



2025 CHEAC Annual Meeting Workshop Session Biographies

Sparking Innovation: Opportunities for Public Health and Community Development in Uncertain Times

Ruth Thomas-Squance, PhD, MPH, Co-Executive Director

Ruth Thomas-Squance, PhD, MPH, is Co-Executive Director at the Build Healthy Places Network a national center positioning cross-sector partnerships from community development, public health and healthcare sectors to lead and leverage community-centered investments across the country to address the drivers of health and advance racial equity.

A passionate public health change agent, Dr. Thomas-Squance brings almost 20 years of experience working in multisector collaborations with diverse partners to promote health equity.

She is past Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for US Green Building Council and Chairs their Strategic Planning Committee. She also served on the inaugural Multisector Partner Advisory Group of the Center for Health Justice at the American Association of Medical Colleges. Dr. Thomas-Squance was selected as a University of California, Berkeley Public Health Social Impact Fellow for the 2024-25.

She earned her a doctorate from Imperial College London and an MPH from the University of California, Berkeley. She lives in San Francisco, CA.

Noni Ramos, Chief Executive Officer

Noni Ramos is CEO of Housing Trust Silicon Valley, a certified CDFI serving the greater Bay Area. Since 2000, Housing Trust has invested \$645 million to create more than 27,500 affordable homes, helping 51,700+ people. Under Noni's leadership, Housing Trust continued to use transformative housing finance and public/private partnerships to create equitable, affordable communities. With 30+ years working in affordable housing, Noni serves as board chair of the California Coalition for Community Investment and Mercy Community Capital. She is a board member of the National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders, NPH Action Fund, Community HousingWorks, and Community Health Center Capital Fund. Noni has a BA from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MPA from the California State University, East Bay.

Romi Hall, Director of Network and Influence for the Center for Community Investment

Romi Hall has worked for over 15 years at the intersection of health, housing, and community development in place-based and national initiatives. Romi is currently the Director of Network and Influence for the Center for Community Investment. She was formerly the National Director of Healthy Homes and Communities at the largest community development intermediary in the nation, NeighborWorks America. Prior to NeighborWorks, Romi held backbone roles at two nationally recognized community development corporations: Beyond Housing and the East Bay Asian Local Development Corp (EBALDC). In these roles, Romi facilitated place-based, collective impact initiatives that generated over 400 new housing units, attracted a full-service grocery store, supported resident-led placemaking projects, and secured \$20 million+ capital to create healthier neighborhoods for Black and Brown communities in Oakland, California and St. Louis, Missouri.