

Biographies of Standing Advisory Panelists Nominees for the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force

M.A. Leonard, VP & Market Leader, Pacific Northwest Market, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.

M.A. Leonard is vice president and Pacific Northwest market leader for Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. She leads the delivery of Enterprise's product solutions, innovations, capital and policy efforts in the Pacific Northwest. Based in the Seattle office, M.A. works to build Enterprise's core strengths in the region, and to evaluate regional needs to identify opportunities that are consistent with Enterprise's mission.

M.A. joined Enterprise in 2010 with an extensive track record in affordable housing and community development. Most recently, she worked as an independent consultant providing strategic assistance to various community development organizations on their work with affordable housing development in Oregon and Washington.

M.A. is chair of the Washington State Affordable Housing Advisory Board, member of the Seattle Investment Fund's investment committee, board member of the Washington Community Reinvestment Association and member of the State Housing Trust Fund's policy advisory team. From 2007 to 2015, M.A. served on the Washington State Housing Finance Commission, and in 2014, she was appointed by Seattle Mayor Ed Murray to serve on the city's Housing Affordability and Livability Advisory Committee. M.A. earned a bachelor's degree in urban planning from the University of Illinois, and completed master's level coursework at Cornell University.

Racquel Russell, Vice President of Government Relations and Public Affairs

Racquel Russell joined Zillow Group in January 2015 to create and lead the company's government relations, social impact and community engagement functions. In her current capacity as vice president, Racquel oversees Zillow Group's community and civic engagement, housing and economic policy thought leadership as well as external partnerships and collaborations with government and nonprofit organizations at the local, regional and national level. Previously, Racquel led the White House Office of Urban Affairs and Economic Mobility, serving as a senior advisor to President Obama on various issues including neighborhood revitalization, affordable housing, economic opportunity, nutrition policy and women's health. Prior to joining the White House in September 2010, Racquel held leadership positions for U.S. Sens. Tom Carper and Bob Graham as well as for the National Governors Association. Racquel received her Juris Doctor from the George Washington University Law School and holds a Bachelor of Science in Communications from the University of Miami.