

ERIC GERARD PARSONS

(c) 510-435-1577 1530 12th Ave. #411 Seattle, WA 98122 egerardparsons@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

- Results focused and effectual leader with track record of managing and leading complex projects for social change.
- Proficient problem-solver with analytical skills to evaluate risks and develop strategic solutions.
- Demonstrated capacity of incubating programs locally and replicating successful strategies nationally.
- Influential interpersonal communicator, negotiator and presenter, with ability to develop and maintain divergent networks and stakeholder relationships.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

+ program development	+project management	+government policy and budgeting
+ coalition building	+advocacy and lobbying	+workforce development

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SENIOR MANAGER OF PHILANTHROPY

Community Roots Housing Foundation, Seattle, Washington (May 2022-Present)

- Manage the implementation of a strategic approach to fundraising, splitting time between institutional and individual giving. Supports the Foundation in its long-term goal to transform its fundraising model from charity to justice, centering racial equity.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle, Washington (May 2021-May 2022)

- Took on newly-created position (the only one of its kind in the country) with this iconic Seattle bookseller, focusing on promoting social change throughout the community and serving as an advocate for advancement of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

Represent store ownership in identifying and supporting key issues/programs focused on promoting racial and social justice, working with a broad coalition of nonprofit organizations, government agencies, cultural/arts institutions, and other strategic partners to drive meaningful change and public policy reform.

Key partnerships formed thus far include alliances with Hugo House, the CD Forum for Arts & Ideas, the UW Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, Seattle Foundation/Civic Commons, and the Asset Funders Network.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION, THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CALIFORNIA

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Oakland, California (2013-2021)

- Held leadership role with this prominent faith-based organization (the only predominantly African American Episcopal church in the Diocese of California) to establish strategic partnerships and develop effective strategies for promoting positive social impact. Forged numerous strong relationships with the African American community and related faith-based communities and organizations, developing outreach strategies and innovative new programs to benefit marginalized and underrepresented populations throughout the region.

RESEARCH ANALYST, *Closing the Racial Wealth Gap Initiative; Building Economic Security Program* **Insight Center for Community Economic Development**, Oakland, California (2010-2013)

- Led key policy research, analysis, messaging, and advocacy initiatives for this prominent national nonprofit dedicated to driving structural, transformative change and building economic inclusion and racial equity for people of color, women, immigrants, and marginalized families in the US. Conducted analyses of asset proposals and put forth recommendations to address racial wealth inequalities. Conducted related research and served as the principal author of: "Securing Our Future: Advancing Economic Security for Diverse Elders," and "Wealth in Sight: Building Prosperity in Mississippi."

DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS/PUBLIC ADVOCACY

New World Symphony, Miami Beach, Florida (2005-2010)

- Developed and executed targeted legislative affairs and political advocacy strategies for this public/private partnership, resulting in \$45 million in funding to provide increased access to fine arts and performing arts opportunities for youth of color -- as well as to broaden the appeal of the arts to communities of color, overall.

SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

Seattle City Council, Seattle, Washington (1999-2005)

- Supported an active Seattle City Councilmember and performed legislative activities related to establishing and advancing policies related to budget and finance, human services, community development, parks, and transportation planning. Analyzed an extremely broad range of policy and political issues, identified progressive policy and program opportunities, and recommended political strategies, key messages, and press opportunities.

DIRECTOR, READY TO EARN FUND (WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM)

City of Seattle Office of Economic Development, Seattle, Washington (1997-1999)

- Founded and managed a unique program designed to eliminate barriers to job training, employment, and job retention for low-income individuals, homeless populations, long-term unemployed, and people with disabilities. Created a city-wide/county-wide human services delivery system and monitored all aspects of the program to drive continuous improvement and ensure the delivery of concrete, measurable outcomes.

DIRECTOR, THE PARTNERSHIP FOR WASHINGTON'S FUTURE

The Children's Alliance, Seattle, Washington (1996-1997)

- Worked with a Washington State Congressional Delegation to develop a statewide approach to rebuilding and retaining the human service "safety net" in the wake of significant federal policy devolution and welfare reform. Guided Spokane, Snohomish, Pierce, and Clark Counties through a process that resulted in securing political support and implementing compassionate new plans/programs to prevent children and families from falling through the cracks.

PROJECT DIRECTOR (EDUCATION REFORM & POLICY ADVOCACY)

The National Urban League, New York, New York (1994-1996)

- Managed a national program that used groundbreaking transformational tools to involve low income parents in math and science (STEM) education reform. Aligned and coordinated program efforts with other national reform initiatives and provided them with grants to pursue program implementation. Advanced the efforts of the National Science Foundation State and Urban Systemic Initiatives, Urban League affiliates, K-12 content experts, and National Council of LaRaza. Additionally co-produced a nationally televised town meeting with WNET/13 New York that successfully linked parental involvement and student achievement.

CHIEF OF STAFF

City of New York Department of Juvenile Justice, New York, New York (1991-1994)

- As a member of the executive team of this high-profile government agency, formerly The NYC Department of Juvenile Justice, administered a \$72 million budget and staff of 350 dedicated to creating historic, systemic reform of New York City's detention system and its attendant aftercare services.

Program Manager (1989-1991)

- Rescued and managed the agency's \$1.5 million juvenile detention health program serving approximately 5,000 juveniles a year, transforming it into a national model for juvenile detention healthcare and leading to accreditation of the institution for the first time in its 11-year history. Wrote a policy paper, "Up from the Ashes: Rescuing African American Males" presented at the 1991 National Council for Foundations Conference and that was subsequently used for the agency's grant applications and program development efforts.

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF

New York City Human Resources Administration, New York, New York (1988-1989)

- Worked for the world’s largest social services agency (\$5 billion budget, 30,000 employees) serving two million people throughout New York City. Evaluated the Welfare Management System, a key data system used to distribute and track public assistance benefits to one million New Yorkers, identifying flaws that resulted in its redesign and significant improvement in its accuracy. Evaluated the City’s homeless shelters and provided recommendations for improving program services, increasing the quality of care, and transitioning clients to temporary housing during the redesign of the permanent shelter system.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Keynote Speaker. “Math and Science Is Important To Us All.” Museum of Natural History/New York Urban League Education Summit. June 14, 1994, New York, New York

“Developing a Partnership Between Title 1/Chapter 1 and Project PRISM.” Title 1/Chapter 1 Annual Conference. October 5, 1994, Detroit, Michigan

“Higher Education’s Role in Mathematics and Science Education Reform.” Association for the Education of Teachers of Science, Regional Conference. October 14, 1994, Hempstead, New York.

“Opportunities for People of Color in Mathematics and Science Education Reform.” Expanding Minority Opportunities, University of Arizona. January 20, 1995, Tempe, Arizona.

“Why Community Building is Important.” The Tri-Cities Human Services Coalition “Building Community” Forum. September 18, 1996, Pasco, Washington.

“The Impact of Welfare Reform on Families and Head Start/ECEAP.” Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP State Meeting. October 16, 1996, Wenatchee, Washington.

“The Impact of Welfare Reform on Families and Head Start/ECEAP.” Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP State Meeting. January 15, 1997, Olympia, Washington.

“Elliott Bay Book Company Virtual Event with Special Guest Anita Hill,” The Elliott Bay Book Company and co-host The Northwest African American Museum, November 18, 2021

“Elliott Bay Community Conversations – Know Black Stories, The Black Future Co-op Fund, with Vivian Phillips, Michelle Merriweather, Andrea Caupain Sanderson, Angela Jones, and WA State Senator T’wina Nobles”, The Elliott Bay Book Company, March 25, 2022

EVENTS MANAGEMENT

“Labor and Trade and the Importance of the WTO,” CityClub Pacemaker Forum with the U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, Seattle, Washington, 1999.

“The Transformation of Work,” a forum with U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, Benaroya Hall, Seattle, Washington, 1999.

EDUCATION

M.A. in Urban Affairs and Policy Analysis, The New School for Social Research, New York, New York

B.A. in Print Journalism, Howard University, Washington, D.C.