants to 48 community organizations for community outreach (to over 100k people in just a few weeks). A great testament to the incredible work and partnership and community strengths that exist.

COO Learning Community Speaker Series upcoming: Culture shifts and what really needs to happen (what it takes!) to be in-line with our stated transformational values: Ginger Kwan (ODMF), Jaimee from FEEST, and Mary Kumar with SUNN. Moderated by Paola with questions developed by Roxana Pardo Garcia that have created real vulnerability and authenticity in the conversation and the space.

Upcoming COO gathering – Meeting the Moment on September 22<sup>nd</sup> will be a time of celebration and highlighting the work and learnings of the past 6 years as we continue in our path forward!

### **Meeting Adjourns at 3:45pm**

## I. Renewal of the Best Starts for Kids Levy: COO Information Sessions

Last August, with over 62% approval, King County voters overwhelmingly chose to renew Best Starts and continue building toward our shared vision for our children, youth, families, and communities. Our work together showed us what's possible when community, government, and philanthropy partner in new ways and put equity at the heart of everything that we do.

King County [Executive Constantine transmitted](#) the [Implementation Plan and ordinance](#) to Council that, if adopted, would adopt the plan to govern strategies, programs, and expenditures for the levy over the next six years. The plan will be considered by both the [Regional Policy Committee](#) and [Committee of the Whole](#) between now and November.

Partners have received information about the next King County [Regional Policy Committee \(RPC\) meeting on October 13](#), which provides an opportunity to gain insight into the Plan adoption process. [This interview](#) with Best Starts for Kids also provides information on the process, timeline, and next steps for the next phase of Best Starts implementation.

### Best Starts Governance Update Report

The King County Executive transmitted the [Best Starts Governance Update Report](#) to the County Council on September 24th. The report describes necessary and recommended changes to sections of the King County Code and proposed changes to the composition and duties of the King County Children and Youth Advisory Board and the COO Best Starts Levy Advisory Board (also known as the COO Governance Group). The Regional Policy Committee will receive a briefing on the report at their October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting

## II. Meeting the Moment: Community Conversations on Healing, Organizing, and Building the Future We Want

Thank you to all who attended COO's Meeting the Moment gathering last month. We look forward to hearing your reflections on the day and how the conversations spoke to the work and vision of COO at the next Governance Group meeting.

Kalayaan Domingo, our Learning Community Strategy Lead, and the members of the Planning Team received so much positive feedback from participants who were able to connect with others even within the challenges of a virtual space. The Facilitator and moderators created space where wisdom, creativity, gifts, and stories shared by speakers were felt deeply by participants.

More than 250 community partners joined the event, a majority of whom engaged in sessions throughout the day. There was a palpable feeling that those present leaned into the intentions and

### Information Sessions

*For how all this impacts Communities of Opportunity, we have invited partners to join COO Director Andréa Akita at a drop-in information session:*

- Tuesday, October 26, 1-2pm, or
- Friday, November 5, 1-2pm.

Meetings will be virtual, Zoom sessions. [RSVP to join here](#). We will also continue to share updates and information as the process proceeds through Council through our newsletter and blog.

themes for the day. The event promoted real moments of curiosity, authenticity, connection, and vulnerability, as well as a sense of being and belonging with one another. Our partners and staff reflected on how the event lifted up the ways in which we can commit to and engage with one another -- as both a way to bring justice to our communities and to recognize the gifts, wisdom and strength that already exists in our communities in King County and beyond. Staff are currently following up with several institutional partners to increase the connections and alignment of our work.

You can access video recordings with transcripts from the Autumn Brown's keynote, the panel sessions, conversations, and storytelling on COO's YouTube channel [here](#). For those who were unable to join us, the full program with session descriptions, speaker bios, and related upcoming events may be found [here](#).

### III. Upcoming Learning Community Activities:

#### SPEAKER SERIES

- [Cultivating Community Healing](#) | October 28 time TBA  
Communities transform, they imagine, they are abundant, and they also heal. What is a journey without healing? Join our panelists as they reflect, share, and offer the ways in which they have navigated and worked through conflict and the hard days.
- [Cultivating Community Possibilities](#) | November 18 time TBA  
Join us for part six - and the finale - of Cultivating Community! In our last event of the series our speakers will be looking to the future and sharing what is next in the world of Community driven partnerships.

#### REAL ESTATE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**Asset Management Workshop**, facilitated by NDC, hosted by COO Learning Community and EDI

As part of the 2021 Real Estate Development series, the National Development Council will host an Asset Management Training for community-based organizations or individuals that own real estate, are developing a space to own, or considering ownership in the future.

In this training, participants will gain a clear understanding of:

- A building owner's role and asset management responsibilities
- An overview of asset management through the lifecycle of a project
- How to distinguish between roles of asset managers and property managers and learn how and when to outsource
- Budgeting for operational and maintenance expenses

This online training will take place over three mornings from 9am-noon, with each day's content building off the previous day. We ask that participants plan to attend the full series.

- Tuesday October 26th, 9am-noon
- Tuesday November 2nd, 9am-noon
- Thursday November 4th, 9am-noon

**Community Development Lunch & Learn**: Join King County Communities of Opportunity, the Seattle Equitable Development Initiative, and the National Development Council for a series of monthly Lunch and Learn sessions about community development. Each month, we will be

alternating deep dives on specific topics with drop-in sessions where participants can ask questions and discuss their projects with peers and community development experts.

- Wednesday, November 3rd from 11 am - 12 pm
- Wednesday, December 1st from 11 am - 12 pm

#### **COVID-19 COMMUNITY STORIES COHORT SHOWCASE**, December 16<sup>th</sup> 4-6:30pm

The COVID-19 Community Stories Cohort will hold its final showcase in December. Throughout the cohort, community partners collected and analyze data and developed communications materials to share these stories with broader audiences. These stories illustrate how different policies and systems can work to dismantle the structural barriers and systemic harms that lead to inequities in health and well-being.

#### **YOUTH SUMMIT**, December TBA

A youth inspired and youth led Standing in Solidarity summit will be held in December 2021. This work builds on a breakout session that Korean Community Service Center and Living Well Kent youth led on April 29th, 2020 at the Best Starts for Kids Summit. The session was called Building Bridges of Belonging to Counter Racism and Create Transformative Change. Youth presenters shared how their work changed in the context of COVID-19, the murder of George Floyd and the demand for racial justice. Youth recognized that the murder of a Black man by police officers and anti-Asian sentiment during the pandemic are examples of systemic racism, that are baked into institutions, communities, and outcomes. These youth came together to facilitate conversations on systemic racism, its impacts and to envision a future where bridges of belonging create transformative change. A youth led Standing in Solidarity summit was dreamt up as a platform to partner and learn from other youth projects with the goal of deepening upstream Policy, Systems and Environmental (PSE) work by standing in solidarity to co-create strategies that will combat and dismantle racism. We are recruiting Healthy and Safe Environments, Communities of Opportunity, and Best Starts for Kids youth led projects that are doing PSE change work to support in the planning, and/or lead a breakout session. More info to come. Questions? Email

[Ninona.Boujrada@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Ninona.Boujrada@kingcounty.gov)

#### **IV. Introducing Christy Becker-Motyka**

We are pleased to welcome Christy Becker-Motyka to the Communities of Opportunity Team, as the Administrative Specialist III. Christy is an award-winning Revolutionary Filmmaker/Instructor, who has written, produced & directed political film work since 2009. Her work features intersections of marginalized King County community members and the impacts of systemic global oppression and social justice issues. Her filmmaking path developed from featuring umbrella “social justice issues” with an emphasis on providing solutions to systemic injustice and evolved into robust anti-racist content and instruction. In efforts of building community, she teaches aspiring marginalized filmmakers how to tell their own stories based on the deconstruction of the historical white supremacist roots of the Hollywood film industry and its design of racist media.



Originally from the Bay Area, Christy admits that she misses her home every day, but has had the opportunity to visit recently (pre-COVID) as a film instructor during the annual Revolutionary Organizing Against Racism (ROAR) conference. She likes to be the “grandmonster” to 10-year-old grandson Ben (but Ben isn’t buying it 😊) and is mom to two grown children, Skye and Marley.

She enjoys film, reading and researching, deconstructing ideas, concepts and large systems, academia, 1980’s nostalgia, futuristic fashion, music: punk rock, new wave, disco, R &B, rap, hip hop and 70’s funk (she recently got into jazz), dancing and wearing high heels. As a lifelong learner, she loves meeting new people and learning new systems and infrastructures.