

New York City Neighborhood Capital Corporation
Governing Board Bios

Melissa Roman Burch, Chairperson

Melissa Román Burch is NYCEDC's Chief Operating Officer and leads the Real Estate Transaction Services and Asset Management divisions. As COO, she oversees public/private developments involving City-owned property, and manages NYCEDC's portfolio of 200+ unique and iconic assets spanning 64 million square feet and composed of commercial and industrial real estate, critical infrastructure, and energy assets. Melissa also leads the Strategic Investments Group, which structures impact investments through discretionary tax benefits and tax-exempt financing, and initiates catalytic investments that mobilize private capital and support the growth of strategic sectors.

Melissa joined NYCEDC in April 2022 after two decades as a leading property executive and developer of large-scale, mixed-use projects distinguished by investments in transportation infrastructure, environmental leadership, and innovative partnerships. Prior to NYCEDC, Melissa served as Executive General Manager for Lendlease, where she initiated and led all acquisition and development activities for the NY region. Melissa was previously Executive Vice President for Forest City Ratner, where she oversaw the development of Pacific Park Brooklyn, anchored by the Barclays Center Arena and composed of new market-rate and affordable housing, office space, transportation improvements, and parks.

A committed civic leader, Melissa proudly serves as a Trustee of the Henry Street Settlement and Coro New York Leadership Center. She was previously a Trustee and on the Executive Committee of the Citizen's Budget Commission. Melissa is an active member of the Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY), Urban Land Institute (ULI), and W/X New York Women Executives in Real Estate. Melissa graduated magna cum laude in government from Harvard College and received her MBA from the Harvard Business School. She lives in Manhattan with her husband and two children.

Brinda Gunguly, Executive Director

Brinda leads the Strategic Investments Group, overseeing the organization's impact investing efforts. She is passionate about using finance as a tool for social change and has more than 20 years of experience in the investment space, the bulk on transactions with a dual mission around generating financial returns and social impact. Prior to joining NYCEDC, Brinda was the Chief Operating and Chief Compliance Officer at Elevar Equity, an impact venture capital firm that invests in Latin America and India. Earlier in her career, she managed impact investing portfolios—across asset classes—at The Rockefeller Foundation, Living Cities, and the Open Society Foundation. Brinda has also worked at Citigroup, in the corporate investment bank, covering healthcare clients; and at Charles River Associates, an economic consulting firm. Brinda graduated from Bryn Mawr College with a BA in economics and Spanish, and she holds an MBA from Columbia Business School. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and daughter.

Emily Marcus, Deputy Executive Director

Emily Marcus is a Vice President at the New York City Economic Development Corporation, where she serves as the Executive Director of both the New York City Industrial Development Agency and the Build New York City Resource Corporation. In these roles, she oversees NYCIDA and Build NYC's portfolios of projects focused on industrial, renewable energy, life sciences, food retail, commercial office, and not-for-profit development. Highlights of her work include managing high-profile projects such as the \$1 billion+ refinancings of Yankee Stadium and Citi Field in 2020 and the largest combined solar generation and battery storage system developed in New York State in 2021. Prior to joining NYCEDC, Emily was a project manager at Redevelopment Management Associates, managing economic redevelopment on behalf of the city of Pompano Beach, Florida. Emily is a graduate of Tulane University as well as The London School of Economics and Political Science, where she earned a Master's in Urban Planning.

Jeanny Pak, Chief Financial Officer

Jeanny Pak was hired as NYCEDC's Controller in 2023. Prior to joining NYCEDC, Jeanny was heading up UBS's East Region Public Finance Division. She has spent the last 25 years working in Public Finance Investment Banking and has spent most of her career working with public sector clients at the state and local level where she developed and executed financial strategies, large bond transactions and forward-thinking financial structuring. She has also led large teams and is very active in groups and initiatives that promote women and people of color in the finance industry.

Spencer Hobson, Treasurer

Spencer oversees NYCEDC's Finance Division, which includes the Accounting, Budget, and Grants Management departments. Previously, he assisted in managing NYCEDC's Internal Audit group for many years. He is a life-long resident of Queens, NY and received his bachelor's degree in accounting from CUNY at York College in Jamaica, Queens. He is a certified public accountant as well as a certified internal auditor. Before joining NYCEDC, Spencer spent several years conducting audits throughout the east coast for a hotel and restaurant employee's union trust fund.

Leslie Escobar, Assistant Treasurer

Leslie Escobar joined NYCEDC in February 2021 as the Deputy Controller of Accounting. Prior to joining NYCEDC, Leslie worked at Ernst & Young for 5 years specializing in audits of real estate properties, development properties, REITs, and real estate funds within the Real Estate Group, and also served clients in the government and strategic growth markets. She planned, executed, and managed the audits of NYCEDC and related entities for 3 years, enabling her to become familiar with NYCEDC's accounting and operations. Leslie holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance, and a master's degree in accounting from New York University Stern School of Business.

Amy Chan, Assistant Treasurer

Amy Chan joined NYCEDC in December 2018. Prior to joining NYCEDC, Amy was a senior manager at Ernst & Young, with 10 years of experience serving public sector and healthcare entities. Seven of those 10 years were spent working on and managing the financial statement audits for NYCEDC and related entities, enabling her to become familiar with NYCEDC's accounting and operations. She is a licensed CPA in New York and New Jersey.

Meredith J. Jones, General Counsel and Secretary

Before joining NYCEDC, Meredith worked at corporate law firms and as counsel to a multi-national engineering and construction company. She also served as general counsel for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and as Chief of the Cable Services Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission. She is a graduate of Swarthmore College and received her Juris Doctor from Yale Law School.