



## Equitable Development Initiative 2020 Cohort | Washington, D.C.

These participants make up the second Washington, D.C. area Equitable Development Initiative cohort. All eighteen participants were selected to receive intensive training through weekly information sessions, advice, and support through one-on-one mentorship, as well as connections to capital.



**Adedoyin (A.D.) Adedapo** represents one half of The DAPO Group, a husband-wife team with Keller Williams Capital Properties. He was recently recognized as one of the National Association of Realtors' 2020 30-under-30 recipients. A.D. has a track record of creating investment value and offering strategic consulting on all facets of complex residential and commercial real estate projects. He is a licensed real estate professional in the Washington Metropolitan area, where he leverages his expertise in digital marketing, renovations, land acquisitions, and multi-dwelling development to effectively market properties. A.D works to provide homeownership opportunities that help sustain the vitality of their communities.



**Jamesena Bradley**, a native of Atlanta, Georgia, obtained her bachelor's degree in Architecture from Tuskegee University and a master's degree in Real Estate Development from Auburn University. She started her career as a Palace Acquire Intern at 11th Civil Engineer Squadron. Soon moving on to the Air National Guard headquarters, she managed nearly 45 acquisitions, disposals, and leasing amendments across 12 states. Jamesena has a vast amount of experience in municipal and defense real estate transactions. In addition, she is eagerly looking to grow a portfolio of residential and commercial properties in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, and North Carolina. Jamesena enjoys the process of rehabbing, with a particular niche for design and construction.



**Odis Bledsoe III** is the president and CEO of Home Answers Inc., a general construction firm in Washington, D.C. founded in 2014. Home Answers Inc. has evolved from a small residential construction company to complete federal and commercial projects, all while receiving its HUBZone, DBE, and SBE certifications. In 2020, Odis completed and received the Capstone Award in Clark Construction's Strategic Partnership Program. Going forward, Odis plans to strengthen his commitment to socially impactful investments. From minor scale projects like neighborhood debris cleaning to the building, renovation, and development of homes and businesses throughout D.C. and the surrounding areas, Odis' mission is to build a development firm that can be a principled model for equitable development and construction solutions. He spends his free time as an avid reader of a wide spectrum of book genres and by spending quality time with his wife and two small children.



**Allyson Carpenter** is a resident of the Congress Heights neighborhood in Washington D.C. Currently, she serves as the director of public engagement and a legislative analyst for the D.C. Council's Committee on Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization. She previously served as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner while studying community development and political science at Howard University. She subsequently received the Harry S. Truman Award and studied economics and international relations at the University of Oxford. Carpenter is passionate about sustainable housing for low- and moderate-income families. She is currently developing her first project, a nine-unit building in the Park View neighborhood she once represented.



**LaQuida Chancey** is an experienced real estate investor, entrepreneur, Information Technology manager, and owner of Xavier Estates, LLC, a full service real estate company. In February 2018, LaQuida started Smalltimore Homes, an affordable housing nonprofit. Smalltimore Homes' goal is to restore redlined neighborhoods with resilient ecosystems by deconstructing blight and infilling vacant lots with smaller dwellings like micro-shelters, tiny homes, and container homes. The mission of Smalltimore Homes is to provide those living below the poverty level, specifically those experiencing homelessness, with micro shelter and tiny home solutions. Through partnerships, the villagers are provided supportive wraparound services and renewable energy sources, both made available as onsite amenities. Smalltimore's housing programs and outreach activities are the catalysts to engage supportive and curious volunteers, while also protecting the most vulnerable members of our communities from COVID-19. LaQuida holds a bachelor's degree in Computer Science with a Mathematics minor from Spelman College.



**Thomas Cuffie II** is a decade-long resident of the Baltimore-Washington region. He followed a path, prefaced by an early fascination with geography and college courses in urban planning, directly to HomeSale Settlement Services. As a settlement attorney, Thomas uses problem-solving skills, honed from a combination of engineering coursework and legal experience, to tend to client needs. His keen attention to detail and affinity for intricate processes provide Thomas with the essential tools necessary to be an effective title professional who facilitates real estate transactions for all parties involved. Thomas formerly worked on Capitol Hill, and immersed himself in areas of policy like financial lending practices, consumer protection, and homeowner insurance coverage.



**Rodney Dew**, a resident of Washington, D.C.'s Congress Heights neighborhood, is a multifamily real estate underwriter in the affordable housing sector, emphasizing his skill for deal structuring and community development to serve our country's most vulnerable populations. Still early in his career, he has had the privilege of working on hundreds of real estate transactions worth more than \$3 billion in senior debt, municipal bonds, and equity. He has served as underwriter for some \$450+ million in transactions. Rodney is committed to pushing the boundaries of innovation in place making, community preservation and development, and creative approaches to finance. Rodney believes our built environment should tell the diverse stories of our culture while prioritizing equity and affordability. He is currently working on his first development project of nine units near his alma mater, Howard University.



**Winona Francis** is originally from Hartford, CT. She graduated from Drew University with a bachelor's degree in Political Science with a concentration in American Public Policy and Minor in Economics, in 2014. In 2018, she received her master's of Business Administration from the George Washington University School of Business. In addition, she has certificates in Business Analytics, Urban Real Estate, and Finance. Winona is a REAP 2019 graduate. She is the CEO of The District Connect, a mobile grocery store with a mission to eradicate food deserts across the country, starting in Washington, D.C.



**Alexis Blakely McKinney** is co-founder and vice president of development at Rosewood Strategies, a real estate development and advisory firm located in Washington, D.C. that focuses on urban infill development. Rosewood Strategies serves as the real estate advisor for several nonprofit institutions, including Martha's Table, Jubilee Housing, Community of Hope, and D.C. Central Kitchen. Alexsis' real estate career began in 2006 at Halstead Property as a licensed real estate salesperson in New York. In 2012, she founded Progeny Construction Services, a licensed New York State/City certified M/WBE construction firm based in Manhattan. Progeny Construction served as a Build It Back contractor, helping to rebuild homes impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Prior to relocating to D.C., Alexsis held several hedge fund compliance positions at Harbinger Capital Partners, Guggenheim Partners, and Trafel Delta Funds. Alexsis is a native New Yorker, Prep for Prep 9 alumna, and graduate of The Hotchkiss School and Wesleyan University.



**Matthew Mellon** is a proud native of Prince George's County, Maryland. Matthew obtained his bachelor's degree in Finance from Hood College and quickly transitioned his interest in public service to a steadfast commitment and career in public service. Due to witnessing rapid changes to the D.C. Metropolitan area neighborhoods in which he lived as an adolescent, Matthew has focused his energy, network, resources, and skills on community development. His goal is not only to sustain the history, culture, and opportunities for those residing in these areas, but to provide opportunities and resources to strengthen the socioeconomic blueprint of these areas for generations to come. To achieve this, Matthew not only works with developers but is the managing member of MLN Group LLC, a Ward 7-based real estate development firm focusing on multi-unit affordable housing developments in the D.C. Metropolitan Area.



**Jacquelyn A. Moore** is the neighborhood development director with United Communities Against Poverty, Inc. (UCAP), a nonprofit Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO). Jacquelyn oversees and manages the acquisition, rehabilitation, and resale of the homes purchased through the Neighborhood Development Program.

In addition, Jacquelyn serves on the committee for UCAP's development of 30-37 (new construction) senior housing units located on the Maryland/D.C. border. This project has an estimated completion date of Spring 2022. Ms. Moore also serves as the Director for UCAP's Clean and Green Communities Weatherization Program, which has served more than 425 homeowners for more than 10 years with a budget of \$3 million. Jacquelyn worked with a local township and county government to provide façade improvements to six homes located within the Town of Capitol Heights, Maryland. Certifications: Certification in Green Sustainability, Real Estate Development Finance Professional Certification, and Assistant Residential Manager.



**Valerie A. Sanderlin** is a proud native Washingtonian who graduated from Hampton University with an undergraduate degree in Sociology and holds a master's degree in Information Technology from Southeastern University. Valerie worked as a program analyst within the Washington, D.C. government before stepping out on faith

to pursue her passion in the real estate industry full-time. Her first real estate venture was as a wholesaler, then Valerie started rehabbing townhomes, single-family homes, multi-family buildings, condominiums conversions and mentoring. She has been in the real estate industry for 13 years. Valerie is the founder and CEO of FocusWorks Construction & Development, LLC. She has focused primarily on the affordable housing industry, where she owns and manages a 2-unit duplex and several single-family homes within the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia area to provide housing for low-income and homeless residents.



**Mark Smith** is a graduate of Howard University from Detroit, MI. He has served roles in private industry, nonprofit organizations, and local and federal government agencies. Mark founded HomeSmith Management, a real estate investment and development company based in Washington, D.C. He oversees the organization's investment strategy and property management portfolio. The goal of the company is to make living in D.C. affordable through the development of owner-occupied investment properties.



**Boyle Stuckey** was born in Pittsburgh, Pa. and moved to Washington, D.C. in 1999. He graduated from Point Park College with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science. Over the past 21 years, Boyle worked in the Information Technology industry and used his earnings to purchase real estate in his hometown. Boyle and his brother are partners in several real estate investment companies that have more than \$1.5 million in assets. After working as a Chief Information Officer with the D.C. government, he began to grow his real estate investment company and portfolio.



**Tawanda Thomas** is a native of Baltimore, Md. She attended Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and Western Senior High Schools and continued her education at Johns Hopkins University, where she received her master's degree in Real Estate Development. As a commercial real estate lender, Tawanda underwrote and lent on real estate development deals in Maryland and D.C. totalling more than \$100 million. She and her husband started Bex Group Development Corp., a Maryland business with the purpose of building affordable and market housing, as well as commercial (office) and retail space in low-to-moderate-income communities. Her love for people does not stop with wanting to provide safe affordable homes and space for local residents to operate their businesses; she also plans to start the Bex Street Life Foundation. The foundation will work to provide monetary assistance to those who need help with their rent and offer financial literacy.



**Ernest Williams** is currently the Senior Manager of Redevelopment and Revitalization for the Prince George's County Redevelopment Authority. He also serves as Vice President of Finance for H48 Partners LLC, a development group based in Hagerstown, Md. A native Washingtonian, Ernest is passionate about community-centric commercial real estate development. He has more than 15 years of experience in consulting, finance, and government compliance. He has invested in affordable housing projects and provided capital for residential rehab projects. Ernest earned his master's degree in Real Estate Development from Georgetown University. He was recently elected to the Board of the Georgetown Real Estate Alumni Association and serves as a capstone advisor for students in the program. He also serves on the investment committee for St. Paul's Rock Creek Episcopal Parish.



**Juan Zabala** is a native of Reading, Pa. who recently moved to the Washington, D.C. area to pursue his master's degree in Real Estate from Georgetown University. He has spent the past seven years working as a Realtor, being involved in more than 150 transactions. Juan started a small real estate investment firm with his siblings,

Zabala Development Group LLC, which focuses on real estate flips and rental properties. Prior to moving to the D.C. area, he served on the boards of several nonprofit and governmental organizations, such as Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Berks, Greater Berks County Latino Chamber of Commerce, The City of Reading's Blighted Property Review Committee, and the Reading Redevelopment Authority, where he served as vice chairman. Juan recently began working for the Latino Economic Development Center as a small business coach and loan officer. He is a graduate of Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, where he received his bachelor's degree in Economics.

For more information  
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