

GroundBreak's 2024 Project Team



Munira Ahmed

Munira Ahmed, Imagine Deliver, Coalition Engagement

Munira Ahmed is a Strategy Consultant at Imagine Deliver; she started her career as a Management Consulting Analyst with Accenture working on end-to-end Human Resource Transformation projects for multinational Fortune 500 companies in their talent & organization industry. Munira brings experience in business process design, global organization change management, design thinking, storytelling, project management, and agile team practices. As a University of Minnesota alumna with degree concentrations in Management, Sociology, and Public Health, Munira keenly understands how racial equity intersects with healthcare, social justice, and entrepreneurship.

She is constantly deepening her understanding of injustices. She focuses on experiences in community-based work that impacts Black, Indigenous, and communities of color to integrate business changes through an equity-focused lens. She actively participates in learning more about community injustice, while innovating new processes that increase social justice, and progressing her leadership abilities.

Munira's strengths lie in embracing diverse perspectives and developing solutions for end-users. As a strategic thinker, Munira combines her passion for building effective and sustainable solutions to foster relationships and effect change in her community. She uses her entrepreneurial capacities to improve organizational management that centers on equity while incorporating her analytical skills to convey business changes that support end-users



Colleen Ebinger

Colleen Ebinger, Impact Strategies, Financial Systems, Tools & Products

Colleen Ebinger is founder of Impact Strategies, a strategy and business consultancy that specializes in building coalitions for the common good with a focus on affordable housing and real estate, climate resilience, economic development, and education. She helps clients address big innovation challenges whose solutions span the public, private and nonprofit sectors. In addition to nearly two decades of consulting, she served for five years as vice president at the Family Housing Fund where she led fundraising, communications, and program development, including the creation of housing court clinics across the Twin Cities region to reduce and prevent evictions.

She began her career as a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras and later launched a voter participation outreach effort for Latinos in Minnesota. Colleen holds a B.A. from the College of Saint Benedict and a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard University, attending on a Center for Public Leadership (CPL) fellowship. She currently serves on CPL's Alumni Council and on the board of Yinghua Academy, a Minneapolis Chinese immersion charter school. She previously co-chaired the Minneapolis Housing Advisory Committee as a mayoral appointee. Her work has been featured and her writing published in numerous outlets, including the MIT Innovations Journal, Harvard University Press, Mitchell Hamline Law Journal, Minnesota Lawyer, and the Urban Institute. Fluent in Spanish, Colleen has lived in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Spain but always calls Minneapolis home.



Dondi Edwards

Dondi Edwards, GroundBreak Coalition, Interim Project Director

Dondi Edwards is a leader in the business community with global experience and a passion to strengthen the link between profit-making and generational economic impact. As a consultant, he focuses on developing and implementing business-led strategies to address the ever-widening wealth gap in the US. He has experience engaging stakeholders from a wide array of disciplines and industries; and takes an ecosystem approach to bring together organizations and people with unique backgrounds, expertise and perspectives. In the Twin Cities community, Dondi has been a contributor and Leadership Council member of the GroundBreak Coalition since its inception. He also served as co-Chair of the Homeownership Pillar.

Most recently, he spent 2 years with Wells Fargo as the Senior Vice President for Economic Growth and Development within the Diverse Segments function of the Bank's Home Lending division. In that role he was responsible for developing, testing, and implementing market-based models aimed at addressing the homeownership gap for ethnic minorities. He designed and implemented the strategic plan that drove alignment between the bank's broad, operational capabilities and external public, private, and non-profit initiatives.

Dondi is a seasoned executive with Fortune 50 experience serving in various leadership roles for large corporations and small companies as well as working on his own as an entrepreneur. He brings a wide range of operational and industry experiences as well as a fresh perspective as a change driver. As an entrepreneur, he helped define strategic approaches to new markets for Fortune 100 companies seeking opportunities to drive economic impact and growth in emerging markets (US and abroad). He has held leadership positions in strategy, sales, Six Sigma, global business development as well as operations management & effectiveness. And he served 8 years in the US Navy as a Nuclear Power Submarine Officer aboard various submarines around the world.

His personal mission is to empower people to prosper in the local community and around the world. To that end, he has served on the Board of Trustees for the Science Museum of Minnesota, Page Education Fund (advisor), College Possible (speaker), Harvard Law School Program on Biblical Law and Christian Legal Studies (current advisor). He has also coached youth league sports and taught children's church.

Dondi earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and French Minor from the United States Naval Academy as well as Chief Engineer certification in Nuclear Power Engineering from the Department of Energy.

He lives in Eden Prairie, Minnesota with his wife and four children.



Kenza Hadj-Moussa

Kenza Hadj-Moussa, O'Connell Consulting, Public Affairs

Kenza Hadj-Moussa (she/her) is a senior consultant with O'Connell Consulting, a public policy firm that works with mission-based organizations. Kenza has over 15 years of experience in public affairs, communications, politics & advocacy work to create a more just and inclusive state. She is passionate about coalition work and initiatives that impact large-scale change. Kenza has worked extensively on state healthcare policy including expansions of public health insurance and prescription drug cost reform, connecting technical policy to impactful communications and public affairs strategies.

Her work has also included employment & economic safety net policies, affordable housing, human services, public safety, democracy issues, and electoral campaigns.

She previously served as the Communications & Public Affairs Director of TakeAction Minnesota and as the Communications Director of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless. Kenza has served on various boards and committees including Board Chair of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. She holds a Master's in Advocacy & Political Leadership from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and a B.A. in economics from Guilford College. She lives in Minneapolis.



Ben Hecht

Ben Hecht, McKnight Foundation, Senior Advisor

Ben Hecht is a Senior Advisor to the McKnight Foundation and founder of Reclaiming the Dream, a strategic advisory consulting firm. An attorney and CPA by training, Ben long has focused on building systems that harness public, private and philanthropic capital for large scale, social change. Most recently, he was President and CEO of Living Cities, a long-standing collaborative of 18 of the world's leading foundations and financial institutions.

From 2007-2021, Ben led the transformation of this consortium into one of the nation's leading racial economic justice organizations by centering racial equity and marrying the organization's legacy focus on improving the built environment in neighborhoods with a holistic approach to changing the interlocking systems that shape the life outcomes of the people who live there.

GroundBreak, a coalition of over 40 corporate, civic, and philanthropic organizations, was formed after the murder of George Floyd, to close racial wealth gaps in the Minneapolis/St. Paul region over the next decade-- with a focus on building Black wealth. In 2022, GroundBreak participants identified a set of specific financial tools and prototype products if broadly available would close racial wealth gaps through homeownership, commercial development and entrepreneurship. Those prototypes were designed to maximize access to plentiful, mainstream, market rate capital, using traditional approaches to do so: guarantees to address perceived risks; low-interest, long term loans (low-cost patient capital) and one-time grant investments to fill funding gaps.

The outcomes sought in each area can be achieved primarily with market rate capital if these other types of non-market rate capital can be reliably and efficiently blended over and over, thousands of times. In short, scale is possible if the specific prototypes and the necessary blending become 'commodities' in the region. Over the next 10-years, GroundBreak aims to build a new, region-wide financial system that blends more than \$5 billion in capital; funds these financial tools and products, and achieves these ambitious results. In October 2023, GroundBreak announced a down payment on this game-changing approach with nearly \$1 billion (\$926.75 million) of commitments from ten institutions.



Amina Mohamed

Amina Mohamed, Imagine Deliver, Coalition Engagement
Coming soon!



Kate Downing Khaled

Kate Downing Khaled, Imagine Deliver, Coalition Engagement & Strategic Advising

Kate Downing Khaled (she/her) is the founder and CEO of Imagine Deliver, a certified B Corp and nationally award-winning insights and strategy consulting firm. A proud Muslim-American based in St. Paul, Kate is an inclusive design leader who focuses her skills on developing services and systems that drive equitable outcomes in philanthropy, community development, healthcare, government and financial services. Imagine Deliver was honored for its commitment to creating positive social and environmental impact through its receipt of B Lab's Best for the World Award in 2022.

With nearly two decades of experience in community engagement, qualitative research, insights and strategy design, Kate knows the best services and products are designed by the people who use them. In her leadership at Imagine Deliver, Kate has served as a strategic advisor to leaders across sectors -- promoting inclusive design and equitable strategy at organizations like University of Minnesota, Women's Foundation of Minnesota, Headwaters Foundation for Justice, the Metropolitan Council, McKnight Foundation, Hennepin Healthcare, United Healthcare, Ford Motor Company, and the State of Minnesota.

Named a 2022 Minneapolis and Saint Paul Business Journal 40 under 40 honoree and TCB Magazine's 2022 Tech20, Kate holds a M.P.H. in Administration and Policy from University of Minnesota and a Bachelor of Arts from McGill University. Kate has served on a number of advisory boards and committees, including GiveMN, Propel Nonprofits, and Reviving the Islamic Sisterhood for Empowerment.



Taquee Khaled

Taquee Khaled, Imagine Deliver, Coalition Engagement & Strategic Advising

Taquee Khaled, MPH (he/his) is a passionate systems change advocate. He is a creative and collaborative executive strategist who enjoys working with senior leaders who are dedicated to making just and equitable futures a reality. Taquee is able to bring unique perspectives to almost any table, drawing on a combination of his professional and community-based experiences, which range across public and private sectors in a variety of operational, research, and strategic capacities.

In the private sector, Taquee's experience includes corporate strategy & business development, grantmaking/CSR, mergers & acquisitions, consumer experience strategy, operations improvement, and digital transformation. He has worked in Fortune 10 business environments, as well as in small startups. Notably, his corporate grantmaking was focused on equitable systems change and involved managing \$60M+ in annual projects and strategic management of \$251M AUM.

Prior to this, Taquee spent almost a decade in biological sciences R&D and teaching, as well as public health systems research and emerging infectious disease research in public university and state governmental settings.

In community, Taquee has served in a variety of capacities, including as a Planning Commissioner for the City of St. Paul, an Advisory Board Member for the Urban Land Institute of Minnesota, and Board Director roles with the HealthEast, Fairview Health Services, and University of Minnesota Foundations. A 2nd generation immigrant, Taquee is also a substitute imam in the Minnesota Muslim community, where he leads Friday services across several diverse community congregations.



Marcus Owens

Marcus Owens, Nawe Partners, Implementation Teams

Marcus Owens is a co-founder and partner of Nawe Partners, an influential social entrepreneur, and a dedicated community developer committed to forging equitable and thriving communities. With over 20 years of experience in community development and business, Owens has significantly shaped institutions across Minnesota, reflecting his profound dedication to infrastructure enhancement and sustainability.

His tenure as the Executive Director of the African American Leadership Forum (AALF) – Twin Cities, and President and CEO of the Northside Economic Opportunity Network (NEON), revolutionized strategies to bolster the economic vitality of underserved communities through unique opportunities via public and private partnerships.

A north Minneapolis native, Owens is not only recognized for his professional accomplishments but also for his academic and leadership achievements. He is a proud Bush Fellow, recognized for his leadership potential and commitment to community betterment. Further showcasing his commitment to leadership excellence, Owens attended the Young American Leaders Program at Harvard, equipping him with innovative strategies and insights to drive community transformation. Owens holds degrees from Metropolitan State University (BS in Business Management) and the University of St. Thomas (MBA). His dedication to community growth and his ability to partner effectively with communities for systemic change exemplify the transformative power of dedicated leadership. Marcus Owens continues to inspire and lead in the pursuit of a more equitable and sustainable future for all communities.



Ryan Petersen

Ryan Petersen, Petersen Consultants, Fundraising & Investor Relations

Ryan Petersen is a strategic fundraising leader with over two decades dedicated to enhancing community-based initiatives through insightful leadership and innovative fundraising strategies in the Twin Cities. His approach to fundraising is deeply strategic, focusing on building lasting relationships with high-net-worth individuals, corporate funders, and philanthropic institutions to secure the resources necessary for meaningful community impact.

Ryan has held leadership roles at the Constellation Fund, Catholic Charities, Northside Achievement Zone and Urban Homeworks, all innovative organizations with dynamic leaders. His career underscores his capacity to develop revenue strategies and successfully achieve results. Ryan's educational background includes a Master of Public Affairs with an emphasis in Nonprofit Leadership and Management from the Humphrey Institute, and a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Bethel University. He currently supports important programs through his consulting firm, focusing his efforts on the balance of people and planet.



Ellen Ward

Ellen Ward, Independent Consultant, Financial Tools, Systems & Products

Ellen has worked in the housing and community development field for 20 years. She began her career as a banker at SunTrust (now Truist) Bank in Atlanta, GA lending to small businesses, financing affordable housing, and investing in community revitalization projects across the Southeast. After seven years in banking she pursued a graduate degree in urban planning with a focus on housing, economic, and community development.

After graduating, she joined the State of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development at the beginning of Governor Patrick's second term and led the reform of the family homeless system to transition away from a shelter response to a housing first response. At the end of Gov. Patrick's term she joined Living Cities, a collaborative of 18 of the largest banks and foundations in the U.S. that align resources, networks, and investments to close the racial income and wealth gaps in U.S. cities and served as its Chief of Staff for seven years. In 2021, she joined an impact investing startup, Activest that seeks to advance housing and economic justice through the municipal bond market. She's also a consultant to the GroundBreak Coalition supporting the design and implementation of capital tools that address racial barriers to capital access. Ellen holds a BS in Business from Wake Forest University and a Masters in City Planning from MIT.



Johnna White

Johnna White, Imagine Deliver, Coalition Engagement

Johnna Emiko White, MPA is a Principal Strategist at Imagine Deliver with 15 years of experience in both programming and policy development that centers the voices of people most affected by systemic oppression. Her culturally responsive approach to community-led system and service design projects with public, philanthropic, and healthcare clients is centered on equity-focused solutions. Johnna's ability to engage multiple-level stakeholders in coalition models to co-create solutions is a testament to her commitment to justice and equity.

Johnna's past experiences include leading and coordinating health equity policy strategies at the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and Metro-Parks Tacoma, including spearheading the Health Department's first-ever participatory policy-making project. She also led violence prevention, gender equity, and anti-human trafficking-focused programming, research, and policy development at the University of Washington Women's Center. Johnna's superpowers lie in her strategic thinking, critical thinking, and implementation skills. She is adept at untangling complicated problems and creating actionable steps to make change happen. Johnna is a relationship builder and advocate at heart, which allows her to create genuine relationships, foster inclusive environments, and inspire and motivate others while driving tangible change.