

# One Year into the Pandemic: New Evidence on How Small Businesses Are Faring

## Speaker Biographies

**Tim Ferguson** is the Founder and Chairman of Next Street. His primary focus is external, working with key clients and oversight of the firm as member of the Board of Managers. He is also helping to shape the firm's work in the emerging field of impact investing, which has the potential to transform the neighborhoods in which Next Street works. Prior to founding Next Street in 2005, Tim held leadership positions at several large financial services enterprises in a career spanning more than 25 years. These roles included being Head of Investments for Putnam Investments, the CEO of HSBC Asset Management, and the CEO of County NatWest Securities. His professional experience ranges from investment banking to investment management, with a focus on managing and growing such businesses. Tim is Chair Emeritus of the Boston Children's Chorus, a former Director of the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City, and is currently a founding board member of the New Growth Innovation Network. He has a B.A. in Politics, Economics, and Law from the University of Buckingham in the U.K.

**Deborah Frieze** is founder and president of the Boston Impact Initiative, an impact investing fund working to close the racial wealth divide in Eastern Massachusetts. The fund takes an integrated capital approach, combining investing, lending and giving to build a resilient and inclusive local economy. Deborah is co-author (with Margaret Wheatley) of *Walk Out Walk On*, an award-winning book that profiles pioneering leaders who walked out of organizations failing to contribute to the common good—and walked on to build resilient communities. She is also founder of the Old Oak Dojo, an urban learning center in Boston, MA.

**Brett Theodos** is a senior fellow and director of the Community Economic Development Hub at the Urban Institute. His work focuses on economic and community development, neighborhood change, affordable homeownership, consumer finance, and program evaluation and learning. His research includes evaluations of the Economic Development Administration, New Markets Tax Credit, Small Business Administration loan and investment programs, Opportunity Zones, and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Choice Neighborhoods, Community Development Block Grant, and Section 108 programs. He is studying how capital flows (or fails to flow) into communities, including the role of mission finance actors like community development financial institutions. He leads projects researching how entrepreneurs can access capital. Theodos has conducted studies of neighborhood change and geographic mobility. He is evaluating several place-based initiatives. He's led studies of affordable homeownership supports, including shared equity models like community land trusts. In the financial capability space, he's led studies of financial coaching, financial curriculum, and rules of thumb for decisionmaking. He's explored the geography of debt. Theodos is working to grow nonprofit capacity in performance measurement. He directs Measure4Change, which provides technical assistance and facilitates a community of practice for nonprofits and has led randomized controlled trial evaluations of youth workforce and education preparedness programs. Theodos serves on the Board of the Center for Community Progress, the Douglass Community Land Trust, and the Housing Authority of Prince George's County. Theodos received his BA from Northwestern University, MPP from Georgetown University, and PhD in public policy from George Washington University.



**Chris Wheat** is the Co-President for the JPMorgan Chase Institute. Prior to joining JPMCI, he served as the Director of Analytics at a financial technology startup, where he led the development of advanced analytics algorithms. He previously was an Assistant Professor at the MIT Sloan School of Management and at the Center for Urban Entrepreneurship and Economic Development at Rutgers Business School. As a faculty member, he taught and researched topics in strategy, entrepreneurship, global microfinance, economic sociology, and social network analysis. Chris earned a B.S.E. in Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering from Princeton University, an M.S. in Computer Science from Stanford University, an M.A. in Sociology from Harvard University, and a Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior from Harvard University.