

Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (CAB) Members

(Listed in order of CAB position number)



Position 1: Food Access Representative.

Joey Lu, Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance. Joey currently works as the Food Access Coordinator with the Neighborhood Farmers Markets Alliance (NFM) in Seattle. She works with city and state agencies, community partners, and farmers to coordinate the administration of food assistance programs in farmers markets, market gleaning operations, and the Growing For Good farm-to-food bank program. She is currently also pursuing an M.S. in Sustainable Food Systems at Arizona State University.

Prior to her work with NFM, she served as a FoodCorps AmeriCorps School Nutrition Service Member with the Oakland Unified School District in her hometown of Oakland, California. Joey graduated magna cum laude, with College Honors from UCLA with both a B.A. in International Development Studies and Sociology, as well as a B.A. in Public Affairs with a minor in Environmental Systems and Society.



Position 2: Food Access Representative.

Barbara Baquero, University of Washington School of Public Health. Dr. Baquero is a faculty member at the UW School of Public Health. Her research focuses on designing and implementing effective community-based interventions to prevent obesity and chronic diseases and promote physical activity and healthy diets among underserved populations, particularly Latinxs. Her research approach intersects community-based participatory research (CBPR), behavior change intervention research, and implementation science. Her research considers socioeconomic, historical, geographical, and structural factors and conditions that

characterize communities and includes valuable insights generated by my work with Latinx communities across the US. Dr. Baquero's research activities address gaps in and advance public health research and practice in two main areas: advancing behavioral intervention research applying CBPR with Latinxs and conducting implementation research in community and public health departments focusing on new destinations and emergent immigrant communities.



Position 3: Food Access Representative.

Nurhaliza Mohamath, Rainier Beach Action Coalition.

Nurhaliza (she/her) is a Saigon-born, Seattle-raised Cham Muslim American, immigrating to the Rainier Valley or Occupied Duwamish Territory in 2002. Food is how she navigates the world around her. She is a community member, storyteller, eldest daughter of Cham refugees who believes in collective liberation and reclamation by ways of food sovereignty and justice for our economies and land. She attended Mills College in Oakland, California studying sociology and economics and received her Master's in Business Administration. After college, she began her work in

food justice at the Rainier Beach Action Coalition supporting local Black and Brown, immigrant and refugee farmers and young people. If she isn't at her day job you might find her at her family's restaurant called Salima Specialties in Skyway.



Position 4: Community Representative.

Bilan Aden, African Community Housing and Development.

Bilan is the Vice President of African Community Housing & Development (ACHD). She leads community-wide projects, develops culturally rooted curriculums, manages multi-million-dollar budgets, and advances the mission of ACHD. Bilan is fluent in English and Somali, and she holds a Bachelor of Arts in marketing from Seattle University and a Master of Arts in education (curriculum and instruction) from the University of Washington. In 2022, Bilan was highlighted in the Puget Sound Business Journal's prestigious 40 Under 40 Award. She also holds Family Engagement and Nonprofit Financial Stewardship

Program certificates from Harvard University, a P-3 Executive Leadership certificate from the University of Washington, and she is a graduate of IslandWood's year-long Education for Community and Environment program. Bilan serves on the People's Economy Lab Steering Committee, the City of Seattle Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board, the Communities of Opportunity Governance Group, the inaugural Black Homeownership Legacy Fund Committee (of the Black Homeownership Initiative). In her free time, Bilan enjoys traveling the world and spending time outdoors with her husband and daughter.



Position 5: Community Representative.

Tanika Thompson Bird, Got Green. Tanika is an African American community organizer and activist who has lived in Seattle her entire life. She first started as an organizer at SEIU 775NW in 2007, as a Member Organizer, and later became an Executive Board Member and Member Political Organizer, door knocking for the 2008 Obama Presidential Campaign. Tanika was recruited to Got Green's Jobs Committee in 2013 by its founder, Michael Woo, and worked to win a "Priority Hire" Ordinance in 2015. She joined Got Green's Board of Directors and continued to volunteer on the Food Access Team until joining the Got Green staff as Co-organizer for the Food Access Team and later became Campaign Director in 2023, as well as

Co-director for the organization. Tanika led the fight to dedicate revenue of SSB tax to low income communities and currently serves as Co-chair of the Seattle Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board.



Position 6: Public Health Nutrition Representative.

Angie S. Wood, Pike Market Senior Center & Food Bank. Angie was born and raised in Seattle. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and Chinese Language from Oberlin College, and a Master's in Public Health (Community Oriented Public Health Practice) from the University of Washington. Her career has followed her passion for community-centered food systems, leading and designing programs to expand food access, as well as growing and serving food. Angie is driven by the belief that connection to food and place are crucial elements for the health and wellbeing of all communities. She is currently the Director of Food Bank Programs for the Pike Market

Senior Center & Food Bank. When she's off the clock, Angie is often out hiking with her wife and one-year-old daughter, caring for "Betty" (her sourdough starter), or getting her hands dirty in the garden.



Position 7: Public Health Nutrition Representative.

Yamila Sterling-Baker, Solid Ground. Yamila (she/ella) is the Director of Food Access and Education at Solid Ground, where she has worked for over five years. She leads initiatives focused on food resources, nutrition education, and community capacity building, overseeing programs like the Seattle Food Committee, Farm to Preschool, Marra Farm, and Cooking Matters. Yamila also manages one of the Emergency Feeding Assistance Program (EFAP) contracts, supporting 30 food banks. Her team provides logistical, financial, and educational support, emphasizing an anti-oppression lens in Seattle-area food providers' work. She also serves on the

South Seattle Community Food Hub advisory group and is a participant in Leadership Tomorrow Class of 2025. With 15+ years of experience across nonprofit, corporate, and higher education sectors, Yamila has held roles including Project Manager at Xerox, Director of Publications at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, and Assistant Program Director at the I Have a Dream Foundation. She serves on the boards of Harvest Against Hunger and the Afrolantin@ Forum.



Position 8: Public Health Nutrition Representative.

Jen Moss, Washington State University-Extension SNAP-Ed. Jen is dedicated to eliminating health inequities through nutrition education and support of policies and practices that promote healthy lifestyles and well-being for under-resourced individuals and families. Through her work on the Curriculum, Training and Website Team (CTW) for the WA State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (WA SNAP-Ed) Program, Jen provides support to SNAP-Ed staff across the state with training, curriculum choice and delivery, and two websites. She also serves on the WA SNAP-Ed Statewide Leadership Team and assists in guiding program

direction and initiatives. Through her Extension appointment, Jen participates in facilitating dialogue about racism among colleagues, community partners, and staff. She is trained as a trainer in the WSU Navigating Difference Curriculum as well as Facing Racism in a Diverse Nation. She serves on the CAHNRS DEI Committee, the WSU Coming Together for Racial Understanding (CTRU) team, the WSU Food Systems Steering Committee, and the WA Farm to School Network Coordination Team. Jen also serves as Co-chair of the City of Seattle's Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board, assisting with making recommendations that ensure revenue from this ordinance is invested in the communities most impacted by health and economic inequities. Jen studied nutrition at Bastyr University and is a Registered Dietitian.

She loves being Mom to two amazing humans in their twenties and sharing adventures with her partner, friends, and family.



Position 9: Public Health Nutrition.

Barbara Rockey, Tree House.

Barbara is a Senior Education Specialist at Treehouse who has also been actively involved in improving access to nutritious foods at Seattle Public Schools and for foster children. She has experience in key public health competencies like program planning, communication skills, community engagement, and systems thinking. She is community-centered and passionate about BIPOC communities, and addressing inequities in education, public health, housing, food disparities, employment and mental health. She has worked in education and nonprofits for almost 20 years advocating for equitable access of resources that create sustainable living and futures for BIPOC communities. In 2021, she will graduate from Seattle University with a Masters in Public Administration to further her commitment and leadership to design public programs that work in creating the life that BIPOC citizens deserve, where they can live, work, thrive and experience joy.



Position 10: Early Learning Representative

Laura Nicholson, Launch.

Laura is the Executive Director of Launch, a nonprofit dedicated to serving families and children in South, Central, and West Seattle neighborhoods. Our commitment to leading the charge to brilliant outcomes for the children in our community is at the heart of the work we do. In my time with Launch, we have ensured equitable access to our programs for students furthest from educational justice by prioritizing admission to these children, lowering barriers to accessing subsidized care, and building out a robust internal tuition assistance program. I have been with Launch for 5+ years, and in the role of Executive Director for a little over a year. I hold my Bachelors in Cultural Anthropology from Seattle U and my Masters in Educational Leadership from Seattle Pacific U. In my free time, I love to explore with my two daughters (ages 7 and 2), garden, read, and try to make the world a better place for future generations.



Position 11: Early Learning Representative.

Dan Torres, Bezos Family Foundation. Dan has focused his career on systems work to support families and promote equity. Dan joined the Bezos Family Foundation (BFF) in October of 2019 to cultivate partnerships for the Vroom program. Vroom provides science-based tools to families and caregivers to further child development. He was the Executive Director of the Washington State Essentials for Childhood initiative, a cross systems, public private partnership with a vision that all children in Washington state thrive in safe, stable and nurturing relationships and environments. He also previously served as the Director of Policy and Partnerships at Thrive Washington. In that role

he directed the community momentum strategy for 10 early learning regional coalitions and developed Thrive Washington's legislative agenda. Dan spent the beginning of his career focused on child welfare policy as an associate at the Center for the Study of Social Policy and at Casey Family Programs.