



DONNA MOODIE

- *EVP of Community Development & Executive Director of the Capitol Hill EcoDistrict at Community Roots Housing*
- *Owner of Marjorie Restaurant*

Born in Jamaica, raised in Chicago, and now a resident of Seattle for over 20 years, Donna Moodie is well acquainted with the interconnectedness of social justice, community building, and neighborhood activism. Her passion for service and bringing communities together presents itself in both her work with Community Roots Housing and Marjorie Restaurant.

Moodie opened [Marjorie](#) 17 years ago. Marjorie, named after Moodie's mother, is a tribute to her love for entertaining and cooking. Moodie divides her time between running the restaurant and being the executive director of the Capitol Hill EcoDistrict initiative through [Community Roots Housing](#), which works to improve sustainability and environmental health in the neighborhood.

"(Marjorie) has created a gathering of community. I feel like I've been able to use that as a platform to share a lot of ideas I have about food, social justice and the quality of food."

Marjorie is Moodie's third restaurant. Her first, Marco's Supper club in Belltown, she opened in 1993 with her previous partner using their life savings. In 1997, the couple then opened Lush Life in Belltown, which Moodie transformed into Marjorie in 2003 after they split up.

Moodie co-chairs the Mayor's Small Business Advisory Council, participates in the Central Area Land Use Review Committee, and serves on the Seattle Center Advisory Commission. She was a founding board member of the Capitol Hill Housing Foundation, chaired the Central District Forum for Arts and Ideas Board, and now serves as a board member for Grist. As a consultant, Moodie has advised food business startups and architects on diversity and inclusion. Moodie became executive director of the Capitol Hill EcoDistrict at Community Roots in January 2020.

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Community Roots Housing has focused on rent relief and community engagement while in isolation, Moodie said. The EcoDistrict is also working to create a student-based health center at Lowell Elementary School. Moodie spearheaded a program that delivers meals to their affordable housing residents who lost income due to the coronavirus. Additionally, Marjorie has been working with [Solid](#)

Quote sources:

["Donna Moodie uses her restaurant to bring her community together."](#) Puget Sound Business Journal, August 13, 2020.

["Donna Moodie awarded, promoted."](#) Community Roots Housing, November 16, 2020.

[Ground](#), a local nonprofit dedicated to helping people in poverty, to provide meals for those who may be experiencing food insecurity as a result of the pandemic.

At the start of the growing protest movement fighting police brutality and racism in 2020, Moodie shared that Marjorie received a lot of support as a Black-owned business. One Friday in June, Moodie closed the restaurant to take part in the national Black Lives Matter strike. She hopes the movement keeps its momentum and support of Black-owned businesses doesn't fizzle out.

"To be a part of that was so inspiring, and it felt like I was getting fed," Moodie said. "To walk in the streets and have so much camaraderie from so many different people, and to just keep saying we're not going to stop until we see change, made me hopeful that this time it might actually work."

Quote sources:

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