



# The Power of Place: Embedding Two-Generation Approaches in Housing Developments

A CGLR Partner Webinar

March 19, 2024 | 3:00-4:30 pm ET/12:00-1:30 pm PT

*Panelist Bios*

## MODERATOR



**Sarah Haight**

**Director of 2Gen Practice**

**Ascend at Aspen Institute**

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Sarah Haight is Ascend at the Aspen Institute's director of 2Gen practice. Sarah works with a national network of more than 500 leaders and organizations who are exploring, incubating, or implementing 2Gen approaches, which provide opportunities for and meet the needs of children and the adults in their lives together. She also manages key convenings and grantmaking strategies to ensure a legacy of educational success, economic security, and health and well-being passes from one generation to the next.

Sarah's career focuses on economic inclusion and supporting practitioners to translate their work with families to influence policy and systems change. Since joining Ascend in 2011, she has managed technical assistance to the Ascend Network, comprised of 500+ practitioners, policymakers, and researchers focused on 2Gen approaches; managed the Aspen ThinkXChange, the national forum on 2Gen solutions; the Aspen Forum on Children and Families, Ascend's largest public convening; and grantmaking and innovation community strategies, including the Aspen Family Prosperity Innovation Community. She partners across Ascend to develop and package tools and resources to equip organizations and leaders to better serve families with low incomes.

Prior to joining Ascend in 2012, Sarah worked as an editor and journalist at Conde Nast in New York City. She earned her Master of Social Work degree from the Silver School of Social Work at New York University and has worked as a therapist in direct-practice clinical settings with women with low incomes, with a focus on maternal mental health. She is licensed to practice social work in New York and the District of Columbia.

## PRESENTERS



**Aisha Nyandoro**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Springboard to Opportunities**  
**Jackson, Mississippi**

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Aisha Nyandoro is the founding CEO of Springboard to Opportunities, a Jackson, Mississippi non-profit that has pioneered a “radically resident-driven” approach to ending generational poverty. In 2018, she launched the Magnolia Mothers’ Trust, a first-of-its-kind guaranteed income program for single Black mothers, and through its success she has become a national leader in the fight for a federal guaranteed income.

Aisha’s expertise on economic, racial, and gender justice issues has been featured in outlets including The New York Times, the Washington Post, NPR, Essence Magazine, NBC Nightly News and CNN. She is a fellow of Ascend at the Aspen Institute, the Highland Project, the Emerson Collective’s Dial program, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Community Leadership Network. She is also a 2023 TED Speaker, 2022 McNulty Prize Winner and the 2022 Disrupter Change Champion from Community Change.

Aisha holds a B.A. from Tennessee State University, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Michigan State University. When not working to liberate financial capital, she is a wife and the mom of two very charming sons.



**Arianna Thornton-West**  
**Community Advocate**  
**Tacoma Housing**

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Arianna serves residents in several of THA’s West Portfolio properties by assisting with urgent and resource needs as well as through the 2Gen Program. In the 2Gen program, she works with families to accomplish their goals, connect with local resources, engage in SEL activities, participate in community and property events, and provides family centered coaching. Her joy is continually renewed in the role as she gets a front row seat to the resiliency, determination, successes and triumphs of the families she serves.



**Liz Marsh**  
**Director of Resident Services**  
**Bangor Housing**

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Liz has been with BangorHousing since 2015, when she was hired as the FSS Program Manager. In that role, Liz helped families overcome barriers to work, and supported their efforts to improve their financial stability and build financial assets. In 2017, Liz helped develop a two-generation program at BangorHousing called Moving Families Forward. Moving Families Forward expanded the services available to BangorHousing residents to include childcare assistance, parenting classes, mental health counseling, and literacy support. In 2019, Liz became the Director of Resident Services at BangorHousing.



**Donna Hoylman Peduto**  
**Executive Director**  
**West Virginia Public Education Collaborative**

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Donna Hoylman Peduto currently serves as Executive Director, West Virginia Public Education Collaborative. The WVPEC leads outreach initiatives including the WVPEC Legislators' Forum, Focus Forward: Preparing Today for the WV of Tomorrow, K-12 Speakers' Bureau, and Sparking Early Literacy.

Ms. Peduto recently served as Director of Operations for the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE), and was a key liaison to WVBE members, the West Virginia Department of Education's executive leadership, Governor's Office, chairs of the legislative education committees, as well as other statewide organizations. While with the West Virginia Department of Education, she served in leadership roles in the Offices of Organizational Effectiveness, Professional Preparation, and 21st Century Leadership. She was named the first West Virginia State Coordinator of the inaugural Innovation Zones Initiative, and later served as director of the 21st Century Community After School Learning Centers and Schools of Excellence.

Prior to coming to the WV Board of Education, Ms. Peduto served as Director of the Learning Lab Network Sites for the Stupski Foundation; a San Francisco based educational foundation, where she established a national network of six high schools in various states to incubate effective and innovative practice within the K12 environment. Ms. Peduto was also the Director of K-12 Initiatives at the EdVenture Group, where she supported the development and execution of projects related to K-12 technology training, curriculum, and research and consulting. Ms. Peduto is a graduate of West Virginia University with both a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Master of Arts in Reading.



**Melanie Cutright**  
**Coordinator of Early Learning**  
**Wood County Schools, WV**

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Melanie earned her AB in Education, Glenville State College; an MA in Educational Leadership Studies, WVU; and has completed 35 years in public education. She was a junior high librarian/English teacher at VanDevender Junior High for 16 years and assistant principal for two years. She was assistant principal at Blennerhassett Elementary for 7 years and principal at Lubeck Elementary for 4 years. Currently, Melanie is Coordinator of Early Learning, Wood County Schools. She has written several grants and enjoys working with students, parents, and teachers on curriculum, behaviors, and social-emotional needs.