

# Who Owns the Twin Cities? An Analysis of Racialized Ownership Trends in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties

## Speaker Biographies

**Kimberly Burrowes** is a technical assistance manager in the Research to Action Lab at the Urban Institute. Burrowes's research has focused on advancing racial equity in parks and public spaces, practices and policies for affordable housing solutions, and participatory engagement. Burrowes thinks about how to provide an equity framing to local policy solutions for the built environment, using placemaking and community engagement tools. Within her technical assistance role, she works with local government agencies and nonprofits to build their capacity to tackle policy challenges. She has advised local agencies on the equity impacts of placemaking, community-based nonprofits focused on housing stability and equity, county-level criminal justice system agencies, and most recently, resident engagement approaches for municipalities exploring financial empowerment plans. Before joining Urban, Burrowes worked with the urban development and disaster risk management unit at the World Bank, focusing on projects in the Caribbean and East Asia. Before that, she worked on affordable housing policy at the Massachusetts Housing Partnership in Boston and the Island Housing Trust on Martha's Vineyard. Burrowes has a bachelor's degree in geography and international development and a master's degree in community development and urban planning from Clark University.

**Tony Damiano** is a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs at the University of Minnesota. His research interests include housing policy, neighborhood change, structural racism, and inequality, and he specializes in quantitative and spatial methods. He received his doctoral degree in public affairs from the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

**Colleen Gross Ebinger** is vice president of the Family Housing Fund, where she oversees programs, communications, and fundraising. In this role, she leads work with housing courts across the Minneapolis region to develop resource-rich environments at court and devise rapid-response interventions ahead of court filings to address the root causes of eviction. Before joining Family Housing Fund, she spent 12 years consulting to governments, nonprofits, and foundations with a particular focus on cross-sector solutions to societal problems. Fluent in Spanish, Ebinger started her career as a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras and later directed a statewide policy and advocacy initiative for Latino immigrants. Currently, she cochairs the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Housing and Harvard's Center for Public Leadership Alumni Council. She is an alumna of the College of Saint Benedict and holds a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, which she attended on a Reynolds Journalism Institute Fellowship.

**Andrea Ferstan** is vice president of systems innovation with the Center for Economic Inclusion. She is a recognized leader in education and workforce development and is known for leading regional and statewide program and policy initiatives, driving systems change, and developing cross-sector partnerships. In her role, she leads the center's inclusive future of work agenda. This includes regional coalition building to dismantle racism within the current workforce and economic engines and build new economic engines within communities of color. Ferstan also serves as a lead systems change strategist, coalition and network builder, and facilitator of strategic partnerships and policy efforts. Before her current position, she served as the executive director of the Greater Metropolitan Workforce Council, a leadership entity for regional workforce development strategy in the seven-county Minneapolis–Saint Paul region. Before that, she worked as the vice president of talent and workforce for TwinWest Chamber of Commerce, where she oversaw the design, execution, and evaluation of a regional partnership with five school districts aimed at scaling career-connected experiences for students and educators, eliminating education disparities, and improving access to sustaining careers. She also worked as the director of education and jobs at Greater Twin Cities United Way. Ferstan has a master's of social work degree in policy, planning, and administration from Western Michigan University.

**Yonah Freemark** is a senior research associate in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute. His research focuses on the intersection of land use, affordable housing, and transportation. He has published peer-reviewed scholarship in numerous journals, including *Urban Affairs Review*, *Politics & Society*, *Housing Policy Debate*, and the *Journal of the American Planning Association*. Previously, Freemark worked for Chicago's Metropolitan Planning Council and wrote for the *New York Times*, *Next City*, and *CityLab*, among others. He holds master's degrees in both city planning and transportation and a doctoral degree in urban studies from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Tram Hoang** joined the Alliance in July 2019. Hoang's community development perspectives are heavily shaped by the gentrification and displacement she witnessed growing up in North Portland. Before the Alliance, she worked at the Welcome Home Coalition, a group of organizations that effectively advocated for housing policies such as Portland's construction excise tax, inclusionary housing, and Portland's first-ever \$258 million affordable housing bond. Throughout her time in the Twin Cities, she has worked with Hope Community, the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers, the Make Homes Happen coalition, and most recently, in the residential real estate team in the City of Minneapolis's Community Planning and Economic Development Department. She believes equitable development and community benefit are made possible by strong community organizing and effective narrative framing. Hoang has a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, where she was a Charles R. Krusell fellow in community development at the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs.

**Eleanor Noble** is a research assistant in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute. Her research interests include housing affordability, evictions, and zoning and land use. Her past projects have examined landlords in North Minneapolis and the use of and perceptions about public transit among transgender and gender-nonconforming riders. Noble graduated from Macalester College with a bachelor's degree in geography, a minor in data science, and a concentration in urban studies.