

# Contributors

## Editor-in-Chief

*Patrice H. Kunesh, JD, MPA*

Patrice is Assistant Vice President and Director of the Center for Indian Country Development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Patrice, who is of Standing Rock Lakota descent, has represented American Indian tribes throughout the country on diverse legal and policy matters, served on the faculty at the University of South Dakota School of Law, and held two federal appointments as the Deputy Solicitor for Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior and the Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development at the Department of Agriculture. Patrice holds a Master's of Public Administration from the Harvard School of Government and a JD from the University of Colorado School of Law.

## Contributing Authors

*Steve Barbier*

Steve is a Senior Relationship Manager in the Western Regional Office of NeighborWorks America. With over 35 years of experience in affordable lending, Steve's work has focused on removing barriers to homeownership for Native Americans. Presently Steve is providing thought leadership for the National Native Homeownership Coalition at the Center for Indian Country Development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. He holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.

*Joanna Donohoe*

Joanna has over 25 years of experience working with national intermediaries, local nonprofits, lenders and other private sector entities, community development financial institutions (CDFIs), and federal, state, and tribal government agencies on banking, housing, and community development issues. She helped establish the South Dakota Native Homeownership Coalition in 2013. Joanna also is technical assistance provider for Prosperity Now (formerly CFED) Financial Inclusion Policy Initiative and for the U.S. Department of Treasury CDFI Fund's Building Native CDFIs' Sustainability and Impact.

*Russell Kaney*

As director of programs for the Rural and Native American Initiative at Enterprise Community Partners, Russ manages key relationships with national, regional, and local partners that lead to the creation of affordable housing. Russ is an expert in sourcing capital for affordable housing developments, which include grants, debt, equity, and alternative avenues of investment. With a focus on rural and Native American housing issues, he advocates for federal, state, and local programs advancing rural and Native American housing production.

### *Leslie Newman*

Co-manager of Seven Sisters Community Development Group, Leslie specializes in community development in Native and border communities, focusing on affordable housing, asset building, CDFI development, organizational development, and resource development. Leslie has over 20 years of experience in community economic development. Leslie also supports the South Dakota Native Homeownership Coalition and works to address obstacles to Native homeownership, including access to financing, land and infrastructure issues, and homebuyer readiness.

### *Dick Todd*

Dick is a Vice President and Senior Adviser to the Center for Indian Country Development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. As a research economist, Dick has published articles on homeownership and foreclosures, poverty, monetary policy, financial regulation, and economic development on American Indian reservations. Dick holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Minnesota.

## **About the Contributors**

### *Jason Adams*

Jason is the Executive Director for the Salish and Kootenai Housing Authority in Pablo, Mont. He currently is chair of the National Native Homeownership Coalition Tribal Leaders Working Group. Since 1996, Jason has served in various capacities representing the Northern Plains tribes on the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC). He also serves as the Chairman of the United Native American Housing Association (UNAHA). Born and raised on the Flathead Nation of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Jason holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Montana.

### *Fred Fisher*

Fred is an Executive Fellow from the Casey Family Program's Indian Child Welfare Program with the Center for Indian Country Development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Previously, Fred supported tribal programs at the Department of Agriculture Rural Development agency. He worked on national issues concerning Indian child welfare collaboration and American Indian youth development. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Montana.

### *Mark Fogarty*

Mark is a journalist who has covered American Indian housing and mortgages for the past 25 years. A longtime contributor to Indian Country Today, he also covered Native finance in the Chicago Tribune, Miami Herald, National Mortgage News, U.S. Banker, American Banker, Credit Union Journal, High Country News, American Indian Report, and others.

### *Craig Nolte*

As a Regional Manager for Community Development with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Craig oversees community development and economic growth initiatives in Washington, Idaho, Utah, and Alaska, with special focus on low- and moderate-income communities.

### *Jim Nordlund*

Jim is the Executive Director of NeighborWorks Alaska. Previously, Jim was the Alaska State Director for the Department of Agriculture Rural Development agency focusing on investing in rural communities in electric, telecom, and sanitation projects, community facilities, housing, business and energy development. Jim holds a Master's of Public Administration from the University of Colorado.

### *Nikki Pieratos*

As Project Director of the Center for Indian Country Development, Nikki brings extensive reservation business and financial services expertise to the CICD. Before joining the CICD, Nikki was the founder and CEO/President of the Northern Eagle Federal Credit Union, which serves her tribal community of Bois Forte community. Nikki received her MPP from the University of Chicago.

### *Jessie Welton*

Jessie, the Coordinator for the Center for Indian Country Development, is responsible for department operations and supports communications and event planning. Jessie has a B.A. in economics, and currently is completing a Master's of Public Policy and Leadership from the University of St. Thomas.

## **About the Artists**

### *Marlena Myles*

Marlena (Spirit Lake Dakota, Mohegan, Muscogee Creek) is an award-winning graphic designer and fine artist. Marlena specializes in vector illustrations and portrait art. Her experience ranges from working in galleries, schools, and museums. She received 1st place at the 2017 Native POP: People of the Plains celebration in the 2-Dimension Division.

### *Lori Korte*

As a print and web designer, Lori's 20+ years of experience spans agency and freelance design work in the Twin Cities and nationally and a sole proprietorship which included design and communications for educational non-profits and performing arts organizations. She is currently a Senior Designer with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Lori holds graphic design and mass communication degrees and is a member of AIGA.