Panelists

Willard Brown
Willard Brown was the Director of Housing and Environmental Programs at Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association DNDA, where he worked for over 30 years as a key employee and served as Property Management Administrator for Redevelopment at Seattle Housing Authority. He has served on the Advisory Council for African American Elders, and currently serves on the Board of the Equitable Development Initiative (EDI) as he continues to fight for investments in infrastructure in Delridge. Though Willard is retired from the (DNDA), he continues to support environmental projects within the Delridge community and Longfellow Creek watershed, and has been championing the restoration and protection of the Delridge wetland and Roxhill Bog. He is working closely with community members, local governments and organizations to gain their support for these projects to increase community awareness of the environmental importance of the wetlands within the watershed and to significantly reduce area flooding and stormwater pollution entering Longfellow Creek. Willard is also actively involved in the updating of the 2035 Delridge Neighborhood Plan and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Seattle Green Spaces Coalition, and has worked closely with City Council members to gain support for community-based organizations having the ability to own surplus properties and to re-purpose them for community benefit.

Peggen Frank
Executive Director
Salmon Defense
Peggen Frank is an enrolled member of the Northern Arapaho Tribe. She joined the Salmon Defense team in 2011 and has helped nurture and grow Salmon Defense into the capable functioning tool that it was envisioned by its founders to be. Peggen’s creativity, passion for protecting tribal treaty rights, and experience in sustainable business practices has added great value to the team. Peggen has helped create winning funding proposals that were submitted to local Tribal funders including the Nisqually Tribe, The Muckleshoot Tribe and the Tulalip Tribes. She also focuses on developing and expanding relationships needed to bridge gaps between tribal and non-tribal communities. Peggen received her BA from Evergreen State with an emphasis in sustainable business, human resource management, and marketing. She is currently working to complete her Masters in Public Administration with an emphasis in Tribal Government.
Tahmina Martelly
Resiliency Programs Manager
World Relief Seattle
A native of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Tahmina Martelly lived in Yemen before arriving at a farm in Idaho. A registered dietitian by education, Tahmina has worked with refugee and immigrant resiliency projects for the last 25 years. Before arriving in Seattle, she taught at the University of Utah, division of Nutrition and Integrated Physiology on food and culture and worked at the Salt Lake City Mayor’s office as the Refugee Liaison. She created innovative computer literacy classes to serve low English proficient refugees to increase employability at the Utah Refugee Education Center. Tahmina has been with World Relief Seattle since 2016. She created the Resiliency and Empowerment programs. This includes developing the Women’s sewing program for pre-literate women to build capacity and de-paving over an acre of parking lot to build a community garden to increase food access for refugee and immigrant families. This unique community garden is one of the largest GSI sites in King County and provides an intersection for environmental justice and equity for marginalized communities.

Robin Schwartz
Advocacy and Development Manager
Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/TAG
Robin Schwartz is a Seattle native and moved to South Park in 2007 to raise her family. Since that time, she has become steadily more involved in environmental and social justice issues, and joined DRCC/TAG in early 2017. Robin is very active in South Park’s Concord International Elementary School PTA as well as other community groups. She is serving as DRCCs representative on the Duwamish Valley Affordable Housing Coalition, an issue which is of deep personal and professional concern to her. DRCCs focus on the intersectionality of environmental justice with racial equity makes this work incredibly fulfilling to Robin, as she believes strongly in the power of community advocacy and organization to knit individuals and families into a healthful and rewarding whole.

Tim Little (Moderator)
Executive Director & Co-Founder
Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment
Tim Little is Rose Foundation’s chief executive officer. Starting 25+ years ago from an endowment of zero, Tim has built a family of environmental and consumer protection grantmaking funds at the Foundation – most supervised by expert advisory boards – that collectively award $5 – $7 million each year to support community-driven conservation, environmental justice, community health and corporate accountability projects. Tim is an evangelist about the power of grassroots community activism and the need to funnel resources toward the grassroots base of the environmental movement. He is also a nationally-recognized voice in the field of sustainable investing and has co-authored The Environmental Fiduciary series of publications related to fiduciary responsibility and corporate environmental performance. Before co-founding Rose Foundation, he held leadership positions with a number of non-profits including the Coalition for Clean Air, Heal the Bay, and Communities for a Better Environment. Other past affiliations include serving on the boards of the Sierra Nevada Alliance, Confluence Philanthropy and Archway School.